

## **ABCLS Report**

### **Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors**

There are currently   304 Practicing Members  
                              19 Life Members  
                              42 Non Practicing Members  
                              74 Retired Members

So far in 2007 we have commissioned 7 new Land Surveyors, with a possibility of several more by the end of the year. It has been very encouraging for the Board to see the high numbers of young members the past couple of years.

The Association office moved this year to a brand new modern office building in Sidney, on Vancouver Island. This location is located in close proximity to the Victoria Airport and the Swartz Bay ferry terminal, making it very accessible to our members. Over the past few years, our office staff has grown to a total of 6, including our Executive Director Janice Henshaw, Secretary Treasurer Chuck Salmon and Practice Review Manager George Fenning. Our president this year is Joe Johnson of Salmon Arm.

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held the last week of February in Kelowna, at the Grand Okanagan Resort. This promises to be a memorable convention, with a mix of hockey games, professional development seminars, business sessions and of course a little relaxation and fun. For the first time ever this convention is going to feature a student day, with special programs for survey students and land surveyors in training.

Our Practice Advisory Department is now in its second full year of reviews and has received much positive feedback and encouragement from the membership. The quality of our plans has been very consistent since the introduction of not only this program but the Electronic Checklist Program. This year an estimated 15,000 plans will be registered in the Land Title Office and Crown Land Registry in British Columbia. Each and every plan is checked on-line by the Land Surveyor using this program. Funds raised from this program assist with continuing professional development programs.

Work is continuing on the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between BC and Alberta with the goal to have full implementation by April of 2009.

The Association is also a partner in the development of a consolidated parcel fabric for the province. This project is developing a business plan and a strategic plan to assist in the implementation.

The Expanded Profession Working Group is looking towards expanding our profession to include other geomatics professionals. This week our traveling Board is attending meetings across the province discussing this concept with the membership.

The Digital Survey Plan system has been introduced in several releases.

The first release went live on July 24, 2006 and enabled the submission of plans prepared pursuant to the *Land Act*, the *Mineral Tenure Act*, the *Petroleum & Natural Gas Act* and the *Coal Act* for filing in the Land Title and Survey Authority's Crown Land Registry.

The second release enables the submission of plans prepared pursuant to the *Land Title Act* and the *Strata Property Act* to the Land Title and Survey Authority.

A limited pilot program involving a small group of British Columbia land surveyors went live in May 2007. The Authority has received a fairly steady stream of simple plans such as posting plans, rights of way plans and explanatory plans during this pilot program. The submission of these plans has proven that the DSP functionality works well. Once more complex plans, ones that require owners and approving officers consent, have successfully been digitally submitted and accepted on deposit, all land surveyors will be offered the opportunity to join the pilot program.

The Continuing Professional Development Committee has been very active this year developing a series of seminars and presentations that will take place in the various regions of the province. This year Geo-Referencing has been the main focus with a goal of moving towards a system where every survey is tied in to the framework.

To sum it up, it has been a busy year for the land surveying community in British Columbia.

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