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In August of 2011, Council and the Executive Committee of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association held a strategic planning session in Red Deer. One outcome of that session was the identification of priorities, one of which was the strengthening of our relationship with the provincial government. It was generally felt that this relationship had degraded over the years due to a number of factors, some of which could be the result of the perceived diminished role of the Director of Surveys within the government. Perhaps we, as an association, were too complacent in our relationship with the government and neglected to maintain a high profile with the ministers responsible for the acts to which we refer on a daily basis.

Regardless of the reason, this was designated our number one priority and we set out to rectify the situation by contracting the services of a government consultant.

The first year working with the consultant helped us to identify the government officials that we wanted to contact and assisted us in setting up meetings with those officials in order to raise our profile. Some of these meetings were very productive and some showed us that we need to spend more time in certain areas.

Dave Thomson and Brian Ross, along with our Executive Director, Brian Munday, made an effort to communicate the mandate of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and to stress the importance of the ALSA being involved in changes to legislation or policies that would affect our business. They also strived to communicate the importance of having qualified Alberta Land Surveyors conducting the surveys which are defined by our act as “land surveying.”

In August, 2012, we had a change in consultants and are currently working with Elan MacDonald to further our plans to raise our profile with the government departments. Ms. MacDonald presented an impressive proposal to Council and has continued to provide a valuable service in assisting the ALSA by suggesting meetings and keeping us abreast of any changes that we should be aware of, or act upon.

One of the key results of the collaboration between Council and the consultant has been the development of “key messages” for all Alberta Land Surveyors to use when dealing with the government, other professions and the public. These “key messages” are in alignment with Dave Thompson’s “elevator speech” from last year and I encourage all members to keep them in mind when promoting our profession.

**KEY MESSAGES**

Professional land surveyors ensure orderly development of the province and the public interest.

1. Alberta has a land boundary system to be proud of. The continued required use of professional land surveyors will protect our system into the future.

2. Professional land surveyors are university educated or equivalent, have articling experience, are reviewed and assessed every four years to ensure continued competency, and adhere to a professional code of ethics that ensures boundaries are established in an unbiased manner, protecting the public interest at large.
   - GPS is a tool, and tools evolve over time. Measuring between two points is easy; knowing where to measure from and where to measure to is the difficult part.
   - The art of land surveying is more than a technical task; it requires judgment, analysis and the application of professional standards.

3. Private property owners’ rights are protected through the unbiased assessment of boundaries thereby limiting disputes and uncertainty.

4. Land surveyors have contributed to Alberta’s economic success through the efficient and orderly development of the province. Industry, municipalities and investors have confidence in the fact professional measurements are accurate and backed with professional accountability mechanisms.

Presenting a consistent message will go a long way to ensuring that land surveyors are the first people contacted when questions of boundaries and title arise.

At each and every provincial meeting, I have been amazed at how similar our issues are, regardless of what part of this country we live and work in and I am impressed with the dedication of each province to address these issues.
It has been my distinct privilege and honour to have served as your president for the past year. It is impossible to talk about the experience without repeating what every president before me has already said: the opportunity to represent this Association across the country has been a tremendously rewarding experience. At each and every provincial meeting, I have been amazed at how similar our issues are, regardless of what part of this country we live and work in and I am impressed with the dedication of each province to address these issues. Land surveyors across the country have seen monumental changes to how we conduct our business in the past twenty years, if not less. Education, technology and the government have all contributed to this change and we have all met the challenge by adjusting and adapting our procedures and policies to suit this new reality.

William Arthur Ward said: *The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.*

It is abundantly clear to me that we, as land surveyors, are realists and we have all “adjusted our sails” to meet the challenge. 

Connie Petersen, ALS

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**PACK YOUR SKATES AND HOCKEY EQUIPMENT**

The annual Brassard Memorial Cup (North vs. South) takes place at the Jasper Arena at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17th.
Principals need to submerge their students into all facets of the day-to-day activities of being an Alberta Land Surveyor and take an active role in their students’ professional career.

I am having a hard time believing that I am almost through my first year serving on Council. As they say, time flies when you are having fun. I am really enjoying my time on Council and I have come to realize the effort and dedication that is required to ensure the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association continues to run efficiently.

Back in the fall, when I offered to write the Councillor’s Forum, it seemed like forever away. Now, with two days until the deadline, I have officially moved into panic mode. Councillor’s Forum is just that—an open forum. With no clear direction on what topic I should write on, my linear thinking and lack of any imagination lead me to do probably what most of my predecessors did before me—read previous Councillor’s Forum articles. So, I waited for my six-year-old to go to bed so I could use my Ipad to research older versions of ALS News to read the previous editions of Councillor’s Forum. Once I wiped off the boogers and what I think was Cheese Whiz from the Ipad, I probably read twenty, or so, different articles. There have been many informative articles in the archives and after serving on Council I have gained a new respect for my colleagues who wrote them.

Part of my job description as Councillor is to be the Council Liaison for both the Professional Development Committee and the Registration Committee. It seems only logical to me to bring the membership up to date on the status of these committees from the perspective of a councillor.

First off, the Professional Development Committee has, after much deliberation and hard work, prepared an action plan for the 2013-2014 Committee year towards a mandatory continuing professional development program. The document will be reviewed by Council at its next meeting. This action plan outlines the need for a program, mandatory reporting, mandatory participation and implementation. The question that resonates from all of the discussions we have had over the previous term, for me, is quite simple—does mandatory continuing professional development result in a better Alberta Land Surveyor? Regardless of your opinion, it is important that your position is clearly communicated to the Professional Development Committee. There are currently four ALSs sitting on this Committee. I compliment them on their hard work to date but four individuals do not make a true representation of a membership of around 400. The Committee will be looking for members to decide the outcome of the Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Program. I strongly encourage all of the membership to bring their thoughts and ideas, both for and against the program, and join the Professional Development Committee.

Second, I am fortunate enough to sit on the Registration Committee. This Committee is a large, dynamic task force and I can’t give it the full detailed update it deserves. I would like to take this opportunity to address one issue that seems to come up, whether during a Committee meeting or around the water cooler at our office and that is the responsibilities of the principals:

- Provide at least two years of articled service to the Pupil or such longer period of time as may be required under the provisions of the Land Surveyors Act and regulations thereunder;
- Instruct the pupil in the course of study required under the provisions of the Land Surveyors Act and regulations thereunder;
- Instruct the Pupil in the art, practice and profession of being an Alberta Land Surveyor;
- Be personally responsible for the training given and experience received.

There is a binding contract that is signed at the beginning of the articling period that needs to be taken seriously.

There is a binding contract that is signed at the beginning of the articling period that needs to be taken seriously. It is your legacy as a professional ALS that is passed down from one generation to the next. I have heard that the Registration Committee is making it “too difficult to become an ALS and that the Committee needs to do more training and educational seminars to assist pupils in obtaining their commission.” The responsibility of the Registration Committee is to set standards, and evaluate and examine candidates NOT to educate. These exams are challenging and so they should be. The exam is not just a mere formality but a
legitimate quantifiable measure of the student’s knowledge of the profession—something that needs to be held to high standards to maintain the integrity of the Association and the profession as a whole.

Principals need to submerge their students into all facets of the day-to-day activities of being an Alberta Land Surveyor and take an active role in their students’ professional career. The more situations you can expose your student to, the better decision maker, critical thinker and problem solver they will become. Principals need to invest in their students personally and be connected to their students’ success and failure. Principals should take it personally when their student could not pass a certain exam. It means that they did not prepare them well enough and that they must do better to ensure that it does not happen again. You have let the student down.

Principals need to encourage their students to ask questions, understand the thought process to re-establish a boundary to the best of their ability and ensure that the next ALS coming behind him/her will not find better supporting evidence to contradict that professional opinion. Above all, they need to ensure that their student demonstrates professional courtesy when dealing with all members of our Association at all times.

Principals need to ask themselves when their articling pupil is walking across that stage in one of our national parks and receiving his/her commission, “did I do everything in my power to assist my student in his/her professional career and ensure that moving forward he/she will not be destructive to the profession or adversely affect the general public?” Your answer needs to be a definitive yes!

Craig White, ALS

New Director of Surveys Appointed

Please welcome Ravi Shrivastava, P.Eng., P.Surv., ALS, CLS, SLS as Alberta’s newest Director of Surveys. As this appointment is a statutory requirement, the Deputy Minister designated Ravi for this regulatory and leadership role through a ministerial order on February 5th. Ravi will also be appointed as the Alberta Boundary Commissioner which holds special significance with 2013 being the commemoration of one hundred years of the Alberta-British Columbia Boundary Commission.

Prior to joining ESRD, Ravi was the national manager for special projects at Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa where he was relocated from Regina to participate in the “Leaders on the Move” programme; an accelerated leadership development program of the federal government. Most recently, he was engaged in the redistribution of Canada’s electoral boundaries including those involving Alberta.

Ravi holds a degree in Civil Engineering (with Gold Medal) from India, a professional Master in Geomatics (with distinction) from the Netherlands as well as attending several professional and leadership courses in Canada. Within three years of his arrival in Canada in 2000, Ravi received an accelerated accreditation as a professional engineer, a consulting engineer, a professional surveyor and a commission as a Saskatchewan Land Surveyor. In 2009, he was elected as the President of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association. Most recently, Ravi acquired a commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor.

Prior to immigrating, Ravi was a commissioned officer in the Indian Army Corps of Engineers where he was a Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the digital mapping and GIS wing of Defense Geomatics. He brings significant experience in geodetic and topographic surveys, photogrammetric and remote sensing, digital mapping and geographical information systems spanning over military, civil and industry, both nationally and internationally. In the Canadian federal government, Ravi has worked in regional offices as well as in Ottawa. Ravi is very excited to begin this leadership opportunity within the Alberta Government. Ravi has been actively involved in the community; he was the past director of the Saskatoon Engineering Society, provincial coordinator of the Netherlands alumni association in Canada and the past treasurer of the Hindu Society. Ravi is married to Namrata for 28 years and has two sons, Prakhar, a Saskatchewan Land Surveyor and Prachur who is graduating this year from the University of Ottawa. In addition to being fluent in Hindi and English and Punjabi to some extent, Ravi has obtained French competency at the federal government CBC level.

With this versatile education and experience, we are sure Ravi will have some great stories to share with us. The team at the Director of Surveys’ office looks forward to the future direction of the office under Ravi’s leadership.

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...the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is making great strides this year in explaining to government people and others who Alberta Land Surveyors are, what they do and why it is important.

Penny: Anyway, I was talking to Leonard this morning and I think he feels really bad about it.
Sheldon: Hub.
Penny: Well how do you feel?
Sheldon: I don’t understand the question.
Penny: Well I’m just asking if it’s difficult to be fighting with your best friend.
Sheldon: Oh, I hadn’t thought about it like that.

For this issue of ALS News, I want to return to a familiar theme—a theme common to many ALS News articles in the past.

COMMUNICATION

No, wait. Don’t turn the page. Read just a little bit more before flipping to the page to see which Alberta Land Surveyors have moved to different companies.

We know good communication is important. We probably also know that we need to better at communicating. If only it didn’t take so much time!

If only the other person would just listen to what he have to say!

I don’t want to spend your time trying to teach you how to better communicators. There are other people who are far better at it and will charge you far more to try to be a better communicator.

What I do want to do is show you some of the different ways that the ALSA has tried to be a better communicator this year and, perhaps, how you can help us with that mission.

In her From the President column, Connie Petersen talks about the key messages that we are using when meeting with government and industry representatives. When you take a look at those key messages, I am betting that your first reaction is going to be “that’s pretty obvious” and/or “that’s not entirely correct.” And you would be right—if you are talking to another land surveyor.

But we are not talking to another land surveyor. We are speaking with someone who does not know anything about land surveying other than, perhaps, they had a real property report done when they bought their house.

The key messages document is our attempt to explain to the public the benefit that Alberta Land Surveyors provide in the ongoing development of Alberta’s economy and growth. So we don’t talk about pins and cadastres and systems of survey. Instead, we say “private property owners’ rights are protected through the unbiased assessment of boundaries.”

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of government representatives of different backgrounds at both political and administrative levels. I have often found myself preparing for these meetings, in the past, by taking a highly-technical survey subject and trying to bring it down to a level that I think they will understand. As I get into the meeting, I find out very quickly that I need to bring the conversation down to an even more basic level of discussion. I realize now that I wanted to speak with these government representatives about our land surveying issues rather than talk to them about their issues and concerns and explain how land surveyors can help address those issues and concerns. Our key messages document will help make sure that we are speaking to government and industry leaders by engaging them in a discussion about what interests them.

One of the interesting challenges about discussing land surveying and land surveyors with government people or even the general public is that often, they have a preconceived (and false) notion about what it is that land surveyors do. Sometimes I think it would be easier to meet with government and industry about a topic on which they know nothing rather than a topic (land surveying) on which they think they know more than they do. I once had a meeting with a cabinet minister who, when I tried to
provide some background information about the profession, said they knew all about land surveying. As we got deeper and deeper into the discussion, I found I had to go back and provide that background information in order to correct the mistaken impression. It wasn’t the cabinet minister’s fault but we do need to recognize that the Alberta Land Surveyor’s reality of what means to be an Alberta Land Surveyor can differ wildly from that of the man on the street.

Nevertheless, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is making great strides this year in explaining to government people and others who Alberta Land Surveyors are, what they do and why it is important.

Over the past year, we have met with the ministers and deputy ministers responsible for the Land Surveyors Act, the Surveys Act and the Land Titles Act. We have met with government representatives within the departments responsible for those acts. We have responded to more consultation papers than we have done in the recent past. We have attended a number of different events where we might have the opportunity to meet with ministers or deputy ministers.

President Connie Petersen has invited our government relations consultant, Elan MacDonald, to speak to the membership at the AGM in Jasper to talk in more detail about what we are doing and different ways that individual members can help in speaking to their local MLA and other government officials.

Remember; when you speak to your local MLA about your profession, use the key messages document so we all convey the same message.

In a different vein, the Association’s “everything in its place” campaign too has been about creating a consistent message to the public and industry players about the role land surveyors and land surveying plays in this province. The campaign consisted of simple print and e-mail messages each using the tag line, “everything in its place.” It’s not the same type of campaign that we’ve done in the past which typically consisted of information-rich brochures. There’s not much detail in these marketing pieces but they convey the message that Alberta Land Surveyors are responsible for putting “everything in its place.”

It would be foolish of me to look only at how we communicate with the outside world. The ALSA now has a world-class database and content management system that allows us to communicate far more effectively and in real-time than we were ever able to do so in the past. We are still learning how to use the system to our advantage but members are now able to update their contact information, complete online questionnaires and register for events using the one connected system. One of the best things about the new system is that the membership registers are live on the website. We are looking at getting more Boundary Panel information to the members through the MyMember section of the website.

Brian E. Munday

Sheldon Cooper: Leonard, I’m moving out.
Leonard Hofstadter: What do you mean, you’re moving out? Why?
Sheldon Cooper: There doesn’t have to be a reason.
Leonard Hofstadter: Yeah, there kinda does.
Sheldon Cooper: Not necessarily. This is a classic example of Münchhausen’s Trilemma: either the reason is predicated on a series of sub-reasons, leading to an infinite regression; or it tracks back to arbitrary axiomatic statements; or it’s ultimately circular: i.e., I’m moving out because I’m moving out.
Leonard Hofstadter: I’m still confused.
Sheldon Cooper: Leonard, I don’t see how I could have made it any simpler.

Big Bang Theory: The Bad Fish Paradigm
Thank You
Thank you very much for your generous donation to the J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation in John’s memory. He was a very proud surveyor who loved his job and that kept him going over his 14-month battle since he was diagnosed. People asked him why he was still working in his condition and it was always the same answer. John started in Calgary, then Medicine Hat, St. Albert and back to Calgary in 2003.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.
Glenda, Jason and Nichola Wallace

Four Novels Released by G. Stewart Nash
First of all, I want to thank you for continuing to keep me on your mailing list for ALS News. I continue to read through every issue and do enjoy it, as well as learn new things regarding our profession. I also quite like your new logo. Good job.

The following media release is with regard to four novels; two historical, one survey related, and one a sequel that I am releasing for e-book downloads. You may recall my published historical novel titled The Last 300 Miles that you kindly had someone review several years ago. The publisher of that is also placing it on e-books within a couple of weeks. For your information, I have one available now, the others should be online about mid-February.

Thank you so much.
Stewart Nash

MEDIA RELEASE
Stewart Nash, a registered land surveyor in Montana, has recently released four novels for your reading pleasure for e-book downloading. They can be seen and reviewed at Smashwords.com. One novel is relative to the surveying profession, two are historical, and the fourth is a sequel to the published historical novel titled, The Last 300 Miles, which is also available as an e-book, but is under G. Stewart Nash. On Smashwords, they are available in almost any format for downloading, only $4.95 or less.

Scholarships
I greatly appreciate your generous donation. It will be a huge help in my future studies.

Nicole Lane
Note: Nicole was the recipient of the College of the North Atlantic ALSA Scholarship.

Double Monumentation
The issue of double monumentation appears to revolve around measurement technology rather than the ‘art’ of land surveying. We appear to have raised a generation of measurement technocrats instead of land surveyors. It appears to revolve around measurement technology rather than the ‘art’ of land surveying. We appear to have raised a generation of measurement technocrats instead of land surveyors. In particular, for my future career as a professional land surveyor. Although I am originally from Saint John, New Brunswick, I have spent most of my life in Fort St. John, British Columbia. The strong presence of the geomatics industry in my community contributed greatly in my decision to become a professional land surveyor. I have served on the Geomatics Engineering Students’ Society Council for all three of my years in the department. It has been my privilege to represent my fellow students and to lend my time to organizing events including industry recruiting and networking events, as well as our annual trip to Switzerland.

Andrew Salmon
Note: Andrew was the recipient of the University of Calgary J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation scholarship.

From a Councillor
ALS News - December 2012
I suggest that accuracy standards be amended to indicate that, in addition to the 1:7500 and 1:5000 requirements, control surveys should be within the expected precision of the instrumentation and the expected random errors in the control points.

I have students coming in from internship who feel that 1:7500 closure on an ASCM that they use to start and end their traverse is acceptable, even though they have made a blunder.

Dr Michael Barry
Professor, John Hahmuly Chair in Land Tenure and Cadastral Systems
Director FIG Foundation

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Andrew Salmon
Note: Andrew was the recipient of the University of Calgary J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation scholarship.

Thank you very much for accepting my application for the SAIT transfer scholarship. The cheque received was very generous and I appreciate the financial help very much.

I would also like to apologize for the delay in writing this letter. I had a very busy start to the month of December due to my final examinations.

Once again, thank you very much.
Cori Gagne
Note: Cori was the recipient of the J.H. Holloway Scholarship SAIT/U of C transfer scholarship.

I would like to thank you for awarding me the J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation Award. The money is very much appreciated, and will be extremely helpful to me as a student. This award will assist me on my way to a future career in geomatics. I feel honoured to have received this scholarship, and would like to thank you again for your generosity.

Travis Hubble
Note: Travis is the recipient of the Red River College ALSA Scholarship.

This award has allowed me to focus on my studies without having to worry too much about my personal finances. It has been a great help to me and my family as I complete the final year of my degree. Being selected to receive such an honour has also renewed my enthusiasm for geomatics and, in particular, for my future career as a professional land surveyor. Although I am originally from Saint John, New Brunswick, I have spent most of my life in Fort St. John, British Columbia. The strong presence of the geomatics industry in my community contributed greatly in my decision to become a professional land surveyor. I have served on the Geomatics Engineering Students’ Society Council for all three of my years in the department. It has been my privilege to represent my fellow students and to lend my time to organizing events including industry recruiting and networking events, as well as our annual trip to Switzerland.

Andrew Salmon
Note: Andrew was the recipient of the University of Calgary J.H. Holloway Scholarship Foundation scholarship.
As the recipient of this award for the 2011-2012 academic year, I would like to express my gratitude towards the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and BCIT. It is an honour to be selected for this award and I truly appreciate the support while I continue my second year of studies in Geomatics Engineering.

Prior to my enrollment at BCIT, I completed my HBSc at the University of Toronto in the field of archaeology. I spent several years working in the field of cultural resource management in Ontario and also in Australia. I had always been interested in surveying and mapping but never had the opportunity to acquire these technical skills.

I am thrilled that I made the decision to come to BCIT. I have learned a wealth of practical skills that are applicable to a diverse range of disciplines. I am eager to gain experience in new fields. What I have accomplished in this short amount of time makes me excited for future opportunities to apply my knowledge.

Thank you again for your generosity. Receiving this recognition from the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and BCIT truly is helpful and motivates me to continue to excel in the geomatics program.

Ariella Rea-Cunningham

Note: Ariella was the recipient of the British Columbia Institute of Technology ALSA Scholarship.

The Leadership Attitude: Accountability Strategies for Performance
9:00 a.m. — Thursday, April 18th
Kevin Burns — Keynote Seminar Speaker

Leadership is not management. Leadership is a state of mind—an attitude. How people behave toward each other, toward customers, toward work ethic, toward engagement on the job, toward management and toward how stressful people perceive their work to be are ALL based on varying degrees of leadership.

This general session keynote presentation will get into your head and, through stories and laughter, help you to find your personal leadership and commitment to yourself and the performance of your job.

“Competence” is the level to which you were trained. Excellence is a personal choice beyond that. That’s what being a leader means.

Presenter
Kevin Burns, Workplace Expert is a worldwide authority on corporate culture and the workplace of the future. He is a management consultant, futurist and the author of eight books including his forthcoming, Tweak – Building A Better Workplace In 10 Seconds Or Less.

Kevin Burns is also an outstanding keynote speaker, worldwide columnist, international blogger of influence and thought-leader. He is opinionated, blunt, direct, funny, thought-provoking, incredibly well-researched and usually … right!
New Members

#906 GREENSTEIN, Leighton J.

Leighton Greenstein graduated from the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering program in 2008. He served articles under Alberta Land Surveyors Metin Timocin, Mark Knott and Ed Oh from July 23, 2008 until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on December 6, 2012. Current employment is with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership in Edmonton.

Surveying experience includes working for Focus Surveys Limited Partnership in 2008 engaged in municipal and construction surveys. In 2009-2010, Leighton travelled to Brisbane, Queensland in Australia. He was registered with the Surveyors Board in Queensland and was involved in construction surveys for subdivision utilities, water pipelines, identification surveys, subdivision, medium rise construction, height certificates, contour and detail and photo control surveys. He returned to Canada in 2010 and worked for Focus in Regina, Saskatchewan doing precise machine alignment and industrial surveys at the Co-op Upgrader Complex. In 2010-2011, he worked for Midwest Surveys Inc. on plant site construction and oil & gas surveys. In 2011-2012, he took employment with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership working in the oil & gas sector in Edmonton. He also serves on the ALSA Legislation Ad Hoc Committee.

Leighton enjoys golf, tennis, snowmobiling, ATV riding and hiking. He lives in Edmonton with his wife Amanda and 8-month-old daughter Isla Rae.

#907 MOLASKI, Robert J.

Robert Molaski graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a B.Sc. in Geomatics Engineering in 2004. He served articles under Stephen Nichol, ALS until he received his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor on January 14, 2013.

Robert has been employed with Matai Surveys Ltd. since he began his articles on February 9, 2006 and is mostly involved in irrigation and municipal survey work.

Robert enjoys golf, volleyball and playing guitar. He lives in Calgary with his wife Sara Cormier.

#908 POPADYNETZ, Kurtis. W.

Kurt Popady-netz graduated from NAIT with a diploma in Geomatics Engineering in 2008. He articled to Doug Lunty, ALS from December 3, 2009 until he received his commission on January 25, 2013.

Kurt began working for Focus Surveys Limited Partnership upon graduation from NAIT in 2008. He completed the CBEPS exams and signed articles in 2009. He primarily works in the oil & gas sector and is currently a project manager at Focus in Edmonton.

Hobbies include golf, swimming, running, hockey, travelling and scuba diving. He resides in Edmonton and is engaged to be married to Jessica Ponto on July 12, 2013.

#909 SHRIVASTAVA, Ravi

Ravi Shrivastava received a Professional Masters Degree in Geomatics (with distinction) from the International Institute for Aerospace Surveys and Earth Sciences, The Netherlands in 1996. He also has a degree in Civil Engineering (gold medal) as well as a Master of Surveying Engineering and a PG diploma in Photogrammetry from India.

As a CLS and SLS, Ravi passed the ALSA jurisdictional exams and subsequently received his commission as an ALS on February 4, 2013. He is currently employed as the Director of Surveys/Alberta Boundary Commissioner with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Ravi has twenty years of combined experience in topographic and geodetic surveys, photogrammetry and remote sensing, digital mapping and GIS plus ten years of recent experience in land surveying. Ravi served on the SLSA Council for two years and as president in 2008-09. He was also the Provincial Coordinator for The Netherlands Alumni Association for Saskatchewan.

Hobbies include computers, the internet and cooking. Ravi recently moved to Edmonton, his wife Namrata is to join him in June from Ottawa. They have two grown children Prakhar and Prachur.

#910 Johnson, Chad

Chad Johnson received a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in 2007 and became a Saskatchewan Land Surveyor in 2010.

Chad passed the ALSA jurisdictional exam and became a member of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on February 12, 2013.

Employment was with Altus Geomatics from 2007 to 2012. Chad moved to Edmonton in the summer of 2012 and is currently employed with Can-Am Geomatics Corp. in Sherwood Park.

Chad resides in Edmonton and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Attend the New Members’ Lunch
Thursday, April 18, 2013
Jasper Park Lodge
Updates . . . .

For up-to-date contact information, log onto the ALSA website.

ACTIVE

Robin Arthurs has a new e-mail address: rarthur@davincipbb.net.

Ron Bridges is now employed by Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership at 17327 - 106A Avenue, Edmonton T5S 1M7; Tel: 780-481-3399; Fax: 780-481-3841; E-mail: ron.bridges@altusgroup.com.

Steven Card is now employed by Trans-Canada Pipeline. Contact information is 35 Sheep River Drive, Okotoks T1S 1N6; Tel: 403-466-7097; E-mail: steve_card@transcanada.com.

Anthony deBruyne is now employed by Core Geomatics Group Inc. at 708 - 11 Avenue SW, Suite 227, Calgary, AB T2R 0E4; Tel: 403-648-2772; Fax: 403-648-2767; Email: tony.debruyne@coregeomatics.com.

Leighton J. Greenstein was commissioned as ALS #906 on December 6, 2012. Mr. Greenstein is employed by Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership in Edmonton.

Jeremy Howden is now at the Edmonton office of Midwest Surveys Inc.

Jamie Hume is now employed by CIMA Geomatics Land Surveying Inc. at 600 Crowfoot Crescent NW, Suite 240, Calgary T3G 0B4; Tel: 403-775-0100 Ext. 7608; Fax: 403-775-0102; E-mail: jamie.hume@cima.ca.

Stephen Hyatt is now focused by Focus Surveys Limited Partnership at 916 - 42 Avenue SE, Calgary T2G 1Z2; Tel: 403-263-8200; Fax: 403-263-8210; E-mail: stephen.hyatt@focus.ca.

Chad Johnson was commissioned as ALS #910 on February 12, 2013. Mr. Johnson is employed by Can-Am Geomatics Corp. in Sherwood Park.

Jeffrey Johnston is now employed by Spatial Technologies Inc.. Contact information is #2, 21 Highfield Circle SE, Calgary T2G 5N6; Tel: 403-252-0070; Fax: 403-259-3992; E-mail: Jeff.Johnston@spatialtechnologies.ca.

John Landry is now employed by Precision Geomatics Inc. at 17/403 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton T5S 2G8; Tel: 780-470-4000; Fax: 780-486-9435; E-mail: jlandry@precisiongeo.ca.

Byron Laurie is now employed by Integrated Geomatics Inc. at 250 - 6 Avenue SW, Suite 300, Calgary T2P 3H7; Tel: 403-774-4078; Fax: 403-262-5311; E-mail: byron.laurie@gmail.com.

Roger Luard is now employed by Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd. at 2121 Premier Way, Suite 140, Sherwood Park T8H 0B8; Tel: 780-410-2580; Fax: 780-410-2589; E-mail: roger.luard@swg.ca.

Steve Meehan – mailing address has been updated to PO Box 2100, Stn. M, #80, Calgary T2P 2M5.

Brent Murray has a new e-mail address: brent.murray@mcsnet.ca.

Robert J. Molaski was commissioned as ALS #907 on January 14, 2013. Mr. Molaski is employed by Matal Surveys Ltd. in Calgary.

Ivaylo Nedev is now listed as a sole practitioner. His contact information is 18811 - 96 Avenue NW, Edmonton T5T 5L2; Tel: 403-443-0714; E-mail: ivoned@yahoo.com.

Al Nelson.e-mail address correction: a.nelson@xplornet.ca.

Kevin Nemrava has a new e-mail address: knemrava@gmail.com.

Kurtis Popadyzenetz was commissioned as ALS #908 on January 25, 2013. He is employed by Focus Surveys Limited Partnership of Edmonton.

Ravi Shrivastava was commissioned as ALS #909 on February 4, 2013. He is employed by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Contact information is 2nd Floor, Petroleum Plaza ST, 9915 - 108 Street, Edmonton T5K 2G8; Tel: 780-422-0023; Fax: 780-422-4252; Email: ravi.shrivastava@gov.ab.ca.

Lesley Sick is now employed by Valard Construction LP, 4209 - 99 Street, Suite 201, Edmonton, T6E 5V7; Tel: 780-436-9876; Fax: 780-577-4832; E-mail: lsick@valard.com.

Cathy Wilson is now listed as a sole practitioner. Contact information is: PO BOX 292, Blackfalds T0M 0J0; Tel: 403-506-2253; Email: cathy@outlook.com.

John Landry is now employed by Precision Geomatics Inc. at 17/403 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton T5S 2G8; Tel: 780-470-4000; Fax: 780-486-9435; E-mail: jlandry@precisiongeo.ca.

Byron Laurie is now employed by Integrated Geomatics Inc. at 250 - 6 Avenue SW, Suite 300, Calgary T2P 3H7; Tel: 403-774-4078; Fax: 403-262-5311; E-mail: byron.laurie@gmail.com.

Roger Luard is now employed by Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd. at 2121 Premier Way, Suite 140, Sherwood Park T8H 0B8; Tel: 780-410-2580; Fax: 780-410-2589; E-mail: roger.luard@swg.ca.

Steve Meehan – mailing address has been updated to PO Box 2100, Stn. M, #80, Calgary T2P 2M5.

Brent Murray has a new e-mail address: brent.murray@mcsnet.ca.

Robert J. Molaski was commissioned as ALS #907 on January 14, 2013. Mr. Molaski is employed by Matal Surveys Ltd. in Calgary.

Ivaylo Nedev is now listed as a sole practitioner. His contact information is 18811 - 96 Avenue NW, Edmonton T5T 5L2; Tel: 403-443-0714; E-mail: ivoned@yahoo.com.

Al Nelson.e-mail address correction: a.nelson@xplornet.ca.

Kevin Nemrava has a new e-mail address: knemrava@gmail.com.

Kurtis Popadyzenetz was commissioned as ALS #908 on January 25, 2013. He is employed by Focus Surveys Limited Partnership of Edmonton.

Ravi Shrivastava was commissioned as ALS #909 on February 4, 2013. He is employed by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Contact information is 2nd Floor, Petroleum Plaza ST, 9915 - 108 Street, Edmonton T5K 2G8; Tel: 780-422-0023; Fax: 780-422-4252; Email: ravi.shrivastava@gov.ab.ca.

Lesley Sick is now employed by Valard Construction LP, 4209 - 99 Street, Suite 201, Edmonton, T6E 5V7; Tel: 780-436-9876; Fax: 780-577-4832; E-mail: lsick@valard.com.

Cathy Wilson is now listed as a sole practitioner. Contact information is: PO BOX 292, Blackfalds T0M 0J0; Tel: 403-506-2253; Email: cathy@outlook.com.

John Landry is now employed by Precision Geomatics Inc. at 17/403 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton T5S 2G8; Tel: 780-470-4000; Fax: 780-486-9435; E-mail: jlandry@precisiongeo.ca.

Byron Laurie is now employed by Integrated Geomatics Inc. at 250 - 6 Avenue SW, Suite 300, Calgary T2P 3H7; Tel: 403-774-4078; Fax: 403-262-5311; E-mail: byron.laurie@gmail.com.

Roger Luard is now employed by Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd. at 2121 Premier Way, Suite 140, Sherwood Park T8H 0B8; Tel: 780-410-2580; Fax: 780-410-2589; E-mail: roger.luard@swg.ca.

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Ivaylo Nedev is now listed as a sole practitioner. His contact information is 18811 - 96 Avenue NW, Edmonton T5T 5L2; Tel: 403-443-0714; E-mail: ivoned@yahoo.com.

Al Nelson.e-mail address correction: a.nelson@xplornet.ca.

Kevin Nemrava has a new e-mail address: knemrava@gmail.com.

Kurtis Popadyzenetz was commissioned as ALS #908 on January 25, 2013. He is employed by Focus Surveys Limited Partnership of Edmonton.

Ravi Shrivastava was commissioned as ALS #909 on February 4, 2013. He is employed by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Contact information is 2nd Floor, Petroleum Plaza ST, 9915 - 108 Street, Edmonton T5K 2G8; Tel: 780-422-0023; Fax: 780-422-4252; Email: ravi.shrivastava@gov.ab.ca.

Lesley Sick is now employed by Valard Construction LP, 4209 - 99 Street, Suite 201, Edmonton, T6E 5V7; Tel: 780-436-9876; Fax: 780-577-4832; E-mail: lsick@valard.com.

Cathy Wilson is now listed as a sole practitioner. Contact information is: PO BOX 292, Blackfalds T0M 0J0; Tel: 403-506-2253; Email: cathy@outlook.com.

Noah Nichols transferred articles to Al Jamieson, ALS of Global Raymac Surveys Inc. in Calgary on November 19, 2012.

James O’Neill signed articles with Bruce Gudim, ALS of Maltais Geomatics Inc. in Calgary on October 31, 2012.

Ramon Pina Avila transferred articles to Dwayne Edmundson of Explore Surveys Inc. in Edmonton on December 3, 2012.

Adam Pluim transferred articles to Greg Illchuk, ALS of Allnorth Geomatics Limited in Fort McMurray on January 1, 2013.

Dana Sands transferred articles to Jeffrey Adair, ALS of Focus Surveys Limited Partnership in Calgary on October 4, 2012.

Scott Slen signed articles with Robert Pinkerton, ALS of Can-Am Geomatics Corp. in Calgary on January 2, 2013.

Mitchell Scheuerman signed articles with Gordon Linnell, ALS of Global Raymac Surveys Inc. in Calgary on October 26, 2012.

Danu Vandermark signed articles with Javier Siu, ALS of Amec Geomatics Limited in Edmonton on October 26, 2012.

AFFILIATE

Brian Ball is now employed by Baseline Geomatics Group Ltd. at 5141 - 54 Street, Drayton Valley T7A 1S3; Tel: 780-542-5252; Fax: 780-542-5044.

Thomas Hoppe, OLS became affiliate member AF053 on September 5, 2012. He is presently employed by Mission Geospatial in Calgary.

Johnathan Lunn, CLS became affiliate member AF054 on February 6, 2013. He is employed by Athabaskan Resource Company in Calgary.

Terry Simmonds is now employed by ATCO Electric. Contact information is 10303 Jasper Avenue NW, Edmonton T5K 3X6; Tel: 587-991-5723; Fax: 780-420-5788; E-mail: Terry.Simmonds@atcoelectric.com.

ASSOCIATE

Harrell (Jackie) Gaskin became associate member A088 on January 31, 2013. Jackie is employed with McElhanney Land Surveys (Alta.) Ltd. in Edmonton.

George McGeachie is now employed with the Land Titles Office in Calgary.

Colin J. Rose became associate member AS087 on November 21, 2012. Colin is employed with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership in Grande Prairie.

Crystal L. Surette became associate member AS086 on November 21, 2012. Crystal is employed with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership in Grande Prairie.

CORPORATIONS

Alpine Land Surveys Limited has a new e-mail address: doug@alpine-surveys.com.

Don Wilson Surveys Ltd. has as new e-mail address: don@donwilsonsurveys.com and website: www.donwilsonsurveys.com.

Edwards Land Surveys Ltd. was registered as a corporation #276 on February 4, 2013 under the responsibility of LeMont Edwards, ALS. Contact information is 30 Greigore Lake Estates, Fort McMurray, T9H 5S1; Tel: 780-881-9181; E-mail: LeMont@elsauveys.ca; Website: www.edwardslandsurveys.ca.

G.E. Hooper & Associates Ltd. ceased to be a surveyor’s corporation on December 6, 2012.

LN Land Development Technologies Inc. was registered as corporation #P274, on December 6, 2012 under the responsibility of Geoffrey C. Scott, ALS. Contact information is 101, 10634 – 178 Street, Edmonton T5S 1H4; Tel: 780-715-6006; E-mail: geoff.scott@mysurveyor.ca.

On-Site Surveys Inc. was cancelled as a surveyor’s corporation on January 31, 2013.

A Shot in the Dark

happens on Friday Night, April 19th

With the passing of prohibition and organized crime on the rise, the JPL Joint, a swanky establishment run by Connie Petersen, has been nothing but jumping. Connie is planning a night to remember at the exclusive nightspot... and you are invited to try your sleuthing skills at a number of different activities with each one offering a different challenge.

You might even be the killer!
2013 slate of candidates

FOR PRESIDENT
Robert Scott, ALS, P.Eng.

• Born in Kimberly, British Columbia; raised in BC, Montana, Saskatchewan, Ontario, England, Quebec, and Alberta.
• Graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Geography (Survey Science) in 1980.
• Graduated from the University of Calgary with a B.Sc. in Surveying Engineering in 1987.
• Articled to Grant Cross, ALS.
• Obtained ALS commission in 1987.
• Received Professional Engineer status in 1991.
• Employment History: Walker Newby (Edmonton), Tronnes Surveys (Calgary), Martin and Co. (Lethbridge), Brown Okamura and Associates (Lethbridge) All-West Surveys (Calgary).
• Director and owner of Scott Geomatics in Lethbridge from 1996 to 2003.
• Involved with setting up the Geomatics Engineering Program at Lethbridge Community College.
• Involved in instructing surveying at the Lethbridge Community College from 1996 to 2003.
• Employed with Stantec Geomatics in Calgary since 2005. Currently a principal and senior practitioner providing strategic direction on transformational projects and the management of key clients.
• Served on the Standards Committee, and the Real Property Report Task Force.
• Member of the Registration Committee from 1999 to 2004 and 2005 to 2009 as Council liaison, and twice as chairman.
• Served on the TILMA Sub-Group.
• ALSA Council member from 1998 to 2000.
• Member of the Practice Review Board 2009-2011. Chairman in 2010-2011.
• Chairman of the RST Ad Hoc Committee 2011.
• ALSA Vice-President in 2012-2013.
• Reside in Calgary, Alberta with wife Linda and two teenagers, a cat and a dog.
• Hobbies include golfing and hiking in the mountains.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT
Allan Jamieson, ALS, CLS

• Born in Red Deer, Alberta in 1954 and raised in Delburne.
• Graduated from SAIT in 1975.
• Articled to D.I. Tronnes, ALS and R.D. MacDonald, ALS.
• Obtained ALS commission in 1982.
• Obtained CLS commission in 1993.
• Past chairman and long-time member of Standards Committee.
• ALSA representative on CAPP Geomatics Committee.
• Member of ERCB Liaison Group.
• Chairman of Oil and Gas Ad Hoc Committee.
• Member of External Relations Committee (representing the Oil & Gas Sub-Group).
• Previous employment with Alberta Environment, Tronnes Surveys (1977-1979) and Raymac Surveys Ltd. (1979-2010).
• Principal with Global Raymac Surveys Inc. since inception in December 2010.
• Reside in Calgary with wife Barbara. Proud father of three married children and grandfather of one granddaughter.
• Hobbies include curling, golf and water skiing.

FOR COUNCIL
John Byrne ALS

• Born in Ottawa, Ontario.
• Graduated from St. Francis Xavier High School in Edmonton in 1974.
• Graduated from the SAIT survey program in 1977.
• Articled to Robert Fulton, ALS, Dennis Hosford, ALS, Allan J Edwards, ALS and Hugo Engler, ALS.
• Obtained ALS commission in 1986.
• Employed by Walker Newby, Hosford, Impey and Welter (HIW) Surveys, WD Usher (Usher Canada), Pals Surveys.
• Partner in Pals Surveys and Pals Surveys and Associates.
• Currently President of IBI Geomatics Inc.
• Member of the Legislation Committee from 1992 to 1995, and chaired the Legislation Committee in 1994-1995.
• Member of the Registration Committee 2006 To 2009.
• Currently a member of External Relations Committee.
• Reside in Edmonton with wife Tracey.
• Father of two married sons; grandfather of one grandson.

Ashley Robertson, ALS, P.Eng.

• Born in Winnipeg, and raised in Brandon, Manitoba.
• Graduated from the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering program in 1998.
• Received ALS commission #681 in 2001.
• Received P.Eng. designation in 2002.
• Chairman of the Conventional & Social Committee (2001-2002).
• Served on the Section 9 Ad Hoc Committee (2003-2005).
• Chairman of the Section 9 Ad Hoc Committee (2004-2005).
• Served on the Registration Committee (2006 to present).
• Reside in Edmonton, Alberta with husband Erik Holmlund and three kids; Zach, Dania and Callie.
• Activities include running, golfing, skiing (all types), mountain biking, travel, and chauffeuring children.

Michael Thompson, ALS, CLS, BCLS(NP), P.Eng.

• Received P.Eng membership, 2010.
• Received CLS commission in 2012.
• Employed by Maltais Geomatics Inc. from 2003 to 2010.
• High Level Branch Manager for Maltais Geomatics Inc. from 2007 to 2010.
• Founded MPE Geomatics Ltd. in Lethbridge in 2010.
• Current President and General Manager, MPE Geomatics Ltd.
• ALSA GPS Guidelines Working Group, 2008 to 2011.
• ALSA Legislation Ad-Hoc Committee, 2011 to 2013 (Chair, 2012-2013).
• ABCLS Career Awareness Committee, 2009 to 2011.
• Member of Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC), Alberta Geomatics Group (AGG), Urban Development Institute (UDI), Canadian Home Builders’ Association (CHBA), International Right of Way Association (IRWA), Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping Technologies (ASSMT, Associate Membership).
• Treasurer, High Level & District Chamber of Commerce 2008 to 2009.
• Reside in Lethbridge with fiancée, Erica Welsh.
• Hobbies include curling, skiing, golf, and camping.

Steven Van Berkel, ALS, P.Eng.

• Born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1977.
• Graduated from the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering program in 2002.
• Articles were served under Ron Hall, ALS, Les Mehre, ALS and Grant Cross, ALS.
• Received ALS commission in 2005.
• Received P.Eng designation in 2008.
• Previously employed by Co-ordinate Surveys (to clean their offices when I was 11 years old), Stantec Geomatics Ltd., and Focus Surveys Limited Partnership.
• Employed with Altus Geomatics Limited Partnership since 2006.
• Member of the PRB from 2011 to 2013.
• Member of the Boundary Panel from 2010 to 2013.
• Hobbies include golf, reading, driving kids around to various activities and apologizing to my wife.

Saturday, April 20, 2013
9:00 a.m.

....continued on page 20
W. Bruce Clark, ALS, OLS, OLIP

Education and Professional Associations:
• Queen’s University, BA History & Geography.
• University of Toronto, Erindale College, BSc Survey Science.
• OLS commission #1690 in 1991.
• ALS commission #823 in 2009.
• Charter member of Professional Surveyors Canada.

Work History:
• Webster & Simmonds Surveying Ltd./Stantec Geomatics 2000-2006.
• McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd., Edmonton 2006 to present.
• Assistant Branch Manager, McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd. Fort McMurray.

Volunteer Activities Related to Surveying:
• ALSA Future of the Profession Committee 2008.
• ALSA Professional Development Committee 2007 to 2010.
• ALSA Council 2011 to present.
• Member of Land Surveyors Team, David Thompson Brigade 2008, 2011.
• Member of Northern Lights College Advisory Committee.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Advocacy Committee 2011 to present.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Public Awareness Committee 2011 to present.

Community Involvement:
• Minor Hockey Coach, St Albert Minor Hockey Association.
• Coach, St Albert Soccer Association.
• Volunteer and Friend of Canadian War Museum.

• Volunteer foster home for Chinook Winds Greyhound Rescue.
• Active hockey player, runner, camper and canoer.
• Married with 3 active children!

Chad Finner, ALS

Education and Professional Associations:
• Queen’s University, BA History & Geography.
• University of Toronto, Erindale College, BSc Survey Science.
• OLS commission #1690 in 1991.
• ALS commission #823 in 2009.
• Charter member of Professional Surveyors Canada.

Work History:
• Webster & Simmonds Surveying Ltd./Stantec Geomatics 2000-2006.
• McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd., Edmonton 2006 to present.
• Assistant Branch Manager, McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd. Fort McMurray.

Volunteer Activities Related to Surveying:
• ALSA Future of the Profession Committee 2008.
• ALSA Professional Development Committee 2007 to 2010.
• ALSA Council 2011 to present.
• Member of Land Surveyors Team, David Thompson Brigade 2008, 2011.
• Member of Northern Lights College Advisory Committee.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Advocacy Committee 2011 to present.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Public Awareness Committee 2011 to present.

Community Involvement:
• Minor Hockey Coach, St Albert Minor Hockey Association.
• Coach, St Albert Soccer Association.
• Volunteer and Friend of Canadian War Museum.

• Born in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1955.
• Survey Science, University of Alberta (1977-1979).
• Articled to Grant Cross, ALS.
• Obtained ALS commission in 1983.
• Principal of 1D Land Surveys (1992-1995).
• Principal of Northland Surveys Ltd. (1995-present).
• Member of Standards Committee (1990-1991).
• Member of Convention and Social Committee (1991-1993).
• Member of Standards Committee (1993-1994).
• Member of Public Relations Committee (1994-1995).
• Member of Convention and Social Committee (1995-1998).
• Chairman of Convention and Social Committee (1996-1997).
• Member of Practice Review Board (2001-2003).
• Chairman of Practice Review Board (2003-2005).
• Reside in Edmonton with wife Sarah.

Chad Finner, ALS

Education and Professional Associations:
• Queen’s University, BA History & Geography.
• University of Toronto, Erindale College, BSc Survey Science.
• OLS commission #1690 in 1991.
• ALS commission #823 in 2009.
• Charter member of Professional Surveyors Canada.

Work History:
• Webster & Simmonds Surveying Ltd./Stantec Geomatics 2000-2006.
• McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd., Edmonton 2006 to present.
• Assistant Branch Manager, McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd. Fort McMurray.

Volunteer Activities Related to Surveying:
• ALSA Future of the Profession Committee 2008.
• ALSA Professional Development Committee 2007 to 2010.
• ALSA Council 2011 to present.
• Member of Land Surveyors Team, David Thompson Brigade 2008, 2011.
• Member of Northern Lights College Advisory Committee.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Advocacy Committee 2011 to present.
• Professional Surveyors Canada Public Awareness Committee 2011 to present.

Community Involvement:
• Minor Hockey Coach, St Albert Minor Hockey Association.
• Coach, St Albert Soccer Association.
• Volunteer and Friend of Canadian War Museum.

• Born in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1955.
• Survey Science, University of Alberta (1977-1979).
• Articled to Grant Cross, ALS.
• Obtained ALS commission in 1983.
• Principal of 1D Land Surveys (1992-1995).
• Principal of Northland Surveys Ltd. (1995-present).
• Member of Standards Committee (1990-1991).
• Member of Convention and Social Committee (1991-1993).
• Member of Standards Committee (1993-1994).
• Member of Public Relations Committee (1994-1995).
• Member of Convention and Social Committee (1995-1998).
• Chairman of Convention and Social Committee (1996-1997).
• Member of Practice Review Board (2001-2003).
• Chairman of Practice Review Board (2003-2005).
• Reside in Edmonton with wife Sarah.

Scholarship Recipients

ALBERTA LAND SURVEYORS’ ASSOCIATION

Michael Harpur
University of Calgary

Nicole Lane
College of the North Atlantic

Jeff MacLeod
Centre of Geographic Sciences

Ivan Moldovanov
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Ariella Rea-Cunningham
British Columbia Institute of Technology

JOHN DEYHOLOS MEMORIAL AWARD

Matthew Herasymiuk
University of Calgary

J.H. HOLLOWAY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Cori Gagne
SAIT/University of Calgary Transfer

Travis Hubble
Red River College

Andrew Salmon
University of Calgary

Scholarship Recipients

ALBERTA LAND SURVEYORS’ ASSOCIATION

Michael Harpur
University of Calgary

Nicole Lane
College of the North Atlantic

Jeff MacLeod
Centre of Geographic Sciences

Ivan Moldovanov
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Ariella Rea-Cunningham
British Columbia Institute of Technology

JOHN DEYHOLOS MEMORIAL AWARD

Matthew Herasymiuk
University of Calgary

J.H. HOLLOWAY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Cori Gagne
SAIT/University of Calgary Transfer

Travis Hubble
Red River College

Andrew Salmon
University of Calgary

FIVE ON THE SIDE

entertains at the ALSA President’s Ball on Saturday, April 20th

Made up of five musicians and a sound engineer, this band not only grooves together during gigs but in life. Most of the members have been friends for over ten years and have travelled and performed in various places around the world. This is what sets them apart from any other band—they truly love what they do and who they do it with!
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In this issue of ALS News, President Connie Petersen talks about the key messages the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association wants to convey when meeting with government and industry representatives. While the key messages may seem self-evident to Alberta Land Surveyors, the document is designed to put what we do in a few short sentences in a language that anyone could understand. It also ensures that the message being delivered is consistent regardless of who is representing the ALSA.

Such a document is often called an elevator speech because it should be possible to deliver the summary in the time span of an elevator ride, or approximately thirty seconds to two minutes.

In 1852, Elisha Graves Otis invented the first safety brake for elevators. With his installation of the first safe elevator in 1853 he literally started the elevator industry.

When the château was built, Versailles was a country village. Today, however, it is a wealthy suburb of Paris, some 20 kilometres southwest of the French capital. The court of Versailles was the centre of political power in France from 1682, when Louis XIV moved from Paris, until the royal family was forced to return to the capital in October 1789 after the beginning of the French Revolution. Versailles is therefore famous not only as a building, but as a symbol of the system of absolute monarchy of the Ancien Régime.

The galerie des glaces (Hall of Mirrors in English), is perhaps the most celebrated room in the château of Versailles.

A mirror is an object that reflects light or sound in a way that preserves much of its original quality subsequent to its contact with the mirror. Some mirrors also filter out some wavelengths, while preserving other wavelengths in the reflection. This is different from other light-reflecting objects that do not preserve much of the original wave signal other than colour and diffuse reflected light. The most familiar type of mirror is the plane mirror, which has a flat surface. Curved mirrors are also used, to produce magnified or diminished images or focus light or simply distort the reflected image.

Mirrors are commonly used for personal grooming or admiring oneself (in which case the archaic term looking-glass is sometimes still used), decoration, and architecture.

Through the Looking Glass, the sequel to Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, was written in 1872 and it finds Alice in a land when she walks through a mirror into the Looking-Glass House. The land is full of mythological creatures and characters and nursery rhyme characters. Alice makes a guest appearance in a bizarre game of chess with Humpty Dumpty!

Humpty Dumpty was a colloquial term used in fifteenth century England describing someone who was obese. This has given rise to various, but inaccurate, theories surrounding the identity of Humpty Dumpty.

Humpty Dumpty was in fact believed to be a large cannon! It was used during the English Civil War (1642-1649) in the Siege of Colchester (June 13, 1648 - August 27, 1648). Colchester was strongly fortified by the Royalists and was laid to siege by the Parliamentarians (Roundheads). In 1648, the town of Colchester was a walled town with a castle and several churches and was protected by the city wall. Standing immediately adjacent the city wall was St Mary’s Church. A huge cannon, colloquially called Humpty Dumpty, was strategically placed on the wall next to St Mary’s Church.

The Discovery Channel show “Mythbusters” made a serious case for “don’t try this at home” when one of its science
experiments involving homemade can-
nons went awry, crashing through a San
Francisco-area home and landing on a
minivan during taping on December 6,
2011. No one was injured as a result of
the accident.
Unfortunately, Discovery acknowl-
edged, “during the testing, a cannonball
took an unforeseen bounce from a safety
berm.”
And by “unforeseen bounce,” Discov-
er meaning that the cannonball—which
was between softball and cantaloupe in
size, according to various reports—missed
the water vats and blew through a cinder-
block wall.
Then, according to news reports and
statements from the sheriff’s office, the
errant cannonball stormed off the set
and headed over to a residential neigh-
borhood, bounced off a sidewalk, tore
through someone’s front door, zipped
up the stairs and through an occupied
bedroom, blew out the back of the house,
blest over a six-lane thoroughfare and
skimmed the top of another house, before
brutally attacking a parked Toyota mini-
van.
So cannonballs can bounce. Another
myth busted!

Bounce is a 2000 movie starring Ben Af-
fleck and Gwyneth Paltrow in which Bud-
dy (Affleck) has just signed an airline in
Chicago as a big client but is ironically de-
layed at the airport waiting for a flight to
LA on that same airline. He meets fellow
passenger Greg, who opts to be bumped,
even though it means missing an activity
with his older son. When the flight gets
resumed, Buddy thinks he’s doing a good
deed by swapping tickets with Greg so he
can get home to his son. Sadly, the flight
crashes. Buddy conspires with his friend,
the ticket agent that night, to take his
name off the passenger list and put Greg’s
on. Once he’s back in LA, his new client
dictates that the company run a series of
feel-good ads about the crash. Buddy feels
very hypocritical, and completely loses it
when the commercials win a Clio. After
going through re-hab, he decides he needs
to check on Greg’s widow. But he doesn’t
plan on falling in love with her.

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educate the public about the role of land
surveying in Alberta which works in
conjunction with the Association’s key
messages.

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One of the most common drafting errors is that bearings and distances shown in a detail don’t match the corresponding bearings and distances shown in the body of the plan.

Classifying drafting errors...

Of the 273 products examined so far in Phase 1 of the CCR Program, drafting errors were found on 147 of them. The good news is that, for the most part, these drafting errors are minor, cosmetic type errors that don’t impact the integrity of the survey. Indeed, 95 of the 147 fall into my minor drafting error category. The remaining 52 products with drafting errors are almost evenly distributed between my moderate and major drafting error categories.

Since most of the drafting errors I identify during my product examinations are minor and cosmetic in nature, I am going to spend most of this article looking at examples, root causes, and suggestions for reducing this type of error. I’ll start with my definition of a minor, moderate and major drafting error.

Minor Drafting Errors

I classify a product into my minor drafting error category if I find at least three cosmetic-type drafting errors (see the lists of common errors with examples below). In general, cosmetic-type drafting errors are typos, spelling mistakes, and obvious labeling errors. Figure 1 is an example of an obvious labeling error in a title block that appears to be caused by copying text and not updating it.

Figure 1 — Classic example of a minor drafting error caused by copying text and forgetting to update it.

Moderate Drafting Errors

I consider a product to have moderate drafting errors if I find more than five minor drafting errors, if the product is poorly drafted (see Figure 2 and 3), or if the product has a dimensioning error that results in a misclosure within the heavy boundary on the plan. I classified 28 products into my moderate drafting error category.

Iron Posts placed are shown thus:  ○
Iron Posts placed are shown thus:  ●
Figure 2 and 3 — These are excerpts from plans classified into my moderate drafting error category. The numbers shown here are correct but the text is upside down and there is text obscured by lines. On both of these plans, there are several areas that look like this (there are also several other minor drafting errors).

Major Drafting Errors
Products classified into my major drafting error category have more than ten minor drafting errors; errors that detract from the overall quality of the product, and errors that cause boundary uncertainty (See Figure 4). It is expected that products with major drafting errors will be corrected. I classified 24 products into my major drafting error category.

Figure 4 — This is a complex drafting error causing uncertainty. Note the use of re-established instead of restored. Also, the Prop. notation raises questions as to how the position of the post was actually determined. Does the iron post placed here fit with the configuration of the pits as outlined in Bulletin 38 or is it at a proportioned distance? Note that during a subsequent field inspection by the author of this plan, an original post was found in the centre of the pits.

Figure 5 — Note that the distance for the line between R2 and R1 has been updated but the bearing of the horizontal and vertical lines are identical.

Figure 6 — The field notes for this RPR indicate that one of these locations is a found drill hole and the other is a found iron post.

What are the most common drafting errors and what might cause them?

Incorrect Numbers in a Detail
I see all types of drafting errors on all product types including typos, confusing statements, misclosures, missing line work, and obvious labeling errors. There are several minor drafting errors that occur much more often than others. For example, dimensions in a detail are incorrect. These errors appear to occur when a not-to-scale line at the edge of the detail is dimensioned and the value is not changed to reflect the actual value. This type of error can be caught by simply comparing the dimensions in the detail with the dimensions shown for the same lines in the body of the plan.

Copying Text and Not Updating It
The second most common drafting errors are drafting errors caused by copying text and not updating it. It is often obvious that text used in one place on the plan is copied, moved to another location and not updated. This situation is highlighted in Figures 5 and 6 below. As demonstrated by these examples, these errors are almost always very obvious and probably should be caught and corrected during the plan preparation and checking process. Copying text and not updating it are the likely root causes for the following common drafting errors:

- Dimensions are obviously incorrect. For example, two lines of different lengths have the same distance label on them and perpendicular lines have the same bearing.
- Areas are incorrect. Sometimes two parcels are labeled with the same area value even though one parcel is clearly larger than another. In a unique case, an area was five times larger than it should have been because the area was calculated using the line work in a detail that was five times larger than the plan scale.
- The plan numbers shown for adjacent plans are incorrect. Sometimes the adjacent plan number is typed in incorrectly and numbers are reversed (e.g. 3982 is shown as 3892).
- There are obvious labeling errors on the plan. For example, re-established is used instead of restored, a post labeled Fd. I is right beside a placed I symbol, and Pl. I is written beside a drill hole symbol.
- Legal descriptions are incorrect. This normally applies to legal descriptions for the adjacent lands but the legal description drafted in the centre of the section is sometimes incorrect too. Sometimes the legal descriptions for all adjacent sections are the same.

Typos, Spelling Errors and Confusing Statements
Other common minor drafting errors are obvious typos, spelling mistakes and confusing statements. These are normally found in the certification and purpose statement on RPRs and in the legend or title block of other product types.
Examples of this type of error are shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9. To reduce the occurrence of these errors, I suggest reading all text used on a plan out loud. Reading something out loud often highlights confusing statements and conflicting wording.

I have also noticed that the certification statement used on several RPRs references an incorrect section of the Manual of Standard Practice (improvements are currently defined in Part D Section 8.5). The most current version of the recommended RPR certification and purpose statement can be found in Part E of the Manual. To avoid typos, these can be (carefully) cut and pasted from the Manual into your title block template. Although less common, it is also important to look for typos and confusing statements in the body of a plan. These often occur in the post label. Two examples of this are shown in Figure 10 and 11.

Figure 7—The certification on this RPR is typed incorrectly and doesn’t make sense. Part E of the MSP suggests using the following wording— in accordance with the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association’s Manual of Standard Practice and supplements thereto.

Figure 8—I found this statement below the unit factor table on a condominium plan that created both bare land and building type units. I believe they were trying to convey that the remaining unit factors were distributed evenly to the bare land units.

THE REMAINDER OF THE UNITS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO LOTS

Figure 9—This is an example of a confusing description at a NE corner. According to the label, the position was restored and a post was counter-sunk. However, there is no post symbol shown on the plan at this location. This position was actually re-established but no mark was left because it is in the road.

NE 32-
F. No Mk.
Res. c.s.
Left No Mk. (Road)

Figure 10 and 11—An obvious spelling mistake and a ‘No’ missing from a post label.

Est. Position
Left no Mk.
(In Dowout)

Random Minor Drafting Errors
Random drafting errors crop up all of the time. These types of errors are somewhat unique and the only way I can see to reduce them is to actually print a full size copy of the plan and look at it with a critical eye. The following are common random drafting errors:

- There are many symbols and abbreviations used on the plan that are not identified in the legend.
- Random shapes show up in various locations on the plan (e.g. triangles above the title block). These appear mostly on RPRs and are probably a result of background linework from a similar project done in the vicinity that was not completely erased.
- Random found iron post symbols are drafted in various locations on the plan. These found posts are often not related to the survey and are not connected to the subject area (e.g. it has no bearing and distance to it).
- There is a company logo on the plan.
- Text on the plan is less than 2 mm tall.

Recommendations and conclusions...
I’m not sure what an acceptable rate of minor drafting errors is. However, I think 54% seems to be a bit high. As I mentioned a few times, the minor drafting errors I am finding are very obvious and I think that with a bit more care, and attention to detail, we could easily eliminate many of them before the product is registered/finalized/issued.

I checked a plan last week and saw an obvious drafting error exactly like the one in Figure 5. The only difference was that the east-west line was from a road post to a re-established NE corner. It was the only re-establishment on the plan and there were only three dimensions in the area. Did the ALS even look at this plan? According to the act, an ALS is the only one qualified to assess survey evidence and re-establish corners. It is our responsibility to look at our re-establishments to ensure they are correct.

A couple of months ago, I was corresponding with an ALS regarding questions I had on their re-establishment methodology for a NE corner (it was done from a road widening post). The ALS confirmed what I thought—the re-establishment was shown incorrectly on the plan. It didn’t make a significant difference to the position of the NE corner but I found the reason given as to why the re-establishment was shown incorrectly to be very interesting. I was told that the drafting staff produced the construction drawings and individual ownership plans in a hurry and the re-establishment methodology put on the plan was “good enough” for these plans. They intended to go back and correct it before the plan was finalized and registered but they forgot. I suggest reviewing the checking process so that the plan is checked and corrected earlier in the process to avoid this type of oversight.

I check a lot of plans and I’ll share a few suggestions that I think could reduce the number of minor drafting errors.

1. Review all templates to ensure that the wording used in the certification, legend and title block is correct. Read the text on the plan out loud. If the wording in the certification is incorrect it will probably be difficult to read. Consider removing any numbers in quarter section labels from templates and replace them with a __ or some other character that makes it obvious that it hasn’t been updated.

2. Compute a plan closure. Part D Section 1.5 of the Manual of Standard Practice recommends the following: “Each and every figure on a plan shall be checked for mathematical closure.” I am always surprised when I see a large misclosure (I’m even more surprised when I see a closure report in the file that identifies the misclosure but...
nothing changed). If a figure doesn’t close, one (or more) of the dimensions shown on the plan probably aren’t correct. Keep in mind that a figure could include a lease, a house, or a block/lot.

3. Use a full size hardcopy version of the plan as your check print. This provides the opportunity to look at the entire plan at once. Stray bearings and distances and/or symbols, copied text, and typos are easier to see on a full size version of the product.

4. When checking the plan, compare the information in the details to the information shown in the main body of the plan.

5. When checking the plan, compute inverses between coordinates in the final ASCII file and compare the results to the numbers on the plan. It often seems that the posts/spikes are in the correct location in the field but the information on the plan isn’t correct.

6. When checking the plan, compare the information recorded in the field notes to the information shown on the plan. I recently checked a product where the description drafted beside every post on the plan wasn’t even close to what was recorded in the field notes. The field notes were excellent and the descriptions recorded in the notes seemed more likely to be correct. Regardless, they were inconsistent and there was no apparent reason why.

7. Personally check every product before it leaves your office. Before submitting a subdivision plan to land titles I used to request that the drafting staff produce a final check print from the Land Titles plot file for me to review just before it was sent in for registration.

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

Be sure to attend!
Scott Westlund, the ALSA Director of Practice Review, noted in a recent article printed in ALS News that “…the act of intentionally placing a second monument at a corner is causing confusion for the public and other Alberta Land Surveyors.” In the December 2012 issue of the ALS News, ALSA President Connie Peterson asked the following question in her column “Are land surveyors … hooked on measurements?” Is it just a difference of opinion on the location of (a) corner or are we creating boundary uncertainties due to surveyor confusion brought on by ignoring the (hierarchy) of evidence and moving directly to the mathematical solution?

Chris Everett, ALS, a former Director of Practice Review of the ALSA, also noted that the potential for liability is considerable and could be costly if any improvements or further surveys are made based upon an incorrectly located monument. The longer there are two iron posts at one corner and there is potential for future development, the resulting risk persists. Mr. Everett commented that even in the best case, if you placed the second monument and it is correct, you are still leaving your fellow surveyor and yourself exposed to this liability. He added that the practitioner will also have to bear the costs of attending the Boundary Panel meetings or perhaps in court before a judge to defend your position.

A quick count shows that there are eighteen separate articles in ALS News dating back to June 1998 (currently the earliest issue available digitally on the ALSA website) that either directly or indirectly discuss the liability and public tarnish to our reputations due to boundary uncertainties caused by double monumentation at boundary corners.

A further reproach shows that, of the 52 Boundary Panel cases since 2007, 21 have involved ‘double monumentation’ issues. At the time of writing (February 2013), there are 23 active cases before the Boundary Panel with ten involving a double posting. Of those ten double posting cases, eight are the result of the second surveyor intentionally planting a second monument when they disagreed with the position of the existing post re-establishing a ‘lost’ corner.

So why are some practitioners intentionally placing a second post and thus creating a boundary uncertainty? More importantly, why are many not directly contacting the first land surveyor to resolve the difference of opinion? If the first surveyor is not currently active, or you cannot come to a mutually acceptable resolution, the procedure then is to notify the Boundary Panel manager. When we do not follow through on this action, whose interests are we protecting with this practice? I would argue that is isn’t the land owner, or the public.

Being communicative with our fellow practitioners as soon as the problem is discovered would certainly mitigate the uncertainty, potential liability and doubt regarding our professionalism in the minds of the public.

Perhaps having an established protocol for the issue of double monumentation would be of benefit to the membership? In fact, Council has directed the Practice Review Board to publish a PRB Interpretation Bulletin with clear guidelines on this matter. It is currently under development with release to the membership intended later this year.

Until then, here are some interim guidelines for our members to consider when dealing with potential boundary uncertainties and double postings.

A land surveyor, upon finding a Part 3 monument placed by another surveyor and after assessing available evidence and reviewing available plan information, arrives at a difference of opinion as to the correct location.

Instead of placing a second monument, thus creating a boundary uncertainty, the second surveyor must first ask these questions:

1. Did I do a thorough and exhaustive search for best available evidence, including traces of the original Part 2 monuments and lines of possession (fence lines, cattle trails, rock rows, hedgerows, any line dating back to when the original monuments existed)?

   Do your due diligence. Be sure to include cancelled plans and wellsite surveys. Remember that landowner interviews can often yield excellent testimony as to original corner locations.

2. Did I find any trace of Part 2 evidence that the first surveyor overlooked?

   Our code of ethics states that our “responsibility includes maintaining the survey system by cooperating with colleagues to resolve any apparent errors or discrepancies in a surveyor’s work and taking all necessary measures to remedy those errors or discrepancies.” It requires that you contact the active member who placed the monument (or the Boundary Panel Manager if the member is not practicing) and discuss the matter with him/her to resolve the discrepancy. It is a recommended practice when communicating with the other surveyor to presume that they may have key additional information or documentation that you do not possess. Invite them to visit the site to assess the evidence and/or compare notes and files. Any professional would welcome
3. Is my opinion of the position of the corner within the measurement accuracy guidelines in the MSP relative to the Part 3 monument placed by the first surveyor? **Accept** the position of the found monument. It is a job well done by both of you.

4. Assuming no trace of Part 2 evidence is found, is my opinion of the corner position significantly different (outside the allowable measurement accuracies of the MSP) than that of the other surveyor? See the comments for question 2. It is your professional responsibility to notify the other surveyor that you have arrived at a different conclusion.

It is important to note that the Boundary Panel Manager can provide suggestions and additional guidance to a member to assist with the initial communication and the resolution of a double posting, or more practically, the prevention of one.

A Boundary Panel resolution process may be initiated when there is a boundary uncertainty in any land in Alberta. The process may also be used to settle a dispute between Alberta Land Surveyors as to the location of a boundary or monuments. Two or more Alberta Land Surveyors can have a legitimate difference of professional opinion as to the re-establishment of a boundary.

It is also prudent to refer to The Manual of Standard Practice—Part C: Section 5.5 on conflicting evidence: Positional conflicts arising from plan dimensions, monuments on the ground, or other sources are not uncommon in conducting retracement surveys. It is the responsibility of the Alberta Land Surveyor to resolve such conflicts objectively by considering the following:

1. Property lines established on a registered Subdivision Plan or original Township Plan cannot be altered by subsequent plans, although re-subdivision can be used to effect new boundaries between consenting owners.

2. Given ambiguity or conflict within a single plan, the “intent” of the original survey should guide the surveyor in effecting re-establishment.

3. The advice of the Director of Surveys, experienced surveyors, or the original surveyor should be sought in difficult cases.

4. If a boundary conflict cannot be resolved by the surveyor, the surveyor should consider referring the matter to the ALSA Boundary Panel before resorting to Provincial Court or the Court of Queen’s Bench. The surveyor may be treated as an expert witness by each of these bodies.

In this land surveyor’s opinion, at no time should we intentionally place a second monument at a corner creating a double posting and a boundary uncertainty. Our goal instead, should always be to communicate and work together to resolve any discrepancy and re-establish a corner where it was originally, not where it should be. Scott Partridge, ALS

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The set of professional exams was written in the first week of October and had very mixed results. There were 55 candidates who attempted at least one of the exams.

Survey Profession
There were 19 candidates who attempted this material and 11 passed the exam. Slightly more than half of the candidates were unable to come up with any one of the PRB interpretations and that was a concern. In reviewing the wording of one question, it was realized that the phrasing was not clear. This question was marked generously and no one was unsuccessful because of this question. The responses provided to the question dealing with the code of ethics were well done, and several were thoroughly impressive.

Statute Law
Of the 23 candidates, there were 14 passing grades for this exam. We were very pleased with the result although there were several marks that fell well short of the pass mark.

Practical Surveying
Unfortunately the results for the 25 candidates of the Practical Surveying exam were very poor.

The questions regarding a wellsite (unsurveyed territory), field notes/ evidence, and the real property report gave a significant challenge while the topics of subdivisions, condominiums and a scenario involving a re-establishment provided better answers.

It has been several years since we have had more than three or four passing grades at a sitting for this exam and the Registration Committee has tried to understand why this is the case. We examine the results of each question to see if the question was fairly worded, and ‘answerable.’ For each question of this exam, there was at least one candidate who achieved a passing grade for that individual question. But finding a candidate who could demonstrate knowledge across a wide spectrum of topics was quite elusive.

When the Registration Committee sets this exam, we try to present questions that could be presented to a land surveyor with limited experience. The candidates need to draw on their knowledge to propose solutions to the scenarios. Consequently, the candidates need exposure to many topics to make a credible attempt of the exam. Merely memorizing older questions will not likely be a successful approach, as each surveying problem has differences that make it unique.

We would encourage the principals of articled pupils to review the progress of their pupils. Offer them a realistic assessment as to whether it would be wise to attempt the exam. When pupils write the exam, we hope that they are in earnest and not simply ‘giving it a try.’ That approach often leads to the frustration of everyone, and is in the best interest of no one.

Allan Main, ALS
Chair, Registration Committee

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I have always joked that as surveyors, we wear high-visibility vests because they work great as targets. Unfortunately, there are some people out there who may pose the threat of violence in the workplace, be it physical or verbal. Alberta’s Occupational Health and Safety Code defines violence as the threatened, attempted or actual conduct of a person that causes or likely to cause physical injury.

Today, I am more inclined to accept Charmain Hammond’s view from the September 2001 Occupational Health & Safety Magazine that violence in the workplace consists of more than extreme acts of violence that result in fatalities. They can include incidents that evoke fear, threaten or jeopardize an individual’s safety and many other damaging acts. I expect we all have interacted with landowners at some stage in our career and I hope that most of those experiences were safe, productive and enjoyable. What happens when you encounter that person in opposition to the wellsite, right-of-way, infill or commercial development you are working on? Do you have a plan in place to deal with the hazard of violence, and do your employees know what that plan is?

Many landowners in rural Alberta see themselves as the stewards of the land, watching over it to ensure that it is there for the generations that follow us to enjoy. Increased publicity and the speed at which social media can spread an idea has brought many issues to the forefront in their minds. When a surveyor arrives on site—possibly the first person they see and associate with a project—any resistance to the work can be impressed upon our employees. The same is true in the urban environment when you enter a client’s neighbouring property to locate evidence, or survey a streetscape for a permit application. In many cases, these landowners have not been contacted by your client, and you are left to ensure your employees are safe to do the work requested.

In Alberta, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Part 27 of the 2009 Occupational Health and Safety Code address the hazard of violence in the workplace. As employers we are required to assess all work sites and identify existing and potential hazards before work begins, this includes the potential for violence.

In addition to the required individual site assessments, employers are required to document a policy and procedure related to workplace violence.

This policy and the associated procedures needs to be written, available and communicated to employees. They should include reporting, documenting and investigating guidelines as well as responses to incidents of workplace violence. What is your response when your employees are physically threatened? These are serious matters and may require the involvement of the police or the RCMP.

Statistics Canada reported in 2004 that 20% of violent victimization occurred in the workplace in Alberta and that one in five of those victims reported suffering injuries. Across Canada, that added up to 356,000 incidents. Yet how many of us consider violence when creating a job safety plan, writing up our daily hazard assessment, or discuss it at a monthly safety meeting? I know it was not on my radar until we had an employee report that they had been threatened.

There are many resources available that help with the development of workplace violence procedures and assessment tools. Many involve simple checklists allowing you to identify items that may require attention to ensure the potential of violence is mitigated. Items can include isolated areas, lighting, building or site security, and work area layout. These tools work great in office environments and even at project sites where they have often been implemented already, but what do we do when we are only at a specific location for a few days or even hours? This is the case for an urban real property report, project scouting trip or wellsite where we often have direct contact with the client in a mobile workplace, working alone or as a part of a small crew potentially in high crime areas with valuable equipment.

Potential ways of mitigating the threat of violence can include a check-in procedure with a supervisor, a clean truck with visible company logos, and even employee badges to promote a professional look. Notifying the landowner or occupant prior to entry is also a good mitigation measure as unexpectedly finding people on their property can make landowners feel threatened as well. There are template notification cards on the ALSA website that can be used to let owners know you were there in their absence if ever the instance should arise.

In the end, each project and situation is different and we have to address these factors with our staff and find ways to identify and mitigate any risk or threat that may present itself. I encourage you to consider the potential for violence when you plan your next job, or complete your next job site assessment, and discuss what actions you would take if you were confronted with violence.

The Occupational Health and Safety-Code Explanation Guide for Part 27 has additional information on the requirements as well as examples of Policies. The Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Council prepared a toolbox on developing workplace violence and harassment policies and programs which is also a great resource.

Chris Beaugrand, ALS

ALS News March 2013 - 39
**It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us…..**

Although I do not profess to be a follower of literary works, this quote by Charles Dickens crept into my mind as I started to formulate my thoughts for this article. If you look at the economy in Canada, specifically Western Canada, it looks like it is the best of times. Even with sluggish natural gas prices and a concerning bitumen price differential, an article I recently read revealed that the Canadian Federation of Business released figures indicating that Alberta has almost 55,000 private sector unfilled jobs which translates into a 3.6% job-vacancy rate. When you look at the world around us, it looks like the worst of times with unemployment rates in some European countries exceeding 20%. Without a doubt, wisdom will tell us to be cautious with our business decisions going forward—like hiring unqualified people, both domestic and foreign, to fill our vacancies.

With those thoughts in mind, I felt I should focus on the bright future of ASSMT and its certified members. Through our collaboration with the ALSA, we are progressing towards determining what an ASSMT Registered Survey Technologist will look like, including training requirements, desired skill sets and any potential legislative implications. In conjunction with the development of the pending RST level of certification, our Education Committee is progressing with the evolution of the first two levels of the three level syllabus. They have inherited the draft version of the syllabus from the ALSA-ASSMT Memorandum of Understanding Implementation Committee and are now positioned to secure a technical writer to compose the document. It is our hope that both educational institutions and companies alike will adopt the syllabus as their training and course guide and that certified members will now have a clearer understanding of how they can advance to the next level of certification.

The ASSMT Council approved the allotment of funding to hire a technical writer in 2011. However, the development of the draft syllabus had not progressed to the stage where we needed to hire a technical writer. By the end of 2012, we believed we made enough progress to commence with a formal search for a writer. We are hoping there may be a suitable candidate within the membership of the ALSA or ASSMT. We are looking for someone with industry knowledge, superior writing skills and the capabilities necessary to craft a syllabus that ASSMT can use to guide member advancement either through home study, distance education or by attending classroom sessions. Should you be interested or know of someone who might be the right candidate to fill this role, please feel free to contact me via president@assmt.ab.ca.

Due to increased workloads put on our volunteer Executive Manager Chris Martin, ASSMT’s Council has agreed to search for a permanent paid executive manager. Initially, the role will only occupy approximately twenty hours a month but, as the Society grows, more demands and responsibilities will be placed on the executive manager. Once again, please contact the ASSMT president for more details.

We are very excited to report on a fairly recent partnership, of sorts, with the ALSA. In late 2012, the Education Committee agreed to accept the responsibility of presenting the Getting It Right seminar, which was designed by the ALSA many years ago. Since it was evident that the bulk of the attendees in past sessions were non-land surveyors, the ALSA Council felt that the ASSMT may be better suited to deliver the seminars. Hopefully by the time you read this article, announcements will have been circulated to companies and ASSMT members with dates and venues of upcoming seminars. Should your company wish to host its own internal GIR seminar for the benefit of your staff, please feel free to contact the ASSMT executive assistant for registration details.

**Mark Your Calendar**

This year the 41st ASSMT AGM will be held in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta on Saturday May 25th. Leading up to the Saturday AGM, other events are being planned that will allow members and non-members to get reacquainted with old friends, make new business contacts, learn about updates in the geomatics world along with hearing about what the Society is up to. Member input is paramount so, prior to the AGM, the Membership Committee has designed a member survey to solicit more feedback from the membership with the results of survey being reported at the AGM in May.

At each Council meeting, the Society’s registrar is constantly bringing forward candidates who are being recommended for membership at the associate level, student level, as a technician-in-training (TT) or as a fully certified member. In 2012, fifteen new applicants were certified, five were certified as a TT and the Society accepted fourteen new student members. Already in 2013, we have certified five new members, accepted one TT, one associate member and granted retired status to a senior member of the Society.

It is hoped that due to a new vigour, an increase in ASSMT initiatives and a more streamlined application process, the number of new members will steadily increase so that within the next few years, the Society’s membership will reach a thousand members.

Barry Bleay
President, ASSMT
PLAN Group Researchers Win 2013 ION Burka Award

Dr. Shashank Satyanarayana, Dr. Daniele Borio and Professor Gérard Lachapelle were presented with the Burka Award at the International Technical Meeting of the (U.S.) Institute of Navigation held in San Diego, CA.


Dr. Satyanarayana, the primary author, completed his PhD under the supervision of Professor Lachapelle in September 2011 and is now a senior engineer at Accord Software & Systems Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, India. Dr. Borio, who was a post-doctoral fellow in the PLAN Group during that period and provided expert advice to Dr. Satyanarayana throughout his studies, is now a senior research engineer at the Institute for the Protection and Security of Citizen, Joint Research Centre of the European Union, Ispra, Italy.

Dr. Derek Lichti Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

In January, Derek Lichti began his position as Editor-in-Chief of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, a journal to which he has contributed as an author, a reviewer, and a guest editor.

He was selected by the Council of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) in a competitive process.

The ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is the official journal of the ISPRS, is now published in twelve volumes per year and is one of the leading international journals in remote sensing.

Dr. Michael Barry Wins Teaching Excellence Award

Congratulations to Dr. Barry as this year’s recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award for third and fourth year courses in Geomatics Engineering presented by the University of Calgary Engineering Students Society at their annual Third and Fourth Year Dinner.

Geomatics Engineering Professors Win Two Schulich School of Engineering Awards

The Geomatics Engineering Teaching Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Andrew Hunter. Dr. Hunter has won this award, given in recognition of his consistently excellent teaching of undergraduate courses.

Dr. Steve Liang won the SSE Geomatics Engineering Early Research Excellence Award. This award is presented every two years and recognizes Dr. Liang’s research successes in 2011-2012.

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Vesuna v. Drysdale
2013 BCCA 10 (CanLII)—2013-01-08
Court of Appeal—British Columbia
skid roads—road allowance—evidence—public—property

[1] LOW J.A.: In 2005, the appellant purchased a fifty-acre land-locked parcel of property near Powell River, BC for $90,000, well below the list price of $175,000. There was no road access to the property but there was a dedicated road allowance on adjacent property to the south connecting the property with Highway 101 that runs east and west. Title to the road allowance by law vests in the Province of British Columbia. Before purchase, the appellant saw a 1996 plan indicating the location of the road allowance but it was apparent to the appellant that no road had been built.

[2] The appellant took steps after purchase to obtain the necessary governmental approval for construction of a road on the allowance to give him road access to his property. A government representative suggested that there were some environmental difficulties with the approval he sought because of federal fisheries law. This arose because the road allowance intersects a salmon-spawning creek near Highway 101. The government representative suggested to the appellant that he attempt to obtain an easement over the property to the east to gain the access he required. That property is owned by the two corporate respondents, whom for convenience I will describe jointly as “Sea-Mait.”

[3] The appellant was unable to negotiate an easement with Sea-Mait so he brought this action against Sea-Mait, the Province and Alex Drysdale who is the Provincial Approving Officer.

…

[14] District Lot 3836 was Crown granted in 1949. The trial judge described the evidence on which the appellant relied to support an argument that there was a common law dedication of the Disputed Road:
[23] The key piece of evidence the plaintiff relies on was found in copies of archival documents that set out an affidavit by Henry Rhodes, a qualified land surveyor for the Province of British Columbia, sworn January 6, 1912. His affidavit states that he conducted a survey of Lot 3504 on December 9-10, 1911. His affidavit attaches his survey notes and drawing.

[24] The Henry Rhodes 1911 survey notes and drawing illustrate two short roughly parallel dotted line skid roads crossing from the southwest corner of what became Lot 3836 into Lot 3504 on the eastern boundary of Lot 3504, just east of Jefferd Creek, which runs through Lot 3504. The most southerly of these two skid road markings is noted as being 5.60 chains from the south boundary of the lot.

[25] The plaintiff claims that the southerly skid road marking on Henry Rhodes’ survey is in the same location as the Disputed Road.

[15] The trial judge then found as a fact that the skid roads did not extend south on District Lot 3836 far enough to intersect with what is now Highway 101. She then referred to the records of a survey done in 1960 by a qualified land surveyor, Victor Cecchi, now deceased. His work was explained to the court by Rick Rae, a qualified land surveyor with the same firm. The trial judge described this evidence:
[29] Mr. Cecchi’s survey identifies a “logging road” with a gate on it, which is the disputed road, running diagonally from Highway 101 at the southern boundary of Lot 3836, across Lot 3836 to the road allowance on the west boundary of Lot 3836, where it borders Lot 3504. Mr. Rae visited the site and checked and confirmed the measurements of the logging road. He concluded that the point where the logging road intersected with the road allowance, north of the southeast corner of Lot 3504, was approximately the same distance and location where the southern skid road shown in Henry Rhodes’ survey intersected at the same boundary of Lot 3504 and Lot 3836. The location was not exact but was within a couple of metres of Mr. Rhodes’ 5.60 chains.

[16] The judge rejected the argument of the appellant stating that because the skid roads apparently were created on public land prior to either Crown grant, they became and remained public roads. The trial judge in the Brady case ([1996] BC J. No. 969) rejected this argument and this court agreed, at para. 20.

…

[41] In my opinion, this appeal is without merit and I would dismiss it with costs to both pairs of respondents.

Higdon v. Butt
2012 CanLII 77892 (NL SCTD)—2012-12-07
Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, Trial Division—Newfoundland and Labrador
land—want of prosecution—boundary fence—property—erected

[1] In this action (“the 2008 Action”) the plaintiff (“Mr. Higdon”) pleaded that he had inherited “the land” from William Cranford of New Harbour, Trinity Bay by way of a will, which will had been admitted to probate. Mr. Higdon asserted that the defendants claimed his land and have torn down signs, moved fences, built dwellings, and generally prevented the plaintiff from using and peacefully enjoying the land. He therefore sought damages for interference with his rights to the land as well as an order declaring that the defendants were liable for trespass and the damages flowing therefrom. Specifically, he requested special damages which were to be particularized, plus general damages, judgment interest, punitive damages, injunctive relief, a determination of the boundaries of the land, and an order against the defendants to remove all real and personal property from the land.

[2] In their defence, the defendants (“the Butts”) denied that either the first defendant or the second defendant is a trespasser upon the land asserted to be owned by the plaintiff. The defendants deny the inheritance of the land by the plaintiff from William Cranford and state that they own the land which is the subject of dispute. They deny that the land they claim and occupy encroaches upon any land owned by the plaintiff. Additionally, the Butts deny that they have torn down any signs, moved any fences, or built any dwellings, which prevented the plaintiff from using and peacefully enjoying any land rightfully claimed by him. They deny a flagrant disregard or careless indifference to his rights to the land and deny that they are liable in any way for trespass or that Mr. Higdon has suffered any damage, and generally deny his claims for relief.

[3] The Butts reference a Conveyance registered in the Registry of Deeds at Roll 543 at Frame 494 as being title documentation to their property and that the title documentation is accompanied by affidavits dated July 20, 1988, which state that
the property in the deed to the defendants "were the lands of James Benson, who for over 20 years used them for cutting hay and growing vegetables and they were commonly known in the neighbourhood as 'Jim Benson's land'." In addition, the defendants assert that the lands were lived on by James Benson all of his life, used as a source of drinking water, that there was root cellar erected thereon, and that animals were grazed thereon. They assert that in or about 1953, the second defendant ("Joan Butt"), being the daughter of James Benson, built a house upon the property and that the Butts have been in actual, peaceable, continuous, exclusive, visible, undisturbed and undisputed possession and occupation of the lands from 1953 to the present date. The Butts additionally assert that the land was bequeathed to Joan Butt by James Benson. Letters of probate of his will were granted by the Court on the 28th of March, 1989.

[4] The defendants say that since the early 1990's the plaintiff has harassed, intimidated, abused them, and has conducted acts of malice against them whereby they have suffered emotional, physical and economic damage. In particular, they allege that the plaintiff has destroyed fencing, placed blocking vehicles in their driveway, made threats against them, and uttered verbal abuse, all of which has caused mental and physical upset and harm to the defendants with the result that they have had to seek a peace bond against him. Additionally, the defendants pleaded that the plaintiff had commenced an action in this Court against the first defendant, Graham Butt, and certain members of the RCMP, being action number 1993 SJ No. 4971 wherein he claimed relief similar to the relief claimed in the present Statement of Claim in the 2008 Action ("the 1993 Action"). The defendants state that this action was defended vigorously by them but that the plaintiff did not see fit to pursue the matter to trial. However, the 1993 action has not been discontinued. In their Statement of Defence, the defendants state that the 2008 action is a duplicicus action and ought not to be allowed to proceed.

... Delineation of Areas in Dispute

[12] The plaintiff called as a witness one W.J. Thorne who is a Newfoundland Land Surveyor ("Surveyor Thorne"). He called this witness notwithstanding the fact that Surveyor Thorne had prepared a survey for the defendants of the area claimed by them and had assisted them in obtaining a Crown Grant to virtually all of the area which he surveyed. The survey issued by Surveyor Thorne for the defendants is shown in exhibit WJT #2, dated January 8, 2002. There is a small triangular area at the front of the property which was not included in the parcel of land claimed by the defendants in their application for the Crown Grant but to which they, nevertheless, assert title. The reason for this was that Surveyor Thorne could not certify to the Crown Lands Division that the whole of the parcel claimed by the Butts was undisputed. The triangular parcel of land fronts upon Pond Road and basically goes along Pond Road from an iron pin placed by Surveyor Thorne in a general southeasterly direction on a bearing of south 30 degrees, 23 minutes, 59 seconds east, as far as a fence line shown as a solid line marked with Xs. The northern boundary of the triangular piece is the line L1 shown on exhibit WJT #2, having a distance of 37.505 metres on a bearing of north 74 degrees, 47 minutes, 36 seconds east. It is this parcel of land which attracted most of Mr. Higdon's attention with respect to this dispute. However, his claim to ownership of this triangular portion is not his only assertion. Unfortunately, he has not produced any surveyor's plan in evidence of any additional area which he claims is his. Surveyor Thorne also produced in evidence an exhibit labeled WJT #4. This plan is described by Surveyor Thorne as being a depiction of visible boundaries in the field as revealed by a Crown Lands aerial photo taken in 1966 showing buildings visible at that time. Surveyor Thorne has overlaid on the plan produced from that aerial photo, buildings which were not on the aerial photo in 1966 but erected later. Prominent in exhibit WJT #4 is a dwelling house in darker black lines which I am told, and Mr. Higdon agrees, is the new dwelling house erected by the defendants around 1985. That house is shown as overlaying two small buildings, which are no longer there and which were described as "an outhouse and a shed" by the Butts and which were claimed to have been the property of Joan Butt's father, James Benson. There is shown on WJT #4 a fainter outline of the building in front of the new Butt house. This is a building which was put on the land by the Butts in 1953 and which was their residence up until the new house was constructed at which time it was torn down ("the Old Butt Residence"). Almost immediately adjacent to the Old Butt Residence is a solid line which Mr. Higdon contends was the boundary fence between the property occupied by the Butts since 1953 and the land claimed by the plaintiff. However, it would be noted that this line terminates short of the new house. The evidence of Mr. Higdon and of the Butts was that another fence crossed over behind the Old Butt Residence towards the boundary of James Benson shown on the 2002 survey, WJT #2. The Benson boundary has a bearing of south 57 degrees, 14 minutes, 2 seconds west. While it is not known exactly where this fence intersected that line, it was claimed by Mr. Higdon to be no more than ten feet behind the old Butt residence. Mr. Higdon claims that the line running from the road roughly northeast and there being a fence across behind the old Butt residence, delineated the only lands of the Butts and Mr. Higdon claims that any land behind that line crossing over to the line south 57 degrees, 14 minutes, 2 seconds west is his property as well ("the Disputed Rearage").

...
Barrick Energy Inc. v Klassen et al.  
2012 ABSRB 893 (CanLII)—012-12-03  
Alberta Surface Rights Board—Alberta entry—spudded—licences—drilling operations—tanks

Background:
The panel convened on November 28, 2012, to consider the applicant’s application for right of entry.

The applicant requested access to the land for the removal of minerals contained in or underlying the surface of that land or for incidental to any drilling operations, and for the construction of tanks, stations and structures for or in connection with a drilling operation, or the production of minerals, or for or incidental to the operation of those tanks, stations and structures and to give the operator access to the operator’s drilling operations from a public roadway or other public way, and egress from the operations to the public roadway or other public way.

On May 3, 2011, the applicant filed with the Board a Schedule 1 Application (the “application”) for a right of entry. This has been considered by the panel along with the following documents:

a) Certified copy of the title to the Lands;

b) Copy of Licence Nos. 0431779 and 0431780 issued by the Energy Resources Conservation Board (“ERCB”);

c) Affidavit of Last Offer filed on May 3, 2011;

d) Affidavit in Support of Survey Plan filed on May 3, 2011;

e) Schedule 3 Letter of Consent signed by the Respondent Galleon Energy Inc. on January 17, 2012; and

f) Affidavit of Service for all other Respondents filed on September 4, 2012.

After reviewing ERCB licence nos. 0431779 and 0431780, Board administration noted that both licences state that: “this licence expires on 22nd day of February 2012 if well has not been spudded.”

Board administration notified the applicant and questioned whether it would be proceeding with the application.

On October 2, 2012, the applicant stated that the well licences remain active as it had already spudded the wells in question. The applicant apologized for drilling the wells prior to obtaining the right of entry order, but stated that it had paid the landowners 100 percent of its final offer.

Issues:
1. Are there valid licences from the ERCB?
2. Should the Board grant right of entry to the applicant as applied for?
3. If the right of entry is issued, what conditions, if any, should attach to the right of entry order?

Decision:
1. Based on the evidence in front of it, the panel is satisfied that there are valid existing licences.

2. The applicant shall have right of entry across the portion of the surface of the sand shown outlined in red on the plan(s) attached to the Schedule 1 Application for the removal of minerals contained in or underlying the surface of that land or for or incidental to any drilling operations, and for the construction of tanks, stations and structures for or in connection with a drilling operation, or the production of minerals, or for or incidental to the operation of those tanks, stations and structures and to give the operator access to the operator’s drilling operations from a public roadway or other public way, and egress from the operations to the public roadway or other public way.

3. The right of entry order will be subject to the conditions attached as Appendix A and forming part of this decision.

Reasons for Decision:
1. Are there valid licences from the ERCB?

Board administration conducted an inquiry into the validity of the applicant’s ERCB well licences. The condition of the licences was such that they expired if the wells were not spudded by February 22, 2012. The applicant has stated that the wells have already been spudded even though the applicant does not have a right of entry order for the area.

The Board did not receive any objection from the respondent landowners.

The Board finds that the licences are valid as the wells have been spudded.

2. Should the Board grant right of entry?

The panel has reviewed the application and considered the Board’s authority under relevant sections of the Act and the requirements of the Surface Rights Act General Regulation AR 195/2007 (the “Regulation”).

Exhibit A attached to the affidavit in support of the survey plan is sworn by the representative of the applicant to be a certified survey plan and it is certified to be correct by an Alberta Land Surveyor. Further, it shows the proposed area outlined in red with monuments present and clearly identified. The panel accepts this as evidence that it complies with the requirements of the Act and the Regulation.

Merner v. D’Hollander  
[2012] B.C.J. No. 2113, British Columbia Court of Appeal  
Easements—Disturbance of an easement.

Appeal by the defendants from a judgment granted in favour of the plaintiff. The parties were neighbours. The defendants’ home was situated on waterfront property. The plaintiff’s home lay behind the defendants’ property. The plaintiff exercised access to the waterfront via a 15-foot-wide easement along one side of the defendants’ property, granted by the previous owners. The defendants built a patio structure that included an eight-foot rock wall which extended nine feet onto the easement. Litigation ensued. The judge recognized that the clear purpose of the easement was to permit access to the waterfront. While the judge found that the patio did not interfere with the plaintiff’s access, the judge declared that the modification was a breach of a covenant not to alter the natural state of land over which the easement ran. The judge ordered the breach to be remedied. The defendants appealed.

Held: Appeal allowed. The judge misinterpreted the covenant at issue as an obligation borne by the defendants. The covenant had been given by the plaintiff, and as such, did not contain mutual obligations. The purpose of the covenant was to ensure that the land that the plaintiff was permitted to cross would not be altered in any way to the detriment of the defendants in granting access to the waterfront across their lands. Given the sole purpose of the easement, the patio could only have been an impediment within the context of the easement if it impeded the plaintiff’s access to the waterfront. The judge found as a fact that the patio did...
not interfere with the plaintiff’s access. As such, the defendants were not in breach of the easement. The judge’s order was set aside and the action was dismissed.


Langley v. Yang

[2012] B.C.J. No. 2130, British Columbia Supreme Court

Boundaries—Encroachment—Surveys—Interests in land—Easements—Creation—In equity. Petition by the Yangs for relief under the Property Law Act, transferring title to a portion of the Langley’s land to them or granting an easement. Petition by the Langleys for an order for the removal of the Yang’s patio, which encroached on their property. The Yangs and the Langleys owned adjacent one-acre parcels of land. A large number of boulders sat along or near the boundary line between the two lots. On the Langley’s side, they had planted a line of trees in front of the boulders. When the Yangs purchased their property, they initially thought the tree line was the property line. However, the Langleys quickly corrected that incorrect assumption. The Yangs subsequently constructed a patio that extended to the edge of the boulder line. They did not have a survey done before construction and simply assumed that the boulder line was the property line. The Langleys subsequently had a survey done, which showed that the property line was in front of the boulders on the Yangs’ side. The Yangs’ patio thus encroached on the Langley property by almost two metres.

HELD: Yangs’ petition allowed. Langleys’ petition dismissed. The court first had to determine the threshold question of the nature of the encroachment to decide whether s. 36 of the Property Law Act was engaged. The row of boulders was found to constitute a “fence” within the meaning of that section, as it was meant to separate two properties that effectively annexed part of one property to the other. The next question was whether the balance of convenience favoured granting the remedy sought. The party seeking the remedy had to come to the court with “clean hands”. The court commented that no reasonable person in the Yangs’ position would have embarked on an expensive landscaping project without establishing the boundary by means of a proper survey. The material gave rise to a strong inference that the Yangs simply considered it in their best interests to finish the landscaping to the natural boundary, creating a fait accompli. However, there were other considerations that were not entirely overwhelmed by the Yangs’ choice of an unjustifiable tactic. The portion of the property in question was not accessible or usable by the Langleys given the presence of the boulders. It was not, except psychologically, a manifest intrusion on the Langleys’ living space. In the circumstances, the court was persuaded that a proper amount of compensation together with costs would serve the purpose of an adequate rebuke, as well as the ends of justice and common sense. The Yangs were ordered to pay the Langleys $22,000, based on an appraisal respecting the increase in value to the Yang property attributable to the patio improvements, and making some allowance for the loss of value to the Langley property. The Yangs were also ordered to pay special costs and disbursements.


Evans v. Sports Corp.

The case is of interest to land surveyors, a company can have continuing fiduciary responsibilities after leaving employment...They also said courts are looking carefully at solicitation and noncompetes.”

The court did note professionals such as lawyers and dentists have a duty to inform clients of an impending departure and of the client’s right to choose the departing professional, Cairns J. pointed out in Clarke v Rossberger, 1999 ABQB 821 (CanLII), 1999 ABQB 821, 254 AR 30, at paras 62-63, that there is ‘no comparable duty owed’ in other relationships. Thus, the general rule is that while a fiduciary can compete with a former employer, when it comes to former clients he must wait until they come to him of their own initiative. Brian E. Munday, Executive Director

Consultants’ Liability Update
by Craig A. Wallace, P.Eng.

Increasingly, consultants are being asked to sign contracts that require them to “indemnify and defend” their clients from claims. These contracts create uninsurable risks for consultants and should be resisted.

Consultants are, as a matter of law, required to indemnify their clients for losses caused by negligence in the performance of their services. This is the case without specific words to that effect in a contract—or even a contract. It is simply a principle of law that a consultant whose negligence or breach of contract causes loss to its client must indemnify the client. So a promise by a consultant to “indemnify” a client is unnecessary. And because an indemnity clause therefore appears to be a redundant addition to the consultant’s contract, consultants see these clauses as harmless. But they are not.

There are typically two aspects to these clauses that are dangerous. The first is the obligation to “defend.” Although a consultant would ordinarily be liable for the client’s costs in an action in which the client is successfully sued for losses caused by the consultant’s negligence—an action to which the consultant would likely be added as a third party—those costs would not amount to the client’s full cost of defending the action. They would be court-ordered costs, amounting to only about a third of the actual costs of the client’s defence, and would be subject to review,
By agreeing to defend the client, the consultant is essentially agreeing to insure the client against the cost of responding to claims on a project.

or “taxation,” by the court, which has the power to disallow some costs as unreasonable or unnecessary. But by agreeing to defend the client, the consultant is agreeing to pay the costs of the client’s defence in full, essentially writing a blank cheque for the client’s legal fees, expert costs and disbursements.

The second dangerous aspect of these clauses is often in the contract’s definition of the word “claims”—the thing the consultant is promising to defend on the client’s behalf. It may not be just lawsuits. It could be a mere demand. And with an agreement by the consultant to defend it, the client would not be reluctant to hand any “claims” over to its lawyers at the first sign of trouble. In the case of a developer facing a claim by an unhappy purchaser, the consultant could be liable for the client’s cost of investigating, analyzing and negotiating the resolution of a claim for defects in the developer’s product. This could prove onerous. When interpreting a promise to defend, courts are inclined to look at insurance law and the insurer’s obligation to defend its insured, which is broader than the obligation to indemnify.

In one alarming case, the consultant’s obligation to defend the client was found to extend to claims that ultimately proved to be unconnected to any negligence on the part of the consultant. By agreeing to defend the client, the consultant is essentially agreeing to insure the client against the cost of responding to claims otherwise be imposed on the consultant. In other words, the insurance responds only to the consultant’s liability for damages and court-ordered costs. It does not cover the consultant’s agreement to defend the client. In that regard, the consultant is on its own.

Craig A. Wallace is a principal of Shapiro Hankinson & Knutson Law Corporation in Vancouver, is a Professional Engineer and lawyer who frequently represents design professionals and surveyors in legal disputes.

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Three Keys

Don Ackermann

There comes a pivotal moment in everyone’s life when his mettle is truly tested and he discovers who he really is. The Three Keys tells the story of a highly principled man torn apart when two irreconcilable worlds collide. Faced with his wife’s affair and embroiled in a bitter court battle involving a land dispute with a powerful and unscrupulous builder—a dispute fraught with bribes, ominous threats, and mysterious phone calls—surveyor James Schroeder suddenly finds himself locked in a desperate fight to save his marriage and his family. And all he has to do to win...is compromise his convictions. This puts him in a difficult position as he prepares to testify: does his honour mean so much to him that he’s willing to risk losing all that he holds dear?

There are not too many fictional stories about land surveyors and land surveying in the ALSA library. In fact, this may be the first. As someone who has been around the land surveying profession for the last twenty years now, I found myself drawn to those parts of the story that involved the search for survey evidence, the court proceedings and even the scene where two people on a field crew are not getting along. I was not as keen on those parts of the story that got into the marriage problems of Jim and Leslie and all their friends and family. For me, it took away from the mystery of solving the land dispute. Perhaps I’ve just been involved in the land surveying profession for too long!

As the story reaches its peak, the personal and professional problems of Jim Schroeder all come together.

Born and raised in the city of Plainfield, New Jersey, Don Ackermann lived in a rundown, 1880s tenement and hung around with the local street gang. Eventually, he got his head on straight and became a professional land surveyor. He authored a number of articles that appeared in several professional journals. This background enabled him to write with authority about the world of land surveying with its detective work, land disputes, and court battles. As a husband and the father of a son and daughter, he was also able to write with authority about another world: that of marriage and family, with all its trials and tribulations.

Brian E. Munday
Executive Director

254 pages; AuthorHouse 2012.
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Availability: E-Book: $4.99; Perfect Bound Softcover: $11.99; Dust Jacket Hardcover: $14.99; now Available at AuthorHouse, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. ALSA Library #M1154.
Recently took the opportunity to re-read this book. It is a very engaging read, well told by James G. MacGregor and printed in 1981. The writing of this book was initiated by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. The Association also distributed the book to junior and senior high school libraries and public libraries throughout Alberta. I had the privilege of handling the book distribution as member of the Public Relations Committee in 1982, along with the help of surveyors who presented the books in their local areas.

MacGregor’s book describes the organization and execution of the township surveys in the Canadian prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta by the Canadian government. The purpose of the survey was to make an inventory of the western lands for resources and orderly land settlement. It also provided a reference system for geographic position and eventual land ownership. MacGregor quotes many excerpts from the annual reports of the Surveyors General and field notes of the Dominion Land and Topographical Surveyors from 1869 through the Riel Rebellion in 1885 to the start of World War I in 1914. Several of these Dominion Land Surveyors served in the Canadian forces during this war and returned to continue baseline and meridian extensions as well as territorial and provincial boundary surveys.

MacGregor expounds on the development of the Third System of Survey to the one we recognize today of 36 sections to the township and quarter sections of approximately 160 acres. He describes the waiting for the completion of several parts of the CPR telegraph line to better determine the longitude for meridians and accuracy checks as the work progressed westerly. Initially there were accuracy problems, mostly with the layout of distances with the Gunter’s 100 link chain until about 1878 when the “band” chain was introduced. This was an immense improvement in distance accuracy at the time, which was verified by the later observations for latitude and longitude.

The most interesting part I found from this read, are the many excerpts from the surveyor’s journals and reports this book quotes and the way MacGregor weaves them together. I recognize many of the names from the official township plans I have used over the years in my own practice. Our modern surveyors will continue to use these township plans which form the framework of the Western Canadian survey system.

If you want to get a sense of the personalities and challenges faced by those men who went before us to lay down this grid pattern of boundaries over such an immense area, you will find this book a good read. The book is soft cover, small in size with fourteen chapters, an index and small type face. The ALSA has copies available for $15.00.

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The forgoing books make many references to this very detailed story told in three hardbound volumes Men and Meridians by Don W. Thomson (1967). These four book titles each give a different perspective on the story of surveying in Canada. All are good historical reads with photographs. 📖

Another more recent book initiated by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, as a commemorative to Alberta’s centennial, was Laying Down the Lines written by Judy Larmour and published in 2005. The book goes into more detail with surveying in Alberta from the township surveys and the many municipal and resource surveys that followed. There are many names in this book which appear on the township plans also. The ALSA has copies available for $40.00.

Now, if I have you really interested in origins of global positioning in Canada, I further suggest The Arc of the Medicine Line by Tony Rees (2007) which describes the marking of the 49th parallel on which all township surveys are anchored. This is an excellent historical read and was reviewed in the March 2008 edition of ALS News by Brian Munday.
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C.H. (Charlie) Weir  
P. Eng, ALS (Hon. Life)  
SLS, CLS  
1925-2012

Charles Henry Weir was born in Edmonton in 1925 but grew up on the family wheat farm near Lougheed, Alberta.

Charlie trained as a navigator with the RCAF and served for a short period overseas during the latter stages of World War II. Upon discharge, he enrolled in the University of Alberta, where he graduated in 1950 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and in 1952 with an M.Sc.

His professional career began in 1950 when he articled to Mr. A.G. Stewart, ALS, receiving his ALS commission in 1951, his DLS commission in 1951 and his SLS commission in 1952. He became a partner in the firm of Stewart, Little and Stewart in 1952. He soon took charge of this firm serving as senior partner, president and CEO. This firm is now known as Stewart Weir, a highly respected firm of land surveyors and professional engineers, with offices across Alberta.

After retirement from Stewart Weir in 1990 he was appointed by the Government of Alberta to the Natural Resources Conservation Board for a five-year term.

Charlie was a busy man who enjoyed life to its fullest. Active in professional affairs, he was president of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association in 1957, the Canadian Institute of Surveying in 1973, and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) from 1985 to 1987. He was also active in the the governing council of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicist of Alberta as well as the formation of the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors.

In addition to his professional life, Charlie was active in the community, participating in the Rotary Club, Masonic Temple, Scouts, Little League baseball, church and community league. He also found time for camping, hiking, fishing and skiing and, in later years, sailing and a little relaxation at the family cottage at Pigeon Lake.

Throughout his career, Mr. Weir has received numerous awards including the ALSA Professional Achievement Award, the CIS President’s Citation, and the Alberta Government Achievement Award to name a few.

Charlie was always a great host and entertainer. He loved a good party and good food, and had a stamina that was unmatched, often carrying on until the wee hours of the morning, only to be up to chair a breakfast meeting at 7:00 a.m. Charlie Weir will indeed be missed by all whose path he crossed during his illustrious career.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Kay; children, Doug (Pam), Wendy (Darby) Wade, and Sandra (Bob) Cameron; grandchildren, Jenna Weir, Jessica Wade and Abby Cameron. ☀️

G.K. (Ken) Alfred, ALS (Hon. Life)

T.E. (Ted) Rippon  
ALS (Hon. Life), CLS  
1920-2012

Ted was born in 1920 and lived his younger years on the family farm northeast of Gibbons, Alberta. After completing his high school, he obtained a diploma from the Olds School of Agriculture. When Canada entered the Second World War, Ted enlisted in the airforce and trained as a pilot in southern Alberta, flying the Tiger Moth and the Avro Anson. He was then posted to Winnipeg at the Number 5 Air Observer School, training other pilots. He was disappointed not to have been sent overseas. In 1945, he was discharged with the rank of Warrant Officer 2. Not being sent overseas was, however, a life-changing bonus for Ted as he soon met a pretty Winnipeg girl named Avis who would become his bride.

Upon discharge, Ted remained in Winnipeg where he articled to R.C. McPhillips and Steve Guttormsson for his commission as a Manitoba Land Surveyor.

In 1950, Ted and Avis and a young family relocated to the then booming economy of Alberta settling in Edmonton where he continued his surveying career working initially with Don Dawson, ALS and the federal Department of Mines & Technical Surveys and later the provincial Department of Highways from 1950 to 1957. Ted obtained his ALS commission in 1953 and his DLS in 1955. He was appointed as surveyor to the Northern Alberta Land Titles Office in 1957 where he served until his retirement in 1976.

Ted was a very pragmatic man, always looking for smart, reasonable solutions to often complex problems regarding land transactions and land title issues. He was very conversant with all legislation relating to land and his advice was sought by many. In this regard, he was highly respected, not just by members of the surveying profession for his assistance and advice but also by members of the legal community, land developers and other government departments.

Ted was a very likable individual. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and no one had a bad word to say about Ted.

Ted was a dedicated member of the surveying profession serving on Council from 1958 until 1967, as secretary-treasurer from 1959 to 1963 and as president in 1966. He served on the ALSA Board of Examiners from 1959 to 1974, offering his expertise on subjects such as descriptions of land, water boundaries, boundary uncertainties and all aspects of legislation. Ted was awarded the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association Outstanding Service Award in 1979 and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1988.

Ted served on the Alberta Planning Board from 1971 until 1988 where again he set out fair and pragmatic solutions to land use planning appeals.

After retirement from the Land Titles Office, Ted moved back to the farm at Gibbons where he and Avis resided until 1988 when they retired to Sidney on Vancouver Island. In 2004, they

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President Skinny Bright told the membership at the 1966 annual general meeting, that land surveyors have four responsibilities. They are:

1. Responsibility to serve their clients;
2. Responsibility to serve the profession itself;
3. Responsibility to the community or society at large;
4. Responsibility to establish, maintain and preserve the boundaries of land to proper standards of accuracy.

President Bright reported that there were no complaints of one surveyor against another surveyor of a disciplinary nature. He also indicated that the Southern Alberta Land Titles Office and the Director of Surveys Office were showing individual surveyors file numbers on letters emanating from their offices but was concerned that the Northern Alberta Land Titles Office was not doing the same.

President Bright then went on to explain that he felt that one of the problems that had been facing the Association was the super technical attitude that had developed among some of the members. By super technical, he referred to the practice of some surveyors showing the chain distance down to the last second. President Bright indicated that he thought this super technical attitude stemmed from assembly line methods and the use of technicians for surveying, drafting and computations without proper and adequate supervision.

In closing, President Bright told the membership that “there is always some chiseler who will spend days looking for cheap service and is usually willing to accept a cheap job. This is always done to the detriment of the survey and eventually reflects back to the Association, even though the cheap surveyor has gone to the happy field where monuments last forever.”

In other matters, the Alberta Department of Education established an advisory committee on survey education. The Committee was concerned that there was a very poor response to the new survey course that the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology had hoped to start in the fall of 1965 and a drastic reduction in the enrollment for the survey course at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. The Committee concluded that this apparent lack of interest in survey technology could be attributed to the relatively low rates of pay for survey technicians.

According to the 1966 salary questionnaire, a party chief could earn anywhere from $380 to $500 per month.

In the Spring 1966 issue of ALS News, the Association was looking forward to Canada’s centennial the following year. The ALSA put together a centennial committee and here is their report on their activities.

The Centennial Committee got off to an early start on February 1st and sent out a circular to the members outlining the projects in which it hoped to participate and asking members to donate or loan old surveying instruments and equipment, photographs of surveying operations prior to 1914, old or unusual survey post or any interesting documents relating to surveys for display in the Heritage Park museum. We publish below a progress report that Tom Swanby, committee chairman, presented at the March Council meeting. Since then, we understand the project proposed for the Canadian Petroleum Exposition has been dropped. The others, however, are still on and we reprint the Committee’s request for antique articles or brand new suggestions from any members that might contribute to the success of these projects.

Report of the Centennial Committee

As pointed out in my circular letter sent out in February, we are working on four projects and, in this regard, we have held two meetings.

1. Heritage Park—the most important in our minds is historical and educational. It will be a display of old equipment, old plans and old monuments in a park in which everything is dated prior to 1914. Application is being made to the Park for space for this display.

2. Planetarium—probably a joint display with the Astronomical Society of old instruments used by both astronomers and surveyors. Both groups are now collecting instruments.

3. The Canadian Petroleum Exposition at the Calgary Stampede—we have been invited to exhibit at this exposition which has “education” as its theme. This is a crash program in that we must decide to exhibit by the end of March and have our exhibit firmly organized by the end of April. In this respect, I expect we will need a budget of possibly $500. We have our exhibit roughly outlined now.

4. The City of Calgary Petroleum Museum—we do not feel that much should be done in this regard this year, but possibly something could be done in 1967.

T.C. Swanby, Centennial Committee

Ted Rippon...continued from page 51

Ted moved back to Alberta settling in St. Albert where they could enjoy their growing grandchildren.

Ted was predeceased by Avis, his wife of 61 years. He is survived by his sons Robert (Patti) and David (Brenda), daughter Sue, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren as well as his brother Robert.

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