



The Newfoundland Surveyor

December 2007

Editor – Dominic Howard



President's Report By Allan Chafe, NLS

Hello Members:

Merry Christmas and wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday season. As I write this we are into what appears to be an early winter. This is my first opportunity to contribute to the ANLS newsletter since assuming office at the AGM in May.

Since the AGM your council has had regular meetings throughout the summer and fall, however there are times when council business is delayed due to the timing of the meetings. In an effort to resolve this dilemma I have proposed that council conduct an interim meeting structure of approximately 1-2 hours duration midway between regularly scheduled meetings. The objective of this is to deal with correspondence or any other matter of importance in a timely fashion. Our first interim meeting will be on January 25, 2008, whereby councilors whom have to travel will be connected via teleconference. If this is effective and proves to work well, I will recommend that Council adopt this structure between all future meetings.

In October I approached the Dean of Engineering Technology for the College of the North Atlantic about the President of the ANLS becoming a standing member of their "Geomatics Advisory Committee". The request was immediately approved and I am happy to inform you that going forward, the sitting President will play an active role in advancing the Geomatics curriculum at CONA. As President I attended such a meeting on October 26th, 2007, where my first order of business was to table a request for a program name change from "Geomatics Engineering Technology" to "Geomatics/Surveying Engineering Technology" or some rendition which places the term "Surveying" back in the title to the program. There is a concern among our colleagues that the Surveying Profession has an identity crisis and the term Geomatics, by itself, does not address the profession adequately. I feel this is a good start to resolving that issue. The request was well received by the other committee members and I look forward to implementing this change.

On November 22nd, 2007, I attended the College of the North Atlantic annual student "Awards Ceremony", along with Mrs. Elizabeth Berghuis to present the first Peter J Berghuis Scholarship to Carla Ruiz, a 3rd year Geomatics student at the College. In addition to this, Adam O'Keefe, a 2nd year Geomatics student was presented the ANLS scholarship.

From my own perspective it is a great honor and privilege to be part of the first Peter J. Berghuis Scholarship. During my time and studies at the College in the Surveying program, after graduation and up until his passing, Peter proved to be a valuable resource and mentor for me. For this I am grateful and include this short biography in his honor.



Peter J Berghuis (1923 – 1996). From 1939 to 1941 he attended and graduated the Naval College in the north of Holland. In 1942 he worked aboard an ocean going ship where he stopped work due to war dangers. From 1946 to 1954 he was employed with Shell Oil stationed in the West Indies. In 1951 he married Elizabeth and had four children. From 1954 to 1958 he was employed with Ontario Hydro where he worked as a surveyor on the St. Lawrence Seaway Project. From 1958 to 1962 he attended and graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Surveying Engineering. In 1963 he did Post Graduate work at UNB. From 1963 to 1964 he was employed at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS. From 1964 to 1988 he was employed at the College of the North Atlantic, St. John's, in the Geomatics program. In 1966 he received a Masters degree in Surveying Engineering. From 1977 to 1996 he was owner and operator of Control Surveys Limited. He was a Member of the Mineral Adjudication Board and a recipient of the Champlain Award.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Dominic, Terry, Wilf, all other Councilors, and Paula for their hard work and dedication over the past number of months. We look forward to seeing all members at our 55th AGM to be held at the Capital Hotel, St. John's on May 8th to the 10th, 2008.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report By Dominic Howard, NLS

Merry Christmas to all of you; I hope 2007 was a good year and that 2008 is better again.

Where does the time go? Council has been quite active since our 2007 AGM. We have tried to keep up on all matters important to the membership and are also investigating new issues that have come up over the year.



The search for an Executive Director will continue commencing in January 2008. As most of you are probably aware we did conduct interviews in 2007 of 3 candidates but unfortunately were not successful in acquiring a person. Our plan is to advertise on the west coast and east coast this time around and hopefully we'll get some quality applicants. We are also looking to contact a "head-hunter" agency to help out with our search. We of course have to check on cost and whether we'll benefit from this approach. We will be posting the ad on our web site and we could also send it to all provinces via the sister associations. Some question as to whether we need a person in this position has been raised at regional meetings. Being as all persons on Council are volunteers and have careers, families and the like it is very hard to find the time to dedicate to issues that are very important to the association. We do put as much effort as we can into these issues but find that the time we would like to spend and that we can actually spend at an issue are quite different. An Executive Director would be able to dedicate more time to these issues and we would realize benefit because of this. As to the finances for this position we currently have \$97,000.00 in the account. Of this amount \$80,000.00 is in GIC's.

The marker program is gaining momentum and the public is becoming more and more aware of what to expect when they have a survey on their property. We had a very successful public awareness campaign in the Newfoundland Herald this past fall and will no doubt continue this in the coming year. There were concerns with respect to the quality of markers from JP Morasse raised by some members. We ask that if you find a problem with your markers please let us know so that we can pass this on to the manufacturer.

We have heard rumblings from some members concerning placement of markers on corners but have yet to receive an official complaint. Being as time is quite valuable with respect to Association business, career responsibilities, and most importantly family commitments it is quite difficult to wander around and investigate as to who the negligent parties may be. If you want action you will also have to step up and do your part.

We are also tackling the problem with respect to digital plans and the submission to municipalities. We are in

the process of setting up a meeting with Mount Pearl and we have some ideas as to how we should proceed with respect to this. These ideas have come from the membership as well as Council. We will put it all on the table and see what we can come up with.

Land Gazette is still on Council's agenda. We have discussed this at meetings over the course of the year and have made some progress. We will be working at it in the New Year and expect to have a handle on this before AGM 2008 and will report to the membership at this time if not before.

Our financial situation right now is better than it has been in a long time. I would like to thank all the Council members for their due diligence with respect to this. I would also like to especially thank Paula for keeping us well advised as to our financial well being. She runs the office like clockwork and keeps all advised of our action items so that we don't forget and embarrass ourselves.

Merry Christmas to all of you and a very prosperous New Year.

Landgazette Project Report By Ian Edwards, NLS, CLS

LandGazette continues to operate www.landGazette.com; however, with a less than expected user group. Following the last AGM, I took some time to reflect on the events that have unfolded with respect to the LandGazette project and on several occasions, I intended to move the LandGazette towards a purely private operation, totally independent of the Association. In September of 2006, I wrote Council a letter offering a management structure that would govern the operation of LandGazette and put the database ownership aside.

From a functionality perspective, the program continues to improve with the following enhancements:

- Easy access to a SMD web map service, which offers high resolution orthophotography of the Conception Bay South area.
- Easement line input, complete with attachment functionality, so that utility companies can input long traverses to reflect their interests in this infrastructure.
- Improved access to survey control information including a graphical representation of the monument locations superimposed on available mapping.
- Cemetery management system which enables surveyors to locate both the perimeter of cemetery sites as well as capture tombstone information.
- Improvements to the integration and auto-linking functionality.

Work continues with respect to the design and implementation of a time variant geodatabase, which will enable users to unravel cadastral fabric as a function of time.

IBL had several meetings with government representatives to discuss the promised Crown titles layer. These meetings concluded with a letter from the Honorable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Environment and Conservation, basically stating that while online access to Crown title information is important to the department, it is not likely that it will be available in the foreseeable future. Discussions were also had with respect to making the information available through other means, such as ftp, or compact disks; however, the department did not look on these options favorably.

IBL continues to offer full support to the LandGazette project; however, in the near future, critical decisions will have to be made on how this project will continue to evolve into the future.



Archive Committee Report By Leslie Winsor, NLS



The committee met three times this Fall. One of the items discussed were the boxes of files, about 6 in number that were laying around the floor for a couple of years. Eldred Chislett said he would donate a used filing cabinet if space permitted. The unused space was checked and the cabinet which measured 3'w x 5'h x 1.5'd would fit. Eldred, Craig Nightingale and I delivered the very heavy cabinet to the office on a day that Dominic Howard, and Bob Leamon were waiting to have a meeting. With the additional help of Bob & Dominic the cabinet was lifted, pulled and shoved up the stairs and into the office. During our last meeting in December Craig and I managed to get the cabinet in place by the wall and fill it with the boxes of files that littered the floor, and rearranged a few other things in the Board Room. At future meetings we will attempt to put an order to the files in the newly acquired cabinet.

By-Law Committee Report By Robin Davis, NLS

T's the Season. On behalf of the By-Law Committee, I would like to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

The By-Law Committee is made up of Arch Forsey, Robert Locke, Clint Rumbolt and Robin Davis. We will be reviewing the By-Laws, Regulations and Manual of Practice early in the New Year. The biggest changes that need to be made at this point are with the Manual of Practice and the Regulations. These changes will bring the Manual and Regulations more in line with our Act. We have had some suggestions from our lawyer which we will follow up on.

As it stands right now, changes to Regulations and the Manual can be made by Council after they have been presented to the membership. Our plan is to have the changes we propose ready to be sent out with the information for the Annual Meeting. We can then discuss them at the Convention.

Our Regulations at this point do not have to be approved by the Minister. Our lawyer has told us that any substantial change in our Act in the future would probably include the requirement for Ministerial approval. This type of change may give our Regulations a little more weight in a court of law. However, it would also take the final approval of Regulations out of the hands of the Association in favour of the Minister. This is an issue we will have to deal with down the road.

Any member can propose changes to the By-Laws, Regulations or Manual of Practice provided there is a seconder and the changes are submitted in time to get them out to the general membership 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. If you find changes you would like to see the By-Law Committee review, feel free to contact a member of the Committee.



Executive Director Report By Allan Chafe, NLS

Your Executive Director committee met on November 16th, 2007. As a result of that meeting it is our plan to proceed and place ads for the position after Christmas. We are also in the process of determining the costs and procedure of identifying, and probably using Head Hunters to take the lead in our search for a Director. Funding is in place right now to cover the position for a minimum of 2 years with the possibility of realizing a 3rd year from income generated during the 2 year term. In order to generate interest we plan to post the Ad on our Web Site as well.

The task list which was generated in April of 2006, although somewhat dated, has been reviewed and is still valid. It is repeated here for information purposes. If anyone would like to offer input to this list of tasks, please contact me as committee chair or Dominic as editor of this newsletter.

ANLS Executive Director - Task List

1. Lead role and primary liaison with the NL government in the preparation and implementation of our amended Act.
2. With the assistance of legal counsel (Gus Bruce), develop and implement a plan to revamp our Bylaws and Regulations into a structure that conforms to our Act and proper accepted practice for self-regulating professions.
3. Lead role in liaison with the Registry of Deeds to establish a process leading to a standard form of property description for the Registry, the standard form to be approved by the ANLS.
4. Lead role on behalf of Council and the Association with regard to the Land Gazette project.
5. Closely monitor the use of Special Survey Markers. Take steps necessary to ensure maximum possible usage by our Members.
6. Liaison with municipalities and other third-party agencies that use our members' survey products, to ensure: (1) appropriate use of our survey products and (2) that we are meeting user requirements with our survey products.
7. Research and report on options for professional liability insurance for our members.
8. Make Continuing Education a priority. Develop a delivery plan, monitoring plan, and financial plan. Near-term goal: to deliver educational seminar(s) before the next AGM. Ultimate goal: to develop a sustainable, mandatory program.
9. Lead role in liaison with the College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University, UNB, other, to develop capacity in Newfoundland & Labrador to deliver training courses in support of Atlantic Board syllabus requirements so that our ANLS students do not need to leave the province to study.
10. Do a mid-term Executive Director Position review and refine the terms of reference for the position.
11. Develop and implement a long-term financial sustainability plan to ensure continuance of the Executive Director position.



Life Membership Report By Terry Yates, NLS



The following was submitted to Council at the September meeting. After discussion Council directed regional chairs to discuss the concept at the next meetings. After receiving reports on regional meetings Council felt it prudent to provide the membership with a written overview to clarify certain aspects.

Preamble: Our "Life Member" status, although meant to be an acknowledgement of individuals with 30 years or more membership in the Association has a potentially negative side effect. The "Life Member" is left with no voting rights in matters reviewed at our AGM or special meetings. Due to this fact many of our "Life Members" basically pack up their years of experience and "Ride off into the sunset", leaving the rest of the membership to struggle with moving the Association forward without full clarity on past issues which positioned us at present.

The following is a proposal which is intended to alleviate this particular problem. For purposes of concept we have used the term "Active Life Member", however this term is found nowhere in our Act. Some may see this as an obstacle but please remember at the end of the day this individual will remain a "Member" albeit with special privileges.

Active Life Member:

Any Member who has met all criteria to qualify for life membership and does not wish to hold a certificate of authorization may make application to Council to become an "Active Life Member".

By volunteering an amount of time or volunteering in a capacity acceptable to Council to assist the Association in fulfilling the "Objects of the Association" Council may waive "Active Life Members" annual dues.

For Illustration purposes an active life member may be asked to:

- Serve on Council
- Serve on Committees
- Chair regional meetings
- Facilitate professional development seminars
- Facilitate practise review workshops etc.

This status would allow "Active Life Members" to retain voting privileges. The position could be reviewed and if needed revoked by Council at any time.

The intent is to have this concept presented to the membership in the form of a motion at this years AGM. Therefore your feedback would be appreciated to fine tune the final submission prior to deadline. As initial submitter of this initiative I would appreciate hearing from all members to assist in finalization of the motion.

CCLS Report By Alvin Hayes, NLS

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF LAND SURVEYORS ...

... a national consensus based enabling forum providing proactive leadership to its member associations.

The 2007 year was again a busy and productive period for the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors. The annual meeting of the CCLS was held in Quebec City, October 2-4 2007. Although I was unable to attend on behalf of our Association, all reports indicate it was a very productive session. A principle issue and main focus of the AGM surrounded the development and discussion of the Future of the Surveying Profession in Canada. As reported in my spring report a task force has been setup, terms of reference have been adopted and work has begun on developing a vision for the future of the surveying profession. These discussions originated from views shared in the fall of 2006 at the CCLS AGM as well as a proposal from a Presidents forum in 2006.



At the CCLS AGM the task force chair Hugh O' Donnell A.G., reported to the directors of CCLS. The following points related to the current state and future needs of the surveying profession in Canada were discussed:

The status quo is not acceptable:

- Current demographics are a threat to the future viability of our profession; administrative costs are high and human resources are stretched at the association level.
- The profession has evolved into 11 different Canadian versions of the surveying profession with fewer than 3000 individual surveyors.
- The profession is fractured without an efficient cohesive voice to respond to the profession's key users in government, industry and the public.
- Multiple mixed messages are creating confusion with key clients, diminishing credibility, influence and professional status.
- There is no national agreement on an expanded profession model, existing models have not been successful, and lack of meaningful interaction with the broader professional community results in lost opportunities for all
- The public and government are insisting on improved inter-provincial mobility and recognition of foreign trained professions, thus putting pressure on the profession to address these national and international issues.

There is a sense of urgency locally, nationally and globally:

- Issues of demographics, pressures on associations to fulfill their mandates, and volunteer burnout have been recognized and discussed at the membership and council level within the associations
- Several associations have specific initiatives to look at the future of the profession and/or the expanded profession
- These issues have been discussed nationally amongst associations at the presidents' forum and CCLS board level leading directly to this initiative
- Several presenters at the October 2-5, 2007 international geo-conference in Quebec City focused on the need to address future issues of the broad profession
- Task force research shows that professional surveyor organizations in the European Union, New Zealand, Australia and The United States are struggling with the same issues.

To paraphrase the many other points presented by the group: A strategy is now in the concept stage: Next steps considered are to examine the definition of professional surveying including core competencies and potential opportunities. Develop a national association of professional surveyors that is member driven, has the wellbeing of the profession as its prime purpose, and does not affect the rights and responsibilities of the

11 regulating associations. The intent is to improve on the current national model, and develop a stronger, less fragmented and more relevant profession in Canada.

A consultation process has begun to further develop the concept. A draft report and PowerPoint presentation was made to the CCLS Board of Directors October 2, 2007. Discussion of the merits of the concept took place and unanimous consensus was reached that the concept has merit and potential. A decision was taken to move forward with consultations.

Each provincial council will be consulted with presentations being made by a member of the Task Force Group at respective council meetings. Many councils have already met in fall of 2007; our Association council is expected to be briefed at our next meeting in early 2008. Communication and consultation within the profession will be integral throughout the development of this strategy. It is anticipated that much more discussion will be taking place with all our membership at regional meetings and AGMs as the model further develops.

Professional Liability Insurance Program

On behalf on the CCLS, I attended Insurance meetings in Ottawa Sept 29 – Oct 1,2007, Some noteworthy points related to those meetings:

- The CCLS program has a policy renewal approaching in June 2008 and the committee members are concerned that while premium rates will likely remain the same, total premium may rise for many firms because fees earned by those forms have gone up. The committee does not have a solid estimate for what the increase will be because there has been no full policy renewal in 3 years. This has benefited those firms who have taken advantage of the multiple year policy offered but those firms may face an adjustment in June. There may be a negative impression of the program even though premium rates have not changed significantly based on insureds not understanding this adjustment.
- The committee is rebranding the loss control seminars provided with the support of the Insurer. The current Risk Management Seminars have a new focus and a new format. They can be designed specifically for the association and can range from a two hour single topic presentation to a full day seminar. The presentations are made by industry experts brought in by the committee, the insurer and the broker. They are not specific to the CCLS program but are applicable to any surveyor.
- A Risk Management Credit Program for the CCLS program is being developed based on the new engineering and architects program. It provides the ability for a firm to reduce the deductible on a claim if certain criteria are met. The first and mandatory condition is a written contract of some form. Lack of a written contract is a major cause of increased settlement costs and contributes to the number of claims as well.

Mr. Gordon Webster, remains the chairman of the CCLS –PLIC (Public Liability Insurance committee) , For related insurance information the members are encouraged to visit <http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/PLICguide.htm>

Other CCLS Committees Include:

- Labour Mobility Monitoring Group,
- Board of Examiners coordinating Committee
- Distance Learning Committee,
- Expanded Profession Committee,
- Public Awareness Committee,
- International Committee,
- Strategic Planning Committee.

As a final note much emphasis and energy has been directed toward communication and the CCLS involvement with its member associations. The membership is encouraged to visit the CCLS website at <http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/english.html> and access the information available.



Again, I appreciate the opportunity to support our association through the CCLS and extend to the membership Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

AGM 2007 Report By Wayne Hodder, NLS

The following is my final report for our AGM held here in Gander in May 2007.

First of all this is the second time I've chaired our AGM and, I must say, although hectic at times, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. An event such as this cannot succeed without the commitment of others and I have the following to thank:



- Our President, Terry and his wife Lisa, for their time and dedication. They were always there and ready to assist when needed.
- My wife Wendy, who with Lisa, planned and organized the Accompanying Persons Program. The feedback I've received on this event has been nothing but positive.
- Paula Baggs – What can I say about Paula that hasn't already been said by others? Paula is dependable, organized and a valuable asset to our Association.
- To those who helped at the Registration Desk, Alonzo Cave, Byron Sheppard and Paula, a special thank-you for keeping the paper and finances in order.
- The Staff of Hotel Gander who went out of their way to accommodate me.
- The Exhibitors and Sponsors for again making our AGM the success it was.

And finally I want to touch on our AGM Budget. Our Projected Budget was \$13,905.00 and our actual Expenditure came in at \$13,083.00. It is ever so important to live within your Budget.

To all members who attended our AGM (see list attached), I thank you. For those who did not attend, I believe you missed a great AGM and I strongly recommend that we all make a special effort in the future to be there. It can only be as successful as the members want it to be and your attendance is very important.

Please accept this as my Final Report for AGM 2007 and I apologize if I've omitted anyone.

Eastern Regional Report By Aubrey K. Burt, NLS

Meeting was held at the Capital Hotel, St. John's - There were 11 members in attendance

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Executive Director** – The search for an Executive Director is still on going. The ED committee has decided to look at running an Ad with available & applicable online job search agencies. These Ads should be running in the New Year.

Most members attending the meeting seemed pleased with the amount of money set aside & supported the efforts being made to fill the position.
Members would also like to see circulated a list of the things the ED would do.

2. **Survey Caps sales update** – members were given the sales figures & little discussion followed. The good news is cap sales are increasing & most members now seem to believe in the idea of compulsory cap usage.
3. **Land Gazette** – IBL has submitted a new proposal, in an attempt to reach an agreement with Council, concerning the Land Gazette project. This proposal is now being reviewed. There was little discussion at the meeting concerning Land Gazette.
4. **Active Life Members** – There has been a proposal brought forward, for discussion, by a member to increase participation within our association by Life Members. For the purposes of this discussion the term “Active Life Member” was used.
This topic led to many questions. The biggest issue was the suggestion that the “Active Life Member” would have to take part in association work (ie.. committees etc.). It was felt we have “voting members” now that take no part & this would create some conflict if we impose compulsory participation from some Life Members. The idea of an “Active Life Member”, I believe, will need much more discussion but this meeting did initiate this discussion.
5. **Personal Info on our Association Web Site (i.e. home phone numbers)** - Members felt this should be a personal decision.
6. **AGM format** – Most attending members felt the AGM Format is good but possibly we could look at moving the dinner & dance to Friday nights. This might increase attendance at the dinner & dance. There was a suggestion to possibly have another social throughout the year for members & their partners.
7. **Submission of digital Real Property Reports to municipalities** – This topic always leads to much discussion. Council has had a request for a meeting, concerning this issue, from the City of Mount Pearl. The attending members felt we should meet with this municipality and inquire as to how our digital information is being used.

We should also get input from our insurance company & develop a policy to give our members & municipalities direction.

I would to thank all attending members for making the effort to attend this meeting & encourage everyone to try and attend, when ever possible. Remember the Agenda circulated for these meetings is only intended to be a general list of some topics that may need discussion & input. Your regional meetings are an excellent way for any member to bring forward any idea or concern for general discussion. These ideas or concerns will also then be brought to Council's attention.



Notes from the Office



ANLS Web Page

Check Us Out

www.surveyors.nf.ca

The ANLS web page is designed for you the members and the public of Newfoundland & Labrador to use. We continue to try and improve our site by posting any current information we feel is important. To keep the site up to date, please inform the office if you have any changes in personal information. Any comments are greatly appreciated.

Membership Dues

We have started preparation for the 2008 Annual Membership Dues which will be in the mail early January and are due and payable by March 31, 2008.

AGM 2008

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Your AGM Committee has set the location and time for the
2008 AGM

May 8, 9 & 10, 2008
The Capital Hotel
St. John's, NL

On behalf of your 2007-2008 Council

