



BC's LANDS

Update



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Featuring News From the Lands Sector of B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

There's a lot to brag about in this month's issue. Nominations for the 2nd annual Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards are out, and our ministry has been nominated in two categories.

The Crown Land Administration Division's Contaminated Sites Policy Framework Team has been nominated in the Innovation category. The team is being recognized for developing a new risk-based approach to managing provincial contaminated sites. The innovative framework prioritizes provincial action and can be applied in other areas where government manages legal, financial, public safety and environmental liabilities.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau has been nominated in the Cross Government Integration category for FrontCounter BC. FrontCounter BC provides clients with a single point of contact to access

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ILMB Wins Prestigious Solid Ground Award

West Coast Soaring Club member Barry Mansfield flies high above Mt. Woodside, one of the four flying sites where ILMB has helped the Club secure a license of occupation. *Photo Credit: Nicole McLearn*

What's in a Geographical Name?

Every day we use geographical names as a frame of reference for the events that shape our lives. Can you imagine undertaking land-use planning activities, arranging a weekend fishing trip with friends, or even discussing the evening news without using geographical names?

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands is responsible for approving the names of geographical features, and delegates this responsibility to the Geographical Names Unit.

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provincial natural resource authorizations. This program is part of government's plan to deliver services when and where they are needed.

Nominations are now being reviewed by adjudicators. We'll find out if we make it to the finals later this month.

ILMB staff in the Coast region are soaring to great heights of customer excellence. They have been singled out by the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada for the prestigious "Solid Ground Award." The West Coast Soaring Club put forward the nomination based on all the good work the Bureau has done to help the group secure licenses of occupation for hang gliding and paragliding flying sites.

Over the past couple of years, the club has obtained four licenses of occupation which help protect flying sites. The sites include: Mount Woodside, Lower and Upper Bridal, and Mackenzie (Pemberton). About half of all paragliding and hang gliding flights in B.C. originate at one of these sites annually.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands

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Geographical names are more than just labels on maps and road signs. They reflect the natural and cultural heritage of an area, and form indispensable reference points on the landscape. Traditional food and resource gathering sites all have names, as do ancient village sites and important places along trails and transportation routes. Often, knowing what a name means uncovers aspects of historic land use or occupancy that might otherwise be unknown to visitors and forgotten by future generations.

Researching and recording traditional and other names through the Geographical Names Office, and returning them to a 'visible' place on the modern landscape and on maps, is an important component of maintaining British Columbia's heritage and a cornerstone of our commitment to respecting the values and traditions of First Nations.

Real-Time GPS Service Goes Public

After four years of hard work by Base Mapping and Geomatic Services' staff, the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Real-Time Global Positioning System service has been launched. The project's success is the result of excellent teamwork and solid collaboration with partners from the four levels of government, including the 21 municipalities and one electoral area in the GVRD, the Province and the federal government.

The service improves on typical GPS accuracy from about 10 metres, to just centimetres. The satellite-based positioning system can pinpoint a user's position while they are out in the field immediately, saving time and productivity. Instead of having to go back to the office to complete survey calculations, the information is instantly delivered to the user's hand-held PCS device.

The service will be used in a number of different applications including construction, surveying, engineering works, GIS mapping, dredging and asset management. The GVRD Real-Time GPS Service is one of very few comprehensive geo-spatial reference systems in Canada and is seamlessly integrated into the provincial survey control system.

Visit the Base Mapping and Geomatic Services Branch online for more information about real-time global positioning and geographical names.