

**The Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors Report
Prepared for the CCLS AGM**

Sept 6-8, 2008, Winnipeg, MB

The Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors held it's 55 Annual AGM in St. John's May 2008. We welcomed Wilf Thorne as incoming President with Gary Hughes being elected to the position of Vice President. The Association extends a sincere thanks to our past president Allan Chafe and the retiring councilors for their service during their respective terms.

The Association has held two council meetings since our last AGM. The 2009 AGM is scheduled in St. John's for May 28,29, 30. Our next council meetings is scheduled for September 15, 2008. Additionally, an Eastern regional meeting was held July 31 and was well attended by the membership. Many of the standard business items were on the council's agenda, but the primary focus of business for the 2008-2009 council relate to the following items:

New Executive Director

Council are very pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff G. Mercer as the Executive Director of our association. Jeff is delighted to be returning to his Newfoundland roots and assisting our association with his 30 plus years of national industry and business experience. Although not a surveyor he brings extensive management skills to the table and he has extensive land management experience. The association membership and the council of management welcome Mr. Mercer to his new position and look forward to his support in managing of our Association affairs.

Land Gazette Program

The Land Gazette program continues showing strong potential to enhance our property records and build a substantial cadastral fabric for the province. The program involves the use of a structured database that will serve as a depository and a distribution medium for legal survey plans. The survey information contained in the depository may be accessed by fellow surveyors and other professionals related to the Geomatics Industry. The overall success and outright value of this program is directly related to the completeness of information. The brokers of the program and the Association are committed to the success of the Land Gazette Program as they recognize the substantial benefit to protecting the interests of the public and our members.

Survey Marker Program

This survey marker program has been up and running for about five years now and is meeting with great success. The program earned much public interest and support and has served as an effective tool to assist fellow surveyors and results in additional revenue for the Association. Initial problems such as suspected non-compliance are being monitored and resolved through education efforts and the general public expectation that these markers form an integral part of the demarcation process.

Registry of Deeds

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has notified us that they intend to redraft and update this Act by early 2009. Meetings are planned with them to ensure survey concerns are addressed. Issues raised by members include that signed and stamped surveys should be used not just descriptions, that up-to-date surveys be used, and that clear and legible documents be used. We will continue this consultation process to ensure the needs of everyone are met.

Crown Lands Surveys Issues

The Association continues to meet with Crown Lands personnel to discuss various issues. Crown Lands has expressed some concern with a rate of returns containing errors and non-compliance format. The department is working with the Association to address these issues and review standards to improve the survey documentation process.

Regional Meetings and Professional Development

As a supportive measure to our membership the association continues to promote regional meetings whereby association issues are presented to the membership. Efforts also continue to promote professional development seminars to keep everyone up-dated.

Association Profile

The Association membership as of April 1, 2008 is as follows:

Articled Students	1
Standard Members	83
Life Members	15
Associated Members	3
Honorary Members	4
# of Certificates Issued	47

Operating Budget

Our Operating Budget for 2007 was \$120,000 – our proposed operating budget for 2008 is \$129,000.

Technicians' Course

The Association is working with the College of the North Atlantic to establish a 9-month technician's course as a measure to address the increasing shortage of people in this area. There has been some good discussion on how to implement such a program and another formal meeting is scheduled for September 2008.

Association Concerns

For the most part our Association and its membership are pleased with the progress made in council directed initiatives. In terms of industry activity, some regions are experiencing more economic growth than others but it would seem that our association members are meeting industry demand. Like most professional associations across the country, there are concerns of attrition and our council recognizes the need for more Geomatics Industry Awareness campaigns, and the promotion of opportunities in the Land surveying industry.

Sincerely,

Alvin Hayes, NLS
CCLS Director for ANLS