

SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

## President's Message to the Membership

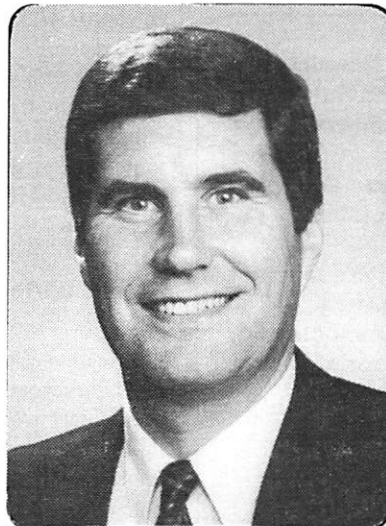
By D.A. Bouck, SLS, President

This will be my last report as your president before I hand over the gavel during May's AGM. I can now go back to "bugging" future presidents to get their quarterly reports in for the SLSA Newsletter. The year has gone extremely fast and I must admit not all my goals were attained. A lot has been accomplished, however, due mainly to the great people I had to work with.

One of the huge tasks this year was to find a replacement for Murray Skelton, our Executive Director, who decided golf on a full time basis would be a good thing. At the same time Rhonda Sitoski, our Executive Assistant, embarked on a new career and could no longer juggle the three jobs she had been maintaining. Carl Shiels was selected as the new Executive Director and with him came Candy Shiels as Executive Assistant. Both of them had a very steep learning curve and both have met the challenge. Carl is contributing above and beyond the call of duty and seems to be getting a handle on the inner workings of the SLSA.

Our old office was flattened for the new CTC store. Many hours were spent by Larry, Scott and Carl locating a suitable new office. It looks great. If you haven't been there yet, I suggest you drop in while your in town for the 86th AGM.

The new SLS Act is well on it's way to being proclaimed. A Special General meeting was held to discuss the proposed Bylaws in December. The main Bylaw package has been completed and the ISP Bylaws are being reviewed by the legal folks. Thanks to all those committee members who worked so hard to get us to where we are today.



Elaine and I had the opportunity to attend the BCLS AGM in January and the AOLS AGM in February. Both were great. Many thanks to our hosts in Victoria and London for their generous hospitality and well planned events. We have only the ALS AGM to attend in a couple weeks and then our "TOUR" will be over. The information gained through training sessions, the formal meetings themselves and discussions over a drink at a social function is one of the most important elements of these visits to other association meetings. The acquaintances one makes will never be forgotten.

The removal of the survey program at Erindale is not the only school to be affected by financial cut backs. At a recent visit to the Palliser Campus, concern was expressed by members of the survey faculty of the vulnerability of that

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**And Much More!**

# Council Highlights



**By A. Carl Shiels**  
**Executive Director**

The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Newsletter is published by the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association for circulation to its members.

**Deadlines for articles will be the last Friday in December, March, June and September.**

The opinions of the contributing writers may not be consistent with those of the Council of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association. Articles may be reprinted with appropriate credit given to the authors.

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## **1995/96 Council**

President	Doug A. Bouck
Vice President	Max E. Putnam
Past President	Murray A. Marien
Councillors	N. Scott Whitley Bill C. Soroski Roy J. Pominville Michael L. Waschuk

Executive Director	A. Carl Shiels
Executive Assistant	Candy Shiels
Editor	Doug A. Bouck

## **Sixth Meeting February 2, 1996**

The sixth meeting of Council was held on February 2, 1996 with all members present except W. C. Soroski. The President provided a very brief review of the 95th Annual Meeting of the Corporation of B. C. Land Surveyors and pointed out that all jurisdictions are very interested in our new Act and Bylaws and will want copies when finally approved.

## **Report from M. E. Putnam**

A report was presented by M. E. Putnam regarding the Restoration/Re-establishment of Monuments. The report provided examples of how the actions or omission of Members often tend to detract from the profession's stated objective of preserving and enhancing the survey fabric. Specific recommendations were included for reducing these problems. The recommendations provided in Mr. Putnam's report were referred to the Practice Committee.

## **World Wide Web Home Page**

Information currently on 'the net' from the association of Ontario Land Surveyors was reviewed. The President explained that some preliminary work was being done on an SLSA Home Page but that a small amount of money may be required for design and implementation. Council approved an allocation of four hundred dollars for that purpose.

## **Office Relocation**

The Executive Director described the activities of the Office Relocation Committee in locating and finalizing arrangements for a new office. He explained that the committee had been able to negotiate a pay-out by the former landlord which would cover all relocation costs including an amount for the time spent by staff and members. Council approved the relocation expenses to be submitted to the former landlord and release of the caveat on the property once payment had been received.

The Executive Director also advised that the new lease was for a period of five years at the same rate as for the previous office and that there was an option for an additional five years during which rent increases would be limited to actual increases in operating costs.

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## Council Highlights

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### Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians (SASTT) Concerns

The President described the meeting between representatives of the SLSA and those of SASTT. He explained that most of the concerns of the SASTT representatives appeared to stem from a misunderstanding of the distinction between a Land Surveyor and a Professional Surveyor, and of the voluntary nature of registration as a Professional Surveyor.

### Proposed Amendments to the Planning and Development Act.

Council reviewed a copy of a letter from M. P. Zulynik, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Review Committee on the proposed amendments to the Planning And Development Act, to Mr. John Wolfenber, Assistant Director, Planning & Advisory Services, Saskatchewan Municipal Government. The letter outlined two concerns with the proposed amendments. Council expressed their appreciation for the prompt action by the Review Committee (M. Zulynik, D. Neufeld and W. Stockton) in reviewing and responding to the proposed amendments and asked that the Committee continue following the amendment review process and report any further issues that might be of concern.

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## President's Message

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program due to reduced funding. Our association must set as one of its goals a support program to assist the survey program in its struggle to survive. The calibre of student from Moose Jaw, required by our industry, must be preserved.

A global thank you to all the committees for their hard work during my term as president. Without them the SLSA could not survive. Council is exploring ways of assisting the committees in getting assigned tasks to the point of completion quicker by involving more people over a shorter time span and by using a facilitator to keep the project in focus. I encourage all members to let their name stand as a volunteer for one of the various committees struck each year. In this era, time is a precious commodity for everyone. The old adage "many hands make light work" is true of committee work as well.

To conclude, I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year as your president. I encourage everyone to attend the 86th AGM in Regina in May. As you know the CCLS will be holding their AGM immediately after ours any many of their members will be in attendance during our meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to "mix and mingle" with these folks and to discuss issues of common interest.

SEE YOU IN REGINA. 🗳️

## What's Happening?

- The 86th SLSA Annual General Meeting will take place in Regina, May 23rd to the 25th. The CCLS will be in town for their Annual General Meeting that begins on the 26th. Wayne Adams has put together a great social program and we expect to have many visitors from across the country. Please bring your Committee Reports and program sent prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- Council will hold its 8th meeting of the year in Regina on April 29th.
- The Deadline for renewals of Liability Insurance is May 31, 1996. For more information contact Jardine Rolfe Limited at (403) 265-5550.
- Merv Zulynik found the following resolution in the minutes of the 1996 SARM Convention:

### R. M. of Blaine Lake no. 434

*WHEREAS, Central Survey and Mapping Agency pays a surveyor to survey and prepare road plans for roadways in rural municipalities: and*

*WHEREAS, Central Survey and Mapping Agency pays the surveyor's bill and bills the municipality: and*

*WHEREAS, a surveyor may be paid in full for a survey plan that is not approved and will be placed in a "to do later" status:*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SARM ask Central Survey and Mapping Agency to establish a policy whereby a holdback is made on a portion of the survey charges until the survey plan receives fund approval.*

**The Resolution Carried. 🗳️**

## **Council Highlights**

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### **Lunch Guests**

The lunch guests were Ms. Mary Ellen Wellsch, Project Manager of the Land-titles Automated Network Development (LAND) Project and M. J. Seis, SLS, Chief Surveyor's Office. Ms. Wellsch outlined the reasons behind the project and the strategy that is being followed for the five year project to automate much of the land titles registry system. She emphasized that SLSA members and the Association are considered to be very important contributors to the project. As one example, she noted that many parcels of land are currently identified using metes and bounds descriptions but such descriptions do not lend themselves to an automated system. How the existing registrations, and any such registrations in the future, are to be handled is a matter of serious concern and one in which SLSA input would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Seis was invited to provide an up-date on backlogs at the Chief Surveyors Office. He explained that they have been able to make some gains in the past several weeks but that they are still at least two to four weeks beyond their objective of a two week turn-around time.

### **Land Project**

As a result of the discussions with Ms. Wellsch, Council discussed the role which the Association should play in the Project. It was agreed that the Project will present many opportunities for members to contribute to, and benefit from, the project. It was therefore agreed that Russ Pankiw be invited to head up a LAND Project Liaison Committee.

### **J. T. Skelton and F. Cheng - Forms 'Z'**

Council accepted the Forms 'Z' submitted by J. T. Skelton and F. Cheng as evidence that they had completed the required term of practical experience and were eligible to write the Professional Examinations to qualify for membership.

### **M. Radoux - Form 'Y'**

Council accepted the Form 'Y' of M. Radoux and approved his request to serve his practical experience as a Land Surveyor in Training under the supervision of M. E. Putnam, SLS.

### **CCLS 1996 Fees**

Council approved a levee of \$50 per active member for the CCLS in 1996. With seventy-five active members, the total levee would be \$3750.

### **Use of Facilitators for Projects**

The President noted that many projects seem to drag out because of the problem associated with getting committee members together to complete them. He noted that many of the projects might lend themselves to the use of a Facilitator. He suggested that, under the guidance of the Facilitator, the project team could be assembled and the project completed over a period of one day or more. The Executive Director agreed to undergo what ever training might be available and to serve in the capacity of a Facilitator when required.

### **SLSA Internet Connection and E-mail Address**

Council discussed the idea of the Association subscribing to the Internet, particularly for use of the E-mail feature. Since retrieving E-mail takes very little 'on-line' time, the Executive Director agreed to investigate the possibility of an SLSA mail-box on his personal Internet account.

### **Business Cards for Incoming President**

The President noted that most other Association Presidents have personalized business cards and recommended that the Association provide such cards for future presidents. Since the cost of such cards is minimal, it was agreed that the incoming President should be provided with a suitable business card.

### **Calendar of Events - Six Months in Advance**

Council agreed that a six month calendar of events should be included in each newsletter. M. A. Marien indicated that he had a calendar program that he was willing to donate to the Association for such purpose.

### **Finance Committee**

Council reviewed the 1995 year-end report of the Audit Committee prepared by L. A. Zimmerman. The report dealt with the accounting records which had been converted to an accrual accounting method dating to January 1, 1995 and provided a Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of December 31, 1995.

M. A. Marien, Chairman of the Finance Committee distributed a proposed 'Notice of Motion' for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It was aimed at addressing an apparent inconsistency in resolutions from past meetings and at more clearly defining the way in which operating surpluses and the reserve fund should be managed. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

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## **Council Highlights**

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### **Nominations Committee**

M. A. Marien reported that there had been no nominations received to date for the 1996/97 Association Year. It was noted that expressions of interest in serving on Council by members resident on the Alberta side of Lloydminster may be stymied by the residency requirements of the New Act. Council asked that the New Act Committee investigate the possibility of having the legislation amended to accommodate such members.

### **Convention Committee Report**

The President reported that plans for the Annual Meeting are proceeding well.

### **Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee provided a summary of revised recommendations related to the Strategic Plan for consideration by Council. It was agreed that the Strategic Plan should be the subject of a half day review at the spring educational seminar.

### **Practice Committee Report**

Council reviewed the report of the Practice Committee submitted by Chairman I. R. Stark, containing four recommendations. Because of the lateness of the hour and the fact that the recommendations warranted serious consideration, it was agreed that the report should be tabled until the next meeting of Council.

Council agreed that the suggested schedule of fees, as submitted by the Practice Committee, should be published for 1996.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director reported that the SLSA computer is obsolete and only barely able to handle some of the programs being used. Council approved an expenditure of up to two thousand dollars for purchase of a new computer.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 18, 1996.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

### **Seventh Meeting March 18, 1996**

All Members were present as the president provided a brief summary of the significant events at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. In particular, he

noted that recent prosecutions of several Alberta survey companies for alleged violations of the Competition Act had sparked a great deal of interest and discussion.

He also noted that the Ontario meeting had a much greater educational component with several seminars being held on such topics as off-shore contracting, Canada Land Survey contracts in the north, the surveying component of the St. Claire tunnel project, and TERA VIEW - the Ontario on-line title search system.

He reported that the Survey Engineering Program at Erindale College in Ontario had closed and that the surveying program at the University of New Brunswick was also experiencing financial pressure but was diversifying by offering survey courses by correspondence.

The President also noted that there had been successful regional meetings in both Regina and Saskatoon.

### **Task Force on the Provincial Survey System**

The president reported that there had been three meetings of the ad hoc committee reviewing options for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on the Provincial Survey System. CSMA, CSO, SLSA and the survey industry were identified as the 'doers' who will have to take active roles in implementing the Task Force recommendations. Various 'stake-holders', including government departments, the Crown Utility Companies, municipal governments, the oil and gas industry, land owners and the general public, will have to be 'influenced' to provide support for the effort.

### **World Wide Webb Home Page**

The Executive Director demonstrated some of the initial work in developing an SLSA Web site. It was agreed that every effort should be made to have a prototype of the Web Site available for demonstration at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Use of Facilitators for Committee Projects**

The Executive Director reported that he located a suitable reference at the University of Regina Library and would be studying it. It was agreed that the idea of a facilitated project would be tried, involving all members of Council, on April 1 in Saskatoon. The project would involve development of an informational map as suggested by the President at previous meetings of Council.

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## **Council Highlights**

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### **Internet Access and E-mail Address**

The Executive Director reported that an E-mail address had been set up for the Association as [slsa@sasknet.sk.ca](mailto:slsa@sasknet.sk.ca).

### **Land Project**

The President reported that Mr. Pankiw had agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to deal with this matter. It was agreed that the Executive Director should provide the Committee Chairman with examples of Terms of Reference from other committees and offer to provide what ever assistance the Chairman might require with his task.

### **Residency Requirements for Election to Council under the New Act**

Council reviewed a letter from D. Babiuk regarding the residency requirement in the New Act. Mr. Babiuk pointed out that the Committee had followed the Model Act provided by the Provincial Government lawyers and that they were concerned about 'opening up' the New Act before it had been proclaimed. He also noted that there had been no indication from the membership that such a change was warranted. On that basis, the Committee was not prepared to investigate a change to the Act.

Council agreed that there was no interest in amending the Act before it was proclaimed. However, some members of Council recalled that there had been expressions of concern regarding the residents of Lloydminster at various times during the review and re-write of the Act, and also at the Special General Meeting held in December 1995. For that reason, Council felt that the matter warranted further consideration in the longer term.

### **Lunch Guest**

E. J. Desnoyers, SLSA representative on the Western Canadian Board of Examiners (WCBE) was the lunch guest. Past discussions between the SLSA, the WCBE and the Association of Canada Land Surveyors (ACLS) were reviewed. It was noted that, while the SLSA has amended its bylaws to allow Council to over-ride decisions of the WCBE, there is also a trend toward greater co-operation between various Associations in Canada including the ACLS, WCBE and the Atlantic Board of Examiners.

### **Strategic Plan**

Council discussed the review of the Strategic Plan which had taken place at the Educational Seminar on March 15.

### **Recommendations of the Practice Committee**

Council reviewed and discussed the recommendations of the Practice Committee which were tabled at the last meeting. Council supported the recommendations related to:

- Having an annual seminar or workshop dealing with a cost analysis for one or two items on the Suggested Schedule of Fees;
- Contacting Sask. Energy and Mines (SEM) to see whether they would be prepared to set up a filing system for wellsite flow line plans;
- Having a third copy of each wellsite plan filed with SEM and that these copies eventually be forwarded to the Controller of Surveys for review with regard to restoration of monuments and also with regard to compliance with statutory requirements.
- Seeking an opinion from the Chief Surveyor regarding the requirement for signatures on pipeline plans under Section 106.

### **Thank you from Colin Neiser**

A thankyou card was received from Colin Neiser as recipient of the 1996 Ian Tweddell Memorial Award.

### **Convention Committee**

The president reported that the 1996 Convention Committee was already beginning to incur expenses so Council approved a cash advance to the Convention Committee. M. A. Marian reported that the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon had been booked for the 1997 Annual General Meeting.

### **Education Committee**

Council agreed that the educational seminar in Saskatoon had been very successful.

### **Finance Committee**

Council reviewed the financial statements for the end of January, 1996 and the interim statements for the month of February. The Executive Director pointed out that the value of capital assets on the Balance Sheet was misleading because it included only original purchase values with no factor for depreciation. Council

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## SACSTT NEWS

The following SACSTT members were certified  
at a meeting of the Certification Board on  
January 16, 1996.

Clifford J. P. Brown	Technician III
Timothy N. Wolfe	Tecnician III
Jody A. Fuchs	Technician II
Calvin B. Fowler	Technologist I
Patrick D. Freriks	Technologist I

### Housing and Land Development

#### Regina, 1995

The City of Regina, through its Planning and Building Department, has forwarded its 1995 Report on "Monitoring of Housing and Land Development - 1995". A copy is being kept at the SLSA office. If members are interested in borrowing this copy please call Carl. They are also available through the City of Regina.

#### Some Highlights:

- Regina's Population is 184,300.

- 283 new housing units were constructed - 40% of 10 year average.

- 1000 subdivided lots available for future development

- Apartment vacancy declined to 2.2%

- Total Construction building permit values reached \$100 million. Of that, \$30 million was for residential construction.

### Council Highlights

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agreed that the capital assets should be depreciated over time to provide a more realistic value of assets on the balance sheet.

#### Public Relations Committee

Council received a copy of the revised text for an RPR Brochure from Committee Chairman R. A. Webster. W. Soroski reported that the P. R. Committee had met on the evening of Thursday, March 14 to review and discuss the brochure. As a result of that meeting, the content of the brochure had been revised

substantially. Council asked that they be given an opportunity to review the brochure once more before it is printed.

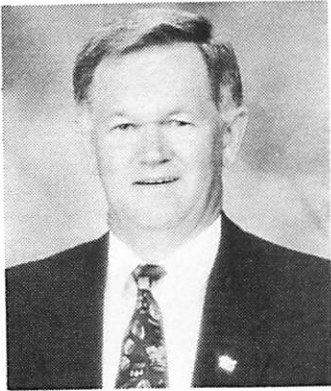
#### Nominations Committee

M. A. Marien reported that R. J. Hillier and R. P. Pattison were prepared to let their names stand for positions on Council.

**The next meeting was set for Monday, April 22, 1996.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. ❧

# The Risk of Retirement



by G. K. Allred, A.L.S.

Retirement—the time you can shed the stresses of day-to-day routine and decision making: a time when you can sleep in and spend all morning reading the daily paper: a time to pursue new interests and enjoy travel and leisure activities.

But how about the accumulated records and potential liabilities that have built up over the past thirty to fifty years? There is a mass of wealth in those records, but perhaps a few skeletons lay buried in those old field notes—an undiscovered error or two? What is the risk of retirement?

As a surveyor and public officer, you have a professional obligation to ensure that those old records are maintained and made available to those who may be affected by the evidence that they harbour. But what to do with them? Can a retired surveyor sell individual copies of his plans or field notes? Can he sell his files and plans to a practising surveyor? The easy answer to these questions is “yes”, you can do what you want. But the practical answer is beware of the risk inherent in unnecessarily exposing your family and estate to potential liabilities. I will attempt to discuss these issues with the intention of generating discussion and dialogue which may perhaps lead to some options for solutions to the risk of retirement.

Firstly, I believe it is accepted that a land surveyor has a professional, not a legal obligation, to retain his field notes and other original records. Some provincial survey statutes specifically require that field notes be retained. Several professional associations make provision for the storage and/or indexing of field records in public or quasi-public repositories.

It is somewhat impractical for a retired surveyor to retain his records for more than a few years subsequent to his retirement.

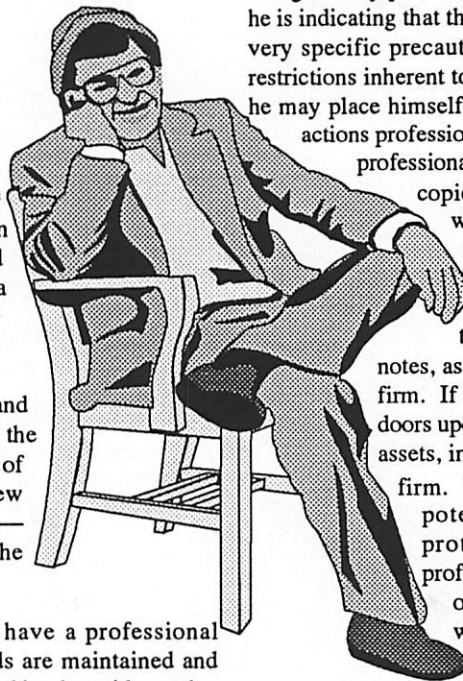
He is not likely to have the facilities for storage or copying records and in time, will likely lose interest in maintaining his files. At some point, his estate will have to deal with them and in all likelihood, they will be inadvertently lost or destroyed.

If a surveyor, whether retired or not, is requested to provide a copy of an old record, he may very well extend his liability by doing so. By providing a copy, it can be argued that implicitly, he is indicating that the record is true and correct, unless he takes very specific precautions to clearly and accurately define the restrictions inherent to its use. If he provides the copy for a fee, he may place himself in conflict with the provisions of his past actions professional liability insurance, or his status with his professional association. He may wish to only provide copies of his records to other surveyors who will presumably understand the implications that go with old survey records.

Most retired surveyors who will not have the problem of disposing of their field notes, assuming that they are bought out by another firm. If however, a sole practitioner just closes his doors upon retirement, he may wish to dispose of his assets, including his field records to another survey firm. This may not totally absolve him of any potential liability however, he should be protected either under the new firm's professional liability insurance coverage or his own past actions insurance. He may even wish to clarify the liability question by way of a written agreement. Similarly, if the retired surveyor places his field records in an association or government repository, he should be fully protected under the CCLS past actions retirement insurance program.

We all recognize that as public officers, land surveyors have continuing obligations to society. We are responsible for the preservation of boundaries and the maintenance of the survey fabric. Public registry systems go a long way to assisting the practising surveyor and the public in maintaining a complete and accurate system of land registration. The private holding of deeds and other cadastral documents places an added burden on the holders of those documents and places society at a disadvantage when those documents are not readily available.

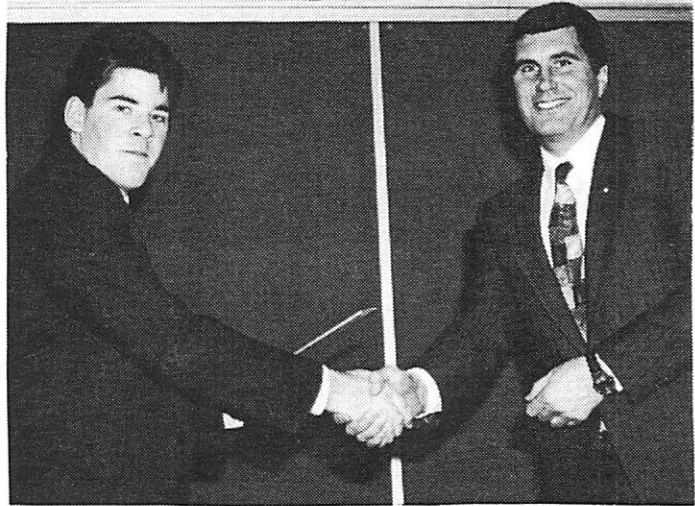
There are no perfect systems: there are exceptions to every rule. The private survey practitioner when facing retirement must weigh the risks and take whatever precautions that are reasonable. **He must recognize the risk of retirement.**



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## SLSA Award

Doug Bouck, President, SLSA (right) presented the annual \$250.00 Scholarship to Jason W. Coates who was the second-year Surveying Technology student who achieved the best academic record in the 1st year of the program.

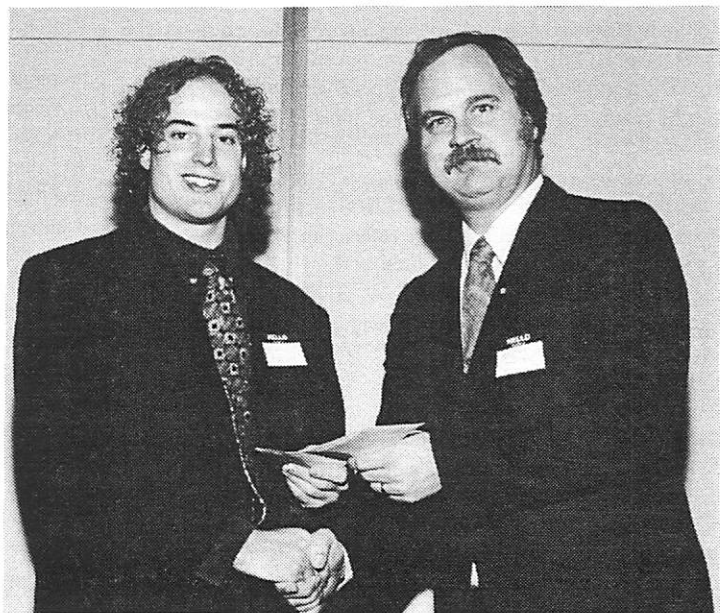


The Award Ceremonies took place on February 24th,  
at the Palliser Campus of SIAST in Moose Jaw.

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## I. W. Tweddell Award

Mr. Colin Neiser (left) receiving the I. W. Tweddell award from Mr. Murray Marien, SLS. The award was presented on February 1st at the University of Saskatchewan Awards Day Ceremony.



## Book Review

by Wayne Stockton, SLS

*Turmoil and Triumph* by Ian Bickle  
Editor - Publisher's Data,  
Detselig Enterprises Ltd.,  
210 -1220 Kensington Rd.,  
Calgary, AB T2N 3P5

216 pages with photographs, hard cover.

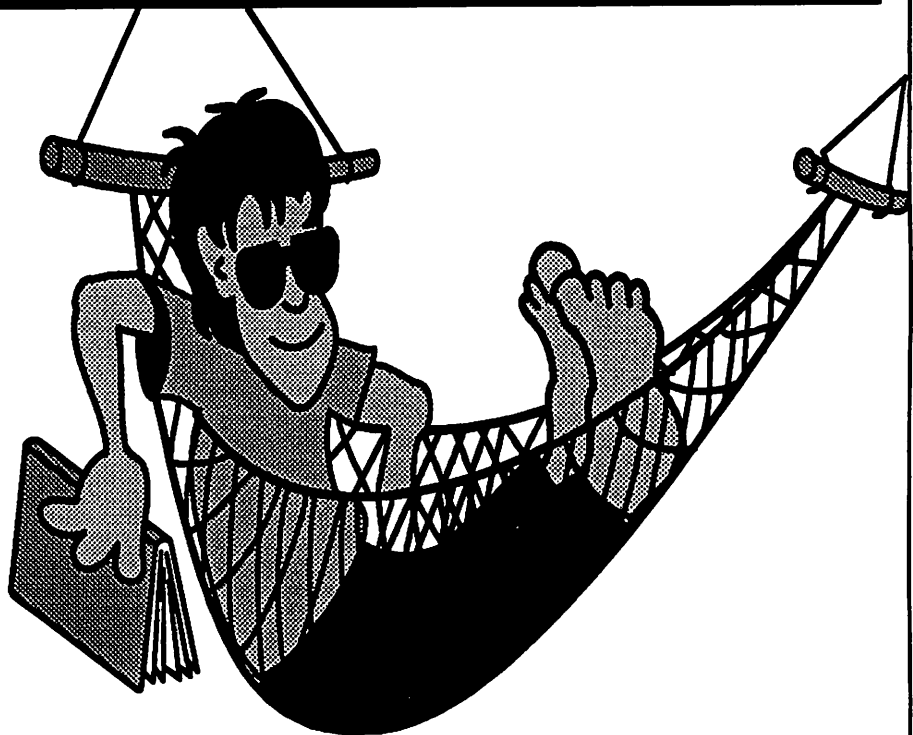
*Turmoil and Triumph* is the story of the controversial Railway to Hudson Bay. This is a story of courage and adventure. It reveals how workers struggle through long days, enduring extreme weather and often poor food and housing as they built a railway through the difficult terrain of Canada's northern wilderness to Churchill, Manitoba.

It provides rare insight into the survey parties who explored this region of ice, snow, swamp and muskeg. The colourful accounts of surveyor J. L. Charles describe the hardships and adventures in mapping the route.

It gives a historical account of organizations, such as the RNWMP (later RCMP) who helped bring order and discipline to the rugged life on the line, and Frontier College teachers, who assisted the workers in their labours and their education.

The Hudson Bay railway was controversial from the start. Political debates raged over its ability to provide the least expensive way to ship prairie grain overseas and to provide a less costly route for imports. Groups, such as the Hudson Bay Route Association and individuals like W. A. Richford, struggled to champion the harbour route, which today is still under threat of closure.

The idea of a railway from Winnipeg to James Bay was first conceived in 1812. Nothing happened then but the railway idea surfaced from time to time until its popularity spread. It was still many years before the line was begun and those years were filled with political and public arguments as to the project's desirability and feasibility. Finally, the project was undertaken by the Government of Canada under the Department of Railways and Canals. Surveys were begun in 1908 with construction commencing in 1912. Due to the war, construction was suspended in 1917 and not recommenced until 1927. The route



was finally completed in 1931.

The most interesting character in the book was chief engineer for the railway, Major J. L. Charles. Major Charles retired from Canadian National Railways at the age of 65. After retirement, he went on to work on railway locations in Rhodesia, Zambia and Tanzania. In 1975, at the age of 81, he spent 13 months in Brazil helping to locate a railway through the Amazon valley. He died in Winnipeg just short of his 100th birthday.

The men who surveyed the Bay route, the workers who built it and the people who keep it alive have raised the level of human achievement in Canada. Their story is an important and colourful part of Canadian history.

One of the reasons I enjoyed the book so much is that the author is a long time family friend. Ian Bickle has been a radio television news writer and broadcaster at CFQC, Saskatoon, held a senior communications position at the University of Saskatchewan and was a long-time director of communications for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. He has freelanced extensively for the CBC and numerous publications, among them Maclean's, The Financial Post, The Saskatoon Star Phoenix and Reader's Digest. Ian grew up in The Pas, Manitoba, is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and now resides in Regina.

If you have trouble finding the book in you local book store, please give me a call and I will pass on the request. ☺



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CCLS?**

*prepared by T. R. Webb; CCLS Director*

The 1994 CCLS Champlain Award recipient, Mr. Peter Berghuis, recently passed away. The CCLS made a donation to St. David's Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund in his memory.

Steve Gossling has been appointed as the CCLS Director from Ontario.

The Western, Atlantic and CLS Boards are anxious to proceed with the proposed changes to the CCLS accreditation program. Quebec has been invited to play a role in the new national reciprocity policy for land surveyors. The AOLS, with Erindale's survey component being withdrawn, must also look at how to acquire students trained in surveying skills. Once the proposed changes to the accreditation program have been approved by the regional boards, each provincial association and university will also be asked for their formal comment and ideas.

A number of Canadian and American representatives held a meeting during the AOLS AGM to discuss NAFTA issues. Out

of this meeting came the following fundamental statement of principle:

*Cadastral surveying, or land surveying, should be a special profession in regards to NAFTA. Boundary and parcel delimitation is the primary function of cadastral surveying and the reason why cadastral surveying is a profession recognized by legislation. Boundary line determination is a unique professional activity because it is entirely dependent upon each jurisdiction; the evaluation of evidence for boundary delimitation is dependent upon history, culture, physical geography, tradition and the law of a particular province or state. For this reason, cadastral surveying should be considered a special case under NAFTA. The CCLS NAFTA team must now identify the federal government authorities in Canada and Mexico who deal with this topic. ❏*

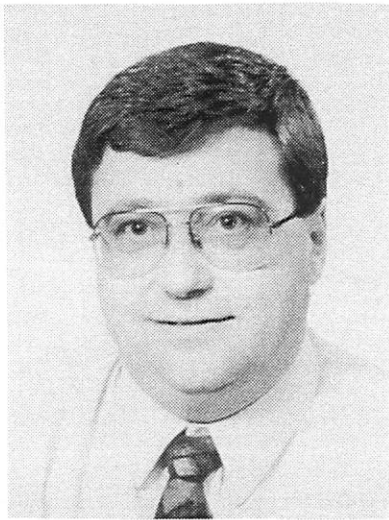
# Nomination Report

The Nomination Committee is pleased to present the following members for Officers and Members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. A. Marien



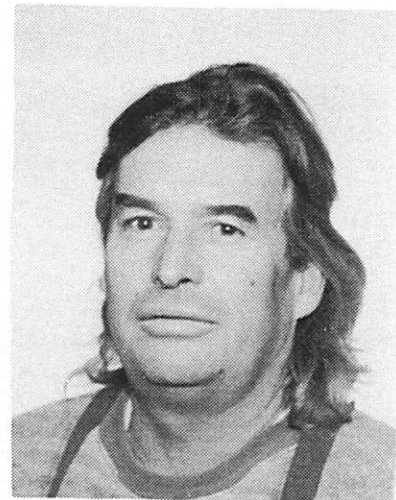
M. E. Putnam, SLS  
for  
President



P. M. Maloney, SLS  
for  
Vice President



R. P. Pattison, SLS  
for  
Councillor



R. J. Hillier, SLS  
for Councillor

Resumes of the candidates will be published in the 86th Annual Meeting Committee Reports. ❖

## Councillor's Report



by **R. J. Pominville, SLS**

In the tradition established by David Letterman, I wish to present from our Home Office in Craven, Saskatchewan, the Top Ten Reasons for not planting Marker Posts while performing a survey.

- #10 A What?
- #9 Everyone will be able to see the corner.
- #8 It may pose a danger to a passing flock of Canada Geese.
- #7 Who's going to make me?
- #6 I forgot to bring them, so this must be cultivation.
- #5 The ground is too hard.
- #4 It's cold outside.
- #3 They scratch my truck.
- #2 Ha! Ha! Ten bucks in my pocket!

**and the #1 reason for not planting marker posts is: It's too much trouble.**

Marker posts are often the only readily visible evidence of a survey and survey monument. As these monuments are placed for the benefit of the General Public and not just for surveyors it is imperative that we make them as obvious and visible as possible. The next time that you are standing looking at the iron post that you've just found, re-established or established, please stop and think if any of these 10 reasons may apply to the situation. If they do then get out the pounder and screw driver and do the right thing. Use a marker post.

P.S. Do I get any PDC's for this? 🍷

## What History Tells us!

*As seen in the Evergreen State Surveyor, Winter, 1995*

*We would do well to learn the dangers of complacency and rear-view planning from the following letter written in 1829 by the Governor of New York (and future U.S. President), Martin Van Buren.*

Source: *No Growth -- The American Spectator*, January, 1984.  
Taken from the *Washington State Surveyor*, Winter, 1995.

JANUARY 31, 1829

TO: PRESIDENT JACKSON,

THE CANAL SYSTEM OF THIS COUNTRY IS BEING THREATENED BY THE SPREAD OF A NEW FORM OF TRANSPORTATION KNOWN AS RAILROADS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST PRESERVE THE CANALS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

ONE. IF CANAL BOATS ARE SUPPLANTED BY RAILROADS SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT WILL RESULT. CAPTAINS, COOKS, DRIVERS, HOSTLERS, REPAIRMEN, AND LOCK TENDERS WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD, NOT TO MENTION THE NUMEROUS FARMERS NOW EMPLOYED IN GROWING HAY FOR HORSES.

TWO. BOAT BUILDERS WOULD SUFFER, AND TOWLINE, WHIP AND HARNESS MAKERS WOULD BE LEFT DESTITUTE.

THREE. CANAL BOATS ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE DEFENCE OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE EVENT OF THE EXPECTED TROUBLE WITH ENGLAND, THE ERIE CANAL WOULD BE THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH WE COULD EVER MOVE THE SUPPLIES SO VITAL TO WAGING MODERN WAR.

AS YOU MAY WELL KNOW, MR. PRESIDENT, RAILROAD CARRIAGES ARE PULLED AT THE ENORMOUS SPEED OF 15 MILES PER HOUR WHICH, IN ADDITION TO ENDANGERING LIFE AND LIMB OF PASSENGERS, ROAR AND SNORT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, SETTING FIRE TO CROPS, SCARING THE LIVESTOCK, AND FRIGHTENING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE ALMIGHTY CERTAINLY NEVER INTENDED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD TRAVEL AT SUCH BREAKNECK SPEED.

MARTIN VAN BUREN  
GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK 🍷

## The Technical Side: Instrument Overhaul

by **Chris Cothrun, Service Technician, Ingenuity, Inc.**

As seen in *The Ontario Land Surveyor Quarterly*, Winter 1996

In the last issue of the Technical Side, we discussed some of the reasons you need to have your instruments serviced occasionally. In this issue we will cover what exactly most reputable repair shops do to your instrument to keep it working as it should. When an instrument comes in for service it is first evaluated. The instrument is checked for any pre-existing problems, and its condition is evaluated to determine the extent of service it needs. The amount of dust and dirt on and inside the instrument, the extent of wear on the tangents and bearings, and any repairs that are needed determine what service is to be performed. It is checked for tight or very loose tangents and excess movement in the focus assemblies and telescope bearings. If the instrument is in good shape and has no major problems, a "minor cleaning" is all that is needed. On the other hand, if it is extremely dirty, showing signs of wear on the bearings or other critical mechanical assemblies, or requires disassembly for other repairs, it would be recommended for the complete service.

The "minor cleaning," as we call it, involves cleaning the tribrach, the tangents, the focus assemblies, the exterior of the instrument, as well as the case and accessories. These assemblies receive the most wear and are the components that have the most exposure to

dust and dirt. The tribrach and tangents are removed from the instrument and disassembled. The tribrach level screws and tangent parts are marked during disassembly so matching parts are put back together during reassembly. The fine threads develop individual wear patterns during use and must be matched back up during reassembly. If they are not matched up, the wear increases and the threads can even bind. The focus assembly is disassembled and cleaned. This keeps it clean and smooth and ensures your line of sight does not change while focusing the instrument. After disassembly, the metal parts are run through an ultrasonic solvent bath and then washed clean. The optics and plastic parts are cleaned by hand so they will not be damaged in the solvent. The clean parts are reassembled with new wide-temperature range lubricants. The reassembled tangents and focus assemblies are put back in the instrument, the tribrach goes on, the exterior is cleaned, and the instrument is ready for final collimation.

The major over haul is much more involved. After the initial evaluation, the instrument is completely taken apart.

*continued on page 570*

## I was Asking My Mom

by **Craig R. Amey, RS.**

As seen in *the Evergreen State Surveyor*, Fall, 1995

On October 28th, I helped Bill Miller with a presentation at one of the local elementary schools. We were a part of the school's "First Annual Pioneer Days". As families walked from room to room, they were entertained by a variety of pioneer activities. One room had butter churning, another room had a blacksmith with all his wares. Our room was surveying. We wore our period costumes and displayed compasses and transits on loan from the museum. We also set two tables end to end and laid out a chain. For two hours an endless stream of people walked by our display. Some asked questions, others shared their own stories and a few walked by with that "Nice stuff, but where's the quilting bee?" look in their eyes. After an hour and a half of talking and listening to kids, moms, dads, grandpas and grandmas, a young boy walked in with his parents. He walked over to the table, picked up the brass handle of the chain and politely asked "What is this?" Now, keep in mind that it can be difficult to explain to

*continued on page 570*



# What is a Professional?

by J. H. Hogg, ALS

As seen in ALS News, December, 1995

A review of the codes of ethics of different professional bodies indicates that they evolved from the common belief that a professional was someone who could be trusted to conduct their activities in a fair and just manner to all concerned parties.

Because of this common belief, government trusted these professionals to govern their own professional bodies. Governments allow these professionals to be self-governing as long as they have as their prime concern the protection of the public. This concern must override the interests of their clients, for if their clients' interests are placed first, they cannot truly represent the public.

Since the survey professional is controlled by many laws and regulations, it is not evident at first glance what activities would involve the professional placing the public benefit above that of their client.

It has been said that the cadastral surveyor establishes boundaries. Let us consider a survey of a block of land. Any boundary line forms a division between two different parcels of land and if the discussion is expanded to three dimensions, it could be at least three or four cubes of material. If the surveyor is reestablishing the boundaries of one parcel he is also establishing one or more boundaries of adjacent property who he may or may not have contacted, but because he has established these boundaries he must be considered as a professional who is responsible to the public and be considered by them to render a fair and just location of the property line.

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## North Regional Report

The meeting took place at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon on Monday, February 19, 1996.

### Topics Discussed:

- CSMA Grid Road Cost Analysis request,
- Land Titles Act and LAND Project,
- Real Property Reports in Saskatoon.

Bob Webster and Leo Leduc volunteered to co-chair the North Regional Group. ¶

Another survey which could be included in the above, but one I wish to emphasize is the establishment of high water lines and flood plains. These lines might be established for one purpose but are used to establish recommended flood plains and as such could have serious effects in the case of flooding. When rivers flood there is much talk of a flood plain but as the river flows, the elevation lowers and in the case of a city with more than one flood area, these areas could be at different levels. The above indicates some of the problems involved in elevations and why the professional must put the public before the client.

The second responsibility of the professional is to his client. After the responsibilities to the public are addressed, the professional is ethically bound to provide the best possible service to his client. This involves informing his client of all the requirements necessary for the survey, and assisting in all approvals and registration of plans required. He must address the concerns of all approving parties for his client. That covers the office work, but the professional land surveyor must assess all evidence of corners used for establishing boundaries and supervise the surveys.

This field responsibility is very important. How can a surveyor explain a survey unless he has first had knowledge and responsibility. With more sophisticated equipment, the actual measurements are done by machines.

The third responsibility of the professional is to his fellow professionals. This responsibility enhances the professional body and many problems can be avoided by cooperation. In the long run, this professional practice reflects back on the responsibility to the public and client.

As an indication of the responsibility of a professional land surveyor, I am enclosing my submission which I believe appeared in ALS News in 1979. Machines may take over many activities, but I cannot see them addressing the responsibilities of professionalism. ¶

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## South Regional Report

The South Regional Group met on February 7th in Regina.

Eighteen attendees heard Mr. Adam Geras from Vercom Systems Ltd. explain the finer points of the Internet.

Doug Bouck presented some highlights from Council. ¶

## Instrument Overhaul

*continued from page 568*

Again, many of the parts are marked to assure they are properly matched up when reassembled. On any optical angle reading instruments, the prisms and optical assemblies must have their positions marked to make the optical reassembly and adjustment much easier. On electronic instruments, the angle reading electronics and the circle positions are marked to make reassembly and adjustment easier. Once the instrument is taken apart, most of the parts go through the ultrasonic solvent bath and then the washing process described above. The remaining optics, circles, electronics, and the other miscellaneous parts that cannot be immersed are cleansed by hand. The reassembly of the instrument is then started.

During reassembly, some of the moving parts or bearings may need to be refit. The most common bearing-wear problem is telescope inside play. Critical components are precisely ground

steel assemblies. Whether free floating or loaded with pressure, steel bearing side play may ultimately depend on a brass bushing. This bushing wears and needs to be refit or, in some cases, replaced. Bearings, even steel, do wear and can place angle reading optics in different positions from where they were when originally manufactured.

Realignment of optical instruments is done when adjusting the prisms and lens assemblies. Electronic angle reading systems are realigned electronically, usually with an oscilloscope or on/offboard computer software. Bearing play is so critical for electronic instruments that trouble-shooting and adjustments can only be done with electronic test equipment.

Electronic equipment requires adjustment of circuit boards to meet manufacturers' specified waveforms. Electronic total stations may require focus and alignment of EDM to infinity. All the other components, such as compensators and micrometers are reassembled and adjusted to factory specifications. Since the instrument was completely disassembled, everything must be readjusted. Final collimation and calibration are performed on a collimator system that allows infinity targets to be observed inside an office or instrument facility. ▀

## I Was Asking My Mom

*continued from page 568*

a six year old what a chain is and why it was so important. Bill did an excellent job. After listening to him explain the chain to adults, I was impressed with the way he told the same story to the child, but in a way the child could easily understand. The boy was very attentive. He stood there with the brass handle in his hand and his brown eyes fixed on Bill listening to every word. At the end of the explanation, Bill paused to allow the boy to ask a question. Without hesitation the looked up and politely said "I was asking my mom."

I will always remember that moment. I will also remember the time I gave a first grader a new company pencil, and in return he gave me a pencil sharpened down to the eraser. It had been his favourite but now he had a brand new favourite pencil. There is also the little girl that gave me a dime after my presentation. As she handed it to me she said "Here, this is so you will remember me." I don't know where the dime is, but I will never forget that little girl. Every once in a while I will come across the stack of handmade thank you cards from a fourth grade class. Some have a picture of a man in an orange vest, others have a

*continued next page*



# THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Department of Geomatics Engineering

Graduands from the Department of Geomatics Engineering will be available for employment as of May 1, 1996.

They have strong skills in all aspects of geomatics engineering.

Their resumés have been assembled in a single document by the Geomatics Engineering Student Society (GESS)

and are available as a home page on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.ensu.ucalgary.ca/~gess>

Job postings can be forwarded to: GESS, c/o Chris Tucker

Geomatics Engineering, The U of C, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4 Canada

(tel: 403-220-5834, fax: 403-284-1980)

The resumés of third year students seeking Summer employment are also located on the above home page.

## SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYOR'S ASSOCIATION APRIL - SEPTEMBER, 1996

April

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

15: Deadline for Committee Reports  
 18-19: Professional Examinations  
 20: SK Assoc. of Architects  
 25-26: Alberta AGM  
 29: Council Meeting #8 & Committee Workshops

May

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3: Committee Reports Mailout  
 10: Deadline for submissions to Council Meeting #1  
 15-16: 22nd AGM of the Canadian Geophysical Union (Banff)  
 22: Council Meeting #9  
 25: Council Meeting #1  
 29-30: CCLS AGM, Regina  
 30: CKS/A...  
 31: 8th Int. Conference on Geomatics (Ottawa)

June

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

6-7: ANLS AGM  
 21-22: APELS AGM

July

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

16: Newsletter Mailout

drawing of Mt. Rushmore, and a few have a scene with a bald eagle chasing a foolish surveyor in Alaska. I will also never forget standing near descendants of William Austin Burt as they looked at a section of a bearing tree scribed by him.

I have a lot of wonderful memories from the presentations and re-enactment. As long as some of the people, hopefully the young kids, remember something I said to them, then I have been successful. If you are approached by a teacher, a friend, a Boy Scout leader, a member of the local Rotary or any other group

asking you to present surveying, jump at the opportunity. You don't have to be a polished public speaker, and don't let a fear of speaking stop you. I used to skip an Economics class in college because of my fear of being called on and being forced to talk in front of all those people. I don't think that fear of public speaking will ever go away, but the rewards far outweigh a few moments of being uncomfortable. By speaking to the public, we can enlighten them about our profession, and interest the next generation in a possible career as a surveyor. So, the next time you're approached, just say "Yes, I would be happy to talk about my profession." 🗣️

Saskatchewan Trade and Convention Centre  
Ramada Hotel  
Regina Downtown  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
May 23, 24, 25, 1996

SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION

86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Golf  
Dine & Dance  
Meet Old Friends  
Make New Acquaintances  
Business Meetings  
Exhibitors



# Biography

Johnston Lindsey Rowlett Parsons (1876 - 1935) D.L.S., O.L.S., S.L.S., B.A.Sc.

**J**ohnston Parsons, surveyor, engineer and soldier was appointed the first President of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association upon its inauguration in 1910. He continued in that capacity in 1911.

Mr. Parsons settled in Regina in 1904 and was with his brother Wellington Parsons in the firm "Parsons Construction and Engineering Company Limited". Their letterhead stated:

*"Contractors for all kinds of concrete construction, bridges, foundations, subways, buildings and pavement."*

They were housed in the Mickleborough Block at 1712 Scarth Street. Naming a few of their larger construction projects:

Broad Street Bridge, Broad Street and Albert Street Subways, Royal Bank Building of Canada, Connaught School, Leader Post Building, Regina Jail, McCallum Building.

Mr. Parsons, born in 1876, attended Harbord Collegiate in Toronto and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (with honors) from Toronto University in 1897. Not satisfied, he continued his education and graduated from the School of Practical Science in 1900. During the summer months he was engaged in geological surveys in northern Ontario and after graduation he was employed by the Algoma Commercial Company at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, until 1903 as a Geologist. During this time he acquired his Dominion Land Surveyors Commission and his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1905.

During the years 1903 to 1908, he worked on Dominion Land Surveys covering a multitude of township outlines and complete township subdivisions on the prairies. One of his reports to the Surveyor General in 1905, covered



Townships 5 to 8 in Ranges 19 to 21 West of the 2nd Meridian in the then North West Territory - the area is West of Weyburn, Saskatchewan. The report reads in part:

*"The Townships were reached by me from Goose Lake trail (Old Bone Trail) by traveling south along east outlines of townships 5 and 4 range 18."*

*Township 3 is crossed diagonally by the police trail running from Weyburn to the N.W.M.P. station at Wildman Butte on the international boundary and in good condition. The soil is rather light for farming. No timber occurs. Crystal, Alma and Wellington lakes are alkaline. No streams occur. No water-powers occur. No fuel occurs. Coal and wood for camp purposes were obtained at Yellowgrass. Only game is antelope, ducks and geese. Fresh water in hay marshes and sloughs."*

The area today appears to be basically big farms.

During this time he surveyed 1994 miles at a cost to the Federal Government of \$7.73 per mile. The following year he covered 1937 miles which amounted to a cost of \$7.83 per mile (we assume the cost of living went up by \$0.10 per mile). The 1937 miles included 1646 miles of subdivision, 129 miles of outline surveys and 162 miles of traverse.

Surety bonds were also required by the surveyor and it took the form of a bond between "The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore and His Majesty King Edward, represented by the Minister of Interior of Canada". The bond covered default of the contractor (Parsons) for \$5000 and the survey to be completed by 31 December 1905. The contract with the Surveyor General included in part:

- Section lines at \$3.50 per mile.
- Township outlines at a maximum of \$2.00 per mile.
- One dollar paid for every statutory declaration of a settler.
- An allowance paid for determination bearings.
- A maximum error of six minutes.

I surmise that the other costs to the government were made up by material, camp, labor and other costs associated with the field and office personnel. In one of Mr. Parsons' letters to the Deputy Minister of Interior he writes:

*"I may say further, that I have been obliged, in order to perform the survey economically to buy nine horses and six vehicles and this with the addition of a large camp outfit and instruments brings my expenditures up to nearly \$2500.00. Due to prairie fires I have to bring in team oats at \$0.50 per bushel, a distance of 25 miles - we use 100 pounds per day."*

Since he finished the field work in early August 1905 he applied and received more contracts to township surveys.

However, when he asked for more work on November 11, 1905, the reply from Surveyor General E. Deville read:

*"No further addition to contract can be made."*

I wonder if they didn't have any more work or ran over budget (at \$7.00 per mile) or would not believe Mr. Parsons could be that fast in running subdivision surveys on the prairie? He did receive further contracts in 1906 and again in 1908.

While attending Toronto University he became interested in the military and as a result joined the Queen's Own Rifles in 1898. Later he progressed to Captain in the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. His record of service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War was most outstanding. Embarked for England in April 1915 as a Major and went to France the same year. In 1916 he was appointed to Lieutenant Colonel.

After the war (1919) he was again active in his engineering company and other interests until his retirement in 1925. Prior to the war (1910) he married Minnie Weldon from Shediac, New Brunswick. They were blessed with two children, Alma Kathleen (married D. E. J. Bostwick of St. John, NB in 1936) and a son, Haliburton Parsons. When Mr. Parsons retired from his business in Regina he moved to the East coast. Then in 1931 he was appointed temporary Brigadier, as District Officer Commanding Military District Number 7. Due to ill health he retired, in 1935, to pension, medically unfit and granted Honorary rank of Brigadier. He died 10 March 1935 at Saint John, New Brunswick.

His Honors and Awards included the Distinguished Service Order, French Croix de Guerre, mentioned in dispatches several times and many other military appointments.

The first executive council of our association consisted of:

President	J. L. R. Parsons
Vice President	W. Reilly
Council	Garner and Moberly
Secretary Treasurer	M. B. Weekes

At that time the association had 19 members at a fee of \$5.00 per year.

Compiled by John H. Webb  
S.L.S. (L.M.); C.L.S.  
November, 1995