

# The Ultimate Achievement



**A**s I sat down to write this article, I did a bit of soul searching to think about goals I have already achieved and my future goals.

In doing so, I have discovered that my previous efforts were leading me in the direction of an overarching goal.

At university, I got a Summer job on a government survey crew. I didn't know what my career would be and thus was attending university on a general program, hoping something would excite me. That Summer on the survey crew started the wheels rolling.

During the next Spring semester at the University of Victoria, I again signed up to work the survey crew. Late in the Summer, I was asked if I was returning to UVic or would I like to stay on with



*Chuck Salmon, BCLS, calculating a right of way adjacent to the BC Rail line near Alexandria, BC*

the survey crew. I opted for the latter and knew it would be my career. My first real goal had been set. I wanted to be a BC land surveyor.

Over the next few years, I worked diligently to achieve my goal. And I got married, had two wonderful children, and found the timeline for achieving my goal had slipped a bit. I also was developing family goals and outside interests.

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In the Spring of 1976, I qualified as a BC land surveyor . . . a BCLS.

Working for the government on the survey crew, we travelled all over the province, often surveying in very remote areas. That's when I first saw the Surveyor General and started to develop a new goal. One day, I would serve the Province of British Columbia in that position.

Over the years, government went through many changes. By the mid-to-late 1980s, we were no longer doing as many surveys and found ourselves managing survey contracts, issuing survey instructions, and approving the

many applications submitted to the Surveyor General.

I had not lost sight of my desire to be Surveyor General. In 1992 I won a competition to manage a section within the government branch that had me working directly for the Surveyor General. One more step along the way.

My personal life experienced upheaval and my work helped me through those tough times. My personal goals changed somewhat but my career goals did not. By this time, I had had the pleasure of working for six Surveyors General and still held the idea that I wanted that responsibility.

I realized that goal in 1996.



*Chuck Salmon at a Technician posting at Meziadin Lake, BC*



Her Excellency Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo and The Honourable Michael de Jong presented Chuck with a gold watch for 35 years of service to the Province and People of British Columbia.

For the next 5 years, I served the province as Surveyor General through some lean years, when funding was severely cut back and government change dominated the work. In 2001 I knew my time in government was drawing to a close and I would be retiring. I didn't have any work-related goals but knew the Secretary of the current Association of BC Land Surveyors would be retiring that same year.

As a member of the Board of the Association, I understood there would be changes and that the position of Secretary would be part-time. I thought it would be a great fit for me. It would keep me in touch with my fellow surveyors—and the many other people with whom I had worked closely over the years—and provide me with time to do other things with my life.

I was appointed Secretary in 2002 and have filled that position to date.

Do I have more goals for my career? I no longer have career aspirations but I definitely have goals.



Chuck's Dad, a member of the BP Guild and Scouting; son Dan receiving his Chief Scout's Award, and Chuck, Regional Scouting Commissioner for Greater Victoria



By a statue of Lord Robert Baden Powell of Gilwell, founder of Scouting, at Gilwell Park in London, England

Everything I do today is aimed at

- having the Association of BC Land Surveyors efficiently and effectively serve the public, government, and its members, and
- ensuring there are enough members to meet the needs of British Columbians.

Although that's a tall order, each step I take along the way works to accomplish that end.

Throughout my life, I have volunteered with a number of organizations but my 30 years as an adult volunteer with scouting have shaped my strongest allegiance. In my scouting life, I am Assistant Deputy Executive Commissioner for Recognition, National Council—responsible for ensuring that all adult volunteers across Canada are recognized where appreciation is deserved.

I want to ensure that

- the Councils across Canada are aware of and trained in the formal recognition processes available through Scouts Canada, and
- all deserving scouters are recognized at the appropriate level in a timely manner.

Again, each step completes one small part of the whole.

I have also worked hard on behalf of the square dance club to which I belong and the square dance movement within Victoria and the province for the past 25 years.

As for my family goals, I believe they can be simplified this way: I want to be the best husband, father, and



Daughter Denise, grandson Nathan, Santa Chuck, and granddaughter Shae-Lynn

grandfather I can be. Simple, but effective.

I now realize that my career goals and personal goals all have been part of a much bigger picture that I really couldn't put my finger on till now. I have come to know I have a much larger goal in this life—to leave this world a better place.

My parents left me with a life ethic for helping others. My father led by example, showing me that if you care for family and friends and you help others, you will be making a difference.

Without knowing it as I went along, through working toward the accomplishment of my individual goals, I am fulfilling my ultimate goal in life. ▲

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Chuck's Dad Phil, the year he served as Commodore of the Capital City Yacht Club 1956