

President's Report 2016

We began the 2016 year with our usual Strategic Planning session. This year we attempted a fresh approach to this session with the intention of saving money by hiring a new facilitator. The event was not as successful as previous years, however there were a series of observations, issues and challenges brought forth by the team which did derive some priorities moving forward. Issues and challenges included the need for a revision to regulations, the erosion of professional boundaries, relations with stakeholders (especially public municipalities), branding, demographics, and the role of the AOLS.

The primary goal for 2016 was to remain fiscally responsible in light of anticipated future legal costs resulting from the Constitutional Challenge and Discipline proceedings. The secondary goal was to continue to provide strong AOLS support to our various committees and task forces and to try to bring closure to some of those continuously burning issues. The third goal was to provide an Annual General Meeting and venue to support our 125th anniversary (and Canada's 150th birthday) in the form of a marketing opportunity to raise attention to our profession.

Constitutional Challenge and Discipline Costs

In spite of the fact that these costs did not transpire this year, they remain a very real concern moving forward. I am pleased with the result our thrifty year and the support from the membership that indicates a fearless attitude to stand firm on our objectives.

Old AOLS Issues

There are a series of issues, which continue to burn within AOLS Council, Committees and Task Forces.

The question of how to approach the concern of “sketches vs. plans of survey” has resulted in very in-depth discussions and continues to be problematic in terms of shutting down grey areas while understanding that there may be a need for new less strict products to serve the public. The Standards Committee continues in their attempt to resolve this.

While our demographics remain a concern I feel that we are about to turn a corner in this regard. We are currently investigating the topic of “how many surveyors do we need to continue to perform our duties and protect the public?” We continue to see a large number of retirements, however the articling students and new commissions are also increasing. The concern I see moving forward is the 76% over 50. That represents 382 of the 505 members.

The results from our Certificate of Registration Task Force survey indicate that the life of this designation has some significant support from the membership. In my mind, this is positive news for the AOLS home and I hope the Task Force continues their hard work to investigate and develop a strong action plan to assist C of R's moving forward. This will involve hard work from the C of R community as well as the support from cadastral family members.

The province wide survey records index (PWSRI) survey monkey also acquired positive support from the membership and the task force continues to work towards its inception.

Council continues to discuss future changes to regulations. There are several areas of our legislation where changes should be considered. As we all know, these changes within government are not swift and therefore there is a need to provide a strong and thorough request. ODCC, PWSRI, the Constitutional Challenge and Copyright all potentially affect our legislation. While Council recognizes the need for changes we tread carefully to ensure we provide a complete request to the Government of Ontario.

The Geomatics Recruitment & Liaison Committee along with Public Awareness Committee have continued their great work on getting the message to schools and the public of our importance to the community and society itself, and the interesting and satisfying lifestyle of a surveyor. AERC has also continued its great work with reviewing applications and assisting students within the articling process.

The Continuing Education Committee continues their hard work in developing strong educational sessions for us all to improve our skill sets. The fact that our Complaints Committee files have substantially decreased is a strong indication that the system is working. For most of us we have completed the first of our three year term and I encourage everyone to keep on track and stay consistent within the program.

New AOLS Issues

This year a series of new issues were brought to the forefront, which are exciting;

Through discussions on legislation and regulation changes your Council Executive were introduced to a Government Relations specialist. This gentleman and his team assist organizations and companies with introductions to politicians, federally and provincially. It was felt that our first order of business required some acknowledgment to government of who we are and what we stand for. Talks have gone well and we hope to continue this intention in the upcoming year.

Council and various members within AOLS have been exploring/sniffing at the idea of attempting to establish a proper exclusive learning institution, similar to the former Erindale College. This exercise is in its infancy however the thought seemed to be around researching Universities outside the Greater Toronto Area.

Many members, throughout the year, have sent emails or talked with myself, or AOLS staff, on various topics and issues that I appreciated, and hopefully we responded to formally to all. Each message was taken seriously and in some instances generated positive ideas moving forward. It was brought forward at the 2016 AGM that we had \$50,000 in Visa charges. This year we have initiated a 3% credit card surcharge to offset those fees. In addition, we now offer the ability to pay “on-line”. Members brought up the exorbitant increase in Service Ontario service charges (Bulletin 2015-03) as well as the consideration to close various Service Ontario locations including three, which maintained Land Registry Offices. A letter was carefully prepared and submitted to Honorable Minister Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Government and Consumer Services voicing our concerns. The Ministry has reconsidered the closure of offices at this time. The issue of proper monumentation before signatures of the Surveyors Certificates has hopefully lead to a clear and concise understanding and AOLS policy regarding

statute law by the membership. The need for new innovative products to better serve the public while remaining consistent with our Acts and Regulations continues to be a frustration however the Standards Committee as well as our Legislation reform should be able to address this in future. Professional Surveyors Canada continues to vie for an AOLS “all in” membership to unify efforts on many levels. Collaboration is always good and I continue to encourage everyone to allow PSC to prove its benefits.

Marketing Opportunity

The celebration we experience this week is only the beginning to what I hope evolves into a massive marketing program for AOLS and hopefully our profession in general. Canada’s 150th year of Confederation, coupled with our 125th year as an Association, and our sharing The 2017 National Surveyors Conference with ACLS and OAGQ represents a huge backdrop for exposure nationally and internationally. Marketers are in place and only time will tell whether the upcoming year of promotion will result in a positive attraction of our profession. Regardless, I am very proud of the efforts and hard work that has gone into providing this event by all three organizations and our AGM Planning Committee.

Also within our year of initial marketing opportunities is the release of our new book “Great Lengths- A celebration of Surveyors in Ontario”. Our author Charlie Wilkins has provided an extremely fun and exciting read into our way of life. The story is intended to hit the high schools and libraries across Canada with the intention of educating and promoting our wonderful occupation. Thank you to everyone who contributed stories, pictures, time, and sponsorship.

I am pleased to say that your 2016 Council, Committees and Task Forces have assisted in at least moving all of these items and issues forward. None stood still for the entire year, and many have an opportunity for completion in the near future.

Across the Country

While travelling across the country there were all sorts of issues of interest brought to light.

- In BC, discussions were about centered on the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and support of land surveying accreditations to become a BCLS.
- In Alberta, talk focused on the introduction of the Hybrid Cadastre a coordinate only survey.
- In Saskatchewan, there was consideration to take a run at Teranet for copyright infringement.
- In Manitoba, the AGM produced 32 motions to update their Association By-Laws
- Quebec is considering a name change from arpenteur-géomètre” (land surveyor) to Géomètre Expert (land expert).
- The New Brunswick Association was considering moving under their province’s P.Eng umbrella to assist with administration
- Nova Scotia land surveyors have assisted their province to deny the Teranet model.
- Newfoundland has created a By-Law named Land Gazette, which is their first ever, land registry system.
- Prince Edward Island has administration woes for their less than a dozen active members.
- Professional Surveyors Canada is struggling with gaining the attention of Ontario and Quebec memberships for marketing funds.

- And ACLS continues to build its Geo-Ed learning portal and build on the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors.

Attending the provincial meetings, and brain storming each others Association issues, often brings a different perspective and provides alternative ideas to bring back to Council.

In closing I wish to say it has been an honor to serve as president. I want to thank Council, Blain Martin, Executive Director and his staff, and of course the membership for all of your tremendous support and enthusiasm over the course of the year.

Thank You

Murray Purcell, AOLS President 2016