

Report

Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors CCLS AGM Report

Oct. 15 and 16, 2006

Wolfville, NS.

The Association of NB Land Surveyors held its 53rd annual meeting in Moncton in January, 2006 with Mr. Fraser Smith as our incoming President and James Martin as Vice President..

The annual meeting began with a “Managing your business seminar” followed with a day and a half business meeting. Social events included an ice breaker party, a charity action and a dinner and dance.

A budget for 2006-2007 of \$250 000 was approved at the AGM.

Present full membership dues stand at \$990.00 plus 15% HST and plan seals are \$19.00 plus 15% HST each.

The membership for 2006 (as of mid 2006) is as follows:

Active member	86 (approximately 45 signing plans) (figure will reduce to approximately 80-82 for the coming year (2007)). Approximately 65% are over 50 years old.
Life member	24
Associate member	7
Affiliate member	5
Retired member	8
Surveyors in training	5 (two additional SITs were approved during 2006)
Honorary member	3
Certificates of Authorization	44

The Association also held a summer meeting and business seminar in September. Both were well attended.

ANBLS top 3 priorities this year has been:

- ANBLS Strategic Plan - we have a plan developed and are beginning to implement.
- NB Land Information Infrastructure Review: The Provincial Government is looking at the complete Land Information function in the Provincial Government. Decisions from this review will greatly affect all land information functions within the Province, including the role of the Director of Surveys.

- Member demographics and recruitment of land surveyors and technical staff: Our membership continues to fall and both professional and technical staff is extremely hard to find.
 - We have approximately 30 members under age 50 many of which are over 40.
 - We have 7 Students in Training. However, 2 of these students are outside the Province and will have a limited practice within our boundaries.

The ANBLS is presently addressing a number of issues:

Coastal Policy – The Provincial Government is proposing a new Coastal Protection Policy. As proposed, this policy establishes a new class of coastal expert who will be given the mandate to identify coastlines and limits of wet lands, functions always carried out by Land Surveyors in the past. We feel this may be in conflict with our Act.

Access to Railway properties – New Brunswick has three Railway Companies in the Province and the Association has been informed that our members can not work on railway property without being accompanied by railway personnel at considerable cost to the member (Client). Each company has different requirement and different charges. We feel our Act gives us the right to do so and any safety issues are our responsibility. We plan to meet with the Railway Companies to seek a balance between safety and security issues compared with our rights under our Act.

Recent court decision referring to the Provincial Land Titles Act which appears to suggest that the Act guarantees boundaries once a parcel is under Land Titles.
(no adverse possession under the Act.)

One of the largest concerns facing the ANBLS (and all Associations across Canada) is our aging membership and the lack of Surveyors in Training and available survey staff.

Norm Coté, N.B.S., P.Eng. will be the new Director to the CCLS, replacing myself at the end of this meeting (Oct 16th, 2006.). Norm is a Project Manager, Engineering Surveys section at NB Department of Transportation, a Past President of the Association, and currently chair of our Strategic Planning Committee.

Earl Robinson,
ANBLS CCLS Director.