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# the Link MAGAZINE



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Message from the **President**

## Red Sky at Morning

By Chris Cryderman  
BCLS, President

This is the time of year that you would usually see an outgoing president's message in the Link. The AGM would be over, and thanks would go out to management and staff for their hard work over the past year in organizing it all. Like Spring, it's a time of renewal. The outgoing board members are thanked for their service, and the new board members are congratulated. The global crisis that currently consumes this world has changed that narrative now, and well into the foreseeable future.

This year started out normal enough. On January 21 I flew to Moncton for The Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors 2020 AGM.

CPD seminars were on January 23 and included presentations on best practices in RTK and NRTK surveys; a guide to sight distance measurement for lot access on highways; a guide to septic assessment and soil testing; services available at the Provincial Archives; and the US replacement of NAD'83 and its implications for Canada (get ready for another datum change!).

The AGM was held on January 24. There was a bylaw amendment to allow single corner posts to be replaced without a plan (not unlike BC's monument replacement forms).

Amendments were made to the Standards Manual to: a) provide rationales for not posting a corner including – confusion, impractical, where it intersects but it is not a corner of a boundary under survey, and b) to allow the use of PK and MAG nails as posts with LS# affixed by tags. President Jaret Guimond wrapped up his two-year term, and Merdock MacAllister was named the new President.

After Moncton things were relatively quiet until February 18. That's when Chad announced he was resigning as CAO to take a position with the BC Notaries. We have been fortunate to have Chad's services for as long as we have. Under his leadership the Association has grown to the point that it can meet the challenges of a rapidly changing governance environment. One of the best compliments I have ever heard about Chad can be found in the words of another Executive Director, looking for his own replacement, "We need a Chad".

On February 25 Bea and I flew to Toronto for the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors 2020 AGM. It was an interesting flight to Toronto. By this point we were starting to wonder if flying was such a good idea given all the news coming out about

COVID-19. A person sitting in front of us was wearing a mask. There were at least three people coughing within earshot. I turned to look at the person sitting next to me and noticed he was covered in sweat. *You're kidding me. Can we get to Toronto without breathing?* At that point Canada only had about 10 confirmed cases. "It can't be", I thought. It wasn't.

The AGM was held at Deerhurst Resort, in Huntsville, north of Toronto. Darrel Pink, of SML Barristers & Solicitors, gave a presentation on his experiences as the Executive Director of the legal profession in Nova Scotia. There he led the development of a strategic framework which resulted in an initiative to transform governance and regulation of the profession. This was one of the highlights of the CPD for me. He presented a perspective on professional governance not unlike what is being promoted in BC, but with more of a "right touch", evidence-based, approach.

Another highlight of the AGM was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Professional Land Surveyors Associations of Canada, referred to as the: Professional Land Surveyors Partnership in Statutory Governance. Although the associations already cooperate on many things, the MOU



## Message from the President

further formalizes this cooperation through the stated objective of:

*“Collaboration between professional land surveying associations and their respective members to examine current land surveying governance practices and regulations and review the concept of future governance of professional regulation in Canada. The Partnership will also promote best practices in surveying and geomatics which are in the best interest of the public.”*

A brief history of the rationale and development of the MOU are provided in an article entitled “Self-Governance: A National Theme”, by Steve Yanish, in the March 2020 ALSA News ([https://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member\\_Resources/ALS\\_News/2001.pdf?ver=2020-03-16-094428-950&timestamp=1584632554024](https://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/ALS_News/2001.pdf?ver=2020-03-16-094428-950&timestamp=1584632554024)).

Al and Sam Jeraz hosted a fantastic AGM. The partners program included trips to a maple syrup farm and viewing of murals highlighting the

works of the Group of Seven. Andrew Mantha was named the new President. After Ontario it was back to work finding a new CAO and preparing for the AGM.

After several teleconferences with the ABCLS Board of Management, while I was in Ontario, we decided to go with an internal candidate for CAO. Kelly Stofer was offered the position, and graciously accepted it. Congratulations Kelly! The process for the search for a new Secretary continues as of this writing.

The ABCLS AGM took a circuitous path, largely determined by the public interests as expressed by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, events were modified to address the risks that were being presented. It wasn't long before it became apparent that the social cost of having a live AGM far outweighed any other consideration. The BCCDC's announcement of not allowing

gatherings greater than 250, was the trigger that left us with no doubt where we were going. As you are all aware the Board moved to cancel the planned AGM and all its functions. An online AGM is to be held on April 14th from 9 to 11 am. The planned CPD program is being videotaped and will also be available online.

I cannot thank the association staff, management, committees, and membership enough for their efforts in this regard. The planning for an AGM starts about two years before the event. The first year the dates, and the venue are selected. The second year all the details of the program are planned and executed. It is a huge undertaking. This year, subsequent to the Board's direction, two years of planning and work were undone in less than a week. I'm sure it was heartbreaking, but given what we know now, it was certainly the best decision we could have made. After that everyone then had to figure out how to get it done online.

I would also like to thank the members who graciously stepped forward to offer their services to help make the online AGM a reality. It's humbling to be part of a world full of such good people. By the time you read this, the online AGM will be over, we'll have a new Board, and be moving on to finding our next Secretary. Keep your families safe and stay healthy. It won't be too long before things start to get back to normal and we have those red skies at night again. ❖



Maple Syrup Farm, Ontario



Message from the **Incoming Board President**

## Time of Transition

*By Shauna Goertzen, BCLS*

While I love spring, am energized by the increasing daylight, appreciate seeing grass after months of snow, and consider the possibilities of what the following year will bring, this year, thus far, has been filled with challenges, including COVID-19, the postponement and down-scaling of the 115th AGM and the departure of Chad Rintoul, our Chief Administrative Officer. This is not how I anticipated beginning my year as President.

I am sure each of us is doing his/her best to practice social distancing and self-isolation, where necessary, to protect our families, friends and colleagues.

I believe I am not alone when I express my disappointment in the cancellation of the AGM at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. It would have been wonderful to participate in the traditions of hearing the President's address to new commissions and the passing of the spats.

There is a lot of behind the scenes planning for an AGM and just as much in the cancelling of one. Thank you to Chad, Ellen, Lucy and Bonnie for your tireless efforts in this regard. Planning has already begun for the AGM to be held in Harrison Hot Springs from March 10 to 12 2021. I hope to see many of you there.

I have enjoyed working with Chad in my capacity as committee chair and board member. He has always brought a professional and friendly demeanour to interactions and his contributions to the office and the Association will

be missed. I wish Chad all the best in his new position with the BC Notaries Association.

I am excited for the ABCLS with the appointment of Kelly Stofer as CAO. Kelly stepped into the role of the Secretary/Treasurer with poise and confidence. I am sure he will bring those same qualities to his new position. The process to recruit a new Secretary/Treasurer will begin shortly.

Nelson Mandela once said, "I like friends who have independent minds because they tend to make you see problems from all angles." This is true of members and colleagues on the board who bring different perspectives to the table, which enables fulsome discussions on issues facing the ABCLS.

The board elections will take place on April 14 and I wish to congratulate new Board members. I look forward to your involvement in carrying out the board's business. I would also like to welcome Abigale Fulton, our newest public member to the board.

During my time on the Board I have had the pleasure of developing lasting friendships. However, due to the dynamic nature of our elections, I must say farewell to Roger and Gina. Thank you, both, for your contributions and service to the Association.

I congratulate the newly commissioned land surveyors and look forward to you being formally recognized at the 116th AGM. You have reached an important milestone and I wish you a successful career.

Completion of 2019 Strategic Planning Action items saw significant changes to the exam and the articling process that have been implemented. Kelly, in his new role, will be tasked to lead the charge in organizing the strategic planning session for 2022-2025.

The ABCLS has proven, over time, that we have resilience and are able to adapt to challenges encountered, and this time in history will be no different. Be well and stay healthy. ❖





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Message from the **Chief Administrative Officer**

## Farewell

By Chad Rintoul  
Chief Administrative Officer

**A**s many of you will be aware, I will be leaving the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors in mid-April. I was looking forward to visiting with members at the Vancouver Annual General Meeting and was greatly disappointed that the event had to be cancelled.

We are living in unprecedented times. It is shocking to see how fragile our personal health and the economy is when faced with the current public health emergency, but I am strengthened by the resilience the profession has shown. Land Surveyors continue to provide a valuable service to society, while taking responsible actions to protect themselves, their crews and the public in the process.

It is this level of professionalism that I am proud to have been associated with. Land Surveyors are highly educated and trained. They have a passion for the work that they do, and this dedication to their work is evident in every corner of the province. I have come to understand that it is this passion that sets this profession apart from many others.

That same spirit can be found in the boardroom. ABCLS members who have served on the board during my tenure have acted in the public interest but have never forgotten who they are, and the important work that they do on a daily basis as land surveyors. The Association has been and will continue to be well governed and well managed. I have every confidence in the board, and staff of the Association. Kelly Stofer will be an excellent CAO. He has a depth of broad experience, and he is a dedicated administrator. Most importantly, he has a talented and experienced team to help him.



Clockwise: John Franko, Her Majesty and Matt (Row-Boat) Schnurch; Dave and Mike (*Nobody said it was supposed to be a 'roast'*); Aaron (another day at the office) Shufletoski; Minda, Joe (PhotoBomb) Johnson and Jack

My appreciation to past and present board members for your support and encouragement: The Association has “grown” in its professionalism and stature. My thanks to the staff of the ABCLS. I have been involved with recruiting and hiring each and every one of you on the team. I have greatly enjoyed working with you, and I am very pleased with the environment we have created.

New challenges await us all. It has been an honour to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors. I will have treasured memories and I would like to thank all members for making me feel welcome and respected within this community.

Stay well.

Respectfully,  
Chad Rintoul



Above: Roger & Jen  
and unknown person

Above Right: Bronwyn  
(Texas) Denton

Right: Chad and Nigel



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Message from the **Surveyor General**

## Surveyor General's Report

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

I'm happy to provide you with my report on activities at the LTSA for the past year and to provide you with information on upcoming activities.

With my first year as Surveyor General complete I would like to say a big thank you to my predecessor. I had the pleasure of working with Mike Thomson for 10 years and am grateful for the leadership and support he provided to the team and the solid foundation he left for us. Thank you Mike for all of your efforts and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

I acknowledge that this is a challenging time for everyone with the uncertainty we currently face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The LTSA is well positioned to continue operations remotely and our staff is available to assist you. To the broader land surveying community; you have my support and I'm wishing you all the best for your business, your staff and your families.

### Organization changes

As you are aware, we had a number of changes at the LTSA which were effective as of January 1, 2019.

The organization's Executive team is now comprised of the following: President and CEO (Connie Fair); VP and Chief Financial Officer

(Greg Pedersen); VP Human Resources (Rob Cutler); VP Business Innovation and Chief Information Officer (Al-Karim Kara); VP Operations (Camille Reid) and VP Policy and Legal Services (vacant).

The Policy and Legal Services Division is comprised of the Office of the Surveyor General, the Office of the Director of Land Titles, Legal Services and Policy Management. This division supports the rest of the organization in ensuring there is appropriate policy and legal support. We are currently in the process of hiring a new VP of Policy and Legal Services.

Within the Office of the Surveyor General, I'm joined by Peter Haas (Senior Policy Analyst and Deputy Surveyor General) and Tobin Pope (Policy and Program Analyst). I also work closely with the other policy managers, including Carlos MacDonald (Director of Land Titles).

All parts of the organization that include direct services to our customers are within the Operations Division; this includes Customer Service staff, ParcelMap BC operations team, Surveyor General Services, the Office of the Registrar and the Customer Operations staff who support both Surveyor General and Land Title functions.

The Surveyor General Services team is led by Dave Swaile (Senior Deputy Surveyor General) and he is joined by Deputy Surveyors General, Katie Hannah and Chris Sakundiak. Dave works closely with the Office of the Surveyor General and with the other operations managers, including Larry Blaschuk (Registrar of Land Titles).

The Business, Innovation and Technology Division includes many of our LandSure staff and they are focused on new business initiatives and improvement of existing services.

*This new structure was set up to support the LTSA's strategic direction, and position the organization to improve customer experience. The LTSA will continue to focus on operational excellence and business growth.*

The Mission and Vision for the organization were updated by the Board for the next fiscal year to shift to a broader focus on 'land-related registries'. This is in recognition of the work that the LTSA is doing for the Province on registries such as the Land Owner Transparency Register and the Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Register. In addition the Vision articulates building trust in, and improving the function of, the real property market.





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## LTSA Board and Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Board Chair Janice Comeau has reached the maximum number of terms served as an LTSA Director. The board has now appointed Diane Friedman as Board Chair for the 2020/2021 fiscal year and this appointment comes into effect April 1, 2020. Thank you for your leadership Janice.

In addition, four stakeholder entities have participated in the nomination process for board members, including the Association of BC Land Surveyors, relating to Director Terms that are expiring on March 31, 2020. The appointments will be announced soon.

We are grateful for the contributions that Chad Rintoul made to the LTSA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee as a representative of ABCLS, and would like to welcome the newly appointed CAO Kelly Stofer to the committee.

## Records Conservation

As previously announced, the LTSA is looking to relocate the office in Kamloops to a smaller more modern space, still within Kamloops. The records currently housed in the Kamloops office will be moved to the Victoria vault. The move has been slowed down by two years to allow conversations to occur regarding access to records.

A Historic Records Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the LTSA relating to the prioritization of the preservation and digitization of historic records. As a starting point, the committee includes representatives from the Assembly of First Nations, the Union of BC Indian

Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit.

The work of this committee complements the extensive continuing efforts to scan and conserve Land Title and Surveyor General Records with an emphasis on our oldest most fragile records.

The Land Title AFB conversion project has been completed for the Kamloops, Nelson, Prince Rupert and Victoria Land Title Districts. Land Title staff continues to work on the conversion of the New Westminster and Vancouver Land Title Districts AFB records.

## Financial

The third quarter financial statements, including management discussion and analysis have been published to the LTSA website. Overall the LTSA is doing well financially, despite the quiet BC real estate market. By focusing on keeping our costs within budget, we've been able to remain sufficiently profitable to continue to invest in new products and services for our customers.

Our overall transaction volumes have been virtually the same in 2019 as they were in 2018. Revenues at the end of the third quarter were up \$1 million from last year, due to the 8% fee increase in April and new revenues from Autoprop and from the Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Register.

The LTSA services fees will be increasing by CPI, being 2%, on April 1, 2020. This fee increase only applies to the LTSA portion of the fees for services under the Land Title Act, resulting in a smaller net increase for those services.

## Operations

The following are our Operations metrics for the fiscal year up to the end of February.

*This fiscal year, the Land Title Office has received 8,394 survey plans; this is compared to 9,355 for the same period the previous year; a 10% reduction. February was the only month of the year that plan intake was greater than previous year with 678 submissions as compared to 618 for the previous February.*

For Surveyor General Services, I will provide numbers for Crown grants, Survey Plans and Applications:

- At the end of February we had received requests for 74 Crown grants, as compared to 73 for the previous year. We've received 24 requests for Crown grants so far in March so our overall numbers for the year will be above last year's volumes.
- For survey plans submitted to the Surveyor General we had 905 plans in the first 11 months of the fiscal year, as compared to 1,644 for the previous year. This is a decrease of 45% which can be primarily attributed to a reduction in Oil and Gas related plans.
- We have received 304 statutory applications, as compared to 379 for the same period last year. This is a decrease of 20%.

We continue to be active in supporting the Province with survey requirements associated with First Nation agreements. We have logged



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approximately 350 hours in survey and land related research, guidance and support in First Nations agreement related matters.

The PMBC team has maintained a sub 2-day turnaround on plans (year to date is 1.0 days), with greatly reduced defect and overdue dataset metrics.

## ParcelMap BC

We are thankful for land surveyors' continued contributions to the success of ParcelMap BC. 40 organizations have formally adopted PMBC, including many local governments and we have also had key province-wide adoption at BC Assessment and the Agricultural Land Commission.

The Adoption Working Group continues to be active and has resolved 23 of 56 community identified challenges and opportunities, with key achievements around data alignment, land records system integration and several new resources to better understand the ParcelMap BC data products.

*Spatial improvements have been a major focus for the Operations team over the past year. We completed 16 large scale improvements in the 2019/2020 fiscal year encompassing approximately 70,000 parcels and over 1,500 square kilometres of surveyed parcels.*

The team completed a number of projects that were related to improving the completeness of the PMBC fabric including the Crown SRW historical capture project, and the Crown Foreshore Lots historical capture project. Significant progress has also

been made on the mapping component of the converted AFB titles project at the LTO.

Recently we have established a Data Services Agreement with the Surveyor General Branch of NRCan to facilitate cooperation in establishing aligned cadastral mapping of Federal lands and ParcelMap BC.

## Autoprop

Autoprop combines property information from over 125 database sources into a single search. Most real estate boards in BC now offer Autoprop as a service for their members, providing over 90 percent of Realtors across BC with access. This service improves information transparency and data access for real estate professionals.

## Ongoing and Upcoming Projects

We expect the Province to pass the legislation to create the Land Ownership Transparency Register in June 2020. At that time the Registry, operated by the LTSA, will be operational with our Director of LOTR Services, Rueben Danakody, working in the Operations Division with his staff.

Completion of web filing remains on target as we progress through the transition from .pdf to web forms. This will be complete for all applications to the Surveyor General and the Land Title Office in June 2020 with the exception of plan related forms. We are including plan related forms in the Survey Plan Services Modernization project which will result in an enhanced submission process.

The Survey Plan Services Modernization project will create a survey plan repository, which is essentially a workspace for assembly and validation of survey plan images and related data. Survey plans can be enabled for submission to either the Land Title Office or the Surveyor General from within the repository, and the dataset sent to the ParcelMap BC team.

We don't have a proposed timeframe yet for the build and implementation of this project and continue to concentrate on design aspects. We will communicate with land surveyors and other affected stakeholders as the project progresses so that you can be prepared for the upcoming changes. This project implements improvement ideas and feedback that we've received over a number of years from our customers and there will be changes to processes in order to achieve the benefits.

Thank you to the Land Surveyors Advisory Task Force members for your feedback as we work through the design of this project.

The last project I will touch on here is the Integrated Survey Area Program review. The ISA program was first developed over 50 years ago to support local governments in the development of early Geographical Information Systems. As survey practices and equipment have modernized since the inception of the ISA Program, we are undertaking a review to assess the effectiveness of the Program in its current form. The LTSA reached out to stakeholders of the ISA program last year. We have reviewed responses and are undertaking next steps in consultation.

## Message from the Surveyor General

### Committees and Outreach

The Land Surveyors Advisory Task Force had 6 meetings this past year, primarily focused on the Survey Plan Services Modernization project and we also discussed operational items and other projects.

In 2019 the Canadian Council on Geomatics Cadastral Forum committee assisted the Association of Canada Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC) in the Evolving Boundaries of Practice presentations and workshops at the National Surveyors Conference in Halifax. The final report is available on

PSC's website and I encourage you to have a read.

The Cadastral Forum has had a busy year so far in 2020. Our efforts are currently focused on a comparative study of land administration systems across Canada. With the help of a consultant, the data provided by each jurisdiction will be compiled and compared in a draft report for the committee. A summary of this information will be reported out at an appropriate time.

The BC/Alberta Boundary Commission contracted two inspection surveys in the fall of 2019 and has

accepted the reports for these surveys. We will be meeting in April in order to plan which areas will be prioritized for further surveys in this upcoming survey season.

### Final Comments

Thanks to all of the Surveyor General team for their focus and commitment to ensuring high quality service in a time of a lot of change within the organization.

I'm wishing everyone the best and hoping we can all stay healthy. ❖



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Sitting (left to right) Clare Hobbs, Rita Levesque, Dlane Jacobsen, Dave Dyck, Henry Aldridge, Mike Thomson, Dick Mak  
 Mid Row (left to right) Ralph Turner, Chris James, Helge Jacobsen, Neil Bennett, John Nash, Clarence Levesque, Wayne Griffith, Terry Naylor  
 Back row (left to right) Ron Scobbie, John Henderson, Dave Nielsen, Tom Tryon, Martin Shulze, Brian Brown, Allan Olsen

# OIP Group Luncheon

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

The first luncheon of the new year was held at Ricky's All Day Grill on Monday, January 6, 2020. There were 19 surveyors in attendance along with three guests. Helge Jacobsen brought along his wife Dlane and special guest Clarence Levesque and his wife Rita.

Our first order of business was to introduce two new members to the OIP Group. First up was Dave Nielson. Dave retired from Natural Resources

Canada, legal surveys division after a 40-year career. During this time he worked as a technician or surveyor, a project manager, BC Regional Surveyor and contract employee. Since Dave's retirement some of his pastimes are golf and working as an amateur genealogist. Dave went to BCIT with Robert Allen and Robert talked Dave into coming to the lunch. Unfortunately Robert didn't make the luncheon due to other commitments.

Terry Naylor was then introduced as the second new member to the group. Terry worked for the City of Surrey for 32 years until he retired. He then found a second career working for Vancouver School Board until the commute into Vancouver got to be too much and Terry retired once again.

Helge Jacobsen was up next and introduced his guest Clarence Levesque along with wives Rita Levesque and Dlane Jacobsen.



## OIP Group Luncheon

Clarence had a land title search business providing title search services for many of the land surveyors in the room. He started his career working at the Land Title Office before working for Morgan Stewart and then starting his own title search business. In 1974 Clarence became a notary public and in 2003 he retired. It was great to have Clarence and the two wives as guests and it would be nice to see more of this at future luncheons.

Our next order of business was to hold a moment of silence to remember Stan Nickel. Stan passed away on November 23, 2019 at the age of 68. The celebration of life for Stan was standing room only and well attended by over 20 land surveyors.

Wayne then informed the group that Robert Allen's melanoma problem had resurfaced and required immunotherapy this time. It is similar to chemotherapy but with different side effects - no hair loss being one of them. It requires being in the Sechelt Hospital every two weeks for the hour-long treatments. Robert had an appointment related to his immunotherapy and was unable to attend the luncheon

Keith Errington, Bill Chapman, George Fenning, Rick Clendenning and Dai Yates all sent greetings but were unable to attend due to other commitments. If these regulars were able to make the luncheon it would have made for quite a crowd.

Chris James then shared a story about Stan Nickel when they were writing final exams and Helge followed with a story about a plan rejection. Apparently the word warehouse on the plan looked more like whorehouse



Neil Bennett (Left) and Clarence Levesque (right)



Terry Naylor



Dave Nielsen (left) and Tom Tryon

and this was grounds for a plan rejection!

The last order of business fell to Dick Mak and that was to take the annual group photo in a limited space and reasonable amount of time. The photo turned out fine and Dick was able to insert himself into the photo as well.

The completion of the group photo saw the end of the luncheon until the next gathering of the group. Our spring luncheon will be held Monday, May 4, 2020 at Ricky's All Day Grill in Surrey. If you would like to attend a luncheon or get on the OIP Group email please contact Wayne Griffith at [wmgriffith@shaw.ca](mailto:wmgriiffith@shaw.ca). ❖



Dick Mak welcomes our guests Dlaine Jacobsen (centre) and Rita Levesque (Right)

## Continuing Professional Development Committee Update

*By Mark J. R. Dailey, BCLS, Chair – CPDC*

**L**ife has dramatically changed for everyone in recent weeks. As the global pandemic continues to grow it has become a time of great uncertainty in our homes and businesses, our communities and beyond.

The cancellation of the 2020 AGM and CPD Days and Exhibition that was scheduled March 18-20 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver was a disappointing but necessary decision to help fight the spread of COVID-19 in our province. The cancellation has also posed some interesting challenges for the ABCLS to conduct the business that usually takes place during the hectic days of our AGM.

Many of our peers travel from all four corners of our province to attend these events as they work towards fulfilling their mandatory CPD hours. The cancellation of the 2020 AGM and CPD Days has forced the Association to find alternatives to deliver the seminars that many of us would have attended in person at the conference.

Fortunately, the CPD sessions will still be made available via video for those who had signed up, and perhaps by the time this issue of *The Link* is published there will be more information as to when, where and how these webinars will be made available to the membership.

If we go back a little further in time and take a look at 2019 we'll see that it was quite a busy year for the CPDC. Our first formal CPD sessions of the year took place over a two-day period at the 114th AGM & CPD Days in Kelowna. The events started off with the keynote address entitled "Implications of Marijuana in the Workplace" that was presented by Lynsey Gaudin. This seminar was followed by several more covering a wide variety of topics including contracts, insurance in retirement, ethics and the future of professional oversight in British Columbia. As usual Dr. Brian Ballantyne presented an informative and entertaining seminar on survey case law.



## Continuing Professional Development Committee Update

All the handouts from all these seminars are available for the members and they can be found on the CPD page on the Association website. Additionally, Dr. Michael McDonald's Ethics seminar has been uploaded to GeoEd and is available there for a modest fee.

Outside of the CPD Days in Kelowna the committee coordinated with the regional groups and the Practice Advisory Department for a presentation entitled "Survey and Plan Rules – Review and Refresh". This informative session was presented at the Spring 2019 regional group meetings by Gordon Gamble and Peter Goodier.

2019 was also a very busy year for Getting it Right BC. Firstly, early in 2019 a review was undertaken to ensure that the workshop's core material, which at the time was nearly three years old, was still relevant and up to date. Secondly, a new one-day workshop on the Strata Property Act was introduced.

The GIRBC workshops were held in the autumn of 2019 in Kelowna and Vancouver respectively. The workshop was very well attended in both cities, and the demand for the new strata

module was so popular in Vancouver that a second day had to be added to the schedule in order to meet the demand.

At the beginning of 2020 there were no GIRBC workshops planned, but the committee was looking into various dates and locations based on feedback received from members at the various regional group meetings. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, planning for such events is currently not possible, however once the situation improves and larger gatherings are once again permitted the committee will once again investigate the possibility of holding these events.

The CPDC continues to promote the GeoEd platform as a useful online resource for members. With large public gatherings banned on order of the Provincial Health Officer until further notice, practitioners in need of CPD hours will need to find alternative ways to meet their minimum hours before the end of the year.

There are many reasons why the CPDC likes to promote GeoEd to the membership, but it is the variety and amount of courses, both free and paid, that are available on the website

that make it a useful and convenient learning option.

The CPDC Terms of Reference (TOR) were reviewed during our November 2019 teleconference. While the Specific and Ongoing TOR for the committee remain largely unchanged for this year, we have been tasked with a couple of new items for 2020 including investigating a refresh of the GIRBC program.

Additionally, the committee has also been asked to prepare a CPD session to develop common understanding among the membership of our value as a profession to a civil society, responsibility to the public interest and the role of the Association.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fact that the work of the CPDC would not be possible without the support of our Association. Specifically, I would personally like to thank Chad Rintoul for his numerous and valuable contributions to both the CPDC and the Association during his time as Chief Administrative Officer. Obviously, we are disappointed to be losing Chad, but we wish him all the very best in his new role as CEO of the BC Notaries Association ❖.



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# Business Owner Planning

## Don't Expect to Put Together an Effective Succession Plan in a Short Period of Time

By Jeroen Rijken, MBA

**M**any businessowners underestimate how long it takes to create a plan. The best time to start thinking about succession planning for your business is now. That may seem like a low priority when you're consumed with the pressures of day-to-day operations, but it's the best time to do it.

Begin by writing your goals and get professional legal, tax, and accounting advice on setting up a succession plan.

When we work with a businessowner, we focus on four primary areas.

### 1. Sale of the Business

Who will take over? Who will buy the business? Tax considerations.

### 2. Timing

When is the right time to leave? Most don't want to sell immediately since the business is doing well.

### 3. Wealth Protection and Growth

What happens with the money after you sell? Most businessowners are not used to having a large investment portfolio.

### 4. Stewardship of the Wealth

How do you protect what you have? How do you pass it on?

Where your business is in its life cycle can influence your retirement planning. Your focus will change as the business moves through different stages, so be flexible in your approach.

Early on, you may have few resources or little time to give to retirement planning. Later on, when you're established, you may have more time and resources but it's never too early to start planning for retirement.

When you're in the growth phase of your business, consider building retirement and future tax considerations into your overall plan.

- Explore setting up an Individual pension plan or directing surplus assets to RRSPs or tax-exempt life insurance.
- Working with professionals around taxation and estate and investment planning can help you maximize your cash flow to build those assets.
- By planning early, you have time to carefully consider your Will and put Power of Attorney and other personal planning mandates in place.

As your business matures and starts generating surplus cash, you are likely to be taxed at the highest levels. While you're working on continued growth, remember to diversify and strategically position assets for retirement. Given the surplus assets most businessowners now have, the opportunity to employ more sophisticated strategies may help reduce taxes while getting you closer to your retirement objectives.

### It's time to give the following questions serious thought.

- Can the business generate enough income to fund your retirement?
- If you intend to sell the business, will you sell shares or assets? On the sale of Qualifying Small Business Corporation shares, you may be able to utilize the capital gains exemption.
- Can you utilize opportunities like a payment of a retiring allowance and repayment of shareholder loans to help fund your retirement?
- Will you transfer the business to a family member? Have you identified a potential successor?
- Is an estate freeze a possibility?

Long-term planning may not be the primary consideration on your mind when faced with current day-to-day business challenges, but a business succession plan can improve the overall value of your business and help maintain its strategic direction.

Setting goals and timelines helps keep you on track and forces you to think long term. usual Dr. Brian Ballantyne presented an informative and entertaining seminar on survey case law.

*Jeroen Rijken, MBA, is an investment advisor who works with businessowners at RBC Dominion Securities. ❖*

## Professional Liability Insurance Committee (PLIC)

By Michael Kidston, BCLS, CLS,  
member of PSC Professional Liability Insurance Committee

The PLI Committee of Professional Surveyors Canada meets twice annually with the broker and the Managing General Agent to review all claims made, progress on large claims, and any issues related to professional liability insurance.

At our meeting on March 9, it was once again evident that the large majority of errors and claims were related to construction layout, especially in Western Canada. This is a reminder that extra precaution and checking should be applied to this activity, and that any modifications or discrepancies in plans issued for construction should be flagged, confirmed with the plan authors (architects, engineers, contractors), and with the contractors or job foremen.

A useful discussion took place to confirm that for crews working in rural properties and especially in the oil production industry, that locating underground infrastructure was a normal and regular part of survey practice.

The PLIC also met with an actuarial firm to review the rates used to calculate premiums for professional liability insurance, and to discuss industry loss ratios that indicate rates charged and industry norms for this sort of coverage. The actuary confirmed that the insurance market is “hardening” (just look at recent news about home and condo insurance) and

that an average 6% increase in the base rates for the 2020-21 PSC Insurance Program would be below the industry average.

Many professions have various forms of self-insurance for professional errors and omissions. The professional liability insurance program offered by the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors have this model, and it has proven to lower premiums over time; however it takes at least five years to create a sufficient surplus to be able to return some direct savings to members

and still maintain funds for a high-claims year. Ontario has sufficient members to maintain a self-insured retention fund; for PSC to adopt this model all remaining provinces would have to agree to “all in” participation in the insurance program. The PLIC is continuing to explore how this might work to ensure that surveyors can maximize the benefits of good practice, which reduce claims and lead to lower professional liability premiums. ❖



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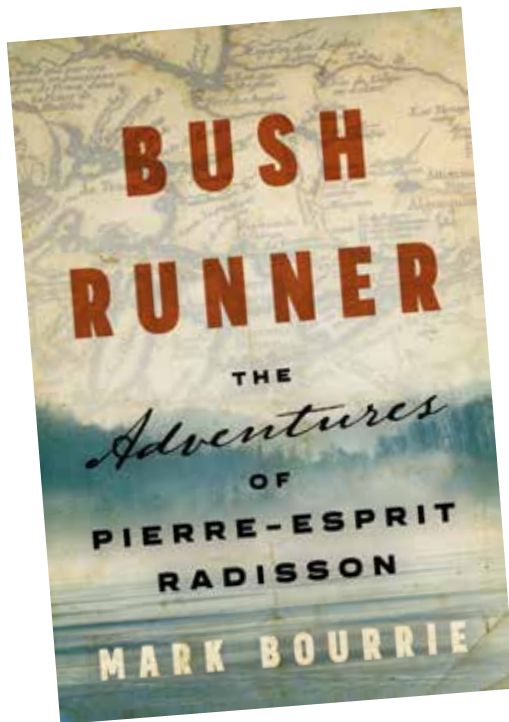
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## Bush Runner by Mark Bourrie

Reviewed by Ian Lloyd



*This is a biography of the adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson, written by Mark Bourrie and published May 2019 by Biblioasis with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.*

Many Canadians are familiar with Radisson's name, there is a hotel chain, and a Coast Guard ship named after him, however his remarkable life story is not widely known. He was neither a surveyor, a colonist nor an explorer in the likes of Alexander Mackenzie, David Thompson or Simon Fraser. The author describes Radisson as "an eager hustler with no known scruples" and his fur trading ventures led to the formation of the Hudson's Bay Company. Interestingly Radisson spoke half a dozen languages and was a writer and kept journals.

His journals were not published by Radisson as they contained knowledge of the river systems, trade networks and extensive First Nations contacts and customs, his journals were his commercial advantage. Some of his writings were recently discovered in the library of Windsor Castle.

Radisson was born in 1636 in France, and as a child sent to relatives in Trois Rivières in New France. As a teenager, while out hunting, he was kidnapped and subsequently adopted by the Iroquois. He became fluent in Iroquois and his first hand insight into their culture is fascinating reading. Radisson escaped from the Mohawks to the Dutch settlement of Manhattan, then on to France and England.



Pierre-Esprit Radisson, French-Canadian fur trader

The book follows Radisson's journeys through the French and British Royal Courts as he sought backing for his fur trading ventures into the Upper Great Lakes and Hudson's Bay where he traded and lived with the Huron and the Sioux. Some highlights of his adventures include being captured and marooned by Spanish pirates and being shipwrecked off the coast of Venezuela. It provides a fascinating glimpse into 17th century European power, politics and religion, as well as life as a fur trader.

The author has done a tremendous job of researching the life of Pierre-Esprit Radisson and *The Bush Runner* is a book that will appeal to those with a sense of adventure and an interest in history. ❖



Mark Bourrie wins prestigious RBC Taylor Prize for *Bush Runner*





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# When to Use Hard and Soft Conversions of Imperial Measurements to Metric Measurements

By Robert Allen, BCLS, CLS (Ret)

Maybe I am a bit anal about this and maybe Jay Sherwood's latest book was the straw that broke the camel's back so to speak. Perhaps my only negative comment about the book is the lack of understanding of converting imperial measurements to metric measurements. I am not sure who is to blame but I am going to put it squarely on the shoulders of the copy editor who should be the last person to check over the manuscript. Some of the conversions were actually incorrect but most were hard conversions where soft conversions should have been used. If there is an exact measurement, a hard conversion is used but, if there is an estimate of a measurement then a soft conversion is used.

The Federal Government at some point decided that imperial measurements quoted from previous records should have metric measurements in brackets immediately afterwards. Some publishers just use the conversion factor of feet to metres, for instance, of 0.3048 and I suppose that way they don't have to think about what they are actually converting. There are numerous instances where the soft conversion should have been used in Jay's book; in fact way too many to mention them all. An example from one of the pages is: "... more than 4,000 feet [1,219 metres] above the Crooked [Narraway] River ...". While 4,000 feet is equal to 1,219 metres, the foot measurement of 4,000 feet is approximate only as it was not measured, it was just estimated, and

thus requires a soft conversion to 1,200 metres. There is an issue with the numerous weight measurements as well. In one instance, it says: "... involving over 60,000 pounds [27,215 kilograms] monument material ...". If the 60,000 pounds was actually measured to that exact amount, the hard conversion would have been correct but I am positive that it was estimated only and the 27,215 kilograms should have read 27,000 kilograms.

In another book review published at <https://ormsbyreview.com/2020/01/25/730-regular-sherwood-dividing-the-sea-of-mountains/> it says: "For example, in his 1922 season, Cautley required no less than 9,980 kilograms of cement and 18,144 kilograms of gravel to mix with the cement to construct border monuments." The book says "... including 22,000 lb. [9,980 kilograms] of cement ..." and it further goes on to say "it was also necessary to provide for the transportation of about 40,000 lb. of gravel ...". This latter weight was previously noted in the same paragraph as being 18,144 kilograms. I rather doubt that the cement was measured out to be exactly 22,000 lb. and therefore a soft conversion should have been used and the resulting number should have been 10,000 kilograms. I have built a number of concrete monuments and I will admit they weren't to the scale of those built by Cautley. I never measured the weight of the gravel I looked for nor, did I weigh the cement used and

I know that Cautley would not have weighed them either. In Cautley's case, he was lucky to find gravel and I, too, sometimes experienced difficulty finding good gravel, you took what you could find.

An estimate of 40,000 means that the actual figure lies somewhere between 35,000 and 45,000 whereas the converted estimate of 18,144 means that the actual figure lies somewhere between 18,143.5 and 18,144.5 which would be a rather precise measurement. Again, because this is an estimate only, a soft conversion should have been used and instead of using 18,144 kilograms, it should have read 18,000 kilograms.

An estimate of a measurement means that it is in a range of one-half of the last significant figure on either side of the stated number. For instance, if one were to estimate a distance of 4,000 feet, that would mean it is somewhere between 3,500 and 4,500 feet. As noted above, the hard conversion of the estimated 4,000 feet is 1,219 metres and that would mean it is between 1,218.5 and 1,219.5 metres which is a rather precise measurement. If the distance was actually measured at 4,000 feet, then a hard conversion would be used and the distance would then be shown as 1,219 metres.

As I said at the start, maybe I am anal about this but there is a significant difference between hard and soft conversions and especially when to use them. ❖



Dick Mak



Ralph Turner (L) and John Nash

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A Young Articling Student

By Dick Mak, BCLS (Ret)

*It was an early spring morning in 1972. I was articling with Bryan S. Berting, City Surveyor of the City of Burnaby. I donned my work clothes, complete with boots and hard hat. I grabbed my lunch and walked out of our house to look for temporary employment with a local land surveying business. The City of Burnaby union employees were on strike. McElhanney Land Surveying office was located on 95th Avenue near Scott Road and was within walking distance of our house.*

John Nash, who was articling with Gordon McLaren at the time, informed me decades later that it was funny to see a young man walk in looking for a job in full working gear. The last laugh was on John because I was hired within minutes and I went out with him to do certificate surveys.

While we were talking about the good old days at our usual OIP (Old Important People) luncheon on January 9, 2017 at ABC Country Restaurant in Surrey, John gave me more information about that fateful spring day in 1972.

He said on that morning, the crews were all dispatched by 8:15, headed for their java somewhere in Surrey. A rush certificate survey came in around 8:30. Gordon McLaren, office manager, told John Nash that he would have to drive home and change out of his office clothes and into his work clothes in order to complete this certificate survey.

While that discussion was going on, I – who was already dressed in field clothes and plumb bob on my side – walked into the office looking for work. Gordon did not need to go home to change. I was hired on the spot to do the job with John.

Such was fate. The strike in Burnaby lasted about three weeks. During the time I worked for McElhanney I met Neil Bennett, Larry Marshik, Larry Achtemichuk, Ron Haroldson and other fellow articling students. I also gained valuable experience working for a private firm. ♣



# 1st year Board Musings

By Dan Machon, BCLS

A lot has changed since I joined the board last year. It seems as though we are living in a different world in light of the recent COVID pandemic along with the uncertainty it has brought.

Being a “newbie” on the board has been an interesting challenge. At times I have felt way over my head but at the same time it has been incredibly rewarding! I have put my foot in my mouth a few times and admit I need to brush up on “Robert’s Rules of Orders” for meetings. One thing I have learned is to speak my mind on a subject – not to hold back as this is my chance for input; all opinions are valid and important as the board attempts to have a collaborative approach on matters before it.

I have been asked how much time is involved in serving on the board. “It depends” would be my answer! As you may know, the board has eight scheduled teleconference meetings throughout the year with a summer break in July and August. There are also three face-to-face meetings in Sidney and the AGM, which takes a further five business days of our time. Discipline hearings are also scheduled throughout the year.

Based on my limited time on the board I spend approximately 2-3 hours preparing for a teleconference meeting and 5-6 hours preparing for the face-to-face meetings. The time commitment has not been too onerous as a member at large; if you are asked

to put your name forward then rest assured it is not a substantial time commitment in the first year.

One of the most interesting parts in serving is the variety of issues dealt with at the board table. In a typical meeting, the board reviews committee reports, proposed bylaw changes, financial statements, positional papers and discipline matters. It has been nice to experience variety above and beyond the day-to-day managing of a land surveying practice. I would consider the board’s role as an overview of land surveying governance in the Province vs the micro view of day to day surveying operations. A refreshing perspective from my point of view.

One of the most difficult tasks of the board is member discipline for breach of bylaws, Survey Rules or Statutes that we practice under. Discipline is difficult for individual members as it is humbling to see your mistakes laid out and become public record. As a board member the reality is the ABCLS membership is an extremely small group and often we personally know and have business dealings with each other. However, as a self-regulating professional body the ABCLS Board is there to serve the public interest in all matters, and that public interest must be at the forefront of all our decisions.

In reviewing discipline matters the amount of information to wade through can be quite daunting and a real challenge: board members need to

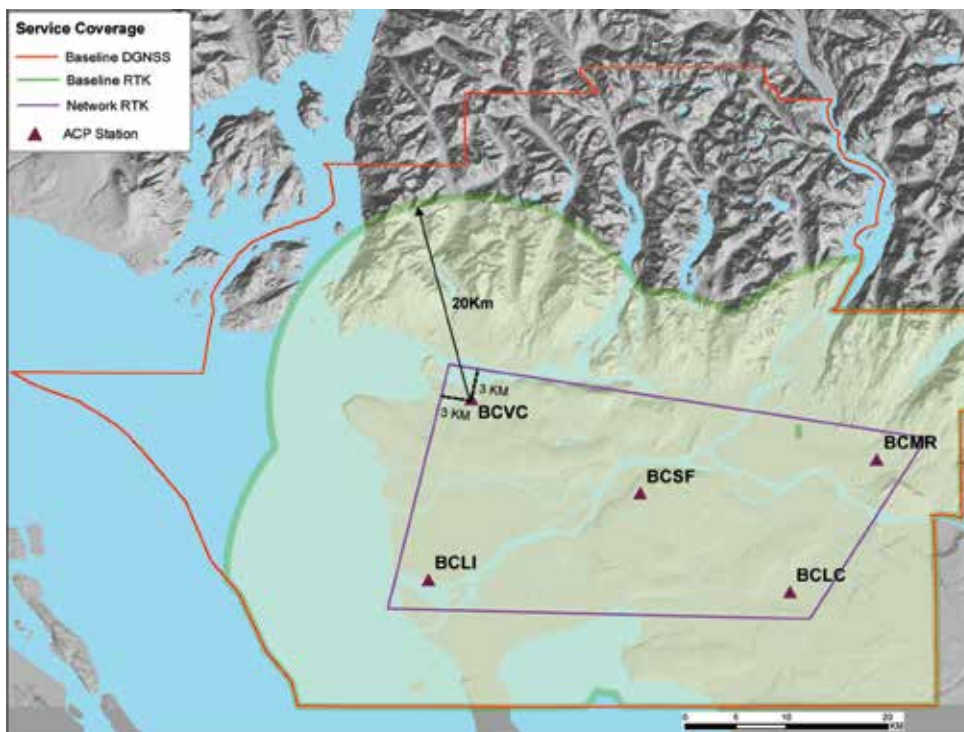
be able to understand the what, why, when and how of the complaint in order to provide a reasoned opinion on the matter. A few points I have noted in reviewing these discipline files:

- The importance of clear and concise field notes, these notes are the physical and electronic record of how your survey was performed. This will make it easier for yourself and others to follow and to understand the rational of your decisions.
- It is important to have a systematic approach for the various non statute plans prepared in the life of a project. Members may want to consider using a dated revision block on your non statute plans for your protection and to keep a proper record of your work.
- The importance of proper checks and balances on your work to provide assurance that your plan is correct. “Measure twice and cut once” was the mantra from my grade 10 woodwork teacher!

My board liaison appointment is the Professional Reference Manual Committee (PRM). This Committee works through each chapter of the PRM and updates its language and keeps the manual relevant in light of Survey Rule and technology changes. I have taken an active role on the Committee and appreciate the variety of opinions and member engagement for this practical manual for our

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members and students. After many years Dave Hardwicke stepped down as a member and chair of the PRM; we will miss Dave's passion and steady leadership of this Committee over the years.

In light of the recent COVID pandemic it seems that every day and at times every hour things are changing. Our hospitals and healthcare system are under stress,

workplaces are closing down with many co-workers and friends under quarantine or self-isolation. There is widespread worry about physical health, mortgage payments, kids' safety, and the like. The world does not seem to be the same safe place it did just a few weeks ago. In times of uncertainty, upheaval or disaster, there is a time where there is sober reflection of this temporary new

normal. My first year on the board will be one I will never forget!

I look forward to another year of service on the board. I am hopeful that our economy will recover shortly after the COVID chaos and we will all return to a more normal lifestyle. I know I will have learned to appreciate the many things I have taken for granted over the years; a good life lesson. ❖

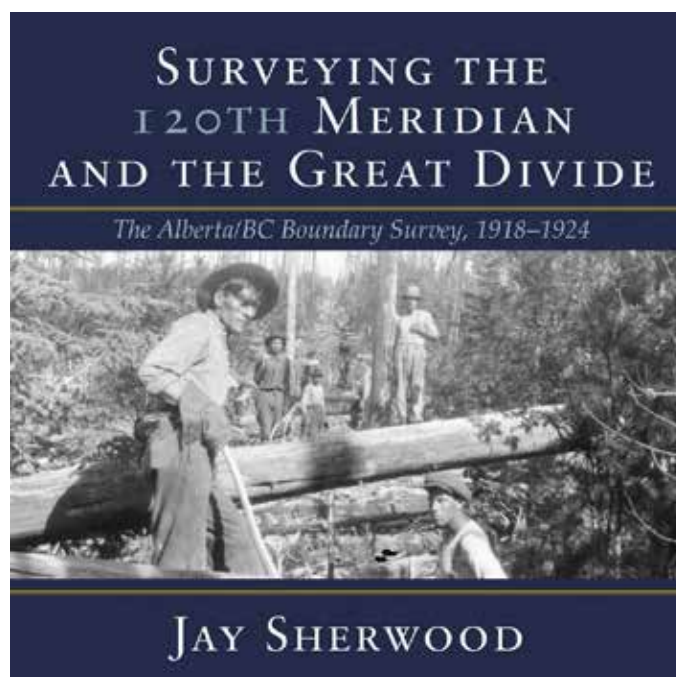
## Book Review

# Surveying the 120th Meridian and the Great Divide by Jay Sherwood

Reviewer: Robert Allen, BCLS (Life Member), CLS (Ret)

Again, as with all of Jay Sherwood's books, he has written another well researched and illustrated part of British Columbia and Alberta history. This is the companion book to his earlier book *Surveying the Great Divide, The Alberta/BC Boundary Survey, 1913-1917* (See the April 2018 issue of *The Link* for a book review).

The remainder of the Great Divide had to be surveyed up to its intersection with the 120th meridian of west longitude. As with the first part surveyed, it was funded by the Dominion Government as well as the British Columbia and Alberta Governments through the same tripartite agreement. Arthur Oliver Wheeler continued as the commissioner for British Columbia and Richard William (Bill) Cautley continued as the commissioner for Alberta.



Wheeler was to be in charge of the topographical portion of the survey and the establishment of boundary monuments on the peaks adjacent to the passes. Cautley was to be in charge

of the surveying party required to take levels and make the preliminary survey of the boundary in the various passes, and the erection of permanent boundary monuments therein. Cautley was also required to survey the 120th meridian both south and north of the starting point located east of Pouce Coupe, British Columbia.

Throughout each summer season a number of the field party members kept diaries and good field notes.





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📺 Measur

Most of these are extant and Jay was again able to review them and withdraw from them copious amounts of information about the surveys and the conditions under which the crews worked.

As is common in those mountainous areas, there was still snow in the summer months, swollen creeks and rivers to cross, steep mountains to climb, extreme weather on the mountain tops, and difficulty in finding gravel and water in some areas with which to make the concrete monuments. Jay has again meticulously gone through all the available material to write a detailed chapter about each year's field work from 1918 to 1924.

Besides these seven yearly chapters, there are additional chapters on "Completion of the Boundary Survey, 1950-1953", "Geographical Names", and "Conclusion" as well as a chapter on "Acknowledgements", an "Introduction", short biographies on each of the main "Surveyors", and "Surveying Methods" used in 1918 to 1924. A list of the "Survey Crews, 1918-124", the "Sources Consulted" and the always helpful "Index" are found at the back of the book.

As in previous years, Wheeler took a 'round' of photographs at each of his survey stations and Jay has incorporated a number of those photographs as well as many others into each chapter. The front cover photo is one of the best in the book; it shows the difficult working conditions the men had to endure. The view looking north along the straight cut-line of 120th meridian draws you right into the book itself. There are two maps at the front that show the areas

the crews worked in and the years they were there. Some other maps are scattered throughout the book.

For the most part, this portion of the survey of the boundary took place after World War I and near the end of the survey, technology had changed; airplanes were used, and portable radios allowed contact with the outside world but the survey parties still had mountains to deal with, access logistics, swollen rivers to cross, muskeg that seemed to go on forever and inclement weather.

By 1924 the Great Divide had been fully surveyed and most of the 120th meridian had been surveyed, at least as far north as being near the north east corner of the Peace River Block. The years 1950 to 1953 saw the last portion completed. By the end of the 1953 season, a helicopter was being used to transport staff doing an inspection of this last portion of the boundary. How things had changed since the start of the survey!

Thank you, Jay Sherwood, for putting this book together to commemorate these great men and this great country to commemorate the completion of the survey of that part of the British Columbia/Alberta boundary.

A further book review from a layman's point of view, and probably one who hasn't read the first book of this two-book series, can be read here on the Ormsby Review:

<https://ormsbyreview.com/2020/01/25/730-regular-sherwood-dividing-the-sea-of-mountains/>

Publisher: Caitlin Press

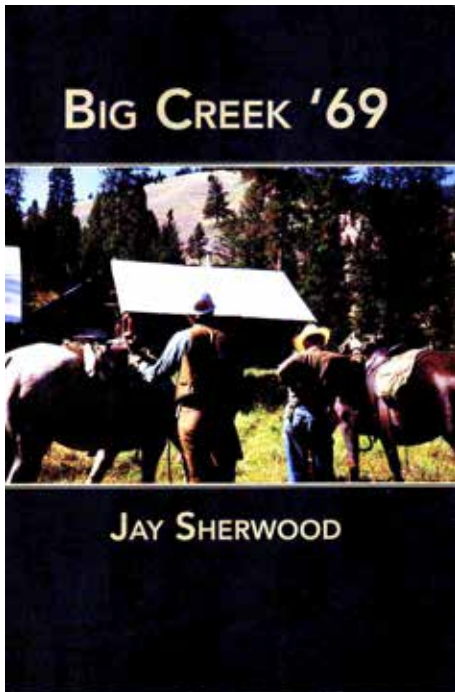


#### *Reviewer Biography:*

*Robert Allen is a Life Member of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors (ABCLS), a Life Member of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, and a Canada Lands Surveyor and is now retired from active practice. He is a past president of both the ABCLS and the Association of Canada Land Surveyors and he has served as the Chair of the ABCLS Historical and Biographical Committee for more than 25 years. He was raised in Courtenay and spent most of his working career in Sechelt. In his retirement, he is active in Sunshine Coast Search and Rescue (Team Leader and Treasurer), the Sunshine Coast Lions Club (Past President), and the Sunshine Coast Lions Housing Society (President). This latter Society runs a 20 million dollar, soon to be 50 million dollar, subsidized housing complex for seniors and others with disabilities in Sechelt. He also enjoys anything to do with the outdoors whether it is hiking, fishing, hunting, or photography. ❖*

## Big Creek '69 - A summer in the Idaho Primitive Area by Jay Sherwood

Reviewer: Robert Allen, BCLS (Life Member), CLS (Ret)



Most British Columbia Land Surveyors will know that Jay Sherwood has written a number of books, mostly about Land Surveyors, and for almost all of them there is a book review in one issue or another of *The Link*. Jay has recently written a memoir of his summer job in 1969 in the Idaho Primitive Area. Jay was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and as his family didn't travel much, he hadn't been any further west than the neighbouring State of Ohio. In the summer of 1967, he took a job at Glacier Park Lodge on the edge of Glacier National Park in Montana. By mid-July he had four days off from his six-day a week job and decided to hitchhike around parts of Montana and Idaho. By the end of July, he knew he wanted to see more of the west and the mountains so he left his job and started to hitchhike through western Montana and into Idaho. By chance one of the people that picked him up told him of a job opening on a survey party. A few days later he found himself working for the Payette National Forest near McCall, ID where he spent the last five weeks of summer not only surveying but also working on forest fire suppression.

In the spring of 1969, Jay was ready to graduate from college and was able to resume working for Payette National Forest. He was stationed at Big Creek under the supervision of Earl Dodds, who was the Ranger for the Big Creek District. On June 10, 1969, Jay and his father headed west from Pittsburgh in Jay's recently purchased Plymouth Valiant and a few days later, he was at work. His father, a pilot from World War II, flew home and was back in an airplane for the first time since the war.

Jay worked on building trails and fighting forest fires, all in remote areas away from their headquarters at Big Creek. He goes on to describe the work they did and the areas they worked in. All of his letters written home that summer are extant and he quotes directly from them. The booklet has many of Jay's photographs

reproduced and all in colour. He dedicates the booklet to his mentor, Earl Dodds, the Last of the Big Creek Rangers. Jay concludes the booklet with a quote from a letter from the spring of 2019 to Dodds (now 93 years old) and he says: "So thank you for the experiences I had during the summer of 1969, and the memories that I have of Big Creek". Dodd's own story can be read here: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5443725.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5443725.pdf)

This was an interesting read and so much reminded me of my first surveying summer job in 1966 during my 'in between summer' at BCIT. That was a fun summer for me and a big learning experience as well.

Copies of the booklet are available from Jay and you can contact him at: [jl\\_sherwood@telus.net](mailto:jl_sherwood@telus.net)



## Career Fairs

By Aaron Shufletoski, BCLS

Chances are you have been asked at one time or another to participate in a Career Fair for the Career Awareness Committee. The Association Update generally has a request for volunteers running continually for different events that we would like to have our Association present at. It is sometimes a struggle to get volunteers and we are very grateful for everyone that signs up. Having local volunteers is essential to being able to attend these events and it is always good to show that our members are active in the community.

Some volunteers have had mixed feelings about running a booth, trying to engage with strangers and entice the strangers (or even worse, high school students) to start a career in land surveying. It may help volunteers to participate more easily if they know what the intent of the fair is. We attend various different events and it is always a good idea to look in advance at who will be attending the event, to be prepared and know how to engage.

Typically we attend three different types of fairs:

### Elementary Career Days

These events are usually brought about when your child comes home and asks if you can come to school tomorrow and talk about your job. These can be a lot of fun, only takes an hour or so from your day, and you get to show off in front of your child's



friends. This is mostly a competition for who has the coolest parent, which you can easily win. Some ways to connect with the students are to give places that are named after surveyors, show the music video, and have old plans for the students to handle. More ambitious volunteers can bring a disto for the students to measure with or even a scanner and scan the room. If you understand Minecraft, you could explain how a surveyor could solve many disputes when playing with friends on how they can make boundaries. These career days may plant a seed in one of your child's classmates, or entice your child to follow in your footsteps.

### Secondary School Career Fairs

A major priority for Secondary Schools is to prepare students to choose a career and determine what post-secondary school to attend. Of course, the least interested person in careers at the fair is the student!

However, alongside the students that are there just for free swag – which the ABCLS has an excellent supply of – there are also teachers, parents and career counsellors present at the fairs. While the students may not show any interest, engaging with the other people at the fair may make you feel like you are making more of an impact. Including items that the students can interact with will help attract some students to stop and look, such as a robotic instrument, scanner or drone, old plans, posts, or even plumb-bobs. You might want to ask parents and counsellors if they know of any students that are outdoorsy and involved in scouting, exploring, or geocaching. If they do, give them some information to take home. They might benefit from your insight and experiences regarding what to expect with respect to post-secondary. Even if the counsellors don't know of a student that may match presently, they may come across one in future years and remember your interaction.

continued on page 37



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# To all the Land Surveyors of the Province of British Columbia

By Diane Rochfort

For many years I have attended the Annual General Meetings or transcribed the meeting minutes from recordings, but a new method of producing the minutes will not require transcription and so the time for retirement has arrived!

I do have some thoughts on the years I attended your AGM meetings, and hope many of you will get to read them. I'll try not to go on too long, as there are many stories and anecdotes I'd love to tell, but they'll have to wait for another day!

I know I'm not a land surveyor and I've done none of the work that you did to get where you are, but what I did do, over all those 40 plus years, was listen. I took it all in and then typed it back. After a few years, I found I shared your issues, your tremendous pride, your commitment to your organization, your dedication to the public, and your wonderful ancient history. I've trumpeted your values far and wide, and will continue to at every opportunity that presents itself.

I have worked with a lot of Secretary/Registrars over the years. It was Ernie McMinn who first hired me, for those of you who remember him. I'm not sure there even was an office at that time. He was the one who told me to never drink the wine served at Awards Luncheons, because you could develop film in it! My years with

Adam Burhoe, Gord Thomson and Chuck Salmon were extraordinarily rewarding and I have considered all three my friends. I was also able to form friendships with many of you as you went through the Board chairs and became president and those friendships have been very valuable to me. Several of you helped me get through the meetings by providing spellings and information that I missed or references I could use, and I thank all of you for that.

There are so many debates I remember; all very passionate and educational, and I would quietly come to an opinion of my own which I knew didn't matter in the grand scheme of things, but which I felt honoured to embrace on behalf of your members, regardless of the issue.

I have so many memories, it would be impossible to tag any of them and say they're more important or more memorable than any others. I will have to say, though, that receiving a 25-year pin from your body of members in Surrey at the meeting of Rick Hargraves meant more to me than any other event in my professional life. The Certificate of Appreciation presented to me by Chuck Salmon in 2014 is another high moment. Both those honours came as a surprise to me at the time and left me quite speechless, which is not a state I often find myself in! These added awards of recognition have made me very proud

to have been a part of your association and I thank you all so much for the opportunity.

I've seen B.C. in a new light, I think of land and boundaries in a new way, I think of unsung professionals in a new way, and I realize the globe, maps and geography we look at and take for granted didn't just happen. Those borders were created, mapped and charted by you, for us, and we should all be forever grateful that somebody is "minding the farm". I can say I have learned a great deal, and like to think that my association with British Columbia Land Surveyors has helped to inform and shape me as I grew up and matured, and I'm grateful for every moment and all the kindness I've been shown.

I will miss seeing you all...

Sincerely,

Diane Rochfort  
(February 2020)



# BCIT Student Presentations to the BCLS Lower Mainland Group (January 31, 2020)

By Robert Allen, BCLS (Life Member), CLS (Ret)

Each year at the January meeting of the BCLS Lower Mainland Group (LMG), four or five students are invited to present the projects they are working on. This year there were five presentations and all were very interesting and completely different from each other. LMG President Evgeny Petushkov chaired the meeting and invited the five students up to make their presentation. The room was darkened so most of the photographs taken during the presentations appear a bit dark.

First up was Kyle Johnson who gave a presentation on using a drone and camera to fly over oil and gas pipelines to check for leaks in the lines. If there were any leaks, there would be discolouration in the vegetation along the right of way. This method has the distinct advantage of not destroying the habitat in ecologically sensitive areas and allowing for a fast method of checking over larger parts of the pipeline. Kyle gave an example of his work/project in the area near Fort St. John and showed how well it can work.

Next up was Chris Oaks who described a project he did to assess the use of a terrestrial laser scanner for building strata surveys. Some building strata surveys can be very complex and Chris' use of laser scanning took a lot of the guess work and fear of the unknown out of the work and produced surprisingly accurate results (to me at least - you must remember



LMG President Evgeny Petushkov



Kyle outlining the equipment and software he used.

that I am a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to this type of technology).

Third to present was Meghan McLellan who gave a presentation on the interesting use of a GIS system for indoor navigation. Meghan volunteers at BC Children's Hospital and during

the course of her work there, thought that there must be a better way for the general public to find their way through the maze of floors and wings of the Hospital. She developed a GIS system based on the floor plans of the building and what each room is used for. She also went through many, many questions that had been previously asked by the general public of the volunteers at the information booths. All of that information was incorporated into the system and it now makes it much easier for the information booth volunteers to point people in the right direction. This same type of system could be used in other hospitals or large shopping centres.



Chris giving a bit of the background of land surveying and building surveying.



Jordan showing a map of the various tectonic plates and the approximate location of the Williams Lake GNSS station that was one of chosen locations.



Meghan explaining the development stages of her GIS system From prototype to development to testing.



Chad at the start of his presentation.

The fourth student was Jordan Palk who gave an analysis of some of the permanent GNSS stations in Western Canada. He used the information available online to check the 'movement' of his chosen GNSS stations. He chose this area because of its proximity to a number of tectonic plates pushing and grinding away below the earth's surface and the resultant seismic activity. After a short introduction, he went on to describe the data he used, the methodology of his work, the error sources, the deformation analysis, and then the results. He says he was able to do these tests "using relatively simple techniques and software". As simple as they were, the results were surprising.

The last student to present was Chad Ly who talked to us about integrating low-cost IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit) with GNSS for vehicle navigation. He first gave us some background information on IMU and then described what was 'in the little box'. He then showed a comparison between GNSS and IMU and lastly he showed us the set-up he had for the field-testing. If I was a dinosaur when it came to Kyle's type of technology, I am an ancient dinosaur when it comes to IMU. I had to look it up on the internet to refresh my memory about it and I read: An Inertial Measurement Unit, commonly known as an IMU, is an electronic device that measures and reports orientation, velocity, and

gravitational forces through the use of accelerometers and gyroscopes and often magnetometers. Makes sense, right? Well, maybe for others but not for me!

Thank you to all five students who took the time to do their projects, prepare their presentations, and deliver them to us in a very professional manner. Personally, I find these presentations are the highlight of the LMG Meetings. I hope to report on another project, this one from the January 2019 LMG meeting. Watch for it in an upcoming issue of The Link.

After these presentations, the LMG conducted its business and that was followed by another very successful "Meet the Students Night" at which there were many British Columbia Land Surveyors in attendance. Bill Chapman put on his annual demonstration and fun quizzes and a number of students went home up to \$100 richer thanks to Bill's generosity. I had the pleasure of sitting with half a dozen first year students and I really enjoyed talking to them and listening to their hopes and dreams for the future. I want to wish good luck to all the students whether they are in first year, fourth year or in between and I hope those that follow on to become land surveyors get as much from the profession as I have. ❖



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## Post-Secondary Career Fairs

The University of Calgary's Geomatics Expo is an example of a post-secondary career fair. Here companies have booths and accept resumes from students looking for summer jobs, internships and post-graduation work. The main purpose of the ABCLS booth here is to let students know about opportunities and answer questions about the articling process in BC. Other attendees may be first year engineering students that haven't decided what stream to

pursue and may not know anything about surveying. Professionals from other jurisdictions also attend to see what opportunities exist. Directing people to the ABCLS career page is a great way to show what is currently out there, and personal experience of being a BCLS is all you need to keep people's attention.

Hopefully this article has given you a better idea of what happens at each career fair and what you can do to be most effective and enjoy your time. We do not expect huge results from these

fairs, but if one student enters land surveying from it we have done our job. You never know if the one student you spend five minutes with may thank you in the future. Personally I would like to thank Bronwyn Denton, Mark Cahill, John Armstrong and Chris de Haan, all of whom I met at career fairs and were instrumental in my deciding to move to BC and obtain my BCLS. ❖

## New Commissions



Shauna Goertzen & Zheng Tong

### Zheng Tong, BCLS# 1011

Zheng was commissioned on Dec 6, 2019 in Prince George by Shauna Goertzen.

Zheng was born and raised in the city of Yibin in China. Combining technology and statutes made the profession of surveying an appealing career choice.

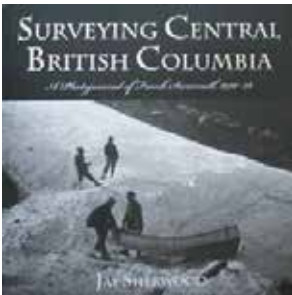
Special thanks to Jim Sutherland, David Gosling, Anna Niraz and Katie Hannah for their help along the way. As a first generation immigrant Zheng sincerely appreciates everyone who has shown their support. He is very proud and feels that land surveying is a great platform for him to prove his worthiness.

Zheng enjoys family time with his wife and children. He likes to hit the gym, and listening to audiobooks on a wide range of topics is how he likes to improve himself.

## **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BC LAND SURVEYORS FOUNDATION**

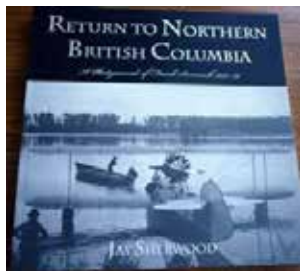
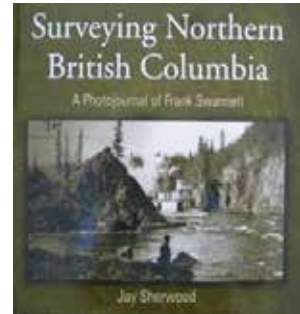
The two primary objectives of the BC Land Surveyors Foundation are to create and maintain a library that houses historical and current reference material related to the surveying industry in British Columbia and financially assist students who wish to pursue careers in surveying by providing scholarships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



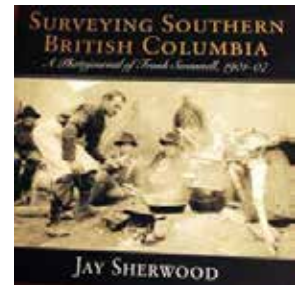
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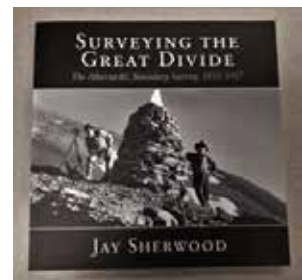
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Additional information on these books can be found on the ABCLS website: [About the BCLS Foundation/Buyer's Guide](#)

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 email address so a receipt can be forwarded to you.

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

# New Commissions



Left to right: Chris Cryderman #687, Vesselina Stoyneva #924, Yana Simeonova #1012, Gary Rowbotham #675 Mike Bernemann #793. At offices of Terra Pacific Land Surveying Ltd., in Maple Ridge.

## Yana Simeonova, BCLS# 1012

Yana was commissioned on December 10, 2019 in Maple Ridge by Chris Cryderman.

She was born in Varna, Bulgaria. Yana is from a family of engineers and was always interested in math and the arts. She thought she would be an architect but ended up in a geodesy program and after her first year in university, realized it was her passion.

A few months into her career she understood the importance of maintaining the cadastre so she started to work towards her license in Bulgaria. In 2009 Yana became a licensed land surveyor in Bulgaria.

In 2016 Yana and her partner Vasil immigrated to Canada.

Yana would like to thank Vasil and her family for their support. Special thanks also to Mike Bernemann, Vesselina Stoyneva and Gary Rowbotham.

When she is not working Yana enjoys skiing, cycling, travelling and the arts.



Left to right: Chris Cryderman, Colin Kerkhoff, Gary Borne, Mitch Power, Allan Tunbridge

## Colin Kerkhoff, BCLS# 1013

Colin was commissioned on December 13, 2019 in Chilliwack by Chris Cryderman.

He grew up in Rosedale, BC. At six years old, after following a Tunbridge crew surveying his parent's property, he told his parents, "I want to do that when I grow up". At the time it seemed like an interesting job and since then he has not regretted his choice of land surveying as a career.

Colin would like to thank Allan Tunbridge, Mitch Power and all the other land surveyors that he works with at Vector Geomatics for their mentoring. Thanks also to his wife Jolanda, his parents, family and friends for their support and encouragement.

Being an on call fire fighter, gardening and wood work are Colin's interests when not surveying.



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# New Commissions



Left to right: Dave Parkin, Carl Bjarnason, Al Di Nozzi, Taylor Kagel, Dan Machon, and Dan Parker.

## Taylor Kagel, BCLS# 1014

Taylor was commissioned on December 16, 2019 in Vancouver by Dan Machon.

Taylor was born in Vancouver, BC and raised in Surrey.

The opportunity to work outdoors while applying mathematics and technology are what drew Taylor to pursue land surveying as a profession.

Taylor would like to thank, Al Di Nozzi, Carl Bjarnason, Rob Glass, Jim Gregson, Dan Parker, Dave Parkin, Al Zacharias and all the other land surveyors that helped him along the way; the culture of mentorship and peer support within this profession is truly inspiring. Thanks also to McElhanney- Vancouver and the City of Vancouver for the work experience. A very special thanks to his girlfriend Marissa, for her support these past couple of years.

Hiking, reading and biking are the ways Taylor enjoys his time away from surveying.



Left to right: Javier Siu, John Franko, Dan Machon, Aaron Creamer, Patrick Korabek, Rob Adriaensen, and Tyson Cotnam

## Aaron Creamer, BCLS# 1015

Aaron was commissioned on December 17, 2019 in North Vancouver by Dan Machon.

Aaron was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick and was raised in the village of Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Aaron transferred into Geodesy and Geomatics engineering at UNB to pursue land surveying, after learning more about what it offered from a friend who was studying in the program. The promise of the outdoor work, and the opportunity to see and work in remote and rugged places around the country was too much to pass up.

He owes a deep gratitude to each of the land surveyors that he had the privilege to article under, and for their guidance over the years. He would like to thank the other land surveyors and employees he worked alongside at Bennet, Lyon Flynn & Collins, and McElhanney. He would also like to thank Andrew Jenkins and Connor Embleton who he spent long days studying with during his articles, and particularly to his parents for their continued support.

Aaron enjoys camping and hiking in the summer and snowboarding in the winter.



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## SPONSORS

*The Association of BC Land Surveyors greatly appreciate the support of AGM 2020 sponsors. There are of course costs associated with the AGM that the Association will not be able to recover, and the generosity of our sponsors will be helpful to defer those costs. The ABCLS Board will also donate 50% of retained sponsor donations to the BCLS Foundation. The AGM is a significant fundraising opportunity for the BCLS Foundation, and this gesture will help to ensure suitable funding is in place to manage 2020 Student Awards.*

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