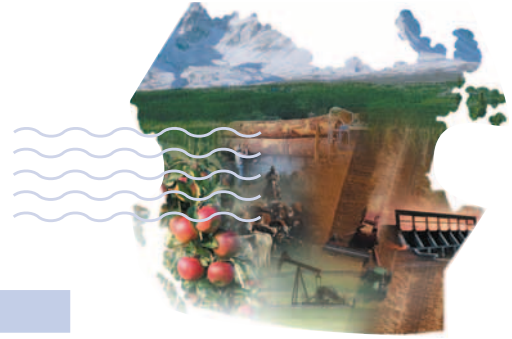


A View from the West



By Terrance Malkinson

➤ **Surveillance** security cameras are now commonplace for the deterrence of crime and facilitating our well-being. Matthew McClaren discusses the young and fast growing Vancouver headquartered company Avigilon [www.avigilon.com]; a global leader in digital security cameras and associated technology. ["They Like to Watch". Canadian Business. 86(19):55-59. November 25, 2013]. Information on the growth of the company, its innovations, applications, full-service customer approach, and discussions on future prospects of digital imaging surveillance technology are provided.

➤ **The Vinyl LP** record is not dead. Matt Powell in his article "Vinyl Revival" [Plant: Advancing Canadian Manufacturing. 72(7):14-15. October, 2013. www.plant.ca] the resurging market with audio purists who prefer the unique characteristics of the record media over digital formats. As stated in the article record sales jumped in the US by 17.7% to 4.5 million units and analysts predict continued growth. A St-Lambert, Quebec Canadian company RIP-V [www.rip-v.com] is pressing over 2,000 LP's a day on antique presses purchased from former vinyl record manufacturers. A second article in the same issue discusses another Canadian innovation success story Colt Hockey's super-strong hockey stick. [Kick-Starting the Stick of Steel" pp 17-18]. The Colt hockey stick is a joint effort between Colt Hockey and PowerMetal Technologies, a Division of Toronto's Integran Technologies, a developer of metallurgical nanotechnologies. [www.integran.com]

➤ **Anne Casselman** tells the story of Allen Eaves and his leadership of a \$70M Vancouver company that caters to the world's leading research labs. This was accomplished without the help of venture capitalists. [BC Business. 41(10):40-49, October, 2013. www.bcbusiness.ca]. Stemcell Technologies Inc. [www.stemcell.com] is a privately-owned biotechnology company that develops specialty cell culture media, cell separation products and ancillary reagents for life science research. Scientifically-based and with a passion for quality, Stemcell delivers over 1500 products to more than 70 countries worldwide. Stemcell grew out of the Media Preparation Service of the Terry Fox Laboratory for Hematology-Oncology Research at the British Columbia Cancer Agency.

➤ **Trenna Hein** discusses applications of scanning and optimization technology to the forestry industry in her article "Visionary Information" [Canadian Forest Industries. pp. 29-35. March-April, 2013. www.woodbusiness.ca]. Using innovative scanning technology inspection, grading and many other applications involved in the processing of lumber can be accomplished accurately and quickly. Mobile technologies allow mill personnel to interact with equipment in a safe and productive way. While on the topic of forestry in "Timber Turnaround" [Saskatchewan Business

Magazine. 31-35. July-August, 2013] Penny Eaton tells the story of the rebound of the forestry industry in Saskatchewan. "The Beachcombers" is not only a television series. As told by Marcie Good beachcombing is now a growth industry "thanks to one enterprising outsider who challenged the status quo and won". [BC Business. 41(7):111-121. July, 2013]. The story of Erik Hammonds beachcombing enterprise that provides income and also is environmentally responsible is told.

➤ **The mining** of natural resources is a huge economic sector in Saskatchewan. Exploration and development in the resource sector is very cyclical and the trajectory has been downward, but now showing signs of an upswing. Two recent articles in the Saskatchewan Mining Journal explore developments. "Hidden Riches" by Penny Eaton, [34(5):6-17] examines the diversity of the mining industry, how it extends well beyond the well-known traditional potash and uranium production. Gold, diamonds, rare earth elements, coal, base metals and many others are opening up new opportunities. An interesting mineral resource map of Saskatchewan is provided. In the second article "The Future is Nuclear" [34(5):23-31]; Ashleigh Mattern explores the uranium mining industry in Saskatchewan and its challenges.

➤ **The story** of Bombardier's \$4B business venture developing a quiet jet is featured in the October 28, 2013 issue of Canadian Business [Shhhhh...86(17):54-58]. Philip Preville discusses the development from scratch and innovative design with cutting-edge technology of Bombardier's CSeries aircraft powered by an engine so quiet that it is thought that the aircraft might revitalize downtown airports all over the world. Using new materials it is a light-weight and a fuel efficient commercial airliner that needs only 4,000 feet of runway.

➤ **The D-Wave** Two, the world's first commercially available quantum computer and its development is profiled by Jeff Beer in the October 14, 2013 issue of Canadian Business [86(16):41-43]. Based in Burnaby, British Columbia; D-Wave [www.dwavesys.com] was founded in 1999 with the goal of making practical quantum computing a reality. The company currently owns over 90 patents and has over 100 pending worldwide related to quantum computing and superconducting electronics.

➤ **The November** 2013 issue of Alberta Venture [www.albertaventure.com] focuses on the future of cities in Alberta. ["Let's Build Better Cities."]. Four articles: "The Battle for Alberta", Alberta's Two Newest and Hottest Neighbourhoods," "The Future of Fort McMurray", and "Developer vs. Planner vs. Architect" all have the common theme of coping with rapid expansion and conflicting visions. More than 27,000 people moved to Alberta in the first quarter of 2013 and most of these settled in urban centers. This is resulting in stressed physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, utilities, and public transit for example) that, in particular, in the inner city were not designed for. The rapidly escalating cost of home ownership is stressing and forcing many long-term residents into difficult decisions. Also included in this issue is Alberta Ventures 8th annual audit of "Alberta's Best Communities for Business"

➤ **This year** marks the 50th anniversary of the Pratt & Whitney PT6 engine. The PT6 engine is used in more than 130 different applications in commercial, military, general aviation, business, helicopter, agricultural and utility aircraft. The story is told by Carroll McCormick in the September-October, 2013 issue of Wings Magazine [54(5): 40-43. www.wingsmagazine.com]. It is thought that more than 390 million hours of flight time has been logged by the reliable PT6 engine and that has been an important factor in the aviation industry. ■

About the Author

Terrance Malkinson is a communications specialist, business analyst and futurist. His career path includes technical supervisor and medical researcher at the University of Calgary, business proposal manager for the General Electric Company, and research administrator with the School of Health and Public Safety at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary. He is currently an international correspondent for IEEE-USA Today's Engineer, associate editor for IEEE Canadian Review, and a member of the editorial advisory board of IEEE The Institute. He was Vice-Chair of the IEEE-USA Communications Committee (2004-2010), and editor-in-chief of IEEE-USA Today's Engineer Digest (2004-2008). He was an elected Governor of the IEEE Engineering Management Society as well as past editor of IEEE Engineering Management. He is the author of more than 420 publications, and an accomplished triathlete. malkinst@telus.net

