



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

August 26, 2004

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on August 26, 2004. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## From the Registrar

Council approved an application from **Alfred Licwinko** to be placed on the retired list. Mr. Licwinko had been an active Alberta Land Surveyor since July 2, 1975.

Council approved applications from **Don Lantz** and **Richard Schlachter** to be exempted from the provisions of the mandatory insurance bylaw. Both practitioners signed affidavits that they are not engaged in the practice of surveying in Alberta. Mr. Schlachter is now based in Regina. Mr. Lantz' application is effective September 3 and he is moving to Australia.

Council is pleased to welcome **Terry Ingraham** as an associate member. Mr. Ingraham is familiar to many Alberta Land Surveyors as an instructor at NAIT. Mr. Ingraham had been commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor and a Canada Lands Surveyor.

Council directed the Registrar to reinstate **Walter Malainey** as an Alberta Land Surveyor in accordance with Section 32 of the Land Surveyors Act. Mr. Malainey was not authorized to engage in the practice of land surveying in Alberta from June 28, 2004 to August 26, 2004.

## Integrated Landscape Management

Council welcomed Bob Demulder of the Alberta Chamber of Resources to discuss their integrated landscape management proposal. The purpose of integrated landscape management is to better coordinate industrial land

disturbance among forestry and energy companies.

Council referred the review and analysis of the presentation to the Executive Committee for a recommendation back to Council.

The Alberta Chamber of Resources has consulted with companies over the last couple of years to encourage co-operation on such things as building access roads so that duplication and extra costs can be avoided during resource exploration and logging. Mr. Demulder indicated that he thought that Alberta Land Surveyors may be able to assist in this project and is seeking feedback from the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.

For more information on integrated landscape management, visit [www.acr-alberta.com/Projects/ILM\\_background.htm](http://www.acr-alberta.com/Projects/ILM_background.htm).

## Section 9

Council has notified the Director of Surveys that the position of a corner is in question as the result of an alleged error in a survey and asked that an investigation be conducted in accordance with Section 9 of the Surveys Act.

The alleged error was uncovered as part of a systematic practice review file. In order to maintain the highest level of confidentiality and fairness, neither the Practice Review Board nor Council are aware of the identities of the practitioners involved.

The alleged error has created a boundary uncertainty of nine metres and may affect whether or not a large garage and gas line are encroaching.

The Alberta Land Surveyors involved have reviewed their files, communicated with one another and maintained that they have used the best available evidence.

## Special Areas

Council authorized the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to send a letter to the Chairman of the Special Areas Board, to arrange a meeting to discuss a number of issues and find out a number of facts. The mission of the meeting would include finding out what issues that Special Areas has and the deliverability of public documents to Alberta Land Surveyors in protecting client and public interest.

The membership passed a motion under new business at the AGM that Council consider encouraging discussion between the Special Areas Board and Public Lands to develop a unified system of dispositions which are readily available to the public. At its May meeting, Council asked the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to discuss what the issue is, document the problems, and make recommendations to Council.

## Position Paper on Ground Disturbance and Buried Facilities

Council added the following terms of reference regarding buried facilities and ground disturbance to the Standards Committee:

- Review the current political, economic, social and technological environment concerning buried facilities, ground disturbance and safety procedures in Alberta.
- Review the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association's past position on buried facilities and the need for a buried facilities act in Alberta.
- Prepare a position paper and make recommendations to Council with respect to buried facilities and ground disturbance. The position paper and recommendations must



address possible to changes to Alberta Land Surveyor procedures, changes to the procedures of the facility owners and others, changes to legislation and regulations. The position paper must address all areas of an Alberta Land Surveyor's practice.

Council recognized that an outside consultant may be required to address these issues.

The terms of reference are in response to the Government of Alberta concluding that there is no need for a new buried facilities statute at this time. In its analysis, the Government felt that "since worker safety legislation already has stiff penalties for actions that result in injury to workers, the potential economic impact of having to compensate a facilities owner for damages already provides significant motivation to ensure all facilities are located prior to digging."

Council is concerned that occupational health and safety and ground disturbance legislation could paralyze land surveying and economic development around the province.

## Student Memberships

The Public Relations Committee expects to bring forward a bylaw change to create a student member category in time for the 2005 AGM but, in the meantime, will test the initiative by sending *ALS News* and ALSA notices to geomatics students who sign up to receive the information.

## Scholarships

Council has asked the Public Relations Committee to review the scholarships currently offered by Association and consider new ones such as one for high school students.

The Public Relations Committee had been asking to investigate creating a high school mathematics competition with an ALSA scholarship as part of the Committee's initiative to encourage more secondary school students to consider a career in land surveying.

In 2000, the Association Council established a \$5,000 annual scholarship to a student enrolled in a masters

or doctoral program at a Canadian university. Candidates must demonstrate that their thesis, report or course work pertains to the study of cadastral surveying. Council had been concerned that there have not been enough suitable applicants for the scholarship. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the scholarship remain in place.

The Association currently offers the following scholarships:

- ALSA Graduate Scholarship
- NAIT Academic Achievement)
- SAIT Academic Achievement
- University of Calgary ALSA Academic Achievement
- University of Lethbridge Academic Achievement
- University of New Brunswick Academic Achievement

The J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation offers the following:

- John Deyholos Memorial Scholarship
- NAIT Transfer Student
- SAIT Transfer Student
- University of Calgary Achievement Scholarship
- University of Calgary Members Scholarship

## Adverse Possession

Council directed that a letter be sent to the Government of Alberta advising it that the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is reviewing the principles of adverse possession and may wish to submit a paper on any government review of the application of adverse possession.

Ken Allred is researching and writing a brief on adverse possession for Council's consideration in accordance with the motion made under new business at the 2004 AGM.

## FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta

Council gave first reading to an application from Ken Allred for assistance to attend the FIG Regional Conference to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 3-8, 2004.

Mr. Allred has applied to the Ambassadors Reserve Fund and has estimated his expenses to be C\$4,350.

A paper entitled - Underground Facilities - The Need for Accurate Records in an Expanding Society has been accepted for presentation in Technical Session 16: Disaster Management. Mr. Allred will also be participating in a workshop on Mutual Recognition.

Mr. Allred will be attending in his capacity as Vice-President Elect of FIG but is not eligible for FIG funding until January 1, 2005 when his term actually starts.

Canada will be submitting a bid to host the FIG Congress in 2010. Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver are currently in the running for the Canadian venue for this bid.

The terms of reference for the Ambassador's Reserve Fund are as follows:

- The Ambassadors Reserve Fund shall be used to reimburse members of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association who are either:
  - (1) acknowledged delegates of international organizations or
  - (2) invited speakers or participants at conferences or meetings outside of Alberta.
- The fund shall be used to reimburse (in whole or in part) the delegate's reasonable travel, lodging and meal costs and registration fees. The fund shall not be used to reimburse expenses of the delegate's spouse.
- Expenditures from this fund must be approved by Council in advance of the date of the conference. Every request for use of this fund must receive unanimous approval, in lieu of which it will be referred to the next meeting of Council, at which time, a simple a majority shall carry.

As the application did not receive unanimous approval from Council, it will come back to the September 30 Council meeting for second reading. As with all motions that require two readings of Council, members are invited to make their thoughts known.



## Curve Dimensioning

The Standards Committee has been asked to investigate and make recommendations back to Council on “the need for additional curve information over and above what is currently in the Manual of Standard Practice.”

Mr. Minto, a survey technologist, wrote to Lyall Pratt about the Manual of Standard Practice about plans containing sufficient dimensional data to be able to traverse, close, and calculate the area of each parcel created on that plan. Mr. Pratt replied to Mr. Minto and both letters were published in the June 2004 issue of *ALS News*. Mr. Stoliker replied to the issue and strongly urged the Association to amend the Manual of Standard Practice accordingly.

## City of Edmonton Subdivision Applications

The Planning and Development Department of the City of Edmonton is creating a new procedure that will allow clients to make subdivision applications over the internet. The new procedure uses the internet as the sole method to apply to subdivide land within the City. The intent of incorporating this new procedure is to offer service improvements and benefits to the City, the development industry, land surveyors and all referral agencies/utility companies. The City of Edmonton is establishing a group of stakeholder to discuss the project and provide an understanding of their needs and concerns. Chad Finner will represent the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association at this meeting.

## Short Cuts

Council was informed that GeoConnections and the Calgary Geomatics Cluster have put together a set of six posters to help to introduce geomatics as a career option to Canadian secondary and post-secondary students.

The Department of Geomatics Engineering is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday October 28, 2004 with a dinner and reception. Council will be holding its Council meeting in Calgary that day. Contact the Department of Geomatics Engineering at [www.geomatics.ucalgary.ca](http://www.geomatics.ucalgary.ca) to order tickets for this event.

The Association will be holding a media training seminar for a half-day on the morning of Friday, December 10. It is a good opportunity to learn how the media works, get them to work with you and practice your skills. Attendance is limited to 12 participants.

## President's Tour

*Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie*

Thursday, September 9th, 2004

*Red Deer*

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

## Regional Meeting Dates

*Edmonton Petroleum Club*

September 30th

*Calgary Winter Club*

October 5th

## Professionals Exams

October 4 and 5

Edmonton and Calgary