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COVER PHOTO
Ukrainian Village Dedication
photo by Gord Olsson, ALS (Hon. Life)
New Survey Data-Collection Solutions

from Trimble and Spectra Precision

Trimble TSC3
- The Trimble rugged TSC3 controller with Trimble Access software is purpose-built to make both Integrated Surveying and Spatial Imaging jobs easier, more efficient, and more flexible.

Nomad 900 Series
- Powered by a 806 MHz processor optimized for graphics processing, advanced caching, and a proprietary high-speed journaling file system, the new Spectra Precision Nomad 900 series handhelds run Windows Mobile and have a 5200-mAh rechargeable long-life lithium ion battery, up to 6 GB of Flash memory, and a sunlight-visible VGA touchscreen display. In addition, users can take advantage of the Nomad 900 series CompactFlash (CF) and Secure Digital (SD) slots to add more devices, such as SD/SDHC memory.

Ranger 3 Series
- Spectra now offers three Ranger 3 models: the 3L, 3XC and the 3RC. These data collectors come standard with an 800MHz processor, 256MB of Memory, a full VGA display, integrated Bluetooth, GPS, compass, and 802.11 Wi-Fi. Optional features, depending on the model, include a 3G GSM/GPRS/EDGE (WWAN) modem real-time GNSS workflows, a 5-megapixel camera to enhance data-capture routines with image, and a 2.4GHz robotic radio module to support robotic total station survey workflows.

Built tough for everyday outdoor demands, the Nomad 900 series have an IP67 rating and meet MIL-STD-810F standard for drops, vibration, and temperature extremes.

- Large, bright, high-resolution screen, with the option of a QWERTY or conventional alphanumeric keyboard
- Inbuilt 5 MP Autofocus camera and LED flash, images are automatically geotagged
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- Access your office network through 802.11 LAN, or USB ans serial RS232 communication options.
- Internal compass
- Internal 2.4 GHz radio option ideal for controlling Trimble robotic systems
- Powered by Windows Mobile 6.5 Professional operating system
The ALSA has spent considerable time and resources raising public awareness about land surveyors and the important role that we play in society. Our campaigns have achieved success in reaching many groups. Recently, I was surprised just how far reaching our efforts have gone. When picking up my fifteen-year-old daughter from school, she got in my truck and commented that our “PR machine must be very good.” Finding that a very odd comment for her to make, I asked why she would say that. She replied that many teachers in her junior high school are now recommending “land surveying” as a profession. I assume they suggest this to those demonstrating an aptitude for math but, regardless, our public relations efforts seem to be surfacing among the future generations.

Closer to our Association, we clearly have experienced success in attracting members to our profession as evident by the number of newly commissioned land surveyors in recent years. I understand that our active membership has risen by one-third in the past five years.

With the availability of GPS for the consumer and geographic tools such as Google Earth, the general public has a far greater understanding of geography and positioning than ever before. These technologies have not only raised the awareness of geographical science but have given rise to a broad group of laymen who consider themselves masters of this skill. I have heard many times in recent meetings that, after a brief course on the operation of a GPS receiver, these GPS users believe that they possess the skill to use GPS to survey and establish boundaries. In their view, “land surveying” is simply the measuring of boundary lines which they are now capable of doing with a tool such as GPS.

Measuring has always been an important part of the land surveying profession but, as every land surveyor is well aware, measuring is only a portion of the knowledge needed to establish and subsequently re-establish boundaries. A professional land surveyor must demonstrate knowledge of the science of measurement and the technologies used in the process. This knowledge includes, but is not limited to, mathematics, adjustments, geodesy, coordinate systems, electronics, software and database management. Additionally, land surveyors must also have a firm understanding of the legal principles relating to land and boundaries as well as a working knowledge of other technical areas such as land use planning and environmental science.

The land surveyor knows that the determination of a boundary involves far more skill and knowledge than simply measuring a GPS position. We know that coordinate systems change, accuracy and precision varies, GPS signals bounce, point coordinates on boundary lines can change as with natural boundaries and, on occasion, whole countries can move and their coordinates can change as we have recently witnessed in Japan.

We need to impress upon today’s policy makers and influencers that, although the measurement of a position on the earth is far easier than it has ever been before, this ability is only a small component of the skill and knowledge needed to properly create and subsequently re-establish boundary lines.

At one time, the government of the day saw fit to grant the ALSA an exclusive scope of practice over the area of land surveying. However, they don’t grant such things lightly. They clearly recognized the importance of having properly qualified professionals undertaking the task of land surveying. This exclusive scope of practice is still in place today but it would appear that some policy makers have lost the understanding of why it is required.

To further emphasize the importance our role has in matters related to land, one only needs to turn to the court system whose members have on countless occasions, recognized our profession as experts in boundaries. They are very cognizant that a boundary is more than a few coordinates along a line.

Every commissioned land surveyor knows why it is in the public interest that the determination of boundaries, whether new or re-established, be undertaken by skilled professionals.

Usually it is not difficult to explain to a lay person that our unique training and experience is needed to provide expert opinion on the re-establishment of existing boundaries. However, explaining why these skills are important to establish new boundaries is a little more difficult to understand. The lay person armed with a GPS receiver often believes that the indicated coordinates shown on their GPS are both accurate and precise and thus are suitable for defining a boundary.
Every commissioned land surveyor knows why it is in the public interest that the determination of boundaries, whether new or re-established, be undertaken by skilled professionals.

Our profession has a clear understanding that this is not the case but our challenge is to separate reality from perception and educate policy makers about the reasons why land surveyors are regulated and, in exchange, given an exclusive scope of practice. Land surveyors are trusted experts in matters related to re-establishing boundary lines which is precisely why it is important that these trusted experts are tasked with establishing these lines at the outset. Part of the issue with non-professional land surveyors establishing new boundaries, as is the case with GPS location plans, is that at some point in time these boundaries must be re-established. Improperly established boundaries increase the risk to all parties involved and could increase the risk to public safety as well.

From what we now understand, policy makers have allowed for the acceptance of GPS location plans for certain dispositions in response to the forestry industry suffering adverse economic effects from the plans previously required by SRD. It appears that, in part, this stems from the belief that a professional land surveyor may not be necessary to establish boundary lines with the availability of GPS to the lay person.

The establishment and re-establishment of boundary lines can be a complex matter and it is important to get it right. The Act ensures the people of Alberta that Alberta Land Surveyors are regulated and, as such, they are ensured that the land surveys undertaken by an ALS are of the highest quality. We regulate our members in the interest of the people of Alberta.

Non-members are unregulated and there is no assurance of quality, thus exposing the people of Alberta to risk and unnecessary expense. Eventually, this will result in more regulation when there is a public outcry about the deterioration of the cadastral fabric. More regulation is precisely what the government is hoping to avoid. We have a duty to educate policy-makers before this comes to pass.

An “elevator speech” is a term which refers to that 30 to 60 second talk you prepare for the opportunity to tell someone all about what you want them to hear in the time of an average elevator trip. It’s needed because if we can’t get our message across in that time we often lose our listener. In other words, they are leaving the elevator.

We need to have our elevator speeches ready for when we have the opportunity to inform a policy-maker, a client or perhaps any other member of the public about what we do, why it is important and what separates us from the non-professionals in our field.

Our next thrust in our efforts to raise public awareness of our profession is to educate those of influence in government, industry and the general public of what it is we do and why it’s important that the determination of boundaries is entrusted to our profession.
Reflecting back on my career as a surveyor over the past twenty years, I have seen a dramatic change. I was first drawn to land surveying as it allowed me to enjoy the outdoors while working at my favourite school subject—math and all the while avoiding my least favourite subject—English. However, all this has changed over the years. Now, more of my career is spent working on the dreaded subject of English, through proposal writing, communicating and reading. Meanwhile, less and less time is spent on the aspect of surveying that attracted me in the first place.

I’m sure my English teachers would be proud of the transformation but constant reminders from my children on the rules of English tell me that I still have a long way to go. As much as I miss the field aspect of surveying, I am proud of where my survey career has taken me and the latest challenge it has presented to me as an ALSA councillor. Others had always told me to run for Council when the opportunity presented itself as it would be very rewarding. After serving my first year on Council, I can say that they were correct.

Moving up from serving on a committee to serving on Council is a challenge, especially with the time commitments required for Council meetings, committee meetings as Council liaison and the reading of over 400 pages to prepare for a Council meeting. However, these challenges are manageable and the results are rewarding. Not only have I been rewarded with the opportunity to succeed in this role, but also to improve my leadership skills and develop new relationships with my fellow councillors.

The issues that we are faced with at each Council meeting are ones that I never would have dreamed would be before us. Every time that we seem to have finally dealt with a major issue, a newer, bigger issue arises or a more challenging twist on the last issue occurs. A couple of examples of major issues we are facing that I never expected are: professional practice management plan; GPS location plans and the certification of boundaries by non-professionals. With these and all issues before Council, there is always great debate that is only limited by the need to end the meeting before we run into a second day. Everyone on Council provides great contribution to the debate and I believe the decisions we make, although difficult at times, are the correct ones for the future of the profession.

The strength of our profession is the dedicated members who not only lead us but also those who put in many untold hours of volunteer work on the numerous committees within the Association. I have always felt that it is important to give back to our profession that which we have enjoyed and
benefitted from in our successful careers. By volunteering, not only does one get to know their colleagues, but one also gets to shape the future of the profession.

As hard as we all work to improve our profession, we are still misunderstood by some members of the public, industry and government. Raising the awareness and understanding of our profession is the responsibility of everyone in the Association. We each need to do our part to ensure that the great profession we have today is for future generations.

Recently, I was presented with an excellent opportunity to raise the public awareness of our profession. During the Junior Forest Wardens (JFW) National Camp at William Switzer Provincial Park in Hinton this July, I volunteered to be an instructor. Nearly 600 people from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland will be in attendance. JFW is an exciting and educational opportunity for young people and their families to have fun, develop skills, and get educated in the many diverse aspects of our natural environment. This instructional opportunity is a great chance to show the importance of surveying to society, explain how some of the skills that they have learned and enjoyed in JFW can be turned into a rewarding career, demonstrate various surveying instruments and conduct a mapping reading and navigation exercise.

Likely your career, like mine, has seen many changes over the years and you may now be going in a direction you never imagined was in your future when you first started surveying. Hopefully, during those years you have also found your survey career to be rewarding and successful. So when you are asked to run for Council, you should say yes. Not only have your peers seen leadership qualities and the important role you may play in our profession's future, but also you should be willing to contribute to a profession that has served you well and has been shaped by those who have stepped up before you. Having completed my first year on Council, I know the rewards outweigh the challenges, and those who advised me to run for Council are correct—it is always very rewarding.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS**

November 15th—Lethbridge
November 16th—Calgary
November 22nd—Edmonton
November 23rd—Grande Prairie

**PLEASE NOTE**

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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**Naturally Resourceful**

Enterprising staff, a positive corporate culture, investments in technology and nearly one hundred years of experience allow us to provide the highest level of reliable professional services.
In its most basic form, land surveying is the establishment and re-establishment of boundaries.

This article is for the members of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association but it is not aimed at the members of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. Instead, this is the first in a series of articles this year that I hope members might want to circulate to clients, landowners, municipalities and other government officials. The first article deals with what is land surveying and, I hope, future articles will cover who is a land surveyor and why is land surveying a profession.

What is Land Surveying?

The other day I was having breakfast with a friend of mine and he found out that I had something to do with land surveying. He proceeded to tell me about his property and mentioned things like property pins, lot lines, setbacks and easements to try to show me that he knew a great deal about land surveying. My friend is a smart man and he owns a successful business. It turns out that he does know something about land surveying but it also turns out that there is a lot about land surveying he thinks he knows but, in reality, does not.

It seems like everyone worked for a land surveyor on a survey crew once summer. It seems like everyone took a survey course at university or tech school. Everyone has a global positioning system in their car or with them when they go camping nowadays. Everyone has used Google Maps or Google Earth.

So a lot of people know about the land. A lot a people know about their land. And people know a lot more about land and land-related issues than they did ten, twenty or thirty years ago. However, when it comes to land surveying, most people don’t know very much about it.

But that is okay with me. If everyone knew a lot about land surveying, then that would probably mean that land surveyors are not doing their job. After all, the only things that make the headlines in the newspaper are conflict, confusion and chaos. If land surveyors are not making headlines, that means there is no confusion. No conflict. No chaos. As one person who has made a lot of headlines in her day has said, “and that is a good thing.”

As we talk about what land surveying is, I want you to clear your mind and put away your pre-conceived notions of what land surveying is. I want to first explain what land surveying is not before I explain what it is. This may seem like a strange thing to do but in a situation where so many people think they have a little understanding, it is important to start off this way.

First, land surveying is not the guy standing by the side of the road looking through an instrument. Often, that person is not even a land surveyor. That person might be working for a land surveyor but it is also possible that person is not even doing a land survey. So, forget about who you think of as a land surveyor.

Second, you might think of land surveying as mapping. While land surveyors can produce maps and land survey work sometimes goes into producing maps, a land survey is not a map. A map is not a land survey. There is so much information that can be put on maps these days that it is easy to lose track of the fact that a map is not a survey. Lines can be drawn on a map to show where national borders and other boundaries are approximately located but it is not a land survey. So, I also want you to put out of your mind any notion that a map is a land survey.

Third, land surveying is not static. It is not unchanging. Land surveying is constantly changing. While the technology is constantly changing and the skills and standards are constantly changing, that is not what I mean. What I mean is that properties are constantly being bought and sold. What I mean is that land is constantly being subdivided and consolidated. What I mean is that, in Alberta, new oil & gas wells are constantly going in and pipelines are going in to support those oil & gas wells. There is no more or less land than when Alberta became a province 106 years ago. But what we do with the land is changing. I often speak with people who know that most of the original township surveys were done a century ago and think there is no need for new surveys. What many of us fail to realize is that we are constantly changing the land and what we do with it and land surveying goes to support those changes. Again, put out of your mind any notion or concept that land surveying is one and done.

Now that I have spent some time trying to explain what land surveying is not, let’s see if we can build up what land surveying is.
In Alberta, land surveying, legal surveying, boundary surveying and cadastral surveying, for all intents and purposes, mean the same thing. In Alberta, however, land surveying is different from surveying. Someone who is doing surveying work might look like someone who is doing land surveying work but that might not be the case. There are people in this province who do seismic surveying and do construction layout surveying but it is not land surveying.

Now to try to explain what land surveying is, I could quote a definition out of the Land Surveyors Act but I’m not sure that would help us in our understanding. In its most basic form, land surveying is the establishment and re-establishment of boundaries. But land surveying is not restricted to land. Land surveying includes the surveying of air space and lakes and rivers. Land surveying includes determining the location of things relative to boundaries. It does not matter whether a land surveyor produces a plan. Land surveying is about providing opinions about boundaries. It does not matter what method the land surveyor used to establish the boundaries. It is all land surveying.

...land surveys are needed to define the boundaries in plans and on the ground

I want to emphasize again that land surveying is the establishment or re-establishment of boundaries. When I bought my home, I needed to know if that fence was, in fact, on the property line. I have a friend in rural Alberta who wanted to subdivide a parcel of land they own. I have many friends who work in the oil & gas industry either directly or indirectly. There are lots of changes to the landscape as a result of these oil & gas activities and land surveys are needed to define the boundaries in plans and on the ground so that all of this development taking place is peaceful and orderly.

In the next issue, let’s talk about why it needs to be a professional land surveyor who does land surveying. ☐

Question Time

What do I have to do to set up a surveyor’s corporation?

Complete the application for registration as a surveyor’s corporation and submit it to the Association. The application is online at www.alsa.ab.ca/uploads/files/PDF/CorporateApplication.pdf.

When completing the application, ensure that:

1. The corporation name is complete and accurate.
2. The Alberta corporate registration number or extra-provincial registration number is included. The company must be registered before the application is submitted to Council. If the company is based outside of Alberta, it must also be registered in Alberta through what is known as extra-provincial registration.
3. The APEGGA permit number is included if the company has an APEGGA permit to practice. Do not include your APEGGA registration number. If a related company has an APEGGA permit to practice but the surveyor’s corporation does not, do not include the APEGGA permit to practice number.
4. All shareholders and directors are listed and that the listing complies with the requirements of the Professional Practice Regulation.
5. At least one Alberta Land Surveyor is taking responsibility for the supervision, direction and control of each office.
6. The president of the surveyor’s corporation signs and dates the application.

When the application is received by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, it is reviewed by the registrar and presented to Council at Council’s next meeting.

Council makes two motions when an application comes before it. The first motion is that the proposed name of the surveyor’s corporation is appropriate and the second motion is that corporate structure meets the requirements of the regulation. Both motions are dealt with at one Council meeting. It is not necessary (and not normal) to get the name approved at one meeting and the corporate structure approved at the next.

The registrar then sends a letter to the corporation indicating that the corporation has been approved as a surveyor’s corporation (or sometimes requesting additional information) and that the fees must be paid and a certificate of professional liability insurance must be provided.

Once the fees have been paid and the certificate of insurance has been received, a permit number is issued and the corporation is entered into the register as a surveyor’s corporation. The company may now begin engaging in the practice of land surveying.

Brian E. Munday
Executive Director

Scholarship Recipients

ALBERTA LAND SURVEYORS’ ASSOCIATION
Brad Eisman
University of New Brunswick
Alex Sabeen
Centre of Geographic Sciences

Net Notes

…and the 2011 Webby Award for the best “green” website goes to...

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The Nature Conservancy
Ecomagination Photo Project
http://photoproject.ecomagination.com
BBDO New York
Enform Faller Recertification

Further to the safety bulletin recently published in ALSA’s weekly e-mailout, please be advised that Maltais Geomatics Inc. (MGI) currently employs three Oil & Gas Certified Fallers (OGCFs) who will require recertification in 2011.

In addition, we have one employee with an expired OGCF ticket and one who is ready to be trained as an OGCF. For a falling contingent of this size, it is simply impractical to hire or train an in-house Qualified Supervisor Trainer (QST), so having new candidates certified is practically impossible.

As I’m sure you know, unless fallers have had three competency checks by a QST during the two years prior to the expiry of their certifications, they must rechallenge the certification. No MGI faller has had these competency checks, and I’m sure we are not alone among land surveying companies in this respect. Similarly, I’m sure we’re not alone in that we must often engage experienced, capable chainsaw operators without OGCF certification to get the job done!

I’m very concerned about the OGCF program as it relates to Alberta Land Surveyors and their daily operations. This program goes well beyond the reasonable precautions necessary for our profession. Surveyors have historically carried out tree falling and line clearing as part of their daily tasks. Sometime this is a significant challenge for us, and that proper training and appropriate mentoring of less experienced personnel is essential. However, the OGCF program was not designed for Alberta Land Surveyors and their employees, and we should not be forced to use it. The program cost significantly exceeds its value to ALS operations, thereby raising costs for our clients without providing corresponding value.

The Government of Alberta is very interested in increasing the competitiveness of Alberta business, as evidenced by its decision to accept GPS location plans created by non-land surveyors for Crown dispositions. I suggest that it’s time for the ALSA Safety Committee to present a realistic falling program to Council, and for Council to lobby Enform, CAPP, CEPA, and the government for change.

Government expects industry to “push back” when regulations are inappropriate, and a failure to do so is taken to be an endorsement of the requirements. It’s time for the ALSA to push back.

Irwin Maltais, P.Eng, ALS, CLS

Governing Evidence: Part 2—Fences and Crop Lines

I have read Mr. Ken Allred’s response to my article entitled “Governing Evidence—Fences and Crop Lines” that appeared in the December issue of ALS News.

I must clear up the impression I may have given that a well-established fence line that can be used as evidence for the purposes of a claim under the rules of adverse possession can in any way affect the boundaries established under Part Two of the Surveys Act. The fence referred to in the article is not evidence of the location of a Part Two monument and, therefore, by implication evidence of the quarter line, but is only evidence of long-time usage and possession.

The point I was trying to make, and apparently did not do too well at making, was that the surveyor, who having reviewed all the evidence including that of the fence, had placed a monument in the re-establishment of the original wooden post to the south of the fence. In his opinion, the monument he placed was in re-establishment of a Part Two monument that defined the quarter line.

However, as I said, from the aggrieved farmer’s point of view, all may not be lost, for he could be told that his recourse would be to make application, through a lawyer, to the courts to acquire the resulting gore by prescription. If his petition were granted, this would allow him title to the gore, which could then be consolidated with his southerly quarter. This would have no effect on the location of the quarter line.

I totally agree with Mr. Allred when he writes “adverse possession must not play a part in the land surveyor’s decision in re-establishing the boundary in question.”

I apologize for any misunderstanding, and thank Mr. Allred for drawing this to my attention. I hope this clears up the matter.

Chris Everett ALS (retired)

Thank You

My name is Alex Sabean and I have graduated from my first year of a two-year Geomatics Engineering Technology Program offered by the Centre Of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia. I recently won a scholarship of $1,000 that is from your Association. I wanted to thank you and your members for providing such an award. I was laid off from my full-time job with the Canadian Gypsum Company during the economic downturn and decided to return to school and pursue a career in surveying. As a mature student and father of two, it was a big challenge, but well worth it as I have successfully obtained employment in Yellowknife, NWT for the summer and then plan on returning to school in the fall to finish up.

My family and I are considering a move to Alberta to further my career after my second year, so I’m sure that I will be passing my resume around to your members before too long, but for now, I would like to pass on my deepest thanks from me and my family for providing such a great opportunity to students.

Again, Thank you very much.

Alex Sabean
My name is Brad Eisan. I am a third-year Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering student at the University of New Brunswick. In the fall of 2010, and again in the winter of 2011, I was awarded the ALSA Academic Achievement Scholarship. I would like to take this opportunity sincerely thank you for your contribution to the University of New Brunswick and, more specifically, for helping me on my way to completing my undergraduate degree.

I am originally from Gander, Newfoundland and started my engineering degree in Calgary at Mount Royal University before transferring to UNB. I actually took my first summer job as a surveyor’s assistant for a Calgary-based surveying firm. Next year will be the last year of my degree and I am excited to start articling in pursuit of my surveyor’s license.

Achieving a high academic standing in my program has always been a priority for me and my efforts have been rewarded thanks to your generous contribution. Finding the funds necessary to complete my degree has been very challenging. Without your support, it would have been much more difficult for me to achieve on my own.

I would like to, again, say thank you to yourself and your organization. I have a genuine interest in engineering and the profession of surveying. Your contribution has not only been an investment in my education but also an investment in the future of the surveying profession in Canada.

Brad Eisan

I would like to say thank you for the generous recognition that I received at this year’s AGM in Jasper. Being awarded honorary life membership in one’s profession is indeed an honour.

I would also like to recognize another Honorary Life Member, Bill Wolley-Dod, my sole principal, for if it wasn’t for him, I likely would not be a land surveyor today. He gave me his knowledge and his ethics while I articled to him, and he gave it to me free of charge, just as all principals were meant to do, but he also went the extra mile.

Thank you Bill. I wish you were here!

Dave McWilliam, ALS (Hon. Life)

I wish to thank the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association for granting an honorary life membership to me at the Jasper 2011 AGM in April. It is truly a privilege to be recognized in this way by the Association. The onstage pre-presentation interview was an opportunity to share some of my experiences with the audience, Dave McWilliam and Gordon Olson along the path of 51 years of connection with the professional survey community and the corporate business world. A lot of my experience came from the contact with my colleagues over the years. I encourage our new members to do this also.

It has been very rewarding to work with the many Association committees over the past 43 years and I expect to continue with the Historical & Biographical Committee to bring our Association artifacts and archives forward for more public exposure.

Monroe Kinloch, ALS (Hon. Life)

My daughter Emily and I attended the Friday theme night at this year’s convention.

Emily entered her name in the prize drum and was excited when her name was drawn for the last prize.

Her excitement was short-lived as she was advised upon reaching the stage, that she had to be over 18 to be able to accept the prize. She had a rather sad walk back to our table that was noticed by several people, one of whom, felt so bad for her that she took up a collection and a few minutes later presented Emily with an envelope stuffed with cash.

A suggestion for future events would be if the event is age-appropriate for children, so should be the prize pool. Or at least have a back-up ready.

I did not know the lady who initiated the collection but would like to thank her and everyone that contributed as the thought and action certainly cheered Emily up. So from her and I, thank you.

Mark Prevost, P.Eng, ALS, CLS
Vice President, Calgary Geomatics

ALSA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
LACOMBE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
(soft spikes only)

August 18, 2011
1:00 p.m. (shotgun start)
6:30 p.m. (dinner)

REGISTER EARLY!!
New Members

#868 GRAHAM, Robyn J.
Robyn Graham was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1982. She is a graduate of Dakota College Institute (2000) and of the University of New Brunswick (2006).

Articles were served under Hal Janes, ALS from January 2007 until she received her commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on March 4, 2011.

Municipal and construction surveying have been Robyn’s main focus for the last five years while employed with MMM Geomatics Alberta Limited in Edmonton. She is also on the ALSA Public Relations Committee.

Other interests include reading, travelling and hiking.

Robyn is married to Andrew Graham and they reside in Edmonton.

#869 PENNER, Thomas C.
Thomas Penner was born in Bow Island, Alberta in 1983. He graduated from Senator Gershaw High School of Bow Island in 2001 and went on to receive a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Calgary in 2007.

Bob Baker, ALS (Hon. Life) served as Thomas’ principal from May 2008 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on March 15, 2011.

Thomas was primarily involved in municipal surveying while employed with Terramatic Technologies Inc. from 2004 to 2007 and with Brown, Okamura & Associates Ltd. from 2008 to the present.

Hunting, skiing, being outdoors and spending time with family are a few other activities that Thomas enjoys.

#870 Na Chiangmai, Aim T.
Aim Ma Chiangmai was born in Chiangmai, Thailand in 1979. He immigrated to Canada in 1996, graduated from Paul Kane High School of St. Albert in 1999 and from the University of Calgary in 2006 with a B.Sc. in Geomatics Engineering.

Articles were served under Tim Steeves, ALS of Challenger Geomatics Ltd. in Calgary from January 2007 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on March 18, 2011. Aim is also an engineer-in-training with APEGGA.

Surveying experience includes working in the oil & gas sector primarily in Northern Alberta, land claims projects in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories along with some municipal and construction surveys in Calgary.

Aside from his profession, Aim enjoys fishing, photography, cooking Thai food, snowboarding and travel overseas.

#871 THOMPSON, Jeffrey S.
Jeffrey Thompson was born in Lethbridge, AB in 1984. He graduated from Bowness High School in 2002 and went on to receive a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Calgary.

He entered into articles with Mark Selander, ALS in July 2007 and received his commission on March 23, 2011. Jeffrey is also an engineer-in-training with APEGGA.

Surveying experience is primarily in the oil & gas sector while employed with McElhanney Land Surveys (Alta.) Ltd. Jeffrey served on the ALSA GPS Guidelines Working Group in 2008-2009.

Jeffrey and Mira Thompson make their home in Edmonton.

#872 McKee, Donald A.L.
Donnie McKee was born in Mission, BC in 1982. He graduated from Lacombe Composite High School in 2000 and from the University of Calgary in 2005 with a B.Sc. in Geomatics Engineering.

Articles were served under George Smith, ALS from August 2005 to July 2008 and under Murray Young, ALS from 2008 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on April 5, 2011. Donnie is employed with Bemoco Land Surveying Ltd. in Red Deer and is also an engineer-in-training with APEGGA. Donnie presently serves on the ALSA Professional Development Committee.

Surveying experience includes real property reports, construction surveys, road surveys, subdivision surveys and condominium surveys.

In his leisure time, Donnie is involved with hockey, slo-pitch, golf and dancing.

#873 CHAN, Norman C.
Norman Chan was born in Calgary, AB in 1982. He graduated from Saint Mary's High School in 2000 and went on to graduate from the University of Calgary in 2006 with a B.Sc.

Articles were served under Jim Sharpe, ALS from August 2006 to April 2008 and under Tim Steeves. ALS from April 2008 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on April 8, 2011.
Survey Marker

David Higgins, ALS and his family made a trip to Disney World and spotted this monument at the Epcot Centre in the rain. His daughter found another one when they went to Disney’s Hollywood Studios later in the week.

Updates

This item does not appear in this issue of ALS News as the Telephone Listing & Supplement to the Annual Register of Members for 2011-2012 will be published shortly. Look for a return of this column in the September 2011 issue.

Eclipse College Report

Thanks to all the Alberta Land Surveyors and other professionals who so graciously gave of their time to make a difference in our profession’s future. The articling students attending Eclipse College greatly appreciate your dedication and effort in contributing to their future and success.

Listed below are all 32 presenters who gave of their time.

Ken Allred  Jim Maidment
Robin Arthurs  Allan Main
Jeff Blatz  Patrick Marshall
Heather Bonnycastle  Mike Michaud
Clayton Bruce  Patrick Moloney
Tony De Bruyne  Robert Morrison
Tom Erdman  Scott Partridge
Barry Fleece  Darcy Pittman
Bruce Gudim  Jerry Rasmuson
Ron Hall  Rob Scott
Curt Henrie  Jim Sharpe
Bill Hunter  Jeff Stockdale
Al Jamieson  Paul Stoliker
Jeff Johnston  Mark Sutter
Bill Love  Scott Westlund
Jim MacLeod  Peter Yorke

I would also like to thank the Association for their assistance with publishing Eclipse College. Every week in Friday’s e-mail from the Association office a short write up of the next week’s topic was provided.

Eclipse College will continue next fall starting in mid-September and running through to April 2012. I (we) will again be looking for guest speakers to volunteer their time to the benefit of both the students and our profession. The list of topics has not yet been decided. The plan is to have four presenters for each topic to provide more than one view of the topic.

Open discussion and questions from all attendees is welcome and expected! Eclipse College is available online for those unable to physically attend the sessions.

I would personally like to thank Bruce Gudim and Peter Yorke for their time spent on this worthwhile and rewarding project. The program would not be possible without their constant efforts.

N. Ross Woolgar, ALS

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Norman is employed with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership of Grande Prairie. He serves on the ALSA Public Relations Committee and is also an engineer-in-training with APEGGA.

Surveying experience in the oil & gas sector (pipelines and well sites) and in the municipal sector (rural subdivision and construction).

Norman’s leisure activities include ball hockey and dragon boating.

#874 DUDEK, Michal A.

Michal Dudek was born in Sosnowiec, Poland in 1976. After graduating from Private High School No. 1 in Sosnowiec in 1995 he went on to receive a B.Sc. from the University of Mining & Metallurgy in Cracow, Poland in 2000.

Doug Lunty, ALS served as Michal’s principal from August 2007 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on May 19, 2011.

Michal’s surveying experience is mainly in the oil & gas sector while employed with Focus Surveys Limited Partnership.

Michal enjoys swimming, hiking, soccer and most outdoor activities.

Michal and Malgorzata and their two children, Alex (age 4.5) and Oliver (age 1.5) reside in Edmonton.
Local Surveyor Helps Design a World of Hope in Niger

Jeremy Park, a land surveyor from Calgary, Alberta, returned home last week from a project trip to Niamey, Niger. Park was part of a team from across North America who volunteered their time with Engineering Ministries International Canada. The team spent a week in Niger preparing the design for the expansion of Sahel Academy, a school for children of international families serving in Niger. The school provides an important behind-the-scenes role in the impoverished country and staff hear parents say again and again, “we would not be able to be here, doing what we do, if it were not for the ministry of Sahel Academy.”

Park and other volunteers spent the week developing concepts for the Sahel Academy expansion. Park surveyed the 12-acre site and located existing buildings and infrastructure, allowing for the master planning of the development for the remaining open area of the property. At the end of the week, the team was able to present a master plan, schematic building designs and some details for the gymnasium and arts centre. The team is continuing to work on more detailed elements of the design and will provide Sahel Academy with a final report within the next six months. This document will become a framework for the school to actively recruit expertise and resources to accelerate their focus on finishing this development project. This is Park’s first time volunteering with Engineering Ministries International Canada.

Steve Ulrich, Trip Leader
Engineering Ministries International

2011 Jules Brassard Memorial Hockey Game
The Wait is Over
Version 7 is the largest, most significant STAR*NET release to date. Expect the same great functionality, but also some amazing workflow enhancement tools. Along with an easier-to-use interface, a project manager, color-coded DAT editor, better reporting and output settings, you really cannot afford to miss out on this update.

Get the Most Out of Least Squares
New to STAR*NET? MicroSurvey STAR*NET is an easy-to-use application that adjusts 2D/3D survey networks using rigorous Least Squares techniques. Build confidence by ensuring your field data is both accurate and correct.

Contact Us
To request your free demo, visit us at www.MicroSurvey.com or contact our technical sales staff today. We want you to see first-hand how MicroSurvey Software can make you more productive in the field and in the office.
In Lethbridge, on Saturday morning, May 8, 2010, members of the Lethbridge Historical Society, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and several members of the general public were on hand to witness His Worship Mayor Bob Tarleck dedicate a park in honour of William Pearce, OLS, DLS, ALS. Janet Johnstone, Carly Stewart and Jim Matthews were in attendance for the Lethbridge Historical Society as were Dave Williams, Bruce Barnett and David Amantea for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. Mayor Tarleck in his opening remarks recognized William Pearce for the significant contributions he had made in the development of the irrigation systems in southern Alberta.

The park, which is located in the Riverstone Subdivision in West Lethbridge, was designed and developed under the guidance of the Lethbridge Historical Society and the City of Lethbridge. The park encompasses a small lake and waterfall that is situated in a large natural grassy area interspersed with shrubs. Located within the park are eight strategically located concrete obelisks approximately 1.2 metres high. Four of the eight obelisks are situated on the cardinal points of the compass at a uniform distance from the centre of the patio. The remaining four obelisks are located at a set distance from the patio also at the cardinal points of the compass. A bronze tablet is affixed to each obelisk describing the survey systems in Western Canada and the development of the irrigation system in Southern Alberta. A bronze plaque mounted on a pillar at the entrance to the park provides biographical information on William Pearce.

In honour of the occasion Bruce Barnett, ALS presented a prepared paper that outlined the survey system and the life of William Pearce. The paper that follows was well received by those in attendance.

Robert F. Baker, ALS (Hon. Life)
My name is Bruce Barnett. I follow in men’s footsteps such as William Pearce, as a land surveyor.

The land surveying profession plays a unique role in our Canadian and Albertan history. Today, as with all true honorable professions, we stand on the shoulders of our predecessors. All Albertans owe a debt of gratitude to men such as William Pearce, who played a major role in establishing a foothold for democracy and capitalism in Alberta back before Alberta even became a province.

How’s that you say? Well, it is often an over-looked fact, that the land surveying profession, along with men, such as William Pearce, who played a major role in establishing a foothold for democracy and capitalism in Alberta back before Alberta even became a province.

William Pearce played a large part in establishing this land survey system here in Southern Alberta. He was among the first land surveyors, around 1874, to start to establish the accurate baselines and meridians in this area. These reference lines, identified by legal monuments placed in the ground, were usually established every half-mile. Future surveyors then filled in the remaining property corners within the six-mile by six-mile township structures (township plan) which included precisely laid out quarter-sections and road allowances all based on astronomic direction references. Today, as surveyors, the art and science of determining directions by astronomic means is still as reliable as ever. However, instead of taking observations to the heav- enly stars and sun, we take observations to man-made GPS satellites circling the earth.

Mr. Pearce foresaw Southern Alberta’s long-term difficulties with water and the need for irrigation and management of our limited water resources. He is known as the “Father of Irrigation” and helped write the original North-West Irrigation Act of 1894.

There was nothing that touched on the development of Alberta that William Pearce did not have views on. We have Mr. Pearce to thank for our national parks. His vision was largely behind the initial idea of reserving public parks in the Rockies at Banff and then Waterton. He was a trusted advisor to our first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald, and his mandates were considered somewhat untouchable—no matter what he did.

William and his wife Margaret kept a well-ordered home with six children, Frances, Tassie, Seabury, William and twins Harry and John. In his spare time, he earned the professional designations of Alberta Land Surveyor, Dominion Land Surveyor and Ontario Land Surveyor. He was also a charter member and first president of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association which just closed its 101st Annual General Meeting in Jasper last month. In addition to all these well deserved accolades, the Village of Pearce (northwest of Lethbridge) is named in his honour.

By the later 1920s, Mr. Pearce was beginning to slow down, as his knees were stiffening—as you can imagine land surveyors do a lot of walking. William’s stiffness was soon afterwards diagnosed with what doctors referred to as “an aneu- rism of the artery” and he was ordered to curtail his walking. William Pearce passed away on March 3, 1930.

As a man who played a major role in shaping the development of Southern Alberta, it is to the honour of William Pearce that the City of Lethbridge chose to dedicate and name this beautiful park. May future generations enjoy this park and may we remember the wisdom of William Pearce’s actions so that “our” actions may be viewed 140 years from now as wise as the Father of Irrigation and Land Surveyor, William Pearce. ☑
Imagine living with the constant worry that you could get thrown out of your home at any time or fear that someone will seize your property by force and feeling there’s nothing you could do about it. That’s how millions of Africans go through life.

Land tenure is a concept that’s straightforward in countries such as Canada and it’s generally taken for granted. It means you’re the rightful owner of your property, you have the paperwork to prove it and everyone respects that. Quality of life is linked to the stability that arises from land tenure. But it’s a fragile concept—even non-existent for some—in many African nations because of inadequate land title systems, inept governance or corruption.

Lani Roux has spent over two years searching for ways to change that. She’s working towards her PhD in geomatics at the Schulich School of Engineering. Her work involves land information systems (LIS) and land tenure. She aims to shed light on how to improve land information systems, an area that has never been thoroughly researched from the perspective of the users. This is a highly specialized area of study that involves a mix of social science, law, engineering and planning.

Beginning in May, Roux will spend six weeks in South Africa’s Western Cape province following up on interviews she conducted on two previous trips. She has gathered information and personal histories from local residents, landowners, government officials and lawyers.

“I HOPE MY RESEARCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES”...

“I hope my research makes a difference in their lives,” says Roux. “When I talk to people, in the course of just one day I’ve felt a wide range of emotions: sadness because of the struggles some people face; frustration at how easy it is for people to become trapped; joy when I hear a happy story about someone getting a first house; respect for someone who is building a business out of nothing but gumption; and dismay when I realize that one job with an uncertain future is the means of feeding an entire family.”

Developing better land information systems is more complex than most people think. Roux must study the factors that guide decisions, understand socio-cultural backgrounds, government structures, even power structures within communities. And the only way to find that out is on the ground working tirelessly to interview people and hear their stories.

“One of the participants in the research project, Mrs. D., told me the story of her neighbour,” recalls Roux. “Her neighbour was HIV-positive and became very sick. She decided to sell her house and give the proceeds to her daughter. But it was an informal sales transaction and, after she died, her family couldn’t get the money from the buyer and eventually gave up. What the family didn’t realize is that, according to property law, they can claim the house back.”

In that case the seller lost money, but in other cases, the buyers are exploited by unscrupulous owners who sell a house and then legally reclaim it without refunding the buyer. Roux hopes her work will help prevent similar problems encountered by marginalized groups of people when dealing in land.

Lani Roux’s faculty supervisor is Dr. Michael Barry, the John Holmlund Research Chair in Land Tenure and Cadastral Systems at the Schulich School of Engineering.
This year the Ukrainian Canadian Congress is celebrating the 120th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

On May 23, 2011, a replica of an original township corner monument was installed at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village to honour descendants of the earliest Ukrainian settlers.

The first Ukrainian settlers came to Canada from the Nebyliv village in Ukraine. Iwan Pylypow, the first to arrive in what is now Alberta, came in 1891. Members of the first two families to settle in Alberta, Tychkowsky and Paish, followed the next year. Within a few more years, a Ukrainian settlement was flourishing. More Ukrainian settlers came with most settling in the area between Edmonton and Lloydminster. Life was challenging as they had to endure unimaginable hardship; clearing the forests, tilling the soil and providing food, shelter and clothing for their children. Through it all, they built churches and retained their language, culture and history.

Each family was granted 160 acres of land under the Dominion Lands Act. One of the first tasks of new settlers was to look for the monuments that marked the boundaries of their land—monuments that were established prior to settlement under the Dominion Land Survey System. Although life was challenging, they were able to settle knowing the boundaries of their land were secure.

The monument that was installed at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village is a replica of the original monument placed in 1883 at the northeast corner of Township 56, Range 19, West of the 4th Meridian. This township was settled by the Nebyliv group of Ukrainian settlers.

At the installation ceremony, the post was marked with the township and range numbers and placed in the ground. The pits and mound had been built the week before. Post pounders included several dignitaries and senior descendants of the first three Ukrainian families. As well, every Alberta Land Surveyor present took a turn pounding in the post a few inches.

The northeast corner of Township 56 was originally monumented by J.J. McArthur, DLS on March 19, 1883 when conducting meridian and baseline surveys for townships in the area. Immediately after, March 20th to March 28, David Beatty, DLS surveyed the interior of the township. The replica of the monument is based on the description of a township corner monument in the 1881 Manual Shewing the System of Survey of the Dominion Lands. There is also an 1883 Manual however, it was not made effective until June 1883, which was after the monument was placed. Nevertheless, it has identical specifications for township corner monumentation as in the 1881 manual.

In addition to the installation of the township corner monument, “Making Their Mark,” the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association 100th anniversary exhibit was opened at the Village. The exhibit describes the role of land surveyors in the peaceful and orderly development of land in the province of Alberta. It will be at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village for all of the 2011 season.

For more information on the event see:

The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village is located about 40 kilometres east of Edmonton on Highway 16.
For many land surveyors, this is the way it has always been and the way it should always be. We know our work is important, but we don’t expect everyone else to recognize that importance. Through my story today, I hope to change that mindset. My fear is that if it does not change, there will not be land surveyors to carry on the traditions for many more years.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to join the External Relations Committee of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors (ABCLS). This committee has broad terms of reference that generally involve anything to do with liaising with government and other entities outside of the Association. The Chair, Brent Taylor, BCCLS, sold it to me as a way to keep up on many different issues concerning the Association, so I jumped at the opportunity. I thought it would be interesting and a good way to expand my knowledge of Association affairs.

A few weeks into my term, we were surprised by a new piece of legislation: the Oil & Gas Activities Act (OGAA), one of several bills that were expedited through the provincial legislature in a matter of a few days. I work in the oil & gas side of the land surveying as a part of my practice, so it made sense for me to look over this new act and what effects it might have on land surveying issues. It did not take long to realize this act had dire consequences for oil & gas land surveying work.

In short, OGAA repealed all of the statutory responsibilities of land surveyors as far as oil & gas surveys are concerned. They were gone. No traces left. You might think that legislators would carefully consider and consult with affected parties before making changes like this and, if you think so, you would be wrong. Instead, anything that had the appearance of being unnecessary or outdated was deleted without much extra question or thought. What was left was what legislators thought was important and nothing more.

At the time the Association found out about OGAA, the bill had been through first and second reading in the legislature. I learned very quickly this meant we had a very short time to do anything to influence this act before it was signed into law. A small group of us (Brent Taylor, Chuck Salmon and I) pooled contact info and started calling and e-mailing anyone in government who we thought might pay attention. The bill was due to go back to the legislature for third and final reading within a week or two, so there wasn’t much time to deal with the problem.

We reached out to our colleagues at the Surveyor-General Division of the Land Title and Survey Authority. They were also aware of the bill and its contents, and were deeply concerned over the effects of failing to have surveys of wellsites and pipelines and to have those surveys stored in public registries. They were also working to contact anyone involved in the construction of OGAA to express their concerns.

Both the ABCLS and the Surveyor-General made a number of contacts through e-mail, phone and face-to-face meetings over the next week or two. Although we communicated with a number of people in government on the issues, we were all told that government’s position was to pass this act the way it was and nothing would be changed.

“Sorry, you’re the Association of who?”

We took a bit of time to assess what had just happened and decided to press onwards talking with government representatives in various ministries and divisions within government about the problems OGAA was creating. A common theme arose from many of those conversations and responses: a large number of people who had influence over this legislation had basically no idea what land surveyors did to contribute to the development of oil & gas resources in the province. “Sorry, you’re the Association of who?” was a frequent response. The ones who at least did know who land surveyors are often had little idea of what we actually do. Concepts such as contributing to the organization of property rights and maintaining the cadastral fabric were abstract to many of them. While we see our work as crucial to the socio-economic foundation of the province, too many people in government saw it as silly field workers hammering pieces of metal in the ground for fun. The lack of understanding within many parts of government was simply staggering.

It was not looking good for oil & gas surveying, but over the next few months we made contact with a few people in government who understood why property rights and tenuring were important to the province, and they took the time to understand how surveyors and the work they do are an important part of that. We also received word that an amendment act to OGAA was being contemplated...
We had to wait impatiently and hope that we had talked to the right people, and then wonder if we had communicated the importance of our work to them clearly enough.

to make adjustments to it, so we had an opening to get land surveying back on the table. Through some careful discussions, we were able to convince the Ministry responsible for OGAA to put back in provisions for surveys (and their public recording) and to include meaningful language about the kinds of surveys that need to be done. Now, getting agreement on ideas from a Ministry representative and seeing those ideas actually make it into the legislation are two very different things.

We had to wait impatiently and hope that we had talked to the right people, and then wonder if we had communicated the importance of our work to them clearly enough. We were extremely relieved when an amendment to OGAA containing the provisions we needed for surveys was passed in the legislature and signed into law.

...this issue would not have come up if the...legislators understood what land surveying means to oil & gas development.

Our work wasn’t done yet. We had been successful in getting the legislation to authorize surveys, but the nuts and bolts of the survey requirements still needed to be assembled in a new regulation. This took more discussions with various parts of government and a pattern became obvious: every time we dealt with someone new from another department or ministry we frequently had to educate them on who land surveyors are and what they do. It was frustrating and discouraging to see how little people knew about something so fundamental to the economy. However, we kept on working at it and eventually saw the completion of regulations that substantially replaced what had been lost when OGAA first appeared. It took 18 months of effort, bunches of meetings, and countless e-mails and phone calls to fix something that could’ve just been left as it was in the first place. I bet this issue would not have come up if the OGAA legislators understood what land surveying means to oil & gas development.

If people don’t realize what we do is important, then we risk being forgotten, ignored, repealed.

Now that activity on this issue has wound down and I have time to reflect on what happened, I came to the conclusion that much of this was preventable and that land surveyors have themselves to blame for how bad this situation got. I think it all goes back to how we prefer to do our work quietly and privately and not concern anyone else with how important this work is. By being “off the radar” of government and the public at large we are finding ourselves and our work ignored. Society in general doesn’t know much about land surveyors because they don’t need to look too closely at what land surveyors do. If people don’t realize what we do is important, then we risk being forgotten, ignored, repealed.

Part of this is because we do our work so well that problems, especially problems that could affect the public, are very rare occurrences. This is an immensely positive feature that we definitely don’t want to change. Without the work of land surveyors, the cadastre would begin to degrade which would eventually lead to conflicts over rights to land. In a way, the cadastre is like a complex machine: if it is properly maintained and taken care of, it will function well; if it is neglected, serious problems will eventually come up. The problems wouldn’t show up immediately, so land surveyors would have likely moved on to other kinds of work and wouldn’t be available to repair the damage done.

I believe the habit we should and need to change is to stop keeping quiet about what land surveyors are and what they do. The land surveyors I know are fiercely proud of their work, but you would not know it because they rarely talk about it to non-land surveyors. Why are we so quiet about it? Is there something wrong with expressing pride in or talking about what we do?

I challenge all land surveyors to do more to educate people about what land surveying is and why it is important. This isn’t a job for a small committee or task force; I believe it is something we all need to do. I even go so far to suggest it is part of our duty to society, since my story illustrates what could happen if we don’t educate the public.

This educational role doesn’t need to be daunting; it starts with making sure everyone you deal with on a day-to-day basis knows a bit more about land surveying after talking to you. When people ask what you do, you take the time to show your interest in the profession instead of replying, “Yeah, we’re those folks looking through the telescope on the side of road.” And any time you get to talk to someone in any part of government, whether it is a municipal engineer or your elected representatives, you take the opportunity to explain why land surveying matters instead of just what it is. Small efforts applied by everyone will eventually have a big effect.

Be proud of what you do.

I look back at our experience with OGAA and imagine what would have happened if more people understood how crucial land surveying is to the oil & gas industry. We would have been approached by government when changes were being contemplated. We would have been asked for our opinion on survey standards. We would have been partners in the development of a better version of OGAA, instead of sitting on the other side of the table and trying to repair gaping holes in legislation. If you can imagine better things happening for land surveying, then I hope you will take on this challenge too. Be proud of what you do.

Bryan Bates, BCLS, CLS, ALS
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We have enthusiastic, experienced Board members and an active public member who are all willing to share ideas and make suggestions to improve the program.

Connie Petersen’s article in the March 2011 issue of ALS News highlighted some of the challenges faced during the transition to the new Continuing Competency Review program (CCR). Although some of these challenges still exist, and I’m sure there are other challenges that we have yet to experience, I believe our CCR is working as it was intended. It is apparent that many hours and much thought went into the development of the CCR because it is a strong, sustainable program that is meeting our obligations under the Land Surveyors Act and protects the public. Additionally, after several months of working with the Practice Review Board (PRB), I don’t see any reason why we can’t overcome any challenge put before us. We have enthusiastic, experienced Board members and an active public member who are all willing to share ideas and make suggestions to improve the program. Our Systematic Practice Review (SPR) Program has served us well; however, we are ready to move forward.

Although CCR files have dominated the agenda at the recent PRB meetings, the PRB is also working towards closing the final Phase 3 SPR files. Currently, there are three active SPR files and I expect that we will be able to complete and close all of these files this year.

Continuing Competency Review
Program Status Report

According to Section 6.4 of the CCR Procedures Policy Document, one of the duties of the Director of Practice Review is to prepare a report to the membership “on trends in practice performance as identified by the statistical data collected during the CCR review process.” Accordingly, it is my pleasure to present the CCR 2010-2011 status report.

Beta testing of the CCR began on March 4, 2010, when the first five CCR files were opened. The official launch of the CCR occurred on June 15, 2010. As of May 31, 2011, a total of 130 CCR files have been opened. Ninety-nine products have been submitted, 18 ALs indicated that they do not author products, 10 ALs indicated that they are exempt from the mandatory insurance bylaw, and three files are currently at the initial stage. The PRB has reviewed 98 files and closed 92 of them. On average, it has taken 89 days to complete a review and close a file. The PRB has identified six files that require a comprehensive review. Six products have been field inspected and there are currently four additional field inspections scheduled but not yet complete. Of the 98 files reviewed by the PRB, 72 included a product examination. When the results of the product examination are analyzed, it is apparent that there are several recurring areas of concern. For example, in 20% of the products reviewed, field note deficiencies were identified. Additionally, concerns were raised about the lack of redundant measurements in 20% of the products reviewed. Indeed, these do not seem to be new problems. According to the SPR report published in the June 2007 ALS News, the 2006-2007 PRB year-end report highlighted deficiencies in the field notes and a lack of redundancy as recurring problems. That report also identified problems with dormant plans and the use of governing evidence, as well as inadequate equipment calibration. I will use these recurring areas of concern to categorize the issues identified during the CCR plan examination process.

Field Notes

There have been several articles written in ALS News and the Professional Development Committee has developed a seminar to provide guidance on field note preparation. Despite these best efforts, in more than 20% of the products reviewed, some type of deficiency was found in the field notes. The deficiencies are often that some, or most, of the items outlined in Part C Section 6.2 of the Manual of Standard Practice (MSP) were not recorded. For example, the items listed in Part C Section 6.2.5 and 6.2.6 are often not recorded in the field notes. Additionally, almost no one is recording the barometric pressure and the type and identification of equipment is often incomplete.
I was most impressed by one example where the ALS signed off on the evidence reports to indicate that they reviewed and accepted the found evidence and the search that was conducted for evidence that was not found.

**Equipment Calibration**

Properly calibrated equipment is critical to achieving the accuracy required for legal survey work. Based on the responses in the questionnaire, 56% of ALSs who submitted products have a formal equipment calibration policy. An additional 10% indicated that they have some type of informal policy or calibrate on an as-needed basis. The PRB often recommends that a formal policy be developed and implemented and in Phase 2 of the CCR, a follow-up will be done with those ALSs who indicated that they do not currently have a formal policy.

**Use of Governing Evidence**

As mentioned earlier, we have undertaken six field inspections with an additional four pending. In the field inspections completed to date, the use of governing evidence has not been identified as an issue. However, more data is required before any conclusions can be reached. As per the CCR Procedures Policy, we will continue to conduct field inspections and a summary of the results will be available for next year’s status report.

**Dormant Plans**

For the most part, the PRB has passed the dormant plan issue over to the Dormant Plan Working Group. However, based on the responses to the dormant plan question on the questionnaire, it seems that many ALSs are working hard to reduce their dormant plans. Indeed, none of the ALSs reviewed so far have more than 100 dormant plans and about 50% of the ALSs reviewed have no dormant plans.

**Moving Forward With The CCR**

The PRB is continually looking for ways to improve the CCR process. At the PRB meeting in March 2011, the Board reviewed the CCR and discussed potential changes to the process based on feedback from the membership and the board’s experience with the first one hundred or so files.

At that meeting, several ideas for improving and streamlining the review process were discussed and action has been taken in the following areas:

- Feedback from the membership indicated that the submission timeline for field notes was too short. As such, we have extended the timeline for submission of the field notes.
- We eliminated the scoring used to evaluate the questionnaire. The responses to the questions on the questionnaire are qualitative in nature and the consensus on the Board was that the scoring shifted the focus away from the comments and observations made by the assessors.
- We streamlined several internal processes to reduce administrative time and make it easier for Board members to evaluate the information in the file.
- We made minor revisions to the policy document and framework document to clear up some wording inconsistencies.
- The result of one of the wording changes is that the DPR has more flexibility to conduct field inspections as part of the product review.
- We have updated the CCR checklists to reflect changes to the legislation and the MSP. These checklists are now available on the ALSA website.
- We are currently in the process of preparing a CCR feedback questionnaire that will be sent to all ALSs whose files have been closed.
- This feedback, along with the suggestions from the Board, will form the basis for changes to the questionnaire and set the direction of the program as we move toward Phase 2.
Summary
I have discussed the CCR with several members of the working group who developed the program and it seems like the process is working as they envisioned. The time spent on each file has been reduced and the overall program cost has been significantly reduced. I am pleased to report that, based on our current progress, we are on track to complete Phase 1 within the four-year review timeline. I am also pleased to note that via the product review and the selective use of field inspections, we are still able to identify files where there are potential issues and deficiencies. However, similar to the SPR program, the CCR is intended to be educational.

The educational component of the program is important to the PRB and it is taken very seriously. The PRB is striving to provide specific and appropriate feedback regarding deficiencies and areas of concern to the ALSs whose files are closed. Additionally, the comprehensive review process provides an opportunity for a closer look at the ALS’s work and will result in specific feedback of an educational nature. To date, six files have been selected for a comprehensive review and I expect that they will be brought forward to the Board for consideration this summer. Additionally, I will be working with the Professional Development Committee (PDC) to ensure that they are informed of the common deficiencies so that courses/seminars can be developed to address them.

As mentioned earlier, we are continuously looking for ways to improve the CCR. As such, should you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, I encourage you to contact me to discuss it. I am working in Calgary and can be reached at 403-452-7057 or by e-mail at westlund@alsa.ab.ca.

Scott S. Westlund, ALS
Director of Practice Review
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The Responsible Management of Technical Staff

Alberta Land Surveyors are granted the right to practice professional land surveying by legislation and through maintaining membership in a self-governing professional association. Like all rights, this right comes with obligations. Each of us has a solemn duty to maintain personal professional competency, to practice in accordance with specified ethical standards, and to foster and maintain public faith in Alberta Land Surveyors and their work.

As we move through our careers, we usually become less field-oriented, less technically hands-on, and more involved in business decisions and the supervision or management of technical staff. These roles increase our level of responsibility because we must not only remain aware of current survey standards and requirements but also provide effective direction to technical staff. Our degree of competency is significantly defined by the extent to which we meet these two obligations.

The objective of the Practice Review Board (PRB) is to improve practitioner competency through the Continuing Competency Review (CCR) program. In the process of reviewing more than 98 practitioners under this new program, we have found that most Alberta Land Surveyors are competent, and that they provide a service in which the public can have confidence.

However, the CCR process has also flagged situations where practitioners have strayed off course or demonstrated one or more deficiencies with respect to competency. In my term as a PRB member, I have observed three recurring shortcomings, each of which is related to our professional obligation to manage technical staff responsibly.

1. Written Procedures
Practitioners often fail to provide sound guidance to technical staff through written procedures. The CCR process focuses particularly on written procedures for GNSS surveys and conventional surveys. Although these procedures should deal with redundancy issues, they should not stop there. Technical staff also benefit from (and appreciate) written standards, procedures, and structure for their workflow. Providing written procedures not only clarifies technical requirements but also increases productivity. The procedures need not be presented in “manual” form; they can often be in the form of a memo to technical staff prescribing effective workflow procedures and ensuring that these are followed.

2. Field Notes
Most practitioners stress the importance of good field notes to their technical staff. However, with the advent of GNSS, some field staff and their supervisors have come to believe that capturing digital data eliminates the requirement for well-written field notes. We have a professional obligation to ensure that field crews understand and accept the importance of good field notes, and the ideal way to communicate this is through a written procedures document. The Manual of Standard Practice provides good generic guidance and can serve as a starting point for written procedures, but many of us have “niche-based” practices for which we should also provide technical staff with specific guidelines and samples.

3. Checklists
I once avoided checklists because they seemed trivial and mundane, but I have come to appreciate how much difference they can make for both me and my technical staff. Checklists can improve effectiveness quite remarkably all the way through the life cycle of a project. Since implementing checklists, I’ve seen significant improvements in the quality and consistency of field notes, field work, and final survey products, and I strongly encourage other practitioners to use them too. Sometimes a simple tool can make a world of difference.

Every ALS has a professional obligation to provide accurate and reliable land surveying services, and this requires us to manage technical staff responsibly by providing written procedures, stressing the requirement for good field notes, and using detailed checklists for every project. Each of these practices can help us to maintain professional competency. The PRB assists us with this obligation through competency reviews. I encourage you to embrace the CCR process and use it to improve your professional competence, your business practice, and public confidence in the work of Alberta Land Surveyors.

Mitch Ettinger, ALS
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As chair, I took on the responsibility for the operations of the Committee. This seemed like a daunting task as the PDC had ambitious terms of reference. This year, the PDC undertook the tasks of presenting ten seminars, eight regional meetings, three one-day courses at local post-secondary institutions, updating existing course material, hiring an educational consultant and exploring the concept of lunch hour seminars. It was a busy year and a challenge to ensure everyone got things done on schedule and on budget.

Two interesting developments were the development of the one-hour lunch time seminars and the hiring of Bruce Lee as a professional consultant. The one-hour seminars were a chance to meet fellow Association members, present a specific topic that would not warrant a full or half day seminar, and a chance for new speakers to gain experience talking in front of a group. Most people liked the concept and I hope we can continue to provide them in the future.

The second development was that the PDC hired Bruce Lee as a professional consultant. Bruce will help the Committee make use of the new technology for the benefit of all Association members.

An aspect of continuing education is the practical learning that comes from being exposed to new situations outside your comfort zone. There is no shortage of these opportunities for the chair of a committee. Working with your peers is different from working with your co-workers. You learn new leadership skills from how to run meetings to how to delegate and how to accomplish tasks as part of a committee, time management, and even brush up your skills as an arbitrator.

One intriguing part of being a chair is learning what goes on behind the scenes. You get to work closely with the ALSA office and staff, Council and the president. You gain a new perspective you didn’t have as a committee member. As chair, I was invited to participate in several meetings with our sister associations’ professional development committees under the direction of the ACLS. In these meetings, we had a chance to share what we are working on, seminar ideas, presenters, and other topics about continuing professional development. Several other associations took note of our Getting it Right seminar and are looking to develop their own. The ACLS is moving forward in creating a long distance learning website (geoed.pro) with video tutorials from other seminars.

As I look back on the past year, I am grateful I had the chance to chair the PDC. I got to work with a dedicated group of professionals. I had chance to meet the other chairs across this country and learn from their programs. I learned how to manage a committee, how to motivate people and manage time. I even got over my fear of public speaking. I am a better manager and ALS because of my time as chair. I am glad I took on the challenge. It all started by joining a committee.

Iain Skinner, ALS
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Through the years of Canada’s early development land surveyors played a prominent role. They were highly regarded in society and respected as professionals. However, when I obtained my commission in March of this year I found myself explaining to friends and some family what it meant to be a land surveyor and the role they played. The conversation usually started in one of four ways: “My cousin is a land surveyor and he’s only twenty, what took you so long?” “Is that like getting your Red Seal?” “I thought you graduated from some sort of engineering program.” “Good for you… does this mean you can survey my property for free now?”

In comparison, when my sister passed her Uniform Final Examination (UFE) and became a Chartered Accountant (CA) the same circle of people understood immediately that she had obtained a professional designation. Just to be clear, I still have no idea what my sister does every day at the office but I do understand that she is a member of a professional organization and that if I was to go into business for myself she is the first one I would call regarding financial and administrative advice. Likewise, I would consult a lawyer for legal matters and a physician for health concerns.

The point I am trying to make is that it is not the public’s lack of understanding of the practice of land surveying that is concerning. Rather it is the increasing failure to recognize land surveying as a profession and understand when it is necessary or in one’s best interest to seek the counsel and services of a land surveyor. How do we change our public image? This has been a topic of discussion and many well written articles within ALS News for at least thirty years; that’s how far back my company’s archives date.

In my opinion, it all boils down to three things. The first being attitude. In his article “Professional Attitude of the Land Surveyor,” David C. Clark, NSLS describes the necessary professional attitude as being “characterized by an ever alert conscience, self-discipline, integrity and a sense of justice and responsibility.” This article was published in the 1990 fall issue of ALS News and is worth the read.

As members of a professional association, we need to recognize the importance of this attitude and acknowledge that it is something found within each of us to varying degrees. I’m not saying that we walk around with inflated egos but rather, if we do not view ourselves as professionals, then what hope is there of convincing our staff and the public to do the same? If you want to be treated as a professional, believe and act as though you are.

The second is presentation. When I look at photographs of surveyors in the early 1900s the first thing that comes to mind is “they surveyed in suits?!” Presentation is an important part of public perception. If I was to walk into a dirty doctor’s office, it is very unlikely that I would proceed with the appointment. The same is true if I was to visit my lawyer and they came to the meeting in ripped jeans and an old tie-dyed shirt or my accountant handed me a financial report riddled with spelling mistakes and coffee stains. Now certainly none of us would dream of wearing our good clothes in order to read the markings on the side of a post, at the bottom of a three-foot hole, but clean company branded trucks, field staff in employee uniforms, professionally formatted client returns and a land surveyor in a suit does demand a certain level of respect. How often do we see a land surveyor on a job site with a white hard hat and a suit to meet with their clients? This is an image that the public and industry has come to associate with a professional engineer. If you want the public to look on you as a professional, present yourself as one.

The third is education. This is the most important component for raising the profile of our profession. This component also requires the most amount of time, effort and resources. Education is comprised of both information and instruction. There is an unbelievable amount of information available to the public regarding land surveying. There are educational programs such as “Made to Measure,” association brochures, Boundaries, ALS News, YouTube videos and historical documentaries and novels.

In this age of information, it initially seems odd that not everyone knows what it is that land surveyors do. I believe that this stems from two causes. First information without instruction can be misleading and/or confusing. From viewing GPS suppliers’ YouTube videos, it is easy to see how one could get the impression that land surveying can be accomplished by anyone able to operate a GPS system—a dangerous assumption, as we learned with the introduction of GPS location plans. It is equally unlikely that you will learn that land surveyors require an education or do anything other than ride around on quads and helicopters with GPS equipment.

Second, how would you even know that such information existed or where it was available if no one told you? Blindly walking though the wilderness will eventually take you somewhere but not always to the correct destination.

This is why I think that the key to educating the public is good old-fashioned face-to-face conversations. We need to explain to friends, family, clients, and government agencies alike that land surveying is a profession—not a trade; that land surveyors do not just measure—they provide a long list of professional services—a list too long to do justice to with this short article. If you want the public to know you are a professional, educate them. Enhancing the public image of the land surveying profession is a task we, as an Association, need to take seriously. I plan on starting by educating my friends and family; explaining to them that land surveyors are well educated, responsible professionals eager to help them with all of their land-related requirements and that we, as a profession, played a major role in developing this country and we will continue to do so.

Robyn Graham, ALS
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Professional Exam Results
SPRING 2011 SITTING

Practical Surveying
The spring session of the 2011 Practical Surveying exam was written by 29 candidates. Eight candidates passed the exam. Candidates were required to answer 10 out of 11 questions.

The exam consisted of all “recycled” questions. Some of the questions were just changed slightly from the previous years. It was apparent that few candidates either memorized answers to old questions or didn’t read questions carefully.

The most difficult question for candidates appeared to be the one on field notes and evidence assessment. Candidates also struggled with the question on PLA and PLSR. Railway and title boundary posting and natural boundaries were the questions where candidates received the best results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Average Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Railway and Title Boundary Posting</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condominium</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Property Report</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Notes &amp; Evidence Assessment</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCMs</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Subdivision</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural boundaries</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline in Surveyed Territory</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titles</td>
<td>2.5 out of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLA &amp; PLSR</td>
<td>1.7 out of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellsite in Unsurveyed Territory</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering there was no new questions on this Practical Surveying exam, the results are little disappointing.

Statute Law
Fourteen candidates attempted the spring 2011 Statute Law exam, of which four were successful. The results are broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>No. of Candidates</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most candidates struggled with the Municipal Government Act questions. Questions about the subdivision process and cancelling of subdivisions also caused problems. The Land Titles Act section, where there was a question pertaining to the subdivision process and its effect on titles also caused problems. There were a number of reworded or slightly changed questions from previous exams along with a couple new questions.

Candidates should ensure they read questions through thoroughly, as a slight wording change from a previous question can quite drastically change the answer.

Candidates did well in general on the Oil & Gas Conservation Regulation section with it being the only section with an average mark in the passing range. This section had a reworded question regarding target areas which almost all candidates got wrong.

The Surveying Profession
This spring, the 2011 Surveying Profession exam was written by 11 people, of which 10 passed. The results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>No. of Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Newly-formed questions were performed much better this year. The candidates may be more aware of the issues affecting the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. New questions consisted of title insurance, a revised TILMA to reflect the new changes, Land Surveyors Act which pertained to the profession and a professional, a key paper released regarding right-of-way registration, and finally a product registration question.

These results were very good considering the amount of new topics and questions touched on in this exam.
Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association

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Be Prepared

On behalf of the Safety Committee, I would like to start this article by expressing our most sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the fallen worker at Millennium Geomatics. It is truly a tragedy, and the entire Association would agree, a tremendous loss.

It is times like these we must take a step back and put our own lives into perspective. This was truly an accident, and highly unavoidable. As tragic an event as it was, it is our duty to take a moment to reflect on what we do and how we all put ourselves into harm’s way on a daily basis. Think about the tasks we perform, tasks we expect our employees to perform, and the tasks others around us perform every day. Now think about the dangers associated with those tasks. Pop quiz: are we aware of all of the dangers? Do we have the skill, knowledge, and experience required to analyze and control these dangers? Are we prepared to face these risks every day? Hopefully you answered yes to all of the above.

As many of us probably were, I was fortunate enough to participate in Scouts Canada for most of my life although, with my hectic schedule, I am no longer an active member. I have dedicated over 25 years of my life, one way or another, to the scouting movement. Scouting has taught me many valuable life lessons including hard work, perseverance, and dedication, but above all, the most important lesson I ever learned was “be prepared.”

Be prepared—two very simple, yet life-changing words. The Webster's dictionary defines prepared as the follows:

**Prepared** (pri-paird) – adjective.
1. Properly expectant, organized, or equipped; ready.

This sounds like most of us—right?—or so we think. Do we actually take the time every morning to properly organize ourselves? Do we seriously think about the hazards we face when filling out our JSAs or do we simply check off a bunch of boxes on yet another safety form? Is our PPE stored properly, easily accessible, clean and in good repair? Have our fire extinguishers been inspected and ready to use if we ever need them? Do we shortcut tasks, or take unnecessary risks in order to get a job done faster? One way or another, we are not perfect. The message is, though, to be prepared to face the consequences of our actions.

Now that it seems like summer is here to stay, we can finally take off the layers of thermal underwear, mitts, hats and boots, and prepare to put on a different kind of layer—mosquito repellent! Although we often talk about our winter survival kits and all of the essentials we need for winter driving, and driving off-road in winter conditions, quite frankly summer can be just as dangerous too. Heavy rain, thick sticky mud, high temperatures, fatigue from working long hours are all contributors to summer driving risks. You can get stuck in the mud just as easily as you can the in the snow. Your car may not start in the cold weather, but your truck may overheat in the hot summer sun. Heavy rain can be just as blinding as a winter blizzard, and by working long hours, fatigue can be nearly as dangerous as driving impaired. The message, however, is still the same—be prepared.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, “outdoor jobs expose workers to heat stress, ultraviolet (UV) radiation, poisonous plants and creatures, and pest-borne diseases. Appropriate training and adequate protection can go a long way towards keeping workers safe outside.” (CDCP, 2011)

Here are some suggestions for ways you can be prepared for working in the summer months:

- Resting in shady places, drinking lots of cool water, and wearing appropriate clothing can lessen the effects of heat exposure. Symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion include “confusion, irrational behaviour, loss of consciousness, hot dry skin, and abnormal body temperature.” (OHSA, 2011)
- Wear a hat and sunscreen to reduce the exposure to UV rays.
- Pay attention to the weather and make sure you have appropriate clothing and supplies. A sudden storm may cause lightening, hail, and flash flooding. Strong winds, and poor visibility can also be dangerous. Check the local forecast to ensure you are prepared for any and all weather.
- Learn how to identify poisonous and noxious plants such as poison ivy, poison oak or remember the old saying “Leaves of three, beware of me.”
- Beware of insect bites and stings and be prepared to treat them. Know if your partner or colleague is allergic and how to administer an epi-pen if need be.

Summer is wonderful for spending time outdoors, and often away from civilization. I urge you to take a few moments and truly consider whether or not you are prepared for the challenges you may face. It only takes a second for danger to strike and a lifetime to wonder why.

...it is important to be prepared for any challenge...

There is no way we can prevent every incident from occurring, but it is important to be prepared for any challenge we may face. With a wife and three children, two daughters involved in “Sparks” and a two-year old son itching to go to “Beavers,” I reflect on my own work practices, and think about how can I ensure that not only am I prepared for life’s challenges, but how can I encourage and enable those around me to do the same. The answer is simple. Relax, take a deep breath, and think. Am I truly prepared for today?

James Durant, ALSA ArticlePupil
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Recent discussions at the ALSA AGM in Jasper centred on the concept of registered technologists and the types of jobs they could/can do. The Government of Alberta has decided that GPS location plans don’t have to be done by an Alberta Land Surveyor following the recommendation of the forestry sector. Forestry uses registered technologists, but these don’t readily exist in the surveying profession. This is a poor decision as these location plans establish boundaries—an exclusive area of practice for Alberta Land Surveyors. It is a political decision but it is important for land surveyors to remember that areas of exclusive practice are granted by government and can also be removed by government.

How many land surveyors explain to their new employees—or their existing employees for that matter—why the exclusive area of practice matters? Make it part of your company’s orientation. Educate your staff. Educate your MLA. The ALSA does not lobby but Alberta Land Surveyors can. There are over 400 active Alberta Land Surveyors in the province. If every one of them called their MLA to object to this decision regarding GPS location plans, and explained the importance of exclusive areas of practice, I expect there would be positive changes. In politics, one phone call represents many voters.

The ASSMT bylaws have included an RST (Registered Survey Technologist) for many years, though no one has ever been certified with this designation. ASSMT has asked the ALSA Council about forming an ad hoc Committee to look at the position, to answer questions like “what would an RST be?” and “what scope of practice (without infringing on exclusive areas of practice) would be involved?” There are many non-exclusive areas of practice where an RST could be used; recognizing that much of the work in a survey office is done by technicians and technologists.

At the recent ASSMT AGM held in Sherwood Park on May 27-28, 2011, changes were made to the Society’s bylaws adding a code of ethics and a Disciplinary policy and procedure. This creates an expectation of higher responsibility, along with consequences for non-performance of the duties that go with these responsibilities.

The RST position offers a way to respond to government, while maintaining quality control using a proactive approach rather than a reactive one. The absolute worst thing the ALSA could do is nothing. Government is watching and waiting. I wish the committee well as the RST is long overdue. The ALSA helping to define the position and role only makes sense, and the ALSA Council is to be commended for their progressive thinking.  

Rob Cream, CLS, CST, ALSA Articled Pupil

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Distinctive. Choice.
According to the South Devon Herald Express, a retired couple in the UK lost a boundary dispute over 13 centimetres of land. The pensioners were landed with almost £20,000 legal fees after they lost a court battle with their neighbours over the position of the fence.

After a two-day hearing, Recorder Robin Tolson ruled the contentious fence should be removed after finding it encroached on the neighbours’ land.

Mr. Chisholm, a retired taxi driver, has said he might end up losing the house to pay the costs.

“We sold our house in Coventry and used the money to buy this place, anything we had left over went on doing it up. It was supposed to be our dream home.”

Mr. Chisholm said they did not realize where the actual boundary was when they bought the property in the 1990s. He added: “When we brought the property we were already trespassing. We are piggy in the middle in this.”

***

Since 1971, the monetary system of Great Britain has been based on the decimal system. The basic unit of British currency (currency of the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies) is the pound, which is divided into one hundred pence. (abbreviated as p).

As a unit of currency, the term pound originates from the value of one pound Tower weight of high purity silver known as sterling silver.

The pound sign derives from the ‘£sd’ pronounced, and sometimes written as ‘LSD’. The abbreviation comes from librae, solidi, denarii (libra was the basic Roman unit of weight; the solidus and denarius were Roman coins). ‘£sd’ was the popular name for the pre-decimal currencies pounds, shillings, pence of the Britain and other countries.

Prior to decimalization in 1971 Britain used a system of pounds, shillings and pence. (‘£sd’ or ‘LSD’). The smallest unit of currency was a penny, the plural of which was pence (or pennies). There were 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound. The pound came in the form of a paper bill, called a note, or a gold coin, called a sovereign.

The official full name pound sterling (plural: pounds sterling) is used mainly in formal language and also to distinguish the currency used within the United Kingdom from others that have the same name. (GBP = Great British Pound)

The word sterling is believed to come from the Old Norman French esterlin (meaning little star).

w...www.universetoday.com/24351/what-is-a-star/ ***

In a scientific sense, a star is ball of hydrogen and helium with enough mass that it can sustain nuclear fusion at its core. Our sun is a star, of course, but they can come in different sizes and colors.

75% of the matter in the universe is hydrogen and 23% is helium; these are the amounts left over from the Big Bang. These elements exist in large stable clouds of cold molecular gas. At some point a gravitational disturbance, like a supernova explosion or a galaxy collision will cause a cloud of gas to collapse, beginning the process of star formation.

As the gas collects together, it heats up. Conservation of momentum from the movement of all the particles in the cloud causes the whole cloud to begin spinning. Most of the mass collects in the centre, but the rapid rotation of the cloud causes it to flatten out into a protoplanetary disk. It’s out of this disk that planets will eventually form, but that’s another story.

w...www.universetoday.com/24351/what-is-a-star/ ***

The Big Bang Theory is an American sitcom from Chuck Lorre Productions. It premiered in September 2007. In early 2011 the show was renewed for a further three seasons, taking it through to its seventh season in 2013-14.

Leonard and Sheldon are brilliant physicists, the kind of “beautiful minds” that understand how the universe works. But none of that genius helps them interact with people, especially women. All this begins to change when a free-spirited beauty named Penny moves in next door. Sheldon, Leonard’s roommate, is quite content spending his nights playing Klingon Boggle with their socially dysfunctional friends, fellow CalTech scientists Wolowitz and Koothrappali.

The May 12 episode of The Big Bang Theory was watched by 10.46 million people, up by around 20,000 people on last week, and scored a 7.9/13 rating in households. “The Engagement Reaction” scored a 3.2/11 rating in the key adults 18-49 demographic. The Big Bang Theory finished second in all key metrics.

w...http://the-big-bang-theory.com/ ***

In the U.S., the term “TV ratings” immediately makes people think of “Nielsen” because Nielsen Media Research has become the de facto national measurement service for the television industry in the United States and Canada. Nielsen measures the number of people watching television shows and makes its data available to the television and cable networks, advertisers and the media.

Nielsen uses a technique called statistical sampling to rate the shows -- the same technique that pollsters use to predict the outcome of elections. Nielsen creates a “sample audience” and then counts how many in that audience view each program. Nielsen then extrapolates from the sample and estimates the number of viewers in the entire population watching the show. That’s a simple way of explaining what is a complicated, extensive process. Nielsen relies mainly on information collected from TV set meters that it installs, and then combines this information with huge databases of the programs that appear on each TV station and cable channel.

w...www.howstuffworks.com/question433.htm ***

A “statistical sample” is another term for “polling.” According to www.thesaurus.com, the verb “polling” can also mean ballot, canvass, enrol, examine, interview, list, register, send up a balloon, tally, test the waters, vote and, of course, survey.

Brian Munday, Executive Director
The Canadian Legal Information Institute database (www.canlii.org) contains a number of recent court decisions involving land surveyors and land surveying.

The cases below are excerpts from the judges’ decisions. Readers should read the entire decision in order to learn the details of the circumstances of the case and the rationale for the decision.

**Behie v. Carrigan**

2011 NSSC 171 (CanLII) — 2011-05-04

**Supreme Court of Nova Scotia—NS**

**Scoury area—disputed—land—possession—lands**

**Introduction**

[1] The plaintiffs and defendants are relatives, and long-time next door neighbors. They reside on Highway 344, in the rural community of Sand Point, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia. This Action seeks to resolve their dispute over the location of the common boundary line of their adjoining properties.

**Background**


[3] By Warranty Deed dated November 30, 1973, and registered February 26, 1974, the defendants conveyed to the plaintiffs a parcel of land situated on Highway 344 in Sand Point described as a portion of the first lot of land described in the tax deed. The metes and bounds description is:

> Beginning at the point where the Northern boundary line of lands of John Carrigan intersects the Western boundary line of the Main Highway leading from Sand Point to Mulgrave.

> Thence in a Southwesterly direction following the Northern boundary line of lands of John Carrigan a distance of 1340 feet more or less to the Eastern boundary line of lands expropriated by the Province of Nova Scotia, December 1, 1972;

> Thence in a Northwesterly direction following the said Eastern boundary line of lands expropriated as aforesaid a distance of 125 feet;

> Thence in a Northeasterly direction and parallel with the said Northern boundary line of lands of John Carrigan to the Western boundary line of the Highway aforesaid;

> Thence in a southeasterly direction following the said boundary of the said Highway to the place of beginning;

> And being a part of the first lot of land described in the deed from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to Earle Carrigan bearing date the 14th day of November 18, 1967, and recorded that the Registry of Deeds at Guysborough in Book # 70, Page 158.

[4] The lot acquired by the Behies in 1973 had an old house and an outbuilding on it. They undertook an extensive renovation of the house and landscaping of the surrounding property. Over the next 34 years, they continued to add landscape features to the property, such as trees, flower gardens and lawn sods. The outbuilding was torn down and a modern garage was constructed in 2002-3.

[5] It is apparent that there has been a long history of animosity as between the parties that dates back at least to 1979. To that point the parties shared a well, but with the defendant developed their own well Earle Carrigan took umbrage. The 2003 garage construction caused a water drainage problem that negatively impacted on the defendants’ land. This was also a source of irritation. In 2006, the Behies applied for and obtained a so-called “Peace Bond” pursuant to the Criminal Code, which restricted Mr. Carrigan’s contact with the Behies.

[6] In June of 2007, the defendants commissioned a survey of the land which was completed in November 2007. The resulting plan shows several feet of the Behie garage to be on the Carrigan side of the property line.

[7] Armed with the survey information, Earle Carrigan began to aggressively stake out and occupy the lands that the survey shows to be on his side of the line and which to that time, say the Behies, was occupied exclusively by them.

[8] In view of Mr. Carrigan’s actions the Behies applied for an interim injunction in July of 2008 seeking to restrain the defendants from actions that interrupted the plaintiffs’ use of the disputed lands. That was resolved by an interim order of Justice D.L. MacLellan issued 30 September 2008 which required both parties to refrain from engaging in acts of occupation of the undeveloped portion of the disputed lands. It also had the effect of allowing the Behies the uninterrupted use of their garage, pending disposition of the claim.

[9] The Behies claim adverse possession of the disputed property and rely on the provisions of section 10 of Limitation of Actions Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 258. The defendants, as title holders, rely on that title together with evidence of their occupation of the lands to reject such a conclusion.

[10] Evidence adduced in the hearing consisted of the testimony of the parties, family members and neighbours, as well as photographs and various documents from over the years, all intended to assist the court in resolving the factual dispute that underpins the competing claims.

[17] Other than perhaps the surveyor, Cory Sullivan, every witness in this proceeding demonstrated themselves to bring self-interest and/or bias with them to the stand as they gave their evidence. It is clear that sides have been drawn within families, and within the community, and that it has influenced the testimony.

[73] Mr. Sullivan was retained by the defendants to provide a survey tendered as Exhibit 2. His staff did the field work; he never went to the site. There has been no contrary expert opinion evidence offered and this action has proceeded on the basis that possession by the plaintiffs is adverse.

[74] The survey sets out the boundaries of the Carrigan lot and the place of beginning is at the northeast corner of their lot. The survey only collaterally gives information about the Behie lines. As a result, it does not follow the mapping directions for the lines of the Behie lot as set out in the deed to them.
Conclusion
[135] The plaintiffs are successful in their action. The evidence meets the heavy burden that falls on a claimant of adverse possession who seeks to dispossess a titleholder from their land. The Behies established that they were in actual, continuous, open, visible and notorious possession of the disputed lands from 1974 to 2007 and that the defendants were fully aware of such possession.

Shea v. Schlafer
2011 ONSC 1360 (CanLII)—2011-04-11
Superior Court of Justice—Ontario
concrete curb—possessory title—fence—property—boundary

Introduction
[1] This is a dispute between the parties, who are adjoining property owners in Kingston, over a strip of property to which both make a claim. The plaintiff is the actual owner. The defendant claims possessory title. It is a simplified rules case and proceeded as an ordinary trial. The plaintiff is a contractor. The defendant is an elderly lady who lives alone. The onus is on the defendant.

Positions of the parties
[2] The plaintiffs’ position is that the strip of property is part of their property as legally described in their Transfer, and that the claim by the defendant to possessory title is insufficient—only nine years as at March 2005. The defendant’s position is that the strip in question is hers by virtue of possessory title having been acquired in the ten-year period prior to its entry into Land Titles on March 21, 2005. Both parties agree that no possessory title can be acquired after its entry into Land Titles. It was conceded by the plaintiff that sufficient evidence exists from the summer of 1996 to March 21, 2005 to establish possessory title to the portion of the disputed property enclosed by the fence—but that the evidence falls short by one year. Also in dispute is the portion of Part 1 from the fence to the sidewalk.

Issue
[3] The issue is therefore a very narrow one, and relates to the evidence between March 21, 1995 and the summer of 1996 concerning this strip of property which is identified as Part 1 on a survey prepared by the defendant for this action, and identifies the parcel between the legal boundary and the east side of the curb.

The Evidence
[4] The plaintiffs and defendant share a boundary between their respective homes—the plaintiffs at 64 North St. and the defendant at 461 Bagot St. The defendant’s property is a corner lot. The boundary between the two properties runs north and south. The boundary according to the various surveys is between one and two feet west of a concrete curb which also runs north and south parallel to the legally described boundary. It is the concrete curb (and a fence) which according to the various witnesses was treated by the various occupants as the boundary after the summer of 1996 and through March 21, 2005.

[5] The plaintiffs purchased 64 North St. in October 2004; and in 2007 while preparing for an encroachment application with the City, they had a survey prepared. The survey showed that the separating fence was on their property and it was correctly described. The plaintiff said he had suspicions in 2004 that the property looked rather narrow, but did nothing further concerning his suspicions. A carpenter that worked for him assisted him with measuring the distance from the foundation to the fence/concrete curb and thought that it was approximately two feet on his property.

[6] The defendant returned home one day in May of 2007 to find surveyors posts on her property. She went to speak to the plaintiffs who told her why they had the survey done, and then told her “Frankly, Barb, we want our 2 feet back.” That prompted the defendant to seek legal advice, and a letter was sent to the plaintiffs setting out her position that the property line had been considered to be the east edge of the concrete curb and the fence for over 15 years.

Creighton v. Nova Scotia (Attorney General)
2011 NSSC 131 (CanLII)—2011-03-31
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia—NS
lot—title—property—beach—deed

[1] This is a Quieting of Titles Act action commenced on May 5, 2004 by the plaintiff, David Creighton. The disputed lands comprise a portion of land and accompanying water lot located on Water Lane in Chester, Nova Scotia. The lands are shown on a plan of survey prepared by David J. Whyte, NSLS, being plan #21A-09-S2-1, dated March 23, 2004 and showing lots designated as lots 3 and 4:

[2] The defendants, James and Helen Adams claimed ownership of the disputed property and filed a defence on June 18, 2004 denying Mr. Creighton’s claim. Subsequently, the Adamses conveyed the property to Car-Con Holdings L.L.C. Car-Con was added as a defendant by consent order dated October 15, 2008. Car-Con Holdings L.L.C. is a private company controlled by Jason Mraz.

[3] The Attorney General of Nova Scotia was named a defendant pursuant to the Quieting Titles Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 382. The solicitor for the Attorney General attended at the opening day of trial to confirm that the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation had no interest in the disputed lands and took no position as to the claims of the parties. The trial proceeded on the competing claims of ownership to lots 3 and 4 by David Creighton and the defendants, James and Helen Adams and Car-Con.

[4] Both parties claim paper title to the property. Mr. Creighton claims that if he does not have good paper title to the property, he and his predecessors in title have established possessory title based on constructive and adverse possession. The defendants deny the claims of constructive and adverse possession advanced by Mr. Creighton and say they have the superior paper title.
AITF-Microsoft Scholar in Open Sensor Web
Congratulations to Dr. Steve Liang, Assistant Professor in Geomatics Engineering for receiving a provincial research chair titled AITF-Microsoft Scholar in Open Sensor Web. This award, which comes with $220,000 jointly funded by Microsoft Research and Alberta Innovate Technology Future, will enable Dr. Liang to develop the missing algorithms and software components in order to enable scientists to search, visualize and share environmental sensing datasets with a 3D virtual globe platform.

More information about Dr. Liang and the Open Sensor Web project can be obtained at http://sensorweb.geomatics.ucalgary.ca and www.geocens.ca.

Best Poster Award
The Geomatics Engineering 4th year students have won the 2011 Schulich School of Engineering Design Fair - Best Poster Award.

Yun Zhang and Team Win Breakthru Competition
Prof. Yun Zhang and his collaborators, University of New Brunswick business students Jordan deWinter and Pablo Alvarez, were finalists in the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation’s (NBIF’s) business plan competition, Breakthru. The team was promoting SceneSharp, a technology that will transform image quality in the video surveillance market. Previously used in the analysis of satellite imagery, the technique includes the enhancement of the typically low resolution of colour images by merging them with high-resolution black and white images. SceneSharp won the Grand Prize of $145,000, which was announced at a gala celebration in the new Fredericton Convention Centre on March 16. In addition, SceneSharp received the CBC’s Viewers’ Choice Award and a chance to pitch their idea on the set of CBC Television’s Dragons’ Den.

The prize money includes an equity investment from NBIF and in-kind support from lawyers, accountants, and marketing consultants. With support from these professionals and NBIF, SceneSharp will get a head start on building their business venture in New Brunswick.

SceneSharp’s camera technology also automatically detects motion, identifies the 3D location of a moving object, and communicates data about its size and shape.

Watch a YouTube video on SceneSharp: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMC-DkhAbfVM.

GPS Shows Large Position Shifts Due to Japanese Earthquake
Simon Banville, a Ph.D. student working with Prof. Richard Langley at the University of New Brunswick, has analyzed the high-rate 1-Hz data from two stations of the International GNSS Service affected by the Sendai earthquake: MIZU at Mizusawa and USUD at the Usuda Deep Space Tracking Station. His analysis approach uses PPP or precise point positioning, a technique that requires meticulous modeling of all of the phenomena affecting GPS measurements to reveal station displacements with precisions approaching a few centimetres. Inputs include high-precision satellite orbits and clocks, which, in this case, were provided in the form of the “ultra-rapid products” generated at Natural Resources Canada and graciously provided by Yves Mireault. The displacements shown in the plots in terms of latitude, east longitude, and height are with respect to the station coordinates before the occurrence of the earthquake. The MIZU ground motion plots show the station moving about 3.4 metres (11.2 feet) in the first minute of the earthquake, and then recovering back to a final position about 2.4 metres (7.7 feet) ESE from the pre-earthquake location, during the following two minutes. As late as two minutes after the first shock, waves with amplitudes (peak-to-peak) of up to 0.25 metres (10 inches) and a period of 5-10 seconds can be seen.

John Hughes Clarke Awarded the Michael J. Keen Medal
The Marine Geosciences Division of the Geological Association of Canada has awarded its Michael J. Keen Medal for 2010 to the University of New Brunswick’s Dr. John Hughes Clarke. The medal is awarded annually to a scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of marine or lacustrine geoscience.

Dr. Hughes Clarke is a professor and the Chair in Ocean Mapping in the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering at UNB in Fredericton, NB.

The Michael J. Keen medal honours the life and work of Michael John Keen (1935–1991), an award-winning Canadian geoscientist. From 1961 to 1977, he was a professor at Dalhousie University in the Department of Geology. He chaired the department for several years. From 1977 to 1991, he was with the Geological Survey of Canada’s Atlantic Geoscience Centre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.
A Conversation With Al Edwards

Les Frederick interviewed Al Edwards as part of the Historical & Biographical Committee’s initiative to capture biographies of prominent Alberta Land Surveyors.

Al Edwards was president of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association in 1963 and made an honorary life member in 1992. The interview will be printed over the next few issues.

Edwards: When I got into university, first year Calculus was a breeze. The second year, they darn near lost me. But actually, my worse subject in university was Physics because I never took Physics in school. We didn’t have enough people to take it, so we didn’t teach it. When I came back after the War, in order to get into university, I had to take a refresher. I went to Calgary and took a refresher at SAIT for about six months—I can’t remember how long for—it was right through the winter anyway and I took Algebra, Trigonometry, Chemistry and Physics. I got 98% in Trigonometry, 89% in Algebra, I think about 78% in Chemistry and 59% in Physics. But it was good enough to get me in anyway.

Frederick: What was your first introduction to surveying?

Edwards: After my second year at university. After the first year, I went travelling because I hadn’t done any done traveling except during the War and that’s not exactly called vacation. After the second year, I worked for the City of Saskatoon and after the third year, I worked with Phillips, Stewart and Phillips which was the predecessor of Phillips, Hamilton which was the predecessor of Hamilton & Olsen. So, I worked with them in the summer of ’49. I never finished university because I ran out of money and the government was giving us the huge sum of $104 a month. So I figured that I had to stay out and work a couple years, make some money and go back and finish. Well, then I got on with (Buck Olsen was with the same firm) we actually subdivided a bunch of Indian reserves down at Fort Qu’Appelle in Saskatchewan. So, when I decided I had to take some time off from university, they offered me a job.

Frederick: How did you get to go to the University of Saskatchewan?

Edwards: That was a strange, strange thing. I wanted to sort of get into a field which was kind of unique. I had an interview in Calgary at SAIT; I can’t remember who he was or what he was, he said that ceramic engineering was the coming thing but the only place you could get it in Canada was in Saskatoon. So, I decided to go there. So, I had another interview after I got there, got settled in, and the guy said the only place for employment for ceramic engineering is Medicine Hat, Alberta and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. So, I did a quick switch to civil.

Frederick: What is ceramic engineering?

Edwards: Actually, it might not have been a bad field because you make tiles and stuff like that but it sort of moved into the plastic/steel in the mid ’50s. Ceramic and plastics are blended altogether and plastics have been a big thing. That was the story of that—so, I went to work with Phillips, Stewart and Phillips in January 1951 and they moved me to Edmonton with Phillips, Hamilton. At that time, they were really hustling pretty darn well. The first job I had here was the Belgravia subdivision in Edmonton. That was right on the periphery; today it’s almost downtown.

Frederick: In your first introduction to surveying in your second year, what did you do? City work?

Edwards: Oh yeah—it was doing curb layouts and mostly all grade work—street construction. We took our equipment, got on the streetcar and went wherever we had to go. It seems crazy, but that’s the way it was—no vehicles. I realized afterwards that the City of Saskatoon was really quite far behind in procedures and whatever they were doing—just barely enough to get by on. That had to be a big job and a big responsibility because they were building them just like crazy. He was a pretty good guy. He carried out an extensive interview before he hired you. He wanted to know how you were doing in university and this sort of thing. I said that I was not a top student. He said that with the City, he needed guys who could work through the summer and maybe miss the first week or two of university because the summer’s work was not finished. He said that they didn’t want highly qualified academics because they are not good workers. So, anyway, I got the job. I only worked the one summer with them actually. I figured there was no beneficial experience in that. But, working with Buck Olsen and guys down in Fort Qu’Appelle, that was an experience because we had ravines there to cross like you wouldn’t believe. We’d hitch two chains together and stretch them up tight and figure out the sag. It was easier than cutting a whole bunch of bloody bush.

Frederick: Was that your first experience with the actual land system?

Edwards: Oh yeah, it was, definitely. There was Gus Petersen—young kid—God, good worker and sharp. He went on, he got through university and I don’t know what he’s doing now. I think probably Buck kept in touch with him because he worked right with him all the time. We had a pretty good time down there. About the only experience that I remember was that we had a Norweigan cook. She was an elderly lady, we called her Ma, and we’d ask her, “What are we having for dinner?” “Roast beef and vegetables.” In the middle of August or early August, I guess it was, the weather one day was really sour. She says, “I know what’s going to happen. We’re going to have one of those bad hail storms.” Of course, Buck Olsen, being from Prince Albert, he’d hardly ever seen hail. So he was needling her like the dickens. Well, believe you me, that night the vehicles were just pounded. It was like somebody took a hammer and beat the hell out of them. It was a really vicious hail storm. We were living down in an old Indian reserve. It took the windows out of the building and everything. She says, “Now, Mr. Olsen, you realize what a hail storm is?”

...to be continued
Bernie Rachansky and grandson Atom

Bernie was born on January 2, 1932, the first of five children. It was the time of the Depression. Our parents, like most farm families struggled through the destitution of those years. They were determined to see that their children received an education so they could have a better life.

The rural school, Ukraina, was just a quarter of a mile from our house. He completed grade nine there. Because there was no rural school bus service in those days he attended Lamont High while living in the dormitory for three years. In 1950, for the first time, there was bus service available to Mundare high school but he had to walk two miles to catch the bus. (He needed to make up some credits in order to matriculate and get his high school diploma.) He graduated June of 1951.

It was in the spring of 1951 that we had an intense snow storm, as intense a snow storm as I had ever seen. Strong northwest winds piled drifts of heavy wet snow as high as the roof line of the old farmhouse. And the house had nine-foot ceilings. That morning, Mom warned him not to attempt to make the two-mile trek to catch the school bus. But he was no sissy. He was going to get to school. He made it just past the gate when he realized that trying to go further was futile, one of the few times he had to concede that someone was right.

After finishing high school, he took a job at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Mundare for a few months. When he learned of a job with the Department of Highways through a neighbour, he hired on. He joined a survey crew as a rodman and thus began his lifelong career in land surveying. He later enrolled in the land surveying program at SAIT, then worked with CES and later Hamilton & Olsen. He took various exams to attain Alberta and then Dominion Land Surveyor status. During those years, I was in my teens and was the designated family letter writer. I would sit at the kitchen table, pen in hand while Mom told me what news and information to pass on. I sent letters to places like Sangudo, Oyen, Calgary, Dawson City, Watson Lake, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Slave Lake—you could say that Bernie had been everywhere. Sometimes he would send us pictures with his replies. I was thrilled to receive the batch of pictures from the Yukon that included a photo of the cabin of Robert Service.

After a time, he went into business with another land surveyor and Alberta Surveying Services was formed. He eventually bought his partner out and set up his own office on the upper floor of 111th Avenue. Through good and the hard years that followed, he maintained the company single handedly. He had a contact in Chevron who directed projects his way. Sometimes he got jobs from Pearson or from Pacific. In later years, he kept working mostly on projects involving real estate transactions or the occasional wellsite.
the day with him and his family. The next day he was admitted to Didsbury Hospital where he passed away on May 6th.

If I were allowed to say only one thing of Bernie, it would be that he never lived a life of conspicuous consumption. When he needed a vehicle, equipment or furniture, he chose quality items. But they were necessities, not luxuries.

Florence Rachansky

Near Wainwright. Sometimes he would take me along as his incompetent helper. He disbanded his company in 2007 at the tender age of 75.

Throughout his life he had a fascination with horses. It must have come quite naturally since he grew up in the days when money was scarce and farm tractors were scarcer. There is an old photo of him as a toddler holding the reins of horses that are hitched up to harrows as though he were out working the field.

One summer, when he was home from high school, he decided he would train a skittish horse named Darky to be one he could ride horseback. He managed to get on and ride him for awhile. Just when he relaxed, thinking Darky was okay with being ridden, Darky bent his head forward and threw him. Bernie would have none of this. He got back on the horse and rode him hard all the six and a half miles to Mundare. I do not remember whether the relationship between the two of them improved after that, but it did not curb Bernie’s interest in horses or horse handling stories.

Bernie liked Mom’s borscht and he loved mustard pickles. It was a standing joke that whenever any of us came to visit Mom and Dad, the first thing we would do is lift the lid of the pot on the stove to see what was cooking. If Mom was expecting a visit from Bernie, the pot always contained borscht.

He enjoyed big band music, dancing and redheads. In his late thirties, he met Barbara Rendle at a dance. They married in 1970. Their only son, James, was born in 1972. Although Bernie and Barbara parted ways in 1990, they maintained contact until Barb passed away. She trusted his judgment and sense of fair play to the extent that she named him executor of her estate even after they were divorced.

When our parents died, Bernie took responsibility for settling all the affairs. He took great pride in being able to settle the estates settled without any legal entanglements. His skill with mathematical concepts and attention to detail served him well in his work as well as in these situations.

After the divorce, while living as a single man again, he decided to bring some music into his life. He bought a saxophone and joined the Cosmopolitan Society. The saxophone and music became prominent fixtures in his living room. When I would drop by, I’d usually find him practicing an old standard from the forties.

He also took up gardening, raising his salad fixings: lettuce, cucumbers, onion, potatoes, tomatoes, peas. But corn proved to be a challenge.

On August 14, 2003, James and his partner Renae, gave Bernie the best gift a father can get, a grandson, a young man who goes by the name of Atom. We are not a demonstrative family, so it was always a delight to see Bernie’s face light up when Atom was around. He liked other little tykes, too. He enjoyed holding Braden, our niece Janine’s son, too.

When Renae and James suggested he move to Calgary to live with them after he disbanded his business, Bernie leaped at the chance to be near the loves of his life. He joined their household in November of 2008. They bought a bigger home together in Crossfield in 2009 where Bernie spent his remaining days taking Atom to school, playing cribbage at the Golden Key Club, taming Crossfield dirt for his garden and watching the televised hockey games. He did like the Oilers.

We met as a family for the last time on Good Friday. He was very ill then, but very pleased that we were all there to share

Rod Nagina, ALS #378, passed away at the age of 78 years on June 3, 2011.

Mr. Nagina was commissioned as an Alberta Land Surveyor on May 30, 1974 after serving articles under Vic Wolchanasky. Mr. Nagina was a graduate of the University of Alberta. He retired as an Alberta Land Surveyor in 2003.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has made a donation to the J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation in Rod’s memory.

Look for a tribute in a future issue of ALS News.
At that meeting, the members discussed the proposed amendment and after making it evident that some differences of opinion existed as to how far the personal supervision requirement should be relaxed, handed the problem back to the Council for another try at a suitable amendment. Eventually, the Director of Surveys took this bull by the horns—as he was entitled to do, since he and not the Association had charge of the administration of that particular Act—and recommended to the government an amendment which was substantially the same as the Council had originally drafted. This amendment was passed by the Legislature in 1960, and the problem appears to have thus been satisfactorily solved.

The 1959 annual meeting, scheduled as the Association’s fiftieth anniversary meeting, was not made an occasion for any special celebration, perhaps because there was some doubt about the actual date when the Association had officially come into existence; it depended on whether or not the unrecorded first meeting in 1910 should be counted as No. 1. At any rate, a record number of 66 members were in attendance at the 1959 meeting, and the occasion was marked by the election of Messrs. A.G. Stewart, W. Muir Edwards and J.F. Hamilton to life membership. Otherwise, except for the personal supervision question, no special problems or noteworthy new business arose, and the members were able to spend ample time on the pleasant task of reviewing, improving and finally adopting a revised tariff of fees that had been compiled by two committees of northern and southern surveyors in 1953.

During the rest of the year, Association affairs were not conspicuously active but the volume of routine business requiring the attention of the Council and the Secretary maintained its steady growth, and the standing committees were kept normally busy. By this time, the general development of the province had begun to slow down a little and there had been some relaxation in the pressure of survey work. Established firms were still fairly busy, but there were fewer opportunities for new surveyors to gain a firm foothold in private practice. However, although some of the newer members had turned from land surveying to other lines of work, there were still no signs of any reduction in the intake of new members. During 1955 to 1959, an average number of nine new members were registered annually, and new pupils were entering into articles at about the same rate. In 1959, the register contained the names of 103 active members, 10 non-active members and 8 life members, and an annual net rate of about 4 per cent in membership growth seemed to be indicated for the years ahead.

The most notable development of 1959 was the deliverance by the Deputy Attorney General of an opinion on the law pertaining to water boundaries, which indicated that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Public Lands Act, the rules of the English common law still prevailed in Alberta and had been consistently upheld by the courts. This meant that the Department of Lands and Forests would have to reverse the principles by which its administrative actions in connection with riparian rights had been guided for many years. There was no little departmental concern over this because it was feared that past decisions based on those principles that were now declared to be erroneous might leave the Department open to lawsuits. A large meeting of senior government officials was held in December 1959, to consider the implications of the Deputy Attorney General’s opinion, but the only conclusion that could be reached was that the Department of Lands and Forests and the Land Titles Offices and other government agencies concerned with boundary questions would have to re-adjust their administrative approach to the status of water boundaries and hope that nobody would sue them for anything they had done in the past.

That course was eventually followed, and even though all aspects of this vexatious and complicated question have not yet been finally resolved, the principles at least have been settled and most of the old difficulties that left the land surveyors in doubt about the definition of water boundaries have now been removed. The outcome of this affair was a matter of gratification for the members at the 1960 annual meeting, and the Association felt that it could take some credit for having prompted the study of the question which had produced that result.
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