



Mentoring in the BC Land Surveying Profession

In the complex, ever-changing technological world of the 21st century, a simple process that has been around for centuries is still viable, and is used every day. Being a mentor or mentoring is an art that many individuals find easy to perform; others struggle with the concept.

Within the land surveying profession, mentoring begins at the early stages of education and continues throughout our entire professional career. As students enter the stream of learning land surveying, they enter into “Articles of Agreement” with a professional land surveyor with a minimum of three years’ experience as a BC Land Surveyor (BCLS). Students serve these Articles for up to two years, or until the professional to whom they are articed considers they have the knowledge necessary to write the professional examinations. This period of Articles really becomes on-the-job training and mentoring by the professional.

Mentoring continues after a land surveyor-in-training completes the professional exams and becomes a land surveyor. There is always more to learn; this learning is generally obtained through discussion with peers and other knowledgeable professionals working closely with the young land surveyor. Occasionally the profession recognizes that a person may require some guidance

in a certain area of practice, at which time a professional with experience in that area is asked to work with the land surveyor.

A person who has served as a mentor many times over is Gordon Thomson, immediate past Secretary to the Corporation of Land Surveyors. A BCLS for 40 years, he was recently awarded life membership in the profession. In his 22 years in private practice, Gordon articed seven students. Four went on to become British Columbia land surveyors.

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Training an articed student takes many hours of patience; the master teaches the pupil about surveying and the operation of a business. Although this process starts with teaching, it soon becomes a mentoring process as the individual pupil gains experience.

After becoming Secretary in 1984, Gordon worked with the many professional land surveyors elected to the Board of Management. Each newly elected member of the Board would be given a

package of information by Gordon, who would work with the member for three or four months to educate the individual on Board policies and procedures, and issues or items on which the Board was currently working. This experiential training or mentoring prepared the new Board member for service to the profession, and helped the person become oriented to all happenings within the profession.

Traditionally, Board members are re-elected each year until they complete a full five-year elected term. In their fourth year, they have traditionally been elected Vice President and, in their fifth year, President.

Few of the Vice President’s responsibilities require a mentor but the duties of the position of President require some training and guidance. Each year Gordon Thomson has taken the new President under his wing and provided guidance in the day-to-day activities. He has provided assistance in the preparation of the agenda for Board meetings and the podium packages for the Annual General Meetings. And he has always been available at the end of the telephone line. For 18 years, Gordon provided mentoring for each President, each new Board member, and many land surveyors who required general or specific advice in surveying.

Another of Gordon's duties was to provide guidance to students and land surveyors-in-training in the process of becoming a professional land surveyor. Each student in turn has turned to Gordon to gain insight into the difficult task of working through the professional examination process. Not only has Gordon provided help, he has interviewed each student as he or she came forward to sit the Oral portion of the exam; he provided guidance, calmed nerves, and eased students into the interview process. At times, candidates may be overwhelmed at meeting the Oral Panel. Gordon's technique has assisted many land surveyors-in-training to present themselves professionally and to consider the panel their peers.

It may be difficult to gauge the total impact a person like Gordon has provided to the members of the Corporation of Land Surveyors and to the students, but each person who has required that special guidance remembers the source of that mentoring. At our AGM in February 2003 in Kelowna, the membership celebrated Gordon's contribution and recognized him with its most prestigious reward: Life Membership.

Gordon Thomson deserves this recognition; it has been a pleasure working with him over the years.

Mentoring is a skill not easily learned or practised; people who have it and use it wisely are a blessing. Those who receive mentoring know the wonderful feeling of knowing that the advice they seek is readily available. Those seeking advice believe they are getting help when truly, they are the recipients of sound mentoring. ▲

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NOTICE TO NOTARIES PUBLIC

Hospitals Foundation of BC

Notice of Dissolution

Effective December 31, 2002, the Hospitals Foundation of BC ("HFBC") was wound up and dissolved. Since the reasons for which the HFBC was originally created no longer exist it was determined that the continuation of the HFBC was unnecessary. The transition provisions of the legislation winding-up the HFBC preserve all existing gifts to the HFBC by transferring them directly to the respective designated beneficiary Hospitals or foundation(s). Similarly, any gifts to the HFBC that have not yet matured are deemed, by the winding-up legislation, to be designations for the benefit of the specific beneficiary Hospital(s) or foundation(s). For any gift made to the HFBC by a client of yours, there is no need to do anything as a result of this change in the legislation and the gift will flow directly to the Hospital(s) or foundation(s) chosen by your client. Future gifts for the benefit of Hospitals or Hospital Foundations should be directed to the named beneficiary. The winding up legislation can be reviewed at Section 36, and Sections 73 to 76 of the *Deregulation Statutes Amendment Act* (No. 2), 2002, found at http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th3rd/3rd_read/gov35-3.htm.