



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

June 29, 2005

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on June 29, 2005. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## **From the Registrar**

Council approved Barlow Surveying Inc. as a surveyor's corporation in LaCrete, Alberta. Warren Barlow is the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of Tim Chan, effective June 23, 2005, for failure to pay his 2005-2006 membership dues. Dennis Wheeler was struck from the register as a retired member for failure to pay his 2005-2006 membership dues. If anyone has an address for either of these gentlemen that is different from what was published in the 2004-2005 directory, please contact the ALSA office.

## **Public Lands Dispositions**

Council has asked the Standards Committee to review Part D, Section 5.8 (public land dispositions except LOCs) and Section 5.9 (linear public land dispositions) of the Manual of Standard Practice to make them more consistent.

The Director of Surveys had advised the Standards Committee that the disposition plan requirements chart is being revised and requested Standards Committee input and Council endorsement of the revisions. The Standards Committee members raised a number of questions and Council has asked that the implementation date for changes to the disposition plan requirement chart, which is tied to the dispositions mapping initiative, be moved to November 1, 2005 in order to get answers and clarification to these and other questions.

As public lands dispositions continue to evolve, Council has sent a letter to the Director of Surveys indicating that Council will consider referring any matter dealing with standards for dispositions to the Standards Committee. However, any issues affecting the business of land surveyors and their clients will be dealt with by Council through the Executive Committee.

## **Field Safety Ad Hoc Committee**

Council is establishing a field safety ad hoc committee to deal with safe work practices, safety legislation, certifications and incidents of concern to Alberta Land Surveyors and their personnel for the safety of all involved.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please contact the ALSA office at [info@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:info@alsa.ab.ca).

More specific terms of reference will be established during the summer and the first meeting should take place in September.

## **Future AGMs**

Council approved holding the 2010 AGM at the Jasper Park Lodge from April 24-26 and the 2011 AGM at the Jasper Park Lodge from April 16-18.

Council had previously approved holding the 2006 AGM in Jasper; the 2007 and 2008 AGMs in Lake Louise and the 2009 AGM (the Association's 100<sup>th</sup> AGM) in Banff.

The Historical & Biographical Committee has been asked to explore the possibility of a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary project for the Association.

## **Title Insurance**

Council accepted papers on the Western Torrens Project and Title Insurance as the official position of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. The papers are on the Association's website at [www.alsa.ab.ca](http://www.alsa.ab.ca)

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association takes the position that complete and full disclosure in the real estate transaction is of paramount importance for all parties involved. Through full disclosure, the public will be protected. The Real Property Report and compliance certificate with every transaction informs the prospective purchaser about any potential problems with the property or the title. Further, municipalities are able to recognize and remedy any violations of land use bylaws at the time of purchase.

In the other paper, the ALSA takes the position that the Western Torrens Protocol continues to recommend the use of real property reports to facilitate full disclosure of potential problems with the property or title.

However, as the majority of the Western Torrens Protocol does not deal with matters within the land surveyors' area of expertise, the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is not in a position to endorse or object to the Protocol. The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association will continue to monitor the situation and attempt to ensure that the process maintains full disclosure.

## **Laying Down the Lines**

Brindle & Glass, the publisher of *Laying Down the Lines: A History of Land Surveying in Alberta*, hosted successful book launches for the public in Edmonton and Red Deer. The publisher may consider further book launches this fall.

*Laying Down the Lines* has been profiled in several newspapers, including the *Red Deer Express*, under the headline, "Glorious Tribute to Land Surveyors." This article is on the ALSA website at [www.alsa.ab.ca/releases/other/050615.htm](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/releases/other/050615.htm).



The hardcover of *Laying Down the Lines* is available from the ALSA office.

The softcover version of the book is being marketed and distributed by the publisher and is available directly from the publisher at: [www.brindleandglass.com](http://www.brindleandglass.com) or online bookstores [www.chapters.ca](http://www.chapters.ca) and [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)

According to the *Edmonton Journal* (July 3, 2005), *Laying Down the Lines* is ninth in the top ten books in Edmonton.

### **McVittie Cabin Improvements**

David McWilliam, ALS, and a number of other Alberta Land Surveyors, have been working with Calgary Heritage Park to update the McVittie Cabin.

Their proposal includes the creation of a half-scale typical monument used in the McVittie era just outside the front door of the cabin. Heritage Park has agreed to place a railing around this monument so as to “slow” traffic of children up and over the mound. They have also agreed to use a “slow growing short-grass” to seed the pits and mound, so as to preserve the visibility of the monument with minimal upkeep.

A sign will be made by Heritage Park that will be placed into the monument area, describing monuments in general and a brief outline of what the surveyors of the McVittie era accomplished in the layout of the section/township system in Alberta, and the placement of the monuments like the one outside McVittie’s cabin.

A number of other improvements will be made at the site. The ALSA will help defray some of the costs of this project. Thanks Dave and company!

### **Alberta Centennial**

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is putting a display together for the official provincial centennial celebrations on Thursday September 1 on the Legislature grounds. If you are willing to help out at the display, wear

period costume, and answer the public’s questions, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday at [munday@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:munday@alsa.ab.ca).

### **Unauthorized Practice**

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association continues to deal with non-land surveyors who advertise themselves as land surveyors and/or suggest that they can practice land surveying. The Association has recently dealt with several instances where someone states that they locate property lines and pins. The Association treats these cases very seriously and takes the appropriate action.

If you are aware of any situations like this, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday.

### **CAPP Membership Application**

Council gave second and final reading to spending \$1,000 to become an associate member of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP).

The ALSA has representation on the CAPP Geomatics Committee and needs to become an associate member in order to have access to the website, minutes and agendas. In addition, CAPP members have access to materials such as *Crude Oil Report* and the *Statistical Handbook* for members only.

### **National Standards on Integrated Surveys**

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will advise the Canadian Council on Geomatics that the ALSA will consider the national standards for integrated surveys when Alberta looks at updating the Manual of Standard Practice’s standards for integrated surveys.

The basic principle of the national standards is that surveys should only be integrated to NAD83 (CSRS) as represented by HPNs, CACS or other control monuments that have been properly integrated to NAD83 (CSRS) where sub-metre accuracy relative to the NAD83 (CSRS) is

sought. Furthermore, HPNs should be supplemented in major urban environments by additional integrated and prominent points and surveys should not be integrated relative to the now unmaintained monumented geodetic control network except in specific circumstances. Finally, integration of surveys does not alter the hierarchy of evidence for the re-establishment of survey monuments.

The Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) consists of all of the provincial directors of surveys and surveyor-generals.

### **Searching Land Titles Records**

In response to the Association’s request that the Director of Practice Review Board be given the ability to search land titles records by individual Alberta Land Surveyor registration numbers, Alberta Land Titles has responded that their existing computer system and the associated manual data entry and examination processes does not make it possible to fulfill the ALSA’s request.

While Land Titles does enter the name of the Alberta Land Surveyor into the Alberta Land Titles Automation (ALTA) database at the time of submission of all plans to Land Titles for examination/ registration, this information is only maintained as work in progress for ninety days. After this time, all information in work in progress is automatically deleted from the ALTA database on an ongoing basis.

An additional issue that Land Titles must consider falls under Land Titles’ absolute need for compliance with all applicable privacy protection legislation. As a general rule, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation will allow the release of personal information when a statute or regulation specifically allows that information to be released.



## **Learning Opportunities for Canadian Land Surveyors**

The Association's CCLS Director (Larry Pals) has been asked to indicate to the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors that the ALSA supports the memorandum of understanding on developing learning opportunities for Canadian land surveyors subject to further clarification of the terms of reference of the proposed standing committee, specifically regarding costs.

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to enable a cooperative approach amongst member associations on matters of distance education and shared learning opportunities as part of the continued professional development of Canadian land surveyors. Particularly, this memorandum also signifies a new understanding amongst member associations on the following themes:

- A clear vision of distance education as being an integral part of a continued professional development program for Canadian land surveyors;
- A cooperative approach towards the development and maintenance of an internet portal that will enable the distribution of web-based distance learning initiatives and provide a forum for sharing learning opportunities on a regional or national basis;
- A cooperative approach towards the development of national learning opportunities;

- The establishment of a Standing Committee on Distance Education and Shared Learning Opportunities and establish terms of reference for this committee;

The ALSA Council recognizes that tackling the committee's objectives will cost some money but the memorandum of understanding does not deal with costs. Therefore, Alberta's CCLS Director was asked to get clarification on the standing committee's terms of reference.

## **Budgeting Post Sales**

Council gave first reading to rescinding Policy 2002.05.003 which stated that "the annual budget for iron post and marker post revenue shall be established by averaging the previous four years actual revenues for iron post and marker post sales."

This policy will not be replaced with a formal policy for budgeting iron post and marker post sales. Instead, Council will use forecasts for provincial economic indicators such as housing starts and the consumer price index to project iron post and marker post sales. No one provincial economic indicator correlates that well with past post sales so a blended approach was felt to be the best.

Rescinding this policy will come back to the August Council meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to contact any Council member with their thoughts on this issue.

Council's review of this issue is a result of the new business motion passed by the membership at the 2005 AGM.

## **Christmas Reception**

Council gave first reading to hosting a Christmas reception in Calgary on December 8, 2005 at a cost not to exceed \$6,500. A Christmas reception was not included in the budget for 2005-2006 so extraordinary budget approval was required.

The motion will come back to the August Council meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to contact any member of Council with any questions or concerns they might have.

## **Mileage Reimbursement and the ALSA Policy Manual**

Council gave second and final reading to increase the Association's mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.45 per kilometre. The increase is effective June 29, 2005. The reimbursement rate is consistent with rules established by the Canadian Revenue Agency.

Council gave first reading to minor amendments to the ALSA policy manual as discussed at the May 26 Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee consists of Council and all committee chairs. The minor amendments include changing several references from the Executive Committee to Council and changing the number of years that financial records must be kept from seven to eight.

