The Driving Force

requested this page

(repeat)
Sharpline

*requested this page (new)*
No one was sitting on the patio in Jasper this year.
Ensight
(repeat)

requested this page
It is time for me to write my first article as your newly elected President. Again, I wish to thank the membership for the support you have given to me. As I stated in Jasper, this is indeed a great honour. I look forward to a very active year representing the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

Your Council and committees have already been very busy. Numerous committee meetings have already been held. We held our first Council meeting on May 3rd and a special meeting on May 15th. The Steering Committee met on May 15th and all committee action plans and memberships have been confirmed for the upcoming year. If you are not on a committee, let the ALSA office know and we’ll be more than happy to help you out in finding a task to keep you busy.

In my career, I have been on a number of committees including the Registration, Professional Development and Standards. From time to time, committees are faced with questions and issues which they alone cannot answer. They may need direction from someone outside the Association but, often, committee members want to know what the membership thinks before investing a great deal of emotional capital. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) wants to know what courses you, the members, want to attend. They do not want to line up speakers, book a facility, and send out advertising for a seminar if it is only going to be cancelled at the last moment due to a lack of interest. The PDC circulates a questionnaire on a annual basis to get member feedback but there is not much that can be gleaned from just nine responses. Similarly, the Legislation Committee is considering asking you whether or not you would be in favour of electing Council members to three year terms instead of two year terms. But what if the response rate to that questionnaire is too low? Even the Salary Survey was poorly received this year and, in fact, there were so few responses to the Survey Services Questionnaire that it was not published this year.

I understand member concerns. At my office, I regularly receive questionnaires and other requests for information. There is a great temptation to put those things at the bottom of the in-basket or file them in the circular file. I understand that, but I also understand that the Association committees need your input. If you can think of anything that we could do to make it easier for you to complete a questionnaire that we send you, please let me or the Association office know.

The University of Calgary is currently occupying a large amount of Council’s time, as I’m sure you have read in Council Report. Dr. Lachapelle is making his annual presentation to Council on June 22nd and the discussion promises to be interesting. Jerry Rasmuson and Mark Prevost attended the first meeting of the Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee (GELC) on May 5th. I think we may be making some progress and we now have the full attention of the University faculty.

Every day we read articles in the newspaper, listen to news reports on the radio and watch the television newscasters report on the “brain drain” to the United States. In the last week, the National Post has run articles with headlines such as “Alberta Boosts Medical Researchers Pay Trying to Stop Brain Drain,” “Dream Reputation Could Stem Brain Drain: Expert” and “Business Grap-

...the Association committees need your input. If you can think of anything that we could do to make it easier for you to complete a questionnaire that we send you, please let me or the Association office know.
Spectra Precision
*(deadline maker - repeat)*
Repository Revisited

Over the past several months, in connection with the debate over the requirement to file a plan pursuant to sections 40 and 42 of the Surveys Act, I have on a few occasions floated the idea of revisiting the idea of a new repository of survey information.

This concept was initially proposed in the late 1980s as a means of making RPRs available to other surveyors and through them to the general public. The idea died because of the suspected cost of creating such a repository.

In the previous discussions, it became clear that the Land Titles Office has little interest in maintaining a registry of either RPRs or any other documents that do not directly affect title. The fees to use the Land Titles system are also becoming prohibitive, what with the basic $35 registration fee and now the new $100 digital mapping fee, not to speak of the high standards for tying to survey control and plan standards pursuant to the Land Titles Act.

It may be desirable but is it really necessary to tie to survey control and prepare a quality drafted plan to show the basic information necessary to record the re-establishment of a property corner? Does the general public have any interest in these plans? Is it in the client’s interest to spend an extra $200 to $500 just to file a record of a re-establishment?

What is really important - the plan or the information?

In doing any survey where a boundary is either established or re-established, there are three important objectives:

- first, it is important to use the best judgment and establish the boundary based on a full assessment of all of the available evidence,
- second, it is important to mark that boundary with durable, recognizable monuments,
- and last, and perhaps most important, it is necessary to record the information as to how and why the decision was made to demarcate the boundary where it is. This step is necessary for the protection of the surveyor, the client and successors in title down through the years. It is imperative that other surveyors and ultimately the courts have access to the evidence that was used and can weigh that evidence and the rationale applied in determining whether that boundary has been properly determined.

Having come to the conclusion that the role of the land surveyor is to determine and demarcate boundaries properly for all to see, it is important that we also make the information readily available at least to those who need it most; that is other land surveyors and ultimately through them to land owners and the courts.

In consideration of the fact that the membership has seen fit to revise our standards to not require that a plan be filed in the Land Titles Office in some cases, we now need to establish a means to record this valuable information responsibly and economically...perhaps the ALSA could establish a simple repository of survey sketches of information at a low cost...

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In consideration of the fact that the membership has seen fit to revise our standards to not require that a plan be filed in the Land Titles Office in some cases, we now need to establish a means to record this valuable information responsibly and economically. I had suggested that perhaps the ALSA could establish a simple repository of survey sketches of information at a low cost - certainly less than the cost of the basic $35 Land Titles registration fee. I foresee that this goal could be achievable based on the following principles:

· keep it simple - letter or legal sized sketches of re-establishments, with only the necessary survey information shown—i.e, legal description, framework of cadastral fabric, found evidence, pertinent evidence, and the like;
· digital filing and retrieval system with no hard copy storage;
· indexing by legal description and/or geographic location;
· a minimal filing fee to maintain the system and access to it;
· access to the system through members of the ALSA at no additional charge.

I would appreciate any comments either pro or con with regard to this concept.

The annual meeting produced some good debate and raised a number of valid concerns with regard to our standards and the application of sections 40 and 42 of the Surveys Act. The larger picture, however, is the responsibility of the professional land surveyor to other land surveyors and the public. We all have a need and a desire to preserve the fruits of our labour for colleagues and the public who will most surely follow in our footsteps in the future. Let’s give them the benefit of our considered opinions, and do our due diligence in preserving the cadastral fabric!

I would appreciate any comments either pro or con with regard to this concept.
Land Measurement Systems

(new)
We are doing a great deal of public activities... It could be that we are spending so much time looking outward that we forget to tell the membership of the ALSA what it is we are doing.

In addition, the Association has recently written a letter to the Government asking for an opportunity to make a presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. We have also congratulated Halvar Jonson on his new appointment as Minister of Environment and indicated we look forward to meeting with him soon.

It is important to recognize that, while it is critical to meet with government ministers, it is also critical to maintain a good working relationship with the real people who do the day-to-day work. A angry letter that is sent to the Minister complaining about a bureaucratic process is often sent to the bureaucrat who designed the process in the first place. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been fortunate to have good communication at the bureaucrat level. We recently met with Glenn Selland, who is the new Director of Land Administration. Mike Michaud, the Director of Surveys, and Marv Weiss of Public Lands, report directly to Mr. Selland.

A new group, entitled the Digital Plans Submissions Working Group consisting of representatives from AltaLIS, the Director of Surveys Branch, Land Titles, Spatial Data Warehouse, and the ALSA, have been meeting for just over a year to discuss issues related to digital plan submissions. While this is not a Public Relations Committee initiative, this is a forum to make our views heard and known.
Anyone who attended the Annual General Meeting this year knows that the state of the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering program is a hot topic. I will not attempt to address the status of the program but I will try to list some of the things that the Association has been trying to do make students aware of land surveying and geomatics as a career.

In September, the Association sent letters to each student in the second, third and fourth year of the geomatics engineering program. The letter, accompanied by the Geomatics as a Career brochure, described how one becomes a professional land surveyor, the opportunities as a professional land surveyor and the income potential as a future land surveyor. The letter directed the students to contact the Association office or visit the ALSA web site if they had any further questions.

The Association offered to find guest lecturers for geomatics students at the U of C, NAIT and SAIT and we were taken up on those offers. Students also receive ALS News through their educational institution. In addition, U of C geomatics students are invited to mingle with land surveyors from Alberta and the other provinces during the popular annual beef and bun reception. As an aside, this year was the first year I was able to attend the event and I was surprised how many students said they went into geomatics because “it sounded cool.”

...there are a number of other initiatives designed to keep the role of the land surveyor in the public eye.

By this time, I am sure you can imagine there are a number of other initiatives designed to keep the role of the land surveyor in the public eye. A press release is usually sent out to the media and related organizations following a Council meeting. The release often highlights a decision made by Council. The Association annually places advertisements in the Edmonton Journal and Calgary Herald announcing the new President and Council. Advertising is placed in the Edmonton and Calgary issues of the Real Estate Weekly and AREA Update to point out the importance of the Real Property Report and advise the public of how to obtain the Association’s brochure.

Last fall, members of the RPR Task Force and a number of other Association members made presentations to 16 municipalities and real estate boards. Lately, the lines of communication have opened up with a number of organizations such as the Development Officers Association, the Canadian Bar Association (Real Estate Subsection) and the Mortgage Loans Association of Alberta in addition to the associations we have traditionally been in touch with such as the Alberta Association of Architects, APEGGA, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been doing a great deal in terms of public relations activities even if all of those activities have not been adequately communicated to the members. That is not to say that more cannot be done because more must be done in order to put the profession in the minds of the public.

The biggest dilemma facing the Association’s public relations activities right now is not necessarily the financial commitment (as at least one Council member has suggested) but the time commitment. It does take time to attend another association’s golf tournament, work a trade show booth or be a guest lecturer or presenter.

If you are interested in helping out in any public relations activities, please contact the Public Relations Committee Chairman Ross Woolgar or the Association office.

It does not have to be time consuming but can be quite rewarding!
LPP
(new)
requested this page
Thank You

AGM

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your exceptional hospitality and friendship at your AGM in Jasper.

RICK BEAUMONT, ALS

Brian Munday
ALS Executive Director

I have written this letter to more fully express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to have been able to work with you and your staff over the past three years. I truly cannot recall a period in my life where Jean and I received such warm friendship, camaraderie and human considerations.

The dedication of your staff in fulfilling their role of responsibilities is appreciated and commendable. For example, the work that went into our April AGM in Jasper had a very positive impact in producing our best AGM in 91 years.

Yes, I have enjoyed my term on Council and, together with your staff, we can be proud of our achievements. I know much work remains to be done and your program is well under way. It is time, however, for me to let go, but not without acknowledging the help I received in this positive experience.

Of course there are events that I already miss. Near the top of the list are the delicious Council meeting “eat-in” lunches.

In closing, let me wish you continued success in the ALSA operation and congratulate you and your staff for a job well done.

ALEX BITTEL, ALS

Hugh Impey
ALS Life Member

Nothing in Jasper by making me an Honorary Honour bestowed on me at the AGM in 91 years.

I wish to thank all members for the honour bestowed on me at the AGM in Jasper by making me an Honorary Life Member of the ALSA. Nothing is more gratifying than being recognized by one’s peers.

HUGH IMPEY, ALS

I am writing to thank you and your staff on the excellent assistance provided to the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors in putting on our Regional Meeting at the ALSA AGM 2000 in Jasper.

We had thirty people attend the meeting. It was decided that we should hold the ACLS regional meetings during the annual ALSA AGMs. We look forward to working with you and the ALSA staff in making this a reality.

Congratulations on an excellent AGM 2000, and again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

DAVID MCARTHUR, ALS

Awards

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to your organization for awarding me with the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association award. I attended the advisory committee meeting on November 23rd held at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Present was Mr. Lyall Pratt from the Association. I was very thankful to be able to meet someone from the Association that was providing me with such valuable funds. I am beginning my last semester in the Geomatics Engineering program at NAIT. The funds you have graciously donated will help me to buy books and other supplies needed to complete my final semester. If it were not for donors like you, I would have found it very difficult to finish my education.

COREY LEVASSEUR

Thank you. Your gift of $750 for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association Scholarship is a valued contribution. Your donation ensures SAIT’s Scholarship Program will continue to directly benefit students in the pursuit of higher learning in their chosen fields.

Your support makes a difference through partnerships with donors such as you that SAIT was able to provide 1,300 students with a scholarship in 1998 to help them realize their individual education goals. Our strong Scholarship Program helps SAIT attract top learners and position them for prime employment opportunities. In 1998, 97% of our students found employment within months of their graduation. Please share our pride.

Again, on behalf of SAIT students, faculty, staff, and Board of Governors, please accept our sincere thanks.

PAMELA SHANKS, CFRE
DIRECTOR, FUND DEVELOPMENT

Digital Plan Submissions

Thank you for your February 7, 2000 letter regarding the value of Dick Bassil’s services and his contribution to the smooth transition to digital submissions. I would like to express my appreciation to the Association for the foresight in making Dick’s not insignificant skills available.

While some of the issues addressed evoked a wide variety of opinions, Dick was most helpful in sorting through the various positions and offering viable solutions. The digital submission process has been a great success to date and we look forward to additional dialogue with your Association with regard to future enhancements to what is already an industry-leading advance.

Please pass on my thanks as well to Dick for his contribution to the success of this entire venture.

RAE A. RUNGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REGISTRATION SERVICES, LAND TITLES
MLA Night
Thank you for your letter of May 3rd, I am happy to know that you were pleased with the reception. I will contact you later in the year regarding the possibility of a reception in the spring of 2001.

JOEL PALMER
DIRECTOR OF CAUCUS

Thank you for your generous hospitality on May 3rd. While I arrived somewhat late, I want to assure you of my total support of the integrity of the Association.

MARY O’NEILL
MLA - ST. ALBERT

Retired Membership Fee
I would like to suggest that the fee for retired members be reduced to $50 or less. This figure would be quite sufficient to pay for ALS News or any notice regarding local meeting, which is about all there is of interest to the member who is fully retired. As a matter of interest, CIG and RICS both charge nothing for the retired member and I think that it is rather shocking for the ALSA to squeeze $100 per year by comparison. I would appreciate Council looking into this matter. I have mentioned this verbally and occasionally by brief notes in the past few years, but have never yet had an answer. I am sure there are many others who feel just as I do about this matter. One does not like to drop old professional links, but as we get older we do weigh value for money more.

Thanks for looking into this matter, and I hope that Jasper proves just as lovely as ever, and that the convention is a great success, as I am sure it will be.

KEN PAWSON, ALS (RET.)

Dirty Laundry
Is the Councillor’s Forum the correct place to air the “dirty laundry” from Council meetings? No, in my opinion! I was always of the mindset that a majority vote on Council represented the ALSA’s position to the membership whether you agreed with the decision or not.

If you, as a Councillor, have a point to raise, perhaps it would be better to come as a “letter to the editor” expressing an opinion without venting in the Forum because the vote didn’t go your way. Spilt milk is always hard to clean up!

PAUL ELLEGOOD, ALS

Net Notes
The membership overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of the Professional Maintenance Program at this year’s Annual General Meeting. Now what!? As outlined in the presentation at the AGM, the first step in making the Professional Maintenance Program a reality is the establishment of the Resource Centre. The Resource Centre is intended to be an online source for any type of program, course or report that might be of interest to the geomatics professional. The Resource Centre would allow members to link to items that may, or may not be, survey related but could certainly lead to a topic that may help the member run the survey business, for example.

As you can imagine, the world wide web contains billions of web sites with millions of sites devoted to education of one form or another. The trick, of course, for the Professional Development Committee will be to categorize and organize a certain number of these web sites so that they can be easily accessed by the members.

For a starting point, here are some web sites you may be interested in visiting. Please note that many of the colleges and universities have continuing education sites within the main site—Alberta Learning Information Service http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/

The Province of Alberta has a wide variety of post-secondary educational institutions. The following is an alphabetical listing of some of these institutions.

If you find a web site that you think other members may be interested in, please contact the Association office.

Grant MacEwan College
http://www.lrc.gmc.ab.ca/distancelearning/

Medicine Hat College
http://www.mhc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/certdip/DDistanceEd.htm

Mount Royal College
http://www.mroyal.ab.ca/lifelong.htm

NorQuest College
http://www.norquest.ab.ca/programs/au/au_coned.htm

The University of Calgary
http://www.ucalgary.ca/ualc/department/CGLIT/
New Members

#665  KING, Robert Ray

Robert was born in Camrose, Alberta on November 13, 1972. He graduated from Medicine Hat High School in 1990 and went on to attend the University of Calgary, graduating with a B.Sc. in Geomatics Engineering.

Articles were served under Tim Martin, ALS Robert received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on February 29, 2000. “Building an Oil and Gas Management GIS” was the topic of the technical report submitted as part of the qualifying examination. Robert is also an Engineer in Training with APEGGA.

Surveying experience includes pipelines, well sites, plant sites, GPS, GIS, construction, road, engineering, subdivision, and Real Property Reports. He is presently employed with Midwest Surveys Inc. in Medicine Hat.

Aikido, cross-training, and golf are a few of Robert’s leisure activities.

#667  PHAM, Allan T.

Allan was born in Vietnam on October 26, 1954 and emigrated to Canada in 1982. He obtained a Baccalaureate Certificate upon graduation from high school in 1972 and received a Diploma Certificate from the Saigon Polytechnic Institute in 1978. In 1985, he enrolled in the General Science Program at Mount Royal College and went on to graduate from the University of Calgary in 1991 with a B.Sc. in Surveying Engineering.

Articles were served under John Stephens, ALS Allan received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on March 29, 2000. The topic of the technical report submitted as part of the qualifying examination was “Fundamentals of Geodetic Computations Using GPS Observations and Data.” He also holds a P.Eng. designation as a member of APEGGA.

Allan has ten years experience in the areas of subdivision, condominium, oilfield, GPS, engineering, construction, and mining surveys.

He enjoys travel, swimming, bicycling, new computing and geomatic technology, and watching sports. Allan and his wife Nhung Tran reside in Edmonton with their son Anthony.

#668  RODNEY, Lewis B.

Lew was born in Ottawa, Ontario on July 21, 1947. He graduated from high school in Fredericton, N.B. in 1966 and went on to receive a survey diploma from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1986 and a B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1991.

Alberta Land Surveyors Jack Hagen and Herb Kiel served as principals. Lew received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on April 6, 2000. “The Elements of a Self-Governing Profession as Demonstrated in the Alberta Land Surveyors Act” was the topic of the technical report submitted as part of the qualifying examination.

Employment history includes working for Stewart Weir from 1977 to 1985; Hagen Surveys from 1988 to 1996; All West Surveys from 1996 to 1998 and Cridland & Associates during 1999/2000. Lew is also a member of the Order of Gray Goose which is an organization of volunteers whose purpose it is to preserve and protect a special environment and promote outdoor activities for children.

Leisure activities include music, literature, and skidooing. Lew is married to Janice Penner and they reside in Edmonton.

President’s Message
continued from page 5

It is just as important for the Association to promote communication and try to understand the issues facing the University of Calgary as it is for the University of Calgary and the Geomatics Engineering Department to understand the needs of the profession. That is why I believe it is critical for the head of the Department, Dr. Gerard Lachapelle, to continue to make annual presentations to the ALSA Council in addition to the dialogue taking place at Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee meetings. The Association does have the opportunity to communicate directly with students on a number of occasions during the course of a year. For those of you in attendance at the Annual General Meeting, you learned that a new course to be taught by land surveyors had been proposed. While a number of concerns were raised, I believe that communication is the key
to ensure that any potential course does, in fact, meet the needs of the profession and the students.

Executive Director Brian Munday has kept me busy with: hosting an MLA night, attending a meeting with the Executive Director of APEGGA, attending a meeting with Mike Michaud, Marv Weiss and the new Director of Land Administration, Glenn Selland, as well as attending the Steering Committee and Council meetings. As a result of these meetings, some new action items for committees have arisen and are being commenced.

I have represented you at the Montana Annual meeting. It is interesting to note that their discussions centre around many of the same topics as we discuss at our meetings. I have also attended the APEGGA and Consulting Engineers of Alberta annual meetings. During the first two weeks of June, Judy and I attended the Saskatchewan and Newfoundland Annual Meetings. As you can see busy times are ahead.

To the family of Zenovie Swydycky, our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve through your loss. I was unable to attend the funeral but would like to say how much I appreciated Zennie’s instruction when I attended SAIT from 1969 to 1971. For those who may know Roy Pominville, President of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association, he has been diagnosed with cancer. We wish Roy a speedy recovery and pass on our support as he works through this difficult time.

Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity and remember if you have any concerns, comments or observations please feel free to contact the association office or myself. No task should go unattended.

Notice

Municipal Address Requirement

All Alberta Land Surveyors are reminded that Part D, Section 7.5.1. of the Manual of Standards and Practices (sic) states that surveyors shall include municipal addresses on Real Property Reports

Many Real Property Reports which we receive for certification of Compliance purposes, do not have the correct municipal address included. Some state “Municipal District of Rocky View No. 44” as the municipal address, while others give a wrong street or house number.

There is no charge to request a municipal address from the Municipal-ity. A request for this information may be phoned in to Dana Wintner at (403) 230-1401 (ext. 274) or by completing a fax form and returning it to (403) 277-5977.

Effective May 15, 2000 we will be returning all Real Property Reports which do not have the correct municipal address included.

If you have any questions, please contact Graham Smith, Diane Visser, Dale Peterson or Dana Wintner at (403) 230-1401.

Graham W. Smith
Supervisor - Building Services
Municipal District of Rocky View No. 44

Have you done something interesting lately?

If so, you could be the winner of the first ALSA Geomatics Award of Excellence.

If you haven’t, what are you waiting for?

Notice

Alberta Land Titles Procedures Manual – Internet Access

Alberta Registrars, Land Titles Office is pleased to announce that as of March 1, 2000, the Land Titles Procedures Manual will be accessible on the internet. Free access to this procedures manual can be found on the Government Services website at www.gov.ab.ca/ma/reg/lt/lmain.htm. As the entire manual has been published in a PDF file format, users will be required to obtain the Adobe Acrobat Reader to open the files. The most recent version of this shareware can also be downloaded online for free, through the Government Services website.

...the Procedures Manual will be updated continually as changes occur.

The electronic version of the Procedures Manual will be updated continually as changes occur. A summary of changes made can be readily identified by clicking and reviewing the “Recent Amendments” section now incorporated into the electronic manual. A “Helpful Hints” section has also been provided to assist users in navigating and searching within the manual.

With the electronic publication of the Manual, Land Titles will no longer offer a paper copy for distribution. Users may choose to print all or any portion of the Manual for their use as required. Offering the Manual through the internet will ensure that up to date information is being accessed and used by customers seeking Land Titles information to assist in their decision making process.

Please ensure that this important information is circulated to the appropriate users throughout your organization. Thank you.

Graham W. Smith
Supervisor - Building Services
Municipal District of Rocky View No. 44

LAND TITLES OFFICE
Permit Stamps
Council has requested that the membership be reminded of Section 61(9) of the bylaws which states that, “the stamp of a surveyor’s corporation or surveyor’s partnership shall be used on all plans, drawings or documents that are certified by an Alberta Land Surveyor who is also a member of employee of the surveyor’s corporation or surveyor’s partnership to whom the permit stamp is issued.”
In the context of digital plan submissions, the permit stamp should appear on both the digital file as well as the accompanying affidavit.
Similarly, Section 61(6) of the bylaws states, “the registrar may grant approval to a surveyor’s corporation or partnership to integrate the permit stamp design issued by the registrar into their computer assisted drafting system to facilitate the use of stamps on plans, drawings and documents....”

Cabinet Changes
Announced by Premier Klein
Premier Ralph Klein has announced four changes to the provincial Cabinet.
Former Health and Wellness Minister Halvar Jonson is moving to become Environment Minister. Former Environment Minister Gary Mar assumes the Health and Wellness portfolio. Dr. Stephen West has been named the Provincial Treasurer; he was previously Minister of Resource Development and serving as Acting Provincial Treasurer. Mike Cardinal, former Associate Minister of Forestry, becomes the Minister of Resource Development. The associate minister position has been eliminated.
“With these changes, we have a team whose talents and energies will lead us through the next year and into the next provincial election,” the Premier said. “All of these Ministers are proven performers who will do extremely well in their new portfolios.”

Premier Klein also noted that former Provincial Treasurer Stockwell Day has submitted a letter of resignation from Cabinet, effective June 1, the Premier noted. “On behalf of everyone in the Government Caucus, I want to thank Stockwell for his many years of superb service in several different Cabinet portfolios,” said Klein. “His skills and enthusiasm will be missed by all of us at the Cabinet table, but we are happy to share him with the people of Canada as he moves to the national stage. We wish him the best of luck.”
Ministers West, Jonson, Mar and Cardinal will be officially sworn in to their new posts on June 7.

New ALSA Staff Member
Corey Levasseur joined the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on May 1st as Survey Technologist with Systematic Practice Review. His job target is to gain further experience and knowledge in the field of surveying.
Corey was born and educated in Edmonton. After graduating from high school in 1993, he went on to attend the U of A in the faculty of education and U of C in the faculty of engineering. In April 2000, he received a diploma from the Geomatics Engineering Technology program at NAIT. Corey was the recipient of the ALSA NAIT scholarship and the Winspear Fund Award. He also served as President of the NAIT Geomatics Society for 1999/2000 and was on the Dean’s Honour Roll since beginning the Geomatics program.
Surveying experience includes subdivisions, real property reports, survey calculations, as-builts, GPS and client liaison.
Corey is a member of ASET and an Associate Member of the ALSA. As far as other activities and volunteer work, Corey enjoys sports such as basketball, slo-pitch, skiing and mountain biking and has volunteered his time to a number of worthwhile charitable activities.
Corey and his wife, Michelle, have bought a new home and will be moving to Devon later this year.

If your firm has not had its digital permit stamp approved by Council, please submit it to the Registrar, care of the Association office, as soon as possible.
Township Records Revision Project (TRRP)

Research by the Director of Surveys Branch indicated that very little has been done in regards to revising and updating official township plans since the administrative responsibilities were transferred to the Alberta Government from Ottawa in 1931. Only particular plans were revised and updated at the time, either when new sections of land were surveyed or when affected by re-surveys or restoration surveys. The revision of township plans was not given a high priority during the years after 1931 because the Director of Surveys used the plan examination program to communicate the problems with township plans to Alberta Land Surveyors. Since this program was discontinued in 1987, the revision of township plans has become a priority of the Branch.

It is the intent of the Director of Surveys Branch under the authority of Section 30(4) of the Surveys Act to update and revise all townships within the categories mentioned below. This would produce a final product that could be relied upon to contain correct and updated information (obtained from original field notes or other official records) regarding survey information pertaining to the township system in Alberta. Overall this would reduce errors, lessen confusion in future, reduce costs and strengthen the integrity of the land survey system in Alberta.

Under the TRRP, a deficiency or defect is defined as a clerical discrepancy between township field notes and a township plan. TRRP is not intended to correct survey errors that may have occurred during the original township survey. Many of these survey errors are discovered and documented by secondary survey plans.

As the process of updating and revising township plans continues within the Branch, it was identified that information about the townships affected should be shared with our clients. To this end, the main categories of official plans to be investigated are provided below. As well, a list of the township plans affected, including a comment field with a brief description of the alleged defect(s) is provided on the Branch web site. If the surveyor is working within the immediate vicinity of the location identified, the Branch should be contacted for details. The list of plans along with this article can be downloaded in a PDF format, text file or as an MS Excel document from our web site at http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/land/dos/serv03.html.

It is important to note that as these deficiencies are investigated and resolved, the list will be updated. Users are advised to check back to this site for the latest information available.

Categories of Official Plans within the TRRP

It is to be noted that the Branch has not yet thoroughly investigated each defect and therefore it is identified as an alleged defect. As each official plan is reviewed, additional research is required to confirm that there is in fact a deficiency, which will require a new edition of the plan to be created.

Clerical Errors, Omissions or Defects

In the past, while conducting regular plan examination duties, a number of township plans were discovered to have clerical errors or data omitted when compared with the original township field notes. Other defects such as monumentation inconsistencies, conflicting data, etc. have been reported to the Branch by Alberta Land Surveyors. Approximately 183 official plans within this category are included in the list.

Restoration/Re-establishment on Township, Baseline and Meridian Plans

There are approximately 68 official surveys that have re-established lost monuments, retraced existing boundaries and restored obliterated monuments. This information has not yet been incorporated into the official township plans. Official plans affected are included in the alleged deficiency list.

Forest Reserves

As Forest Reserves were established some of the township’s survey information within the areas affected was removed from official plans produced. Since the Branch recognizes the importance of identifying all of the available survey data on the township plan, it is intended that the TRRP will restore all of the previously deleted information. Approximately 42 plans are within this category and included within the list provided.

Single Line Road Allowances

All existing township plans indicating a single line for the theoretical government road allowance within unsurveyed territory are considered deficient. New editions showing road allowances 99 feet wide along unsurveyed section lines shall replace these plans. There are 21 township plans showing single-line unsurveyed road allowances included in the list provided.

Baselines and Meridians

Parts of some baseline and meridian plans do not correctly reflect how the monuments are posted due to errors in surveys. Some of these lines are officially recorded on township plans (5th Meridian) while others have not been officially recognized and remain in the field notes stage. Approximately 60 township plans within this category are included in the list provided.
Indian Reserves

Some township plans do not reflect the current position of common boundaries of Indian Reserves. The updating of official township plans to show the current boundary position of Indian Reserves will require the collaborative efforts of Geomatics Canada, Land Administration and others to ensure the boundaries are correct and current. A listing of township plans within this category is not available at this time.

It should be noted that when doing research involving Indian Reserves, users must not rely solely on the information shown on township plans.

Superseded Townships

In early years, as new townships were surveyed and official plans produced, an attempt was made to review and update all other bordering townships if changes were discovered on the common boundaries. This practice was discontinued when the responsibility for township plans was transferred to the Province in 1931. There are also a number of redundant baseline and meridian plans that have been incorporated into township plans. There are no immediate plans to revise township plans in this category. A list of deficient township plans in this category is not available at this time.

Surveyors and other users are reminded that when doing research along a township boundary, other bordering townships must be reviewed for the possibility of more up-to-date information.

Non-Standard / Old Style Plans

Township plans prepared prior to 1903 contained detailed topographic information but were deficient in survey information compared to today’s standards. Information regarding the type of survey monumentation placed at the corners or whether witness monuments were placed was not included on the plan. There are no immediate plans to revise townships in this category as these plans are easily identified and field notes are readily available. Approximately 280 townships are listed in this category.

It is our experience that many land surveyors assume that in the absence of bearings and distances, the plans are standard townships with all distances being 40 chains and all bearings being straight lines with no deflections. It is important to note that this is not always the case and field notes must be researched for any of these types of plans.

Contacts

For details of alleged deficiencies or to comment on specific items within the list of alleged deficiencies, please contact:

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Land Administration Division Initiatives

Following is a list of planned initiatives within the Director of Surveys Branch and Technical Services Branch that may be of interest to land surveyors.

1) Cadastral mapping fee implemented for descriptive plans

In accordance with Alberta Regulation 94/2000 (Surveys Act), the Cadastral Mapping Fee Order was revised to enable collection of a mapping fee for descriptive plans submitted for registration at the Land Titles Offices. Collection of the fee was implemented on May 23, 2000.

Note: The fee is not collected for plans within the City of Calgary, Metis lands and Federal Indian Reserves and National Parks.

2) Monumentation Certificate form added to the regulations under the Land Titles Act

This housekeeping activity will add the form required by surveyors to certify that monuments have been placed in accordance with section 43 of the Surveys Act (non-monumented plans) to the forms regulation under the Land Titles Act. This was necessitated when the Survey Regulation under the Surveys Act was repealed and the survey standards added to the Manual of Standard Practice.

3) Survey Plan Index (SPIN) access to survey control data

The Director of Surveys Branch is working with Alberta Registries in order to enhance access to survey control data. By the fall of 2000, survey control data will be accessible from the SPIN system. Enhanced SPIN access will allow the current access options through Resource Data Division to be eliminated early in 2001.

4) SPIN access to township plans

The Director of Surveys Branch is also working with Alberta Registries to provide SPIN access to township plans. By December 31, 2000, surveyors will be able to view and download scanned images of both current and historical township plans. The township plans were scanned earlier this year and Branch staff are currently collecting meta data (date confirmed, legal description, and so on) that will be used in SPIN for access and retrieval purposes.
5) Scanning township plan field notes
Funds within the Land Administration Division have been allocated to scan all township survey field notes recorded with the Director of Surveys office. Scanning will be completed by March 31, 2001. Indexing and collecting meta data on the filed notes will take a significant amount of work and SPIN access is not expected until sometime in 2002.

6) Website list of deficient township plans
Over the years, the Director of Surveys Branch has become aware of numerous township plan deficiencies. These deficiencies are mainly situations where field note information is different from what is shown on the township plan, but they also include other things like restoration surveys and problems with descriptions in witness monuments. By the end of June 2000, a list of these deficiencies will be published on the Director of Surveys website. As part of the Branch’s Township Records Revision Program (TRRP), this list will be updated on a regular basis and surveyors are encouraged to visit the site periodically. TRRP is a multi-year program in which new and revised township plans are created in a CADD format. Long-term plans of the program include updating old style township plans in southern Alberta, which only show limited information, and plotting current Indian Reserve boundaries on township plans.

7) Enhanced survey and plan standards for Public Land dispositions
Staff from Technical Services Branch and the Director of Surveys Branch will be working with the Standards Committee on developing detailed survey and plan standards and guidelines for disposition surveys on public land. The goal is to use these new standards and guidelines for all disposition surveys submitted to Technical Services Branch.

8) Scanned activity plans/townships
Technical Services Branch is considering scanning the compiled township plots and making them available through IHS Energy Canada Ltd. A client survey is being considered to determine future client requirements and client satisfaction with the present delivery system. Anticipated date for the client survey is the Fall of 2000.

9) Land Administration Division web site
A request for proposal will be sent out shortly requesting a contractor to build a website for Land Administration Division. The site will include general information about dispositions on public land and will provide digital access to forms and policy and procedure documents. The new site is scheduled for completion in August and should be up and running by the Fall of 2000.

MARV WEISS AND MIKE MICHAUD
JUNE 1, 2000
Leica

(repeat)
n 1941, as an engineering student, I had a job as Instrument man on a field crew with the Alberta Department of Public Works. My boss was Carl Lester DLS, later the Head of the Surveys Branch. What started out as merely the means of earning enough money to go back to school, turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It was an education in itself, of people and places and Alberta history, of life styles and wild life, with a little bit of adventure thrown in for good measure.

The crew consisted of the crew chief and myself, plus two chainmen, a mounder and a cook. The transport consisted of one 3/4 ton truck and one car (Carl’s). The accommodation—two sleeping tents and a cook tent all with wood burning stoves. (Carl and I used one tent which also contained a folding work table). Personnel provided their own cots and bedding. In my own case, I slept on the ground the first month until I could afford to buy a canvas cot. Minimum assorted equipment was supplied, such as wash basins, and these were normally supported on three iron survey posts just outside the tent, alongside a bucket of water. The food was supplied, of course, and there were few complaints as to quantity, although occasionally about the quality! In my time with the crew, we had two cooks; the first, Old Art, had been a bull cook with the railway. He was quite a cook; his pastry would melt in your mouth, but his sanitation was debatable. The second, Nils Tuftin was the exact opposite, clean but plain—take your choice!

We really were a highly mobile and self-sufficient unit. We could break camp, pack, and be on the road in about four hours. When we reached our next “job site,” which might be just outside a town or out in the boondocks, it would take about the same length of time to pitch camp and be ready to go to work. One requirement, of course, was to dig a refuse pit, larger or smaller depending on how long we expected to be in that location. That and any latrines were filled in, on departure. (I think the Department of the Environment would have approved but I don’t remember the subject ever coming up!)

The work was the locating of packages of land, later to be registered in Land Titles. This had to be done with the maximum possible accuracy, using existing maps and the original surveys for that part of the country. Locating section lines was often easier said than done. Monuments would range from stone cairns or shallow pits (on the prairies) if they could be found, to deep but overgrown pits and mounds (in the forests of the foothills country). Sometimes, on the prairie or in muskeg country,
we would have to back track for miles, sometimes going around or across a small lake. Iron posts marking section or township corners were becoming very scarce as they tended to end up in some farmer’s yard. I was totally impressed the first time I was introduced to “forensic surveying.” We had determined roughly where a section corner should be, then by carefully shaving off layers of clay, under Carl’s watchful eye, suddenly found ourselves looking at the rust mark where an iron post had been. No guessing, it had to be it!

At the end of the day, back at camp, it would be my job to complete the records and check out the survey to ensure the traverse (I think we called it) closed, using four figure logarithms. If the loop didn’t close it meant that some angle or some distance was incorrect. Laborious work, sometimes under an oil lamp, but it had to be done and I got pretty good at it! If the worst came to the worst, we would have to recheck the job in the field and nobody liked doing that. (Nowadays, with hand held computers and prism targets, I presume this would never happen.)

There was interest wherever we went, if you had an eye for it. We were in the Rocky Mountain House area before the old stone fire places were declared an historic site. There were remains of the N.W. Trading Co. Post, on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, dating back to 1800. Actually the area seemed pretty historic when we were there. At Racinus, the mail was delivered by horse and buggy when it was very wet one week. Another memory is of the Finnish Steam Baths, at Rocky, to which Carl and I were invited on more than one occasion. A lot of Finns settled in that area and the steam baths were quite the social center. After a steam, we would sit around, eat cheese and crackers and little green onions to go with the beer and the tall tales! The work was often carried out in dense bush, cutting a line through pine, tamarack, and birch, filled with wild life. Deer often crossed my ‘line of sight’ and I will never forget seeing a family of weasels at play one day—talk about athletes! One camp site was on the banks of the Clearwater River in beautiful country. Ruffed Grouse and Bush Partridge made a wonderful change in the menu!

Lake Newell, south of Brooks, was not without interest. This was long before the current recreation centre there now. We were camped beside the lake, open prairie, four scrawny trees in sight, and the wind blew from sun up to sun down. My nose peeled almost constantly in the sun, until I stopped using soap and water.

I read where some naturalist was trying to find where the pelicans nested that were often reported in Alberta. My first letter to the editor resulted; describing how both pelicans and cormorants nested in large numbers on sand bars out in Lake Newell! Some of the wild life was a little closer to home. Mice abounded there. They would run across your face while you were asleep. One night they woke me up and I became aware of a strange scratching noise. It was bright moonlight and I soon discovered the source of the sounds. Mice were playing on the roof of the tent—running along the ridge pole then sliding down the tent roof, silhouetted in the moonlight!

Our two chainmen, Gordon Straughan (Med Student) and Jim Neville (a refugee from the coal mines at Drumheller) tried to kill themselves one day. It was somewhere north of Brooks in open rolling country. They were checking a traverse we had run earlier. They were going down one side of a ravine and up the other and a power line angled across their line. In straightening out the chain (remember, it is 66 feet of metal, with leather thongs on each end) they managed to flip it up high enough to touch or nearly touch the power line and it “arced.” After a long wait, two of us started back looking for them when they appeared over the last hill, dishevelled but otherwise OK. They had both been knocked out; the chain burned through
and both thongs gone. We all had an extra beer that night! (see photo of the two of them “reeling the chain” at the end of a day).

Speaking of beer, we had an iron clad routine at the end of a working day. On the way back to camp we would drop in to town, wherever that was, to pick up the mail, buy any supplies and have two glasses of beer at the local pub. The first glass cleared the dust and the second went down slowly but with great satisfaction. We were all very fit but on an empty stomach and at the end of a long day that was probably all we should have had. Point was that that was all we got if we wanted to work for Carl! After hours, weekends and at the local dances—that was something else, of course.

Our time in the Milk River country and east of there was probably the highlight of that summer. Camping near Manyberries every day seemed hot and dry. One day the boss said, ‘had I ever been to the Cypress Hills?’ I hadn’t. Well, we drove and we climbed and we climbed. Finally we gained the high ground and had a chance to take in that wonderful sight. Forty-eight hundred feet above sea level, as I recall and twenty-five hundred feet above the prairie. No wonder the Indian tribes valued it for spotting buffalo, and the like. The flora and fauna is different, too, with the top never having been covered by the last ice age. But you know all that; it is now quite the tourist mecca. In 1941, there was none of that. It was essentially untouched.

Manyberries was an old cow town and not without its charm. Population when we were there was about 75. Since then I seem to have met hundreds of people who claim it as their home town. Strange! My recollections are of miles of tumbleweed and poisonous wood ticks. Met this old boy there who showed me his legs, just covered with scars from having dug out the heads of wood ticks. We were impressed and took all precautions after that! Oh yes and the population of gophers, black widow spiders and rattlesnakes must have been well above average.

I’m sure the survey business is vastly different to-day and much more efficient. But I bet you it wasn’t half the fun it was in those days!
The Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary surveys were defined in The Alberta Act and The Saskatchewan Act of 1905 as “the Fourth Meridian of the Dominion Lands system of survey.”

At the time of enactment of these Acts, some 360 miles of the Fourth Meridian from the International Boundary to Township 60 had already been laid down and monumented on the ground as one of the governing lines of the western survey system, without any foreknowledge that it would later become an interprovincial boundary. This work was spread over a period of years commencing in 1879. It was performed piecemeal by a number of different surveyors, according as the progress of settlement necessitated extension of the survey system from time to time and, as might be expected, there was considerable variation in the accuracy with which the work was done.

Fortunately from the practical standpoint, the position of the Fourth Meridian had not been rigidly defined by statute. The Dominion Lands Surveys Act, in connection with the numbering of townships and ranges, provided for the adoption of reference lines specified as “a certain meridian line run in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, styled the principal meridian, drawn northerly from the forty-ninth parallel of latitude at a point ten miles or thereabouts westerly from Pembina” and “such other initial meridians as the Minister orders to be established...styled the second, the third, the fourth meridian and so on...westward from the principal meridian.” Under that authority, it was decided that the “other initial meridians” should be established as nearly as possible four degrees in longitude apart, commencing with the second meridian in longitude 102°. It was therefore not requisite that the Fourth Meridian should coincide with the line of longitude 110°, but only that it should be as close as possible to it within the limits of locational accuracy feasible at that time.

During the eighteen-seventies, when the pressure of settlement in the west made it imperative to carry the survey system forward as rapidly as possible, there were no accurate methods of checking longitudes in that part of the country. Until 1873, the surveys of governing lines were carried out under contract—a system not conducive to accurate work—and the complete lack of data with respect to such factors as elevations above sea level also led to inaccuracies. It is not surprising that under such conditions many errors were made but, on the whole, the quality of the tremendous quantities of survey work done in those early years was remarkably good.

During that early period, the positions of the second, third, fourth and fifth meridians were established by progressive extensions of the governing lines westerly from the principal meridian. ...
The survey of the Fourth Meridian got off to a false start in 1879 when the line was run north and posted according to the first system of survey as far as Township 53. A latitude observation made in September 1879, by the Special Survey Branch at the northeast corner of Township 40 showed that that point had been established 5.68 chains too far north in running the 11th base line. Two years later, when it had been decided to subdivide the lands in that territory according to the third system of survey, the position of the northeast corner of Township 40 was corrected in latitude and the line was re-run north. Later, when the line was run south, a surplus of 8.25 chains was found when the International Boundary was reached. This excess was distributed back over a portion of the line, but subsequent retracements revealed that between the International Boundary and Township 40 there was a total deficiency of 4.16 chains. On account of these irregularities, a complete retracement of the line from the International Boundary north to Township 62 was undertaken in 1915, the results of which appear on the revised township plans subsequently issued.

During the period 1882 to 1911, the Fourth Meridian was surveyed northerly as far as the northeast corner of Township 105. Two precise latitude observations were made on the meridian in 1911, one in Township 62 and the other in Township 89. These observations showed that the corners established between these townships were from 1.4 to 4.4 chains too far south, the error increasing northerly. When the survey continued from Township 105 to Township 115 in 1912, the northeast corner of Township 104 was first moved north to conform to the results of the observations. Later in 1913 and 1918, the positions of all corners on the line from Township 72 northerly were correspondingly corrected wherever adjacent subdivision and occupancy of the land did not make this impracticable.

In view of the existence of these errors in latitude, it was only to be expected that errors in azimuth were also present. Such errors were revealed by the retracement surveys, and some corrections were made, but in the southerly portion of the line, especially, the Fourth Meridian still contains a great many small deflections. It has been referred to as the longest surveyed straight line in the world but "approximately straight" would be a more truthful adjective. Taking the position of the northeast corner of Township 40 as a datum, the positions of other township corners to the north and south are off the meridian—in most cases to the west—by as much as two chains in longitude. From Township 62 northerly the departure of the corners is a reasonably uniform quantity, ranging gradually down from 1.66 chains west at Township 63 to 1.32 chains west in Township 115. Further south, however, especially in Townships 20 to 40, the departures are highly variable and no appreciable portion of the line can be said to be straight. ...

Unlike the Alberta-British Columbia Boundary, which was an inter-provincial boundary pure and simple, the Fourth Meridian was primarily a governing line of the Dominion Lands Survey System and only incidentally a boundary between provinces. Hence, until 1930, when the control and surveying of Crown lands became provincial responsibilities, the survey of governing lines remained a function of the Dominion authorities and participation of the provinces was not called for. On that basis, the major portion of the Fourth Meridian was surveyed in the manner prescribed by Dominion regulations as they existed from time to time with respect to the survey of governing lines. Accordingly, the line was monumented at the township and section corners with the standard Dominion Lands Survey monuments and no marks indicative of its status as a provincial boundary are to be found south of Lake Athabasca.

After 1918, no further survey work was done on the Fourth Meridian until 1938. By that time mineral exploration and development were becoming active in the territory north of Lake Athabasca and for that reason it was considered necessary to define the remainder of the Fourth Meridian on the ground so that the limits of provincial jurisdiction over those activities might be properly established. ...

Early in 1938, the Commission appointed Mr. B.W. Waugh, DLS., of Ottawa, as chief of the field party, and instructions were issued to him on March 1st to proceed with the extension of the line across Lake Athabasca before the spring breakup. For this work, J.W. Doze, D & ALS of Edmonton was appointed as Mr. Waugh's assistant.

Mr. Waugh arrived at Edmonton on March 8th, where he engaged other members of the survey party, purchased supplies and arranged for transportation. Excessive costs ruled out the use of tractors with cabooses for transport on the lake and the use of an aeroplane for moving camp proved to be impractical because of the rough and dangerous condition of the snow-covered lake surface. Mr. Doze and another man therefore proceeded by air ahead of the rest of the party from Edmonton to Chipewyan where they hired horses and sleighs and moved in to the starting point, arriving there on March 15th. The other members of the party travelled by train from Edmonton to Waterways, thence by air to the end of the line.

Survey work commenced on March 18th, Mr. Doze and his helper having opened up the old line south of the lake during the preceding two days. The line was surveyed north for a distance of 21.7 miles across the lake, the north shore being reached on March 23rd. On the 24th and 25th, the line was produced north inland one mile further and temporary marks were left to permit its later extension. Bad flying weather delayed the return of the party until March 31st, when the aircraft arrived and transported the men to Fort McMurray, whence they returned to Edmonton by train.
Chainages across the lake were measured by two sets of chainers, the tapes being fully supported and under constant tension. The difference in total measurement over the 21.7 miles was one link. Azimuths were carried forward with a Cooke transit at instrumental stations about a mile apart. Lath pickets were set in the snow about twenty chains apart to guide the chainmen. Observations for azimuth were taken on the south shore at three stations on the ice and on the north shore. Rough encrusted snow covered by a layer of loose snow on the lake made walking difficult for both men and horses and a continuous strong northeast wind was troublesome. During the course of the work temperatures ranged from 20 below to 30 above zero.

As the country through which the line was to be run was plentifully dotted with lakes of sufficient size for aircraft landings and take-offs, camp moves and the freighting in of supplies were effected by means of an airplane chartered to visit the camp on dates pre-arranged as the work proceeded. The only draw-back in this system of transport was that the pre-arranged moving dates had to be kept and, in order that the progress of the field work would not lag behind the moves, the party had to maintain a steady schedule of survey operations. Surveying was sometimes thus necessitated in wet weather and once throughout a Sunday. However, the time saved in moving camp and the advantages of being able to keep supplies on hand to a minimum and replenish them frequently more than offset the defects of this mode of operation. The only alternative method of transport, manpacking, would have been arduous and time-consuming over the rough and difficult terrain and the use of canoes would have entailed much portaging between the disconnected lakes. On the other hand, to assist in the daily transport of equipment on the line, a small canoe was used and proved to be most useful.

The survey work proceeded at an average rate of nearly one mile per day through rough and thickly timbered country which made accurate chaining difficult to achieve. Two tapes were again used and double triangulations were made across water obstructions. Slopes of as much as 18 degrees were encountered, all those over five degrees being measured with a transit. A calculation made prior to the preceding winter’s work, based on the results of a latitude observation taken on the south shore of Lake Athabasca, indicated that the northeast corner of Alberta should be 12.43 chains north of the northeast corner of Township 126. When the end of the survey was reached, after chaining a total distance of 72 miles from the south shore, the measurements obtained...
are found to be only 16 links greater than had thus been calculated—"a most remarkable coincidence," to quote Mr. Waugh’s report.

For line production a Wild 3-inch transit was used with satisfactory results, despite generally poor light conditions and unfavourable weather for observing. Except in one section where the line was found to be in error by 13.5 seconds west of true north, necessitating a corrective deflection, the average error in azimuth was 3.2 seconds. ...

Two sets of monuments were erected, one to mark the township corners and the other at intervisible points to define the interprovincial boundary. The first set consisted of standard DLS posts, with mounds of stone or earth, or the boundary monuments special posts similar to the DLS rock post were used. These were numbered consecutively from the south, the number being engraved on the bottom or south side of the bronze cap. The names “Alberta” and “Saskatchewan” were inscribed to the left and right of the centre line of the cap, and a crown was stamped on the north side of the cap. The boundary posts were referenced by stone or earth mounds five feet square and 30 inches high. Placed on the line seven feet south of the post. Thirty-nine boundary posts were placed at an average distance of 100 chains apart. ...

When the terminal point was reached, a line at 270° azimuth was run from Mr. Ney’s observation point (which had a latitude value of 60°00’00.23") to intersect the boundary line. From that intersection point, the terminal point was located 35.4 links (equal to 0.23” in latitude) to the south. This simple method was feasible as the observation point was only 2.85 chains east of the line. Mr. Peters, Chairman of the Commission, who visited the camp for a week at the end of the season, was present when the terminal monument was constructed on Labor Day, September 5th. On the following day, two aircraft came in and conveyed the party and equipment to Edmonton.

After the returns of survey of the boundary from the south shore of Lake Athabasca northerly had been received and confirmed by the Commission, the line so established was adopted as the interprovincial boundary by special Acts of the two provincial legislatures passed in 1939.

References
(1) The Saskatchewan Act, 4 and 5, Edward vii, Chapter 42, 1905.
(2) The Alberta Act, 4 and 5, Edward VII, Chapter 3, 1905.
(3) Base Lines and Meridians of that Dominion Lands Survey system, Bulletin 57, 1921, Department of the Interior.
(4) Saskatchewan: The Alberta-Saskatchewan Boundary Act, April 1, 1939.
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The topic of education at the entrance level to our profession was once again the subject of much debate. The discussion and comments of the many members who spoke on this issue were reminiscent of the discussions that were part of annual meeting in the 1970s. The pros and cons of a university degree in engineering as the level of entrance into the profession were fiercely debated in those days as well. It was felt by some that an engineering program would be too heavily weighted in mathematics, physics, precise measurements and computer programming and too weak in survey law, cadastral studies and practical operations of survey instrumentation in a field setting.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association eventually approved the Survey Engineering Course in the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Calgary. In order for the profession to maintain control of education of future surveyors, the Western Canadian Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors (WCBE) was established at the same time. The membership on the Board was (and is) the associations of the four western provinces and the University of Calgary.

This Board had a second function and that was to establish and administer a schedule of examinations which would provide students an alternative to formal university education and still qualify for entrance into the profession as an articling pupil. The Board was also given the obligation of accrediting education programs against its own syllabus for exemption from some or all of the requirements of that syllabus.

The Board has maintained and executed its responsibilities for the education of future surveyors for over twenty years. It was successful in negotiating agreements with the Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners now called the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners, the Ontario Academic and Experience Requirements Committee, and the Atlantic Provinces Board of Examiners on a common academic syllabus and a common set of examinations that test the requirements of the syllabus. Presently, the programs at the University of Calgary, Laval University and the University of New Brunswick qualify students who have taken certain options for full exemption from any of the examinations required by these Boards. The syllabus, which forms the basis of education for future surveyors, is reviewed annually by those boards of examiners.

The WCBE has also given partial accreditation to the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Survey Program and to the survey program at Red River College in Winnipeg. In response to a portion of our industry, BCIT is presently expanding its program to four years and is hopeful that graduates of this program will be eligible for full exemption from WCBE examinations.

It appears that the combined boards will support the expansion of the technical institutions’ programs from diplomas to bachelor programs. The discussion at our annual meeting and those of other provinces are indicators that we probably need a mix of the Bachelor of Technology and the Bachelor of Engineering degrees entering the land surveying profession at the articling pupil level in order to serve our members and society as a whole as we try to provide services that reflect land surveying and the broader field of surveying as defined by our legislation.

The discussion and comments of many members who spoke on this issue were reminiscent of the discussions that were part of annual meeting in the 1970s. The pros and cons of a university degree in engineering as the level of entrance into the profession were fiercely debated in those days as well. It was felt by some that an engineering program would be too heavily weighted in mathematics, physics, precise measurements and computer programming and too weak in survey law, cadastral studies and practical operations of survey instrumentation in a field setting.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association eventually approved the Survey Engineering Course in the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Calgary. In order for the profession to maintain control of education of future surveyors, the Western Canadian Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors (WCBE) was established at the same time. The membership on the Board was (and is) the associations of the four western provinces and the University of Calgary.

This Board had a second function and that was to establish and administer a schedule of examinations which would provide students an alternative to formal university education and still qualify for entrance into the profession as an articling pupil. The Board was also given the obligation of accrediting education programs against its own syllabus for exemption from some or all of the requirements of that syllabus.

The Board has maintained and executed its responsibilities for the education of future surveyors for over twenty years. It was successful in negotiating agreements with the Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners now called the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners, the Ontario Academic and Experience Requirements Committee, and the Atlantic Provinces Board of Examiners on a common academic syllabus and a common set of examinations that test the requirements of the syllabus. Presently, the programs at the University of Calgary, Laval University and the University of New Brunswick qualify students who have taken certain options for full exemption from any of the examinations required by these Boards. The syllabus, which forms the basis of education for future surveyors, is reviewed annually by those boards of examiners.

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In the end, the programs that find employers for graduates are the programs that will ultimately provide us with our future surveyors.

WCBE Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of the Board was held in Calgary on April 11, 2000. The Board ratified the decision of the Accreditation Committee to grant exemptions to Red River College graduates with an overall average of 70% of Level 1 Syllabus, items: 1—Mathematics, 3—Advanced Surveying and 7—Cadastral Studies.

Examination Report Highlights
Candidates per province:
Manitoba .................................. 6
Saskatchewan ................................. 1
Alberta ..................................... 21
British Columbia ......................... 15

7 of the 43 candidates writing examinations completed the syllabus and are eligible for the Certificate of Completion. Average marks on all examinations was 61%. 65% of examinations written were passed.

Certificates of Completion issued for the period April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.
Practicing Provincial Land Surveyors .......... 2
U of C Graduates .................. 3
Completed WCBE Examinations ................. 14
Robert Marshall (Bob) Pollock was born and raised in Calgary and educated in the Calgary public school system. After graduation from high school, he secured a position with Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) as an inside worker and life was good. While employed at AGT, he met and courted a fine lady named Barbara Severson from Scarville, Iowa; also employed at AGT. They met in June of 1953, were engaged at Christmas 1953, and married in July of 1954. They raised a family of six daughters; Karen, Heather, Lorna, Roberta, Colleen and Susan and, at the time of his death, Bob was grandfather to eleven grandchildren. Bob felt confined by his office work and opted to work outdoors at AGT and the industry as Skinner Bright, ALS, Frank Halahuric, ALS and Ross Woolgar, ALS. Bob found time to study for and write the Dominion Land Surveyors’ examinations and was registered as #884 on April 5th, 1963.

The duties of a corporate land surveyor involved in major land development projects within the City of Calgary were intense, tiring, and often frustrating. Bob resigned from his corporate position in April of 1979 and moved the family residence to Carstairs, Alberta. R.M. Pollock and Associates opened an office in Olds, Alberta at the same time. Bob appreciated the slower pace of the rural and small town environment and enjoyed providing his personal style of land surveying and subdivision services to the Town of Olds and the surrounding communities for 14 years until he retired in June of 1993.

At some point in time during the early 1990s, Bob and Barbara found themselves as “empty nesters” with diverging interests and, by mutual agreement, went their separate ways. Bob and Barbara remained good friends and participated in joint family affairs until his death.

Immediately upon retirement, Bob disposed of the Carstairs home and relocated to the family cabin in the interior of Southern British Columbia on Kootenay Lake between Balfour and Nelson. There he would spend his summers, relaxing and playing bridge with the local experts. The cabin and the locale were not particularly suited to winter occupancy. Bob searched out offshore winter holiday retreats not commonly associated with the mainstream tourist destinations and spent parts of successive winters in Cuba, Mexico, Thailand and finally, the Philippines. When not winter-holidaying offshore he would enjoy the hospitality of any one of his six daughters that resided in the Calgary area.

Bob was a kind man, with a sense of compassion for those less fortunate. During his return trips to the same holiday locations in Cuba, he often filled one of his suitcases with bounty from summer garage sales. Old screwdrivers, hammers, small tools, running shoes, eye glasses, soap and perfume samples were treasured gifts for the local Cubans. He reported that his generosity was appreciated by the locals. However the airport customs officials were not impressed!

A surveyor’s legacy is often considered to be the survey plans, notes of record, his reputation amongst his colleagues, and his marks left on the ground. Bob’s included his family, friends and participated in joint family affairs until his death.

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Robert Marshall Pollock’s remains were memorialized by a service held at the United Church in Carstairs Alberta on February 17th, 2000. Grandson Tyrone Harrison, aged 10 years, wrote a poem eulogising Grandpa Bob. These are the closing lines:

“When I look at a picture, I know he’s not there.
But when I look to heaven, that is when I know where.”

JOHN DEYHOLOS. ALS
**Zenovie Swydnyncky**  
**November 11, 1930 to April 30, 2000**

Zennie passed away peacefully at home after a lengthy confrontation with cancer. He will be dearly missed by Jenny, his wife of thirty-five years, his children, Michael and Diane, and grandchildren, Justin and Tyler.

Zennie grew up and went to school in Edmonton. In 1952, he moved to Calgary where he continued his education. Zennie was articled to Joseph W. Doze, ALS and received commission #290 on May 16, 1963.

He had twelve years of industrial experience in legal and municipal engineering and was an instructor at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology for thirty years teaching Field Work, Drafting, Astronomy, Municipal Engineering, and Theory of Survey and Map Projections.

He was active in the church community and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Zennie was a respected member of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, of the Certification Board for the Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping Technologies. For three summers, he taught in Ottawa for CIDA.

Zennie was kind-hearted and generous to all and sponsored immigrant families to Canada. He enjoyed gardening, his apple trees, and especially loved playing with his grandchildren.

**ED SCOVILL, ALS (RET.)**

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**TDS Ranger Data Collection and Mapping**

Built for surveyors like you - Tripod Data Systems created and staffed a new company, At Work Computers, to develop a field data collector using the most advanced handheld computing technology available. The TDS Ranger is rugged, reliable and productive. Available with your choice of Survey Pro CE surveying data collection software and/or SOLO CE GPS/GIS mapping software, Ranger provides powerful solutions for your data collection needs.

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**HP Handheld Data Collection**

Tripod Data Systems has packed twelve years of experience making the world's most popular data collection software into three packages that run on the affordable Hewlett-Packard 48GX: the COGO card, Survey Standard card and Survey Pro card. The easy-to-master TDS user interface and your HP 48GX make a powerful team.

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www.alsa.ab.ca  
ALS News • 33
Surveyors Must Exercise Caution in Applications to Amend Title

In a recent decision of the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench, an Alberta Land Surveyor was found negligent and liable in a boundary dispute in which he filed a plan establishing the boundaries of one party’s land, under section 90 of the Land Titles Act.

Section 90 of the Land Titles Act provides for the filing of a plan to amend the legal description to reflect the current position of a natural boundary. Section 94 goes on to provide for the amendment of a certificate of title to reflect the new boundary.

The Court did not find the surveyor liable for his actions in performing the survey even though the Court disagreed with the establishment of the natural boundary. The Court however felt the surveyor was negligent for actively taking steps to register the plan and applying to obtain a new title without getting the consent of adversely affected adjoiners.

Section 90 of the Land Titles Act requires an application to be accompanied by a plan of survey, the consent of the Crown and “the consent of the registered owners of parcels that may be adversely affected.” The surveyor obtained a letter from the Public Lands Branch saying that they had “no objection” but did not obtain the consent of any potentially “adversely affected owners” even though he was aware of an ongoing dispute.

The Land Titles Office registered the plan and subsequently issued a new title which was transferred to a third party purchaser. Land Titles did not question the registration. The Land Titles Office, also named as a defendant in the action, admitted that they had erred in accepting the plan for registration and amending the title (pursuant to section 94 of the Act) which also required that the Registrar be “satisfied that the change will not adversely affect any person.” The Court found that “the failure of the Registrar to insist on notice” contributed to the situation but because of section 161 of the Land Titles Act, the Registrar cannot be found liable for the recovery of damages unless the other defendants do not have the ability of satisfy the judgment.

The case is a complex matter including many issues of interest to surveyors. It includes survey related issues of avulsion versus accretion, the description in a title referring to a natural boundary as shown on a specified plan of survey, the date of issue of an original title, and the application of conventional boundaries in a Torrens jurisdiction. The case also deals with issues of liability with reference to a surveyors duty to the public versus his duty to clients, the Code of Ethics, and the surveyors’ role in assisting clients to register documents in the Land Titles Office.

A more comprehensive analysis of this case will be reported in the next issue of ALS News.
SPR Phase 2 Practice Ratings

Item 2.3 of the Systematic Practice Review Phase 2 Framework Document states:

During Phase 2 of the SPR program, the Director of Practice Review shall develop and implement a formal weighting system for each component of the SPR checklists.

We have developed and implemented a weighting system by assigning weights to all 348 individual items in the SPR checklists under the direction of the Practice Review Board. In general, any individual item that can affect the location or determination of a boundary has been assigned a much higher weight than a minor, cosmetic or a lower impact item. For example, if a plan does not show making a required boundary intersection, the impact on the plan rating would be much more significant than, say, a missing assumed bearing on the plan. Thus, a product with no boundary-related deficiencies would score high, unless there is a very large number of lower-weighted deficiencies. If an item shown in the checklists is “not applicable” for that product, or is “not checked,” that item is not factored into the rating. Regardless of the assigned weights, only those items checked “yes” or “no” make up 100% of the product rating. In order to maintain consistency from start to finish in Phase 2, there will be no weighting changes to any of the items until Phase 2 is complete.

The rating assigned to a product depends upon the extent of compliance with each of the applicable items in the checklists. If the products selected for review are representative of the day-to-day practice of a firm, the final averages for all products reviewed in Phase 2 should be representative of the overall profession. That is why we ask the land surveyor when we select a product for review, if the product selected is typical of the work of that practice.

Components

There is a maximum of three components for each product reviewed:

- There is a plan examination for all reviewed products.
- Most products, except, for instance, some descriptive plans, include a field note examination.
- Although not all products receive a field inspection, to date over half of the products in Phase 2 have been field inspected.

A total product evaluation is derived from the average of the applicable components that were reviewed for that product. A practice rating is the average of all of the total product evaluations for that practice. Product evaluations are computed as the checklist items are entered, and the resulting rating for each component of the reviewed product and an overall practice rating are provided to the firm under review. An average of all practice ratings can also be com-

| Categories | Plan Review | | | | Field Note Review | | | | Field Inspection | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|            | Average    | High (%)    | Low (%)     | Average    | High (%)    | Low (%)     | Average    | High (%)    | Low (%)     |
| Subdivisions | 89.47      | 96.46       | 77.55       | 68.13      | 86.36       | 17.36       | 78.96      | 98.68       | 60.00       |
| Rights-of-Way | 94.90      | 98.29       | 89.78       | 80.59      | 89.83       | 69.25       | 82.53      | 97.54       | 66.94       |
| Wellsites² | 84.54      | 92.76       | 79.32       | 80.43      | 97.11       | 70.44       | 85.02      | 97.62       | 64.86       |
| RPRs        | 83.38      | 94.06       | 69.41       | 65.19      | 84.19       | 39.45       | 62.93      | 85.59       | 36.12       |
| Road Surveys | 86.82      | 92.92       | 73.82       | 80.16      | 84.48       | 74.70       | 79.44      | 96.04       | 54.43       |
| Other Plans³ | 95.20      | 98.29       | 69.41       | 70.38      | 97.11       | 17.36       | 75.16      | 98.68       | 36.12       |
| Total all plans² | 87.58      | 98.29       | 69.41       | 72.89      | 97.11       | 17.36       | 75.16      | 98.68       | 36.12       |

1 Depending on the type of work undertaken by a practice and the number of land surveyors in that practice, products may have been examined from any or all of the six listed categories.
2 Surveyed and unsurveyed territory.
3 Such as Monument Plans, Condominiums, Strata. Highs and lows are not reported in this category due to the limited number of products examined and inspected to date.
4 While any of the averages expressed here may change over time, I believe that the sample size is now large enough to prevent much fluctuation in an average based on one extremely high or low component score.

Table 1

...if a plan does not show making a required boundary intersection, the impact on the plan rating would be much more significant ...
puted. However, since this can change as more practice ratings are added, we have not been reporting the average practice rating with individual reviews. It is my intention (and a requirement under the Framework Document) to update the membership annually on trends in practice performance.

We have initiated over 50 reviews in SPR Phase 2 to date - each one consisting of two or more product evaluations, depending on the number of land surveyors, the size of the practice, and the work undertaken. Table 1 lists the average ratings for the different product types reviewed in Phase 2 to date. The average practice rating to date is 79.89%.

Observations

- Regardless of the component or category, the high scores were remarkably consistent in the mid 80s to high 90s.
- In general, field notes and field survey examinations scored lower than plan examinations.
- Any practice reviewed under Phase 2 can now compare any of its components, categories or its overall practice rating against the ratings shown above.
- The last few Phase 1 reviews were rated under this system to test the weighting and computations performed in the database; however the above ratings only include products reviewed under Phase 2.
- Field notes scored highest for Rights-of-Way, Wellsites and Road Surveys, and lowest for Subdivisions and Real Property Reports.
- Field inspections scored lowest for Real Property Reports, which would indicate boundary related deficiencies are more frequent in this category.
- While these percentages do not indicate anything more than averages, it seems reasonable to suggest that there is room for improvement if the average rating in any component or category is less than 75%.

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Case Study No. 4: Boundary Evidence

This is the fourth in a continuing series of articles featuring problems commonly encountered in Systematic Practice Review. The purpose of these articles is purely educational. Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.

The Problem

During the course of SPR reviews, I regularly encounter practitioners who place a greater weight on plan dimensions than on the physical location of monuments. They will refute the location of an original monument on the basis of plan dimensions only. “Doesn’t fit the plan,” is what I keep hearing, “it’s in the wrong place!” I believe this approach is a serious departure from basic survey principles.

The Principle

For the most part, the surveys in western Canada were complete before the lands were settled. This made it easy for the legislators to include in the survey laws the doctrine of original monumentation. The doctrine of original monumentation has been adopted into statute law in western Canada and was included in the first Surveys Act proclaimed after the formation of the Province of Alberta. It is likely that one of the reasons law makers included this doctrine of original monumentation in survey law was the classic statement by Chief Justice Thomas Cooley of the Supreme Court of Michigan in January 1881. In his talk to the Michigan Association of Surveyors and Engineers, entitled “The Judicial Functions of Surveyors,” Chief Justice Cooley said, in part:

“While the witness trees remain, there can generally be no difficulty in determining the locality of the line. When the witness trees are gone, so that they no longer record evidence of the monuments, it is surprising how many there are who mistake altogether the duty that now devolves upon the surveyor. It is by no means uncommon that we find men whose theoretical education is supposed to make them experts, who think that when monuments are gone the only thing to be done is to place new monuments where the old ones should have been, and where they would have been, if they had been placed correctly. This is a serious mistake. The problem is now the same as it was before, to ascertain by the best lights of which the case admits, where the original lines were.”

The original lines must govern, and the laws under which they were made must govern, because the land was granted, was divided, and has descended to successive owners under the original lines and surveys; it is a question of proprietary right.

The Project

As an articled student in 1980, I was involved with my principal in the retracement of part of a range line on the east limit of Sections 24 and 25, Township 58, Range 7, West of the Fourth Meridian. The survey was to determine the NE corner of the township, which fell in a lake. We located what appeared to be an original iron post at NE 13 but no trace of the original pits and mound. At the E¼ of 24 we found an excellent set of pits and a mound, and even found the remains of the wooden post placed during the original township survey by M. W. Hopkins, DLS, in September 1904. The township plan showed the distance between these monuments as 40.00 chains or 804.67 meters. We measured it at 723.69 meters, or 80.98 meters (4.026 chains) short of the plan. Adding credibility to the location of the pits and mound was a fence corner approximately 20 meters east and 4.2 meters south of the monument. Naturally we check-measured the distance, looked for a monument 80.98 meters north, and then re-evaluated the monument at the NE 13. We located what was clearly an original iron post with pits and mound at the NE 24 and measured to it from the E¼ of 24. It measured 885.28
meters, or 80.61 meters (4.007 chains) longer compared to the plan. From the NE 24, we continued north to the E¼ of 25 where again we found an excellent set of pits, a mound and the remains of a wooden post. We measured the distance from the NE 24 and found it to be 744.16 meters, or 80.63 meters (4.008 chains) shorter compared to the plan. Again we check-measured the distance and looked for another monument 80.63 meters north. My principal examined a copy of the original field notes for the township survey to see if the information shown on the township plan matched that shown in the field notes. Nothing in the notes would suggest the approximate 4-chain difference between the field location and plan dimensions. For each quarter section corner, eight quarter sections in the area are affected—four to the east, and four to the west of the corner. Some quarter sections are approximately four acres (2.5%) larger or smaller, while others are approximately 12 acres (7.5%) larger or smaller.

In the end, regardless of the significant differences, we had to accept the original monuments as governing.

The Legislation
In the example cited above, these were the original monuments in their original position, and according to the doctrine of original monumentation and the Surveys Act, they define the corners. The Surveys Act is very clear and provides no qualifiers or exemptions for not accepting the original monuments in their original position.

Our current Surveys Act is divided into four parts. Part 1 is definitions while Part 2 deals with surveys of public lands in unsurveyed territory, such as township subdivision surveys or settlement surveys. Part 2, Section 32 of the Act states: “All boundary lines of a survey in accordance with Section 29 or 29.3 are determined by the monuments placed for that purpose as shown on the official plan, whether or not the dimensions between them or the areas expressed on the official plan are found by re-measurement to be different.”

Part 3 of the Surveys Act deals with all surveys other than Part 2 surveys, such as any survey that results in a plan of survey being registered in the Land Titles Office. Part 3, Section 41 (4) states: “All the boundary lines surveyed and established in accordance with subsection (1) shall be defined by the monuments placed for that purpose as shown on the plan of the survey registered at the Land Titles Office or filed at the Metis Settlements Land Registry, whether or not the dimensions or areas expressed on the plan are found by re-measurement to be different.”

Part 4 of the Surveys Act deals with miscellaneous items.

The Application
Our legislation does not stipulate any magnitude or degree whereby a land surveyor can decide that an original monument in its original position is so far misplaced that it cannot be accepted. This is a decision that only a court can make.

A land surveyor must ask himself only two questions in the evaluation of evidence: is this an original monument and is it in its original position? If the answer to both of these questions is ‘yes,’ that monument is the corner—end of discussion. If the answer to either question is ‘no,’ more questions must be answered before the monument can be accepted or rejected.

If, for instance, the answer to the first question is ‘no, the monument is not an original monument,’ the land surveyor must then decide for himself if its location is where the original monument was. The ultimate goal in re-establishment is to stand where the original surveyor stood. Any re-establishment is only that land surveyor’s opinion as to where the original monument was, and neither his opinion nor his survey will necessarily be conclusive for all subsequent parties involved. It is possible that this opinion will be refuted by the discovery of further evidence and subsequently overturned by the courts. That is why it is critical that no land surveyor abandon the search for evidence until personally convinced that no other land surveyor could subsequently find better evidence that could invalidate all or part of his work. If the land surveyor concurs with the re-establishment, he is really saying that, while this is not an original monument, it is located where the original was. In other words, he agrees with the re-establishing surveyor’s opinion as to the position of the original corner.

If in the course of evidence evaluation the answer to the first question is ‘yes, this is an original monument but it is not in its original position,’ then we have a disturbed monument and additional work is required. In essence, the surveyor is then trying to prove that the monument is disturbed, by determining where the monument originally stood.

As Director of Practice Review, I often speak with land surveyors about the doctrine of original monumentation. Recently a senior land surveyor asked my opinion on a boundary survey that he was conducting. “I found two monuments but they do not fit with everything else,” he said. I asked him if he thought the monuments he found were original monuments. “Yes,” he said, “I think they are.” “Do you think they are in their original position?” I asked. “I think they are where the original surveyor placed them,” he replied, “but I think he misplaced them by about two feet.” As this was a subdivision plan under Part 3 of the Surveys Act, I suggested that he read Section 41 (4) of the Surveys Act for the answer.

Conclusion
If an original monument is where the original surveyor placed it, it is not misplaced. Original monuments in their original location are always in the right place.
The Professional Development Committee assisted in organizing a very informative Natural Boundaries seminar, which was presented at the 2000 Annual General Meeting.

Four speakers, all leading experts in natural boundaries, presented materials during the seminar. Dr. Brian Ballantyne, Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary, presented “Natural Boundaries and the Law.” Eighteen legal cases were carefully chosen on subjects such as water, watercourses and sloughs; beds and ad medium filum aquae; boundary between upland parcel and watercourse; accretion in Alberta; and apportioning accretion among adjoining parcels. With the help of a pre-printed package of notes and case summaries distributed at the beginning of the seminar, Dr. Ballantyne delivered the morning session in an eventful forum discussion format.

Mr. Allen addressed the importance and the mechanics of researching for the definition of natural boundaries.

Mr. Ted Allen, CLS, took a pragmatic approach for the afternoon session. He has spoken, on many occasions, to the ALSA on natural boundary definitions in the prairies. His practical and common sense approach to this topic over the years has earned him respect among land surveyors. Mr. Allen addressed the importance and the mechanics of researching for the definition of natural boundaries. His vast knowledge on this subject was summarized in his 1996 paper entitled “An Approach to Alberta Water Boundaries” which was published in the June 1996 issue of ALS News (Issue XXV-2 page 22 to 29). Mr. Allen finished his presentation by challenging the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association to prepare a “white paper” for the government department handling conflicts in definition of natural boundaries prior to any more court cases arising.

The third speaker was Mr. Gord Olsson, ALS, CLS, Deputy Surveyor General of Canada. Mr. Olsson spoke from the federal government perspective on natural boundary determination and Geomatics Canada’s standards for the location of natural boundaries in terms of field work requirements and Canada Lands Survey plan requirements. The use of new technology, including Global Position System mounted on helicopters for positioning water boundaries was described. One of Mr. Olsson’s examples illustrated the importance of on-site field inspection in natural boundary determination when aerial photography is used as a boundary reference. A memorable photograph of Rick Beaumont’s argo trapped in the muskeg during a survey of a natural boundary is a sure indication that land surveyors in Mr. Olsson’s office know more than just how to push pencils.

The last speaker in the afternoon was Mr. Akram Din, Plan Examination Supervisor at the Calgary Land Titles Office. Mr. Din “walked” through various sections within the Land Titles Act, Land Titles Procedures Manual, and the Surveys Act referring to natural boundary requirements in terms of plan registration when dealing with natural boundaries which needed to be shown on the plan. Mr. Din closed his speech by showing eight or so sample plans, all indicating natural boundaries. A couple of plan samples were very thought provoking in terms of how some of our peers could register a plan without proper research and field investigation, as was described by some of the speakers earlier in the day.

As a result of some of the points brought up during the workshop, Mr. Bill Hunter, ALS proposed a motion during the New Business portion of the AGM to create a Statutory Boundary Tribunal. The motion which was passed reads as follows: “It was moved by Bill Hunter, seconded by Dave Thomson, that it is recommended that the Council of the ALSA consider establishing a committee with preparing a “white paper” for presentation to the Government of Alberta with respect to establishing a statutory boundary tribunal to provide an avenue to resolve boundary uncertainties and disputes as an alternative to resorting to the court process.”

...seminars are prepared in accordance with their priorities...

The natural boundaries seminar was well received and attended by approximately 140 land surveyors, articulated and attended by approximately 140 land surveyors, articulated students and guests. The Professional Development Committee was pleased with the turnout and the wide exposure of this subject matter to a record number of attendants.

In closing, the Professional Development Committee urges the membership to submit suggestions for seminar topics that may be of interest. Based on the results of the questionnaire, the Committee can evaluate the level of interest among other suggested topics. From there seminars are prepared in accordance with their priorities, as in the delivery of the natural boundaries seminar.
Looking Good

“What is that”, I asked with some concern! “Oh, that’s Lucky,” the jolly crew chief responded. “Well I would suggest you take Lucky and clean your chain with it and don’t drape Lucky across your shoulders again.” Lucky, you see, was the remains of a torn and well-worn T-shirt that was no longer fit for wearing, under any conditions, yet alone to bring a surveyor luck while at work. “Yeah, she got caught on a branch a few days ago and tore pretty good but I managed to save her,” he added with a sense of care. “What sort of perception do you think the public has when they see a grubby looking surveyor walking along Main Street digging up property posts,” I asked. “My truck is washed; the signage is visible again and looks great,” he eagerly replied. “Well that’s great but don’t you think the public will judge you more on your appearance and how you respond to their inquiries?”

“Sure, but I often wear my safety vest overttop of Lucky so it doesn’t look so sloppy.” Finally, I think, I made my point.

One of the most common complaints received by the ALSA office is related to field staff’s unprofessional conduct and appearance.

One of the most common complaints received by the ALSA office is related to field staff’s unprofessional conduct and appearance. Communication with land/home owners is an essential part of many jobs and part and parcel of the professional service is a professional appearance.

Whether a crew is working in a rural area and likely to be chatting with a farmer to gain access through his quarter section or in an urban setting under the watchful eye of the neighborhood, an impression is being made and hopefully it is a good one. In general, I would suggest that the surveyor should look respectable. That is to say the message you want someone to receive is that you do care about the way you look. Perhaps sweat pants and old worn out T-shirts should be avoided. A company-subsidized purchase of T-shirts, sweatshirts, and coats with the company logo can be popular with the staff and a great way to promote the company. Starting the day off with clean clothes is essential, if it is reasonably practical. If one’s pants end up coated in mud by the end of the day, that’s the nature of the work. If measurements need to be made inside a home to determine a party wall location, or within a condominium for lease areas, one should act as if it were their own home. Take those dirty boots off and hopefully get those inside measurements before the mud finds a home on those denim jeans. Even in the patch, a clean look can’t hurt. Get cleaned up before heading off to the camp kitchen or restaurant. Make a good impression.

Today, the public’s perception is more important than ever. Safety has become a more important part of all workers’ daily lives. People driving by a crew along the side of a highway will expect workers to be wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the safety vest being the most prominent. Perhaps even along a gravel access road. It certainly allows oncoming traffic to see the worker sooner. Most companies require the use of fire resistant coveralls, safety glasses and a hard hat while on a facility site, but I can’t think of a good reason why I wouldn’t wear the gear even if it wasn’t the plant owner’s policy. Safety is becoming a culture and the proper clothing to suit the conditions has become everyone’s responsibility. Be responsible and wear your PPE.

The professional part of the equation involves the knowledge and expertise that we possess, but also the feeling when a client walks in the door that he or she is dealing with professional staff.

Remember those days when sweat pants were popular? I suppose with some individuals they still are. The office, however, I don’t believe is an appropriate place for them. Clients frequent the survey office and look forward to friendly, professional service. The professional part of the equation involves the knowledge and expertise that we possess, but also the feeling when a client walks in the door that he or she is dealing with professional staff. A carefree dress attire and lack of proper grooming does not promote professionalism. The appropriate dress policy will, to some extent, depend on the local business atmosphere. Shorts may be acceptable, however I would suggest that the golf style shorts be worn and not the gym style or denim short. The practitioner may want to consider implementing a policy that no T-shirts or blouses only.

Minimum dress code can be a personal thing, and no, this doesn’t infer how little one can wear and still get away with it. Style and fashion allows us all to express ourselves. One simply needs to ask oneself if their dress attire would greet the public with an air of professionalism, and should realize if they have gone too far or haven’t gone far enough. If one has difficulty with this notion, I’m sure someone at their respective office would provide their opinion at no charge. Well, have a great summer and keep on looking good.
Real Property

**EASEMENTS—Creation—**

**Prescription—Property owner seeking declaration of easement over land of neighbour—Element of necessity not required for prescriptive claim over land—Prescriptive right accrued by virtue of use over 20 years.**

A cottage property had been subdivided over several years into three properties. The original owner had provided for a right-of-way over the property to accommodate all prospective owners. The designated right-of-way was not used. Instead, the owners all used a gravel road which applicant used to reach his property. Respondent decided to terminate access to the gravel road and encouraged the development of the right-of-way. Applicant now sought a declaration that he had acquired a right-of-way by prescription with respect to the gravel road over the lands of the other owners. The application was dismissed on the grounds that the gravel road was not critical to the enjoyment of applicant property because he still had access to the original right-of-way. Applicant appealed.

**Held:** appeal allowed. The judge erred in finding that some degree of necessity was required. Applicant was claiming a prescriptive right accruing by virtue of use over a period of 20 years. A prescriptive claim needed no element of necessity. A declaration followed that applicant had an easement over the property as claimed.


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**Supreme Court of Canada**

**MUNICIPAL LAW—Municipalities—**

**Liability—Building code violations—**

**Plaintiff home owner suing city for its negligent inspection of plaintiff’s basement construction—Trial judge did not err in reducing city’s 20 per cent liability to 14 per cent on the basis of plaintiff’s contributory negligence.**

Plaintiff sought damages against defendant city arising from its negligent inspection of the renovation of plaintiff’s basement. Plaintiff hired a contractor to renovate his basement to such extent that a permit was required from city. The contractor recommended the renovation before he obtained city’s approval of the permit. City eventually issued the permit with three conditions. At this point, the underpinning work had already been completed but the concrete for the basement floor had not yet been poured. Because of this, the two city inspectors assigned to inspect plaintiff’s renovation project were unable to carry out a thorough inspection of the underpinning. They instead relied on the assurances of the contractor and approved the construction. Shortly after the completion of the renovation, plaintiff began experiencing flood in the basement and found out that the underpinning construction was in sharp deviation from that specified in the city building code. The trial judge held that the contractor and city were 80 and 20 per cent, respectively, liable for the damages but because plaintiff was contributory negligent, city’s liability was reduced by 30 per cent. The Ontario Court of Appeal allowed city’s appeal, on the basis that plaintiff’s own negligence had removed himself from the class of persons to which city would otherwise owe a duty.

**Accordingly, city owed a duty of care to all those who it would be reasonable to conclude might be injured by the negligent exercise of its inspection powers.**

**Held:** appeal allowed; trial judgment restored. The purpose of the building inspection scheme was to protect the health and safety of the public by enforcing standards for all construction projects. The province had made the policy decision that the municipalities appoint inspectors to inspect construction projects and enforce the *Building Code Act* (Ont.), and city had made a policy decision to inspect construction even if the permit was issued after the construction had begun. Accordingly, city owed a duty of care to all those who it would be reasonable to conclude might be injured by the negligent exercise of its inspection powers. Only in the rarest of circumstances, namely, where the owner-builder’s conduct was the sole source of his or her own loss, would a municipality be entitled to a complete defence that could be used to mitigate against a finding of negligence. The trial judge had applied the correct principles in determining that the inspector failed to conduct a reasonable inspection in these circumstances. Though the plaintiff did not “flout” the inspection scheme, he certainly had acted negligently. Yet, there was no demonstrable error in the trial judge’s appreciation of the facts in this case to justify interfering with his apportionment of liability.

*Ingles v. Toronto (City), S.C.C., per Bastarache J. (L’Heureux-Dubé), Gonthier, McLachlin, Iacobucci, Major and Binnie JJ. concurring), Mar. 2/00. Full Text Order No. 1942-016 (49 pp).*
Howard Douglas Farnell
(new)

Peerless, please note that they have requested a change to their ad
The main thrust that came out of the meeting was the decision to investigate the inclusion of a GPS category in our fields of certification.

15th for our Annual General Meeting. We passed a special resolution to adopt a new set of bylaws. They will be adapted to fit into the member binders. Wayne Latam from Calgary; Mike Spencer from Lethbridge and Glen Erdely from Edmonton were elected to Council for two year terms. Farley McKenzie of Edmonton is our new President and Janet Rose of Calgary is Vice President. Add Past President Kevin Laiss of from Calgary and Don Perrin from St. Albert and you have our 2000/2001 Council.

The main thrust that came out of the meeting was the decision to investigate the inclusion of a GPS category in our fields of certification. Our Education Committee, under Chair Farley McKenzie, will develop an examination along with procedures and qualifications. Once the concept is firm and the impact on our society is known, we will approach the ALSA for input.

We also appointed Janet Rose to our Certification Board. The ALSA has been informed that they have a vacancy on the Board as well. Our committee members, mandates and ALSA committee representatives were set for the upcoming year. We decided to meet in Kananaskis in 2001. We are now aware that the site of the ALSA Annual Meeting and Convention has been shifted to Jasper. At our last Council meeting, we decided to consult our members via our website before making a final decision.

Our AGM is always enhanced by those who graciously offer us financial assistance to defray our hotel expenses and merchandise for our annual draw.

All West Surveys Ltd.
The Cadastral Group Inc.
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We held our first ever awards banquet at the Marmot Lodge. Henry Palindat regaled us with an account of a survey in the Jasper area in the early fifties. Volunteer Recognition Certificates were presented to those who have been active members over the years. Two other major awards were unveiled this year. The Editor’s Choice Award went to Rick James who prepares the layout of Link and also hosts our web page. The President’s Award was presented to Henry Palindat for his decades of service. We are indebted to Barry Bleay for the outstanding job he did for us in Jasper.

At the first meeting of the new Council on May 11th, we met our ALSA Advisor, Jim Halliday. We are looking forward to working with him. We reviewed the committee mandates and asked the Public Relations Committee to update our new web site. Our area representatives will be encouraged to organize regional meetings in order to heighten local interest. Informal lunch meetings will be investigated as well.

I wish our organizations well as we get down to business for another year. See you all at the ALSA Golf Tournament on September 8th at the Lacombe Golf and Country Club. Let’s hope for a warm and busy summer.
J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation

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Thank you for your generosity and support!