

Director's Report to 2006 CCLS Annual General Meeting
October 3, 2006
Paul Church, Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

Effective on May 29, 2006, S. James Statham, O.L.S., C.L.S., O.L.I.P. was named Executive Director of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors (AOLS). Jim left a 30-year career at Marshall Macklin Monaghan where he was Senior Vice-President, Geomatics and Chief Administrative Officer. He has also served as a Director of the firm and its geomatics affiliates.

The AOLS is comprised of 568 licensed members and 110 registered members. We have 37 articled students. Four new surveyors have been sworn in since February 2006 and 4 to 6 additional surveyors should be sworn in by February 2007 (our year end).

We are in the second year of our Professional Development program. Our first year's Professional Development Reports were to be submitted by end of January 2006. The Professional Development Committee is working on the wording for a new regulation and by-law that would require members to accumulate a set number of hours or credits and that would prescribe a penalty for not meeting the minimum requirements.

The Underground Utilities Committee has been very active. A proposal has been developed that would require the geo-referencing of all new utility installations. The following is a summary of its activities:

- The Ontario Sewer and Water Construction Association (OSWCA) has shown support to the initiative.
- The AOLS will be seeking representation on Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance Committees.
- The committee is recommending that the Continuing Education Committee provide training to surveyors about Subsurface Utility Mapping and that Geomatics programs include geophysical content to support Subsurface Utility Engineering.
- Representation for CSA Technical Committee - a technical committee is to be formed to develop standards for the mapping of buried utilities. A member with expertise in GPS data collection should be appointed as a technical resource.
- The work of the Underground Utilities Committee ties in with the efforts of the Integrated Surveys Committee.

Our Integrated Surveys Task Force will be presenting draft regulations to Council this fall for implementing a mandatory program in Ontario. They will also be working with our Continuing Education Committee to arrange seminars and courses to better educate our members about integrated surveys and what is required to produce one.

The Licensing Expansion Task Force was disbanded, having completed their work and submitted a report. The AOLS Council assigned tasks to the Professional Integration Committee to advance this issue. They were tasked with developing a shared approach to expanded exclusivity in land information areas. The Executive Director has been scheduling meetings with other professions which are involved in land information to investigate interest in the idea of shared exclusivity. So far committee reps have met with Professional Engineers of Ontario, but have not received a response. Shared exclusivity is an oxymoron which means that in order to practice in the area of land information management, for example, a person would have to be licensed by one of several professions as a Professional Surveyor, Professional Engineer or Professional Geoscientist.

In April, we had another meeting with invited members of our provincial parliament. A dinner meeting was held at the provincial parliament buildings. We had twelve MPPs attend.

Council appointed a Digital Plans Task Force. Several jurisdictions in Canada have adopted Digital Plan Submission Policies. The purpose of this Task force will be to review the experiences and procedures of other jurisdictions and make a recommendation to Council for Nov 2006 Council meeting.

Council developed a Harassment Policy that will apply to the AOLS office staff and members within the AOLS offices and at all AOLS sponsored events. This has been circulated to the membership.

Real Estate Fraud – as the result of a letter signed by President Doug Culham to the Minister of Government Services, Gerry Phillips, offering the services of the Association on the Ministry's investigations into mortgage fraud in Ontario and with the support of Doug Aron, OLS, Examiner of Surveys for the Ministry of Government Services, the AOLS was invited to be part of The Real Estate Fraud Committee.

The AOLS has been promoting our profession to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) by attending their annual meeting and by advertising in their magazine. We will also be preparing a number of papers with information about survey issues that will be useful to many municipalities, especially the smaller ones.

The Technical Education Task Force will be presenting a new series of Party Chief seminars this fall. The first series was an introduction to legal survey issues and they were very well received two years ago.

The AOLS was recently designated as an “investigative body” under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). PIPEDA applies to all organizations in Canada, except in British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec, which have substantially similar provincial legislation. Certain organizations are excluded by regulation from the requirements of this Act. Recently, a number of associations, including the AOLS, requested to be excluded and an amendment to the PIPEDA Regulations Specifying Investigative Bodies has been made. This means that an organization covered by PIPEDA can disclose personal information to the AOLS without the consent of the affected individuals. This designation was granted on the basis that the AOLS is conducting a public interest function that cannot be done effectively if individual consent is required.