



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

September 29, 2005

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

From the Registrar

Council approved Focus Surveys GP Ltd. as a surveyor's corporation. Alberta Land Surveyors John Holmlund, Ron Hall and John Stephens will be responsible for the permit to practice. Council approved a request to cancel Focus Surveys Inc. as a surveyor's corporation and then approved Focus Surveys Limited Partnership as a surveyor's partnership operating under permit P046. Focus Surveys Limited Partnership will complete any projects undertaken by Focus Surveys Inc.

Registration Fees

Appeals of ALSA professional examination marks has increased to \$75 from \$50 effective immediately.

Council had also considered a recommendation from the Registration Committee to increase the professional examination fees to \$150 from \$100 and create a fee for the submission of project reports. However, Council decided not to change the fee structure on these items at this time.

The Registration Committee also considered allowing articulated students and affiliate members to submit their project reports electronically. However, it was felt that changing the submission method would not save time or money in the long run. The Registration Committee also felt that the presentation format of the project report is also a critical factor in considering whether a report passes or fails.

Mapper of Mountains

Council unanimously approved a grant of \$5,000 toward the publication of "Mapper of Mountains" with funds from the History of Surveying in Alberta Publication Fund.

The grant was made in response to a request from Dr. Ian MacLaren, a University of Alberta professor who spoke to the ALSAAGM in 2004 concerning Morrison Parsons Bridgland, DLS, ALS, and his phototopographical survey work in the mountains in the early 20th century. University of Alberta researchers returned to those sites starting in 1997 to assess how things had changed.

Dr. MacLaren reported that "Mapper of Mountains: M.P. Bridgland in the Canadian Rockies 1902-1930," written by himself with Eric Higgs and Gabrielle Zezulka-Mailloux, is to be published this fall by the University of Alberta Press. This book contains both a biography of Bridgland and histories of alpine surveying, the method of cartography based on phototopographical surveying, and, because Bridgland was so centrally involved from the start, the early history of the Alpine Club of Canada. It also tells the story of the Rocky Mountain Repeat Photography Project, which aims to re-shoot all of Bridgland's phototopographical work on the eastern slopes.

Calgary EDM Calibration Baseline

Council would like to thank those Calgary-area Alberta Land Surveyors who responded to the questionnaire on the Calgary EDM calibration baseline. Based on the responses, Council will meet with the Director of Surveys Office to discuss how to proceed. There was unanimous support for the establishment of a new baseline in

Calgary although there were, of course, concerns about the cost. Responses were mixed on whether the existing baseline meets practitioners' current needs. Generally, it was felt that the three other existing baselines do not meet the members' needs for a calibration baseline.

The Calgary Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) calibration baseline was established in the mid-70s by the Government of Alberta in support of the various municipal survey control programs. Starting in 1985, regular re-observation of the Calgary baseline was undertaken to verify the inter-pillar distances and to detect pillar movement. Since this time, the Calgary baseline has increasingly been unstable with pillar movement greater than 1 mm for at least four of the eight pillars. Other issues at the baseline include lack of inter-visibility to pillar 7, off-line alignment of pillar 8, and measurement influences due to fences and high voltage electrical boxes.

Use of Trade Names

Council gave second and final reading to an Association policy regarding the use of trade names.

Some sole practitioners use a trade name (such as John Doe Surveys) in promoting their survey practice. In accordance with the Land Surveyors Act, Council must approve the name of a surveyor's corporation but the same requirement has not applied to sole practitioners. The proposed policy would require practitioners who wish to use a trade name to have it approved by Council in much the same manner as surveyor's corporations.

The proposed policy reads: "Practitioners who wish to use a trade name must have the name approved by Council. The practitioner must pro-



vide proof of declaration of trade name as required under the Alberta Partnership Act before Council approves the use of the trade name. No permit stamp shall be issued to a practitioner using a trade name. The practitioner's correspondence shall clearly indicate the name of the ALS or ALSs responsible for the practice."

Section 110 of the Partnership Act reads (in part) that "each person who...some name or designation other than the person's own, or the person's own name with the addition of 'and company' or some other word or phrase indicating a plurality of members in the firm shall sign and file with the Registrar a declaration in writing of the fact."

Committee Activities

Almost all of the Association's committees met in September. Of particular note, the Editorial Board reviewed the first draft of a manuscript for a textbook on the law and practice of surveying in Alberta; the Public Relations Committee continues to finalize and prioritize its initiatives for a new public relations plan; and the Standards Committee continues to work on a manual/instruction docu-

ment for the corner recordation database for monument restorations.

The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee has been asked to convene to look at possible amendments to the Association's bylaws.

Committee Volunteers and Vice-Chairs

Council appointed the following members to the Safety Ad Hoc Committee: Chairman Mike Fretwell, Council Liaison Victor Hut, Jennifer Beaulieu, Steve Card, Darrell Florence, Curtis Henrie, Alex Hittel, Carrie Johnman, Chielo Pronovost, Albert Rachynski, Bob Stirling, Wayne Thom, and Dwayne Westacott.

Council appointed Blaine Benson as vice-chair of the Practice Review Board and accepted Rick Beaumont's resignation from the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee with regret.

Short Cuts

The Director of Surveys provided Council with an update on a Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigation being undertaken at the request of Council.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has been invited to take part in a professional association forum being organized by the Government of Alberta's department on professions & occupations. The purpose of the forum is to learn from each other's experiences. The ALSA has suggested several possible topics for all of the professional associations to discuss.

The Association sent a letter to the federal minister of housing concerning CMHC's introduction of title insurance to all CMHC-backed mortgages. The Minister has indicated that the ALSA will be provided the opportunity to participate in discussions on this initiative. No date was given as to when the ALSA will be able to participate but the CMHC website indicates that they will start providing title insurance this fall.

The Association continues to work with the other western provincial survey associations and ACLS to form a new board of examiners that would replace, in Alberta, the WCBE.