



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SURVEYING
The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards**

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors is proud to announce the winners of the tenth annual David Thompson Awards! The awards were presented during the National Surveyors' Conference in Victoria, BC on March 27th, 2018.

Celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics in Canada, the David Thompson National Geomatics Award was introduced in the winter of 2006-2007. The program was developed to recognize projects that exemplify the innovation and contribution to society that surveyors make every day to bring successful projects about for the betterment of all Canadians. The program has the two following categories:

- Challenging Cadastral Survey Project
- Challenging Non Cadastral Survey Project

Challenging Cadastral Survey Project

In the category *Challenging Cadastral Survey Project*, the winner was Paul Burbidge (pictured right receiving the award from past ACLS president, Tania Bigstone) of Inukshuk Geomatics Inc. for the project entitled: "Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Northwest Territories-Inukshuk Geomatics Inc.". *Inukshuk Geomatics* provided survey and geomatics support including the original ground survey for the highway's design; identifying routes to gravel pits and measuring the amount of gravel taken; guiding all aspects of the construction; undertaking the largest legal land survey done on Canada Lands in 2017; and the final as-built survey.

The job took four+ years. Even up to a couple of weeks before the official opening of the highway on November 15, 2017, surveyors were measuring the final as-built location.

The runner up for this award was Mike Thomson of Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia for the project entitled: "Surveyor General Leads Development of ParcelMap BC"



Challenging Non Cadastral Survey Project



In the category *Challenging Non Cadastral Survey Project*, the winner was Chris El-Araj (Thael Hill picture left accepting the award on El-Araj's behalf) of Underhill & Underhill for the project entitled: "The George Massey Tunnel Automated Monitoring Project".

In early 2016, five large bridge piles (2 metre diameter and over 60 metres long) were to be installed directly adjacent to the south portal of the George Massey Tunnel (GMT) as part of an Geotechnical Test Pile Engineering study. The GMT is located in greater Vancouver, British Columbia, on Highway 99 passing under the South Arm of the Fraser River, between Delta and Richmond. Due to the public safety concerns on one of the busiest roadways in Western Canada the approach and tunnel structure was to be monitored in real time using a fully automated total station system with a maximum time span of 2 minutes between each set of measurements on each of the +/-40 prisms, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, for the project duration. Five precise total stations were required to meet the 2 minute threshold. Additionally, a precise control network was required, to meet the project accuracy requirement of +/-3mm at a 95% confidence level.

Runners up for this award were Rob Riecken of McElhanney Associates Land Surveying Ltd. for the project entitled: "Engineering Survey of the Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch" and Ian Edwards of Edwards & Associates Ltd. for the project entitled: "Survey Challenges Related to Installation and Integration of Topside Modules Hebron Offshore Platform".

The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program is open to all commissioned surveyors who are members of a Canadian surveying association, submitting projects that have been completed within the last three years. The deadline for submissions is March 18, 2019.



The ACLS is a national self-regulating professional association that is the licensing body for professionals surveying in the three Canadian territories, in the Federal parks, on Aboriginal reserves, as well as on and under the surface of Canada's oceans. It has over 600 members located across Canada (and the world), with expertise in surveying, photogrammetry, remote sensing, geodesy, hydrography and land information systems. For details, please visit: www.acls-aatc.ca

For more details on the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program, please visit: <http://davidthompsonawards.ca/home/>

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