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the Link MAGAZINE



British Columbia
Land Surveyors

St. Mark's Peak - Howe Sound Crest Trail

Photo by Jiri Krakora



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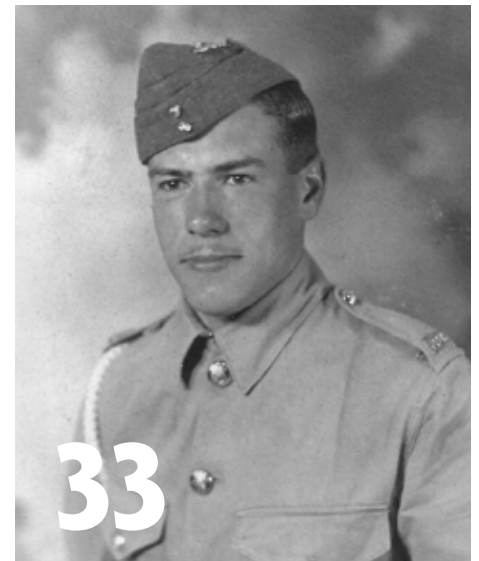
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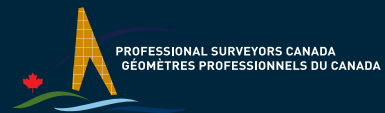
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Message from the
Outgoing President

My Last Hurrah!

By Roger Galibois
BCLS, President

This is the last Link Article I will pen as President of the Association. The AGM wound up two days ago. I think things went very well. By all accounts the Partners Program was well received and everyone enjoyed the events, in particular, the hiking and wine tasting day. How can something like that fail to please? The children's program was a success and we look forward to bringing it back next year. I must thank my wife Beatrice for that. The program has been a mission of hers for the last few years and its success is a tribute to her hard work and passion. I should also thank our daughter Emily Gregory and Corey Doherty's wife Kim for all the work and heavy lifting that was needed during the week to make the program a success. Without them it would not have been possible.

The social program turned out well. In particular, the Game Show Night was very successful. I haven't laughed that hard in quite some time. I hope that Tyler Mikkelsen has managed to wash down the Oreo cookies. Thanks to all who attended and thanks to DJ Haymaker for a truly entertaining evening.

The CPD program was well organized and well attended. The seminars were relevant and thought provoking. CPD

has become a focus of the AGM week and is necessary for the health and well being of our profession. The CPD Committee and the Practice Advisory Department are to be commended.

The open board meeting prior to the AGM was a positive change. It gave members a chance to see the deliberations at the board table. I believe in the next while we will be reviewing the meeting and the meeting policy, with an eye to enhancing the process.

The AGM deliberations this year were more engaging than in recent years. The debate on the motions was passionate, articulate and respectful. This year we encouraged verbal reports from the Regional Groups and the Committees which gave a chance for some discussion from the floor. We introduced the Open Forum which I believe was successful in stimulating some informal discussion and an open exchange of ideas. I believe we will be looking to carry this on at future meetings.

Since my last article we have attended two more conventions of our sister organizations.

The 2019 Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors Annual General Meeting was held in Fredericton on February 24 and 25.

The first CPD presentation was from Serge Gauvin, the Registrar General of Land Titles, the Chief Registrar of Deeds and the Deputy Director of Condominiums. New Brunswick is in the process of converting their Deed Registry to a Land Title System. His presentation was mainly concerned with the procedures and issues encountered when registering Land Title Parcels and converting Deed Registry parcels to Land Titles. Prescriptive Rights are abolished when a parcel is registered in the Land Title System. Any transfer of land triggers the move to land titles. The Land Title Registry was established 20 years ago and to date approximately 55% of all parcels in New Brunswick have been moved. Most parcels in urban and developed areas are now in the Land Title registry with most of the deed parcels being in remote communities and rural areas where there are fewer transactions. Most of the issues were related to the location, status and descriptions of road and easement access to parcels. Occasionally prescriptive easements are not dealt with when a new title is raised in Land Titles, resulting in the loss of access rights for a servient tenement.

The AGM portion of the meeting began Friday morning with President Jaret Guimond's report. The first item he discussed was an update on the progress of the new Land Surveyors Act. I have previously reported that the new legislation had received second reading but died when the Legislature was dissolved prior to the recent provincial election. The election resulted in a minority government. The Association continues to communicate with the members of the legislature to gauge support for the bill if brought forward, but they have been advised, if they feel they have support,



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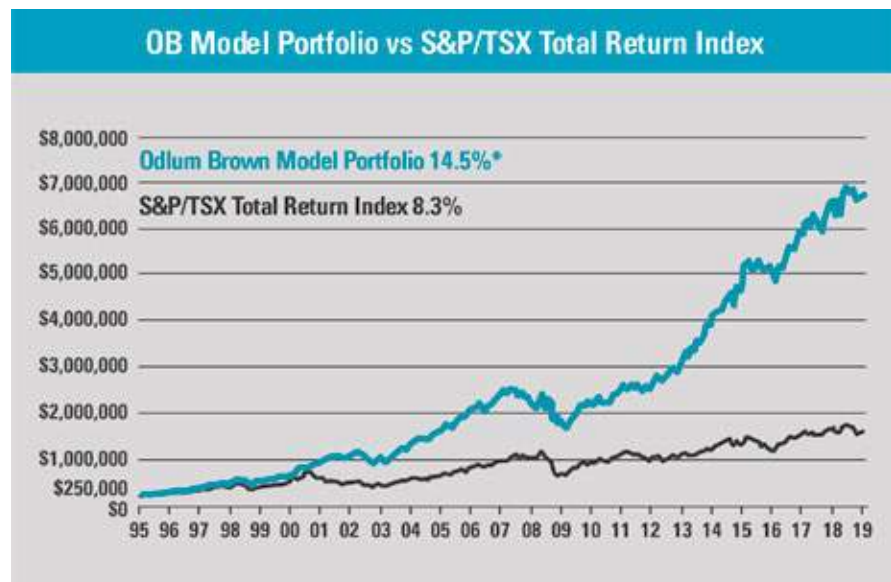
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to wait until later in the session or until after the next election to have the bill reintroduced.

The Association commissioned three new land surveyors this year. This is a significant improvement over the last few years and welcome, given that there are only 15 members under the age of 50.

The Director of Surveys reported on PDF submissions of plans and documents. Their PDF submissions are simply scans of paper hardcopies and clarity is an issue, particularly with respect to crimped seals. His department is moving toward adoption of CGVD2013, however there are quite a few jurisdictions choosing to continue using CGVD28.

The 2019 Association of Ontario Land Surveyors 2019 Annual General Meeting began February 27, at the Westin Harbour Castle Conference Centre, in downtown Toronto. Following introductions, President Dan Dzaldov gave his opening address. The most notable topic he touched on was improving demographics. The membership is now growing, and the number of new surveyors and articulated students is healthier than it has been for years. This year 25 new land surveyors were commissioned and there are presently 97 students registered. They still face challenges with 75% of their membership over the age of 50, but there is a feeling that they are finally turning the corner. In order to support the continuing recruitment of new members the Association has committed to joining CBEPS this year and they are working very hard to promote the distance learning/virtual university concept.

The Provincial Survey Record Index Task Force delivered a report. The task force is mandated with creating a provincial index of survey records. Unlike BC, Ontario does not require a posting plan after a retracement survey. Non-statutory boundary retracements are not filed in the registry and land surveyors are obligated to make their field notes and records available to other land surveyors. Some key features of the index are: it is for members and their staff only; it is for research purposes only; it is an index and it does not disseminate records. Most members charge a fee for providing the actual records. It is a voluntary program at this point but uptake has been good.

“The membership is now growing, and the number of new surveyors and articulated students is healthier than it has been for years.”

The Expanded Profession Task Force delivered their report. This task force has been active for many years. The Association has a designation called a Certificate of Registration. The certificate is applied to professionals with specific skills in the geomatics industry not directly applicable to Cadastral Surveying. They do not use the designation OLS. The recommendation of the task force is to do away with the C of R and simply have all the subdisciplines use the OLS designation. This is an ethics-based approach whereby an OLS with a non-cadastral specialty would use the OLS designation but would be bound by professional and ethical considerations to restrict their practice to their area of competence. This is a similar approach to sub disciplines as used by professional engineers. Interestingly this is the same model laid out in our

new Professional Governance Act. The membership gave their approval to the Task Force to continue with their work in order to prepare a submission to Government.

The most significant topic of the meeting was a by-law amendment referred to as the “transparency” by-law amendment. The discussion opened with a presentation from a lawyer, Richard Steineke, who made some very good points. In many jurisdictions professional malfeasant often go unreported possibly resulting in further injury and a loss of public confidence. The transparency debate goes to the heart of the regulator vs. self interest issue. Secrecy breeds suspicion (accountability).

Transparency only strengthens public confidence in a profession. The central focus of the by-law amendment was to allow publishing the details of hearings including time and place of the hearing, the accused, and some details of the allegations. The motion passed with only a bit of debate.

My last stop, of course, was our AGM in Kelowna. As I said before it was an excellent event. Most importantly I think the deliberations on the various motions was vibrant and instructive. I have been reporting all year on the common struggle all our Associations have reconciling the evolving societal and governmental demands of our self-governing professions and our role as regulators. I think all motions presented had this struggle as a core theme. Whether it be the discussion around the adequacy of Errors & Omissions

Message from the Outgoing President

Insurance, the determination of adequate supervision, the provision of adequate funding for Association initiatives or the creation of the special measures fund, all the motions had the protection of the public interest as their underlying focus.

The member motion to replace Bylaw 12 was particularly important. In the end the concept of “direct supervision” was the focus of the debate. While the final vote was decisive, I think that it was clear that there remain concerns about ensuring adequate supervision of staff in certain circumstances. The Board Policy that was passed at the board meeting on Tuesday focuses on supervision rather than location. Going forward, the board may wish to expand its guidance to members with respect to the “direct supervision” of land surveying practice.

In closing I would like to thank the membership for having afforded me the opportunity to lead our Association over the last year. It has been one of the most interesting and rewarding years of my career. I look forward to the challenges of one more year on the board, but it won't stop there. We are facing some significant challenges over the next few years and I intend to stay active and engaged. You haven't heard the last of me!

Once again, thanks.❖

Message from the **partner representative**

For one last time it is my turn to share my experiences of travelling the country as your partner representative. We have had two more stops since our last article. The first was in Fredericton, New Brunswick. While there I was able once again to try something new to me. This time it was Candle Bowling, a very different form of bowling. You use a small bowling ball as you would for five pin bowling but you aim for ten very light pins. The pins are not cleared between frames so you use those downed pins to help knock down more pins. It was certainly a very different experience and I was not very good at it!

We also had the opportunity to attend the UNB Geomatics Department along with our partners. This experience gave me a better understanding of the complexities and the variety of our partner's profession.

My favourite experience in New Brunswick was the last evening when the delegates had a social evening in the hospitality suite. We were introduced to an interactive parlor game called the “couch game” which challenged our memories and strategic thinking. The men adjourned to the dining room to play cards while the women continued to visit in the living room. It felt like a group of old-time friends having a Friday night visit.

Our next stop was Toronto, Ontario, where unfortunately the weather was still very wintry. Snowy, windy and cold did not make going outside very pleasant. Luckily, Shawna, President Dan Dzaldov's partner planned indoor events for us. I had two favourites. The first one was the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. It was truly amazing. I would say it was the best aquarium in Canada, maybe the world, hence “Ripley's”! Those of you over 50 may remember Bata Shoe



Candle Bowling in Fredericton New Brunswick



Partner program group before hiking the Okanagan Rail Trail

Stores. The founder's wife of those stores established this museum to follow the history of the shoe over the decades. A perfect place to take a bus load of women!

Finally, we had our AGM in Kelowna. I had planned an ambitious partner program, especially for the



Bata Shoe Museum

first day. The plan was to walk on the new Okanagan Rail Trail followed by lunch at the Sparkling Hill Spa Resort and then wine tasting at two wineries. Luckily the weather cooperated and we had a great day.

We also had the first ever "Children's Program". We had a total of 20 kids registered who participated to differing degrees. The program included a morning meet, snack and play portion. Other activities were: Zumba, Chalk Painting, Candle Craft and a trip to Just 4 Fun. Roger was working next door to the first Zumba session and he said it sounded like a lot of fun. A big thank you to Corey Doherty's wife, Kim and our daughter, Emily, who looked after the program during the conference. As Roger mentioned we hope this program will be back next year and I am happy to assist if needed.



Children's program attendees having a blast

Finally, a big THANK YOU to you, the Association of BC Land Surveyors, for giving me this amazing opportunity to accompany Roger to all these wonderful places in Canada. It has made me realize what a vast and diverse country we live in. ❖

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Message from the
Incoming President

The Road Ahead

By Chris Cryderman
BCLS, President

2018 was quite a year for the Board. It seemed that we were thrown several curveballs but managed to come out mostly unscathed and somewhat better prepared for the road ahead. The Professional Governance Act was but a whisper last spring. By this spring its message resonated in most of the motions at the AGM. Change was thrust upon us and the membership embraced it with aplomb. Congratulations to you all!

At this, the annual “changing of the guard” of our Association, congratulations go out to Roger and Beatrice for a wonderful meeting and a fun-filled partner’s, children’s and social program. The CPD committee overachieved once again with a program that informed not only Professional Development, but also the decisions that had to be made at the meeting. Well done!

Planning for an AGM starts about a year and a half in advance. It is a task shared by many. I cannot overstate the rolls played by Kelly, Chad, Bonnie, Bev and Lucy. We are very lucky to have such dedicated and capable people working for our Association. By the end of the business session on Friday, Kelly was looking forward to a beer and a couple of days of sleep. On Saturday, Bonnie, Bev and Lucy were

looking a little tired (but relieved) sitting in the lobby. Now, it starts again, in earnest, for next year.

This year we reached a milestone with the commissioning of BC Land Surveyor #1000. Congratulations to all seventeen of our newly commissioned land surveyors. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Association, or other members, whenever you need advice. Us “older” land surveyors really like feeling needed and we love to show off our knowledge. A word of caution though: if you end up in an extended conversation that goes well beyond what you were asking about – be polite and patient, it will end eventually.

In my three years on the Board I have not seen a year of change like this one. Normally we lose two members, and gain two members. This year we bid adieu to public member Michael Burien, Surveyor General Mike Thomson, Past President Brian Brown and Member-at-large Dave Rutherford. Each brought their unique wisdom, knowledge and thoughtful participation to every meeting. Such a wealth of experience is difficult to replace. But we did OK, that’s according to Mike Thomson, and he’s almost always right.

Congratulations to Mark Mason and Dan Machon for their election

to the Board. The years ahead look to be a little more challenging. I’m sure you are both up for it. I look forward to continuing to work with our new public member Neil Hain. Hopefully by the next Link edition our second public member will have been announced. I welcome our newly elected Vice President Shauna Goertzen to the Executive Committee. Shauna will be attending the Newfoundland Land Surveyors Association AGM in my stead, while I am on my annual vacation. She’s offered me next year’s meeting. I’m planning on holding her to it.

At our next board meeting we will welcome Cristin Schlossberger, as our new Surveyor General, to the board. I am sure she will be an excellent Surveyor General. Mike Thomson told me so and, you know, he’s almost always right.

I am really looking forward to what looks to be an exciting year. We will be moving along to the next phase of our Strategic Plan. Given the recent enactment of the Professional Governance Act I expect we will revisit our Governance review to keep in line with current trends.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore from March 18th to 20th. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Bea and I are certain you will enjoy the meeting and the venue.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for this opportunity. As Brian Brown often says, “I’ve learned more in the last three years than in the prior 30”. I will do my utmost to serve this Association and you, its Members, in the coming year. ❖



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Message from the **Chief Administrative Officer**

Professional Governance Act

By Chad Rintoul
Chief Administrative Officer

The Kelowna AGM was a tremendous success, and I would like to thank members for taking the time to attend and participate.

I believe this was one of the most diverse and informative Continuing Professional Development programs offered by the Association, and this is a credit to the CPD Committee for their dedication and meeting the challenge of providing such a broad range of interesting topics to present.

As illustrated in my presentation at the AGM, change in the realm of professional governance is upon us, and the ABCLS Board has made monitoring and reporting on developments in this area a priority for management.

The Professional Governance Act is in place and the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance is staffed and actively preparing regulation and policy as it prepares to provide oversight of the five professions currently included under the Act. The Superintendent will ensure accountability, transparency and the highest levels of professionalism are achieved consistently across professions.

The five Associations in scope for the legislation are the following self-governing bodies:

- BC Institute of Agrologists;
- Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC;
- College of Applied Biology;
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC;
- and the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Consistent governance standards across the professions are expected to include:

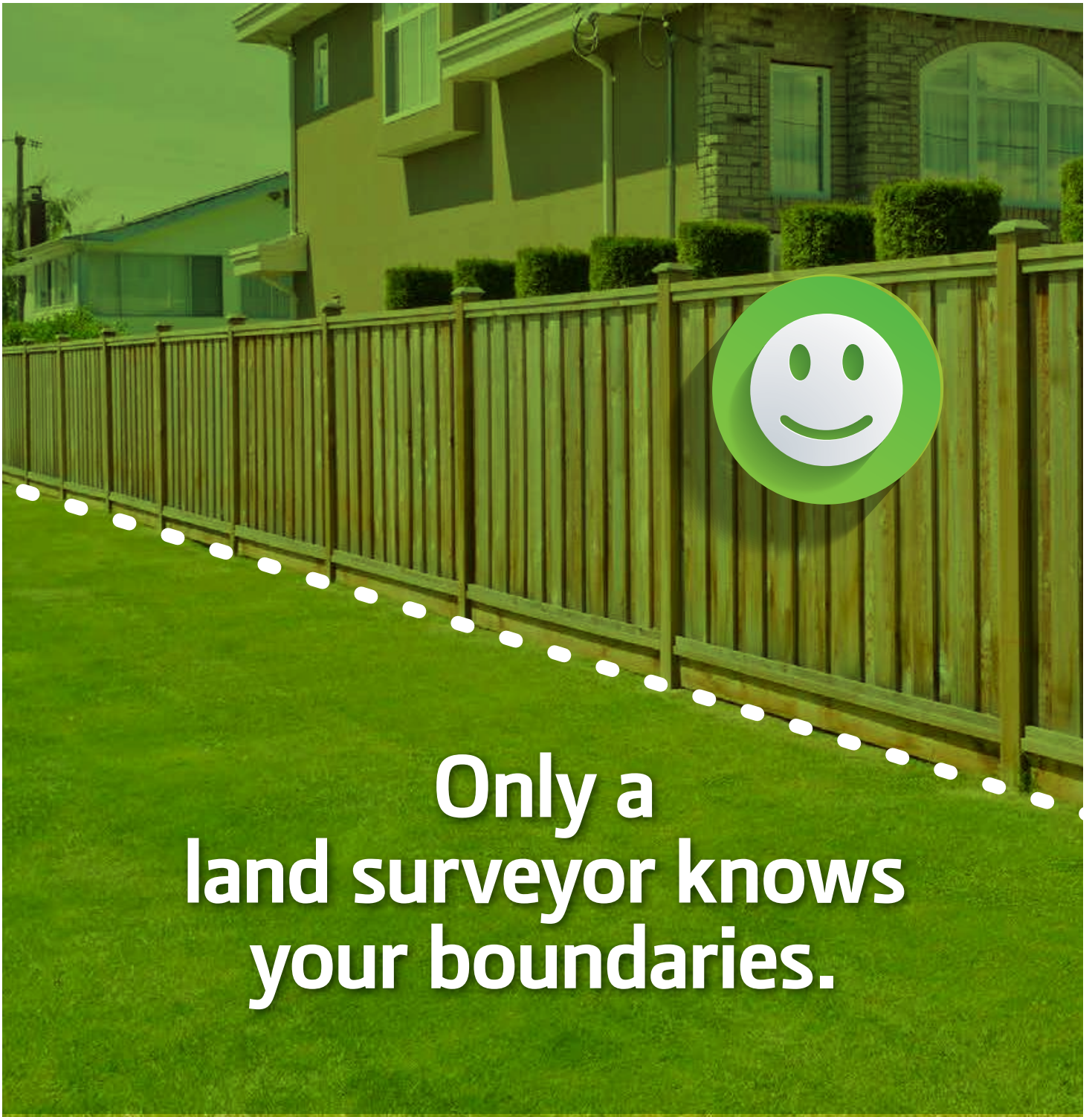
increasing public representation and instituting a merit-based nomination process for councils (boards) of professional regulators;

- council (board) be composed of seven elected members and four lay (public) members;
- implement term limits to serve on council (the board);
- setting common ethical principles;
- requiring competency and conflict of interest declarations from professionals;
- strengthening professionals' duty to report unethical conduct of other professionals;

- providing whistle blower protections to those who report;
- enabling the Superintendent to determine whether regulatory bodies should be amalgamated or added independently to be included under the new legislation.

As you will be aware, the ABCLS already complies in many of these areas, and more. However we are currently undergoing significant change in Board composition. With the departure of Brian Brown and Surveyor General Mike Thomson we have lost valued contributors and continuity at the table. The addition of recently elected members and newly appointed (public) members to the Board will provide an opportunity to bring some additional perspective, while remembering that it is the duty of each Board member to protect the public interest. Board members are not elected to 'represent' the membership, but to engage in consultation and regulate the profession.

The Board must now give careful consideration to strategy on how to best position the Association in relation to the Professional Governance Act in order to guide the future of the profession, and I look forward to assisting in this process. ❖



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Message from the
Surveyor General

An Introduction

*By Cristin Schlossberger, BCLS
Surveyor General of British
Columbia*

It's an honour to be appointed as the Surveyor General of British Columbia as of April 1, 2019. Many of you know me from my role as Deputy Surveyor General, and most recently in the senior position. I will take this opportunity to introduce myself and give a little background for everyone I haven't met yet.

I've lived in Victoria for the past 10 years with my family; my husband Curtis, two kids, a dog and a cat. We live in a location that is ideal for our primary shared hobby, cycling. On a typical fall weekend you can find us at a cyclocross race cheering each other on and if you've ever sat next to me at an ABCLS meeting, you probably know that I can talk passionately about the sport at length.

I'm proud to be a BC Land Surveyor and to be part of an Association with so many skilled, diverse individuals that clearly take the responsibility of their profession very seriously. With the diversity of our backgrounds, our collective strength is significant and I've consistently been impressed with how engaged and supportive our membership is. So that you understand my background, and we can continue to support and strengthen each other, I will provide you with some details of how I entered the profession and have worked through to this new position.

I was introduced to land surveying through a work experience program at my high school in Cranbrook BC. I had no knowledge of what land surveying involved at that point, but was very lucky to have been placed with Jim Sharpe. Jim took the time to show me many aspects of surveying and I was able to spend considerable time with staff in and out of the office. At the time I had planned to pursue a career in physiotherapy, so enrolled in the community college to take the first year university program and complete the UBC admissions work experience pre-requisite. I found through this work experience that physiotherapy wasn't the right career path for me. Upon reflecting on my experience working at J.W. Sharpe and Associates, I decided I would approach Jim for a summer job in the field.

Although there were no field positions available at the time, Jim hired me on the spot to help around the office. Jim had recently sold his practice to Focus, but was still working during this transition period. My summer job extended into the fall and I found that I really enjoyed the variety and wanted to know more. Over the next few years I learned as much as I could about many aspects of the work, becoming proficient at drafting and calculating, learning site planning, application processes, client interactions and

gaining valuable field experience. I worked with a few different land surveyors and with their mentorship and the guidance of my colleagues I really settled into the industry. In 2004, I realized that as much as I enjoyed my role as a project manager, I wanted to pursue a career as a land surveyor.

Looking at my options, I decided that given I had a good job and my husband and I had just built a house, I wanted to continue to work while I pursued my education. So, I undertook the Western Canadian Board Exams. Over the next couple of years, I worked full time and studied when I wasn't working. Although it certainly constrained my social life, and more importantly

“ *With the diversity of our backgrounds, our collective strength is significant and I've consistently been impressed with how engaged and supportive our membership is.”*

my time on my bike, it was the right process for me. In 2006 I received my certificate of completion and started articling under Gord Gamble. Over the next couple of years I spent time throughout the East Kootenay working primarily on resort developments under the guidance of Gord and with the support of a number of other land surveyors. The list of people who supported me is too long to include here, but you know who you are. In 2008 I received my commission as a BC Land Surveyor and continued to work at Focus in Cranbrook as survey manager.

The posting for the Deputy Surveyor General position with the LTSA

continued on page 15



OIP Group Luncheon

By W.M. Griffith, BCLS(ret) CLS(Ret)

The OIP Group met for lunch on Monday January 7, 2019 at Ricky's All Day Grill located in the Evergreen Mall, Surrey. The weather cooperated and there was a great turnout with 22 surveyors in attendance. This was our first luncheon at Ricky's and the food and service were great, plus we had our own private dining area which was a nice change.

We opened the meeting by remembering the passing of Doug Meredith. Several surveyors shared stories of working with Doug and a portion of Doug's obituary was read. The obituary described Doug as "*a man's man. He was honest, precise, a bit of a luddite, accurate, a surveyor, a sailor, a shooter, a hunter, a woodsman, a navigator, an artist, a gardener, a carpenter, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a reader, a historian, a knife sharpener, a curmudgeon, cantankerous, practical, pragmatic, not politically correct and above all frequently laughing.*" This was Doug

and he will be truly missed by his family, friends and associates. The Obit reading was followed by a moment of silence. The obituary appeared in the North Shore News and a copy was provided to the Group by John Nash.

The Historical and Biographical Committee would like to have some personal remembrances of Doug Meredith for future publication in the Link. If you have any, please forward them to Wayne Griffith at wmggriffith@shaw.ca

Next followed the introduction of Denny DeMeyer, a Washington State land surveyor and Mike Thomson, our Surveyor General. Mike's busy schedule had kept him away for many of the past luncheons, but this was about to change. Mike told the group that the Surveyor General's Office was re-structuring and that he would be retiring in March of this year. We wish Mike well in retirement and hope to see more of him at future luncheons.

Prior to the luncheon, Denny had enlisted the assistance of the OIP Group in discovering the circumstances in which a pocket watch case; inscribed "H. Walls, Surveying Season 1904, HMS Egeria" was found in the playground of Central Grade School in Ferndale, Washington. Danny attended first grade at this school in 1956. In 1898 The HMS Egeria arrived in British Columbia and was engaged in coastal surveys for the Royal Navy. Ralph Turner, Keith Errington and Ron Scobbie offered some historical information about Harry Walls, the ship and crew but no one was able to offer an explanation for the watch winding up in a Washington state playground. I think the riddle of the watch case will be with us for some time.

Robert Allen took a moment to wish Denny DeMeyer a happy birthday. It was also Robert's granddaughter's 14th birthday and it dawned on Robert that Denny will be 14 plus the Heinz number! Happy Birthday Denny.

Robert Allen's last order of business was to see how the fellows would respond to leaving a donation to the B.C. Land Surveyors Foundation in their will. He was looking for donations in the \$100 to \$500 range. Robert felt the response was better than he'd anticipated but still less than lukewarm. If you would like to make a donation, you can make your cheque out to the British Columbia Land Surveyors Foundation and forward to the association's office in Sidney. You will receive a charitable tax receipt and a big thank you. Remember the foundation assists students who are pursuing a career in surveying through scholarships and bursaries.

During the luncheon Mike Thomson's phone rang while he was in the midst

Message from the Surveyor General



of saying a few words to the fellows and he later mailed in a self imposed fine of \$50.00 to the BCLS foundation. Although not necessary, it was very thoughtful. Thank you Mike.

After lunch and a lot of chitchat it was time for Dick Mak to organize the fellows for the 2019 Group Photo.

Our next luncheon will be on May 6, 2019, we will be returning to Ricky's All Day Grill in the Evergreen Mall. Newcomers are welcome and if you would like to get on the OIP Group email list contact:
wmgriffith@shaw.ca ❖

Top left: Pictured back row (left to right): Robert Allen, Mike Thomson, Martin Schulze, Dai Yates, Wayne Griffith, Chris James and Allan Olsen Photo By Dick Mak. Seated (left to right): John Nash, Dave Dyck, Dave Liddle, Ron Scobbie, Keith Errington and George Robertson. Second row (left to right): Ralph Turner, Stan Nickel, Neil Bennett, Denny DeMeyer, George Fenning, Larry Achtemichuk, Clare Hobbs, Bill Chapman, and Dick Mak.

Top right: (left to right): Dave Dyck, Dave Liddle, Ron Scobbie, Mike Thomson and George Robertson. Photo by Wayne Griffith

Bottom right: Denny DeMeyer (left) and George Fenning (right) Photo by Wayne Griffith

came up at an opportune time for me and I decided to apply. I felt that my cumulative 10 years of experience gave me a good foundation. I was successful in this endeavour and was appointed as a Deputy Surveyor General starting in April 2009. My husband and I moved to Victoria, where we proceeded to design and build our second house.

My time working at the LTSA has been one of continuous growth. The experience that I've gained working for the past ten years in the Surveyor General Division has provided me with a strong understanding of our operational work. I've had many opportunities to manage staff and to work with other managers throughout the organization. I've also developed an understanding of several of the key connections outside of the LTSA and worked collaboratively with provincial staff. Over the past few years I've sought, and been provided with, a number of opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of the work of the Surveyor General and the relationships that the Surveyor General has with the ABCLS, the Province and within the LTSA. I'm very thankful for the support of my colleagues and in particular for Mike Thomson's leadership and support.

I'm looking forward to joining the ABCLS Board and continuing to work with the members of the Association. I encourage any member to reach out to me and thank you in advance for your contribution if I reach out to you. I will work hard to ensure that BC continues to have a strong cadastral survey system supported by reliable and efficient technology and processes. ❖



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Surveyor General - Annual Meeting Report

By Mike Thomson, Surveyor General (Retired)

The following article is based on my speaking notes from the 114th Annual General Meeting of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors Kelowna, BC – March 21, 2019:

Thank you Kelly/Roger; it is my pleasure to be here with you at the Okanagan Grand in Kelowna to provide the ABCLS membership and visiting delegates with an update on activities at the Land Title and Survey Authority, with a specific focus on activities that impact the land surveyor.

I will touch on a number of current activities both inside and outside the LTSA, on ParcelMap BC, provide a short update on Project ACE (Advanced Customer Enhancements) and speak to the LTSA's recent re-organization, known as Project Pivot.

Critically, the key goal of today's message is I want to leave you with information about some work that is under way, that we call Survey Plan Services Modernization. This work has the potential to modernize the way land surveyors interact with the LTSA, giving you greater control over the plan you prepare and how it arrives at the LTSA's door for filing.

Before I begin, however, I want to acknowledge and congratulate Cristin Schlossberger on her appointment as the Surveyor General of BC effective April 1, 2019. I know Cristin is the right choice and she will do a fabulous job in the role. Well done Cristin.

Additionally I offer congratulations to Bronwyn Denton on her appointment to the LTSA Board of Directors, for

a three year term, effective April 1, 2019. She joins O'Brian Blackall as ABCLS nominees to the ABCLS Board. Bert Hol will have completed the maximum allowable nine years on the LTSA Board as of March 31, 2019. We acknowledge Bert's exemplary contributions to the LTSA Board over those nine years.

The LTSA Business Plan is a 3-year rolling document that is published at the end of March. It is used to communicate LTSA's focus over the next three fiscal years. The new plan will focus on the period commencing April 1, 2019 and run through March 31, 2022.

The Business Plan identifies the LTSA's activities over the next three years to continually enhance customer service and employee engagement, and improve the delivery of high quality land title and survey systems for the benefit of real property owners in BC. The strategic objectives stated in the Business Plan reflect the LTSA's commitment to the sustainable and customer-focused administration of BC's land title and survey systems, and to safeguard the integrity of these systems.

The Business Plan also discusses the LTSA's commitment to continually deliver responsive and trusted expertise and reliable land title and survey systems, which are an essential foundation to economic and social prosperity. I would encourage you to have a look at the business plan when it comes out March 31, 2019. You will find it on the LTSA website at www.ltsa.ca.

Last year I described a subtle shift in focus for the LTSA as encouraged by the LTSA Board of Directors.

If you remember the LTSA committed to foster a customer-centric approach in the delivery and development of services to customers. It was a deliberate shift in strategy that requires the organization to excel at understanding customer needs through building long-term learning relationships and providing appropriate customized services to meet the changing needs of customer segments over time.

This shift led to Project Pivot, the internal name for the reorganization the LTSA has undertaken.

Project Pivot is about delivering on the strategic objective of being a customer-centric organization, and finding ways for the LTSA to explore opportunities in which to invest and to grow, and improve services to the citizens of British Columbia. The goals include continuing to meet statutory obligations, maintaining operational excellence and, business development. Business development includes both opportunities in the public interest and commercial market opportunities.

The business has been re-organized into five functional areas: Operations, Policy and Legal Services, Business Innovation and Technology, Strategy and Governance and the Enabling Functions. Strategy and Governance is concentrated in the CEO's office and the Enabling Functions such as Human Resources and Finance are – relatively unchanged and generally – not visible to the customer.

Surveyor General - Annual Meeting Report

Business Innovation and Technology was, effectively, up and running before the reorganization occurred. In the February 20, 2018 budget, the Minister of Finance, introduced a 30-point housing plan focussed on Housing Affordability. This included items we hear about all the time, including the “speculation tax” and an increase / expansion of the foreign buyer’s tax.

It also included a number of business opportunities for the LTSA such as concerns over strata pre-sales and a Beneficial Ownership Registry. Over the last year the LTSA has been actively involved with the Ministry of Finance in the design and build of the Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Register. CSAIR (as it is known) had technology go live in February, 2019. CSAIR will receive reports from developers on assignments of Condo pre-sale contracts and provide information to the Province. Under an agreement with the Province the LTSA will operate the service through myLTSA which provides a single window for customers.

The Province released draft legislation in 2018 known as the *Land Ownership Transparency Act*. The intent is to create the Beneficial Ownership Registry, a registry that would track the “beneficial ownership” of an interest in land. Where an interest in land is held under a trust, a corporation or partnership, the true beneficial owner would be known under reporting required under the *Land Ownership Transparency Act*. A lot of background work has gone into refining the draft legislation and it is anticipated that the public may know more soon.

The intent is that the LTSA would be the operator of the Beneficial Ownership Registry.

In regards to the other two divisions that result from the re-structuring, I begin with Policy and Legal Services. This group of employees is led by the Vice-President of Policy and Legal Services, Craig Johnston and includes the Surveyor General and the Director of Land Titles.

Under the new structure the Surveyor General and the Director of Land Titles (now Carlos MacDonald with Craig’s move to the new role) and the LTSA’s Senior Legal Counsel and Privacy Officer are part of the Policy and Legal Services Division. This small group of employees, which includes Peter Haas and Tim Jowett, is responsible for regulation, policy, policy development and legal services.

One result is that the Director of Land Titles, the Surveyor General and the LTSA’s internal Legal Counsel are no longer part of the LTSA’s Executive Leadership team.

The balance of the former land title and Surveyor General Divisions’ are now part of the Operations group. Led by a Vice-President of Operations, Camille Reid, who joined the LTSA at the beginning of the year, this group includes the balance of the SG Division, including Cristin in her current role of Senior Deputy Surveyor General, Dave, Katie and all the techs. It includes the balance of the land title division, including Larry Blaschuk as the single Registrar for the Province, the Deputy Registrars and the Examiners.

The Operations group also includes our ParcelMap BC team,

communications staff, and customer support staff. This brings all “customer facing operations” under one group.

The defined benefits of this operating model include:

- One window into the LTSA for customers;
- A deliberate focus on Policy;
- The Business Development, Products and Services processes are defined; and
- An elevated focus on Operational Excellence.

As I change to other LTSA projects, I should note that the LTSA Board has indicated there will be a fee increase effective April 1, 2019. The increase will be 8%, which represents a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment, and is based on the CPI increase from November 2015 (when fees were last adjusted) to November 2018.

The fee increase will only be applied to the LTSA’s portion of the fees, resulting in a smaller net increase, of approximately 3.6% to the fee paid for *Land Title Act* services by the customer. The LTSA will use the revenue from the fee increase to address the impact of inflation on operations. We do note that there are a small number of fees, fees related to *Land Act*, *Mineral Tenure Act* and *Oil and Gas Activities Act* applications which will be impacted by the full increase.

LTSA 2018/2019 Year to Date

Our 2018/19 fiscal year will come to an end in about ten days, on March 31, 2019. I have details on business

activity to the end of January with February numbers interspersed where I have them – but I don't have all "final" February numbers.

The land title office has seen an approximate 8% drop in business activity from the 2017/18 fiscal year.

Looking at the deposit of survey plans in the land title office we note:

- In January 2019, 770 total plans were received in the land title office, including one mylar plan, compared to 883 total plans in January 2018.
- In February 2019, 618 total plans were received in the land title office, compared to 720 total plans in February 2018.
- Through the first 11 months of the 2018/19 fiscal year 9,355 total plans have been received into the land title office, compared to the 9,169 total plans in the same period in fiscal 2017/18. The 186 plan difference is 2% more or less.
- Of the 9,355 plans received by the land title office, only three have been mylar plans.

In the Surveyor General Division:

- Through the first 11 months of fiscal 2018/19, 73 Crown grant requests were received, six less than the 79 in the same period in fiscal 2017/18.
- Through the first 11 months of fiscal 2018/19, 1,644 Crown land survey plans were received, up significantly, 104% (839) from the 805 plans to the same point in fiscal 2017/18 and up from the 993 plans to the same point in fiscal 2016/17.

- Through the first 11 months of fiscal 2018/19, 379 statutory applications were processed, down six from the 385 to the same point in fiscal 2017/18 and up 61 from the 318 to the same point in fiscal 2016/17.

The Surveyor General staff continues to see a heavy focus on First Nations treaty settlement matters in our daily business. The Province, Canada and First Nations all remain very active in moving forward with Incremental Treaty Agreements

ParcelMap BC

In the last year the ParcelMap BC Operations team has focussed on operationalizing the ParcelMap BC technology and refining service delivery efficiencies. The LTSA has also actioned on a plan to encourage widespread adoption of ParcelMap BC as the authoritative cadastral parcel fabric and foundation to support the creation, aggregation and distribution of location based information by all levels of government and major utilities.

During the year we achieved our two-day turnaround on new plan registration thanks to the support of the delivery of survey plan datasets by land surveyors. As of March 1, 2019 the current turnaround time for dataset mapping was 1.21 days. There were nine defected datasets on hold and 20 overdue or missing datasets. These defected and overdue datasets impact on the team's ability to keep the fabric current.

I also note that internally there are two areas where we are not meeting our turnaround targets. The first is on

"non-plan" changes. This is where a parcel changes, perhaps an "interior lot line cancellation", without a plan. We are seeing more of these than predicted and the turnaround time is a little longer.

I have previously described for the membership that the land title office has been actively addressing parcels that remain in the Absolute Fees books and working to "convert" as many as possible to Indefeasible Fees in the electronic register. There is a very healthy number – just over 5,000 parcels – as of the end of January that have not been mapped. This is the second area we have not met targets. We have budget to attack this backlog in the new fiscal year. It is important to remember these parcels have remained "untouched by land title activity" for many years – approaching 100 years in many cases – so they are not parcels that are "very active". Also, once we get through them, and map them once, they will likely sit for many more years. Many are already mapped but with missing attribution.

We have started the task of making "fabric improvements" (large area adjustments) to improve the accuracy of the fabric. We can do this because of the two georeferenced survey points that come in with every dataset. Our first adjustment occurred in Lumby in August 2018. Since then we have completed adjustments on Bowen Island, in Lions Bay, Lakelse, Armstrong, Nakusp and Sun Peaks Resort. On our near term target list we have Lillooet, Mission, and the rural parts of the Nanaimo Regional District and the Cowichan Valley Regional District. These adjustments are resulting in much improved absolute

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positional accuracy for the fabric in these areas, which should be a benefit for all users.

In addition to all the operations work described above, the LTSA – led by Brian Greening – has been working with the Integrated Cadastral Information (ICI) Society to encourage local government, provincial government, major utilities and BC Assessment to adopt ParcelMap BC as the definitive parcel fabric for their area of jurisdiction.

We now have ten local government areas fully adopted, including: Whistler, Kimberley, City of Grand Forks, City of Cranbrook, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Region of Kitimat-Stikine, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and most recently Tofino and Lion's Bay. Each of these jurisdictions has previously relied on the Parcel Fabric Section at GeoBC for cadastral mapping, through what was known as the ICF (or Integrated Cadastral Fabric). There are about 50 more jurisdictions that we hope to move from relying on the ICF to ParcelMap BC.

The tenth local government to adopt is Penticton, who declared on March 4, 2019 that they would use ParcelMap BC exclusively as their cadastral base and are no longer maintaining their own internal fabric.

The Land Surveyors Advisory Task Force (LSATF) remains very engaged with the LTSA on ParcelMap BC. Their guidance has been critical, and we wish to express our deep appreciation to that group. Rory O'Connell, Brent Taylor, Mark Mason, Tracy Peet, Rob Tupper and Kelly Stofer.

Project ACE (Advanced Customer Enhancements)

As we have previously discussed Project ACE has a number of goals, including:

- Improve the Electronic Relationship with Customers, bringing improved services to stakeholders and customers using modern technology;
- Improve Efficiency and Consistency of Services – through NxGen Filing with increased automated examination; and
- Modernize the Legislation around Electronic Filing;

The project was originally scheduled to conclude in 2019, but we have pushed conclusion back to late 2020. For a number of complex reasons, often related to resource and capacity issues at our main contractor, MDA, and the LTSA's unexpected efforts needed to work on previously discussed projects like the Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Register and the Beneficial Ownership Registry Project ACE has not advanced, as was originally planned. It has been re-baselined, and while many improvements have been made “under the hood” these changes are not necessarily apparent to the customer.

It remains premature to be able to talk to you about the new “web filing” system, in any detail. I suspect this will be a focus of discussions for my successor on the fall Board Trip.

As far as impacts to land surveyors, the first, albeit minor change, should occur in May this year. As part of a release known as 19.3 two features will impact land surveyors. Newly

commissioned land surveyors will “register” as a BCLS with myLTSA to access LTSA services using their electronic signatures through an online Land Surveyors Registration web-form instead of using a .PDF form and uploading it. The LTSA will communicate in advance as we get closer to implementing these changes.

As far as big changes for land surveyors – the submission of survey plans to NxGen Filing is currently scheduled for the second quarter of 2020, so after next year's AGM. This is when all packages that contain legal survey plans, whether coming to the land title office or the Surveyor General can be submitted through the NxGen filing portal on myLTSA.

The *Land Title Act* went through a series of changes to support Project ACE. These were completed in the legislature on October 15, 2018. The changes also included some very positive changes to language in the block outline survey section (69) of the Land Title Act, allowing greater flexibility in the types of plans that we can accept for block outline surveys, and changes to the Boundary Act in support of the work of the Alberta-BC Boundary Commission.

Survey Plan Services Modernization

As a part of the design work with NxGen Filing the LTSA has been working on a project subset called “Survey Plan Services Modernization.” This is a project that could significantly change the way survey plans are submitted and in fact change what we view as a Survey Plan Set.

The purpose is to streamline services for submission of survey plans to the

Surveyor General - Annual Meeting Report

LTSA, including to land titles, the Surveyor General and ParcelMap BC. The vision is to stand-up a survey plan repository with comprehensive survey plan services, services that potentially support a future proposed parcel fabric, available through ParcelMap BC.

In the current context a single plan may have to be submitted to the Surveyor General and the land title office, separately and with different application forms. The plan image and the survey plan dataset are then, again, submitted separately and these submissions sometimes get out of sync. In this context land surveyors can lose control of the plan, version control becomes an issue and obsolete versions can remain in circulation. The dataset submitted may not match the plan submitted.

In today's world most users of the plan do not acquire the SPC form. In the mylar days the land surveyor who completed the plan was clearly evident by their signature on the plan – returning to such a paradigm is seen to have advantages.

We have examples of the ParcelMap BC team finding errors on plans after land title registration. This is an inefficient use of everyone's time and the land title plan correction process is cumbersome. We also note the multiple counterpart wet-ink signatures on the DSPI's and the lack of visibility into approval and consents is a concern.

NxGen Filing opens the opportunity to streamline the submission of plans to overcome some of these problems.

We have completed a discovery stage of the exercise. A vision and roadmap has been developed. That vision and roadmap was communicated, in a

presentation, to the Land Surveyors Advisory Task Force in the January 17, 2019 meeting.

The discovery work clearly identified the business drivers.

In NxGen Filing, certification of the Survey Plan Image will happen online on LTSA systems. We need to be able to provide a streamlined customer service.

We can connect the survey plan and the dataset to ensure they remain in sync.

Benefits are seen as being:

1. A single definitive survey plan source;
2. Survey plan synchronization problems reduced.
3. Streamlines survey plan submissions, uploading the plans to a repository means there need only be one version in circulation.
4. Survey plan errors are caught earlier by an improved survey plan dataset validation and potentially fabric integration – before filing with land titles or the SG.
5. Greater visibility into survey plan approvals / consents and state.
6. Fewer defects in submissions to LTO and SG.
7. The potential for the development of a proposed parcel fabric layer.

The LTSA believes that through the Survey Plan Services Modernization work we will be able to have productivity gains in both ParcelMap BC operations, through improved survey plan validation and fabric

integration, and in land title plan examination, with defects reduced and an opportunity to improve the process where a plan needs to be corrected.

We are currently developing the project plan through the development of a Business Architecture Specification.

This work is being done through a series of workshops with an internal team of seven, including Peter Haas, Tim Jowett and Brian Greening. We have met on Thursdays through five workshops. The LTSA also contracted a senior land surveyor in private practice to support the discussion and ensure we understand the work flows that land surveyors undertake.

I anticipate that there will be significant further interaction with the Land Surveyors Advisory Task Force on this work and a need to engage in a much deeper way with land surveyors across the province – covering a broad spectrum of work flows.

Notable impacts of Survey Plan Services Modernization are:

- Certification: providing the Survey Plan Dataset along with the Survey Plan Image before certifying the Survey Plan
- Stronger up-front validation, which may prevent certification until errors are addressed
- Additional fields on the "Deposit Survey Plan Application" form – but pre-populated based on the Survey Plan Number
- Approvers and Consenters would ideally use a myLTSA service instead of wet-ink signing a piece of paper. For now the general public would still have to wet-ink sign.

Notwithstanding the necessary consultation effort the work being done on the Survey Plan Services Modernization has the opportunity to give land surveyors back control over their plans and places the survey plan at the centre of the approval and consent journey.

Miscellaneous

Surveyor General Practice Bulletins

The Surveyor General and the Director of Land Titles have been working with the Law Society on a new Certification Practice Statement – a requirement of legislation that establishes Juricert / the Law Society as the certification authority for the issuance of digital signatures (certificates) for electronic submissions to the LTSA.

A new Practice Bulletin No. 1 has now been released to detail this.

In addition the Surveyor General, just before the AGM released updated Practice Bulletin's No. 2 and No. 3.

Practice Bulletin No. 2 updates the list of valid CLRS and SGPR form versions. Please ensure you are using a valid form for all submissions.

Practice Bulletin No. 3 updates the requirements to submit a survey plan dataset. There are no “changes” as such, but some tidying up of language to have the bulletin match current reality.

CGVD28 vs CGVD 2013 or GeoBC and the Move to a New Vertical Datum CGVD2013

At this point I have nothing definitive to report on BC's move from CGVD28 to a new vertical datum – CGVD2013.

In trying to complete the transition GeoBC identified some late breaking data problems between the federally defined geoid and the localized spirit levelled loops.

Work continues at GeoBC to create a plan on the way forward. They are preparing to meet with a Stakeholder group including the ABCLS, in mid-April.

Metro Vancouver Horizontal Adjustment

A couple years ago the Metro Vancouver committee that looks after the Active Control System in Metro Vancouver had an extensive field survey done on their High Precision Network. (A refreshed CGVD28 elevation model and new vertical values for control in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley has been released – see Circular Letter – 479 – December 2018.) GeoBC continues to work on the horizontal adjustment. The target date for this publication and the appropriate SG Orders is now anticipated later in 2019.

In addition to the two “control” items above, the LTSA completed GNSS survey control projects in Dawson Creek and Prince George.

Boundary Commissioner

The 2018 field survey season was very successful with an extensive 33 monument restoration survey in the Yellowhead Pass area and completion of an inspection survey in the Tent Mountain Pass area. The Boundary Commission will meet on March 27, 2019 to determine priorities for 2019. RFQ's for 2019 work will be prepared and issued later in the spring.

Conclusion

In closing, I appreciate you all taking the time to be here today, and allowing me to provide this update. BC land surveyors continue to be critical in the growth and development of British Columbia, providing fundamental support to the economic and social fabric of the province through the diligent preparation of quality surveys.

We thank you for your commitment to delivering a quality cadastral parcel fabric to the citizens of BC. I look forward to participating in the balance of the meeting and having an opportunity to chat with many of you over the next two days.

My time as Surveyor General, just over 11 and half years has come to an end. To my staff, I cherish your support, your skills and contribution. To the Boards and Board members I have worked with including Chad, Chuck and Kelly – I have been honoured – you all have my undying respect.

To each of you, I am indebted for the support you have shown me. I remain amazed by the resiliency of the land surveyor and the ability to embrace change. This is a skill that will continue to serve the profession well going forward. You are really good at what you do.

Finally to my successor as Surveyor General, Cristin Schlossberger, you are the right choice, you bring new skills and special qualities to the role. I am very pleased with the decision and wish you much success.

Thank you ❖



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Continuing Professional Development Report - 114th AGM in Kelowna, BC

By Dan Machon, BCLS

The picturesque lakeside Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna hosted the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events at the 114th AGM on March 20 and 21, 2019. There was strong attendance for the CPD seminars with approximately 275 members, guests and students taking part in all, or portions of, the day and half of CPD sessions.

The Wednesday morning keynote address was from Lynsey Gaudin who spoke on Marijuana in the Workplace. With the recent legalization of marijuana by the federal Government there are many questions and confusion in the workplace. Ms. Gaudin emphasized the importance of having a workplace policy in place and communicating it clearly to your employees. As surveying is a safety-orientated profession, its use should be prohibited in the workplace. Other areas of discussion were the duty to accommodate employee use for medical purposes and testing for its use in the workplace. It was very informative and brought employers and employees up to date with the recent legislation.

The rest of the Wednesday morning session was by Brian Ballantyne. Perhaps we have a fixation with Dr. Ballantyne, perhaps it's the subject matter; either way he was back again! With his dynamic presentation style, Dr. Ballantyne provided a summary of recent court cases in BC that were particularly relevant to BC

Land Surveyors. These court cases highlighted concepts of importance to the membership: intention of the survey, re-establishment of the original boundary, apportionment of accretion, and many others. Perhaps, most memorably, the reality that Adverse Possession is alive and well in British Columbia and Land Surveyors must be diligent when researching the history of the tenure of a parcel.

An interesting discussion ensued regarding the legal term "Duty of Care" in negligence and how that translated to the memberships' "Duty to the Cadastre". Suffice it to say, these terms do not interchange! This was perhaps a fine example of "Legalese" and "Legal-ease", as alluded to by the speaker on contracts. Conversation was also generated around the idea of what is resolved or rectified on the ground as a result of these recent cases. In many instances, boundaries remain ambiguous as damages are awarded and the evidence on the ground remains in error. As Dr. Ballantyne succinctly replied, the courts will only answer the questions put before them.

We encourage you to visit the CPD portal on the Association website for documents and cases reviewed by Dr. Ballantyne during his presentation.

The Wednesday afternoon session started with two concurrent seminars. Brian Donahue of Natural Resources Canada presented on Precise Point Positioning; which is a useful tool for Land Surveyors to position their

surveys onto reference systems. The seminar appealed to GPS lovers and technophiles alike; there was discussion on the recent changes to the Precise Point Positioning service of Natural Resource Canada. In particular, the increases in positional accuracies related to the 2018 upgrade were reviewed. Pending upgrades to the service were discussed, with a focus on the services' future ability to resolve ambiguities. The session wrapped up with a lively question and answer period — the hallmark of a successful CPD event.

The other concurrent seminar was on Insurance in Retirement or On the Sale of Your Business. Mark Sampson of AJG Canada provided a lively upbeat seminar on what you need to know about your professional liability insurance when you retire or sell your land surveying business. As we know a land surveyor can be sued and held personally liable for professional services given when they were practicing. It is recommended that you obtain an insurance policy that will defend and/or indemnify you and your estate upon retirement or the sale of your business.

Mark also reviewed Cyber Security and liability due to the hacking, ransom ware attacks, phishing of data and the data theft of business and client information. Data breaches often take up to six months to discover and in that time data is gathered and stored to steal valuable digital information. A cyber and privacy



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liability insurance policy is reasonable in cost and protects your business; it includes loss control education and full support to get your business up and running after a data breach has occurred.

The final Wednesday afternoon sessions also had two concurrent seminars. For the second year in a row, the student-only session was presented with four separate “mini presentations” conducted simultaneously. The 2019 topics were:

- Presentation 1 – Subdivision Applications and Approvals Process by Andrew Pearce, BCLS
- Presentation 2 – Overview of Statutes and Regulations Governing Land Surveying by Katie Hannah, BCLS
- Presentation 3 – Plan Checking, Signing and Registration by Peter Goodier, BCLS
- Presentation 4 – PAI Preparation and Exam Writing Tips and Tricks by Ian Lloyd, BCLS and Bronwyn Denton, BCLS

Each student participated in three of the four mini sessions. In addition, an exemplary field project was available for review by the students at the end of the presentations. With about 45 students in attendance, the session was a success. Thanks to all the volunteer presenters who took time out of their busy schedules to prepare for and facilitate this event.

The other seminar was on Contracts and was presented by lawyer Dana Gordon. The importance of contracts and who needs to use them, along with when they should be used was

reviewed. In particular Dana described the parts that make up a good contract, fulfilling contracts, as well as circumstances around termination and breach of contracts.

On Thursday afternoon approximately 200 people attended a session on Ethics by former UBC professor Michael McDonald. Dr. McDonald spoke on ethical standards for self-regulating bodies such as the ABCLS.

Michael gave an overview of general ethics and reminded members and students that ethics is not an option in dealings with the public, our clients and professional colleagues. We must “walk the talk” was emphasized throughout. Topics covered included Conflicts of Interest, Trust in Society and Self-Governance Bodies. A good question and answer period followed the seminar.

The final CPD seminar for the day was on the Future of Professional Oversight in BC by Wayne Braid and Kathy McLaughlin.

Wayne Braid was the former CEO/ Secretary of The Society of Notaries Public of BC and shared his experience with how the Notaries have changed their governance model. The Notaries Public have changed to a governance vs. advocacy model where there is a regulator in place to govern standards, conduct of their members and working to protect the public interest. A separate trade association represents the members’ interests, lobbies allied bodies, advocates for the profession and also provides professional development for its members. Wayne shared the why, when and how the notaries overhauled their governance model and the process they took.

Kathy McLaughlin spoke on the Professional Governance Act, which was passed by the Province late last year. The how and why we got to this recent legislation was reviewed and discussed. A review of what makes a good regulator was explored, with Kathy sharing her recent experience with the Architectural Institute of BC and how they changed their governance model. The ABCLS was encouraged to watch and wait regarding this recent legislation, have two public representatives on the board, have merit and open elections for the board and have a high code of ethics in place to protect the public interest.

Most of the seminars had accompanying PowerPoint slides that can be obtained through the ABCLS website in the Continuing Professional Development section. The Ethics seminar was video and audio recorded with the intention of providing the material through GeoED in the near future.

Following the CPD events of March 20 and 21 in Kelowna, the Continuing Professional Development Committee recommends claiming the following hours for each CPD session;

- AGM = Members should claim actual hours accrued
- Seminar 1 – Keynote Address – Lynsey Gaudin = 1 hour
- Seminar 2 – Survey Case Law = 2.5 hours
- Seminar 3 – Precise Point Positioning = 1.5 hours
- Seminar 4 - Insurance in Retirement and Cyber Security = 1.5 hours

continued on page 39



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Doug Meredith, BCLS #368, Life Member #56.

Photo by Wayne Griffith, September 2012 at an OIP Lunch.

Remembering Doug

Doug Meredith, also known as Abdullah Doug the Magnificent, and one of the last of the great Kahunas, passed away on November 29, 2018. A Celebration of his Life was held at the West Vancouver Yacht Club on

January 28, 2019. In his obituary published in the North Shore News, he was described as a “Man’s Man. He was: honest, precise, a bit of a luddite, accurate, a surveyor, a sailor, a shooter, a hunter, a woodsman, a navigator, an artist, a gardener, a carpenter, a

husband, a father, a grandfather, a reader, a historian, a knife sharpener, a curmudgeon, cantankerous, practical, pragmatic, not politically correct, and above all, frequently laughing”. While I had only spent time with Doug on a few occasions, I would say that described him to a tee.

At our January 7 OIP lunch, attendees were asked to share a few of their memories of Doug. A number of them spoke and some put their thoughts in writing afterwards. I hope to have more of an obituary type of write-up about Doug in a future issue of The Link. However, for this article in no particular order, I would like to quote from some of the words written and spoken by members of the OIP Lunch Group. Some have been slightly edited.

From: Clare Hobbs

Doug introduced me to Legal Surveying In June of 1956, I was surveying on the cloverleaf at the north end of the Lions Gate Bridge. One day, Doug stopped by and gave us a lecture on why we should take up legal surveying. Two weeks later I was in Cassiar making more money, with free room (tent) and board. I will always appreciate Doug’s friendship and for introducing me to legal surveying. However, I have pondered the fact that in all the time Doug was my mentor I only spent a week, at the most, doing Legal Surveys.

From: Neil Bennett

At times, Doug had a loud booming voice; this could be heard if you tried to sneak in the back door of 1200 West Pender (the long-time location of the McElhanney Office). If you heard

“

He was: honest, precise, a bit of a luddite, accurate, a surveyor, a sailor, a shooter, a hunter, a woodsman, a navigator, an artist, a gardener, a carpenter, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a reader, a historian, a knife sharpener, a curmudgeon, cantankerous, practical, pragmatic, not politically correct, and above all, frequently laughing

Remembering Doug

“GRAB A COFFEE AND COME IN MY OFFICE”, you knew something was up. You might be going to a little job in Vancouver or you might need a visa but for sure it was going to be either interesting, long, hard, or involve various types of flying machines, and for sure, challenging. Through all that though, you knew that Doug, unlike others in the office, always had your back when you were out of town. Once, I tried to sneak into the back door in July, with a down parka under my arm, having spent a month on an Arctic island. Only to be greeted with those fateful words. I spent the weekend at home, and then I was off to the Stikine for a month or so, and the Yukon without coming home. Eventually I made it in the back

door without being caught, or maybe the summer workload had died down, so I really did get to go home.

Apparently Doug and others blew up part of an old bridge across the Cap River. Doug mentioned it once but I never heard too many details. At that time the City Hall was located beside the river and council was in session, dark forms were seen running from the site of the explosion ...

Doug carried a pistol with him on out of town jobs (grouse for the pot). After one job he flew up to the Yukon wearing his out of town coat. When he arrived he found his out of town pistol in the pocket of the coat he had worn on the plane. How security has changed.

Doug's boat (second boat?) was named “Passing Wind” but his wife didn't like that very much and wanted an “s” added to make it “Passing Winds”. Doug, ever the clever person, knew that his wife normally boarded the boat from one side so he had an “s” painted on that side. One day his wife was around the other side of the boat only to discover “Passing Wind”! Not really sure what transpired after that but I expect another “s” was added. The punt, of course, was called “The Little Fart”. Much later when Doug was installing some new flooring, he was drilling holes for some screws and sea water started squirting into the boat. Oops! I recall his son Dave leaving the office in a hurry as Doug had his thumb on the hole and needed help patching it.



Keith Errington on the right stamping his number on one of the rock posts while John Nash on the left and Harry Hickman look on



The finished product

I had some work to do in Haida Gwaii in the late 1980s tracking down some boundaries from something like 1912. Doug had never been to Haida Gwaii, which surprised me so he went as my very able assistant. The first two days were on slimy, mossy hillside and the rain was coming down perhaps 10 degrees off horizontal. Considering all the places I had gone for McElhanney one of my thoughts was “payback time”. Doug was struggling a bit but he did find one of the 1912 posts and all in all he seemed to enjoy himself. Perhaps he enjoyed most sitting around a table in the corner of the fishing lodge telling stories. Apparently he told his son after the trip that I moved pretty well in the bush “for a short guy”.

I have the recollection that Doug had manufactured a stamp that said in big red letters: BULLSHIT. This stamp was apparently applied to “unusual” requests.

From: John D. Nash

One of the first things I remember seeing when I entered Doug’s office at 1200 West Pender, was a LARGE poster that said “Eat moose meat, 10,000 wolves can’t be wrong.” On another occasion, I was sent to do a posting plan for a real character in Chinatown with the admonishment, for f—k sake I hope he is right or we might not get paid.” Thankfully our client turned out to be right as rain and the neighbour was just being a jerk. Doug was fond of telling people that they were going on a trip to a Pacific Island. Sure, the north end of Vancouver Island or the Queen Charlottes, you get the drift and in the winter to boot. I really enjoyed the time I spent with Doug. If you were conscientious and willing to work hard he found a way to reward you. His office door was always open even if all you wanted was to have a smoke and shoot the bull for a few minutes.

I think this was Doug. One day, one of the other crews came to see Doug for some reason only to find him mumbling and cussing while pouring over a right of way plan. The visitor politely asked what was the matter to which Doug responded that these!!@#\$\$%^& bearings do not add up and the crew chief should know how to take a star shot by now. Our hero looked at the drawing for a few minutes and then politely asked if Doug had corrected for convergence. That’s when the vocabulary really went into high gear. Turned out that a little extra arithmetic proved the crew chief knew how to do a Polaris shot, and quite well at that.

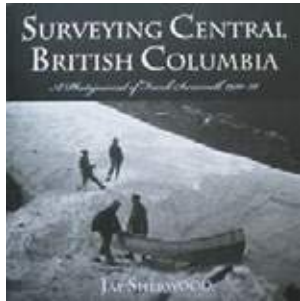
Shortly after the aforementioned OIP Lunch, John Nash came up with the idea that those British Columbia Land Surveyors in attendance at the Celebration of Life should stamp their commission number on an iron pin and leave it for the family. That idea then morphed into using two rock posts, Bill Chapman donated two of them and luckily he still had one of the older ones that had the pre-stamped date of “19” on it. The other one had the pre-stamped date of “20” on it. The first one was then date stamped “1929” for the year that Doug was born and the other was date stamped “2018” for the year in which Doug passed away. Harry Hickman prepared a presentation block of wood for the two rock posts and a small plaque was placed on it. In all, seventeen Land Surveyors were present at the Celebration of Life and each one stamped their own number on one of the rock posts.

As noted at the beginning, Doug may not have been politically correct but Doug was Doug and may he rest in peace! ❖

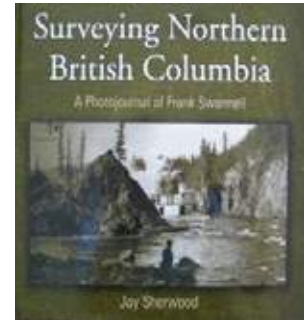
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BC LAND SURVEYORS FOUNDATION

The two primary objectives of the BC Land Surveyors Foundation are to create and maintain a library that houses historical and current reference material related to the surveying industry in British Columbia and financially assist students who wish to pursue careers in surveying by providing scholarships and bursaries.

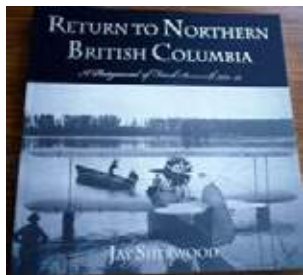
The Foundation has a number of books for sale - consider purchasing them for members of your staff, local schools, or libraries. They will make a wonderful gift and at the same time, your contributions will help support the Foundation. The following books are available from the ABCLS office:



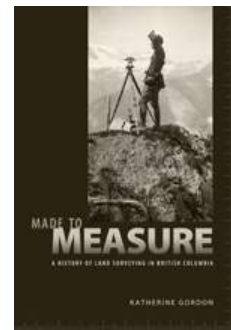
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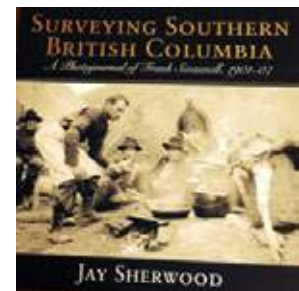
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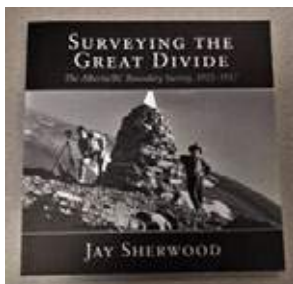
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Additional information on these books can be found on the [Foundation/Books for Sale](#) page of the ABCLS website.

The BCLS Foundation Trustees would like to invite all land surveyors to help support these worthy causes through financial contributions. If you are interested and willing to donate, you may contribute by cheque or credit card. You might also like to consider

leaving a **Legacy Donation** through your will to contribute to existing scholarships - or to establish a new scholarship in your name. You can do this by stating in your will that the bequest should be made to: *The BC Land Surveyors Foundation, Suite 301-2400 Bevan Avenue, Sidney, BC V8L 1W1*. Donations by credit card can be given by calling our Association office: 250-655-7222. All cheques should be made payable to the BC Land Surveyors Foundation and mailed to the Association office. Please provide your name(s) and mailing address so a receipt can be forwarded to you.

Our thanks to you for helping to ensure the future of the land surveying profession.

BIOGRAPHY

Richard (Dick) Justin Gregory



Surveying from the Hope-Princeton Highway to Arizona and back again

By Robert Allen, BCLS (Life member); CLS (Ret'd)

Dick was born in Princeton, BC, on June 1, 1922 to parents Percy Walter Gregory, BCLS, and Molly aka Mary (nee: Freeman) Gregory (b. 1885, d. 1962). His father received his BCLS commission #37 on April 15, 1910 and served as our Association President in both 1926 and 1947. Percy was born in London

on June 8, 1881 to parents Walter Gregory and Laura Maude (nee: Flint) Gregory. Percy started his surveying work in about 1907 near Babine Lake before he settled in Princeton where he was married on December 24, 1910. He passed away in Princeton on June 12, 1953.

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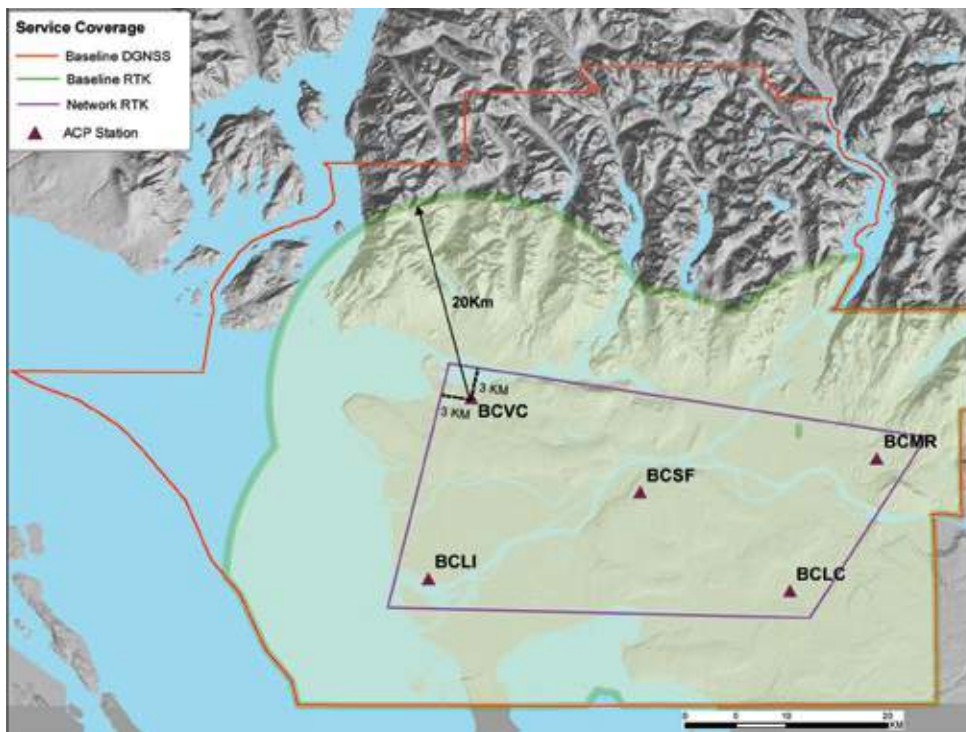
He was a gentleman, always friendly and always had a smile on his face.

As noted above, Dick was born in Princeton on June 1, 1922 the fourth of four children. His siblings were: Stephen Peter Gregory, Mark Gregory and Barbara Mary Gregory. He went to primary and secondary school in Princeton and as he jokingly quipped “not Harvard”. He also took a course at the ‘Calgary Institute of Technology’ and furthered his education at Dr. PJ Bains Tutorage on Pender Street in Vancouver. His professional career started in 1940 as a mine sampler and assistant assayer with the Granby Mining Co. at Copper Mountain, west of Princeton.

Dick served in the First and Second Survey Regiments during WW II in Britain and North West Europe from 1941 to 1945. In 1942 he enrolled in the Army Survey School in Larkhill, England and was soon classed as Gunner Surveyor Class ‘A’. Dick said the Survey Regiment would be moved around to serve the infantry or artillery as needed. He said they were the “eyes of the artillery” or “flash spotters”. He recalled many days perched in church steeples and saw more than enough enemy artillery shells landing nearby.

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Surveying from the Hope-Princeton Highway to Arizona and Back Again



Dick Gregory while with the Survey Regiment

Shortly after the War, on April 20, 1946, Dick entered into articles with his father and was discharged from them on March 31, 1949. After successfully passing his BCLS exams on April 14, 1950, he became BCLS #294. He joined the following list in becoming one of the first of the fully, post-war wave of British Columbia Land Surveyors: Rex Hughes, Wilf Douglas, Tom Williams, Art Swannell, Jack Wade, Barry Cotton, Bruce Paterson, David Ross, Dave Underhill and Doug Roy. All went on to admirably serve our Association. In 1950, Dick also qualified as a BC Mine Surveyor authorizing him to survey underground coal mines and hard

rock mines. Dick took pride in the fact that he had been qualified for both mine surveying and land surveying.

As well as being a partner with his father in the land surveying business, Dick was the owner-operator of the Bridge Auto Court and Service Station in Princeton. And as Dick said “accommodating guests, amongst others, such distinguished guests as G.S. Andrews, A.H. Ralfs, G.T. Mullin & Philip Moncton of the survey persuasion” with the Provincial Government. On one occasion, G.T. Mullin and his crew, while passing through town, helped push up his new business sign.

Dick and his father Percy were in partnership from 1950 to 1953 and surveyed the right of way for the Hope-Princeton Highway, both east and west of Princeton. He also worked on mineral claims, subdivisions, etc. in and around Princeton.

In the fall of 1950 while surveying the Hope-Princeton Highway, Dick contracted polio and spent all of 1952 recuperating in both the Princeton Hospital and Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver. Unfortunately, the disease made surveying in rugged terrain, difficult. Fortunately his lungs weren't badly affected and he didn't require the use of an iron lung. It was during his time at Shaughnessy Hospital that Dick met his future wife, Noreen (nee Mullan) Gregory (b. 1923, d. 2002), who worked there as a registered nurse. Dick said most of the patients there were veterans of the First World War so he was one of the youngest patients. He always held Shaughnessy Hospital in the highest regard and thought the staff and facilities were great. Upon hearing that his father (Percy) was dying, he left the hospital in 1953. He returned again to the hospital but this time it was to court and marry Noreen. They married on May 1, 1954.



Brian, Noreen, Sheila, and Dick Gregory – July 2002

“

As well as being a partner with his father in the land surveying business, Dick was the owner-operator of the Bridge Auto Court and Service Station in Princeton.

Surveying from the Hope-Princeton Highway to Arizona and Back Again

In 1954 and 1955 he was in partnership with A.D. (Dave) Ross in a general surveying practice in West Vancouver. Dick and Dave had been friends during the war (they were in the same Survey Regiment) they studied for and wrote the BCLS together and as noted above, both became British Columbia land surveyors in 1950.

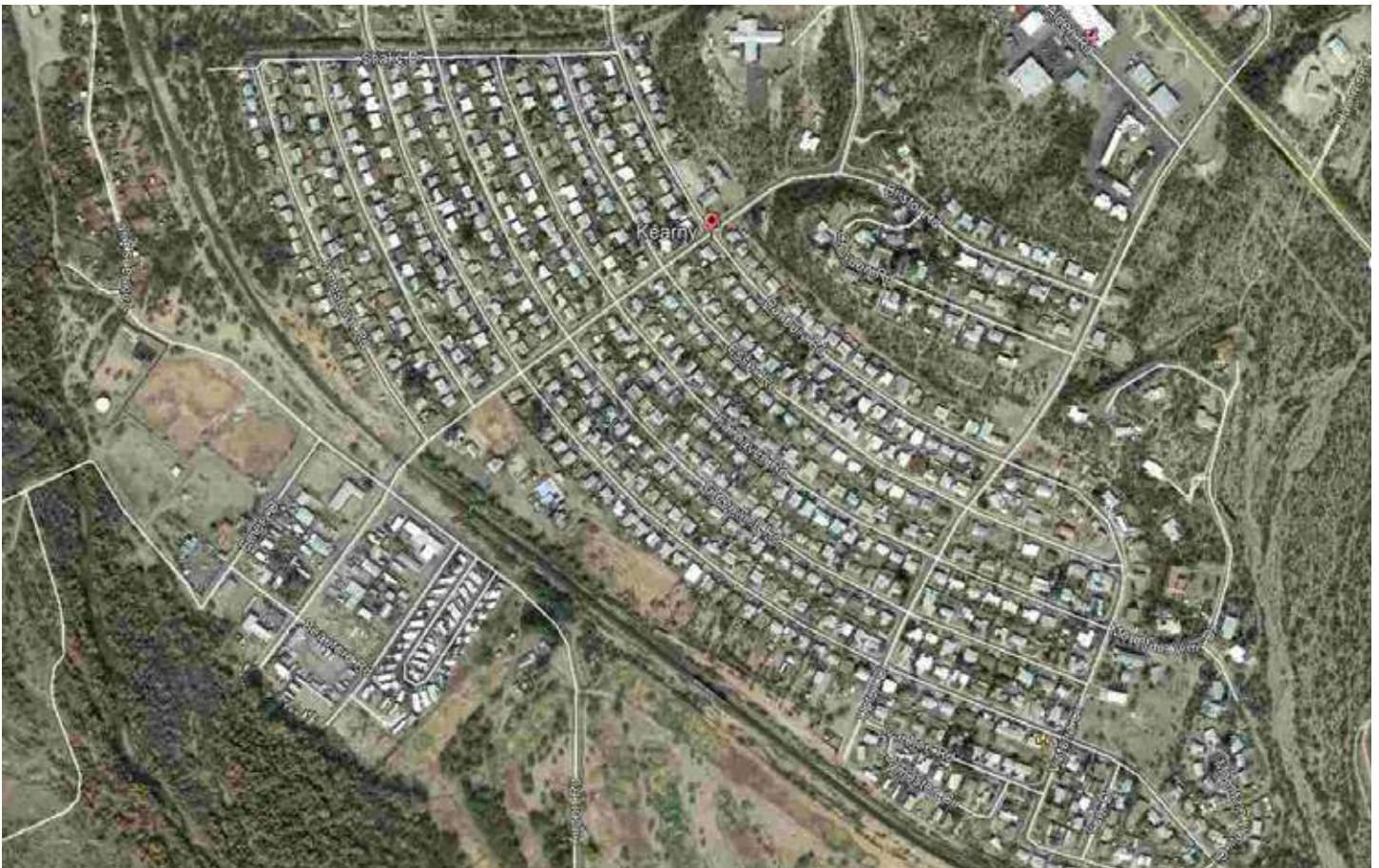
Dick wanted to escape the cold after contracting polio and, on a return winter trip from Mexico in 1957, he and his wife, Noreen, stopped in Phoenix and liked it so much they moved there. After much difficulty finding work due to his disability (he said he ate his share of “humble pie”), Dick worked as the Chief Surveyor

for John W. Galbreath Development Corporation in the town of Kearny, Arizona. He surveyed there from 1957 to 1959 laying out the streets, parks, etc. A Google Earth view of Kearny shows the streets laid out on curves, this would have been a difficult and tedious job given it would have all been done with a transit, chain, and at best, a rudimentary calculator, if not logarithmic tables.

After three years in Arizona, Dick and his family were back in British Columbia and in 1961 Hugh Buckley, P. Eng. and former Civil Engineer at Surrey Municipal Hall hired him. Hugh had landed on the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944 and while they had both served during the War, they

didn't meet each other until their time in Surrey. Dick was hired as a Draftsman because of his disability and he first worked in the old City Hall in Cloverdale. He continued with the City of Surrey until his retirement in 1982 as the Director/Manager of the Survey Department.

Dick articulated J.E. Klefsstad and K. Terry Naylor, now BCLS #589. Dick served on the BCLS Integrated Survey Committee, the BCLS Vocational Guidance Committee and was on the Survey Advisory Board for BCIT. Starting in 1964 he also participated in the creation of Integrated Survey Area #1 along with Ernie McMinn, BCLS, and Gerry Andrews, BCLS. Dick was also a Past President of the Royal



Google Earth View of Kearny, AZ.



Dick Gregory and son Brian

Canadian Legion, Branch 56, in Princeton.

Dick and Noreen had two children, a son, Brian and a daughter, Sheila. Brian was born in Phoenix, Arizona, but he grew up in Surrey. Dick and Noreen moved from Surrey to Enderby in 1993 and in 2002, Noreen passed away suddenly and Dick moved to Salmon Arm in 2004. Dick passed

away on March 8, 2016 at the Shuswap Lake General Hospital in Salmon Arm and is survived by his son Brian (Monicka), his daughter Sheila (Chris) Moffatt, his three grandsons (Gregory, Deven and Justin), his two granddaughters (Stacey and Brittni) and his great-granddaughters (Ava and Kira) and his great grandson (Hudson). Dick will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

leg amputated and wore a prosthetic. How he managed I am not sure but he was a good curler. I don't personally remember much about Dick but I do remember that he was a gentleman, always friendly and always had a smile on his face.

As a final note, Brian nominated both Hugh and Dick for France's Legion of Honour medal because both had served in Normandy during the summer of 1944. Both received the medal and Hugh attended the 70th anniversary ceremony in France in 2014.

I would like to thank Dick's son, Brian, who recently provided a great deal of the information for this biographical sketch. Other parts of it came from the two Biographical Questionnaires on file in the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors Office. ❖

“

Brian nominated both Hugh and Dick for France's Legion of Honour medal because both had served in Normandy during the summer of 1944. Both received the medal and Hugh attended the 70th anniversary ceremony in France in 2014.

As a historical point of interest: prior to the construction of the Hope-Princeton Highway, Dick and a few other boys in 1933 and 1934 walked from Princeton to Hope over the old Hope Trail and stopped for a meal at one of the Depression Era Relief Camps. As another point of interest, a few years after I moved to Sechelt in 1972, I curled on the same 'rink' as Dick's brother, Mark, who had had his

Battle of Vimy Ridge Follow-Up

By Robert Allen, BCLS (Life member); CLS (Ret'd)

Readers will recall the article about Vimy Ridge in the December 2018 issue of *The Link*. In particular, the part about the partners of Bill Chapman's now-survey firm and the role they played in that battle. Also noted in that article were the 129 Land Surveyors who enlisted during WWI, the 24 who lost their lives and the numerous others who were wounded. My paternal grandfather also enlisted in WWI; he was gassed by the Germans and as a result, suffered terribly for the rest of his short life. My maternal grandfather served in the Boer War and was considered too old to serve in WWI. As a farmer with a family, suffering numerous injuries sustained from a tractor accident, he was given exemption from service.

When I was in South Africa, the locals referred to the Boer War as the Anglo-Boer War, not the Boer War as we had learned in school. A number of residents in the southern United States still refer to the American Civil War as the War of Northern Aggression and the British don't refer to the Battle of Vimy Ridge; to them it is only part of the Battle of Arras. Each to their own perspective, I guess.

To learn more of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, I picked up the book, *Vimy*, written by Pierre Berton in 1986. It was an interesting read and written from the Canadian perspective. Berton had interviewed many war veterans and used their first hand experiences to compile his book. The book is a little over 300 pages and once I started reading, it was hard to put down.

Readers may also recall the book

review that I had in the August 2018 issue of *The Link* about the collection of short stories by John Steinbeck. One of the lines from that book review was: "I can't even read a fictional story without a surveying connection". Well, I can't even read a non-fiction book without a surveying connection. In Berton's book, there is no mention of Bill Chapman's family but he does



Photo from Library and Archives Canada.

mention Arthur Pollard, BCLS 238 and Cyril Jones, BCLS 248, although both men became land surveyors after the War. Pollard went on to be awarded a Victoria Cross for his gallantry during the battles and Jones was "mentioned in dispatches" for his service. One of Jones' legacies is a 30-page undated booklet titled *Notes on Transition and Terminal Curves* that was published by the Corporation of British Columbia Land Surveyors. The booklet was one of the items we had to study in order to write the BCLS exams. We learned about spiral (transition) curves at BCIT, I staked out many of them while marking the proposed centre-line of Highway 4 prior to its construction alongside Sprout Lake near Port Alberni. At that

time I found them simple enough that I could calculate the deflection angles using my slide rule during the boat ride up Sprout Lake every morning. In preparation for this article, I dug out my old copy of the Jones' booklet and opened it up and quickly closed it again. I didn't know if I was trying to read Greek or get reacquainted with Calculus. It was too much for me so I put the booklet away, for probably another 50 years — well I guess it won't be me trying to understand it at that point, but somebody might.

This isn't meant to be a book review of *Vimy* but there are two quotes from the book that are worth keeping in mind. The first is: "In losing their amateur status, the Canadians also lost their innocence. Gone was the naive enthusiasm, the carefree indiscipline that had marked the earlier years. The war was no longer a lark, no longer an adventure, but something to be endured by men who knew their job." And the second quote is: "It is a historical fact that Canada entered the war as a junior partner of Great Britain and emerged as an equal, her status confirmed when she, with the other Dominions, was given her vote at the League of Nations."

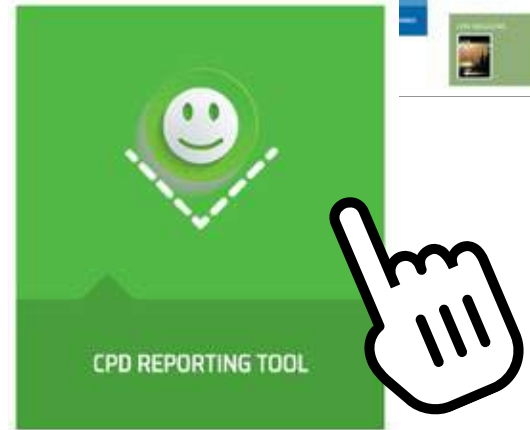
Lest we forget.❖

- Seminar 5 – Contracts = 2.0 hours
- Seminar 6 – Student Session = 2.0 hours
- Seminar 7 – Ethics = 1.5 hours
- Seminar 8 – The Future of Professional Oversight in BC = 1.5 hours

As a reminder, these hours can be claimed using the GeoEd Canada portal which can be found through the ABCLS website. To use the tool, go to 'Members Area' then select 'Continuing Professional Development' (found under the 'Land Surveyors' tab), and look for the green 'CPD Reporting Tool' icon.

Once in the GeoEd online environment, select 'Add CPD' from the CPD icon on the lower right hand side of your screen and follow the prompts to add your hours.

The CPDC wishes to thank you all for your continued support of professional development. Members and students are encouraged to send your suggestions to the committee and in this way we can provide timely, relevant professional development opportunities for members and students. ❖



New Commissions



Mike Thomson and Connie Procyshyn

Constance Procyshyn, BCLS #1000

Constance (Connie) was commissioned on December 10, 2018 in Surrey BC by Mike Thomson.

Connie was born and raised in Surrey, BC. Many of her family members are land surveyors including her grandfather, mother, father and two uncles. Her decision to follow in the family footsteps and pursue a career in land surveying came in her teens. Because of her love of the great outdoors, she came to the realization that it would be a great career choice for her too.

After graduating from high school, she entered the two year, BCIT Diploma in Geomatics program.

Thank you to Shannon Aldridge (mother), John Onderwater (father), and Matt Onderwater (uncle) for their guidance and mentoring through the years. Connie also thanks her good friend and study partner of many years, Andrew Slater, for his support.

Connie would also like to thank Brad, her husband, for all his help and support in whatever way possible along the journey.

Hiking, painting, pottery and travel are some of Connie's interests and hobbies.

New Commissions



(left to right) Mike Thompson, Andrew Slater, Connie Procysyn, John Onderwater, Matt Onderwater, Robert Huttema



Connie Procysyn and Andrew Slater

Andrew Slater, BCLS #1003

Andrew was commissioned on December 21, 2018, in Cloverdale by Mike Thomson.

The mix of field work and office work is why Andrew chose land surveying as a career.

Andrew thanks Connie Procysyn for being his study partner through BCIT, CBEPPS, professional exams and PAI prep – he could not have done it without her!

Thanks also to John Onderwater (master), Matt Onderwater and John Squires for their mentorship and guidance.

Finally, thanks to his family and friends for their support through all the hours of studying.

Exploring outside, wine tasting and spending time with friends are some of the ways Andrew enjoys his time away from land surveying.



Jason Whale, Braden Scheelar and Roger Galibois



Braden Fishing Skaha Lake, Penticton

Braden Scheelar, BCLS #1001

Braden was commissioned on December 18, 2018 in Kelowna by Roger Galibois.

He was born in New Westminster BC and raised in Coquitlam.

Land surveying was an appealing career choice for Braden as he has always had a sense of adventure. In his experience in the industry, it has not let him down yet. Living in one of the most beautiful areas of the world, he loves the fact that he often gets to see BC's pristine landscapes.

Firstly, Braden would like to give his fiancée, Heather, a heartfelt thanks for the many long hours she has spent helping him to prepare for exams. Thanks also to his friends and family for all their love and support along the way.

Thank you to Jason Whale for mentoring and sharing his wealth of knowledge and helping him through the whole process.

Finally, Braden would like to say cheers and many thanks to all the surveyors at Vector Geomatics; Greg Calvert, Pat Randall, Richard Gook, Peter Stringer (retired), Tyler Fox and Gary Borne. Without the help and guidance of all these individuals, Braden would have found the journey much more daunting.

Braden enjoys fishing on the lake or riding his snow machine looking for some powder in his leisure time.

New Commissions



Thomas Dunkley Shauna Goertzen



Thomas Dunkley at Heffley Creek

Thomas Dunkley, BCLS #1002

Thomas was commissioned on December 20, 2018, in Kamloops by Shauna Goertzen.

Thomas was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and his family moved to Kamloops when he was a young boy.

The combination and balance of working in the office and in the field are the reasons he chose land surveying as a profession. Thomas has both a Bachelor's of Technology in Geomatics and a Diploma of Technology in Geomatics from BCIT.

Thomas began his articles under Martin Harrichhausen then transferred to Shauna Goertzen.

He would like to thank the following people; Madison McGregor, his girlfriend, for her continuous love and support; Shauna Goertzen for her guidance and mentorship along the way and all the other land surveyors and colleagues who have shared their knowledge and expertise.

All things outdoors are enjoyable to Thomas but especially time spent fishing and skiing.



Ryan Richmond and Roger Galibois

Ryan Richmond, BCLS #1004

Ryan was commissioned on January 14, 2019, in Kelowna BC by Roger Galibois.

Ryan was born and raised in Dawson Creek, BC. He was attracted to his career choice by both the physical and mental aspects of surveying and the interaction of historical records and modern technology.

He would like to thank the following people: Keith Ekman his master, Dave Kaczowka and Jonathan Austin, Tom Tryon for giving him his first surveying job, Fred Cheng, ALS for his encouragement to become a professional and his partner Tanis for all the support and understanding.

Home brewing, skiing and baseball are all ways Ryan likes to spend his time away from surveying.



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New Commissions



Brent Taylor, Michelle Blake, Jordan Litke.

Michelle Blake, BCLS# 1005

Michelle was commissioned on January 18, 2019, in Sidney by Kelly Stofer.

Michelle was born and raised in Port Alberni BC. The combination of math, science and working outdoors, made surveying a great professional choice for Michelle as she shares a love of these things.

Michelle would like to thank her fiancé JT and her family for their support over the years. Johnson Tam for seeing potential in her early career and supporting and encouraging her through her CBEPS exams. Brent Taylor and Jordan Litke for assisting her through her articles; helping her study and involving her in a number of unique and interesting projects. She would also like to thank all the land surveyors she has worked with through Polaris for their help and encouragement.

Reading, hiking, camping and travel are the ways Michelle enjoys spending her leisure time.



Chris Cryderman and Danu Vandermark

Danu K. Vandermark BCLS #1006

Danu was commissioned on February 8, 2019, in North Vancouver by Chris Cryderman.

Danu was born in Lahr Germany and raised in Comox. When asked why he chose land surveying as a profession, Danu answered that his answer would be too long, however, he would be more than happy to tell the story over a drink!

Danu did not article in BC but Patrick Korabek and John Franko helped him to pass the jurisdictional exam.

He would like to thank his fiancée Anita and everyone at Bennett Land Surveying.

Danu spends his time outside of surveying, playing piano and guitar, mountain biking and eventually rock climbing.



Deciding to Run for the Board

By Gina Hidber, BCLS, P.Eng (Geomatics)
Principal, HBH Land Surveying Inc.

So, have you had “The Call?”

“Hi, this is the president of the Association, the board is wondering if you would like to put your name forward to be a member-at-large?”

“What!?” you say. “Who has done this to me?”

Well, I certainly had those thoughts. Fundamentally, the answer for me was based on my response to two questions:

1. What are the issues I foresee the Association facing in the next few years?
2. Do I think I have the skills to facilitate the required initiatives?

Of course, this is a big question which requires a certain amount of self-reflection and, even better, honest feedback from colleagues. Oh... and if you're concerned about being away from that committee you have been so dedicated to, not to fret, you will be a board liaison to more than one!

In order to be an active and involved member, you must consider your decision to run for election — why are you doing this? How would you participate on the board — what are your skill sets? Will you find your voice? (It's easier for some than others.)

If you're thinking you might want to put your name forward, but are still not sure what to expect, the open

board meeting initiative encourages prospective board members to see firsthand what they could be part of.

Board meetings

There are eight scheduled board meetings a year: three face-to-face with the remainder being conference calls ranging from 2-3 hours each. Ad hoc meetings and disciplinary hearings may also pop up from time to time.

Each member is expected to be prepared for each meeting so as to fully debate the issues at hand: documents are available at least one week prior to the meeting, so there is ample time for review and preparation. Reviewing previous board meeting minutes will

Deciding to Run for the Board

alert you to challenges facing the board at present. Take time to subjectively review your skill set and knowledge to see if your management experience is appropriate to the issues at hand.

New members may find the first few meetings challenging as they get up to speed, however the board environment is supportive, and participation is encouraged early on.

The Board environment

The board environment is collaborative with fulsome discussion on agenda items with room to “poke the bear” and play devil’s advocate. Great debate helps with the goal of getting thoughtful consensus on the

governance challenges facing the Association and getting as many views as possible before seeking feedback from the membership. The board strives to include nominees from various geographical areas of BC to allow for regional representation in the debates. As has been seen in the past year with governance initiatives, specialized presenters are often featured to ensure the board can move forward in an informed manner.

Looking ahead ...

Having been through my first AGM as a board member, it has been enlightening to see the full circle — from policy development to by-law initiation for member ratification,

and finally seeing the outcome of the past years’ work. The Association has some interesting years ahead with the Province paying particular attention to professional oversight matters and the need for continued separation of governance and advocacy within our operations. The Association Board have had great direction in keeping the ABCLS ahead of this train and, through focused initiative, will continue to do so.

Finally

When you get “The Call”, I hope this small synopsis of my early experience helps guide your decision. See you on the board! ❖



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Doing What you Love

By Kate Cairns, BCLS

*“Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life”
– Wayne Howerynough, Letterkenny*

The Career Awareness Committee has been busy at work over the last year, and with the newly released Terms of Reference I am certain we will continue down that path this coming year. To best align with the recently passed Bill 49 – 2018 Professional Governance Act, the Career Awareness Committee no longer has the words “and Public” in its name. This is to ensure that our mandate is to educate the public on the career of Professional Land Surveying within British Columbia, and not to provide self-promotion. Although it is a small change, it remains an important one.

In 2018, the CAC committed to a booth at all five of the Education and Career Fairs (ECF) for their

22nd season. The ECF’s mission is to support the career pursuits of BC residents “starting from square one”. This includes secondary students planning for higher education; young adults looking to transfer their work experience and skills to a different industry; and new immigrants seeking further training and employment as they settle in Canada. The CAC felt that this mission and inclusive approach aligned very well with our own mission statement, and hosted a booth at Surrey, Kelowna, Abbotsford, Nanaimo, and Vancouver. This year there was a record breaking attendance in Vancouver, Abbotsford, and Nanaimo.

Now, while the overall attendance at each of the career fairs is impressive,

we don’t have any more metrics to determine how successful we were at engaging the attendees. It is a new initiative of the CAC to determine a way to get more feedback from the people we interact with at the career fairs so we will be able to generate our

A BREAKDOWN OF THE EDUCATION AND CAREER FAIR ATTENDANCE NUMBERS:

- Surrey: 2,577
- Abbotsford: 2,630
- Vancouver: 4,384
- Kelowna: 1,283
- Nanaimo: 1,581
- **Total Attendees: 12,455**

own metrics and in turn learn and adapt with those numbers.

Our booth volunteers have provided some great feedback from their experiences at each Career Fair, and we are looking to expand the amount of visual aids at the booth for future fairs. This will include laminated old and new survey plans and field notes, as well as neat survey photos submitted by our membership. It was mentioned by multiple people that these items would make it easier to engage with students and have deeper discussions. In addition to this, the CAC did invest in a portable smart TV, which allows for the ABCLS Music Video to play on loop, which draws a lot of people into the booth. The CAC is also in the process of putting together a Career Fair Booth guide to help the volunteers engage with the people present at the Career Fairs. One of the biggest things we are trying to push is the lifestyle BC can offer. Whether you choose to live on the Island, the Kootenays, the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan, or the North – BC has something to offer everyone, and that is another message we want prospective land surveyors to consider.

The ABCLS also hosted a booth at the University of Calgary Geomatics Exposition following the National Geomatics Competition. It was another great opportunity to reach out to students currently enrolled in the Geomatics program and show them what BC has to offer.

Lastly, the ABCLS will be at the SD61 Career Fair in Victoria on April 25, 2019. As always, if anyone is looking to get some additional volunteer hours we are always looking for local volunteers! ❖



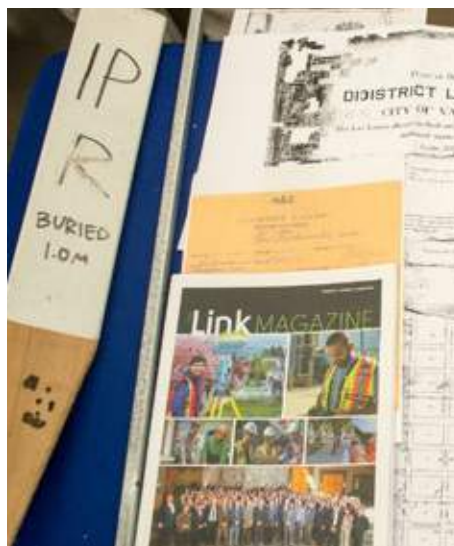
L-R Colin Kerkhoff, Jordan Huppee, Sukh Dhaliwal, Jason Sylvester, Jeff Thompson, Abbotsford



Tyler Hansen, Nanaimo Career Fair



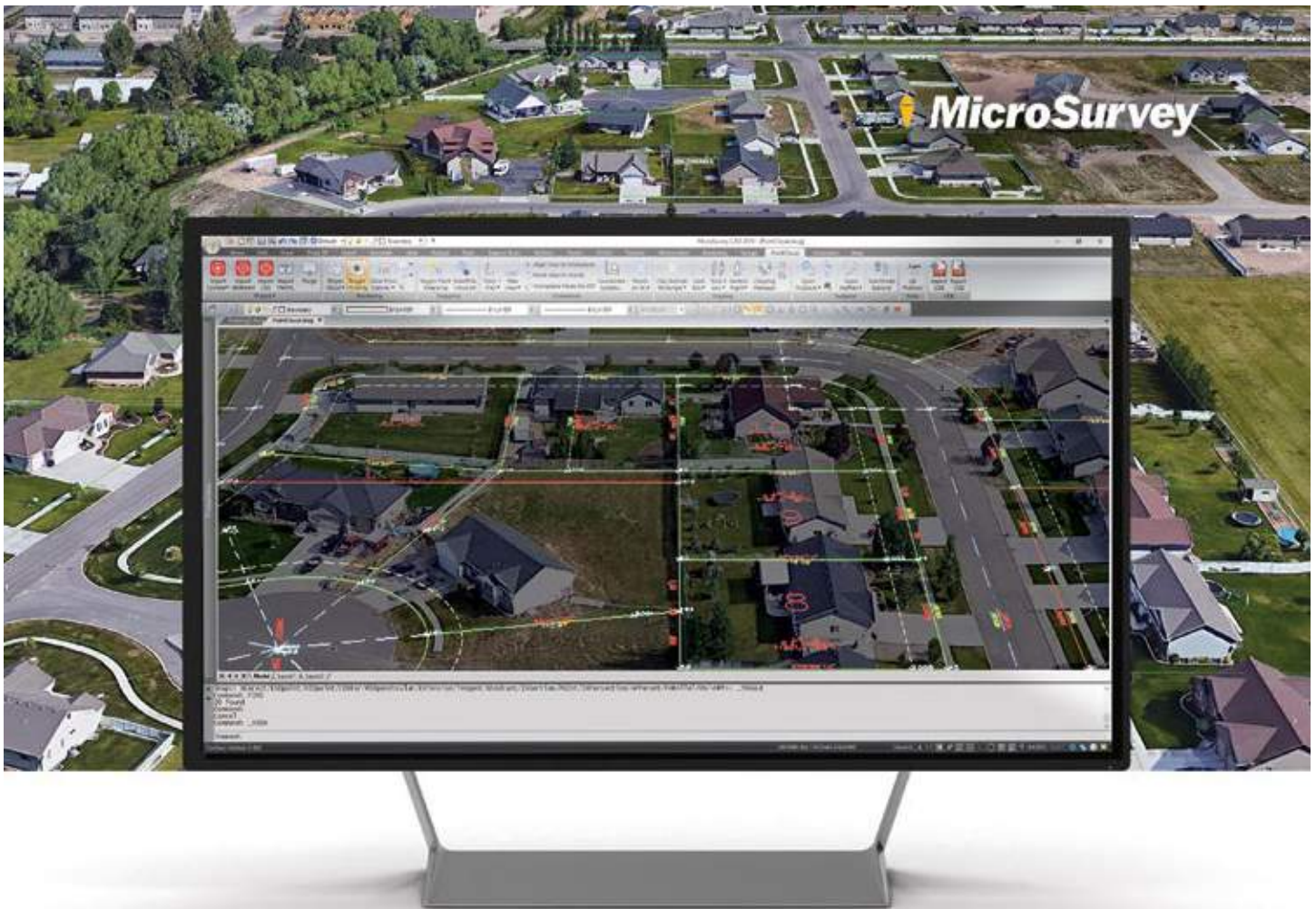
Tyler Hansen, Nanaimo Career Fair



Survey Items Displayed, Vancouver



James Cashman and Paul Ng, Vancouver



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A Family of Land Surveyors

By The Aldridge family



On December 10, 2018 in Cloverdale BC, a milestone was reached in the surveying community when Surveyor General Mike Thomson commissioned the one-thousandth BC Land Surveyor. Connie Procyshyn is the first BC Land Surveyor with a four-digit commission number and is also possibly the first third generation BC Land Surveyor. She has followed in the footsteps of both of her parents as well as those of her grandfather.

Henry Aldridge (#459), Connie's grandfather, received his commission on May 20, 1969. Henry first worked for the Provincial Government in Victoria. He later moved to Port Coquitlam where he worked for Vern Goudal, M.P.T., and Morgan Stewart. In 1972, Henry started his own land surveying business in Cloverdale, BC called Henry Aldridge & Associates.

The legacy continued with Henry's daughter, Shannon Aldridge (#802), who worked for the family business as a teenager and had always wanted to be a land surveyor. She attended BCIT

after graduating high school where she met Connie's father, John Onderwater. John articulated under Henry and received his commission (#708) on June 12, 1991. Shannon and John then decided to take over Henry's business in 1992.

Shannon, busy raising her family, put off her studies until the 2000s. She received her commission on May 7, 2005. Shortly afterwards, Shannon formed Target Land Surveying, which originated from Soukup Land Surveying. Shannon's brother-in-law, Greg Marston (#794), is also a BC Land Surveyor. He received his commission in June of 2003 and works for Murray and Associates. John Onderwater's brother, Matt Onderwater (#805), became a land surveyor shortly after Shannon. Matt received his commission in December of 2005. Shannon is now retired.

Having so many family members as part of the land surveying community, Connie Procyshyn was continually immersed in the profession. After graduating high school, Connie

entered BCIT's Geomatics Diploma Program in 2007. One of her best friends from high school, Andrew Slater also attended BCIT at the same time. After graduating, Connie & Andrew both continued their studies by completing the C.B.E.P.S. exams and articulated for her father, John Onderwater.

Connie Procyshyn worked at Target Land Surveying from 2009 to 2016 and now works with her father, (John Onderwater), her uncle (Matt Onderwater #805), and Andrew Slater (#1003) at Onderwater Land Surveying (originally Henry Aldridge & Associates) in Cloverdale. Throughout her career, Connie has had the pleasure of working with several BC Land Surveyors and is thankful for their help and guidance. In addition to all of the aforementioned, Connie has worked alongside Craig Nakamura (#932), Mike Rinsma (#975), Adam Fulkerson (#906), Lorin Levac (#881), Martin Harrichhausen (#723), Alan Yu (#818), Jeff Thompson (#922), and John Squires (#940). ❖

BIOGRAPHY

Ronald Arthur Baxter

By Robert Allen, BCLS (Life member); CLS (Ret'd)

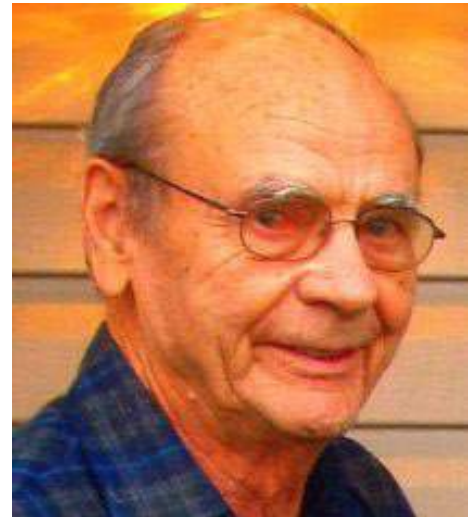
Ron Baxter was born on August 4, 1925 in New Westminster, British Columbia, and was the youngest of four sons of Edwin and Florence (Nunn) Baxter. He obtained his early education at Richard McBride Elementary School and T.J. Trapp Technical School, both in New Westminster. He served in the Canadian Navy in World War II and upon his return home he attended the University of British Columbia and obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA).

Prior to becoming a British Columbia Land Surveyor, Ron worked as a bill collector, a mill worker, an electrician and also spent time working on pipeline construction. Ron commenced his three-year article period April 29, 1955. Working as an instrument man and party chief with David H. Burnett, BCLS #310, he was officially discharged from articles on April 3, 1958. From about 1960 to 1965, Ron worked for the Canadian National Railway (CNR) out of Edmonton, often commuting to BC to direct legal survey work.

On July 19, 1965, he received his British Columbia Land Surveyor commission #443 and left the employ of the CNR and opened an office in New Westminster. He soon took on Ray Rannala as a partner on the engineering side and the firm then became known as Baxter and Rannala Surveying & Engineering. Though he had left the CNR, Ron's good reputation with them meant a lot of

CNR business came his way for quite a few years, with both legal surveys and some special engineering projects. David Trevorrow, BCLS #402, (see the August 2015 issue of *The Link*) while doing a CNR survey east of Hope, once told Ron's son, Rick, that he admired Ron's business abilities to get a survey business up and running at that particular time. The positive feeling was mutual as Ron admired the mathematical wizardry of David Trevorrow.

Rick remembers as a young boy visiting Dave Burnett's father, G.K.



Burnett, BCLS #79, at his stately home in Burnaby. Ron would visit him for advice and stories of earlier days. One anecdote that Rick found particularly interesting was the time the 'senior' Burnett was surveying on the banks of the Harrison River in the early 1900s. He and his crew were alarmed by several canoes of natives approaching



Ron and Muriel Baxter

Biography Ronald Arthur Baxter

them, yelling and waving. When they came near they told the surveyors to flee as there was a Sasquatch in the area that had stolen one of their women.

In 1978 at 53 years of age, Ron retired from the business, and sold his firm to Rod Justice, BCLS #342. Ron and his wife, Muriel, moved to Parksville where he enjoyed travelling, lawn bowling and fly fishing in the Englishman River and on many

Vancouver Island lakes. They also spent the winter months near Palm Springs, CA.

Ron succumbed to lung cancer on March 28, 2014 and was survived by his wife, Muriel (Reynolds), of 40 years; his son, Rick, and his daughter, Shelley; two grandsons and one great grandson. Unfortunately, his wife passed away just ten weeks after Ron. He was predeceased by his first wife,

Marie and his son, Scott as well as his brothers Ted (Mary), Fred (Jean), and Jack (Dorothy).

A lot of this information came from Rick Baxter who worked with his father during the summers and full time for about nine years, before going into telecommunications.

Thank you, Rick. ♣

GALLERY

Photos the 114th ABCLS AGM, Kelowna, BC

For more photos visit <https://abclsagm.smugmug.com/2019-AGM-Kelowna/n-3TBtxtx>



Joe Johnson receiving his life time membership award



Mike Thomson's retirement party



New Commissions Presentation



Presidents dinner (left to right) Aaron Shufletoski, Kayly Erno, Marissa Moore and Peter Moore



Calgary Geomatics Competition

By Chris Thornton BSc MRICS
 Program Head, Geomatics British Columbia Institute of Technology

The second annual National Geomatics Competition (NGC) was held at the University of Calgary from February 22 to 24, 2019. Twelve teams from seven universities and technical institutions across Canada came together to compete in this event.

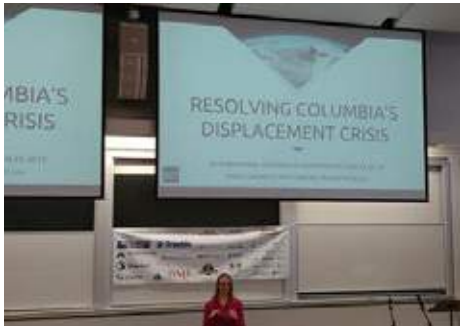
The weekend was kicked off on the Friday with an ice-breaker social night hosted by Go Geomatics at the Kilkenny Irish Pub. The delegates were given their welcome packages and briefed on what to expect during the weekend, after which they were divided up into random teams for a fun night of geomatics trivia.

On Saturday morning delegates gathered for opening remarks and a case briefing of the design competition. The project scope was to

relocate 35,000 displaced Colombians within a specified geographic region. The solution needed to include a land use plan, cadastral system, budget and exit strategy. Teams were given six hours to prepare their 15-minute presentation, which was judged by an industry panel, and followed by a five-minute question period.

After an intense day of collaboration and presentations the delegates were rewarded with a party limo ride to the Aussie Rules piano bar. Here everyone let loose, made new friends and enjoyed each others company.

Sunday morning started with a trip out to the new NovAtel office where delegates enjoyed an amazing breakfast, learned about NovAtel's newest innovations, and got to explore their state-of-the-art facility. In the



BCIT delegates presenting their project solution (top to bottom): Meghan McLellan, Benoit Chervette, Katie Conconi



Top three teams (left to right): Edmond Leahy (NGC Chair), Benoit Chervette (BCIT), Katie Conconi (BCIT), Meghan McLellan (BCIT), Vincent Patenaude (Laval), William Pomerleau (Laval), Benjamin Lauziere (Laval), Morgan Moe (U of C), Jamie Horrelt (U of C), Kiera Fulton (U of C)

afternoon McElhanney, Stantec, Professional Surveyors Canada, Trimble, Challenger, and WSP gave interesting corporate presentations to the delegates and faculty.

The final gala and awards dinner began with an industry panel that resulted in many interesting discussions between the delegates and industry professionals, ranging from

the benefits of a Master's degree in Geomatics to how to grow the best beard. Following a delicious AAA Alberta steak dinner (a must-have when you go to Calgary), the keynote speaker, Ivan Maddox from Intermap, gave a very inspirational talk about his journey through geomatics. In 2018 Ivan helped to develop the mapping systems used to rescue the Thai soccer

team trapped in the underground caves, showing us the limitless possibilities that a career in geomatics can lead to. The evening concluded with announcing the top three teams in the competition. Congratulations to the first place team from the University of Calgary, the second place team from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, and the third place team from the Université Laval.

This is a student-led competition and is a great opportunity for students in geomatics to network and challenge themselves. ❖



BCIT delegates sponsored by the Association of BC Land Surveyors and the BCIT Student Association (left to right): Benoit Chervette, Katie Conconi, Meghan McLellan



Industry Panel (left to right): Challenger, Stantec, Professional Surveyors Canada, Trimble, McElhanney, NovAtel, WSP

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