

With Bazett's photo mapping, legal surveying just got a lot more precise

Equipped with aircraft, gps and Hasselblad camera, a North Island innovator flies in Cook's wake

BY GERI SERA
Staff writer

Two centuries ago, the simple sextants, magnetic compasses and chronometers of David Thompson, Lewis and Clark and Captain Cook were enough to lay the framework for European settlement of western North America.

Today's pace, density and monetary value of settlement and development all

vices," Bazett says, explaining the award.

The "digital photoplan" (a term Bazett has coined) provided site plans of each of the corporation's terminals along 800 kilometres of coastline, showing all the upland and marine facilities in relation to property boundaries. The point was to facilitate the transfer of land and facilities from the province to BC Ferries.

"We applied a combina-

Ministry of Transportation and Highways, as well as control surveys for Geomatics Canada for Bella Coola and Bella Bella Reserves.

The combination of photos and GPS tools means his firm can map the position of a fish farm in a marine environment, offer materials for small harbour or marina redesigns that allow planners to actually see small craft, docks, buildings, etc. laid out within the legal

the "complexities" of work at Klemtu where the Band is preparing to replace a hydro power system, or Tofino where he's helped to map the area to set up new water storage.

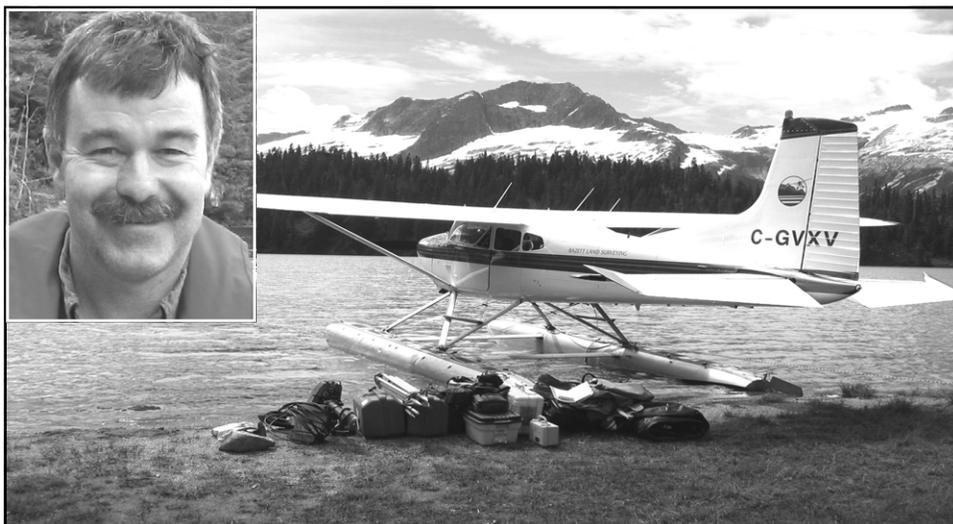
He's also assisted with topographic and bathymet-

ric surveys for Ocean Falls Fish Hatchery during construction of its intake and outflow systems.

His company has seen an increase in First Nation work as development standards and land utilization plans have become more rig-

orous and as First Nations initiate economic development with fish farms or independent power projects.

Bazett loves all such challenges. As the Island's surveying needs evolve, he plans to meet the emerging requirements. **BE**



DAVE BAZETT & CRAFT

Attracted by the physical and technical challenges.

demand higher precision, reliability and speed.

Dave Bazett of Port Hardy's and Courtenay's Bazett Land Surveying has earned a reputation in today's science of geomatics. His specialty since starting his own company in Port Hardy in 1979 is "remote work with logistical challenges." He mounts a medium-format Hasselblad camera on his Cessna 185 float plane, hooked up to a Global Positioning System, to expose discrepancies between legal boundaries and actual developments. His work recently won his firm the David Thompson National Award for Innovations in Geomatics. (Geomatics is the gathering, storing, processing and delivering geographic information).

"We created a digital photoplan for the BC Ferry Ser-

tion of low-level photography and GPS surveys to capture physical features and produced a new product showing property boundaries on a rectified digital image," he said. "The material had to be produced cost-effectively and be easy to understand. The client used the photoplans to assess and inventory facilities and make any necessary adjustment to tenure boundaries prior to transfer."

Bazett's work has included a precise underground control for a three-kilometre tunnel for a hydro project near Squamish, bathymetric surveys of Moresby and Takakia Lakes on South Moresby Island for engineering assessment of a hydro project, control surveys for photogrammetric mapping for BC Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, legal surveys for the

framework.

Another niche service Bazett brings to surveying is harbours, and offshore resources.

"Our hydrographic work is for engineering firms and government ministries," he said. "With the latest GPS use for positioning we can be within a centimeter for accuracy." He's purchased more than \$200,000 in GPS equipment and selects projects that will maximize that investment.

He learned years ago that he's independent by nature and rather than building a large firm (Bazett Land Surveying has 3 surveyors and 10-12 support staff), he prefers joint ventures and partnerships for larger projects. "It facilitates cycles in the market and doesn't strain resources," Bazett said.

Recently he's enjoyed



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