

A Man Of Letters

BY BRYAN DAVIES

Do any of the following groups of letters mean anything to you?

OLS
CLS
ALS and
DLS.

For the learned there are

BS
MS
PhD and
QED.

Or perhaps for the more technically minded

HOT
DOT
BIT
CRT and
PRT.

We also have

CAD and his brother CAM
GEM
LEM
BEM and
IBM with its children JR, PC, XT and AT.

Not to mention

BC
EC
AC
DC
QC and
CC (and CC and 7 for the socially minded).

And the ever popular

COGO
COSINE
MANOR
POLARIS
TOPOS and
SURVCHK (a slovak who toils in the Ottawa Valley).

If you have become familiar with all of the above how about

GPS???

If not, you had better come to grips with this one.

The Geographic Positioning System may be the greatest boon to the surveyor since thermal underwear or may be

come a synonym for that rather final collection of letters

OLS - RIP

In this time of regeneration and new beginnings we must recognize the value of GPS and apply it to our way of life and not become assimilated into the world of "High Tech at all costs". We are professionals, although there is a lot of technician in all of us, and the fundamental task of the professional surveyor is to take the evidence collected in the field, analyse it and then make a qualitative opinion as to the position of the boundary.

I am not in any way an expert on GPS although I intend to learn what I can but it is obvious that the positional accuracy of the data collected is improving every year. Claims are impressive and the number of papers on GPS written for technical journals seem to far outnumber any other topic.

We surveyors need to discover applications for this technology and in the future series of seminars and workshops planned for the OLS it is hoped that GPS will be found to be AOK for Y-O-U and M-E. ●