



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Canada are proud to announce the winners of the eighth annual David Thompson Awards! The awards were presented during the National Surveyors' Conference in Winnipeg on May 14, 2015.

The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards are presented for excellence in the profession of surveying in three categories:

- *“Innovation in Geomatics”* recognizes a project that involved the most innovation, such as using never or seldom used technology to solve a survey problem.
- *“Contribution to Society”* recognizes a project that has the most positive impact on society, such as important involvement in new infrastructure in Third World countries, major contribution in cases of natural disasters, or technological transfer or capacity building in less fortunate communities. (No entries this year)
- *“Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying”* recognizes a project that applied cadastral surveying methods and technology to solve the most challenging technical problem.

Innovation in Geomatics



In the category *Innovation in Geomatics*, the winner was Dave Gurnsey from Altus Geomatics LP for the project entitled “Altus Adventurer – Sonar Jet Boat”. Due to concern for safety when surveying waterbodies by boat, Altus Geomatics developed a remotely-controlled sonar jet boat purpose-designed for waterbody surveys. This sonar jet boat is able to be controlled by an on-shore operator from up to 76 metres away and is powerful enough to withstand extreme weather and water conditions, including powerful currents. It is

designed to work independently without the need of a chase boat and for ease of use assembling, operating, and transporting.

Runner up for this award was Leighton Greenstein from Altus Geomatics LP for “Data Integrity App”, developing an app for pipeline construction projects where survey field crews could collect and query vast amounts of data about pipes, welds, foreign crossings, and other systems. Also runner up for this award was Peter Mueller from the City of Surrey for “Creation of a Road Tenure Layer in a Municipal GIS”, a project to create a GIS map that held detailed information on all individual road parcels in the city of Surrey.

Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying



Douglas Dodge, left, and Varick Ollerhead, right, holding their David Thompson Award plaques

In the category *Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying*, the winners were Douglas Dodge from Exton and Dodge for the project entitled “Survey of Lots 4 to 149, Nesuch IR3 and Lots 1 to 35, Mount Currie IR 8, BC” and Varick Ollerhead from Ollerhead and Associates for the project entitled “Winter Survey of NU/NWT Border”. Both are pictured left with their awards.

“Survey of Lots 4 to 149, Nesuch IR3 and Lots 1 to 35, Mount Currie IR 8, BC” meant that Douglas Dodge had to survey a contentious portion of land to resolve the issue between the province of British Columbia and the Lil’wat Nation. Research revealed that a previous survey done in 1949 had been mathematically incorrect and resulted in all subsequent plans being unreliable. Using aerial photography from 1946 and 1950, he and his team were able to recreate the physical evidence at the time of the survey and resolve the original error.

Varick Ollerhead’s project “Winter Survey of NU/NWT Border” (shown right) focused on the logistical challenges of surveying and placing monuments along a stretch of 329kms of the Nunavut/Northwest Territories border in weather of -40°C. Pre-planning meant that his team was able to place up to 17 control points a day at pre-planned locations. Using the weather to his advantage, he created force centered control points by drilling holes, using water and 1 metre threaded rods which instantly froze in place..



A close runner up for this award was Joe Iles from the Challenger Geomatics for “Carcross Tagish First Nation Land Claim parcel R-12A – ‘Montana Mountain’”, a project that required the retracement of

23km of the British Yukon Railway Company R/W which needed careful research to discover lost or damage monuments.

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) introduced the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program in cooperation with all professional surveying associations across Canada through Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC).

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 Thursday, March 31, 2016.



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

Professional Surveyors Canada is conceived, developed, and run by Canadian surveyors, and is dedicated to building and enabling a strong multi-faceted community of surveying professionals committed to exceeding expectations. <http://www.psc-gpc.ca>

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

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