

Biz-tech Report



by Terrance Malkinson



➤ **Profiles of one-hundred Canadians** who best embody the spirit of exploring are provided in “Canada’s Greatest Explorers” [*Canadian Geographic*, pp. 32-40, June, 2015. www.canadiangeographic.ca]. The list was created with the help of the Fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Exploration was determined to be “about the forging of dramatic new relationships with the natural world and telling essential stories to accelerate our understanding of the critical importance of these relationships.” Important to this definition is the concept that exploration is evolving and non-restrictive in our changing world – exploration is no longer restricted to the discovery of “new lands.” Explorers profiled include; astronauts, deep-sea divers, polar adventurers, paleontologists, historians, conservationists, and photographers to name but a few.

➤ **In a second article** in the same issue of *Canadian Geographic* [pp. 48-53] Anne Casselman in her article “The Big One” discusses preparations being made for the impact of the next Canadian megathrust earthquake. The Geographic Society of Canada records and locates more than 4,000 earthquakes that occur in Canada each year. The last megathrust earthquake to strike Canada was in 1700 and it is predicted that a “strong earthquake” will occur somewhere in Canada within the next 50 years. The challenge is predicting when, where, and magnitude. The author discusses recent catastrophic earthquakes, susceptible areas in Canada, predictability, consequences, and emergency planning.

➤ **The cover story** of *Canadian Business* [Summer, 2015. www.canadianbusiness.com] is “Canada’s 2015 Market Guide.” A series of articles provide information on the market outlook, companies to watch, leading companies, superstar companies, strategies for innovation success, and case studies of entrepreneurial success.

➤ **“Women in Technology”** is the cover story of the Spring, 2015 issue of *Technology Alberta* [pp. 6-9. www.aset.ab.ca]. The authors discuss how women remain under-represented in technology-based careers and that the wage gap between males and females remains unequal. The article discusses the challenges for female technology professionals and the business case for gender equality. Importantly, the trend is moving toward equality as more and more women are choosing technology education, entering the

workforce and advancing up the career ladder. Related to diversity in the workplace [*Alberta Construction Magazine*, “Finding Tomorrow’s Workers Today,” 2015], Joseph Caouette Summer reports on outreach efforts being made to build a diverse construction workforce to meet the demands resulting from retirement and industry growth. In an online report [“Grade Nine Girls Hit Post-secondary Campuses to Discover Wonders of STEM.” www.sait.ca/about-sait/news/news/2015-5-6-explore-it.php] more than 650 girls from Grade nine classes around Calgary took over classrooms at SAIT Polytechnic, Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary to explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) during the 16th annual Explore IT event.

➤ **Profiles of Alberta’s 50 most influential people** are provided in the July, 2015 issue of *Alberta Venture* [pp. 22-44. www.albertaventure.com]. These are the movers, shakers and difference-makers who are reimagining the province in a year where the political landscape changed dramatically and decisively. An article by Tadzio Richards [“End of the Line.” *Alberta Views*, 18(6):28-33, July/August, 2015] discusses the fall of the 44-year, seven premiers and twelve majority governments of the Progressive Conservative Party; replaced by the New Democratic Party led by Rachel Notley. Correctly, it is the people who decide who will govern.

➤ **As reported by Omar Mouallem** [*Canadian Geographic*, 135(4):43-48, July-August, 2015. www.canadiangeographic.com] the Missing Children Society of Canada is using personal communication technology and social media to help find missing kids. Three recently developed platforms are now available to get information out in a matter of seconds to the public. These include: a news release service, public social media feeds, and its own app.

➤ **“Designing Canada’s Supercar”** is the title of an article by Costa Mouzouris in *Design Engineering*[61(3): 20-23, May-June 2015. www.design-engineering.com]. Decades

of race car engineering has resulted in the Quebec’s Magnum (Boucherville, QC) MK5 supercar, designed primarily for racetrack driving, but also street-legal. Starting with the basics including a tubular steel frame, carbon fiber bodywork gives it a power-to weight ratio of 460hp per tonne; enough to propel it from zero to 100 km/hr. in 3.2 seconds.

➤ **The focus of the Summer 2015 issue** of *Canadian Retailer* [www.retailcouncil.org] is on consumer mobile behavior. Feature articles include “Growing Sales Through Online Marketplaces”, “The Future of Retail”, “Getting Online” “The Mobile Shift” and “Rebooting for Better Business.”

➤ **Drone engineering** is opening up incredible possibilities. In “Close Encounters of the Drone Kind” [*Wings* pp. 46-50, May-June 2015. www.wingsmagazine.com] Rick Adams describes how Transport Canada is making UAVs in civil airspace a simple process. An excellent overview of the important issues, and comparison with the United States FAA regulations governing the use of unmanned aircraft in American civil airspace. On the same topic in the cover story of the July 2015 *IEEE Spectrum* T.J. Diaz discusses the applications of drone videography [Lights, Drone....Action: An Expert Guide to Drone Videography, pp.36-41]

➤ **And on an international note** the 160-acre original Disneyland located in Anaheim, California turns 60 this year. Constructed in only one year, it opened to the public on July 18, 1955. In just seven weeks the park had received more than one million guests. Ever since, Disneyland Park has been a mandatory and unforgettable destination for individuals and families of all ages. Disneyland is also a magnet for visitors worldwide and a place where innovation reminds us of the past and inspires us to embrace an exciting future. Walt Disney had the vision and strength, courage, and determination to be the first to build what is considered the pinnacle theme park. His many achievements set the standard and is what others measure themselves against in family entertainment—truly a legacy of international importance, making the world a better place. One of the greatest eulogies that a person can receive is that their existence made the world a better place. Disneyland is truly “The Happiest Place on Earth.” ■

For Terrance Malkinson’s biography please see page 30.