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You never know when you might be in an elevator or at a reception and someone asks you, “So, what do you do?”

Recently, the Alberta Progressive Conservatives elected a new party leader. What generally follows after such events is a reorganization of the government where the new leader appoints the new team that will tackle the issues at hand. That means new ministers and deputy ministers and government departments with new priorities. Our task, as an association, is to now introduce ourselves and educate each new minister about who we are, what we do for the people of Alberta and why it is important to involve us.

These meetings will be taking place over the course of the next month. In preparation, I find myself reviewing my own elevator speeches. I think I need two of them, one to address the ALSA and a second to explain who professional land surveyors are and the important role they play in Alberta. I think I have sixty seconds to get their attention, create a professional impression and provide the foundation for the thirty-minute discussion which will follow. I know the ministers are very busy and they have a constant stream of groups before them representing various interests of concern to Albertans.

For example, the Honorable Frank Oberle, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. Minister Oberle’s department administers the Surveys Act and the Director of Surveys is part of this department. It is important that the minister understands our Association and whom we are here to protect. The point I wish to make is that we are a self-governing professional organization that regulates the profession of land surveying for the protection of the people of Alberta. The government has delegated this authority to us and it is a responsibility we undertake seriously. At the end of the day, our mantra is that the actions we take must be in the greater interest of the people of Alberta for whom we serve. In matters relating to land and boundaries, we are a knowledgeable and unbiased source of expertise in matters concerning surveying and boundaries. We are available to the minister as a resource in all land tenure matters.

Certainly, we are going to convey to the minister our keen interest in the development of the Director of Surveys office and make it known to him that we have something to contribute to that discussion as it evolves. We are here to help in this matter as it is something we know well. We also want to express our concern over GPS location plans undertaken by non-practitioners and accepted by his department. We want to point out the risks such actions pose to a stable land tenure system. We are here to help and we are continuing to work with stakeholder groups to address the issue.

The Honorable Dave Hancock leads Human Services, the department responsible for the administration of the Land Surveyors Act. After introducing ourselves, what we do and why it is important, our intent is to inform the minister of all the proactive initiatives our Association is taking in an effort to respond to the future needs of Alberta. Examples are examining our ownership regulations and examining the role technologists play in our profession. It is important that we receive his support as we may need to call on them to support our profession.

Third, we will be calling on Service Alberta now led by the Honorable Manmeet Bhillar. Service Alberta administers the Land Titles Act, which land surveyors have a deep interest in. Our message to the minister is that our Association is here to help. As a profession, we are a major stakeholder in the functions of the Land Titles Office and we can contribute to the evolution of the that office as experts in the field. The practitioners within our Association have broad range of experience in all matters related to the development of land and are globally recognized as leaders in our field.

So now I’m thinking out loud—what is my elevator speech when I walk into one of these meetings? I’m thinking it’s going to start something like this:

“Good morning Minister. Thanks for making the time to meet with us. My name is Dave Thomson and I am the serving as the president of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. With me today is Ms. Connie Peterson, our vice-president, and Mr. Brian Munday, our executive director.

Minister, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is a self-governing body delegated through the Land Surveyors Act, with the responsibility of regulating the profession of land surveying in Alberta. We ensure the people of Alberta that practitioners have the proper education and qualifications to provide land surveying...”
Our profession differs from many others in that our members’ purpose is to ensure that the work and the boundaries they determined and subsequently re-establish is done without partiality to either party on each side of a boundary.

Our Association is relatively small with a little over 400 licensed practitioners, however, we have a national and global reputation for being leaders in innovation in our profession. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is not an industry lobbying body, rather we exist for the protection of the public.

Our profession differs from many others in that our members’ purpose is to ensure that the work and the boundaries they determined and subsequently re-establish is done without partiality to either party on each side of a boundary. We are not advocates for our clients and are ethically bound to be unbiased in the undertaking of our duties. Our Association is over 100 years old and our profession has played a significant role in the development of this province. Our role today is no less important given the rapid expansion of settlement and the development of our province’s resources.

Today we would like to bring you up to date with what is happening in our Association and perhaps discuss issues of interest to your department in the area of land surveying...

Well, I think I’ll start there and see where this goes.

Have you worked on your elevator speech yet? You never know when you might be in an elevator or at a reception and someone asks you “So, what do you do?”

David Thomson, ALS
I realize I provided far more questions than answers during this forum, but that is what I like to do, ask questions.

I would like to begin this forum by saying how greatly flattered I was to be asked to run for the ALSA Council and how extremely honoured I am to have been voted into a position I hold in such high regard. I take my role as a councillor very seriously and I am attempting to represent the members the best I can. In my election speech, I promised to keep the membership informed of arising issues and to speak to each issue to the best of my ability. Here are a few issues I am concerned about and thought I could share my concerns with the membership:

- the impending retirement of the Director of Surveys;
- the ministerial order; and
- chainsaw safety.

A truly mixed bag, but when has a surveyor only had to worry about one issue at a time?

As most know, the Director of Surveys, Mike Michaud, intends to retire from the position in August 2012 and the government currently has no successor in place. The search for his replacement will begin in January 2012 with a job posting on the Alberta Government job board. The government will be advertising for a senior land surveyor to take over the current duties of the DOS as a government employee. If unsuccessful, the government will then attempt to fill the position on a contract basis. This will require a revision to the Surveys Act but it is unclear of the exact duties of the contract position. The movement of the DOS into a contract position will allow a land surveyor to conduct Director of Survey duties but not necessarily as their only job.

How would this work? What are the possible conflicts a contract DOS could encounter? What role can, or will, the ALSA play in the hiring of a new DOS? Will the ALSA’s relationship be harmed or helped by the hiring of a new DOS under contract to the government? I don’t have the answers to these questions but Council is asking them and we plan to be in contact with government during the hiring process and the possible move of the Director of Surveys to a contract position.

The new DOS will undoubtedly be involved with the Association regarding any ministerial order issues that currently exist. Although the Association’s core or essential funding comes from membership fees, we are fortunate to have an additional source of revenue to assist us in enhancing our profession and resolving alleged survey errors. An amended ministerial order took effect in November 2008. The ministerial order allows the Association to add a mark-up to the sale of survey posts that we can use in specified ways. The mark-up has two components. The first component is for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing professional practice, education, public awareness and quality, and the technical capability of land surveyors in Alberta. The second component is for funding investigations of boundary uncertainties or alleged errors in surveys.

The ministerial order was ...meant to go towards boundary uncertainties.

The recent presentation of a cheque for over $400,000 to the government for unspent Boundary Panel monies is proof the ministerial order needs to be reworked. Perhaps the $2.50 per post allocated to Boundary Panel is too much. Even though Panel activities have risen considerably this year, a significant surplus is still expected. The ministerial order was never meant to become taxation on our clients for the government’s general revenue; it was meant to go towards boundary uncertainties. A reworking of the order needs to be completed in order to accomplish this and if we need to rework part of the order, we may as well take a look at the entire thing.

Are there enough monies being allocated to education? The introduction of a Director of Education will enhance our professional development, but he/she will cost the Association significant dollars on a full-time basis. The ministerial order has an education component, but is it enough or should we ask for more funding for education? There is also a public awareness component to the ministerial order. Land surveyors have long struggled with public awareness. The survey fabric has been vanishing for years due to the lack of public awareness of its importance. Is there the possibility to use more funds from the ministerial order.
Hey, Land Surveyors!

let us look after this...

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to educate the public about the important work we do? What else could we be doing with this revenue that we aren’t already doing?

I have been talking about the ministerial order as if it is a funding model that just needs a little rearranging, but what if that is not the case? Council has experience budgeting the order using post sales, but post sales are not meeting Council’s expectations. Currently post sales are at 87% of budget but the last few months have been significantly weaker than expected. Given the implementation of the EAP and the apparent surplus in residential lots, a new calculation method regarding post sales may be needed. Perhaps we even need to re-evaluate how we collect our funding. Are post sales truly the best method?

All the land surveyors I talk to are very busy, yet registrations at Land Titles are down and post sales are not meeting expectations. Are we embarking on a new normal? In such changing times, will we be able to anticipate the need for survey posts correctly? Will the EAP have a serious affect on post sales? Are post sales our best funding model during this flatter economy? What are our options to solve our ministerial order problems?

For once I do have a few suggestions, though they may seem like just more questions to the membership. Can we re-arrange the current system, better estimate post sales and extract the appropriate funding for the programs we need? Should we stop collecting monies from post sales and develop a fee structure amongst the membership to fully fund the Association and Boundary Panel? Should we develop another ministerial order using the number of products we author (adding RPRs, wellsites and other unposted products into the equation)? The investigation into these options has not begun yet due to the current uncertainty with the government and the DOS office. Even so, I believe it is an issue we will soon need to deal with.

Finally, I would like to use this forum to respond to the concerns the membership is having with the Enform Chainsaw Fallers Competency Program. There has been a push for the ALSA to get involved and even to produce our own safety standards. As the Council Liaison to the Safety Committee, I can assure you the Safety Committee members take this safety issue very seriously and, although the Committee and Council agreed that a new standard developed by land surveyors would not become readily accepted by the oil & gas industry, we do agree that we want a voice at the table where these standards are created. Fortunately, our concerns have been heard and Jason Norcutt, associate member, has been asked to join the Enform Chainsaw Safety Committee as the ALSA representative. Jason will attend regular meetings and vote on all issues. The Safety Committee is working with Jason to make sure the message he takes back to the Enform Chainsaw Safety Committee is representative of our Association. The best way to express your concerns with the current program is to join the Safety Committee. Please do not call Jason directly; all questions or concerns should be addressed to the Safety Committee so that the proper message can be developed by the Committee.

Again, thank you for voting me to represent the membership on Council. I realize I provided far more questions than answers during this forum, but that is what I like to do, ask questions. If you have any you would like me to ask or answer, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Marty Robinson, ALS
promised in this issue of *ALS News* to write about some of the problems that occur when a land surveyor is not involved or a boundary problem occurs.

In the past two issues, I have written about what is land surveying and is land surveying a profession. Now I want to write about, who cares! Who cares about land surveying? Who cares about their boundaries?

Well, it’s not something we think about on a day-to-day basis. We take it for granted we think we know where our boundaries are. If there is a problem, we hope that everyone is reasonable and we can sort things out pretty quickly. But that’s not always the case. We might only think we know where our boundaries are. We might not be dealing with a reasonable person on the other side.

That is when we realize how important boundaries are and what a nightmare we might have to endure when there is a problem or a question about their location. It’s not something GPS can solve.

A Google News search reveals many current boundary disputes between nations. Recently, the *Deccan Chronicle* newspaper reported on a boundary dispute between India and Bangladesh while the *Times of India* focused on a border dispute between India and China. Meanwhile, Malaysia and Indonesia are trying to resolve a maritime boundary dispute.

*Focus News* (www.focus-fen.net/) reported on a border problem in Europe:

*In Europe in October, UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged Serbia and Kosovo to patch up their boundary dispute, saying blocked borders were unacceptable*, AFP reported.

“I am urging them to resolve all the pending issues, it is unacceptable that the borders are blocked,” said Ban in Bern, Switzerland.

“It is a many-year conflict, a political historic issue, but they have to discuss through dialogue.”

A trade row spilled over into violence late July when Pristina ordered its security forces to take over two border crossings to Serbia to enforce a newly imposed ban on Serbian goods.

The ethnic Albanian Kosovo government said the ban was being ignored by ethnic Serb members of Kosovo’s border police.

Serbs in northern Kosovo reacted angrily and an ethnic Albanian police officer was killed and four injured in ensuing clashes.

NATO troops stepped in when the Jardinje border post was set on fire and bulldozed, apparently by ethnic Serbs.

Local Serbs have for weeks been manning 16 barricades blocking the main access roads to the border gates.

NATO has set a Tuesday deadline for the local Serbs to remove the barricades, saying that troops would step in by Tuesday if the roadblocks were not cleared voluntarily.

Meanwhile, Serbia’s deputy prime minister Ivica Dacic in an interview published Sunday said the borders between the two countries need to be redrawn if the Belgrade-Pristina dispute is to be solved peacefully.

Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in 2008 but Serbia still considers the breakaway territory its southern province.

Historically, border disputes between nations have led to war. According to a 2010 article in the UK’s Independent newspaper (www.independent.co.uk):

Twenty years after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait, tensions between the two countries continue to run high over borders… Hoshyar Zebari, Iraq’s Foreign Minister, said the key dispute between the two sides was over the maritime border, drawn after the 1991 Gulf War, that meant Iraqi ships have to sail through Kuwaiti waters to reach home ports.

Meanwhile, in Africa, the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia became a major irritant and in November 1997 a border committee was set up to try to resolve that specific dispute. After federation and before independence the line of the border had been of minor importance because it was only a demarcation line between federated provinces and initially the two governments tacitly agreed that the border should remain as it had been immediately before independence. However, on independence, the border became an international frontier and the two governments could not agree on the line that the border should take along its entire length. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrean%E2%80%93Ethiopian_War)

Heck, even the world’s longest undefended border (that is, the Canada-US border) has had its share of disputes and disagreements over the years but that is likely nothing compared to a...
case where individual homeowners get involved, get angry, and then get fighting over their boundaries.

According to a September article in the Press Democrat newspaper in California (www.pressdemocrat.com), five families who own land off Pine Flat Road east of Healdsburg near the Geyers have sued the National Audubon Society over costs incurred in a long-simmering property dispute.

They claim the environmental group, which owns an adjacent 1,400-acre wildlife preserve, sought for years to claim ownership over 26 acres of their property based on inaccurate 19th century land records.

The dispute was settled last year in an agreement that upheld the families’ interpretation of the property boundary.

Now, the landowners say their legal and survey costs have amounted to more than $1 million, according to the lawsuit filed Thursday in Sonoma County Superior Court.

They are seeking unspecified damages, including costs resulting from the dispute.

In Winona, Minnesota, thirty-six feet has produced a war in Lot 80 in Elba Township, a dispute over property lines that has stretched over a decade, turned neighbors into enemies and may soon topple one man’s dream home.

One of the oddest cases I have ever come across comes from California. According to The Union (www.theunion.com), in 2003, one neighbor dispute in Nevada County allegedly nearly turned fatal.

Lake of the Pines resident William Weismann pleaded no contest to two charges of soliciting to commit murder after he was charged with trying to hire a hit man to kill his next-door neighbor. Authorities said a property line dispute between Weismann and Tom Wess Jr. led Weismann to hire a hitman.

Weismann was arrested after giving $5,000 to an undercover Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office deputy posing as a hit man. After pleading no contest, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

A survey disclosed that a boat dock being constructed was located partly on Weismann’s property. When Wess learned of the conflict, he suggested a swap for a piece of land near his driveway. The Weismanns declined the offer and instead offered to help the Wessses relocate the dock. The Wessses declined that offer. Soon after, the Weismanns’ car windows were broken and they found water in their gas tank.

In November this year, the BC Court of Appeal issued its Hegel v. British Columbia (Forests) decision.

Ronald Edward Hegel, the principal of 44970 B.C. Ltd., logged Crown land without permission. This happened because he performed his own survey of land the company acquired for timber harvesting, District Lot 2535. He located what he believed were the western and northern boundaries. He was found to be mistaken about the northern boundary which adjoined Crown land.

Mr. Hegel’s argument is that the original title documents determine his title and cannot be questioned. Hence, the survey evidence generated in this case cannot contradict what the title documents say belongs to him…. But the appellants’ title to DL 2535 is not in question. We know what they own, the problem in this case is where it is situated.

Being in Alberta, we can’t forget about boundary disputes that affect the oil & gas industry. Myanmar wants to resolve its maritime boundary dispute with Bangladesh so it can develop new gas resources. Potential oil & gas development in the Arctic Circle led to a resolution of a boundary dispute between Russia and Norway. Turkey has also revived a potential dispute with Greece about exactly where to define maritime boundaries and drill for oil and gas around Cyprus.

So what does all of this mean? Boundary disputes aren’t likely going to capture the public’s attention in the media the same way that murder, robbery and Justin Bieber does. But that doesn’t mean you won’t care if a boundary dispute erupts with a neighbouring landowner. You will care. And you will lose sleep over it. And the uncertainty of not being sure where the boundary is could cost you money. After all, when the stock market begins to tumble, what do they blame it on? Uncertainty.

The land surveyor’s initial role in land development is to establish where the boundary is. Once it has been established, the land surveyor’s role is then to re-establish where the first land surveyor established it. This creates certainty over boundaries regardless of what new technology may come along in the future that may be thought to be more accurate but might actually create uncertainty about a boundary.

Land surveyors may sometimes wish they received greater public recognition. However, they probably really don’t want that since greater recognition is likely the result of a boundary being called into question in the first place and land surveyors want to resolve problems or issues before the public even realizes they exist. After all, land surveyors don’t want to be responsible for a war between nations or drive someone to try to hire a hit man.

Brian Munday
Leave the Guess Work Out of It!

It’s been sometime since I put pen to paper with the view of saying something in ALS News. Well, there are a few things that I’ve been thinking about. First, the suggestion that after retirement you just fade away. That may be true in our profession, however that’s your choice—it’s much better to stay involved.

Eclipse College is a good example. The thing that doesn’t fade away are all the surveys/plans that you registered over the years. Yes, we do monument our opinions for all time and, as has happened in my case, we may get the opportunity to relive the good old days by looking for evidence on the same survey you did thirty or forty years ago. Our well thought out opinions regarding the interpretation of survey evidence and monuments placed years ago may well be challenged today.

We should welcome the process whereby our fellow surveyors question our results and take the time to ask your opinion as to ‘why, when and how’ the ‘should of’ is the other side of the coin. It’s just possible that the new land surveyor, with GPS receiver in hand, has actually looked a little harder and dug a little deeper. It makes for interesting shop talk and hopefully not a ‘judge’s order’ to solve an old miscue.

Second, following along the old survey trail—double posting. Sure sometimes we just didn’t find it, or we didn’t look hard enough or even in the right spot. But there can be no excuse for having found a monument near the corner you’re trying to re-establish but then deciding, in your wisdom, to place a new monument a few centimetres or metres away. So just what is the landowner suppose to do when he/ she finds two monuments—flip a coin? We are not serving the public nor doing anyone a favour by suggesting that the public or fellow surveyors should figure it out for themselves.

“Leave the guess work out of it.” You may in fact be right but it’s your duty to find out why? Before you jump to conclusions, do your homework—contact the other surveyor(s), contact the ALSA Director of Practice Review. Take the time to solve the puzzle—be part of the solution not part of an ongoing problem.

For your consideration,
S.M.(Syd) Loeppky, ALS (Hon. Life)

Professional Associations and Climate Change

We are writing to draw to your attention our new report, Professionals and Climate Change: How professional associations can get serious about global warming, which invites your Association to take new steps towards climate leadership. The report is the first to examine the responsibilities of professional associations in relation to climate change. It identifies examples of leadership in addressing the implications of climate change already taken by Canadian and international professional associations, and points the way to further action.

As you know, your members have a key role to play in helping their clients, and the public, understand and respond to the causes and impacts of climate change. But if professionals have a role to play in addressing climate change, then they also have professional responsibilities to do so well and competently, and with regard to the public interest.

Professional and Climate Change challenges professional associations to:
• Recognizing the urgency of climate change and call for government to act;
• Building governance structures to address climate change;
• Requiring members to receive education and training on the implications of climate change for their professional work;
• Giving direction to their members on best practices related to climate change;
• Recognizing their members’ professional obligations in relation to climate change; and
• Working with other professional associations to address climate change.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing our generation, and success requires that everyone—including professionals and their associations—play their part well and responsibly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and the Professionals and Climate Change report. Thank you also for the leadership that your Association, and your members, have taken, and will take, to address the causes and impacts of climate change.

Andrew Gage, Staff Lawyer
West Coast Environmental Law

Inca Trail Survey Control

I was recently looking through my personal photos the other day, and I realized that I forgot to send the ALSA a picture I took while I was on vacation with my girlfriend in Peru this past April.

I toured Bolivia and Peru for three weeks, during which I hiked the Inca Trail. Our trail guide, kept joking to Jessica and me about finding ‘Inca Gold’ along the trail, and that he would show us where to find it! So finally after hiking a few days, and getting closer to Machu Picchu, he showed us the ‘Inca Gold.’

He was quite a joking fellow, but I was quite surprised with what I saw. I tried to explain to him what I do for a living and all about Alberta Land Surveyors. After further discussion, I found out that survey control was run all along the Inca Trail to help with preservation of the trail. Once reaching Machu Picchu, I also learned that sections of the historical site were ‘roped off’ due to sections that were being 3D laser scanned.

All in all, it was an amazing time, and I thought I should share this photo with the members!

Kurt Popadynetz, ALSA Pupil
Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association

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#880 ROBINSON, Tyler R.

Tyler Robinson was born in Beaverlodge, Alberta in 1981. He graduated from Beaverlodge Regional High School in 1999, from SAIT in 2001 with a Petroleum Engineering Technology Diploma and from the University of Calgary in 2007 with a degree in Geomatics Engineering.

Articles were served under Kent Croucher, ALS of Focus Surveys Limited Partnership in Medicine Hat from December 2007 until he received his commission on September 28, 2011.

Tyler is experienced in oil & gas, municipal and construction surveys. He has also been a member of the ALSA Public Relations Committee since 2009.

Hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping and hockey. Tyler, his wife Vicki and two-year-old son Zachary make Medicine Hat their home.

#881 WADE, Jeffrey, R.P.

Jeff Wade was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1981. He graduated from J.L. Ilsley High School in 1999 and went on to receive a Geomatics Engineering Technologist Diploma and a Marine Geomatics Advanced Diploma from the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) in 2003.

Jeff served his articles under Pat Moloney, ALS from April 2007 to February 2008 and Jamie Hume, ALS from February 2008 until he received his commission on October 6, 2011.

In 2001-2002, Jeff worked as a crew chief for Sub-Arctic surveys in Yellowknife, NWT. In 2003, he was employed as a hydrographic surveyor for McNally Construction in Hamilton, Ontario. In 2004, he worked as a survey assistant for Waberski Darrow Survey Group in Fort St. John, BC and from November 2004 to 2008 he worked for Crape Geomatics of Calgary. He is currently employed with the Calgary office of Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership.

Other interests include photography, travelling and hockey. Jeff is married to Ann and they reside in Calgary.

#882 YORKE, Peter, L.

Peter Yorke was born in Haliburton, Ontario in 1972. He graduated from Chester Municipal High School in Nova Scotia in 1990, from the Centre of Geographic Sciences in 1994 as a survey technologist and from the University of New Brunswick in 1999 with a B.Sc. in Engineering.

Articles were served under Jeffrey Johnston, ALS from June 2007 until he received his commission on October 17, 2011.

Peter worked across Canada for Natural Resources Canada, has seven years of office and field experience in Southern California and over five years of office and field experience in municipal work in the Calgary area. He also serves on the ALSA Safety Committee. Peter is currently employed with Eclipse Geomatics & Engineering Ltd. of Calgary.

Hobbies include mountain biking, camping and photography. Peter is married to Lesley and they have three children: Matthew (8 years), Michael (6 years) and Anna (4 years).

#883 PARMAR, Davinder S.

Davinder Parmar was born in India in 1979 and graduated from K.V. No 1 High school in 1996. He immigrated to Canada in December 1998 and graduated from the University of Calgary in 2003 with a degree in Geomatics Engineering.

Articles were served under Scott Partridge, ALS from May 2007 until he received his commission on October 25, 2011. He was a member of the ALSA Safety Committee in 2008-2009 and also holds a P.Eng. designation.

Davinder’s surveying experience is primarily in the oil & gas sector with some experience in municipal. He has been employed with Focus Surveys Limited Partnership in Calgary since 2004.

Hobbies include snowboarding, golfing, tennis, badminton and exploring new places.

#884 LEE, Mackenzie A.

Mackenzie Lee was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1979. He graduated from Strathcona Tweedsmuir High School in 1999 and went on to receive a B.Sc. in Geomatics Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in 2005. Mackenzie is also a Canada Lands Surveyor.

Articles were served under Andy Lee, ALS from March to September 2006 and under Bill Mintz, ALS from September 2006 until he received his commission on November 1, 2011. Mackenzie is also a member of RICS and is an engineer-in-training with APEGGA. As well, he served on the ALSA Public Relations Committee from 2007 to 2010.
Mackenzie worked for one summer with Tronnes Surveys (1976) Ltd. and has been with his current employer, AMAR Surveys Ltd., for the bulk of his surveying career.

Other activities that Mackenzie enjoys are golf, horology and squash.

Mackenzie, his wife Tahani and ten-month old daughter, Maribella, reside in Calgary.

#885 CORCORAN, Joel A.
Joel Anthony Corcoran was born in New Brunswick in 1981. He graduated from Carelton North High School in 1999 and went on to receive a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in 2006.

Articles were served under John Van Berkel, ALS from November 28, 2006 until he received his commission on November 15, 2011. Joel is also an engineer-in-training with APEGGA.

Surveying experience includes urban development and construction surveys under his current employer, Stantec Geomatics Ltd.

Joel enjoys travelling, rock climbing and running. He and his wife Shelley reside in Edmonton.

Former Alberta Land Surveyor, Paul Sanson
White, Jr. Passes Away
Paul White passed peacefully, family at his side, on Saturday, October 8th. His wit, charm and keen intellect will be missed. Never short for words or opinion, he was a strong personality that would take challenges head-on. His entrepreneurial spirit brought involvement in many great ventures and adventures from the iron ore fields of Labrador to aerial surveys of the Arctic and gold and silver mining from the Yukon to Australia and Russia. He was a proud member of the Lions Club for over fifty years and supported many community programs. A jazz aficionado, his love of jazz music as a scholar historian, a musician and enthusiast was well known as was his support for the community of jazz musicians. A master wordsmith and orator of considerable skill, his storytelling and accounts of various adventures captivated many an ear. Now it is time for his story to be told. A celebration of Paul’s life will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon in the Spring or Summer of 2012, details to follow. Condolences may be forwarded to: teniouspaula@gmail.com

Paul White received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on June 19, 1963. He retired on January 20, 1969, became active again on February 16, 1984 until he became a former member on June 8, 1987. ☑

The foregoing is an excerpt from an obituary sent by Fred Welter, ALS (Ret.) to the ALSA for publication in ALS News. Look for a tribute in the next issue of ALS News.

Updates . . . .
Telephone Listing & Supplement to the Annual Register of Members 2011-2012
ACTIVE
Terry Beblow has provided new contact information: PO Box 52054, 311 - 16th Avenue Calgary T2E 8K9. Tel: 587-227-1669; E-mail: t.d.beblow2011@gmail.com.
Ralph Bode is now with Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd. in Sherwood Park. Cell: 780-690-8450; E-mail: ralph.bode@swg.ca.

Scholarship Recipients

ALBERTA LAND SURVEYORS’ ASSOCIATION
Paul Deering
University of Calgary
Mohamed Mouallem
University of New Brunswick
Eric Sankey
British Columbia Institute of Technology
Ryan Shular
Lethbridge College
Wei Dong
Xin Wei Zhou
Red River College

J.H. HOLLOWAY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Aaron Kinneard
Lethbridge College
Tanmaya Varma
University of Calgary

JOHN DEYHOLOS MEMORIAL AWARD
Luxi Li
University of Calgary

A.D. (DENIS) HOSFORD SCHOLARSHIP
Ivy To
University of Calgary
Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from the Council and Staff of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.
This year's SOB's annual reunion was held in and around the beautiful southern BC community of Cranbrook. It has been eleven years since Stan Nickel, Brian Brown and few other BCLSs and CLSs got together for a few days of enjoyable motorcycle riding along the world class biking roads of interior BC. Since then, the motley crew has grown to about three dozen riders from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. They are professional land surveyors or have a land surveying background, work either in private industry or the government and have a desire to be on the open road, riding their motorcycle.

Stan Nickel's vision for the 2011 SOB's ride/reunion was to support the David Thompson Brigade as they made their way from Invermere to Fort Steele, BC and then across the international boundary. So as usual, the SOBs organized themselves, booked rooms, e-mailed itineraries and began to converge on the rally point of Cranbrook for a few days of fellowship, socializing and riding.

Two big events took priority: the festivities and BBQ at Fort Steele in support of the David Thompson Brigade and the Brigade's crossing of the international boundary close to Roosville just north of Urica, Montana. Both events were spectacular and well-attended by local dignitaries, friends and well-wishers. At the international boundary crossing there was a David Thompson commemorative plaque placed on a local international boundary monument.


If you are interested in more information on the SOBs, just send Stan Nickel or myself an e-mail at stan_nickel@telus.net or rbeaumont@telus.net.

Standing from left to right: Ed Titanich, Roy Pominville, Jim Pominville, Dave Quirk, Stan Nickel, Jim Eaton, Brian Brown, George Eaton, Dai Yates, Rick Beaumont

Kneeling from left to right: Ian Emmerson, Jim Halliday, Mike Taylor, Al Bowler, Jim MacKenzie, George Fenning

Rick Beaumont, CLS, ALS(ret.)
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In 1955, American actor Robert Wagner starred in the movie, White Feather — the story of the peace mission from the US cavalry to the Cheyenne Indians in Wyoming during the 1870s. The mission is threatened when a civilian surveyor befriends the chief’s son and falls for the chief’s daughter.

Source: www.imdb.com

The chief’s son, Little Dog, was played by Jeffrey Hunter, who appeared in such other movies as The Searchers with John Wayne and King of Kings. He is, however, probably best known as Captain Christopher Pike, the captain of the USS Enterprise in the pilot episode of Star Trek.

He died in Los Angeles, California, in 1969 at age 42.

Source: www.imdb.com

If you ever end up in Los Angeles during a long layover, here are the top ten places you can visit near the airport before boarding your plane.

1) Manhattan Beach Pier
2) Venice Boardwalk
3) Abbot Kinney Boulevard
4) Marina Del Rey
5) Westchester Golf Course
6) Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
7) Ocean Express Trolley
8) Dockweiler State Beach
9) Third Street Promenade
10) Flight Path Learning Center

(Courtesy of www.discoverlosangeles.com)

The Flight Path Learning Center is located in the LAX Imperial Terminal. See scale models of various aircraft, photos depicting aviation history and the development of LAX, Howard Hughes memorabilia and a model of his famous Spruce Goose.

Nearby, automobiles reign supreme at the Automobile Driving Museum. With a rotating collection of 150+ classic, antique and vintage automobiles on display, museum visitors experience a wide range of vehicles from an 1886 Benz Motorwagon to the one-of-one 1999 350Z concept car that was donated by Nissan.

Source: www.discoverlosangeles.com

Nissan Motor Company Ltd is a multinational automaker headquartered in Japan. It formerly marketed vehicles under the “Datsun” brand name and is one of the largest car manufacturers in the world.

Masujiro Hashimoto founded The Kwaishinsha Motor Car Works in 1911. In 1914, the company produced its first car, called DAT.

The new car’s name was an acronym of the company’s investors’ family names. In 1931, DAT came out with a new smaller car, the first “Datson”, meaning “Son of DAT.” Later in 1933 after Nissan took control of DAT Motors, the last syllable of Datson was changed to “sun”, because “son” also means “loss” in Japanese, hence the name “Datsun.”

Source: www.wikipedia.org

The origins of acronyms are a little unclear, but their widespread use in daily life is a relatively modern phenomenon and the result of growing literacy in the 19th and 20th centuries. In more restricted circumstances, however, they have been in use for thousands of years (both the Roman and Hebrew cultures used them).

Source: http://acronyms.tilmaril.ie

An acronym (pronounced AK-ruh-nihm, from Greek akro- in the sense of extreme or tip and onyma or name) is an abbreviation of several words in such a way that the abbreviation itself forms a pronounceable word. The word may already exist or it can be a new word. Webster’s cites snafu and radar, two terms of World War Two vintage, as examples of acronyms that were created.

Source: http://searchcio-midmarket.techtarget.com/definition/acronym

Canadian Military Personnel Killed
First World War: 66,665
Second World War: 46,998
Korea: 516
Peacekeeping: 121
Afghanistan: 154

A number of Canadian artists have recorded songs in recent years expressing their thanks to the soldiers who have served their country. They include: The Red & White by Julian Austin November 11 by the Cruzeros A Pittance of Time by Terry Kelly Highway of Heroes by Terry Sumson Keep Your Head Down You’re in Kandahar by Matt Minglewood

Kandahar was founded in 330 BC by Alexander the Great, near the site of the ancient city of Mundigak (established around 3000 BC). Previously, the city was the provincial capital of Arachosia and was ruled by the Achaemenid Empire. The main inhabitants of Arachosia were the Pactyans, an ancient Iranian tribe, who may be among the ancestors of today’s Pashtuns. Kandahar was named Alexandria, a popular name given to many cities that Alexander found during his conquests.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.), King of Macedonia, was born in late July 356 BC in Pella, Macedonia—one of the greatest military geniuses in history. He conquered much of what was then the civilized world, driven by his divine
ambition of the world conquest and the creation of a universal world monarchy.

Alexander inherited from his father King Philip the best military formation of the time, the Macedonian Phalanx, armed with sarisises - the fearful five and half metre long lances. He was the first great conqueror who reached Greece, Egypt, Asia Minor, and Asia up to western India.

Source: http://1stmuse.com

The duties of the surveyor in Ancient Egypt covered a number of aspects, including boundary definition and in building construction. The need for surveying was a consequence of the civilized society in Ancient Egypt. The annual flooding of the Nile, something that impacted significantly on the life of the Egyptians, often resulted in a change of the shape of the land on the banks of the river, or the disappearance of the stones marking the boundaries. A surveyor was required to re-measure the land and to replace the marks as required, so that any disputes between neighbours could be resolved. Surveyors also provided information for construction work. Of particular interest are the cardinally orientated buildings, namely the temples and the pyramids (tombs), that required a great deal of careful measurement to obtain the orientation required. The role of the surveyor was an important one, as shown by the evidence of the work of the surveyors in the form of pictures on tomb walls. The position of the surveyor in society, a scribe, shows they were one of the upper classes in Egyptian society and well educated.


Given the importance of the surveyor in Ancient Egypt, they probably didn’t endanger their mission by falling for the pharaoh’s daughter or befriending the pharaoh’s son like Robert Wagner did in White Feather.

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ONE YEAR LATER

Professional Surveyors Canada just celebrated its first year of operation since the wind-down of CCLS. Professional Surveyors Canada is a result of many strategic planning sessions. Many people from across the country have put countless hours into the development and implementation of Professional Surveyors Canada. Alberta continues to play a significant role in the development of Professional Surveyors Canada.

What is Professional Surveyors Canada doing?

ADVOCACY
Professional Surveyors Canada has struck a committee which is engaged in a couple of pressing issues that are confronting land surveyors across Canada. The new 4G LightSquared technology threatens the use of our GPS. Professional Surveyors Canada has written a position paper, joined the Save our GPS Coalition, which represents GPS users across North America, and has talked with former federal Industry Minister Tony Clement about this issue. Minister Clement has since passed it along to current Industry Minister Christian Paradis. As a result of the collaborative effort, congress has not approved LightSquared’s implementation.

Professional Surveyors Canada is also engaged in investigating the relationship between municipalities and land surveyors and developing a “best practice” scenario, which can be a process to which all municipalities can aspire.

Professional Surveyors Canada’s Advocacy Committee is committed to being proactive on issues that affect land surveyors in Canada. We will continue to utilize our contacts with industry and government to ensure all decision-makers have all the information on key issues.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Professional Surveyors Canada has developed a project management seminar which is being delivered across Canada. This seminar will be in Edmonton and Calgary. The cost will be substantially lower for members.

Professional Surveyors Canada will be developing future seminars to be delivered nationally. It is hoped that the Professional Surveyors Canada professional development program will create additional seminars, which will complement the seminars developed by the ALSA Professional Development Committee, thereby helping it achieve its mandate. It will also help smaller organizations who don’t have the resources to deliver many seminars.

JOB BANK
Professional Surveyors Canada has established a job bank, where employers can advertise positions and individuals can post their resumes on the Professional Surveyors Canada website. Members can post for free and there is a charge of $200 for non-members. Anyone can view the listings. Any job position can be advertised with Professional Surveyors Canada instead of being limited to professional positions like the ALSA Friday mail out.

There is a special offer in place for the job bank. Non-members are allowed to post for free until December 31, 2011.

EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE
Equipment for sale can be posted on the Professional Surveyors Canada website. This is free for members and there is a $200 charge for non-members. Anyone can view the listings. There is a special offer in place for the equipment exchange. Non-members are allowed to post for free until December 31, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COMMITTEE (PLIC)
This committee remains active from CCLS days and will continue to provide the best liability insurance coverage at the best rates to land surveyors across Canada.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LIAISON COMMITTEE (PALC)
Professional Surveyors Canada has established this committee to deal with issues that affect the land surveyors’ associations across Canada. Topics include:

• moving forward under the AIT
• Chapter 7 Labour Mobility and the MRA for Canadian Surveyors;
• assessment of internationally educated professionals;
• knowledge and skill requirements and assessment for entry into the profession.

We rely heavily on the support of the licencing bodies to assist in bringing forth the myriad of issues facing our profession.

PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS CANADA MEMBERSHIP
A major challenge for Professional Surveyors Canada has been in recruiting members, with only 280 members country-wide. There are only 60 individual members and two corporate members from Alberta. Professional Surveyors Canada will need many more members in order to carry out its mandate of serving its members effectively.

Why should you be a member?

Professional Surveyors Canada will continue to develop and offer services to ALSA members and corporations in areas that the ALSA does not, such as the job bank and equipment exchange. In today’s changing economic landscape, Professional Surveyors Canada will advocate for land surveyors on the national stage. It will also help give credibility and strength behind local and provincial issues. Professional Surveyors Canada will also represent Canada’s land surveyors on North American and international issues.

Professional Surveyors Canada will provide services such as professional development and career awareness, which helps eliminate redundancy between the provincial associations. It will also coordinate efforts to assist those smaller associations that don’t have the financial resources.

These reasons alone, are well worth the $150 yearly membership. I believe that all land surveyors have a vested interest in supporting the industry that has provided us our livelihood, in order to help it not only survive, but achieve success in the future. As Alberta Land Surveyors, let’s continue to show our national leadership.

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Bob Wallace, ALS
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The opinions expressed in this piece are solely those of the author and in no way necessarily reflect those of the Practice Review Board.

As professional land surveyors, we should be working to solve problems. It seems that placing a second monument at a corner could put us on the road to creating them.

I recently received two letters from long-time members of our Association regarding an ongoing issue—double monumentation. The first letter, from Mr. Syd Loeppky, is included in this issue of ALS News. The second letter is from an ALS who would prefer to remain anonymous. Both of these letters highlight some of the issues related to unintentionally or intentionally placing a second monument at a corner and reinforce that double monumentation is an issue that we must continue to address.

As pointed out by Mr. Loeppky, a corner might be unintentionally monumented twice if a search is not thorough enough or is conducted in the wrong location. This can happen but instances can be reduced by mentoring and training field staff on how to conduct a proper search and ensuring that the extent of search is documented in the field notes and reviewed by the ALS responsible for the work. Implementing standard field procedures that include taking a quick dig or a sweep of the area with the post locator before placing a new monument at a re-established location could also help reduce this type of double monumentation.

The practice of intentionally placing a second monument at a corner is causing confusion for the public and other ALSs. Indeed, if this practice continues, it may cause the public to doubt our abilities and professionalism. This is exactly what is happening in Alabama where corners with multiple monuments are causing “a public relations disaster” and are disrupting the lives of landowners while disputes over land make their way through the courts (Lucas, 2011). The confusion amongst ALSs is evident by the 13 active Boundary Panel cases involving double monumentation (50% of the total number of cases). I have a stack of 17 plans on my desk that show 47 locations marked by two monuments. Of these 47 locations, 37 were intentionally monumented a second time (one post is found and a second placed on the newer plan). Some of the newer monuments were placed as close as 0.3 metres to the older one but most are within a few metres. I am confident that we can find a resolution for many of the issues at these corners through the Boundary Panel process but I am very concerned with many of them because, as I found out during my preliminary investigation, in several instances the ALS who placed the second monument did not contact the ALS who placed the first monument. Additionally, at several of these corners, the ALS was contacted to discuss the placement of their monument but did not respond to repeated inquiries from another ALS, resulting in the corner being marked with a second monument.

In my opinion, not contacting another ALS before placing a second monument and not responding to inquiries from another professional contravenes Part C, Section 5.5, of the Manual of Standard Practice and violates the integrity and competence section of the Code of Ethics. If you believe that another ALS has made an error or overlooked evidence, contact them to discuss the circumstances surrounding the monument that they placed. When you or your field crews locate what you believe to be traces of an older monument that seems to have been overlooked by another ALS, do not destroy, disturb, or mutilate this evidence. Contact the other ALS and provide them the opportunity to visit the site to review and evaluate the evidence that you consider to be the best available evidence. If you are questioned by another ALS about a monument that you placed, it is your professional responsibility to review and address the situation with the other ALS. These discussions may not solve the boundary uncertainty but you should at least try to understand the other’s perspective and discuss all of the alternatives that are available to resolve the issue (i.e. Boundary Panel).

As professional land surveyors, we should be working to solve problems but it seems that placing a second monument at a corner could put us on the road to creating them. If you find what you think is a problem with a monument placed by another ALS, notify them, discuss the circumstances with them, and ensure that you fully understand the circumstances surrounding the placement of their monument. This will enable both of you to discuss the options available to best resolve the situation before it escalates into a larger issue for everyone.

Scott Westlund, MEnv., P.Eng., ALS
Director of Practice Review and Boundary Panel Manager

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The Practice Review Board (PRB) is in the second year of the Continuing Competency Review Program. Each Board appointee has had to become accustomed to the new program and develop the skills required to facilitate the review of fellow practitioners and provide direction, if required. The reviews have assisted me with providing direction and guidance to my technical staff.

Continuing from the PRB articles of the June and September 2011 issues of ALS News, I feel some topics need to be re-emphasized and new ones considered.

**CALIBRATION:** First is the topic of equipment calibration. The constant upgrading of technologies we deal with in the survey profession could be one reason for the lack of compliance with equipment calibration. The Surveys Act, Section 11(2) states, “A surveyor shall verify, (a) all tapes used by the surveyor by comparison with a subsidiary standard of a type approved for that purpose by the Director or by a person authorized in writing by the Director, and (b) all electronic linear measuring devices used by the surveyor by comparison with calibration baselines established by the Minister for that purpose.”

The Director of Surveys, Guidelines for Electronic Distance Measurement Calibration Baseline Surveys in Alberta addresses three conditions to perform EDM calibration:

1. As a requirement for an Alberta Survey Control project for the establishment and/or maintenance of Alberta Survey Control Markers (ASCMs).
2. Statutory requirement under Part 1, Section 11(2)(b) of the Surveys Act which requires an Alberta Land Surveyor to verify all electronic linear measuring devices used by him by comparison with calibration baselines established by the Minister for that purpose.
3. Check the quality of the EDM in situations where it has been damaged during regular surveying operations or when the EDM is old and may no longer be operating within the manufacturer’s specifications.

The Manual of Standard of Practice (MSP), Part D, Section 11, Geometrical Deformation Survey Guidelines states that “geometrical deformation surveys are performed to detect and measure movements, and can be used to complement more traditional deformation measurements usually performed by structural and geotechnical engineers. Surveyors are advised to consider the following guidelines when undertaking a geometrical deformation survey...

11.4 Equipment

- Calibration – techniques, frequency, analysis, and implementation;
- Adjustment.”

These documents relate only to EDMs (this would also include total stations). In the case of practitioners using GNSS equipment, it would be prudent to provide written procedures for technical staff for equipment calibration. A written procedure would be proof of a practitioner’s due diligence if an equipment calibration issue is found during the work within the practice. There appears to be a lack of guidance both in the Manual of Standard Practice and in the Surveys Act as it pertains to this issue.

**FIELD NOTES:** The second topic is field notes. Why issues regarding field notes are coming before the PRB may also be related to the upgrading of technology with GPS and GNSS equipment. During field work, digital recording of observations is quite acceptable and additional information and data is recorded in a field book. In his June 2011 ALS News article, Mr. Ettinger highlighted, quite concisely, the importance of clear field notes. The PRB has noted during comprehensive reviews that important information is missing from field notes. Practitioners must provide guidance to technical staff to include the following in field notes:

- location of fence lines (occupation) relative to monuments;
- post markings;
- permit numbers on the post;
- age of the monument;
- written notes on conversations with consultants, land owners, clients;
- weather conditions;
- dates, crew names;
- page numbers.

An easy list for technical staff could be to answer the following when recording field notes:

- Where are we? (location)
- When? (date)
- Who? (crew name, client)
- What are we doing? (purpose)
- How? (equipment used)

It is important to stress to all technical staff that the measurements are only part of what is required. There is no proof of field work completed if it is not recorded.

**EVIDENCE QUESTIONS:** The third topic can be introduced in the form of questions. When should a practitioner accept a re-establishment of a lost monument? Does it make a difference if the monument or location was a Part 2 monument? The PRB is finding a lack of clarity on what re-established evidence can be accepted by the surveyor in the course of their work. In some instances, found evidence is not being accepted even though it met the survey standards at the time of re-establishment.

When one reviews the Manual of Standard Practice, it is not explicit on what should be the guiding principles for the land surveyor in answering the two questions. However, Part C of the MSP does clearly state accuracy guidelines for surveys that involve both old and new survey work to assist the surveyor in finding acceptable closures.

The Surveys Act under Section 44, Re-establishment of Part 2 Survey Monument, does provide the surveyor with guidelines to assist in re-establishing the lost monument. Once the survey monument has been re-established, according to this section of the Act, it should be the monument of record for that corner. This is assuming that the retracement survey finds that the re-established monument falls within the level of accuracy for surveys for the time. Surveyors must make their own decisions based on the found evidence and guidelines of the Surveys Act.

The intent of the Guardpost articles is to assist the members in improving and maintaining professional competency. The last few of articles have identified a number of items that members should consider to ensure quality control. It is important for surveyors to recognize that education and training is a constant with our changing technology.

Andrew Miles, ALS
Mentorship…

If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.

Isaac Newton

You may be familiar with this quote and understand that Newton was referring to the idea that we can leverage past accomplishments and experience of people before us to achieve more in the future.

Alan Cooper has reflected on this within his industry and stated:

It has been said that the great scientific disciplines are examples of giants standing on the shoulders of other giants. It has also been said that the software industry is an example of midgets standing on the toes of other midgets.

Which of these reflects your organization?

A mentor is an individual (usually older, however always more experienced) who takes the time to instruct and guide an individual (protégé) along his/her life path. They are role models offering support, feedback and advice to nurture personal and professional growth.

Like many other professions, one has the opportunity to provide mentorship or be mentored within the surveying profession. The most easily recognized mentorship is the signing of articles between a principal and pupil. This process assists the pupil with their technical skills in the profession and offers a level of exposure or visibility to the pupil.

Beyond the obvious purpose of fulfilling regulations, there are many other elements in business that benefit from the involvement of a mentor. In today’s quick changing world the mentorship relationship may make the difference between success and struggle. A mentor is a source of information, offering no judgment; a confidential sounding board to turn to in times of crisis, providing wisdom and feedback; and someone to explain unwritten rules of business and potential outcomes to promote success.

The surveying profession is experiencing a changing of the guard. The younger generation is assuming responsibility from the retiring generation. Are there items that are being lost in the transition? Many articling students have a different educational background than those of thirty years ago and the technology today has changed significantly over the same span. It is possible that there could be an opportunity for the mentor to be younger than the protégé when it comes to explaining some of the newer technology and processes.

The rewards of the mentoring relationship are as many and as varied as the people who participate. These rewards are not only experienced by the protégé but also by the mentors. The protégés gain confidence in their own abilities through an enabling relationship with their trusted advisor. The mentors gain validation of their knowledge and accomplishments, pride with the progress of the protégé, the opportunity to give back and learn through a new perspective, often with a refreshing energy from the protégé.

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

University of Calgary—John Deyholos Memorial Scholarship
$2,500 annual scholarship to a continuing undergraduate student in the Department of Geomatics Engineering

University of Calgary Scholarship
$2,500 annual scholarship to a fourth year student in Geomatics Engineering

University of Calgary—Lethbridge College, NAIT and SAIT Transfer
$1,250 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
$1,000 annual scholarship to a Lethbridge College student entering their second year of the Geomatics Engineering Technology program.

NAIT and SAIT Academic Achievement - $1,000
$1,000 annual scholarship to a NAIT student entering their second year.

ALSA Members Scholarship - $1,000 award upon graduation to an active member of the ALSA enrolling in a program leading to the award of a related degree

Donations can be made by sending a cheque to the J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation
1000, 10020 - 101A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2

Brian Ball, CLS

On behalf of the Professional Development Committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

December 2011 ALS News

The most easily recognized mentorship is the signing of articles between a principal and pupil.
Currently Council and the Public Relations Committee are looking at what image we, as an Association, want to portray to the public. We are also looking at ways to promote land surveying as a career and as a means to growing a strong and vibrant profession.

The question of how do we promote land surveying as a career got me wondering how many children go around saying “I’m going to be a land surveyor when I grow up.” Personally, I do not remember anyone saying that where I grew up and I never would have guessed that today I would be pursuing land surveying as a career. I was first introduced to surveying when I enrolled in a CADD program at a tech school. The first year of classes happened to be the same as the geomatics course offered and the two courses were run as one for the first year of school. I’d like to say that I switched over to geomatics after my first year of the drafting course and the rest is history but that’s not the case. I did enjoy the surveying classes but it wasn’t until I was drafting for a survey company that I realized that land surveying is what I should be pursuing as a career.

Since I happened to stumble across surveying as a career, I sent out a number of e-mails to land surveyors and articling pupils to find out how they chose the profession. Are the career fairs at NAIT, SAIT and other institutions bringing in the articling pupils? Are the BBQs and career fairs at universities making people choose land surveying as their career? Do the brochures sent to high schools get students interested in surveying? Does word of mouth from friends and family help with a career choice or are people just coming across surveying in their schooling and deciding that it’s their cup of tea? How do people come across land surveying and what is the best way to promote the profession?

From the responses I received, there were a couple answers of “my father was a land surveyor.” Simple—these are the few who may have gone around saying, “I’m going to be a land surveyor when I grow up!” Some others had a relative or two in a survey-related field and, after talking with them, they decided to give surveying a shot. A few people replied that they received a NAIT brochure or calendar and that geomatics as a career option looked interesting. Survey camp in university was brought up a few times and a couple other people were introduced to surveying with summer jobs and opportunities for work experience in high school. What I did find was that the majority of people that responded never thought of surveying when they were choosing a career. They happened to come across it by chance; while taking a course that incorporated surveying in some way.

The reality is that few people appreciate geomatics as a career choice.

From what I have found, I do believe the BBQs, career fairs and brochures have made some impact on recruiting but I also believe that word of mouth and people just stumbling across the profession have been just as efficient in helping people choose land surveying as a career. The reality is that few people appreciate geomatics as a career choice. The results of my little survey show, however, that once a person learns a little about it and understands why land surveyors are needed, land surveying as a career option is appealing. Getting the message out to the general public about who we are and what we do is a long term project but
Until we are able to more effectively engage the general public in land surveying, one obvious way of promoting the profession is looking towards office staff...and field staff...who enjoy surveying and have the drive and ambition to pursue land surveying as a career.

Over time will generate more interest in the profession.

Until we are able to more effectively engage the general public in land surveying, one obvious way of promoting the profession is looking towards office staff (drafters and plan checkers) and field staff (party chiefs and survey assistants) who enjoy surveying and have the drive and ambition to pursue land surveying as a career. I do believe that there are people out there who would enjoy the profession but may not be aware that it is something that they would be able to pursue. As members of the Association, we can encourage them to take steps towards becoming land surveyors and provide them with options to expand their education, whether it be going to university or a technical institution and then challenging the CBEPS exams. We can provide these individuals with the support and backing they need to succeed in their journey to land surveying as a career. By no means will this be a quick and easy way of growing the profession but it may be the most efficient considering these people already know about and enjoy some aspects of the career.

Continuing to promote the profession and why land surveyors are needed by the public is important and will help showcase land surveying as a career choice. The brochures sent to high schools, career fairs and BBQs at technical institutions and universities have proven to help raise interest in the profession as well. It does seem, though, that our greatest resource in helping expand the profession—the office staff and field staff currently working—may be overlooked as an option to help grow land surveying into a strong and vibrant profession.

Amy Badinski, Articling Pupil

Join us for the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Annual General Meeting & Convention April 19-21, 2012 Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

REGISTER EARLY
ALS News December 2011 · 35

ALS Professional Exams - Fall Sitting

Practical Surveying
The recent Practical Surveying exam was attempted by fifteen candidates. There were only two passing grades which is a great disappointment as nearly all of the questions had been used in the past few years. It would seem that the greatest obstacle for many candidates was the question of surveying a wellsite in unsurveyed territory. Very few candidates were able to provide a correct response for the evidence requirements for this scenario. From that point, most were able to correctly identify the NE 33 as an important element in determining the theoretic section boundaries, but many struggled to provide an adequate explanation of what to do after that point. “You go along the correct distance to the section corner.” While in the most abstract sense this could be correct, it is a more than a little vague about the orientation or approximate distance. The distance in chains was accepted as an accurate distance.

The highest marks were attained for the question about natural boundaries. Candidates were successful in identifying the current landowners of parcels given that the change of the river had been a natural and slow process.

There seemed to be a general lack of understanding about road closures and about condo surveys so these topic areas are likely to show up on future exams to determine if adequate study time and effort are being allotted to those subjects.

The Condominium Act portion was the weakest overall and questions requiring lists as answers caused the most problems. Candidates appeared to substitute other lists in for their answers. Candidates should do more than just memorize the lists of requirements, but also learn what those requirements are for and why.

Other weak sections included the Land Titles Act and the Surveys Act. The Land Titles Act required more general improvement while the Surveys Act had a few questions in particular which were not well done. A question regarding strata spaces, a question regarding road allowances on correction lines, and a question regarding re-establishment versus resurvey all caused problems for the candidates.

Questions about the Alberta township system, other than the correction line portion, had the best results on the exam but were not worth enough marks to make a large difference.

Candidates are encouraged to work through previous exams in studying, and to read through all the relevant legislation. Understanding where each portion of the acts and regulations are applied would be beneficial and will assist candidates in correctly answering questions.

The Surveying Profession
The fall sitting of the Surveying Profession exam resulted in six passes and seven missed attempts. The ALSA under President Dave Thomson, is dealing with a large number of issues affecting the operations of the Association and each year, these prove to be good exam questions.

The information can be found in the following places:
- Boundaries newsletter;
- Council Report;
- ALSA website;
- ALS News;
- AGM and regional meetings.

The material covered on the exam is pertinent to the Association and the students are expected to stay abreast of the issues by reading the materials and understanding the topics in order to formulate and discuss their opinions.

The questions for the exam consisted of the following:
1. CCR Program—Students were required to answer questions about the program. There is a large amount of information pertaining to this topic available.
   The average mark was 5.4 out of 9.
2. GNSS—Questions were asked about the students’ level of knowledge regarding a company called LightSquared and their proposed ground and satellite-based system for telecommunications.
   The average mark was 5.6 out of 9.

Q1 Real Property Report 6.2/10
Q2 W/S in Unsurveyed Territory 3.0/10
Q3 Condominium 4.9/10
Q4 R/W in Surveyed Territory 5.7/10
Q5 Natural Boundary 9.1/10
Q6 Subdivision 6.9/10
Q7 ASCM Identification Cards 5.4/10
Q8 Road Closure 4.5/10
Q9 Plan Requirements 6.7/10
Q10 Re-establishment scenarios 6.4/10

The average mark was 5.6 out of 9.

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Q10 Re-establishment scenarios 6.4/10

The average mark was 5.6 out of 9.
The bond between a man and his profession is similar to that which ties him to his country; it is just as complex, often ambivalent, and in general it is understood completely only when it is broken.

Primo Levi

McElhanney

Legal Survey Division Manager
Prince George, BC

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I n 2006-2007, many of us in the oil and gas industry embarked on the adventure of having our field crews certified to the newly implemented standard for faller training. Challenges were encountered, including the lack of available quality service trainers (QSTs), minimal field crew down time, locating suitable trees for training and evaluations, and the cost of the process. However, most of those who sought certification were successful in becoming oil & gas certified fallers (OGCFs). Some were so successful that they qualified to become oil & gas faller tutors and a select few demonstrated an exceptional skill level which provided them the opportunity to become Enform QSTs.

Fast-forward five years and we find ourselves restarting the journey, seeking certification for our soon-to-expire certified fallers or attempting to train new fallers to fill the void left by the recent recession and resulting downturn within the survey industry. For many of us, the recent economic climate, along with pressure from clients and landowners to cut fewer trees, has reduced chainsaw hours for field crews leading to difficulty maintaining skill level and following Enform’s model of continued improvement.

Discussions at the Enform Chainsaw Committee over the past six months have brought some changes to the oil and gas faller standard that many may not be aware of:

- Faller tutors who wish to maintain tutor status into their next certification period are required to complete a full ten-tree evaluation. This is in place as opposed to recertifying by completing three successful quality assurance competency checks within two years of the individual’s OGCF certification.
- Fallers can submit quality assurance competency checks to Enform up to six months after their expiry date to be used towards automatic recertification until April 1, 2012. After this date, fallers’ competency checks must be submitted while the faller has a valid certificate.

For the upcoming winter season, fallers with expired tickets can work under the direction of a certified faller as Level I bucket/slashers until they are recertified or April 1, 2012, whichever comes first. After this time, fallers must be recertified prior to their certification running out. If they do not do so, they will have to complete the Level I course or full re-certification prior to being allowed to operate a chainsaw on an oil & gas work site.

The Chainsaw Committee is made up of QSTs, oil & gas safety association members and other industry representatives who remain dedicated to maintaining the highest standard of safety in tree-felling for the oil and gas industry. The Alberta land surveying industry now holds an official voting seat on the committee with myself as the representative and we, together, forge ahead on a number of initiatives generated by industry and QST conference feedback.

One of the largest concerns regarding the OGCF standard is the associated costs with the certification and ongoing maintenance of fallers. Below is a breakdown of competency, actual course costs and projected expenses that one can anticipate when moving through the various levels of recertification.

Level I—Limbing/bucking Certification (3 year expiry): allows an individual to limb and buck trees and slash standing timber up to six inches in size, individuals are NOT instructed on falling.
- Course costs—$650 and all equipment and PPE is provided by the QST;
- Employee Wages—three days wages for the course and any associated days of travel;
- Sustenance—hotel and meal costs if the course is not offered locally;
- QST travel costs—depending on the availability of local courses, some companies are required to send QSTs to a location to conduct the course (approximately $0.75 - $1.25 per km). Some additional charges may apply if the QST is required to utilize an ATV.

Level II—Faller Training: allows individuals to fall trees only in the presence of an OGCF Tutor, individuals can also function as a Level I limber/bucker.
- Course costs—$2,500 and individuals are required to provide their own chainsaw with CSA approved full wrap handle, faller kit (hand axe, wedges, tools, personal first aid kit and etc.);
- Employee wages—five days wages and any associated travel days. More often than not, the course is held in remote areas;
- Sustenance—hotel costs if the course is not local and associated meals costs during travel;
- QST travel costs—depending on the availability of local courses, some companies are required to send QSTs to a location to conduct the course (approximately $0.75 - $1.25 per km). Some additional charges may apply if the QST is required to utilize an ATV;

Level III—Oil & Gas Faller Certification (5 year expiry): successful completion of the written and practical examination (evaluation) allows an individual to fall any trees according to the standard as long as the situation allows for it to be done safely.
- Enform application fee—$850 for the recertification process; or
- Enform challenge application fee—$1,350 for an individual that has a minimum of 120 days of chainsaw industry experience that is documented, reviewed and confirmed by the Enform chainsaw program administrator;
- Employee wages—commonly one day, however, the lack of locally available trees could lead to an additional half or full day of travel;
- Sustenance—hotel costs if the course is not local and associated meals during travel;
- QST travel costs—depending on the availability of local courses, some companies are required to send QSTs to a location to conduct the course (approximately $0.75 - $1.25 per km). Some additional charges may apply if the QST is required to utilize an ATV.
None of us as...ever want to be in a situation where we are faced with having to tell someone that they will never see their loved one again...

Level IV—Oil & Gas Certified Faller Tutor: individual has successfully passed the Level III evaluation with a score 85% or greater and has completed the one day tutor certification course.

• All costs associated with attaining Level III OGCF;
• Course costs—$105;
• Employee wages—one day with possible travel to an Enform office location.

Ongoing Costs Associated with maintaining a Faller for the entire five year period:

• Quality assurance checks (QAs) are to be completed on all OGCFs regularly and can be completed by an survey company representative that is a certified faller or QSTs can be utilized to complete the checks. There are many different ways to work your way through the QA checks and each survey company has to pick the method that works best for their circumstances.

Recertification Options (2):

• Have three successful QA checks by a QST in the last two years of the OGCF expiry period (all must be at least 30 days apart) and the individual is recertified as a OGCF for another five year time period. Anyone who is an OGCF tutor and wishes to carry the tutor status forward is required to complete the full ten-tree faller evaluation as describe below:

  Recertification evaluation—$850 with 80 days of falling experience, confirmed by log book, over the past two years or $1,350 as a OGCF challenge if they have NOT completed and recorded the 80 days of experience.

I think that most can agree that there is no doubt that the OGCF standard makes for safer tree-falling and lessens the likelihood of injury, or worse, for all of our employees. None of us as supervisors, safety professionals or organizational leaders, ever want to be in a situation where we are faced with having to tell someone that they will never see their loved one again and the OGCF standard is just one tool to prevent such an occasion.

Organizations within the survey industry have a variety of opinions regarding the OGCF standard which they have either embraced or reluctantly implemented. Enform and the oil & gas industry have recognized the land surveying industry as an important stakeholder in the ongoing maintenance of the OGCF standard. I look forward to working with the ALSA Safety Committee, the Enform Chainsaw Committee, and any associated subcommittees to provide input from our industry while maintaining a high regard for safety. The members of the ALSA Safety Committee welcome any chainsaw related comments, questions, and concerns that you would like to bring forward for discussion as a part of the Enform Chainsaw Committee.

Jason Norcutt, CRSP

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The Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping Technologies (ASSMT) was incorporated in 1970 by a group of young technologists who wanted to form a group to promote the betterment of technologists and the advancing technologies. Many of those founding technologists have since moved on and have become Alberta Land Surveyors.

ASSMT is an independent society with a council and its membership deciding its policies and bylaws. The Society executive holds regular council meetings and an annual general meeting is held by the end of May each year.

We are a nationally-recognized association, which provides accreditation for qualified individuals involved in surveying, mapping and related geomatics occupations.

Our mission statement is as follows: “To promote the knowledge, skill and proficiency of technicians and technologists involved in the field of surveying and mapping.”

Our members have typically graduated from a Society-recognized post-secondary technical institute or college program and have been granted certification by the Society. ASSMT promotes continuing education, member recognition and improvement of the standard and standing of survey and mapping technicians and technologists throughout the industry.

Members are certified at several levels starting at technician, senior technician, technologist, then finally as a senior technologist. Each level is based on varying degrees of education and work experience. Certification is completed under one of the following categories: cadastral survey, civil survey, drafting/GIS and photogrammetry/remote sensing.

Upon certification, members are encouraged and entitled to use the letters CST (Certified Survey Technician/Technician) after their name. New members receive a certificate suitable for framing and a wallet card, which is updated annually.

There are also several types of membership:
- Associate memberships are available to any interested persons in surveying or mapping industry.
- Student memberships are offered to registered students at accredited technical schools (NAIT, SAIT, Lethbridge College) or university programs who are training for a career within the geomatics industry.
- Technician in training memberships are available to persons new to the industry or whose academic or employment experience do not meet the requirements for full certification.
- Certified memberships are granted to individuals involved in the various fields of geomatics whose academic and employment experience has been approved by ASSMT certification process ASSMT and the ALSA are currently working on a certification called the “registered survey technologist.” There has been a committee established comprising of both ASSMT members as well as ALSA members to determine what is required to become an RST. This committee is called AAMIC (ASSMT-ALSA MOU Implementation Committee). The ALSA has also started an additional committee (RST Ad Hoc committee) to look at the viability of an RST certification.

We at ASSMT look forward to working closer with the ALSA to try and finally bring about the RST designation. There have been a number of people within the Society that have been working for a long time to look into and obtain this RST designation.

Raymond A. Heilman, President
Van Diepen v. Thomson
2011 ONSC 5085 (CanLII)—2011-08-26
Superior Court of Justice—Ontario
partial indemnity—easement—southern boundary—costs—fees

INTRODUCTION
[1] Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald have been involved in a property access dispute, both long and acrimonious, with their neighbours Kevin and Mildred Thomson. After 17 years of disagreement this case was tried December 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2010 followed by written submissions and further followed by written submissions on costs. Reasons for Judgment were released on March 30, 2011.

[2] Detailed particulars in respect of their dispute and matters leading up to trial have been fully set out in the introduction, background and context, and procedural overview parts of the judgment.

[3] It is important to note that when the plaintiffs commenced this action on February 11, 2002, the focus of the litigation was directed to an easement claimed by the plaintiffs over the PUC right-of-way. The Statement of Claim had been amended twice: the first amendment on February 22, 2002 before the claim was served and the second amendment on December 19, 2006. The plaintiffs advised the Thomsons of their intended second amendment on March 30, 2011.

[4] The plaintiffs resolved their action against PowerGen and the MTO on the basis of a dismissal without costs.

[5] The action was advanced by the plaintiffs on the basis of the Amended Statement of Claim through examinations for discovery and to the eve of a previously scheduled trial date in relation only to the claimed roadway over the PUC right-of-way. On the eve of the scheduled trial, the plaintiffs entered into an agreement to settle with the defendants PowerGen and MTO.

[6] However, by Amended Amended Statement of Claim dated December 19, 2006, Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald initiated a claim for a right-of-way over the “creek route” and to this end, sought a declaration as to the location of the southern boundary of the Thomson property which, in effect, posited that the Crown owned a piece of land between the Thomson property and Martin’s Creek over which the plaintiffs sought access to their property. Essentially, Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald abandoned their claim to an easement over the PUC right of way and amended their pleadings to advance a claim for access over a new route. With the second amendment to the Statement of Claim came a new and different focus regarding the access issue.

[7] The Thomsons served a Request to Admit dated July 3, 2008, to which a response was delivered dated August 8, 2008. Through the Request to Admit, Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald admitted that:
(a) they made no claim to an easement or a right of way over the PUC right of way; and
(b) the only route of access over which these plaintiffs sought to pass in order to access their land by utilizing the creek route without fear of trespassing on the Thomson property.

[11] The Thomsons had disputed the navigability of the river notwithstanding the fact that they had admitted to same in their Statement of Defence. They asserted that the thread of Martin’s Creek is the southern boundary of their property. Alternatively, if Martin’s Creek was navigable, the southern boundary of the Thomson property was the bank of the creek at its low water level as specified by statute. They vigorously opposed the position taken by Mr. Forth, Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald.

[12] Considerable evidence was heard at trial in respect of the issue of an easement of necessity. As well, evidence was heard regarding the plaintiffs’ claim for punitive and general damages.

[13] In the end, the evidence of Mr. Van Diepen and Mr. Forth was accepted by the court over the evidence of Mr. Thomson. At paragraphs 153 and 154 can be found my ultimate findings in respect of the boundary issue.


[14] The entitlement to an easement of necessity was an alternative argument advanced by Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald. Having declared that the land over which these plaintiffs sought to pass in order to access their property was Crown land and not Thomson property, made it unnecessary for the court to determine whether the plaintiffs were entitled to an easement of necessity.

[15] Further, in my Reasons for Judgment commencing at paragraph 181, I found that the plaintiffs were not entitled to general or punitive damages.
Van Diepen v. Thomson
2011 ONSC 2020 (CanLII)—2011-03-30
Superior Court of Justice — Ontario

[153] I further accept Mr. Forth's evidence that the north boundary of Martin's Creek is the original water's edge prior to construction of the dam based on the edge of vegetation depicted on the Forth survey dated March 16, 2009 (Exhibit 35). On this survey Mr. Forth has colour coded various areas. He has identified the four iron bars which he planted marking the northern limit of Martin's Creek and the southern boundary of the Thomson property. Mr. Forth testified that the area within the pink outline on Exhibit 35 is Crown Land. I accept his expert evidence on this point. Accordingly, I declare that the northern boundary of Martin's Creek is identified by the four iron bars joined by a solid line on Mr. Forth's survey. (Exhibit 35). Similarly, I declare that the southern boundary of the Thomson property is identified as those lands being to the north of the three iron bars that Mr. Forth planted to the west from the westerly limit of the URA between lots 25 and 26 as shown on Mr. Forth's survey. (Exhibit 35).

[154] The practical result of the court's finding and declaration is that Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald, if permitted by the Crown, would be traversing Crown Land and not the Thomson property in order to access the Van Diepen property. Subject to the rights and reservations of the Crown, Mr. Van Diepen and Ms. Fitzgerald could cross freely across Crown Land without fear of trespassing on the Thomson property and without fear of prosecution for trespass. While there has been no challenge to this court's jurisdiction to grant declaratory relief, this court has jurisdiction to grant declaratory relief as found in section 97 of the Courts of Justice Act which states: The Court of Appeal and Superior Court of Justice, exclusive of the Small Claims Court may make binding declaration of right, whether or not any consequential relief is or could be claimed.[26]

Hegel v. British Columbia (Forests)
2011 BCCA 446 (CanLII)—2011-11-08
Court of Appeal—British Columbia
survey—due diligence—defences—mistake—northern boundary

[1] This appeal examines land survey law in the forestry context.

[2] Ronald Edward Hegel, the principal of 449970 B.C. Ltd., logged Crown land without permission. This happened because he performed his own survey of land the company acquired for timber harvesting, District Lot 2535. He located what he believed were the western and northern boundaries. He was found to be mistaken about the northern boundary which adjoined Crown land. He and the company were assessed $132,897.40 for unlawfully harvesting Crown timber.

[3] The appellants’ position throughout this matter has been that Mr. Hegel properly relied on the title documents for DL 2535 and either he was correct in locating the northern boundary and there was no trespass or he acted reasonably and was entitled to the statutory defences of due diligence and mistake of fact.

[4] Both the District Manager representing the Ministry of Forests, who made the initial decision, and the Forest Appeals Commission, which conducted a de novo appeal, found on the evidence that Mr. Hegel did not locate the northern boundary correctly. They further held that he did not act reasonably in relying on his own survey and, accordingly, the defences of due diligence and mistake of fact were not available to him.

[13] Before embarking on his survey, Mr. Hegel looked at the land grant for DL 2535 dated 5 March 1909 giving title to 130 acres “more or less” and he also looked at “Field-Notes of Purchase” filed by the surveyor who did the first survey in 1911. The notes include a map describing a trapezoid parcel with the east boundary roughly parallel with and running north and south the west bank of the North Thompson River, and the west boundary 50.22 chains directly north from the southwest corner. These and related documents comprise the original filings in the Land Title Office.

[14] Mr. Hegel testified that he located what he thought was an old survey stake roughly where the southwest corner should be and measured 50.22 chains north using a compass. He satisfied himself that he could define the northern boundary of DL 2535 by going due east from the end of his measurement to the river. He did not find any other corner posts nor did he measure all four sides of the parcel. He found a brass monument part way along the western boundary marking a utility right-of-way which confirmed his belief that he was on the correct line for the west boundary.

[15] The preponderance of the survey evidence adduced at the Forest Appeals Commission hearing, including that of Mr. Hegel's own surveyor, was, and the Commission found, that the actual northern boundary was south of the line Mr. Hegel used for logging.

[16] The Commission also heard expert opinion on the industry standard of care for small and intermediate logging operations. This was to the effect that if the logger cannot find all four corner posts, he should engage a B.C. Land Surveyor to conduct a formal survey before cutting timber.

[17] The evidence before the Commission also established that if Mr. Hegel had measured all four sides, said to be a prudent thing to do when corner posts cannot be found, it would have been obvious to him that the field notes could not provide a reliable basis for locating the boundaries.

[23] Once again, the first issue framed by the review division is: a) were the Applicants/Appellants entitled to rely on the descriptive measurements of the length of the western boundary as set out in the field notes from the original survey in 1911?

[24] Mr. Hegel's argument is that the original title documents determine his title and cannot be questioned. Hence, the survey evidence generated in this case cannot contradict what the title documents say belongs to him. He cites various enactments in support of his submission: ss. 20, 23(2) and 60 of the Land Title Act,

[25] These provisions address the issue of title. But the appellants’ title to DL 2535 is not in question. We know what they own, the problem in this case is where it is situated.

[26] As Ms. Hughes, for the Province, argued, ss. 1 and 2 of the Land Survey Act provide a complete answer to Mr. Hegel’s submission on the first issue. They provide as follows:
1. All boundary lines of townships, ranges, sections or other legal subdivisions of sections, blocks, gores, lots and commons surveyed and run, and all mounds, posts or monuments marked, erected, placed or planted at the angles of any townships, ranges, sections or other legal subdivisions, blocks, gores, lots, commons or other parcels of land, under the authority of the government, are the true and unalterable boundaries of the townships, ranges, sections or other legal subdivisions, blocks, gores, lots, commons or other parcels of land respectively, whether they, on measurement, are or are not found to contain the exact area or dimensions mentioned or expressed in any patent, grant or other instrument, in respect of any township, range, section or other legal subdivision, block, gore, lot, common or parcel of land.
2. Every township, section or other legal subdivision, block, gore, lot, common or parcel of land consists of the whole width included between the mounds, posts, monuments or boundaries, respectively marked, erected, placed or planted under the authority of the government, at the several angles of them, and no more or less, despite any quantity or measure expressed in the original grant or patent.

[27] The registered instruments give title, but the location of the subject property is determined not by them but by what is on the ground. I refer in this regard to Survey Law in Canada, (Toronto: Carswell, 1989): §4.95 No system of title by registration guarantees the boundaries in the sense of parcel dimensions; for two lots abutting, it is a certainty that the division line is the lot line for that is the basis of the two titles, but the dimensions to and along the lot line are not guaranteed. The corner markers as physical things, including surveyors’ monuments, are matters for evidence evaluation in the field.

Planning & Land Use

CONDITIONS—Respondent Subdivision and Development Board had jurisdiction to require applicant to construct public road as a condition of granting a development permit.

Application for leave to appeal from a decision of respondent board regarding the issuance of a conditional development permit that allowed him to construct a home. Applicant took issue with one of the conditions, which required that he enter into a development agreement with respondent county to first construct a public road leading to the land where the proposed residence was to be built. Applicant had purchased a 75-acre parcel of land in a remote area southwest of the county. The county had previously approved three other development permits allowing landowners to build homes on nearby properties. However, those parties built only seasonal accommodations. Since those approvals, the county had modified the guidelines applicable to the construction of road allowances for individual landowners accessing their parcels. Applicant was the first to apply under the new policies and guidelines and the first intent on building a year-round home there. As the property could only be accessed by a fair weather road that was in a poor state of condition and was at times impassable by emergency and passenger vehicles, the board added the impugned condition.

HELD: Application dismissed. The condition was onerous but it was necessary for the orderly and efficient development of land. It was within the board’s jurisdiction to impose the condition and none of the proposed grounds of appeal raised a question of jurisdiction or law.


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ENGO Graduate Students Wins Three Awards at the ION GNSS 2011 Conference

Congratulations to the following graduate students who won highly competitive Student Sponsorship Awards from the US Institute of Navigation to present their papers at the GNSS 2011 International Conference held in Portland, Oregon, during September 20-23:

- Nima Sadrieh (supervised by Professor Gérard Lachapelle): Spatial Antenna Diversity Performance for Indoor GNSS Applications.

Patent Issued on Anti-Spoofing Method

Patent No. US 7,952,519 B1 on Methods and System for Detecting GNSS Spoofing Signals has been issued by the US Bureau of Patents and Trademark Office to inventors Dr. Ali Broumandan, Professor Gérard Lachapelle and Professor John Nielsen. The method operates on signals originating from inauthentic (spoofing) sources. A synthetic array using a receiver antenna that is randomly spatially translated is used to gather alleged GNSS signals that are then processed to determine the spatial correlation between them, high spatial correlation between the signals indicating a probable inauthentic source for the GNSS signals. The development of such anti-spoofing technologies is important as emerging spoofing methods constitute an increasing threat to the use of GNSS in consumer devices and GNSS receivers.

Dr. Broumandan is a post-doctoral fellow in the PLAN Group and Professor Nielsen is a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Elizabeth Cannon Receives International Honour

University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon was one of nine foreign associates inducted into the 2011 class of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in Washington, DC. Election to the NAE is among the highest international professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

Cannon’s contributions to the field of geomatics span a 25-year research career and her initiatives undertaken as a professor continue to thrive and shape the direction of the field. She was elected to the United States National Academy of Engineering “for innovative use of GPS data for a wide range of applications and for pioneering the field of geomatics.”

The NAE announced the election of 68 new members and nine foreign associates earlier this year. This brings the total US membership to 2,290 and the number of foreign associates to 202.

Academy membership honours those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature,” and to the “pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.”

A renowned expert in geomatics engineering, Elizabeth Cannon’s research has been on the frontier of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) since 1984 in both industrial and academic environments, and she has commercialized technology to over 200 agencies worldwide. As a researcher and teacher, she worked with industry and the community, and served on numerous public- and private-sector boards and with national advisory groups and community committees.

Ocean Mapping Group Completes First Phase of 2011 Operations in the Canadian Arctic

On July 19, 2011 the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Amundsen left her home port of Quebec City, embarking on a three and half month science expedition in the Canadian Arctic. Among the forty scientists onboard for the first six weeks of the expedition were two University of New Brunswick students belonging to the Ocean Mapping Group of UNB’s Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department. Travis Hamilton, a master’s student studying under Dr. John Hughes Clarke and Brad Eisan, a fourth year undergraduate student in the department. This is the ninth year that UNB has participated in the Amundsen’s work in the Arctic.

Using two acoustic echo sounders mounted on the hull of the Amundsen, the students were able to continuously survey the ocean floor while the ship was in transit along its entire journey. With these instruments, they were able to collect depth, backscatter and sub-bottom data, developing a better understanding of the sea bottom topography and geological structure. Working with the Canadian Coast Guard, the ship was continuously kept on a course that allowed the students to collect new data, building on the coverage of existing transits since 2003.

Amongst other activities, the Amundsen’s science crew also studied the Petermann Ice Island, an enormous piece of glacial ice measuring over 10 km x 5 km; mapped Saglek Bank, off the continental shelf of northern Labrador, an area of interest to the Geological Survey of Canada; mapped several icebergs; collected new mapping data in the sometimes shallow and narrow areas around Coronation Gulf.
and Cambridge Bay; and sampled multi-year ice flows in the Beaufort Sea.
By August 25, the Amundsen had made her way to Sachs Harbour on Banks Island to meet a charter flight from Yellowknife. That flight brought four fresh participants from UNB: Ian Church, James Muggah, Carlos Rubrio Marques and Rodrigo Carvalho. They would continue the mapping operations while Travis Hamilton and Brad Eisan returned to Fredericton.

The Amundsen will continue work in the Beaufort Sea, heading back into the cooler temperatures, continuous ice breaking and 24-hour sunlight. She will see her home port again on October 29, when this field season of Arctic mapping operations will conclude for UNB’s Ocean Mapping Group.

GGE Team Develops Hydrological Models for Base Gagetown

GGE graduate student Capt. Dan Kirkby, under the co-supervision of Adjunct Professor Kevin Pegler and Professor David Coleman, has developed several geographical-information-system-based hydrological models to estimate rainfall discharge for storms. The models take into account soil types, land cover, drainage infrastructure, and elevation, as well as derived parameters such as terrain slope. Such models are useful for assessing culvert design to prevent damage to infrastructure during heavy or extended rainfall.

Developed as part of the requirements for Capt. Kirkby’s M.Eng. degree, the models were tested at Canada’s largest army training base, located near Gagetown, New Brunswick. The base covers an area of 1,129 square kilometers with topography varying from 0 to 454 metres elevation above mean sea level.

Capt. Kirkby and his supervisors published a report on their work in a recent issue of GIM International magazine. As the researchers say in the introduction to their article, “Estimating rainfall discharge is difficult in large catchment areas with varying topography. This leads to widespread inadequacy in culvert design, with resultant damage to these and other drainage infrastructure during storms, when water runoff is high. The authors developed three ArcGIS-based hydrological models, which accurately estimate rainfall discharge for storms that occur anywhere between once every two weeks up to once a century, enabling improvements in culvert infrastructure design. The test results prove the potential for GIS to aid in the creation of highly accurate hydrological models.”

After the inputting of site coordinates and rainfall amount per hour in millimetres, the models calculate the upstream area above the culvert site, discharge values, and culvert diameter. A test of the models following a large storm in December 2010, which dropped 105 millimetres of rain over a 24-hour period, provided accuracies that exceeded 75 percent.

The models will be reconfigured to aid in culvert design at Canadian Forces Base Kingston in Ontario. The model accuracies gained here will determine the potential for further distribution both within the military and commercially, in addition to furthering interest in such models.

GGE Ph.D. Student Wins Best Paper Award at International Navigation Conference

Hui Tang, a UNB Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Ph.D. student, won a best-paper-in-session award at the Institute of Navigation (ION) Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) technical meeting held in Portland, Oregon, the week before last. Co-authored with her dissertation adviser, Dr. Don Kim, she received the honour for a paper entitled “RFID Indoor Positioning and Navigation Using a Regularized Particle Filter Integrated with a Probability Model.” While satellite-based techniques such as GPS can be used for positioning and navigation outdoors when there is a clear view to the satellites, the satellite signals are typically too weak to be used indoors with conventional GPS receivers. So for indoor navigation, say for a roving robot, alternative techniques need to be developed. One such technique is radio frequency identification, commonly used for stock control in warehouses and stores. Ms. Tang’s research centres on developing an indoor navigation system based on RFID coupled with other sensors such as inertial measurement units.

Two former GGE graduate students also won best paper awards at the ION meeting. Paul Collins (UNB M.Sc.E. 1999) together with his York University Ph.D. research supervisor, Dr. Sunil Bsnath (UNB Ph.D. 2004), received recognition for his paper “Issues in Ambiguity Resolution for Precise Point Positioning.” Dr. Rodrigo Leandro (UNB Ph.D. 2009), now working at Trimble-Terrasat in Munich, Germany, received an award for his paper “RTX Positioning: The Next Generation of cm-accurate Real-time GNSS Positioning.”

The ION meeting, which is held each year, boasted more than 300 papers in six parallel tracks. They were presented over three days to the 1500 or so GNSS engineers and scientists from industry, academia, and government agencies in attendance.
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 third installment of the interview.

Frederick: That’s when you decided to go to Saskatchewan?

Edwards: Yeah. The only thing during the whole process—it wasn’t funny at the time—we were on a night exercise over the Mediterranean and we had just finished our duties there and were heading back to base. We were about twenty miles off shore when both engines quit. Quickly, I changed tanks—the gauge said we weren’t out of fuel—we were flying about 2,000 feet and we lost about between 500 and 800 feet. Those things are heavy; they drop like a stone. Back they came again. The gunner that was sitting in the turret cocks his guns and Brrrrrr—scared the hell out of him. So, I got on the intercom and said, “What the hell are you doing?” He said, “Geez man, I figured we’d had it. When everything is quiet, it’s deadly quiet.” That was a bit scary. We lost a few guys there too—not through enemy action but through weather. I’ll never forget one. They were flying Wellingtons, I think—a British twin-engine bomber. I don’t really know what their exercise was. They were probably flying across and bombing where the military was, trying to soften things up. This one day we were sitting there waiting to take off and this guy was coming around towards landing and all of a sudden, the nose dropped down and he went straight into the ground. I’ve often wondered what happened. Did the pilot pass out? Something drastic must have happened. It was the most dramatic thing I ever saw in my life.

[The interview stopped and the tape was flipped over.]

Edwards: At the time, Gillmore, myself and Newby decided that there was no future at Hamilton & Olsen so I think Dave was the first one I went to talk to and he, at the time, had that Belgravia subdivision coming up and he really had nobody to work so we talked for probably an hour or so and he says fine. Dave was a real sharp individual. I could do the work, I had no problem with the work, but as far as business sense, I didn’t have any because I’d never had any experience in that line at all. So, it made a pretty good combination, I think. I don’t know whether he mentioned it but he graduated with distinction in engineering.

Frederick: When you came back to Canada after the War, what were the prospects at work? Did the government do something?

Edwards: I don’t really know. I stayed in the air force. I came back in January 1945 and I stayed in until June 1946. When I got out then, I sort of had my eyes set on going to university because the government was going to support me. But the support wasn’t all that great. You had to be successful every year right through to maintain the support.

Frederick: So after you started land surveying, you article under G.C. Hamilton? How do you remember him?

Edwards: Great guy—great left-hander. He did everything left-handed except writing. He wrote with his right hand. I never even realized he was left-handed until one day, it was raining or something, we were in the office and he decided we were going to build some darn thing. So, he here he is with a saw. I says, “geez, you’re left-handed”. “Yeah,” he says, “I learned to write with my right hand in school because it was almost a necessity, but I’m left-handed in everything else.” No, I was really shocked at the way Geoff’s life went because there was another real sharp individual and a great guy to work with. He was a city planning commissioner for five years or something like that. He was okay until he left there and went with a big outfit down in Calgary and then things seemed to fall apart. I saw him when we attended a function put on by Peter Lougheed and his wife, an afternoon tea at the Westin, and Geoff was there. It was the first time I’d seen him for years. I asked him how he was doing. “Well,” he said, “I really haven’t looked after myself. I can’t blame anybody but I have to say that life has not been all that great.” I guess he was working somewhere because one day I was at Regional Planning when they were still downtown. I was coming out of there and I bumped into him again. That was the last time I saw him. I never really knew he died until I read it in the news. He basically, I guess, just drank himself to death, pretty near. I fully expected to see him in politics before too long. I knew his brother quite well. His brother and I were in Whitehorse together after the War. He was a station pilot. We used to skip up to Fairbanks and buy a few cases of Debrara rum and bring it back. Actually, it was one of the best stations I was on in my whole life up at Whitehorse.

Frederick: So when you first got into surveying when you were in the field, you were doing subdivisions? Did you ever get up into unsurveyed territory?

Edwards: I spent three winters in High Level, Cameron Hills and Buffalo Head Hills. In fact, I don’t know which year it was. I think it was the year I was in Buffalo Head Hills. I went in there in either spring or fall—it was either after spring thaw or before the freeze-up. I was replacing a young guy by the name of Al Munroe. He decided to stick around for a day so. We overlapped to make sure things went well. We came to this huge bloody muskeg. We had a little Fordson tractor. It had an idler wheel between the front wheel and the drive wheel. We had a Caterpillar track on this thing. You could go over quite a bit of soft stuff without any trouble. So he says, “Oh hell, that’s no problem” and away he went sailing out about a hundred feet and down she went. It took twenty-four hours to get that darn little thing out of there. We had cats on shore with a winch line out. Old AC Michael, the guy in charge of all the
equipment, he was just furious at losing all this damn time. Consequently, Munroe never came back on that job again. That was kind of a disaster. We ended up going around that muskeg.

Frederick: What type of surveying were you doing up there?

Edwards: We were doing control for seismic work; we criss-crossed that whole Northern Alberta. The one in '52-'53 I guess it was, we had thirty-six guys up there—six crews. We had almost all Pickard Construction's highway building equipment up there clearing the land. We had six different projects going and we had a camp with ATCO trailers. One morning I'll never forget—the guys were out of bed getting ready to go and all of a sudden this racket started. We looked out the window—it was still dark you know but we had some yard lights—and there were about sixteen wolves sitting right in the middle of the thing and they were howling like crazy. There was one English kid who says, "I ain't going out there, breakfast or no breakfast, I ain't going out there." There were a lot of wolves, but you never saw them, you'd see their tracks—these big timber wolves. You'd get a fresh snow overnight and they'd run across your trail and it looked almost like horse's footprints. Of course they had long hair on their pads and they'd fluff the snow out. I remember also another one of the cat-skinners got quite sick so they sent him out and brought in a young guy. He was, oh God, 21 or 22 years old. He had experience on the machines but he'd never been in the bush. When we were finishing up breakfast one morning this one guy comes in and he's got a piece of collapsible stove pipe about three inches long. He say, "here kid, but this around your neck." "What the hell do I want that around my neck for?" You put it around your neck because if one of those bobcats comes out of a tree, the first thing he's going to go for is your neck." I spent probably about six weeks in three different winters up in different areas.

Frederick: What type of equipment were you using?

Edwards: We were just running line. We didn't have any EDM or anything like that. That was before EDM. That was in the early '50s. Chaining—we had basically a two-man crew. We would set the line up and then go ahead and chain.

Frederick: Where would you start from?

Edwards: Oh, from the baselines. The baselines were all in; we had baseline control. By the time I got in there, the previous crews had extended lines from baselines so we knew pretty well where we were going, most of the time anyway. Actually, the lines we were cutting were along the section lines. We were putting in the deflections every six miles so if they ever wanted to build a road, at least they'd have something there. It was interesting work—God damn cold sometimes—uh, geez—cold part of the country.

Frederick: You obtained your commission in 1956. What were the educational requirements back then?

Edwards: I can't remember what the requirements were, but I know I had to article for three years and then I wrote the exams. Believe it or not, the one exam I missed the first time around was calculus. So I got hold of a professor from the university and Art Hall. I don't know whether you knew Art Hall or not. He died a few years ago. He had the same problem as I had. He missed calculus so we went and took 24 hours of special tutoring, wrote the supplemental exam and passed it. Otherwise, I would have been qualified before September.

Frederick: What do you think the public's view of a surveyor was back then? Was it any different than now?

Edwards: I don't think the public was hardly even aware we existed. If you were out doing a subdivision, you were never in touch with anybody. If you were out in the bush, you were never in touch with anybody, so the only time we had contact with the public is when you were doing certificates, or sometime like that. You call them real property reports or something now. If you disturbed somebody's lawn, then you heard about it.

Frederick: Just as you do now. So, you were on the Council of the Association from 1960 to 1965. What were some of the main issues at that time?

Edwards: Hmmm—that's a long ways back. I was on the Board of Examiners for a fair bit of that time. I guess one of the problems we faced was trying to get new surveyors involved and get guys to write their exams. Fair or not, guys like Don Tomkinson, Dennis Tomkinson, Marlin Sexauer and John Løve—I tutored all those guys for their exams to make sure they got through. After a while, I thought, God darn, we're training a whole bunch of competition. All we are doing is returning a whole bunch of competition because they are going to leave the firm and set up a competition which is exactly what happened. Doug Barnett was another one of them. A number of guys that went through our firm—and there were a lot—and some pretty darn good surveyors. Schirrmacher was kind of a labour rambler. We never paid enough. He got set up in his own firm, it was the other way around.

Frederick: So, how did you try to recruit new pupils?

Edwards: Well, let's see, how did we do that?

Frederick: There was no University of Calgary—not then.

Edwards: No, that wasn't going at all then. The University of Alberta—their interest in surveying—mind you, one of the engineering professors, Walter Bigg, was widely interested. He used to conduct survey school every spring. He was a great guy. Mostly, people that applied for a job, like Don and Dennis Tomkinson, both came and started out as chainmen but not for very long. Especially Don—he had been working for somebody else before I think. He was a big, strong, healthy young guy. So get him operating an instrument and get him on as party chief and then convince him to write his exams. Don George was another one. I remember talking to Don George one day and said to him, "Well Don, you've been articled now for long enough. When are you going to write your exams?" He said, "Well, I'm going to wait a bit until they ease off on some of these requirements." I said, "It ain't going to happen Don. They're going to get tougher, they are not going to get easier. Before very long, you are going to be competing with guys coming out of university." So, he sat down, wrote his exams and got through without any trouble. And yet, when he started out with us, he couldn't even spell garage. I remember
some field notes he did, he didn't spell garage right.

Frederick: In your president’s address in 1964, you made reference to professionalism among ALSs. Was that a problem then and do you think it’s improved?

Edwards: Oh, well, today I don’t really know because I’ve been away from it for sixteen years. I think, yeah, there was a definite problem as far as I was concerned because a lot of the ALSs liked to be called professionals, but they treated it more like a trade than anything else. I just felt that the level of dedication to the profession of surveying was lacking somewhere along the line. There was a lot of cut-throat stuff going on that shouldn’t have been going on.

Frederick: Getting back to your articles—when you articulated pupils, you mentioned Don Tomkinson and Dennis. Was there anyone else that you articulated?

Edwards: I don’t remember now who I articulated. Quite frankly, I don’t know whether Donny was articulated to me or not. He probably was. I don’t think I did tutor Denny. I think Donny did that. I know Don Tomkinson, Doug Barnett, John Lovse, Marlin Sexauer (who didn’t even work for us but I knew him for some years).

Frederick: I heard from Ken Allred that you were instrumental in the establishment of the semi-professional look of ALS News. What was involved in getting this publication off the ground?

Edwards: Oh boy, that was a long time ago. We had a meeting at the annual meeting in Calgary. I have no idea what year it was but there was some discussion about publishing something to keep some records, if nothing else, because the Association was growing—but very slowly. Maybe Ken Allred’s giving me more credit than I deserve. I can’t remember whether I put the first issues together or not. That’s the trouble when you get old, you forget so damn much.

Frederick: Who else was involved in that?

Edwards: Well let’s see. Who else was involved? This was after Jack Holloway died. There was a prince of a guy. Geez—I was really shocked when I heard that he’d died, but then he was a lot older than I thought he was. He looked young. When he was secretary of the Association, almost forever, when I joined, I figured he was maybe in his early forties or something. He was in his late fifties then—young looking guy. But ALS News, yeah—well after that meeting we had in Calgary, they dubbed it ALS News. That was one of the associations I had with it. The Association office was pretty well was responsible for getting it out. I don’t really recall the initial starts of it. I don’t even remember the year when it was first published.

Frederick: In 1985 when you retired from W.D. Usher, you went to work in Texas for Maverick. What are the differences in surveying in Texas compared to Alberta?

Edwards: Well, they don’t have the Torrens System for one thing and that is a big plus. Here, you go out and do a certificate usually ordered by a lawyer or somebody that’s handling that for the owner. Down there, you are working for real estate almost entirely. They are heavily involved in title insurance which has just recently become kind of a pushy thing here. When I was down there, I said, “Geez, I just can’t understand this, I’m glad we have the Torrens System. We don’t need it.” Well, when I came back—actually before I went, there was some rumblings about it and I just sluffed it off. Everything is guaranteed by government here under the Torrens System, so what do we need you guys for? Of course, what they were gunning for is to dilute the surveyor’s activity in the field and get more things done cheaper. That’s basically what it amounted to. But their building location certificates, what did they call them down there? They called them house ties. They were actually more detailed than what we were doing here when I was working there. Everything had to be tied in—driveways, the whole darn bit shown on the plan—and you surveyed the property at the same time. Well this was not my first shock; it was how they did these damn surveys. Holy smoke—in the three plus years that I worked down there, I picked up some really glaring errors. The one that really stood out was a certificate that had been issued probably ten years before. The place was sold and they were going to do it over again. The front was part of a curve and then straightened out and the lot corner was about six feet from the curb corner. In the original one, they had used the end of curve as the lot corner and it had sat that way for all that time. This Mike guy was still there and I told him going out and doing an eyeball of it, make sure that there will be no more improvements or anything like that, we have to tie in and measure the thing. I told him that was really unprofessional. That was what I thought and this was part of my thing about unprofessionalism—trying to shortcut the whole system. So anyway, I won the argument and we sent the guys out to do it over again. True enough, they came up with this big bloody blunder actually using the wrong posts. This was the kind of thing that seemed to me to be going on all the time. Some huge tracts of land a quarter of a mile across and two lines supposed to be parallel. Well if you turn the 90 off one and run across and tied into the other one, you wouldn’t hit up with a 90 for a long ways because there were glaring errors. Mind you, I don’t criticize that because those things were done in the 1800s. Those boundary lines were run and they didn’t have the equipment we have. I kept saying to Mike and Frank, the chief engineer, that the reason they did these things was because there was solid bush and you had to cut out a whole lot of tough going and it’s not just like your poplar and spruce, they got some trees down there that even a chain saw has trouble with. They are just dry and hard and they didn’t want to go to the expense of doing this. There is no control, there is no planning authority, and when things came to their land titles, they just registered them; they never bothered. There was no director of surveys or anything like that. I told them down the road in a few years when all this comes together and you are laying out whole subdivisions in here, somebody’s going to be in trouble because there will be some people who will have more land than what they figure they got and others are going to be really short. No doubt about it. It really bothered me that they could be so casual about accuracy. They had EDM and everything the same as we do but the approach was off. Of course, this is what bothered Frank, the chief engineer, he didn’t like it himself. He was a perfectionist and it got to the point where he told the owner that he was leaving. He went to work as chief engineer for the City of Corpus Christi. I
don't think Maverick was the only guilty one in the area. It was not good.

Frederick: So you think Alberta has a good system?

Edwards: Oh yeah. Gee whit, it really was an eye-opener. We had so many checks and balances—sure mistakes get made—but very few monumental ones. I've made several myself.

Frederick: Looking back on your career, can you sum up in a few sentences your experiences in surveying? Would you have chosen something else?

Edwards: The one thing that I've always said about surveying is that it's pretty hard to become bored with surveying because no job lasts. Very few times do you ever get on a job like that. You've got one job and, even if it's a major subdivision, it may take you six months or so but when it's finished, it's finished and you're on to something else, something new. There are always challenges; there certainly was when I was at it. Computers have been a great asset for surveying—when I think of the hours running an old calculator and stuff. Of course, the disadvantage is that when we developed all this technology, the oil companies, especially, expect you to produce a lot quicker too and cheaper. I think—probably silly to say—I don't think I would have enjoyed any other profession any more but as far as I'm concerned, I have no objections for the fact that I got into surveying—totally accidentally. When I was at the University of Saskatchewan, one of the professors lived just down the street. Now, was he a professor? No I don't think he was. Anyway, I used to get the odd lift because I was walking to school in those days. He was a good guy. As a matter of fact, he ended up with Stewart and Phillips and we ended up on a job at Uranium City together on a uranium site—stake surveying mining claims—another very interesting thing. Mosquitos, like you'd never seen, and black flies but an interesting darn job because it was all rocks and what you call swamp spruce. You take an axe and hit it and it was debatable whether the spruce would give or the axe handle would. They were so hard. We were up there a couple of summers in '52 and '53. He died of a heart attack all of a sudden. He was a prisoner of war for two and a half years which I think, probably contributed quite a bit to his physical stability—a pretty smart guy. And then again, all the people that I've been associated with in surveying, there were very few that I would say that I didn't get along with or I couldn't get along with.

Frederick: What were you doing on those mining claims? Were you staying in a camp?

Edwards: Oh yeah, a tent camp—fresh fish every morning. There was a diamond drilling crew that worked two shifts from eight in the morning till—I forget now—but their second shift came off at about one in the morning. It was broad daylight at one in the morning in Uranium City in the summer time. They used to go down to the lake, we were on Donals Lake which was a couple of hundred feet deep, and they'd take a branch off a tree, tie a piece of string on it, put a bug on it, throw it in the water and catch a trout this long. We had more fresh fish there. The camp cook really thought this was great.

Frederick: How many man-crews was that?

Edwards: We just had the one crew; just the three of us. We stayed there for—altogether through the year I think—we were first in and then another crew came in and replaced us after six weeks. Something like that—both years.

Frederick: Any bears?

Edwards: Bears? No—no bears in that country—lots of caribou. We were there—I think it was June when we went in there and the ice was still on the Athabasca. There were caribou coming across heading north—half a mile long string of them—unbelievable. For some reason or other, that uranium that they were producing there was superseded by a better quality because the whole thing folded up in the '60s. A lot of money in there—built up the whole town of Uranium City and another one at Gunnar and then all of a sudden, the whole thing just closed. They had a lot of houses—not when we were there—the only thing that was there was the Hudson's Bay store when we were there but they had a whole subdivision laid out. Some poor schnooks came up from Regina from the provincial government, laid out the subdivision, solid rock; tough going. I wasn't in the field all that long actually—from '51 to '56. The first day I was with Usher, I went out with Tom Manning. You probably never heard of him but he was an engineer/surveyor type. We never stopped for lunch. I thought what kind of an outfit am I working for? I can't remember when I started with Dave exactly but it was it the spring of '56, I would guess. Anyway, I wrote my exams and got through and Dave called me in one day and told me he was in the process of buying out C.B. Atkins who by that time was my age. He had the firm of Usher and Manning then, but Tom Manning had never really been a partner. Well, I didn't know that then. Dave told me that he was going to ask him to leave. He asked me to be part of a new firm that he was going to start up. Then Don Duffy came along out of SAIT and joined us in '57 or '58 and got his qualifications. He was a smart, young whipper-snapper I'll tell ya—nineteen or twenty years old—something like that. So we got him involved in the company as well. Duffy then went and wrote his BC exams and passed the whole darn works right off the bat. Then Usher went and wrote his and missed one. He said, “Son of a bitch, first exam I ever failed in my life.” Anyway, he passed it next time around. So then we went and bought out a fellow named Burden in Prince George. We operated that operation which ran along pretty darn well until he was offered a job as Surveyor General. By that time, he had bought out both Dave and I and was on his own. He sold out to McElhanney. As far as I know, they are still there. To me, it was an interesting career; not a really exciting career. There were times when it was exciting. I remember when we went out to do a well-site in the foothills south of Edson in no man's land. We went out through Drayton Valley. The well we were putting in was in unsurveyed area and we had to carry the darn line and it took us about a week to do the job. But these catskinners thought they would have some fun with us as they were ahead of us quite a ways. So the one guy shot a bobcat and propped it up on a snow bank they had piled up—y'know this is the middle of winter—propped it up there like it was looking right over the snow bank. Y’know, we walked past it twice and never even saw it. They were disappointed as hell.
1961 - Persistent Rumours

President Wally Youngs reported that ALS 001, Mr. A.P.C. Belyea passed away since the last annual general meeting. Mr. Belyea was the Director of Surveys from 1915 to 1922 and again from 1937 until 1946 and was president of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association in 1922.

Mr. Youngs reported that the past year had been a relatively quiet one insofar as Council was concerned, despite the keener competition that resulted from a slackening of work in mid-year.

President Youngs also reported that Council had been hearing persistent rumors regarding the violations of tariff and some members attempting to find loopholes in the wording of the tariff or other parts of the Code of Ethics.

Under new business, the membership agreed to appoint a newsletter committee and that this committee be requested to distribute a newsletter to the members on a quarterly basis. While the Association had occasionally printed a newsletter since 1952, the first issue was published in March 1961.

The membership also directed the Association to caution the various municipalities engaged in backsloping operations of the seriousness of destroying survey monuments.
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