

# “MISCLOSURES” NEWSLETTER



Website: [www.lsjaj.com](http://www.lsjaj.com)

## THE FUTURE OF LAND SURVEYING IN JAMAICA



**Christopher Grant**, Vice President, LSAJ  
Chairman, Education Committee

Land Surveying is reputed to be the world's second oldest professional practice and the oldest in Jamaica, preceding other well established professions including Law and Medicine.

The Land Surveyors' Association of Jamaica (LSAJ); the only established co-operative for Land Surveyors came into existence on September 18, 1928. The Association is guided by these five (5) main objectives which were outlined at inception;

- To support and protect the character, status and interest of the profession of Land Surveying generally and in particular the Land Surveyors practicing in the island of Jamaica.
- To promote honourable practice, to repress malpractice, to settle disputed points of practice and to decide all questions of professional usage or courtesy between and amongst Land Surveyors in Jamaica.
- To consider all questions affecting the interests of the profession, to initiate and watch over general measures affecting the profession and if necessary petition the Government and Legislature of Jamaica and other persons and

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— October 26



06-11 MAY 2018  
EMBRACING OUR SMART WORLD  
WHERE THE CONTINENTS CONNECT:  
ENHANCING THE GEOSPATIAL  
MATURITY OF SOCIETIES



# From The Editor's Desk



Andre St. Aubyn Gordon M.B.A., CLS

**Colleagues,** welcome to this quarter's issue of the Misclosures.

I hope everyone had a **Happy and Holy Easter** and is now fully recovered from the festivals of debauchery. Sadly, I did not partake as much this year.

However, rest assured, I will ensure not to make that mistake 2 years running.

Colleagues, there seem to be a chronic shortage of Land Surveying Technicians available to Land Surveying Firms. On the other hand, construction & engineering projects do not seem to be suffering the same fate. There are questions to be answered.

1. Is it that the government's promise of prosperity is coming to fruition and we have not caught up
2. Is it that the Universities are not producing enough surveyors to satisfy both industries
3. Is it that the prospect of becoming a Commissioned Land Surveyor is no longer appealing

I posit that youngsters leaving the surveying training institutions are no longer interested in the "long and arduous" journey of becoming a "professional" and are opting instead to chase the "frivolity" of construction and engineering surveying and the immediate cash it brings.

Lets be honest, we cannot compete with these mega-projects and the salary packages on offer to the youngsters. Instead, we

will have to appeal to those youngsters who are willing to play the long game. Those that willing endure the lean times in order to reap the "bounties" are they are "sure" to receive having arrived at the promised land of being a Commissioned Land Surveyor.

Those are our people. We have to find them. We have to nurture them.

## **www.lsj.com**

The website up. It needs a bit of tweaking and we have trained our Administrative Assistant to do same. Additionally, continue to like and share our LSAJ Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/LandSurveyorsAssociationOfJamaica](http://www.facebook.com/LandSurveyorsAssociationOfJamaica).

## **Land Surveyors' Foundation**

The Council has committed to exploring the formation of the Land Surveyors' Foundation. I think it is an excellent move and one that should be supported.

A Land Surveyors' Foundation would be an excellent way to market the profession and to get the average person to appreciate and understand the role of the Surveyor through the various projects that the Foundation would undertake and the volunteerism of the Surveyor.

Blessed love.

*Andre St. Aubyn Gordon, Newsletter Editor*

# The President's Notepad



**COLLEAGUES,  
members and  
friends;  
Its Spring again!!!**

The season of rejuvenation and new growth. The construction industry is continuing to im-

prove and most of our members seem to be very busy and have a fair amount of work. Let us endeavor to work smartly so that we can maximize the returns on our investments.

Recent changes have been made in the executive arm of the Government. It is my fervent hope that these changes work for the good of us all. Drastic security measures have been implemented in sections of the country and this has led to a decrease in the statistic for serious crimes. Now more than ever we need the previously called for "divine intervention" so that when these measures are lifted the so called "violence producers" will refrain for their usual ways. The idea of a successful and sustainable crime plan seems to be eluding us. We cannot dwell forever in a state of "enhanced security measures"

## **WHAT IF??**

The majority of surveyors in Jamaica conducted their businesses' in a manner which could facilitate retirement at the age of sixty-five or even better; early retirement.

If every one of us could afford to take four weeks' vacation each year.

I believe there would be an inadequate number of surveyors to serve the needs of the public. There seems to be a dis-connect somewhere along the path of graduating from a tertiary institution and entry to the profession. We owe it ourselves and pro-

fession to build and to maintain a decent and rewarding practice. Where are the graduates going? Many of us are short staffed.

On their part, the students of UTech Ja. have reached out to us with a view of initiating a mentorship program. Following up on their presentation to us at our annual general meeting, correspondence to the effect has been circulated. Let us play our part.

Our Prime Minister spoke about declaring areas for compulsory land registration in his budget presentation. As we await details of the proposal, we hope that these measures will be implemented in a manner that will benefit the nation.

## **90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

A committee has been convened to plan, implement and manage a week of celebration October 21-26, 2018. A range of activities commencing with a church service and culminating in a Gala dinner are being planned. As usual your ideas and input are needed to make it a successful event.

Past President Donald J. Marks was laid to rest on February 6, 2018. Mr. John R. Mais, Commissioned Land Surveyor, gave a tribute on behalf of the Association and the over one dozen surveyors who were in attendance mounted a guard of honour at the end of the proceedings. We wish his family, as well as the family of all our colleagues who have lost loved ones' comfort in their time of need.

There are several our colleagues who are ailing. Many of them are going through the rigors of the aging process. A kind word or a visit to them can be very comforting to them. Let us reach out to them. It's a natural progression and we too will get there.

Best wishes to all our families and support staff. We need them as much as they need us. May God continue to keep us safe.

God Bless

*Noel K. Brown, President.*

# THE FUTURE OF LAND SURVEYING IN JAMAICA

Continued from Pg. 1

bodies to promote deputations in relation thereto to procure any changes of law or practice and the promotion or improvement in the principles and methods of surveying.



Students at Denbigh High School's Career Day

- To encourage the study of Land Surveying at all levels of learning.
- For general advancement to promote information on surveying methods by such means as may be expedient.

This being our ninetieth (90<sup>th</sup>) year of the existence, it is an opportune time to reflect on the status of the Association and the profession, especially with respect to the core objectives outlined at the LSAJ's inception.

The number of Commissioned Land Surveyors practicing in Jamaica has grown from 17 in 1928 to a modest figure of approximately 102 in 2018.

The significant advances in technology facilitate expedience as

well as abuses of the principles of Land Surveying. Our activities are limited to the traditional areas of practice while our growing economy demands our expertise in various other areas currently being served by other entities limited in both qualification and competence.

Jamaica is populated predominantly by small Land Surveying firms, which are mostly "one Surveyor firms". This imposes significant limitations on the practices, resulting in many disadvantages, including; limited ability to undertake large projects, limited time available for improvement in knowledge and expertise, limited scope for engaging new entrants to engender continuity, limitations in achieving measurable efficiencies among others.

In the new global dispensation these little practices will become inapt. We have to aggressively embrace a culture of agility, adaptability and partnerships, thereby, transforming our little practices into significant entities to fulfil the demands for our services.

Jamaica's anticipated growth and development requires that we step outside of our traditional areas of focus. We must cultivate and robustly promote skills which are relevant to the expansion and development in areas such as infrastructure, off-shore drilling, logistics hubs, energy, telecommunications and agriculture, just to name a few.

We must seek to be an entity which facilitates the broader vision; one which includes a future that affords us the possibility and opportunity to grow personally, professionally and of course economically, while maintaining the core principles of Land Surveying.

We need everyone on board to usher the organization into its centennial as a strong, inclusive and futuristic organization, fulfilling the mandate outlined at its inception and expanding its scope to become a hallmark of innovation, influence and the epitome of dignity, integrity and professionalism.

# CAREER DAY AT DENBIGH HIGH SCHOOL



*Monique Walker , BSc (Hons.) SGIS*

As an employee of Christopher Grant and Associates, the privilege was given to me to speak to two 9th Grade classes at the Denbigh High School. As a proud past student of that institution, I was enthused to speak and demonstrate on the details and intricacies of my job.

or in the office.

Several plans of various types were presented to them and the students were excited to learn how they were created. Many were very interested about the salary that was associated with the job.



In arriving at the school, I was met with a familiar environment as memories of my very own career day flashed into mind, the only difference being that I'd be doing the presentation myself. Several

*"Mi know dem make a whole heep a money, so mi might do it."*

was a comment that was made by one student. I laughed at his remark, *"Yes that's good, but make sure that you're a big fan of mathematics, physics and hard work."* I responded with a smile and watched as the other children laughed. I explained that even though land surveying may be tedious at times, there were several things that aided in making the work a little less hard. The best thing being, it allows us to travel the entire Island. At the end of the presentation, I saw a few budding surveyors. I saw few children that may decide in the future to make Land Surveying their profession.

At the end of the career day I was very happy to have been included and that I was able to contribute and also learn from the other institutions that were present.



other institutions were in the process of setting up their own booth. It was then that I realized that our company was the only one of its kind and immediately felt a sense of pride that I would have been the only individual there to speak to these children about land surveying.

The day seemed to be a promising one. Throughout the two presentations I was pleased to see how excited the children were. I was able to convey to them the value and importance of my job, explaining to them what exactly was done on a day-to-day basis whether the surveyor was working in the field

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*"Ms. Monique Walker is a Student Land Surveyor with Christopher Grant and Associates in Mandeville, Manchester. She holds a Honours Degree in Land Surveying and Geographical Information Sciences from the University of Technology, Jamaica."*

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# THE LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA "CODE OF ETHICS"

The Land  
Surveyors  
Association  
of Jamaica



The Commissioned Land Surveyor's Practice is guided by the following tenets

1. Always acting with honesty and integrity, and within the law.
2. Meeting all your obligations to your clients, both contractual and implied.
3. Safeguarding client funds and other assets.
4. Always giving best advice.
5. Always acting in the best interest of your client as long as this is not contrary to public interest.
6. Ensuring that the risk of conflicting interests is minimized and, where such conflict does unavoidably arise, either taking action to ensure that it is eliminated or seeing that it only continues with the

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*"Not to advertise in a self-laudatory language or any other manner derogatory to the dignity of the profession."*

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approval of all concerned.

7. Safeguarding your client's confidentiality.
8. Declining to take personal advantage of confidential information.
9. Not accepting instructions when, in your professional judgment,

the client has no need of your professional services

10. Not accepting instructions when you are aware that the nature of the work involved is not within your competence.
11. Not issuing information to or concerning clients, fellow professionals or the public which is misleading or inaccurate.
12. Ensuring that your charges are fair and that the method of calculating them is open.

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*"Always acting with honesty and integrity and within the law."*

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13. Not to act for your client, or employer, in professional matters otherwise than as a faithful agent or trustee, or to accept any remuneration other than your stated recompense for services rendered.

14. Not to attempt to injure falsely or maliciously directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospect or business of anyone.

15. Not to attempt to supplant a fellow practitioner after definite steps have been taken towards his employment.

16. Not to compete with a fellow practitioner for employment by the use of unethical practices.

17. Not to review the work of a fellow practitioner for the same client, except with the knowledge of such practitioner unless the connection of such practitioner with the work has been terminated.

18. Not to advertise in self-laudatory language or any other manner derogatory to the dignity of the profession.

19. Not to attempt to practice in any professional field in which you are not proficient.

# COMPANION TO THE ‘CODE OF ETHICS’

## INTRODUCTION

The relationship between the surveyor and the public is a peculiarly sensitive one and depends upon the public's confidence in the profession. Since an individual has no means within his own knowledge of judging a surveyor's competence. He must rely upon the probity and the accuracy of the individual surveyor. A survey is a permanent record that affects all those who subsequently deal with the land, as well as all those dealing with land contiguous to the surveyed parcel, so that reliance must necessarily be placed on this survey by those who have had no opportunity of judging the man who made it. Thus orderly dealing with land demands that the public have confidence in the entire profession. This confidence can be maintained only if the profession as a whole enjoys the highest public reputation and this reputation can be justified only if each surveyor observes accurate standards in his practice and acts with complete responsibility towards his client, his fellow practitioners, and with regard to the public interest. This means he must do nothing which in any way takes advantage of his relative knowledge and his client's relative ignorance.

This Code of Ethics is published as a guide for the public and the profession and sets forth the Standards that the Surveyor is expected to observe in his practice. Any consistent or gross deviation from these standards may constitute professional misconduct.

Anyone who wished to complain of the conduct of any surveyor may write, setting out his complaint to:-

### **The Grievance and Complaints Committee**

*The Land Surveyors Association of Jamaica*  
P. O. Box 66  
Kingston 10

In cases of professional misconduct or gross negligence, the matter may be referred to:-

### **The Land Surveyors Disciplinary Committee**

**P.O. Box 66**  
**Kingston 10**

## PLEDGE

Every member pledges to carry out his professional responsibilities in a spirit of fairness to employees, fidelity to clients and employers, and devotion to the high ideals of courtesy, personal honour and public service.

## STANDARDS OF SURVEYING

Every member is expected to display the strictest probity in his practice as a surveyor and to perform his duties in accordance with the standards set out time to time by the Association, the Land Surveyors Law and regulations by other relevant Law ( and the regulations made there under) of Jamaica.

## THE SURVEYOR AND HIS CLIENT

In the course of his practice, the surveyor often has access to confidential information. Thus, it is important the client had confidence in his integrity as well as his accuracy, and the surveyor will be expected to observe the following standards in his dealings with his client:-

A Member shall act for each employer as a faithful agent or trustee. He shall regard as confidential any information which he obtained in any way as to the affairs of his client and he shall continue to so regard it after the termination of the relationship.

He shall have informed his client of any business connections, affiliations or interest which might influence his judgment or impair the disinterested quality of his services.

He shall not engage in anything in his practice which would conflict with his professional duties to his client.

## THE SURVEYOR AND HIS PRACTICE

Although accuracy is the most important quality to be maintained in the practice of surveying, each Member must also carry on his practice in such manner that the public will be assured of a uniform standard of conduct throughout the profession.

No Member shall knowingly issue any false or misleading plan or sketch or make any false or misleading statements in any certificate which he may give or be required to give in the discharge of his duties as a surveyor.

No member shall act as servant or agent of any person who is not duly qualified to practice as a Commissioned Land Surveyor so as to enable that unauthorized person to practice as a surveyor indirectly; but nothing contained in this sub-paragraph shall prohibit a Member from accepting employment as the surveyor for a person or corporation who does not as between him and the public engage in the practice of land surveying.

No Member shall solicit instructions for work in any manner whatsoever; provided that this rule shall not apply in the

# COMPANION TO THE 'CODE OF ETHICS'

case of a regular client unless the Member knew or ought to have known that the work in question had already been entrusted to another professional advisor.

No Member shall attempt to practice in any professional field in which he is not proficient.

Each Member shall co-operate to the best of his ability in building up the surveying profession by exchanging general information and experience with his fellow Members and especially Student Members and also contributing to the work of this Association.

He shall corporately accept a responsibility to the Government of the day and to the general public for advice and assistance in matters of this Association.

In order that the dignity of the profession may be maintained, each Member shall act with courtesy and good faith towards other members of the Association.

## **THE SURVEYOR AND HIS FELLOW SURVEYOR**

No Member shall use unethical means to obtain work for himself or to injure the prospects of any other surveyor to secure or hold employment, nor shall he by any method injure the reputation or business of another surveyor.

No Member shall continue any work upon which another Member has been engaged without informing that Member of his intention and he has ascertained that the connection of such member with the work has been properly terminated.

## **THE SURVEYOR IN PRACTICE**

The successful practice of surveying depends upon the personal reputation of the practitioner and in any form of group practice, care should be taken that each client knows or can easily ascertain the name of the individual with whom he is dealing

No Member of the Association shall enter into, or continue to practice in, a partnership as a surveyor save with another member of the Association.

The Firm or Corporation Body Name under which a Member practices shall consist of one or more surnames of the Principals or Director, either past or present, and may at the discretion of the member.

Include the Christian name of initials with the surnames used and /

or

Use one of the following additives "and Partner" and "Partners", "and Associate", "and Associates" or "and Co,"

In the choice of an additive, if any, the additive shall reflect the composition of the business.

Where existing firms group together in a co-operative organisation, any name selected shall be subject to approval by Council.

Where special circumstances exist, the Council has discretion.

The letterheads of a partnership shall contain the names and qualifications of all those associated with the partnership qualified

No Member of the Association shall join a corporation which practices professional land surveying unless the majority of each class of shares of the corporation is owned by and registered in the name of one or more members of the Association, or with the approval of the Council of the Association.

## **THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SURVEYOR**

Since each surveyor must depend ultimately upon his own reputation to attract clients, the only purpose to be served by advertising is to inform the public of names and location of each member and of special services offered.

Save as provided in paragraph (c) of this rule, no member of the Association shall advertise save by the use of publication of the usual professional card containing the name, address, telephone number and professional qualifications of the surveyor.

Lettering on office windows, office doors, on sign notice boards (and on vehicles) shall be sufficient or identification only without display.

Signs board on large survey projects shall be in two standard sizes, 12 inches by 36 inches or 18 inches by 54 inches. The surveyor's name and address or the name of his firm and the surveyor's seal shall be printed in green on a white background and his title or the title of his firm shall be printed in white on a brown background, such sign boards to in conformity with the models retained in the office of the Association.

Every Member may permit his name or the name of his firm to

# COMPANION TO THE ‘CODE OF ETHICS’

appear as the surveyor or firm of surveyors responsible for the design and survey of the sub-division of land on any notice distributed or erected by the sub-dividing owner whether or not such notice is for the purpose of advertising the dales of the lots in the sub-division.

Every Member is permitted to announce in any local newspaper or periodical for a period not exceeding three months the commencement of practice in any new place or the changing of his place of business or the entering into or dissolving of partnership or association of persons or, with the permission of Council, the offer or any special service.

Every Member may permit or request his name or the name of his firm to be listed in any telephone, business or trading directory and to pay all or any charges therefore at the current ruling rates, BOLD type listing may be used in the alphabetical section of the telephone directory but in any occupational classification uniform small type only may be used.

Where not specified members are requested to make all information and / or announcements modest.

The Scale of Fees approved by the Association offers an acceptable minimum charge for services.

No Members of the Association shall engage in competitive bidding for any work.

No Members of the Association shall pay a commission or offer or agree to divide his remuneration with any person except with a surveyor who has participated in the job. Provided however that a commission to our long accepted "Surveyors Agent" may be paid.

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*"No member of the Association shall make any fraudulent or exorbitant charge for his services or make any charges for his services which is apt to bring the profession into disrepute."*

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## **SURVEY FEES**

Although the Association has neither the desire nor the ability to control the fees charged by its members, it will not tolerate members manipulating fees in particular instances for their benefit or to the detriment of a fellow member of the public.

No member of the Association shall make any fraudulent or exorbitant charge for his services or make any charges for his services which is apt to bring the profession into disrepute.

## GEOMATICS @ UTECH

In this issue we depart from the customary reporting of current affairs to share with you an article produced by a group of our students. We hope you will find it interesting reading.

### **LiDaR vs. UAV – A comparative analysis**

**Maravin AUGUSTE, Kristen BROWN and Akeem WALKER**  
University of Technology, Jamaica

### **Abstract**

In this paper we attempt to describe the procedures involved in executing digital topographical mapping using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDaR) technology and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). A comparison of the two systems on the basis of time, cost and accuracy is also presented.

# NATIONAL LAND AGENCY NEWS



## NATIONAL LAND AGENCY ROAD SHOWS

The National Land Agency (NLA) continued its provision of public education to persons about the land registration process, and other land related matters through its annual Road Shows. The event also aims to offer guidance to Jamaicans, particularly those residing in the rural areas, who may not have access to the service/information otherwise.

For the 2017/2018 period, the Agency hosted a total of six (6) Road Shows across the island for the period February to March 2018. The event gave the NLA the opportunity to interact with its customers and members of the public through the promotion of its products and services, as well as an opportunity for staff to interface with the communities visited.

The NLA during the period February 21-March 28, 2018 visited the following areas:

### Crown Lands

Land Settlement queries;  
Availability of Government lands.

### Land Titles

First Registration;  
Lost Titles Application;  
Notation of Death, etc.

### Land Valuation

Transfers on the Land Valuation Roll;  
Correction of Errors, etc.

### Online Products and Services

eLandjamaica;  
iMapjamaica, etc.

The success of the Road Shows is also credited to the valuable

Region	Location	Date
Western	Haughton Grove, Hanover	February 21, 2018
Southern (Central)	Hounslow, St. Elizabeth	February 28, 2018
South Eastern	Guava Ridge, St. Andrew	March 7, 2018
	Kintyre, St. Andrew	March 15, 2018
	Golden Spring, St. Andrew	March 21, 2018
North Eastern	Gayle, St. Mary	March 28, 2018

The NLA, through its partnership with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), utilized its presence at RADA's Open Day on March 21, 2018 in Folly, Portland, to assist persons at the event with land related queries. The team at the event included representatives from the Agency's: Estate Management, Corporate Legal Services, Land Titles and Land Valuation Divisions. The team assisted persons who had land settlement and related matters, as well as general land queries in Portland and surrounding areas.

The National Land Agency is heartened by the continued success of its annual Road Show series, as it allows persons to receive information free of charge. Issues addressed at the sessions primarily include:

partnership of stakeholders who continuously help to strengthen the event, making it an all-inclusive experience for patrons. For the 2017/2018 period the Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP), which is now integrated with the National Land Agency, was in attendance. Also present were: Geoland Title Limited, National Housing Trust (NHT), Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), Administrator General's Department (AGD), and the Registrar General's Department (RGD). Community support was also strong, as several local bodies made their contribution through the facilitation of their conveniences as venues for the Road Shows.