


Guest Editorial – Empire State Surveyors President’s Column

By Patricia P. Brooks, President, New York Association of Professional Land Surveyors

What a winter this has been! Luckily I was able to punctuate the cold and snow with visits to State Annual Conferences in Connecticut and New Hampshire, and as I write this column I am enjoying the hospitality of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors at their annual conference in London, Ontario. Of course, the highlight of the winter was our very own NYSAPLS Conference held at Turning Stone in Verona, New York. I am sure all attendees will agree that the Conference Committee and Education Committee once again produced a superb program for all. It was equally rewarding to have the opportunity to network with so many colleagues, to discuss areas of mutual concern and hear about issues I have not yet encountered.

A common thread in many of these discussions has been emerging technology. How did we live without it, and now more frequently, how do we deal with it? I spoke with one surveyor who brought to my attention a solicitation he received from a company based in India, offering to provide a wide range of mapping and GIS services “at a highly competitive rate of 8 to 16 USD per hour”. We must be careful to not let the abilities of technology erode our profes-

sionalism. One way we can ensure that is by embracing these technologies ourselves and making them part of our business model.

We all acknowledge that the face of the surveyor is changing through societal demands, and we must seize the opportunity to be proactive in painting the fabric of that change. How are we doing that? The October 2010 issue of the Professional Surveyor Magazine had an excellent article about national land parcel data, and I fully intend to read the recommended book. Yesterday, the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors unanimously voted to establish a task force to investigate the steps required to move forward with the establishment of a digital cadastral system for the Province of Ontario. Where are we in achieving these goals? One of the initiatives of our Strategic Plan, adopted in July of 2009, was to provide the general public, municipal entities, and other professionals with a proper understanding of our profession. I propose that over the next few months we need to have a discussion amongst ourselves, and review our strategic plan to be sure it is still aligned with the goals and objectives of our association, as well as our profession. 

Calendar of Events

May 1 to 5, 2011

ASPRS 2011 Annual Conference
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
www.asprs.org

May 18 to 22, 2011

FIG Working Week & XXXIV General Assembly
“Bridging the Gap Between Cultures”
Marrakech, Morocco
www.fig.net/fig2011

June 21 to 24, 2011

7th National Surveyors Conference
“Exploring North!”
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
www.acls-aatc.ca/en/node/69

July 3 to 8, 2011

25th International Cartographic Conference
Paris, France
www.icc2011.fr

July 7 to 12, 2011

Survey Summit
ESRI/ACSM
San Diego, California
www.thesurveysummit.com

August 23 to 25, 2011

Digital Earth (ISDE7)
ESRI/ACSM
Perth Australia
www.isde7.net