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Bryan Rolph

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ALS NEWS
SEPTEMBER 2011 VOL. 40-3

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COVER PHOTO
Team “Red Rogues” at rest on The Columbia River between Pateros and Entiat, WA.

Photo Credit: Dwaine Ronnie

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ALS News September 2011 - 7
There can be little argument with the statement that technologists play a critically important role in the undertaking of land surveys in Alberta. Perhaps now is the time that the professionals assume the leadership and formalize the relationship between the land survey professionals and the land survey technologist.

With the exception of a few individual practitioners in Alberta, the great majority of ALSs rely on the skilled talents of technologists to conduct fieldwork and draft plans that reflect their surveys. Over the past 100 years of surveying in this province, the reliance on technologists conducting field work has grown to the point where, most often, the technologist is the face the public sees in the field and the professional is relegated to duties back at the office. The practical truth is that land surveying has evolved in Alberta to the point where a survey conducted in this province is highly reliant on the skills and knowledge of the technologist community. Not unlike the experience of other Alberta professions, our profession is closely interrelated to the technologist practicing in this field.

Several other self-governing professions in Alberta have had to examine the role technologists play in their profession and define the relationship between professional and technologist. Many of our members are familiar with the APEGGA and ASET relationship where one act regulates two associations. This model may not be suitable for the land surveying profession in Alberta but what is clear from this is that the government expects legislation to address the role of technologists in the profession. Our profession is one of the few remaining professions in Alberta that have not addressed this issue.

It is incumbent on our Association to act on the cues it receives from government, other associations and the technologist community and act proactively. We have identified this need before. In 2006, the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the Association “formalize the role of technologists within the land surveying industry.” It is now time to act.

The question we now need to ask ourselves is “should the ALSA examine incorporating technologists into the legislation affecting the profession?” I believe the answer is “yes.”
Our Association should embrace this opportunity and take action. We should assume the leadership and chart the path forward.

An integrated profession comprised of skilled technologists and professionals will best serve the public. An integrated approach ensures that professionals and technologists work together to serve the public interest versus a fragmented industry where scopes of practice for professionals and scopes of practice for technologists are defined separately. It seems to me that the professional thing to do would be to provide the leadership needed and formulate how the future will unfold with respect to protecting the public interest and the inclusion of technologist within legislation.

If we could only stop the world from changing for a while then perhaps we could catch up. Unfortunately, we do not have that luxury so the only way we are going to stay ahead is to act proactively before we are dictated to do so. In Alberta, we have witnessed other professions embrace the realities of the new world and forged definitions of relationships governing professionals and technologist. It is now time the ALSA did the same.

Our Association should embrace this opportunity and take action. We should assume the leadership and chart the path forward. Council has acted. It has struck a committee to examine the issue and develop an action plan. The membership must now be engaged in the process. Provide feedback and advice to the committee—volunteer and get involved. This is not a simple undertaking however shaping the future is seldom simple.

David Thomson, ALSA

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Council recognized that the challenge is to reconnect with the public and especially government to remind them of our unique position in society that we are not merely responsible to our clients but we are also servants of the community...

The coming of September has allowed me a chance to look back at the whirlwind of activity that I’ve been part of in the months since my election to the ALSA Council. Running for Council sprung from a desire for more involvement in the survey profession. I was looking to contribute to initiatives at the association level regionally, provincially and nationally. I don’t think I fully comprehended what this would entail.

My first exposure to Council expectations was receipt of a 500 page ALSA Council package a week prior to my initial Council meeting—agenda, minutes, reports, financial statements and notes—all to be read in preparation for Council deliberation five days later. Holy cow! Not since university days a few decades ago have I had to cram like that!

That initial Council meeting resulted in my appointment as liaison to two committees—Boundary Panel and Public Relations Committee—and the action started without delay: within days of the appointments, Council received a letter from the Minister of SRD asking for $400,000 in unspent money collected as part of the ministerial order to fund the Boundary Panel. Then Council decided to rewrite the terms of reference of the Public Relations Committee to give it the mandate to completely upgrade the ALSA image to both government and the public.

Surveying is a service industry—we provide unique professional land information services to our clients. I believe this has to be a public relations message to both our key client groups in the public realm, and also to our own members. As a profession, we are not always conscious of our clients’ needs and able to adapt to these needs as they evolve. We have also failed to communicate what we do, as a professional body, continue to contribute to society. This has been clearly illustrated in the recent decision to allow LightSquared to the entire continental United States. That’s the good news. The bad news is that they have been given permission to use the frequency adjacent to GPS L1 and will broadcast at very high signal strength. Just what does this mean to surveyors? The proximity of the L1 frequency and the strength of signal have the potential to interfere with GPS and GNSS receivers. In tests in New Mexico, LightSquared signals have affected high-precision GPS receivers including those of the US Air Force!

GPS and GNSS applications are in use everywhere by not only surveyors and engineers, but agriculture, emergency responders,
The ten days of paddling through spectacular scenery in the company of a wonderful group of modern day voyagers ended far too quickly but it left an indelible impression.

Clark Fork, Pend Oreille and Columbia Rivers. It is estimated that surveyor and fur trader David Thompson mapped over 1.5 million square miles in a career stretching from 1784 to 1826 but these accomplishments are today, largely forgotten. In June and July, North American surveyors joined forces to honor “one of our own” by participating in the 2011 David Thompson Brigade. This year’s David Thompson Brigade commemorated Thompson’s mapping and surveying of the Columbia River basin. At the age of 41, he became the first person to survey and map the Columbia from its source in British Columbia to its mouth at Astoria. This feat completed the final leg of the North West Company’s Great Fur Trade Highway that stretched from Montreal to the Pacific Ocean.

The North American Land Surveyors team was composed of land surveyors (and friends!) from Alberta, British Columbia, Montana, Maine, Oregon, Washington and one Ontario Land Surveyor! In two 25-foot canoes, the “Paddle Song” and “Koo Koo Sint,” I paddled from Invermere, British Columbia to the Pacific Ocean. The ten days of paddling through spectacular scenery in the company of a wonderful group of modern day voyagers ended far too quickly but it left an indelible impression.

The AlsA Council acts on behalf of hundreds of individual ALSs. As councilors we have a responsibility to regularly consult and inform constituents. As Rob Pinkerton noted in a recent AlsA News article, communication is a two-way street—members need to raise issues and concerns and questions to Council and councillors but at the same time, perhaps Council can do a better job of letting their constituents know what is going on. A simple one or two line item in a Friday mailing often raises more questions than it answers. I hope that the foregoing may have shown just how busy—and rewarding—Council can be.

Bruce Clark, AlsA

I n my last article, I wrote about what is land surveying and defined it, to a large extent, by what it is not. In this article, let’s explore the question of whether land surveying is a profession.

There seems to be five common traits for a profession. They are:

1. A requirement for university education.
2. A requirement to maintain your competency through continuing education and life-long learning.
3. Formal standards of practice and a written code of ethics.
4. An obligation or mandate to act in the public interest.
5. Legislative authority that restricts entrance into the profession and disciplines or disbars members when they deviate from what others consider professional conduct.

Land surveying is a profession. It meets each of these criteria. Alberta Land Surveyors must have a university education. Most land surveyors today have graduated from the University of Calgary or the University of New Brunswick while some come from other Canadian or international schools. If a candidate does not have a university education in geomatics, then they can write the challenge exams to demonstrate they have university equivalent education.

Land surveyors in Alberta must demonstrate their continuing competency. The Association’s former Systematic Practice Review Program and its current Continuing Competency Review Program take a close look at each member’s practice to ensure that everyone is at least meeting the standards expected of them. While the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association itself does not have a formal continuing education reporting program, it is, I believe, impossible to demonstrate competency in today’s standards if a practitioner has not made a commitment to life-long learning through formal and informal training.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has a formal set of standards and a code of ethics. The Code of Ethics is established in regulation form approved by the Government of Alberta. Alberta Land Surveyors have created and are expected to follow a manual of standard practice. An Alberta Land Surveyor is obligated to follow many different pieces of legislation including...
Feedback—Enform Faller Certification

Mr. Irwin Maltais

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association reviewed your June 8, 2011 letter to Safety Committee Chairperson Jeff Adair, ALS concerning Enform chainsaw safety requirements. Council, in its deliberations, recognized that the Enform requirements are possibly more than what the land surveying profession normally requires. However, Council also believes that the Enform requirements have become the standard recognized by clients. Council was concerned that a great deal of time and money could be spent developing a land survey specific chainsaw safety program and not have it recognized by clients.

Enform has asked the Association to provide official representation to their Chainsaw Safety Committee and Council has agreed that Jason Norton, an ALSA Safety Committee member, will fill that role.

Thank you for taking the time to write your letter and express your thoughts to Council and the Safety Committee.

David Thomson, ALSA
ALSA President

Irwin: Good article. We really do need to do something about the constant increase in rules, certifications, or criteria, simply to do what we have been doing successfully for the last 100 years.

I am not against a moderate training program for our people who are involved with tree cutting. You can no longer put a chainsaw in someone’s hands and expect that the work will get done incident free. However, as you say in your article, things have gotten out of hand. The situation has come to the point where plowing your backyard garden with a D-6 might even seem reasonable.

I hope you deal with the matter of Enform.

Ivan Auger, ALSA

In the June ALS News, Mr. Maltais of MGI wrote regarding the Enform Fuller re-certification process and stated “...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 significant access to its value to ALS operations, thereby raising costs for our clients without providing corresponding value” and goes on to suggest it is time for the ALSA Safety Committee and Council to lobby for change.

I must respectfully disagree with this position on three points. While working with another employer before the Enform courses were in place, we had a very small incident where a fuller, while clearing line and while dropping a tree, failed to notice his tree was snagged into another dead tree. When his tree came down, it brought the dead tree down on top of him and killed him. I hope Mr. Maltais never has the occasion to call the family of one of his employees to tell them spouse/father/mother is never coming home due to a lack of safety training.

The second point is that of ethics. I agree with Mr. Maltais that the OGCF program was not designed for Alberta Land Surveyors; it was designed for people hired to fall trees. Borrowing from APEGGA, one shall undertake only work that they are competent to perform by virtue of their training and experience. If MGI is too small to employ a QST to maintain certification, I would respectfully suggest the work be outsourced to a drilling company that is qualified to do the work and that MGI focus on what they do best—that is, land surveying. It is not my intention to tell Mr. Maltais or MGI how to conduct their business, but to point out that sometimes money/cost is focused on to the detriment of safety.

Finally, if the ALSA Council would lobby for change to reduce the requirements for falling, they should expect nothing less than quid pro quo. One needs to recognize that a person with full OGCF level III certification is an experienced professional much as an ALS is also a professional in their field. If the ALSA fails to see the need for OGCF, perhaps others could also question the need for the ALSA to maintain exclusive scope of practice over the area of land surveying. In fact, recognition of the need of a professional to look after the profession of land surveying is already being eroded as evidenced by developments with respect to GPS location plans. How could ALSA members expect to remain credible when advocating the repealing of other professional designations while fighting to maintain their right to their own designation and exclusive scope of practice?
**New Members**

### #875 BRIDGES, Ron

Ron Bridges was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1970. He graduated from Fredericton High School in 1988 and went on to receive a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in 1991. He is also a commissioned Ontario Land Surveyor.

Ron became an ALS on July 27, 2011 by passing the Alberta jurisdictional examination. He is experienced in municipal, engineering and oilfield surveying and has worked in New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and throughout New England. He is currently employed with MMM Geomatics Alberta Limited in Edmonton. Hobbies include motorcycles, hockey and golf.

### #876 PALS, Ryan M.

Ryan Pals was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1982. He graduated from Ross Sheppard Composite High School in 2000, from the NAIT Geomatics Engineering program in 2003 and from the University of Calgary with a B.Sc. in Engineering in 2006. He is a member of the St. Albert Men's Masters Soccer Association and the Edmonton Drillers Youth Soccer Club and the Chamber of Commerce Toastmaster Club.

Ryan serves as an ALS on a part-time basis, mainly involved with cadastral reform projects in Argentina from 1987 to 2003 and oil and gas surveys for Altru Geomatics of Edmonton since 2003. Extra activities include driving boys to soccer games and practices, playing soccer and tennis, running and skiing. Hector and his wife Teresa reside in Edmonton with their sixteen-year-old son Santiago.

### #877 LUND, Peter

Peter Lund was born in Red Deer, Alberta in 1981. He graduated from Hunting Hills High School in 1999 and went on to receive a geomatics engineering degree from the University of Calgary.

Articles were served under John J. Matthysen, ALS from June 2007 until he received his commission on August 15, 2011. Peter has been involved in field surveying in Alberta and BC for Focus Surveys and is currently the field operations manager and project manager.

Back country skiing and mountain biking are a couple of hobbies that Peter enjoys. Peter is married to Cindy and they reside in Calgary.

### #878 MUNIZ, Hector L.

Hector Muniz was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1964. He graduated from Colegio Gualdape in Buenos Aires in 1981 and from the Universidad de Buenos Aires as an Agrimensor (Spanish for land surveyor) in 1988. He entered Canada in October 2003 under the Skilled Worker Immigration Program.

Articles were served under Ed Oh, ALS from February 2008 until he received his commission on August 18, 2011. Hector is currently a member of the ALSA Safety Committee. He is also a member of the St. Albert Men’s Masters Soccer Association, the Edmonton Drillers Youth Soccer Club and the Chamber of Commerce Toastmaster Club.

Surveying experience includes being involved with cadastral reform projects and engineering surveys in Argentina from 1987 to 2003 and oil and gas surveys for Altru Geomatics of Edmonton since 2003. Extra activities include driving boys to soccer games and practices, playing soccer and tennis, running and skiing. Hector and his wife Teresa reside in Edmonton with their sixteen-year-old son Santiago.

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**Thank You for Donations of Artifacts**

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association would like to thank the many members, their families and others for their donations of artifacts to the Association’s historical collection. The artifacts are welcomed additions to our collection. The Association’s collection of old survey equipment and artifacts is currently on...
The 47th Annual ALSA Golf Tournament was held at the Lacome Golf & Country Club. The morning started out with a little rain but the skies parted by tee time which made for a pleasant day.

The Convention and Social group decided to try something new this year to support the J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation. It was decided to sell strings in random lengths of five to twenty feet. The idea behind the strings was that you could use them to move your ball closer to the hole, get out of a sand trap or rough. We had two lucky golfers who received 20 feet of string which hopefully helped them out on the course that day. Mulligans were still sold in conjunction with the strings. We were able to raised $2,065 through the sales of mulligans, strings and raffle tickets for the J.H. Holloway Foundation. The lucky winner of one night stay at The Fairmont Banff Springs was Jared Green. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this cause.

During the dinner hour, we were informed from our sponsor Pioneer Rentals that their quad was vandalized while they were on their sponsored hole. To the person(s) that did this—shame on you! This is very disappointing and reflects negatively on our tournament. Our sincere apologies to our sponsors!

Congratulations to Team #27—Hard- deep Dhillon, Brian Steely, Brian Rolph and Scott Westlund for winning the tournament. Go team go!

Jason from Brandon Tractor was the early bird prize winner.

Hole-in-One Prizes
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$10,000 CASH

Hole Prize Winners
Hole Prize #01 - Closest to the Target Men.........................................................Scott Westlund
Hole Prize #02 - Closest to Pin (second shot) Any.................................................Terry Hudema
Hole Prize #03 - Closest to Pin Any.................................................................Hardeep Dhillon
Hole Prize #04 - Closest to Pin (second shot) Any.................................................Jeremy Howden
Hole Prize #05 - Longest Drive Ladies .................................................................Lana Bily
Hole Prize #06 - Closest to the Pin Any.............................................................Brian Ball
Hole Prize #07 - Closest to the Pin Any.............................................................Fed Rogers
Hole Prize #08 - Closest to Water Any..............................................................Tim Lindberg
Hole Prize #09 - Longest Drive Men .................................................................Greg Boggs
Hole Prize #10 - Longest Drive Ladies ...............................................................Lorraine Hortness
Hole Prize #11 - Longest Putt Any.................................................................Michael Louie
Hole Prize #12 - Longest Putt Ladies .................................................................Comrie Peersen
Hole Prize #13 - Closest to Target from Tee Any....................................................Glenn Zulynik
Hole Prize #14 - Bill in Sand – Draw.................................................................Sirt Lim
Hole Prize #15 - Closest to the Pin Any.............................................................Dan Jones
Hole Prize #16 - Closest to the Pin Any............................................................Allison Peters
Hole Prize #17 - Longest Putt Men .................................................................Bruce Drake
Hole Prize #18 - Longest Drive Any.................................................................Dale Madsen

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Director of Surveys Approves and Confirms Official Surveys
On July 28, 2011 the Director of Surveys approved and confirmed eight township plans as a part of the Mackenzie County North and South official surveys. These new plans are for townships 101-R17-W5M, 102-R17-W5M, 103-R18-W5M, 104-R18-W5M, and 105-R19-W5M. In addition, on August 30, 2011 the Director of Surveys approved and confirmed a separation of Area plan within township 103-19-W5M as a part of the Mackenzie County North Official Survey.

The Surveys and Technical Services Section of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development is working to improve its service to you and all Albertans.

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On July 15, 2011, exactly 200 years after David Thompson arrived, the David Thompson Canoe Brigade entered Asto- ria’s harbour and ended the brigade with a rendition of The Northwest Passage.

― “Northwest Passage” is one of the best-known songs by Canadian musician Stan Rogers. An a cappella song, it features Rogers alone singing the verses, with sev- eral guest vocalists harmonising with him in the chorus.

While it recalls the history of early explorers who were trying to discover a route across Canada to the Pacific Ocean (especially Sir John Franklin, who lost his life in the quest for the Northwest Passage), its central theme is a comparison between the journeys of these past explorers and the singer’s own journey to and through the same region.

In the 2005 CBC Radio One series 50 Tracks, The Canadian Version, “North- west Passage” ranked fourth, behind only Neil Young’s “Heart of Gold,” Barenaked Ladies “If I Had $1,000,000” and Ian and Sylvia’s “Four Strong Winds.” It has been referred to as one of Canada’s unof- ficial anthems by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The song also appeared in the final epi- sode of the television series, Due South. The song appears on an album of the same name released by Rogers in 2001, and is considered one of the classic songs in Canadian music history.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival (EI BF) in Charlotte Square, in the centre of Edinburgh, consists, almost exclusively, of what is now known as the Old Town (the area where you’ll find the Castle, Royal Mile and Grassmarket).

The world-famous university was founded in 1582, setting in motion the city’s educational and professional development. The Bank of Scotland was founded in 1695, the first of many new ventures that would see Edinburgh established as a leading financial capital by the end of the 20th century.

By the late 18th century, Edinburgh was to the horizon to find latitude in sea navigation. It could also be used to establish a line of reference for measuring the altitude of celestial bodies. Most often, a box, filled with mercury, was used. The mercury presents a level reflective surface. The reflection of the object to be sighted is located in the reflective surface and that reflection and the actual object are brought together in the sextant sights. The result is a double altitude.

The sextant, the artificial horizon and the drafting set were purchased from Mr. Dennis DeMeyer, a surveyor, such as David Thompson, working in- land could not use the natural horizon of the sea, so they used an artificial horizon to take observations. The first sextants were used until the twenti- eth century to determine the angle between a celestial object and the horizon to find latitude in sea navigation. Sextants, developed in the eighteenth cen- tury, were used until the nineteenth cen- tury to determine the angle between objects on the horizon. The position of which are shown on maps or nautical charts. This era came to an end with the advent of electronic positioning systems and GPS.

 called the “Great Inland” by some and “le bon David” by others, David Hume was and has remained one of the most important British philosophers, essayists, and historians of the eighteenth century. Hume himself believed his thinking to be important and revolutionary, writing about his first philosophical work, A Trea- sure of Human Nature: Being An Attempt to introduce the experimental Method of Rea- soning into Moral Subjects (1739), that his principles are “so remote from the vulgar Sentiments on this Subject, that they were to take place, they would produce almost a total Alteration in Philosophy.”

Hume achieved the distinction of becoming the first major British writer to support himself independently of patron- age or subscriptions, relying instead solely on the proceeds he reaped from book sales.

The Edinburgh International Book Fes- tival, is a book festival that takes place in the last three weeks of August every year (in the midst of the general Edinburgh Festival) in Charlotte Square, in the centre of Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital. The largest festival of its kind in the world, the book festival hosts a concentrated flurry of cultural and political talks and debates, along with its well-established children’s events program.

Themes for the 2011 Festival included “Legends of Modern Literature,” “Living Memory,” “India: Growing Pains,” and “Europe in the New Era.”

The result is a double altitude.

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called the “Great Inland” by some and “le bon David” by others, David Hume was and has remained one of the most important British philosophers, essayists, and historians of the eighteenth century. Hume himself believed his thinking to be important and revolutionary, writing about his first philosophical work, A Trea- sure of Human Nature: Being An Attempt to introduce the experimental Method of Rea- soning into Moral Subjects (1739), that his principles are “so remote from the vulgar Sentiments on this Subject, that they were to take place, they would produce almost a total Alteration in Philosophy.”

Hume achieved the distinction of becoming the first major British writer to support himself independently of patron- age or subscriptions, relying instead solely on the proceeds he reaped from book sales.

The Edinburgh International Book Fes- tival, is a book festival that takes place in the last three weeks of August every year (in the midst of the general Edinburgh Festival) in Charlotte Square, in the centre of Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital. The largest festival of its kind in the world, the book festival hosts a concentrated flurry of cultural and political talks and debates, along with its well-established children’s events program.

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A couple months ago, I read a daily safety message from a fellow employee, exclaiming the values and virtues of our current safety programs and how much safer everyone is. I remember making a comment that was made by another colleague of mine: "Our current safety programs are sometimes a case of severe overkill, by replacing good common sense, and that we may have worked safer 20-25 years ago without them."

My son Nathan, who had just finished school, was in the middle of a full-time job as a deck one rare warm day in March, with a beer for me while I was barbecuing. He said, "So Dad, tell me what it was like surveying in the OLD days?" Ignoring the sarcasm of his obvious jibe, that got me thinking. So if there is anything that can cause me to write about this subject of this article, this is—this—if you read or talk about safety, there is an excellent chance you are thinking about safety, and yes I know we often say “safety is boring” (without thinking, but multi-taskers bear with me), and if we think about safety—it increases the likelihood of us actually doing something safely. It should, because when it comes to safety programs are sometimes a case of severe overkill, by replacing good common sense, and that we may have worked safer 20-25 years ago without them.

So, my opinion of our safety programs now vs. then? There really isn't much of a comparison, we really didn't have one back then. A lot of it was pure common sense and survival based a lot on experience, and good judgment. You can apply those same potential odds to the infrastructure in our province today and we are benefiting from what we are accustomed to, and now even more so, to supply the energy-hungry world beyond our borders. So, to supply the energy-hungry world beyond our borders. Since 1979, Calgary’s population has more than doubled. In that same time period, the population of my town has increased ten-fold—Fort McMurray by a factor of 16. Since the 1980s, you can apply a similar exponential increase, in the total number of wells drilled and kilometres of pipeline built. When man's footprint of development takes root, we also see an exponential increase in the number of potential hazards for injury and death. As the number of workers grew, so too did the number of accidents. We have always had accidents, but talk about them at any rate.

Several inputs from colleagues, namely land surveys, and as I go through the years I will try to put all of these things together. first, WCB public input from colleagues, namely land surveys and statistics on injury and accidents, isn't the reverse true? It should, because when it comes to safety programs are sometimes a case of severe overkill, by replacing good common sense, and that we may have worked safer 20-25 years ago without them. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component. It is not a coincidence that incidents, accidents and deaths in our industry have economic, technological and legislative component.
I am starting this blog so I can jot down my adventure from Invermere British Columbia to Wenatchee, Washington with the David Thompson Columbia River Brigade. The Brigade will continue on to Astoria, Oregon. We started on June 1, 2011 in Invermere BC, and followed the route that David Thompson took exactly 200 years to the day to open up the fur trade to the Pacific Ocean. More can be seen at www.2011brigade.org/.

This is the statue at Invermere and these two people are what it is all about. Charlotte Small was David Thompson’s mate for more years than I have been on this planet. If you can imagine, they took their children over the Rocky Mountains in the dead of winter. I cannot even consider taking my wife for a picnic into the bush and they dragged their kids over the Rockies on pack horses. What a different world they lived in.

The geocaching team has met several times. We have created pathtags and geocoins for NALS and the Brigade. These coins and tags that have been created to give away as prizes are spectacular and I can hardly wait to get my hands on them. We will have six meet and greets in six communities along the route. You can see these at http://webpages.charter.net/nwc_voyageurs/dtcbgeo.html.

The brigade starts paddling today, June 3rd. Yesterday was probably one of the most interesting days I have had in a very long time. We started the day with instructions on everything about big boats—from getting in and out—to doing the grand entrance. I was in both canoes and learned, somewhat clumsily, the fine art of “shift.” This is where everyone in the canoe changes so that muscles do not get strained. It is supposed to be very fast and works well once you have it down pat. The sliding across a bench is the hard part, while the guy in front of and behind you go the other way. After the canoe stops rocking, everyone gets into rhythm again off you go. Then just as you get into the rhythm it is time for a change again.

For the grand entrance, all the boats get into sync and start making figure eights, crossing in sequence until the lead boat pulls up to shore and everyone lines up side by side, bows all in a perfect line. Then, the lead boat fires a black powder shot and all the canoes race for shore as fast as they can. Then they back-paddle and foam up the last few feet so the boats do not grind out on shore. After the first run, everyone stopped for lunch. I had a nice long talk with Barbara Belyea about all things David Thompson and a few other topics. She signed a copy of the Columbia Journals for Robert Allen and he secured it into the boat for the day’s first leg. It will ride with the Koo Koo Sint all the way to Astoria.

Around 3:30 in the afternoon, it was time for a break and everyone got dressed in their regalia wear. We then proceeded up to the David Thompson and Charlotte Small statue in the centre of the town for a photo shoot. There were probably 100 of us walking up main street in a parade with flags for all the communities. Every boat has its own flag as well. Here is a photo taken of Ken Caisse and Dwaine before the parade walk.

Border Ceremony on the 49th Parallel

A plaque had already been surveyed into place on a reconstructed monument on the high ground on the East Side of Kootenai River (Koocanusa Lake) for the border ceremony.

All Brigade members presented their passport numbers and information weeks ago. That way everyone just presented their passports to the border guards and they stamped and processed them right on the beach.

Oldtown, Idaho

The towns along the way provided fabulous receptions and great party atmosphere. Jack Nesbit, the author of Sources of the River and Tile Mapmaker’s Eye, was at the landing at Dover Idaho and gave a talk to the group on David Thompson. He was in Oldtown as well.

Kettle Falls, Washington

Wow! What a great community. We are moving on tomorrow with a 50 km paddle to Inchelium. The last two days have been nice with the tent set up and NOT being moved. As usual, we went down to the lake to do a Brigade paddle and the skies opened up—sigh! That is about 12 days in the last 13 with rain. You kind of get used to web feet and damp sleeping bags. I got hit in the neck last night either by a spider or an ant. The rigors of tenting I guess.

The town had a BBQ for us last night with a breakfast this morning for $4.00. The supper tonight is BBQ pig smoked in a huge BBQ right beside where I am sitting in the light rain writing this. I really like the feeling when all the paddles are working in sync and the boat actually lifts out of the water. Yesterday we had an 8 km race for shore and we got up to over 20 km per hour with a current going into Washing-
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Nautiz X7

Option 2

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Allegro MX

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When I joined the ALSA at the beginning of this year, I also agreed to help manage the Boundary Panel. At the time, the responsibilities for this role weren’t completely defined and I was the first person to hold it. I had no idea that being the Boundary Panel Manager would be so challenging and involve so much work.

It is my understanding that in its earliest days, the Boundary Panel was set up to help resolve situations where surveyor A disagrees with surveyor B about a re-establishment or the location of a boundary. This type of case is very common and thirteen of our seventeen active cases involve a difference of opinion between surveyors or a double monumentation. However, this type of case is not the only type and we have had to expand the scope of the panel to account for cases involving all types of boundary uncertainties. For example, we are currently investigating uncertainties caused by alleged survey errors, monuments of unknown origin, and a lack of, or conflicting, monuments.

The Panel has encountered many challenges and the cases heard to date have been resolved with varying degrees of success. In most cases, actions that were recommended by the Panel are being undertaken by practitioners and boundary uncertainties are being resolved. The cases that didn’t turn out as well as expected have offered valuable lessons that are helping to shape the Boundary Panel process as we move forward.

I will use this article as an opportunity to provide an update on the Panel’s case load, outline the Boundary Panel process, and identify items that are currently being worked on.

### Table 1: Boundary Panel Case Summary as of August 29, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Number</th>
<th>Preliminary Review</th>
<th>Discussion Amongst Participants</th>
<th>Preliminary Survey or Investigation</th>
<th>Hearing or Panel Meeting</th>
<th>Final Report</th>
<th>Action by Participants</th>
<th>Case Closed</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007-03</td>
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<tr>
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<td>October</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
So far in 2011, we have opened sixteen new cases. Three of these were closed after a preliminary review by the Boundary Panel Manager. In a couple of these cases, the potential participants are working to reach an agreement and I do not expect that this case will end up in front of the Panel. I am assisting with the coordination of a resolution between participants in two of the cases and I expect that one of these may eventually go forward to the Panel. A final report was being prepared for the first case opened this year and the remaining nine are in the early stages of the process. For these cases, investigations or survey work has not been initiated yet.

The Boundary Panel Process

The Boundary Panel process is being reviewed and updated on a regular basis and is somewhat dependent on the type of boundary uncertainty brought before the Panel. A process was outlined in detail in the 2010-2011 Boundary Panel terms of reference document. Since that time, the process has undergone slight modifications. However, I have written on the wording in the 2010-2011 terms of reference document to summarise the Boundary Panel process as follows:

STEP 1: Preliminary Review by the Boundary Panel Manager

A Boundary case may be initiated by landowners, Alberta Land Surveyors, municipalities, the Land Titles Office, or any other party who may have a bona fide interest in a specific boundary. A referral can be made to the Boundary Panel Manager or the Executive Director of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. Upon receipt of the referral, the Boundary Panel Manager will discuss the case with the chairman of the Boundary Panel, under takes a preliminary review of the case. The Boundary Panel Manager and the chairman of the Boundary Panel will discuss the case with the person who made the referral and request that the participants submit research material, field notes, and other documentation from their files.

STEP 2: Communication Amongst Alberta Land Surveyors

Before any action is taken on a case involving a dispute between practitioners, the Boundary Panel Manager will ensure that all possible steps have been taken by the practitioners involved to solve the issue. This includes ensuring that each practitioner has communicated with the others and has a clear understanding of the others’ opinions. This is done to try to resolve the issue before the start of any formal process.

STEP 3: Preliminary Investigation Survey

Once we determine that a case will go forward to the Panel, a preliminary investigation survey will be conducted to collect more information on the uncertainty is initiated. The preliminary investigation is almost always conducted by a surveyor who is not involved in the issue. Depending on the type of case, the investigation survey may involve a site visit to evaluate evidence, a review of documentation submitted to the Panel, a discussion with the participants and others who may be affected by the outcome, and preparation of a preliminary report. If the surveyor doing the investigation finds additional evidence that may be relevant to the boundary uncertainty or determines that more work could be done by one or more of the practitioners involved, the Boundary Panel Manager will provide this information to the practitioners and may request that the practitioners investigate the boundary uncertainty further.

The results from the preliminary investigation help us develop a strategy to move the case forward. For example, if there is a difference of opinion between surveyors about a re-establishment, we will normally convene a panel and convene a formal hearing. The preliminary report will be provided to the participants and the panel members for their review and consideration before the hearing. If the case involves double monumentation, the investigator will have already discussed the monuments with all of the surveyors involved and documented these discussions in the report. In this type of case, we may not hold a formal hearing. However, we will still convene a panel to discuss the preliminary report and, after any decision is reached, we will ensure that all affected surveyors have an opportunity to provide information to the Panel.

STEP 4: Referral to the Boundary Panel for a Hearing or Meeting

Once the preliminary research is complete, five panel members will be selected and provided with the information collected during the previous steps. Depending on the type of case being decided a meeting will be organized or a formal hearing will be held. If a hearing is conducted, the Boundary Panel will review the documentation collected and speak with the practitioners involved to determine how the boundary uncertainty or alleged error in a survey is best resolved or if further investigation is required.

The Boundary Panel process was put in place to help land surveyors address problems. The hearing or meeting is not part of a discipline process or in any way linked to the Practice Review Board. The Boundary Panel does not have any of the powers of the Discipline Committee and cannot award damages or costs.

STEP 5: The Boundary Panel Report

Subsequent to a hearing or meeting of the Boundary Panel, a written report that summarizes the evidence provided to the Panel and the Panel’s assessment of that evidence with any recommendations made by the Panel will be prepared and sent to all participants.

All practitioners involved in the case will have an opportunity to provide a written response to the Panel’s report. The Panel will normally respond to these responses and the panel may provide a further written response or make additional recommendations to the practitioners.

Any advice given by the members of the Panel is to be viewed as a peer-to-peer advice and is only based on the evidence placed before the Panel. If a resolution is obtained through this process, all practitioners are still obliged to exercise their own professional judgment and to take responsibility for the work they have done. The Boundary Panel will encourage a resolution that best ensures that a boundary uncertainty or alleged error in a survey is resolved. However, the Boundary Panel does not have the authority to force a practitioner to take any particular course of action. Although the Boundary Panel may express an opinion, and may recommend how the practitioners resolve the boundary uncertainty, the opinion or recommendations do not relieve the practitioners involved of any liability, responsibility or actions that result from the hearing or any resolution of the boundary uncertainty. Despite any recommendations from the Panel, the steps taken to resolve a boundary uncertainty and any costs or claims arising from the steps taken remain the professional responsibility of the practitioners involved.

STEP 6: No Resolution

If a resolution of the boundary uncertainty or alleged error in survey cannot be reached, the Boundary Panel may recommend to the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association that a Section 9 of the Surveys Act Board of Investigation, or some other process leading to a solution, be convened.

STEP 7: Follow-up

The Boundary Panel Manager will follow-up regarding any action that the practitioners have committed to.

Moving Forward with the Boundary Panel

Working with the Boundary Panel has been very challenging, it has also been a learning experience for me and a very interesting part of my work. Thank you to everyone who has provided comments and constructive criticism on the process and the specific cases before the Boundary Panel. As we gain more experience with different types of cases we’ll continue to refine the process by better equipped to successfully resolve all types of boundary uncertainties. In response to the numerous comments I’ve received, I am pleased to inform you that we are working on the following:

• Creating a Boundary Panel handbook for participants and Boundary Panel members to outline the process and better define roles and responsibilities.
• Improving and refining the Boundary Panel process so that we can resolve cases in a more timely manner.
• Improving the Boundary Panel reports so that they are prepared in a more consistent manner and provide practitioners more information on the analysis of facts and the reasons for decisions and recommendations.

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Director of Practice Review and Boundary Panel Manager

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In the past, I have had the privilege to serve the ALSA membership as Director of Practice Review. I again serve the membership as a member of the Practice Review Board. Since being appointed as a member of the Practice Review Board (PRB), I have observed some recurring issues in both our CCR program and in our previous SPK program as follows:

1. High number of field note deficiencies.
2. High number of dormant plans.
3. Lack of measurement redundancy.
4. Incorrect survey methodologies, made up principally of deficiencies in locating and assessing evidence as well as determining the governing evidence.
5. Lack of equipment calibration.

These issues were previously identified in the Director’s Message in the June 2011 issue of AL News. Let’s look at the issue of deficient field notes. Field notes are used to record what the practitioner has done in the field. The notes are a reflection of the practitioner’s field methodology and provide tell-tale signs as to whether the practitioner has performed a decent or a sloppy job in the field.

Field inspections are of the utmost importance since once the statutory iron post is placed in the ground and registered at the Land Title Office, it governs the property corner forever. In my opinion, if there are serious deficiencies in the field notes, we ought to conduct field inspections within the newly implemented CCR program. As a board member, I will endeavour to encourage the PRB to conduct a sufficient number of field inspections to ensure standards are being maintained. Our Code of Ethics directs each and every one of us to place the best interests of the public before our own personal interests. My principal once said, “Once your plan is registered at Land Titles, it becomes perpetual and thus, your field survey; your field notes and plan are immortalized—good or bad—for the world to utilize and see.” Practitioners not only have to keep good field notes but they must also have correct field methodologies. The powers of the Practice Review Board are established by the Land Surveyors Act. Duties given by the Act and Council empower the Board to further protect the interests of the public by reviewing our members’ practices with a primary objective to educate. One of the ways CCR ensures the best interests of the public are safeguarded it through a sufficiently high number of comprehensive reviews with field inspections.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, through its Professional Development Committee, presents a field notes seminar which has been well received. Could we go one step further with the development of a field methodology seminar for practitioners? All of this highlights the importance of the CCR program as well as the field component training of the articling process.

The opinions expressed in this piece are solely those of the author.
To Khan’s surprise, two weeks later Los Alamos contacted him to let him know they would implement a pilot program using Khan Academy videos in 5th and 7th grade math classes. Since then, the results have been impressive. Test scores in the pilot classes went dramatically, with students that were struggling with math improving markedly, while strong students zoomed ahead beyond their grade level. Reports of some 5th graders working at a 7th grade level show that Khan’s triomgrometry aroused interest in competitive parent children whose children were stuck attending standard math classes elsewhere in the district. Los Alamos is planning to implement the approach district-wide in the 2011-2012 school year.

As the Khan Academy’s video inventory has grown, Khan has become convinced his videos will be valuable long into the future. The content of most grade school topics just doesn’t change dramatically from year to year. Khan calls it “evergreen content.” The idea that future generations of students will take away from his videos creating videos need not be a difficult or complicated process. From simply recording seminars, to adding voice-overs to YouTube slides, to creating videos in novel new ways, a library of evergreen content is ready to germinate.

One point that had occurred to me early on in which we all too frequently disparage our brother surveyors. It’s all too easy to raise an eyebrow when some disgruntled client mentions a fee they considered high charged by another surveyor or it appears to a client that another surveyor is taking too long in obtaining approvals or making the survey. It is so easy to agree, thus putting yourself in a favourable light at the expense of the other surveyor. Undoubtedly, you might think of like situations but the end result is that you are only hurting yourself and the whole surveying profession of which you are a member. I do believe we should all resolve to speak of other surveyors as you would have them speak of you. In other words, give the other surveyor a pat on the back and this in turn could help you.

E. F. Clark, President
ALS News, March 1963

Jim Clark was made an honorary life member of the Association in 1991.

From the Vault

N ow that summer is over and committee business is taking place again, Council and the Membership Relations Committee are looking at what picture we as an Association want to portray to the public. Plans are being set out on how we can publicize that fact that we will be headquartered in the government building of last year, in an effort to determine where the Association should focus its public relations efforts in the upcoming years, an online questionnaire was sent out in the Friday e-mail to our membership asking what the three most important public relations issues are facing our profession. The results were as follows:

1. Increasing awareness of land surveying/land surveyors to the general public.
2. Promoting the role of land surveyors and the Association at the provincial government level.
3. Promoting the protection of survey monuments to the public and the digging community.

As we speak, the Public Relations Committee and the Association are looking into ways to tackle these issues formally as an Association, but what can we do as individual land surveyors to address these issues? Here are a few suggestions.

Aside from having good customer service and trying to explain to friends and family how you fill your day, what can we do to increase public awareness of the land surveyors in the public? Distributing our Association’s brochures is an excellent way to pass along information to the public, give them to whomever will take them in the hopes that they will remember they have the information and can use it or pass it on to someone who may be interested to promote the general awareness. Be sure to check out the new Tips for Fence Builders brochure that was recently developed. If you know of a good outlet to distribute any of our brochures, let the administration at the ALSA office know and they would gladly send some out. A large amount of time and money is put into producing the brochures and they are a very valuable tool in spreading information about what we do.

How to promote our profession to the province in a positive light, that the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is a group of professionals who are integral in protecting property rights. We want to ensure that government is aware we are the boundary experts and that government consults with us if there is an issue on the extent of property rights. Meeting with local government officials and letting them know about our profession and why we are so important in protecting the general public and industry in the province is how we need to get the word out.

We also need to be proactive in our approach with government and with another provincial election looming in the near future it is a perfect opportunity to have our concerns heard.

How do we promote our profession to the provincial government level? MLAs or other policy-makers in government are there to represent their constituents and their concerns. The main issue is letting them know what those concerns are. We want to ensure that the government sees our Association in a positive light, that the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is a group of professionals who are integral in protecting property rights. We want to ensure that government is aware we are the boundary experts and that government consults with us if there is an issue on the extent of property rights. Meeting with local government officials and letting them know about our profession and why we are so important in protecting the general public and industry in the province is how we need to get the word out.

How can we participate in elections, assist in election campaigns and attending conventions increases our exposure to government. We need to be proactive in our approach with government and with another provincial election looming, it is a perfect opportunity to have our concerns heard. One of our local MLAs may become the next minister of Sustainable Resource Development or Energy or Employment and Immigation or the next Premier.

Having our membership involved with industry, media and government is so important. Industry groups lobbying are very powerful in influencing policy making in government. If the membership stays involved and active in communicating with industry, our profile with government will be much higher.

Protecting survey monumentation is a very important task. Judging by the number of F. No Mika shown on survey plans, it seems little care is taken to preserve survey monuments. We have brochures (A Practical Guide to Survey Evidence and Tips for Fence Builders) outlining the penalties of interfering with survey monuments and ways to prevent that from happening but there are so many different offenders (equipment operators, homeowners, and so on) who are not taking the time to inform industry of the issue. I think sending out these brochures with our survey products may help get the message across. When sending out documents for a right-of-way plan, send a brochure or when mailing out a real property report, drop a fence builder’s brochure in the envelope. When talking to developers or project managers explain to them that it is in their best interests to protect the monuments and suggest strategies for preserving the monuments.

With all the issues it all comes down to taking a little more time in a session to explain the issues that we as land surveyors face. As professionals, we must subconsciously be thinking of how promoting the profession is more important in our daily dealings. I think people will see that we are professionals protecting the interests of the public, and we will be painting the picture of a land surveyor that the Association wants to be seen. If you have any other suggestions on what we can do to promote our profession as individuals or as a committee, please let us know.

Nicholas Bond, ALS

The J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation administers the following awards:

- University of Calgary—John Deyholos Memorial Scholarship $2,500 annual scholarship in a continuing undergraduate student in the Department of Geomatics Engineering University of Calgary Scholarship Committee $2,500 annual scholarship in a fourth year student in Geomatics Engineering University of Calgary—LCC, NAIT and SAIT Transfer Scholarship $2,500 annual scholarship to a NAIT, SAIT and Lethbridge College graduate in Geomatics Engineering Technology enrolled in the University of Calgary program in Geomatics Engineering.

Lethbridge College Scholarship $1,000 annual scholarship to a Lethbridge College student entering their second year of the Geomatics/Geography Technology program.

Our thanks to all who continue to support the Foundation and help us in our efforts to provide the best possible education that we can to our members.

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Project Report Guidelines

Recently, the Registration Committee has noticed that some of the requirements of the project report guidelines may need specific clarification with regards to the responsibilities of the ALSA pupil.

The explanatory notes for pupil involvement state: It is expected that the extent of the pupil’s involvement with the project will increase substantially with each project. For instance the ‘hands on’ involvement with the first project will likely be confined to the field work and the pre-drafting computations, while playing a lesser role in the client liaison, job set-up and final submission phases. Pupil involvement with the last project shall be ‘hands on’ in every aspect of the project; drafting the project exceptions. The pupil should be prepared to personally complete the field work for each of the three project reports at the party chief or supervisory level.

From the paragraph above, it is clear that the pupil is intended to be involved in every aspect of the third project. These aspects of the project extend particularly to the field work. The field work is to be completed either personally by the pupil, or supervised in the field, personally by the pupil. It is intended that the supervision is conducted in the field so that the evaluation of the found evidence is personally completed by the pupil at the time of survey.

As outlined in the Pupil Handbook, it is the responsibility of the principal to “provide the pupil with sufficient practical training and experience…and instruct the pupil in the art, practice and profession of an Alberta Land Surveyor.” This component specifically emphasizes the responsibilities of the pupil’s principal.

An important part of becoming an Alberta Land Surveyor is to gain experience in the searching for evidence and the evaluation of that evidence. There are hundreds of thousands of monuments in Alberta and the public relies on our profession to bring our expertise to the table in keeping boundaries and preserving the survey fabric for the safekeeping of everyone. To skip over that portion of a pupil’s training is certain to leave a distinct gap in the required training. That part is of the reason that the pupil is required to be involved in a ‘hands on’ manner for every aspect of their third report.

Each year, at the annual interview session, the Registration Committee emphasizes that the shared responsibility of the principal/pupil.

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1.800.668.3312
The CSA Standard S250 about mapping of underground utility infrastructure is expected to be published by the time you are reading this article. This document was introduced in the March 2011 issue of ALS News.

The main concept behind the development of this standard is that it is a privilege, not a right, to bury anything underground in the public right-of-way. In exchange for that privilege, the owner of that utility infrastructure should be obliged to provide an accurate and retrievable as-built location.

How would the standard be applied? What would be the benefits of using it? It is up to the regulatory, operational and safety authorities of the utilities to set up the mapping requirements for underground infrastructure.

Many utility companies already consider already as-built records as an important business asset and have their own internal policies and procedures in place. The adoption of the standard would help to establish accuracy and quality levels consistently across Canada.

Adoption of a single standard makes it easier to respond to calls for proposals, reduce the need to know the details of multiple standards, and encourages consistency of approach.

What topics are covered by the standard?

Management programs, types, characteristics, and lifecycle of mapping records.

Accountabilities and responsibilities of the owner, the locator, and the excavator.

Reliability and accuracy of mapping methods. Methods of positioning and accuracy of as-built records.

Feature descriptions: symbols, line style, colour, data structure.

Specific utility requirements for different types, such as telecom systems, water systems, electrical systems, etc.

Why is mapping necessary? Is a “Call before you dig” program not sufficient?

One-Call locating is only being performed at the pre-construction stage of projects. These are reactive measures. There is much that can be done proactively to establish recording, mapping, and reporting standards that will improve the usefulness of the underground mapping records. The accuracy of locating methods in congested areas presents another problem.

An expected outcome of the application of the standard would be to lower the cost of utility design by sharing accurate and complete utility records in a timely fashion amongst all users (municipalities, carriers, contractors, designers, consultants, locators, and so on).

What changes are expected from the draft version?

Following the end of the public consultation period, a technical committee reviewed the comments received and evaluated whether the draft wording needed to be changed as a result.

The definition of “an accurate and retrievable as-built location,” is a point that will show some changes from the draft version circulated for public consultation.

According to Mark Braiter, CSA’s project manager, “the wording has been strengthened to provide the specific methodology by which an ‘accurate and retrievable as-built location’ (i.e. measured and recorded) is to be achieved and its accuracy described (accuracy level). As far as we are aware, CSA S250 will be the first document of its kind to require the owner to measure and record the horizontal and vertical position and attributes of the underground utility. All as-built records will need to specify the precise horizontal and vertical location of underground utilities to satisfy the requirements of this clause, and be CSA S250 compliant.”

The adoption of the standard would help to establish accuracy and quality levels consistently across Canada.
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HELLO AGAIN. I RETURN TO WRITE THIS ARTICLE AFTER HAVING RETURNED IN THE PAST-PRESIDENT’s ROLE FOR THE SOCIETY.

ONE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PAST-PRESIDENT IS TO ORGANIZE AND HOST OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. OUR BYLAWS CALL FOR US TO CALL ONE BEFORE JUNE SO WE PUSHED IT TO THE LAST WEEKEND IN MAY TO TAKE THE BEST ADVANTAGE OF THE WEATHER. THIS YEAR WE HELD IT IN SHERWOOD PARK AND NEXT YEAR WE WILL BE HOLDING IT IN NORTHEAST CALGARY, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED.

AS A SOCIETY, WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY VIEWED THESE AGMS AS A BREAK-EVEN EVENT. AND, AS SUCH, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE GRAVITATED TO SMALLER CENTRES TO HOLD OUR COSTS DOWN. THIS YEAR BEING THAT WE WERE IN A MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTRE,

Our costs were up significantly. Fortunately, with a great thank you to many of you, we met and surpassed our meeting costs. We were doubly fortunate to have a return of a core group of vendors to showcase their equipment and services. I wish to thank them and encourage them to return to our Calgary event next year.

So in the final analysis, we were able to net roughly $2,000 that went back into our general revenues. Our Society routinely will run a $20,000 a year budget and hold a cash reserve of that or less. Being able to add this amount to our bottom line will go a long way towards supporting the refinements being worked on by the ALSA together with our committee members in support of advancing the certification process.

On behalf of the entire Society, one more huge thank you. We look forward to your support again next year and we hope to be able to build on the successes we accomplished this year.

Chair, ASSMT

HELP SUPPORT THE JOHN HOLMLUND CHAIR IN LAND TENURE & CADASTRAL STUDIES

The past decades have facilitated fundamental, positive changes in the way all of us survey. This is certainly not limited to the widespread use of GNSS equipment for measurement. Computers allow us to draft plans using CAD systems to subsequently file, license, or register digitally. Digital survey information can be obtained within minutes from virtually anywhere in the world. Boundaries can be defined not only by ground-based techniques, but also through remotely-obtained methods. Indeed, we are able to perform our land surveying duties at a lightning pace that could barely be imagined only a few decades ago.

Of course, these positive changes are outweighed by the challenges created for us by new technology and evolving public perception. Landowners use single frequency GPS units in attempt to mark their own fence lines. Title insurance is seen as a cost effective and acceptable risk alternative to a land surveyor’s real property report. Online GIS programs are consulted to determine boundaries by a wide range of professionals that would otherwise employ the services of a land surveyor.

The Effectiveness Of Land Registration And Cadastral Boundary Systems

The Effectiveness Of Land Registration And Cadastral Boundary Systems (From an interdisciplinary perspective.) Those involved are surveyors, lawyers, planners, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, human geographers, GIS specialists, civil engineers, and politicians. This is an area where it is important for surveyors to have a voice and to remain influential.

Regarding Aspects Of Evidence

The Chair collaborates with the legal profession specifically as it affects aboriginal land claims in Canada.

FRAUD IN LAND TRANSACTIONS

Land Fraud is a major problem worldwide—Canada included. This includes a project with the Surveyor General of Canada to examine electronic signatures and survey plans. The five-year term of the John Holmlund Chair in Land Tenure & Cadastral Studies concludes in 2012. With your support, we can extend the chair for an additional five years. This requires a combined commitment of $100,000 per year. The Chair allows for cadastral research initiatives that directly benefit and promote the land surveying profession. The Chair is currently held by Dr. Michael Barry. Any and all contributions are appreciated. If you wish to make a contribution, please contact either Victor Hur (vhut@millgen.com) or Michael Thompson (mthompson@mpegeo.ca).
Real Property
EASEMENTS—Trial judge erred in declaring a road to be a public highway but did not err in finding that respondent did not have an easement of necessity across applicant’s property.
Appeal from a judgment declaring a road to be a public highway. Cross-appeal from the dismissal of an application for an easement. The road had been a laneway into a land and led to two recreational facilities owned and operated by respondent. The road had been used by the patrons, employees and owners of both facilities for many years. There had never been any other road or land access to either facility. Since 1972 the road had been the subject of a lease between one of the facilities and S, the previous owner of appellant’s land. When appellant bought the land in 2005 it sought to prevent respondent, his employees, patrons and guests from continuing to use the road. Respondent brought an application seeking declarations that the road had been dedicated to public use or that respondent had gained an easement at common law or equity over the land in question. The property in question was a summertime cottage owned at the time by the Benedicts, subject to a lease between one of the facilities and S, as previous owner of the land, intended to dedicate the road to public use and that the dedication was accepted by the public. She therefore declared the road to be a public highway. She therefore declared the road to be a public highway. Respondent failed to establish, as a matter of law, that there was an easement of necessity running in favour of his property. The easement claim was a shared farm lane extending across appellant’s land and led to two recreational facilities. The applicants claim was a shared) farm lane extending across appellant’s land and led to two recreational facilities. The applicants claim was a shared farm lane extending across appellant’s land and led to two recreational facilities. The applicants claim was a shared farm lane extending across appellant’s land and led to two recreational facilities. The applicants claim was a shared farm lane extending across appellant’s land and led to two recreational facilities.

Insurance (Title)
DUTY TO DEFEND—Title insurance policy issued by third party to defendants covered certain of plaintiff’s claims, giving rise to duty to defend by third party insurer.
Motion by defendants for declaration that the third party insurer was obligated by the insurance policy to defend all claims made by plaintiffs and pay all defence costs. Plaintiff and defendants owned adjacent waterfront properties. Defendants held a title insurance policy with the third party that insured all risks affecting the title on the policy date. Defendants had been assured by the vendor that their cottage was entirely within the property limits and there were no boundary disputes. Defendants maintained and upgraded the property up to what they thought was the property line. Plaintiff retained a surveyor and found defendants’ cottage encroached on their property by three inches. Plaintiff commenced the action. Defendants counterclaimed for a declarative order. The third party advised defendants it would not defend the action because the cottage had been upgraded and plaintiff was claiming with respect to actions undertaken after the policy date.

Held: Motion allowed in part. Plaintiff was alleging covered encroachment claims for the cottage and non-covered encroachment claims for the propane tanks, back fill, tree removal and creation of a side yard. That was not simply multiple theories of liability but a number of separate actions of separate encroachment. The third party was only required to defend covered claims and defence costs would be allocated accordingly. The third party was going to pay solicitors and client costs in connection with the coverage claims but was not required to defend within a reasonable amount of time.


[1] The matter before the court involves a boundary dispute respecting the property of the Chisholms and the Estate of Robert Harnum. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson purchased their property in Whiteway from Stan Waterman in 2010.

[2] Mr. Waterman bought the land from Mr. Portle in 1978 for $350. A survey accompanied the deed. This property was bounded on one side by Harrum family land, which had a drive way, and on the other side by the other property.

[3] The Harrum family land is claimed by possessory title. Mr. Robert Harrum received the land from his grandfather and now Mr. Carl Harrum owns the land as representative and beneficiary of his father’s estate. Several relative tests filed over the years but the Harrum family for as long as they could remember. The Department of Highways also paid compensation for expropriation in the amount of $27.23. Mr. Robert Harrum, conveyed as beneficial owner, a parcel of land for a highway reservation on September 29, 1972 when they constructed the new steel rod out of the ground, scratched the sidewalk with the rod warning that the steel rod was a safety hazard, and then throwing the steel rod onto the property in front of Mr. Insberghe’s front yard. Mr. Insberghe says that he only trying to preserve the mark on the ground that he had paid a large sum of money to obtain the proper property line location, and that the steel rod protruding from the ground was a minimal safety hazard in comparison to children playing on the road in the crescent without a properly constructed fence. Mr. Van Insberghe deposes that he reported this incident to the RCMP but that no charges were laid against Mr. Insberghe.

[7] With respect to May 24, 2011, Mr. Van Insberghe deposes that a back wooden marker had been tampered with as it was turned to a different direction, and the RCMP had to be called again to accompany Mr. Van Insberghe to retrieve the wooden marker from Mr. Braasd’s property.

Conclusion
[10] Eventually the Applicant removes the alleged offending fence, and construction is now basically complete on the Applicant’s residence, which is situated next door to the Respondent.

[15] I have concluded that there will have to be a trial on this issue with the live evidence. In the interim until that trial can be conducted, there will be mutual Restraining Orders imposed on all of the parties. The parties are directed to have their writs served immediately, and RCMP had to be called again to accompany Mr. Van Insberghe to retrieve the wooden marker from Mr. Braasd’s property.
Michael Sideris Elected Vice-President of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

The Department of Geomatics Engineering is pleased to announce that Prof. Michael G. Sideris, who completed his 2007–2011 term as President of the International Association of Geodesy (IAU), is the new vice-president of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) for the period 2011-2015. Prof. Sideris was elected to this position by the 69-country-member Council of IUGG at the XXV IUGG General Assembly, which took place in Melbourne, Australia, from June 28 to July 7, 2011. IUGG is an international organization dedicated to advancing, promoting, and communicating knowledge of the Earth system, its space environment, and the dynamical processes causing change. IUGG is a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and comprises the International Associations of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS), Geodesy (IAG), Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO), Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASP), and Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI).

Members of the Intelligent Geospatial Data Mining Laboratory Elected to 2011 GeAlbera Conference

Congratulations to Mr. Jing Wang and Dr. Xin Wang, members of Intelligent Geospatial Data Mining Laboratory. Their work “A Traffic Accident Risk Mapping System” received second prize in the 2011 GeAlbera Conference Map Gallery contest (Best Student Entry). Congratulations for their presentation and the domain of geodesy.

Dr. Michael Collins Elected Engineers Canada Fellowship

In 2007, Engineers Canada created the Engineers Canada Fellowship to honour individuals who have given noteworthy service to the engineering profession. Dr. Michael Collins was elected a fellow of Engineers Canada in 2010. An award dinner was held in June 2011. The link to the relevant Engineers Canada page with a list of fellows is www.engineerscanada.ca/etf/fellowship.cfm

Dr. Michael Collins Receives Teaching Award from Students at Graduation Banquet

Congratulations to Dr. Collins for being the recipient of the Professor Excellence Award for Geomatics presented at the graduation banquet held on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Dr. Richard Langley has been appointed to the committee to provide advice in the field of geodetic and related branches of geophysics and their applications in geo-spatial intelligence. Geodesy is the science of mathematically determining the size and shape of the earth and the nature of its gravity field. It includes the study of its motions in space, the establishment of spatial reference frames through conventional and space-based positioning technologies, and the study of time-varying positions. The development of the coordinate system used by GPS, for example, comes under the domain of geodesy. Relevant geophysics areas include the understanding and precise mapping of the earth's magnetic field. Dr. Langley has worked extensively on global navigation satellite systems, techniques and algorithms for geodetic and high-precision surveying applications and for aircraft navigation and spacecraft systems. He is also interested in the evolving role of geodesy in geomatics education and has given several talks on this topic. Dr. Langley is co-editor of the best-selling Guide to GPS Positioning and is a column editor of GPS World magazine. He is a past chair of the Canadian National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and a current member of the European Space Agency's GINS Scientific Advisory Group.

Also on the committee along with other experts in the various fields of geop- analysis is Dr. Edward M. Mikhail, a well-known professor of photogrammetry and the head of Geomatics Engineering at Purdue University, where he teaches and carries out research in photogrammetry, data adjustment, digital mapping, sensor modeling, and automated methods for feature extraction, matching, and analysis. Dr. Keith C. Clarke, a research cartogra- pher and professor in the Geography De- partment at the University of California, Santa Barbara, chairs the committee. The committee’s work is directed by NRC's Anne Marie Linn. The committee expects to deliver its report in 2012.

GGE Welcomes Dr. Emmanuel Stefanakis

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Emmanuel Stefanakis has joined us on Monday, 4 July 2011 as our new assis- tant professor in geographic information systems (GIS). Dr. Stefanakis joins us after ten years with the Department of Geography at Harro- kopio University of Athens, Greece. He gained his Ph.D. in 1997 from the De- partment of Electrical and Computer En- gineering, National Technical University of Athens (dissertation title: Development of Intelligent Geographic Information Systems) and his Dipl.Eng. in 1992 from the Department of Rural and Surveying Engineering also at the National Technical University of Athens. In between, he came to GGE as a graduate student and gained his M.Sc.E. in 1994 under the supervision of Dr. Michael Collins (Ph.D. Approaches to Range Searching Based on the Point Representation of Spatial Objects). Dr. Stefanakis has a wealth of professional experience including delivering graduate and undergraduate courses in GIS, car- rying out research in GIS funded by the European Commission, and teaching courses on global navigation satellite systems. His research interests are in remote sensing from the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences) and his Dipl.Eng. in 1992 from the National Technical University of Athens.

We are fortunate to have been able to bring Dr. Stefanakis to UNB, and we look forward to his contributions to the department, the university, and the global geomatics community.

Robin Steves as GGE Honorary Research Associate

We are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Dr. Robin Steves as a honorary research associate in the department.

Dr. Steves graduated from the then Department of Surveying Engineering at the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. degree and for the period 2007-2009 he was a visiting professor in the Department of Geomatics Engineering, Technical Univer- sity of Madrid, Spain.

Her current research projects include understanding social networks within complex, nonlinear systems; multi- sensor systems for tracking and mobility applications; and knowledge discovery from moving objects, funded through the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Department of Informatics (GE- ODIE) Network of Centres of Excellence, and the European Union, respectively.

Dr. Pegler has assisted with the super- vision of fourmaster students and 12 under- graduate students over the past three years. Their projects have all been conducted at CBF Gagetown and have addressed real-world environmental and engineering problems facing base personnel. Two such projects have already resulted in published articles in GIM Magazine, an international trade publication. Dr. Pegler has also acted as a guest lecturer on some of our courses, has employed a number of GGE undergraduate students over the summer, and has employed at least one of our graduates on a full-time basis.

Dr. Pegler obtained a bachelor of tech- nology degree from Ryerson Polytechnic University in 1994, a graduate diploma in remote sensing from the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences) and his Dipl.Eng. in 1992 from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece. He gained his Ph.D. in 1997 from the Department of Electrical and Computer En-

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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. This is the second installment of the interview.

Frederick: What were you doing down there (Fort Qu’Appelle)?

Edwards: We were subdividing—break- ing the Indian reserve up—because it was just open land up until then. I think they wanted to give title to various Indian families or something. I really don’t know what happened after we finished. We were there two years — two summers.

Frederick: So that was after the third year and then you started with them full-time?

Edwards: Yeah, then I started full-time, they moved me up here and I stayed with them until ‘56. It was after—well, you heard of Geoff Hamilton getting shot. We nearly lost him. He’s from southern Saskatchewan—can’t remember—Gravel- burg or something like that. He was going down on the long weekend. I think it was in September—Labour Day weekend—and he fancied doing a little bit of hunting. So, he borrowed our draftsman’s shotgun, took it with him down there and I guess I didn’t do any hunting or anything.

Anyway, he got back here, came to the office in the morning and he said to the draftsman, “Oh Dick, I’ve got your gun in the car. I forgot to bring it up.” So, he went down and opened the car door and it was sitting on the back seat just on the edge. It fell on the floor and discharged. It fell on the floor and discharged—whether the shake-up would have happened or not—I don’t know.

Dick Newby was with the firm at the time—he left and went with Walker. So that was how I ended up with Usher.

Frederick: You took aeronautical techni- cal engineering training in Calgary. Why did you get into that?

Edwards: Well, that’s another story. The War broke out in ’39 and in the spring of ’40, I went into Calgary to enlist. I sailed through the medical until I got to the eye test. The eye doctor told me I was colour blind. I said, “God, you could fool me. I’ve never had any trouble with any co- lour.” Well, they had this book with these numbers rolling through all these dots and I couldn’t read them at all. So I thought well, that does it for me as air crew for me, so I made the application to enlist and be part of a ground crew, servicing airplanes. So, they stuck me into Calgary again and I was there for nearly a year taking this air- engine and air frame mechanics. I got through that in March or April of ’41 and they said okay, you can go back home now and wait until we call you up. So, I went back home and they called me back in June and told me I had to have another medical. So, I went for another medical. I was right through to the eye test and the doctor says, “Well, you are in pretty damn good shape. How come you’re not going air crew?” I says, “Well, ten months ago, you said I was colour blind and I couldn’t make it.” They had a new test so he sat me down and after thirty feet away he had this little box with these little coloured lights. He said, “If you can tell me what those colours are, you’re okay.” Well, I had no trouble with those. What I had trouble with was a blend of green and white. Those two colours would—since then, now I can tell. If I’m a quarter of a mile away from a traffic light, I couldn’t tell you the difference between a green traffic light and a which street light because they looked the same at a distance. So anyway, then the whole thing turned around so I started back again and went through air crew. I’d already lost a year and maybe it was a good thing. I might not have lasted the War if I had got in the air crew ini- tially because a lot of the older guys had a hard time. I lost a cousin who did get in. He was on Spitfires and he got shot down in the Battle of Britain.

Frederick: Where were you stationed after you left Calgary?

Edwards: After I joined up, they sent me to Penhold for what they call a Manning Depot. I was there for about a month, I guess and then from there to Edmonton for what they called initial training (ITS) at the university. It was all class work for about three or four months. From there I was sent down to High River for elementary flying training and from there to Brandon, Manitoba service line. That’s where I got my wings on Friday the 15th.

Frederick: What kind of planes were you flying?

Edwards: I started out on a Tiger Moth, which, as the guys said the grace of God and flying wires and in Brandon on twin-engine Cazana—12s or 15s—I can’t remember—which were pretty nice little aircraft alright. The next step up to the Hudson was just like going from a Modell T to a Cadillac. After I graduated, they sent me to Charlottetown to take what they called a GR course which was really general recognition. We weren’t doing any flying there, we were strictly doing navigation work. All the flights were over the ocean—we had to navigate. When you finish up and get your wings, by that time, the staff have done an assessment of where they think you would be best qualified to fit. If you were a rambo- rious type—fire command; if you were a solid, stable individual but really robust— bomber command. I was a pretty compla- cent sort of guy—coastal command. After I got my wings, there was the GR course in Charlottetown and then operational training in Debert, Nova Scotia and then I went overseas after that.

Frederick: What year was that—that you went overseas?

Edwards: That was in ’42.

Frederick: So you were training for over a year?

Edwards: Yeah, from the time I started until I went overseas—yeah.

Frederick: How did you get overseas? Boat?

Edwards: On the Queen Elizabeth with 50,000 Americans—no maybe not—about 45,000 American troops and the rest were Canadians. Boy, you never saw such a loaded ship in your life. We were in a state room which was probably all of about 10 by 16 feet, you know, twenty-one of us in that—three bunks high. Beautiful mahogany walls—big spikes driven into the walls—geez. What a way to treat a beautiful ship. But that was necessity then.

Frederick: So, you took off from—where?


Frederick: How long does it take to get over?

Edwards: It took us seven days. First we went north and east and after about a day and a half, we did about a 90 degrees and we headed for the Azores and when we were close to the Azores, we came back again. They seemed to know where to go to avoid—because the only way you’re going to get caught by submarine if you happen to meet—because there is no way a sub can ever—because that machine travels about 30 knots under the water and they were flat out all the time. I came back on the same ship and it took us about three and a half days.

Frederick: So, you didn’t meet any U- Boats?

Edwards: No—nothing but waves and a real wake—as far as you could see, it was still there—tremendous power.

Frederick: So, 50,000 men on a boat— what did you do for seven days?

Edwards: Well, we had some duties to do. We had inspection. I remember one time I was a duty officer and had to check every deck. Down in the bottom, in the hold, the hammersocks were seven high with American soldiers. I thought, God what does the guy on the bottom do if the guy on the top gets sick.

Frederick: Was it a rough crossing?

Edwards: No, it was a reasonably good crossing actually. Coming back—because they just took off Greenock, Scotland and straight into New York, right across the North Atlantic, we were running like this quite a bit of a time. Anyway, we digress.

Frederick: Your experiences in training camp—anything stand out?

Edwards: It was just a plain, busy time. You didn’t get weekends off half the time.

Frederick: Was it boring?

Edwards: No, I didn’t find it boring at all. Actually, the ground crew classes—I don’t remember how many different courses we had, but there were about five or six. I found them all to be much more interesting than I ever found in school. As a matter of fact, when I graduated, I graduated fourth in the class. I should have mentioned that night at Denny’s (Tomkinson) retirement—after Denny (Tomkinson) finished talking, I should have said, “That’s the biggest ego booster since I graduated.” We lost a few people in training. When you’re with guys for a few months, certain ones you get to know quite well. There was one young guy, Rolf Fordy, he was from Saskatchewan. The other guy’s name was Gilbert—I can’t remember where he was from but they were out doing formation flying and one of the things you learn to do when you are formation flying is to change from one side to the other. He changed from one side to the other, he came up from under- neath, came up from underneath, just cut the tail right off his plane—we lost him. The other guy wrecked the prop and came back on one engine and made it back to base. That was the first time I got to think that I ever got when this guy got killed. Basically in training, I never had any real serious problems.

Frederick: Where were you stationed overseas?

Edwards: Everybody in the air force went to Bomereouth in Southern England to start with. There were so many air crew the we didn’t know what to do with them. The War wasn’t far enough ad- vanced at that time. They couldn’t let us sit around so they sent me up to a place called Silloth in Yorkshire to take an other operational training course. I don’t remember how long we were there—prob- ably about three months. That was my first experience of living with blackouts. First take off at night you look around and you see nothing. Here when you are in training, you look around and there’s this beautiful English countryside and land. You take off and there’s not a light

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wireless operator and of course, we also
By radio—by signals—the
Edwards:
How do you navigate those things?
frederick:
just sick as dogs because we got kicked
fifty feet and stopped. I was the only one
aircraft like a helicopter. The wind was so
only time in my life I ever landed a real
chines—they never really filled the tanks
to make it? Next question, because the
wind. Now—have we got enough fuel
are heading into about a 75 mile an hour
instruments weren't accurate—but seat of
my life I ever felt—when I straightened
out—my body told me I was still turning.
I pulled my parachute up and set it
up there. How in the hell do I find my
anywhere. How in the hell do I find my
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and one of the gunners who was sitting up
We were flying like this to start with—
we had a 500 gallon tank in the cabin
about 60 miles off shore, but I thought
was a rocky cay and I'll tell you we were sure we were
the coastline is here and 50 miles inland,
it because the coastline—the water is here,
the coastline is here and 50 miles inland,
there is still hardly any elevation until you
got up but because of the haze, we couldn't
see anything. I was beginning to wonder
if that equipment was any good at all.
We made landfall exactly where we were
supposed to and landed on a strip that
was just right on the sand with a bunch of
metal sheets laid out—just flying all
over the place—my God. Then we got the
thing parked and got out, it was about
95 degrees. When we got to Britain, it was
about 38 or 40 degrees. What a shock.
That was the last time I wore my jacket
for two and a half years I was out there.
Frederick: So that's where you were
stationed?
Edwards: We landed at a little French
strip called— a little town called Taper-
uise—which is about 20 odd miles from
Monaco. We were there until about No-
vember and then they had to move us here
because we were in tents and our tents were
float- ing away. Rain—poured rain—water was
coming in—you'd wake up in the morn-
ing and oh gee. So basically what we
did was kick the free French air force out of
the accommodations they had—'I don't
know what they did with them—and
we took theirs over at Monaco. We had a lot
of guys. It was a busy place. The Americans
were—some of them with the bigger the
planes were having a problem because
the runway was built so that every time you
landed your wind was crossways. The
great the aircraft, the harder it is to control.
They had a couple of B17's that collapsed
undercarriage because they kept going
this way instead of on. So, they built a
new runway—more into the prevailing
wind. Seven days — they built that bloody
runway. It was 6,000 feet long. Boy, you
never saw equipment work. I will say for
the Americans, when they decide to do
something—just go and go and go for it.
Hang the expense. From there we had
the 500 squadron. We were with the RAF
by this time — taken over by the RAF.
In Algiers, just out of Algiers there was
another squadron and the 608 squadron.
Depending on what the activity was like, we
would be in Morocco for a couple of
months and then they'd move us up there
some two or three on those three months
and then back again. I don't know what
it was all about but that's what we did—we
bounced back and forth. In about August
'43 — gee I can't remember exactly. Any-
way, our biggest activity was during the
Scandinavian lands in Sicily. After they
secrely hold in it, our requirements
were pretty well vanished. So then they sent
me down to Cairo. There was an operational
training unit there and they wanted me
to be an instructor. Well, things didn't
work out that way at all. Actually, before
I went, I was having problems with my
wisdom teeth. They were coming in about
45 degrees. I got down there and gee, I
was sick. So, they put me in hospital and
I was one month getting over these damn
things. By this time, somebody else got
the jobs. So, I laid around Cairo for about
six or eight weeks — the both of us, the
navigator and myself — and then they said
there's no point in you staying here any
longer, we are going to ship you back to
Britain. This is January '45. So, we got
on a big old Liberato and we lumbered
all the way across Africa to Roberto, stayed
overnight there and then motored back to
Britain. Had to go for an interview and
they said we have three possibilities for
you; one, you can go to the Far East, two,
you can stay here in Britain and help with
clearing up the Canadian contingent; or,
you can go home. I said, "Well, if I
can get on the Mosquitos in the Far East,
I'll go for that." "You and 700 other guys.
Everyone wanted to fly Mosquitos — they
were the hottest thing around. There was
no choice there, so I came home. I stayed
in for about a year after I got home. I took
an air traffic control course at Boundary
Bay in BC and then from there they sent
me to the Yukon in Whitehorse. I spent
the whole winter up there and finally
decided that there was no future in this
damn thing—better get out of here and
get some more education. That was about
it. ...to be continued
A Tribute to M.Á. (Army) MacCrimmon
July 7, 1922 - May 1, 2011

Born in Williamstown, Ontario on July 7, 1922, George Armstrong MacCrimmon soon lost his older brother Morrison to scarlet fever. His grief-stricken parents shortly changed his name to Morrison Armstrong MacCrimmon, or just “Army” as we knew him.

Army grew up with a strong respect for veterans, especially those of the First World War, and, like a lot of young men of the day, tried to enlist underage for World War II. The recruiting officer in Montreal sent him home “to grow up a bit.” Army, having no money, rode a boxcar back home to Williamstown. He finally enlisted on April 21, 1941 at the age of 18.

In 1946, Army worked for Ontario Hydro doing a flood plain survey on the Mattawa River but, much to our benefit, his father lured him out West in 1947 to work for the Mannix Company on the Hart Highway construction in British Columbia. When that project finished, he hired on with Peter Baptie, ALS in 1948, performing road and townsite surveys, one of which was the survey of the townsite for Elkwater in Alberta’s Cypress Hills.

Army’s father lured him out West in 1947 to work for the Mannix Company on the Hart Highway construction in British Columbia. When that project finished, he hired on with Peter Baptie, ALS in 1948, performing road and townsite surveys, one of which was the survey of the townsite for Elkwater in Alberta’s Cypress Hills. Peter Baptie’s plan remains unregistered today but is the basis for another registered plan of the town.

In 1953, Army hired on with R. McCutcheon Ltd. in Calgary and began his survey career in earnest while performing all types of urban and oilfield surveys, taking time off only when absolutely necessary. One such time was on May 10th, 1952 when he married a young lady named Constance Bell, from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Shortly after getting married, Army signed his articles to Bob McCutcheon, ALS and over the next few years, working, studying, and raising a family filled their lives with long days, happiness, children, and stress. Connie recalled to me that one day she came home from work, opened the door just in time to see a survey test go flying across the room.

In 1955, a daughter Catherine was born, in 1956, another daughter Jean was born, and then in 1959 a son Donald John. In his “spare” time Army studied and wrote all of his intermediate and final exams and received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on June 13, 1961. He continued to work with Bob McCutcheon Ltd. until 1965 when Army, Bill Wollen-Dod, Dick Anderson, Knudson and Harold Dewitt bought R. McCutcheon Ltd. and formed Wollen-Dod and MacCrimmon Ltd., a firm which continued to operate until 1990 when it was sold to another Alberta survey company.

Army applied for and was granted registered membership on March 3rd, 1992. While being an active land surveyor, Army articled Art Knudson (1966-1976), Dave Williams (1972-1973), and Ross (1974-1987) who all received their own commissions as Alberta Land Surveyors. Shortly after Army was commissioned in 1961, he began playing an active role with the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association through service first at the committee level and then as Association President in 1970. Army gave no less than 16 committee years to the profession between 1964 and 1999, seven years after his retirement.

A dedicated career that few have matched. In 1987, the profession recognized Army’s contribution by awarding him the Professional Recognition Award and again by awarding him Honorary Life membership in March 2001.

There was the career and then there was the man. The career was nothing short of distinguished—he was an Alberta Land Surveyor for more than 30 years, he articled three other Alberta Land Surveyors, served three separate companies, and did something many professionals are not allowed to do—serve the profession and become its president, all while operating a very successful and well respected business, not to mention raising a family. Few would attempt what Army achieved.

Then there was the man—Army would brush aside such talk and tell you that he did nothing more than any professional should do, but Army knew the real meaning of professionalism. He lived words like “ethics,” “integrity,” “honesty,” and “humility.” Through his actions, he attracted respect from others and it is my honour to have known and worked with him.

As a gentleman, he was a professional, he was honourable, and he will be missed by all who knew him for who he was.

Written by Dave McWilliam, ALS (Hon. Life) with contributions in a small part from Army’s family.

The Alberta Historical and Educational Foundation for Land Surveying

In 1959–1960, much of Council’s time was taken up with complaints concerning the professional ethics of some of the members. As a professional association, President Buck Olsen told the membership that he felt Alberta Land Surveyors had three main problems facing them—all of which stemmed from the “lack of a professional outlook.” First, there was a good deal of unprofessional, out-and-out soliciting taking place by members by or through their representatives. “We hear our members express concern over the fact that they feel they do not receive proper recognition as a professional person and, at the same time, they will try to justify the necessity to solicite.” The second difficulty, according to President Olsen, was one of keeping the profession of land surveying restricted to members of the profession. “We cannot protect our identity and remain as a proper professional body with our privileges as professionals if we allow ourselves to become associated, in partnership, or employees or agents of, persons outside of our profession.” The third problem facing the Association in 1946, according to President Olsen, was of mass production. He asked the members to consider very closely and re-examine the Code of Ethics if they felt they could turn out survey products on a mass production basis. Aside from these problems, President Olsen felt that Association members were in a good position as he made some fearsome predictions as to what the years ahead would hold for our profession. He said that he believed the bulk of Alberta Land Surveyors’ work for the next two decades would stem from the following: 1. The production and export of natural gas; 2. The production and marketing of crude oil; 3. The explosion of our metropolitan centres; 4. The development of the resources in Canada’s northwestern.

In another business as General Meeting, the membership expressedention on “The Land Surveyor and the Planner,” “The Footills Control Survey,” “Proposal for Surveying Well sites in Foothills” and a report on water boundaries.

Brian E. Monday

The Alberta Historical and Educational Foundation for Land Surveying is a charitable organization established by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association in 2004. The goals of the AHEFLS are:

• to foster the preservation of survey artifacts for exhibit in public museums and displays;
• to publicize the survey profession by facilitating historical survey programs and events.

In this regard the AHEFLS is set up as a charitable organization that solicits donations of survey data as well as financial contributions and legacies to carry out its activities.

The Alberta Historical and Educational Foundation for Land Surveying 1000, 10020 -101A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2.

To date the Foundation has been a major benefactor to the David Thompson Bicentennial Canoe Brigade which saw a team of surveyors participate in a re-enactment of David Thompson’s historical journey from Rocky Mountain House to Fort William on Lake Superior in May-July, 2008. In June and July three of the AHEFLS directors participated in the 2011 David Thompson Canoe Brigade that went from Invermere, BC to Fort Astoria on the Pacific Ocean, arriving 200 years to the day after David Thompson arrived on his historic journey down the Columbia River.

The AHEFLS also donated monies to the ALSA to allow the purchase of an historic surveyors’ map for the ALSA’s historical collection. “The AHEFLS aided the preservation of the A.O. Wheeler, ALS, BCLS, DLS House in Banff. Unfortunately the building was not saved but hopefully a monument will be erected in Banff recognizing Wheeler for his contributions to the development of Western Canada.”

In August, 2010, the Foundation hosted 30 Oldtimers’ luncheon in Edmonton with about 20 of our senior surveyors and spouses in attendance.

Members of the Board of Directors were involved in the erection of an historic survey monument at the Ukrainian Village east of Elk Island National Park recognizing 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta in May, 2011.

The AHEFLS invites all land surveyors, as well as other interested parties to help support these worthy endeavors of publicizing our unique history through financial contributions and/or the donation of historical survey artifacts such as old survey equipment, drafting instruments, survey books, etc. Legacies created through wills and estates are also invited. All donations will receive a tax receipt.

The Alberta Historical and Educational Foundation for Land Surveying 1000, 10020 -101A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2.
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