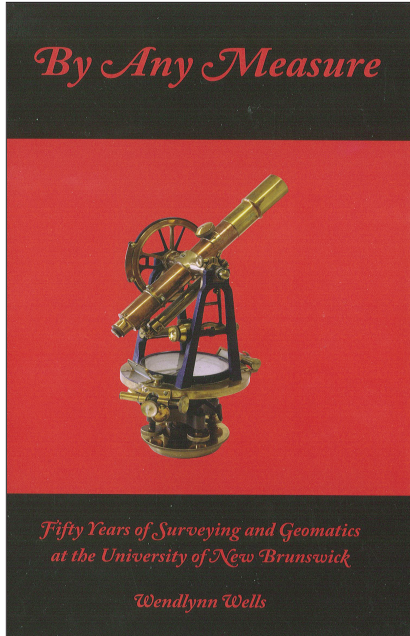


BOOK REVIEWS

Gerald McGrath



By Any Measure, Fifty Years of Surveying and Geomatics at the University of New Brunswick, by Wendlynn Wells, 2010, Copies can be obtained from: University of New Brunswick Bookstore, Printed in Fredericton, N.B. Taylor Printing Group Inc., ISBN: 1-155131-143-7; 978-1-155131-143-2, 272p., \$35.

This book presents in a skilful way the formation, development and achievements of the Surveying Engineering / Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) from its inception to the mature age of fifty. Beginning as part of the Civil Engineering Department, it achieved in 1965 independent status as a Surveying Engineering Department, and on July 1, 1994 changed to the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering (GGE) Department. It was the first Surveying Engineering Department in North America at university level, which provided a comprehensive, integrated education in the broad field

of Surveying Science and Engineering that included geodesy, traditional surveying, photogrammetry, remote sensing, engineering and mining surveying, land information and hydrography, all that is now defined as Geomatics. The integration of the “old” and the “new” in surveying, timely response to the demands of the information society and an impressive, multidisciplinary research programme that made some international dent, are illustrated in the pages of this book. These efforts established the Department as a leading world-class centre for Geospatial Information Science and Technology.

The format of this book is unlike a standard history. It has many authors. Most of the “stories” are written by former students and staff members, and come from newspapers, magazines, journals and research reports. It could be compared to a choir of many different voices skilfully conducted by Wendlynn Wells. Some duplications are unavoidable in such a format and initially evoke critical reaction; but on reflection your reviewer has come to appreciate them because they have given different perspectives on the same events, research projects and personalities.

The book comprises a preface, six chapters and Curriculum. The six chapters are Out from the “heavy hand” of Civil Engineering, Memories of the 1960s; Expansion and Solidification, Memories of the 1970s; Innovation and Inspiration, Memories of the 1980s; Riding the Wave of Success Memories of the 1990s; The Millennium Decade, Memories of the 2000s; and Yesterday Today and Tomorrow.

The perseverance in the efforts of visionaries such as Gottfried Konecny, Willis Roberts, Sam Gamble and others to establish a Surveying Engineering Department at UNB is illustrated; and the formation, development and impressive achievements of the GGE Department under the leadership of Konecny, Hamilton, McLaughlin (who later became

President of UNB), Coleman and their successors are described. The hosting of national and international conferences, and research projects in areas such as geodesy, GPS, land information, digital mapping, remote sensing and ocean mapping, reflect the interdisciplinary spectrum of the activities of the GGE Department.

The establishment of the Chair of Ocean Mapping has put the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering at the international forefront in this field. The staff of GGE Department participated in international geomatics projects sponsored by CIDA in places such as the former Soviet Union, Malawi, Brazil and Peru as well as in the UNB-Waha University exchange programme.

The Department is accredited by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors, and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and has academic accreditation from the International Hydrographic Organization.

Although not specifically articulated, the enormous positive influence of the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department of UNB on the Canadian Geomatics community at all levels of government and industry can be clearly gleaned from the pages of this book.

This book will be of interest to all involved in Geomatics, particularly to those who are in the process of, or are planning to set up, a Geomatics Engineering Department at a university or a college.

GEORGE J.M. ZARZYCKI