

SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

President's Message to the Membership

By R. A. Webster, SLS, P. Surv., President

From my visits to our sister associations across Canada, we can be proud to be one of the lead associations to fully implement an education program that strikes a balance between education and participation. Other associations will be using our bylaw as a model for their own. With the passing of the latest and hopefully the last amendment to the bylaw, we now have rules that are functional and will allow for some discretion to cover unique circumstances. My only regret is that we did not change the name of the bylaw to Continuing Professional Development to reflect the intent of the program.



Education of our members is only one aspect to the continuing health of our association. While a Commission as an SLS is not a guarantee of financial success, our future as an association is primarily dependant on the financial health of our members. With an adequate return for their efforts, each of our members can afford new equipment, hire skilled technologists, attract prospective new members, spend time away from the business to stay current with the latest developments in industry, and hopefully save some funds for retirement.

With the passing of the amendment to our mandatory continuing education bylaw, we have put in place the first step towards a Quality Assurance Program for our membership. The goal is to upgrade and update the knowledge of our membership to current conditions. The by-product of the activity is the increased participation of our membership in our association. I hope that every member will find enough benefit to participate and attend the seminars to obtain the necessary number of points so that we will not have to use the discipline procedure. A true Quality Assurance program would be voluntary and the financial rewards would be obtained from the knowledge gained. With full participation by each member, the association will hopefully avoid any need for practice review now or in the future.

Recent events in Alberta should be of interest to
continued on page 843

Inside This Issue

- * Council Highlights 838
- * What's Happening 843
- * Councillor's Report 844
- * Mandatory Continuing Education 845
- * Reflections from the Past 848
- * Field Notes "Tell you the Story" 849
- * Cases and Statutes Reviewed 851
- * The Doctrine of Monuments 852
- * Outline Monument Restoration 854
- * Squashing the Millennium Bug 857
- * **And Much More!**

Council Highlights

by A. Carl Shiels, Executive Director



The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association Newsletter is published by the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association for circulation to its members.

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1996/97 Council

President	Rob A. Webster
Vice President	Roy J. Pominville
Past President	Pat M. Maloney
Councillors	Wayne J. Adams
	Thomas W. Sansom
	Jim A. Boyd
	Robert J. Morrison

Executive Director	A. Carl Shiels
Executive Assistant	Candy Shiels
Newsletter Editor	Doug A. Bouck

98/99 - Meeting #4 - Oct. 16, 1998

All members were present when the President called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and summarized the events at the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors annual meeting in Winnipeg. Highlights included:

The AMLS has achieved their target in reserve funding.

They are also considering introduction of a mandatory continuing education program for their members.

As of July 13, the provincial government has introduced a survey monument restoration program under which surveyors may automatically restore missing monuments for a pre-determined schedule of fees.

The President's Forum was well attended with representation from all provinces except P.E.I.

Geomatics Futures Task Force - Tentative Meeting with Ed Kennedy, Oct. 20, 1998

Council reviewed an invitation from Ed Kennedy to meet, at some time during the GIAC seminar in Saskatoon on Tuesday, October 22, to discuss the issues being studied by the Geomatics Futures Task Force. It was noted that it would be difficult to present a formal SLSA position without having had an opportunity to consider what the possible structure might be for an amalgamated survey association, or to obtain input from the members.

CCLS Board of Directors Meeting - Report from R. A. Webster

The President reported on his attendance at the CCLS Annual Meeting. Two major items dominated the meeting, those being the potential merger of CCLS under the new Alliance Canada Geomatics and the development of a major, coordinated Public Relations program.

One highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Champlain Award to Dr. John McLaughlin.

SASTT Act - Update on Meeting With Minister Sonntag

The Executive Director reported on the meeting that had been held with the Hon. Maynard Sonntag regarding the SASTT Act. The Minister had, as one of his last official acts before changing portfolios, recommended to Cabinet that the SASTT Act be proclaimed without the consequential amendments, and that further discussions take place, hosted by the Department of Highways and Transportation, regarding the definition of Engineering and how it might be revised to resolve some of the concerns of SASTT.

Certified General Accountants - Report on Meeting Regarding Professional Corporations

The President reported on the meeting that had been called by the CGA to discuss issues related to Professional Corporations. CGA will be submitting a brief on this issue to the provincial government in November. Included in the brief will be a request for consideration of an amendment to the law allowing incorporation of their professional practices.

Retirement of Jim Simpson as Executive Director of ACLS

The Executive Director reported on an e-mail communication that had been received from the ACLS indicating that Jim Simpson would be retiring as Executive Director, and inviting provincial associations to attend the farewell meeting on October 22 in Nepean Ontario, or send in their best wishes for communication to Mr. Simpson at that time.

Bylaw regarding stipend for Public Member of Council

The Executive Director explained that, in advance of an appointment of a public member, the Administrative Bylaws will have to be amended to define the amount of compensation for time and travel that would be allowed for the public member.

SLSA Web Page

The President noted that, by comparison to some Land Survey Web sites, that of the SLSA is rather crude. The Executive Director explained that the web site had been developed in house and, unless the association wishes to hire an outside profes-

sional to develop a more elaborate site, there was a limit to what more can be done.

Use of GPS in Land Surveying

The President noted that there is growing interest in other provinces in setting standards for the use of GPS in Land Surveying. The latest query in that regard was a question from Mike Pinch of CIG regarding this association's position on the issue.

It was noted that the SLSA has traditionally taken the position that GPS is just one more measuring tool and it remains the responsibility of the member to assure that the necessary accuracy is being achieved regardless of which measuring tool is being employed.

Plan Correction by Retired Members

The President raised the question of who is responsible for the correction of plans submitted by members who have been granted Life Membership.

It was noted that this issue is really tied to the issue of retirement and who is responsible for correction of plans submitted by members who have subsequently retired. It was also noted that this matter would need to be addressed in the course of re-writing the legislation as part of the LAND Project.

Convention Committee

The President confirmed that the dates for the 1999 annual meeting were May 28 and 29 with a Council meeting to be held on the 27th. However, details of some of the other associated business and social activities had yet to be finalized.

Education Committee

The Education Committee submitted a written report of the activities including plans for an education seminar to be held in Saskatoon on November 26 and 27. The committee also submitted a proposal for amendments to the Mandatory Continuing Education bylaws.

Finance Committee

1999 Budget Planning

P. M. Maloney circulated a draft of the budget for 1999 which included specific sums requested by various committee chairmen. He asked that the

budgeted amounts be carefully reviewed in preparation for finalization at the next meeting.

A report was received from the Audit Committee which indicated that an amount of up to \$2000 would be required to carry out an audit of the association's books in January of 1999. It was noted that prior approval would have to be granted to the Audit Committee for such an expenditure if they were going to be able to assure that the audit would be completed by the January 31 deadline specified in the bylaws.

Practice Committee

The chairman of the Practice Committee submitted a written report outlining the proposed activities of the committee during the coming months and the budgetary requirements that were required.

Some concern was expressed that the Committee might be taking on more projects than it can reasonably expect to handle and that priority should be given to developing a more reliable basis for publishing the suggested schedule of fees.

Public Relations Committee

W. J. Adams, Committee Chairman, tabled a written report of the committee's activities.

Executive Committee

The President reported that the committee had met prior to the council meeting to review the applications for nomination as public member. A short list of six persons had been selected for interviews in November.

CCLS Representative

The CCLS Representative submitted a report which included four questions that required answers from Council. The questions and answers of council were as follows:

- 1) What is the position of the SLSA with regard to the proposed Alliance Canada Geomatics merger?

T. R. Webb would be invited to attend the October 20 meeting with Ed Kennedy of GIAC. A more formal position for the Association will then have to be worked on at the November 30 meeting of Council.

- 2) Are there any concerns or suggestions with regard to the draft P. R. program being considered by CCLS?

Based on a review and comments by the Chairman of the SLSA P. R. Committee, Council has indicated support in principal for the proposed draft, subject to further information regarding costs and funding. There were no other concerns or suggestions at this time.

- 3) What is the SLSA's response to the questionnaire regarding the Agreement for Internal Trade and the Labour Mobility Chapter?

This questionnaire was reviewed and answers provided at the September 8 meeting of Council.

- 4) The names of two SLS's were required for submission to the CCLS accreditation program.

Members to be contacted in advance of putting their names forward were T. W. Sansom and D. Babiuk. J. A. Boyd agreed to participate if either of those persons declined.

LAND Project Committee

A written report was submitted by the Chairman of the LAND Project Committee of SLSA. It was noted that the next meeting of the committee was set for November 6 in Regina.

Next Meeting

The next two meetings were scheduled for Monday, November 30, 1998 and Friday, January 29, 1998 in Regina.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

98/99 - Meeting #5 - Nov. 30, 1998

All members were present when the President convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and summarized the highlights of his attendance at the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors annual meeting in Halifax on Oct 28 - 30th.

Geomatics Future Meeting - Report on Meeting with Ed Kennedy

The President reported on the meeting with Ed Kennedy on October 20 regarding the Geomatics

Futures concept. The meeting confirmed that there was still very little detail on the structure of a new organization but that there was a general will to continue investigation of the concept. It also appeared that one key element in the success of the concept would be the amount of autonomy that the existing organizations would retain within the new organization.

Bylaw Regarding Stipend for Public Member of Council.

The Executive Director explained that he had checked with legislative council at SPMC, regarding remuneration for an appointed member of Council. It was legislative council's suggestion that the appointed member be compensated at the same rate as other members of council and, on that basis, no bylaw change would be required.

Members of the Executive Committee also noted that none of the applicants who had been interviewed for the appointment appeared to be particularly concerned about the level of remuneration they would receive beyond out-of-pocket expenses.

Meeting with Dr. LaChapelle, Department Head, Department of Geomatics Engineering, Uof C

Council met with Dr. LaChapelle between 1:40 and 3:20 p.m. Dr. LaChapelle outlined some of the history of the Geomatics Engineering program at the U. of C. Key points raised in his presentation included:

- The program was established in 1979 with initial student enrollment in the range of 15 to 25 per year.
- By 1991 enrollment had declined to a total of 30 students in all years.
- In 1992 the name of the program was changed to Geomatics Engineering and student enrollment increased to 25 to 30 per year and remained stable.
- The fact that there were two job offers for each graduate indicated a need to further increase enrollment.
- Public information and promotion of the program were stepped up.

- By 1997 the number of student applications for the program increased to 73.

- In January of 1998 forty-seven new students were accepted into the program. This number is expected to be the same for January of 1999.

- These students will be graduating in April of 2000 and 2001 and should more than satisfy the demands of the survey profession.

With regard to the Cadastral Chair:

- In 1990, when the Cadastral Chair was introduced, the number of graduates who returned to their home province of B. C. declined.

- In 1990 the survey associations in western Canada contributed \$25,000 to the Cadastral Chair. This was increased to \$50,000 in 1996. However this funding has not increased the number of graduates going into the survey profession.

- The departmental strategy of emphasizing the high technology aspects of geomatics engineering has been very successful and is, therefore, not likely to change.

- The Department intends to continue striving toward increased academic qualifications of its graduates.

- The Department is leaning away from a unique cadastral professorship and would like cadastral studies intergrated with other courses.

- When the current five year term for the Cadastral Chair ends in December of 2001, it is not likely to be renewed. Therefore, although the land survey associations will be asked for funding support, it will not be for a specific cadastral chair.

- There are expected to be more and more high tech aspects related to cadastral surveying in the curriculum.

- There will be a new tenure track position created in the Geomatics Engineering Department in 2002, subject to the demand for graduates from the cadastral surveying com-

munity. This disposition could result in a Professor of Cadastral Studies. However creation of the tenure position will not guarantee more graduates going into cadastral surveying.

In order to get more graduates into the profession, the provincial associations should consider:

- increasing their representation at career day,
- promoting the provincial geomatics industry,
- getting prepared for the 2000 graduating class (45 students),
- placing a short notice in the SLSA newsletter regarding the student web site,
- participating in student internship program (student hired for minimum of 8 months during university program),
- making presentations to students during class time - preferably in mid January prior to career day.

Following Dr. LaChapelle's presentation, it was agreed that P. M. Maloney and R. J. Pominville would plan on attending the U. of C. to make a presentation to the students on January 20, 1999.

U. of C. - SLSA Award for 1998

The Executive Director reported on a letter that had been received from the U. of C. indicating that there had been no successful candidates for the SLSA award for 1998. In keeping with the previously established policy of the SLSA, the five hundred dollar amount will be allocated to a special reserve fund to be added to the amount available for award in 1999.

Decision From Special General Meeting - Amendment to Mandatory Continuing Education Bylaw

Based on the results of the Special General Meeting, it was agreed that the Executive Director be directed to provide all of the necessary information to the Minister regarding amendments to the bylaws regarding mandatory continuing education.

It was also agreed that the Education Committee be directed to prepare and publish a list of PDC values associated with association sponsored

courses and events over the past two years.

Group RRSP Plan - Proposal from Nesbitt Burns

The President noted that, as a result of discussions with an investment broker at Nesbitt Burns, the broker had invited the SLSA to consider a special group arrangement whereby the annual fees for the administration of members' investment accounts would be waived.

Non-Resident Members of Council

The President suggested that the prohibition against non-resident members being elected to Council be reviewed. In particular those members who work full time in Saskatchewan but who reside in Lloydminster are discriminated against by the prohibition.

Interview of Candidates for Public Appointment

The President reported on the results of the six interviews which had been conducted with candidates for public appointee to Council.

Three names will be submitted for consideration by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for appointment as Public Member of Council.

Notice From Hon. Lorne Scott

Council reviewed a letter from Hon. Lorne Scott, Minister responsible for Sask Liquor and Gaming Commission, indicating that Hon. Doreen Hamilton had declared a conflict of interest with respect to the administration of the SLSA Act and that he would be handling all matters related to the administration of the SLSA Act and the SASTT Act.

Convention Committee

The President reported that Bill Soroski had been added to the convention committee.

Education Committee

Nothing to report.

Council noted that the educational seminar of the previous week had been well attended and received many favourable comments.

Finance Committee

Budget Finalization - 1999

Council reviewed and suggested amendments to the proposed budget presented by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Practice Committee

Council reviewed a brief report from the Chairman of the Practice Committee in which he indicated that the committee expected to meet before the new year and that they expected to focus their attention on the items highlighted by Council at their meeting on October 16.

Public Relations Committee

(Verbal) Nothing new to report

LAND Project

No Report. The President noted that some of the tasks of the Committee may be divided up between regional sub-committees to minimize travel and increase effectiveness.

Next Meeting

The next meetings were scheduled for January 29th and March 19th, both in Regina.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. *

What's Happening

Next Council Meeting: January 29, and March 19, 1999 at the Association office, 10:00 a.m.

Advanced Pipe and Cable Locator Seminars: Radiodetection (Canada) Ltd., presents this seminar in Regina on February 11, 1999, and on February 12, 1999. Call (800) 665-7953 for the name of the organizer in your area. More information available at SLSA Office.

GeoExpo: Exton, PA—Penton Media, Inc. is pleased to announce the launch of GeoExpo, a new tradeshow and conference focusing on GIS, GPS, surveying and mapping solutions. GeoExpo, sponsored by *GIS World* and *Professional Surveyor*, debuts May 24-27, 1999 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, and will be the premier event for all GIS and surveying professionals. For more information, see www.geoexpo.com or phone (800) 451-1196; fax: (610) 458-7171. More information available from SLSA Office.

President's Message

Continued from page 837

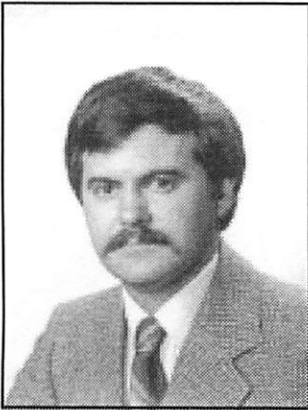
our membership regarding the submission of digital plans. As of January 1, 1999, the Land Titles Offices in Alberta will be accepting on a voluntary basis the Mylar and digital submission of the plan of survey. The digital plan consists of thirty-four layers of data to comply with the minimum standard. In order to incorporate the plan into the Spacial Data Warehouse database, a fee of approximately \$100.00 would be charged to the surveyor. Their association is continuing negotiations, but most of their membership is expressing concern with increased regulations and their increased liability exposure. This will not have any direct effect on our members, but our systems of survey and digital mapping are very similar and the up-

date to the database is an ongoing concern in every jurisdiction as we are in the process of rewriting the Land Surveys and the Land Titles Act.

While I do not fully endorse the Alberta model, we are in the digital world and digital plan submissions will become part of our practice in the future. While several other professions will be able to generate Cad and GIS files, it is important that the Land Surveyor provide all additions to the Land Titles System and the SGD database. The extension of our exclusive right to provide Mylar plans of survey into the digital world will be the exclusive ability to read and write to the SGD database. The future of our association may be contingent on the outcome of this decision. *

Councillor's Report

By J. A. Boyd, SLS, P. Surv.



It's 30° C, windchill -43° on the winter solstice (shortest day of the year) and here I sit with writers block composing my first article for the newsletter.

On the positive side, the start of the cold weather has coincided with the first day of winter and unless the cold snowy weather extends into May, winter will be considerably shorter than normal.

Several weeks ago, I attended the special meeting & educational seminar in Saskatoon, where the turnout was excellent.

While always being a strong supporter of continuing education, the idea of being required to accumulate Professional Development Credits (PDC's) has never won my full support. The high attendance could be a result of the interesting program, the fine weather or a slow down in surveying, but I really have to wonder how many people were actually encouraged to attend by the need to accumulate PDC's.

At the Saskatoon meeting a member of the Association living in Alberta raised the point that members residing outside Saskatchewan are not eligible to be elected to council. For members other than myself who were unaware of this restriction, the applicable clause can be found under section

8(2) of the *Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act*. I have since discovered that at the time the new act was being written, this clause was a requirement of the Saskatchewan Government.

With the renewed interest in Internal Trade and Labour Mobility this may be a section of the Act that could be reviewed in the new year. Allowing out of province members of the Association the opportunity to run for council would hopefully have the additional spin off of encouraging participation on various committees. At the very least I am sure some excitement would be generated on election day, as not every member will agree with my view on this issue.

As chairman of the Admissions Board for Professional Surveyors, I would like to remind all members that persons interested in joining the Association as Professional Surveyors in 1999 have until January 15, 1999, to submit their application Form "U". For all the excitement at the 1997 AGM, of the possibility to acquire new membership under the expanded survey profession definition, no applications have been received to date.

In closing I would like to wish all members and their families a happy and successful 1999. *

Mandatory Continuing Education - Saskatchewan Style

This article was prepared by Doug Bouck, Chairman of the SLSA Education Committee.

Getting Started:

Saskatchewan is one of Canada's three Prairie Provinces with a population of approximately one million people. Size wise Saskatchewan is 10,315 square miles smaller than Texas and almost 42,000 square miles larger than France. The Province's survey needs are provided by the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association [SLSA], which was established in 1910 and today has 73 active members - 56 of whom live in Saskatchewan.

In the mid 1980's it was felt that the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Act would have to be revised to address a number of issues that would make it consistent with the needs of its members. One of the features identified and also part of the SLSA Strategic Plan was the establishment of a Mandatory Continuing Education Program. Members of the SLSA Executive, as part of their Association duties, had visited other survey jurisdictions and had been introduced to the idea of Continuing Education. Land Survey organizations in New Brunswick, and North Dakota had already begun the implementation process. The rewriting of the Act was felt to be an opportune time to introduce the concept of Mandatory Continuing Education.

A Continuing Education Committee was struck in 1993. After much research and discussion with the general membership, a draft Bylaw was presented and passed at a Special General Meeting in 1994. This preliminary Bylaw was then bundled with other Bylaws accompanying the new SLSA Act and was presented to the Saskatchewan Legislature for passing into law. On January 1st, 1997, ten years after the revision process began, the new Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act was passed - including the right to establish a Mandatory Continuing Education Program.

Since the SLSA Act happened to be proclaimed January 1, 1997 it was felt that the first two-year Continuing Education Period [CEP] should start January 1, 1998. Therefore, this CEP will end on December 31, 1999.

Soon after the proclamation, the SLSA Education Committee realized through discussions with

...A Member's license can still be withheld for insufficient CEP acquisition...

members that the original text in the Bylaw was somewhat unclear. The membership was in favour of the Mandatory Continuing Education Program, but wanted to fully understand the implications addressed in the Bylaw. Five months after coming into force, at the 88th Annual Meeting held in Regina, in 1998, an attempt to address the concerns was presented. Much discussion took place and a series of minor changes resulted.

One of the concerns that was not addressed in the first revision of the Bylaw was the clause that kept a person from receiving a commission if sufficient points were not accumulated by the end of the previous CEP. That clause made this Bylaw inconsistent with other Bylaws where Council was involved with the disciplinary decisions for not adhering to the rules. At a Special General Meeting held in November 1998, the issues of concern to members, that had not been addressed at the AGM in May, were debated and a final version of the Bylaw is now in place. A Member's license can still be withheld for insufficient CEP acquisition, but only after normal disciplinary processes have taken place.

How It Works:

The duration of a CEP is two calendar years. Each SLS must acquire 30 Professional Development Credits [PDC's] in the CEP immediately prior to the beginning of the next CEP in order to receive a license to practice. Where excess PDC's have been accumulated in the previous CEP, a carryover of up to 25% of the next PDC point requirement is permissible. A list of the categories of allowable educational activities is published by the SLSA and is available on the Net. There are two main categories.

The first category relates to attendance or participation in seminars, workshops, post secondary classes, etc. that may or may not be Land Survey related. It is the feeling of the SLSA that any educational activity will always be of benefit to the member and that elements of that exercise will make the person a better SLSA member. A minimum of 30% of the PDC's claimed must be from this category.

The second category encourages participation in the SLSA. This could be attendance at SLSA meetings, serving as a member of a committee, serving on Council, or writing an article for the SLSA Newsletter. There is no minimum number of points a member must obtain in this category.

A number of exemptions are permitted including newly commissioned Members, Retired, Life, and Honourary Members. Council may consider other Members who experience physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances for exemption.

Each member is responsible for the design, execution, and reporting of their continuing education program. The SLSA, through its normal schedule of educational seminars, does provide an avenue for members to accumulate PDC's. All Saskatchewan Land Surveyors are encouraged to explore the availability of interesting educational activities available in their own communities or through other sources of learning.

Is It Working?

You bet it is. The first SLSA sponsored educational seminar after the program started resulted in over 70% attendance by members. The next one saw 80% of SLS's participating, which included a number of Land Surveyors in Training. All Regional Meetings and the '98 AGM have seen above

average attendance. What will not be known until the end of the first CEP is whether members have taken the challenge to find alternative educational opportunities outside those offered by the SLSA.

Why Is It Working?

A person could write a book on the benefits of a CEP. In a Province as vast as Saskatchewan, one of the potential downfalls of Association-sponsored activities is the distance that SLS's must travel to attend functions. To date, travel has not been an issue and in fact some members from adjoining provinces have made the effort to participate in SLS activities.

In an effort to balance the pros and cons of this program, a list was made that was many times longer on the "pro" side than the "con" side. In Saskatchewan the members seem to have made a conscientious effort to give it a chance. The program was designed not to be onerous at the start. After a period of time, should two thirds of the membership at a sanctioned meeting wish to alter the program, then that option is available.

An observation from the last few SLSA educational seminars would be that Professional Land Surveyors in Saskatchewan enjoy the opportunity to get together a couple times a year to discuss "world affairs", attend a seminar, and chalk-up a few PDC's. The Mandatory Continuing Education Program seems to be the catalyst that allows this to happen. It is also observed that the interaction between attendees that takes place during the health breaks or over a meal can be just as beneficial as the seminar itself.

Conclusion:

The SLSA did not invent Mandatory Continuing Education but if early evidence is an indicator, then the SLSA and its Members have certainly benefited from the program. A number of stumbling blocks appeared and were overcome. Should your organization be considering such a program, then capture all the pertinent information you can before starting the design stage. The Internet is a great source of material on this topic. The SLSA is prepared to answer queries from any Association that is about to embark on the "Continuing Education" trail. Visit our web site for the Bylaw that makes it happen in Saskatchewan at <http://www.gov.sk.ca/spmc/sgd/sls/contents.htm> or e-mail us at: slsa@sk.sympatico.ca.

Formula Used by the Education Committee to Calculate SLSA PDC's

Note: The PDC values for non-SLSA activities included in the Mandatory Continuing Education Bylaw prior to the November 26, 1998 amendment will continue to apply.

SLSA ACTIVITIES:

1. Where someone attends a ¼ day session [start to break / break to noon / noon to break / break to end] instead of the whole day, they get 1 point per session. If they attend the whole day they get 5 points.
2. Where a training day starts at noon, the afternoon [1/2 day] session is worth 2 points [2 @ ¼ points]
3. When a training session starting at noon of one day and ends at the end of the afternoon on the

next day, 7 points would be claimed [2 for the 1st afternoon and 5 for the whole day].

4. Where the training starts at noon and goes to noon on the next day, the session is worth 5 points if all sessions are attended [the equivalent of 1 whole day] or 1 point for each ¼ day.
5. Where the day starts at 10:00 and ends at the end of the afternoon, the session is worth 5 points or 1 point for each ¼ if all sessions are not attended.
6. At the AGM, if a training session takes place, the points above are used. ie: 5 points for the AGM plus 1 point for each ¼ day of training.
7. Regional Meetings are worth 2 points.

FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF SLSA SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS; REGIONAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS HELD IN SASKATCHEWAN SINCE JANUARY 1st, 1997.

NOTE:

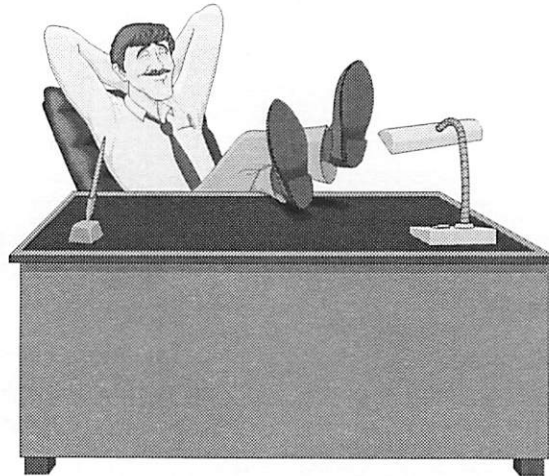
PART "A" = EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PART "B" = ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT

YEAR	DATE	DESCRIPTION	PART "A" POINTS	PART "B" POINTS
1997	Feb 27, 28	Dept. of Justice – LAND Project; Regina Inn – Regina	5	
1997	May 23	Loss Control Seminar during AGM – Saskatoon	2	
1997	May 22-24	AGM in Saskatoon		5
1998	Feb 4	South Regional Meeting – Indian Affairs [TLE] - Rugby Club	2	
1998	Feb 6	North Regional Meeting		2
1998	April 2	North Regional Luncheon Meeting – Willows G & C Club		2
1998	April 2, 3	SLSA Educational Seminar – Willows Golf & Country Club	5	
1998	May 27, 28	Training seminar during AGM – Regina	3	
1998	May 27-30	AGM in Regina		5
1998	Oct 20	CSRS & CACS – Regina	5	
1998	Nov 26	Special General Meeting – Educational Bylaw – Saskatoon	5	
1998	Nov 26, 27	SLSA Educational Seminar – Travelodge Hotel – Saskatoon	10	

Reflections from the Past

By W. W. Stockton, SLS, P. Surv., CLS.



The other day I was driving the Ring Road in south east Regina and began to reflect on how the location of that road affected all future subdivision design in the area. Originally, the road was a half mile or more from the nearest built up area and I don't think anyone dreamed the city would grow out that far.

The location survey for the south-east sector of the Ring Road was completed by J. E. Laughlin, P. Eng. in January 1954. His party Chief was a fellow by the name of Dusty Rhodes. Dusty is the only big C Communist I have met. He liked to expound his theories at every opportunity so it made for some very heated political discussions throughout the winter months.

At the time I was working out of the Department of Highways district office which was located in the top floor of the Fur Marketing Building at Broad Street and 5th Avenue. I will never forget my first day of work in that building. The stench from the furs was so bad that I could barely keep from throwing up. I got over the nausea bit in a few days, however, you were always conscious of the smell.

The first land surveyor I ever met was Archie Clampitt. In the summer of 1953 we were working on the location of Highway No. 56 south of Lake Katepwa when Archie appeared on the scene to do the legal survey. In February 1954, Archie was transferred to our office and was the only land surveyor in the group. The rest of the land surveyors worked out of an office in the basement of the Legislative Building.

Bev Cheetham worked at a drafting table next to mine and during the winter became well acquainted with Archie. Toward spring Bev signed an Article Agreement with Archie and transferred to Surveys Branch. I can still remember reading Bev's Article Agreement and it made quite an impression on me. That experience was one of the reasons I eventually took up a career in land surveying. Unfortunately, it took me another ten years before I finally signed my own Article Agreement with George Bennett in December 1964. Better late than never, however. Now 34 year later it is a decision I have never regretted. ✱

Field Notes "Tell you the Story"

By David Raithby, OLS, Consultant, Survey Review Department, reprinted as seen in the Ontario Land Surveyor Quarterly, Fall 1998, Vol.41, No. 4.



Once Upon a Time, ...in a land filled with knowledgeable litigators, electronically literate surveyors and rich people who hate their neighbours...(I know, but it's just a story)... our hero Mr. ABCD, OLS, finds himself on the witness stand defending his survey. Let's listen in for a moment...

..."Yes sir, Mr. Prosecutor, the results of my survey are shown on the plan."

"Mr. ABCD, where are the field notes that accompany the plan?"

"Well, ... UM... there are no field notes. The information was collected electronically and the information shown on the plan reflects the information found in the field:..."

Our hero Mr. ABCD is now on the brink. Which way will the case go? Will the prosecutor accept the information as presented, or will he question the data? Who had access to the data? Where was the data stored? When was it printed? Was it altered? Who was the CAD operator, and ...DUH DUH DUH DUUUUUGH... does the blood soaked glove fit, and will he be forced to try it on?

Ok, Ok, that's another story, but I think you get the point. The information presented in the stunningly intense drama above, highlights the direction that questions might go.

The information and measurements in your field notes, including the observations made when "on the ground", and at the time of the survey, form the basis of your decisions regarding the boundaries of the property. This is the information that will be examined during the course of a trial. All of the information, whether it was collected and recorded using more traditional methods or using electronic means, must form part of the total field note package.

I have had the opportunity to examine the total station field notes from different survey offices across the province. The variety in presentation of field notes and data for surveys that use total stations is incredibly widespread. In some instances, the field note package does not "tell the story" that it should, in other instances the story is a book. - *War and Peace* comes to mind...

The basic package of information required for total station field notes appears in the AOLS "GUIDELINES FOR USE OF TOTAL STATION AND RADIAL METHODS FOR LEGAL SURVEYS". I paraphrase that document when I say that the information that should be present for the "Field Note Package" should include, the sketch page, the printout of the raw data file as observed, the edited raw data file, and the coordinate file generated from the raw data.

The computer output for the **raw data** files that I have examined come in two distinct categories, readable and unreadable. Readable (by any standard human) is preferable but is generally dependent on the data capture system used.

The **edited raw data** is still essentially representative of the data as it was collected in the field, but has been corrected for input errors such as inconsistent point numbers, point code errors, incorrect backsight or foresight identification, etc. The cleaned up data is then reformatted into an easily readable printout with the values for the station, backsight, foresight, direction, distance, point code etc. evident.

The **coordinate file** from the raw data file is essential as it represents the positions of the points as located, without adjustment or massage of the data. This is the raw result of the field survey just as the raw dimensions from the field notes are for the conventional survey.

The **sketch page** of the field notes in some areas tends to be the most neglected part of the field note package. I believe that it should still be able to "Tell you the Story" of the survey.

The requirement of recording the hard data on the field notes is now gone. Data recorders do a wonderful job of recording exactly the nuts and bolts of the survey observations.

The requirement of recording the hard data on the field notes is now gone. Data recorders do a wonderful job of recording exactly the nuts and bolts of the survey observations. No longer do we have to worry about party chief Alzheimer's and Dyslexia. (Forgotten and misrecorded information.) Of course, for some of us, there is still the concern of IPG, (Instrument Person Glaucoma) but then again there are the robotic total stations... The data recorders are thankfully immune to these maladies, and create lots of space on the field notes.

With more space, the opportunity to "Tell you the Story" in the field notes is now increased. The sketch page as always, will identify the traverse lines run, instrument set up locations, points sighted, angles and distances set out, check measurements, and points located radially with point numbers that refer to the data files. The progress of the survey will be evident from the sequential order of the points located.

Most importantly, the sketch page may now be used to include other notes from the party chief. These notes can show areas that were searched for evidence along with the result of that search. Routine examinations of files bring up questions regarding information shown in the research that does not appear on the field notes. Did you look for it? Was it there? Is it still there? Is there some reason that it would now be gone? These questions are easily answered in the field notes with a few quick notations.

"New sidewalk" OK, that's where the old cut crosses went.

"New Fence Post and conc. @ corner"

Ok, that's where the old IP went.

"!!-X**?+!! New underground Utility Line" Well you get the idea where the IB is.

Detailed information on the progress and results of the field work can also be noted.

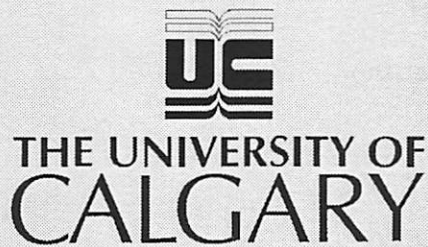
The duplicate numbers on some of the radially located points will allow the assessment of closure accuracies of the traverse. These are usually easily checked in the field to provide a check on the field work during the progress of the survey. A quick notation showing the closure and the point number to use will be invaluable later to both the drafter and yourself. Longer traverses in closed loops allow the summary of the field closure information to be presented on the field notes. Summation of the angles and traverse distances along with the misclosure information are easily identified and should be present in the field notes.

In the event that the decisions are made in the field, the field notes will show the evidence held, and the evidence rejected and the reasons, ie. "Fd IB (ABCD) NFG Bent Held house tie!"

Layout information for the set monuments and the checks to verify their position "as set" should be shown. Should the decisions be made in the office, then the second page of field notes for the layout or monumentation phase will show the results of the examination process, and will show the evidence held to set the limits, and the checks for the "as set" positions.

Why is it that the "OLD" field notes are the ones that are good? Is it just that they are old, or were the surveyors just better back then? (Just a quick look at the jog in the half line seems to answer that one.) The "OLD" field notes "Tell you the Story" of the survey. They show the other information, the cross and check ties, the ties to the specific brick, the extra measurements to run the block and ties to hold down the key points. As someone once said "They are Gold".

Our field notes are going to be "OLD" one day? Will they "Tell you the Story", or will they just be lead? *



Hire a U of C Geomatics Engineering Graduated or Student

In spring 1999, over twenty-five people are expected to graduate with a BSc in Geomatics Engineering from the University of Calgary. In addition, many of the forty-eight 2nd year and forty-seven 3rd year students will be looking for Summer and/or internship employment. Their resumes can be found on the following website which also provides the information required to contact the students directly of the Geomatics Engineering Student Society to set interviews: <http://www.ensu.ucalgary.ca/~gess>.



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The Doctrine of Monuments

By Joel Leininger, LS, reprinted with the permission of the author.

There can be no question but that monuments reflect society's interest in the preservation and stability of land boundaries. Although surveyors rarely argue over their importance, the nuances surrounding the doctrine are perhaps not as universally held. In this, the start of an intermittent series, I will explore the foundation of the concept and lay the ground work for further discussion. (You know there will be further discussion!) Later instalments will likely provoke debate.

When considered in the abstract, it becomes clear that monuments are central to the practice of all surveying - not merely retracement. A monument is nothing more than a place holder, a book mark

There has yet to be discovered a substitute that satisfies the needs of society in protecting the rights of adjoining owners.

of sorts, allowing one to quickly return to the spot without repeating the effort required to establish the position. We will never be without them - indeed, the practice of surveying would be impotent without their contributions; even control stations and traverse points are monuments.

But the doctrine of monuments is generally associated with boundary retracement. Markers have been essential in the management of land since man first recognized differences between "mine and thine." Ancient literature makes many references to landmarks and the curses to be visited upon those who tamper with them. More recently, the value of markers delineating the bounds of various interests has been recognized by jurist and layman alike. There has yet to be discovered a substitute that satisfies the needs of society in protecting the rights of adjoining owners.

Tangible Objects

The courts have afforded monuments deference primarily for two reasons. First, through long experience, the courts found that surveyors' measurements were prone to error and thus were inherently uncertain. Nearly all of our boundary law can be traced to the inability of early surveyors to render reliable measurements. We have not eliminated this problem even today, witness the proliferation of adjustment algorithms to deal with measurement error. Were we to render completely error-free measurements, in every survey, every time, we might have grounds to begin an argument in favor of measurements controlling boundaries (although we would lose on other grounds). But we do not. We have smaller errors, perhaps, but errors nevertheless. Thus, what was recognized centuries ago remains valid today. So the courts, rightly, have looked elsewhere for retracement guidance. Now, if the ultimate goal of retracement is to stand where the original surveyor stood, the only remaining evidence of the survey consists of the objects that the surveyor either encountered or planted as he proceeded along the route. This *tangible* evidence - that which can be seen and touched - would also be less likely to be misdescribed by the surveyor than intangibles like lists of numbers (measurements). Reflection confirms the reasoning. We all are guilty of transposing numbers occasionally, yet it would be the rare surveyor indeed who mistook an iron pipe for a stone. Common experience taught that the description of the object was the least likely source of error in a surveyor's writings.

Second, because monuments are tangible reminders of the survey - and thus the boundary - occupants of adjacent properties rely on them and, more importantly, erect improvements consistent with them. Should later surveys reveal that the monuments were in the "wrong" place, the adjacent owners would be faced with the expense of relocating the improvements, or worse, the ex-

pense of litigation to force removal by others. Subsequent survey could ignite the controversy anew. Pincushion corners (boundary corners marked with two, three or more physical markers) demonstrate the likelihood of such a scenario.

Wisely, the courts pre-empt such controversies by presuming that the original, undisturbed monument, no matter where it is, controls.

Try as we might, it is unlikely that anyone will improve upon the doctrine of monuments.

Monuments, of course, are not without their drawbacks. Being tangible carries with it all the threats confronting physical objects. They get lost; They get disturbed; they get moved by unscrupulous neighbors. A monument's true role is as a marker. It's significance survives only as long as it remains undisturbed, for it is the original *position* of the monument, not the monument itself, that is paramount. Once disturbed, the original location is lost, and with it much of the monument's importance. Retracement surveyors are faced with the dilemma of trying to determine (1) whether it was disturbed, and if so (2) where it originally was. The longer the period since the dislocation, the more difficult the task of discovering the original place; in fact, the harder to detect the disturbance at all.

Identification is a second problem. Clearly a call for a monument anticipates a single object to control the location; if that object cannot be identified with any certainty, or if more than one object in the vicinity matches the description, the certainty of the call itself is jeopardized.

But none of these problems out-weighs the presumptions in favor of monuments outlined above. Try as we might, it is unlikely that anyone will improve upon the doctrine of monuments.

GPS

Technology will not diminish the concept. Most surveyors realize that without control stations (i.e., monuments), survey-grade GPS would be impossible. More fundamentally, the System itself depends on the stability of the ground tracking stations that monitor the location of the satellites. The stations send ephemeris data to the satellites informing them of the eccentricities of their orbits, which in turn allows the satellites to broadcast that information to the users on the ground. But all of that depends on the positions of the tracking stations being known with certainty - and as important, remaining fixed. The tracking station itself, then, becomes a monument upon which the reliability of the System depends. It is intriguing that, when exploring the flood of technology known as GPS, we find, at its headwaters, the most ancient of surveying aids: *monuments*. We will never be without them, for they anchor our future as certainly as our past. *

.....

Something's Funny...

Reprinted with permission from the *Pony Express* September, 1998.

There are five simple tests to tell whether a bank note is genuine:

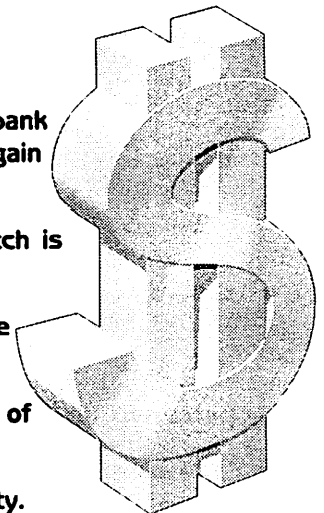
Look for a gold patch on the upper left corner of the \$20, \$50, \$1 and \$1,000 bank notes. With a genuine note, this patch will change from gold to green and back again when tilted. (\$5 and \$10 notes don't have this patch.)

If the patch can be peeled off, it's not a genuine note. On real ones, the patch is embedded.

Run your fingertips over the bill to feel the raised printing on the numerals, the portrait and the coat of arms. Counterfeit notes are generally smooth.

Try to peel off the little green dots (called planchettes) scattered over the surface of the notes. You can't do it with counterfeit notes.

Look for clean, clear, sharp details on the portrait and in the overall printing quality.



Outline Monument Restoration

By W. A. Beattie, MLS, reprinted with the permission of the author.

On a recent survey we retraced portions of two prior surveys in adjoining (E-W) sections. In conducting both those prior surveys, for plans, the same firm established two section corners by simply measuring off the centerline of existing graded government road allowances. These two monuments were connected in turn to a section corner monument one mile still further West. The surveyor(s) then quartered by proportion the two in-between 1/4 lines - the result being that of 5 monuments in an E-W row, only one (the found monument) was of a reliable nature, apparently based upon suitable survey evidence.

...we have methodology in survey manuals, rules of evidence and survey regulations for posting such corners and that is based upon more extensive and distant retracement and deep rooted interpretive ability...

Other surveyors have indicated this to be an acceptable practise (i.e., coming off the centerline of Road Allowance to monument the North East Section corner) "when no other evidence exists." This practise is wrong and should not be condoned or tolerated. In most cases, in so doing we are lowering our services to that of any other "measurer".

Firstly, we have methodology in survey manuals, rules of evidence and survey regulations for posting such corners and that is based upon more extensive and distant retracement and deep rooted interpretive ability. Secondly, in most cases where centerline of road is adopted, there most likely is other supporting physical and perhaps vocal evidence which most likely was overlooked due to the perceived time limitations of the survey.

I have seen where 5 miles of E-W road allowance was retraced and strictly proportioned in between

without any consideration for existing non-fitting physical holdings evidence, nor for consideration of North-South retracement of Section lines in between.

In the subject case the two section corners were monumented in this fashion, most likely to expedite two surveys which were injuriously affected by forced time constraints. A price was likely quoted and the extent of the quote did not allow for sufficient retracement, or conversely, the surveyor(s) did not have the professional confidence to negotiate the costs of additional retracement with his (their) client.

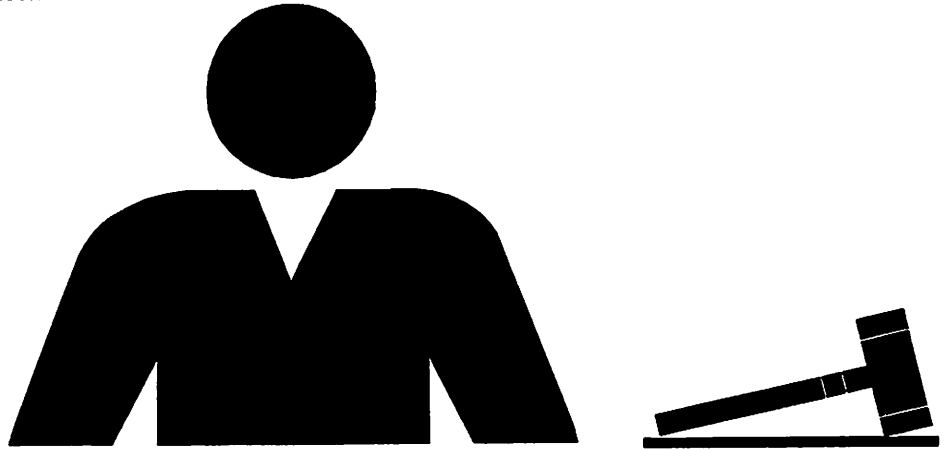
As a result many future surveys in those two sections will not fix the true boundaries of their clients lands, as they should be. Unfortunately, the problem so created does not stop there, as later sectional remonumentation to be carried out will be mislead by the two believed incorrectly placed section corner monuments. In fact this has already happened where, on a more recent survey two miles at N-S line was retraced and remonumented by proportion in a straight North-South Line by adopting one of the noted corners - thus causing three more outline monuments to be most likely incorrectly positioned, and further surveys can run off of these, and so on.

It may be said "what does it matter, the land is near vacant and no one will suffer injuriously from a monument 20 feet out of place in this area". This is not an exaggerated nor uncommon remark and we as professed-to-be-professionals should long ponder its content.

Very seldom do our clients question the position of monuments that we place for them. So truly, only the acting surveyor and the Examiner of Surveys have a say in the replacement of an often restored monument of record. It often seems that neither are taking their responsibilities to the full extent of that which is expected of them. ❁

Holmes v. Walker

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Ontario Court (General Division), Archie Campbell J., October 30, 1997

Summary reprinted with the permission of the Law Society of Upper Canada from Ontario Reports (3rd) 35 OR (3d) 699, published by Butterworths, 75 Clegg Road, Markham.

Sale of land - Error in substantialibus - Plaintiff purchasing cottage property - Plaintiff not obtaining survey - After closing of transaction, plaintiff discovering that cottage located on road allowance owned by municipality - Plaintiff seeking rescission on grounds of error in substantialibus - Action dismissed.

In 1989, the plaintiff H purchased a cottage property on Georgian Bay from the defendant W for \$170,000. At the time of the purchase, H did not obtain a survey, and neither she nor W knew that 95 percent to 99 percent of the four-bedroom cottage was located on the road allowance owned by the township. The actual location of the cottage was discovered when H obtained a survey in 1993.

The township refused to sell H the land underneath her cottage but agreed to let her use the cottage for an occupation rent of \$25.00 a year. In 1994, H sued for rescission, and, by way of the stated case, she moved for a judgement rescinding her 1989 purchase. Her case was advanced entirely on the basis that the location of the cot-

tage on the road allowance constituted an error *in substantialibus*.

Held, the action for the rescission should be dismissed.

An error *in substantialibus* means an error in the very substance of what is sold, and error so fundamental that it goes to the real identity and character of the thing sold. The mistake here was a fundamental mistake about the nature of the thing purchased. H thought she was buying, and W thought he was selling, land with a cottage. In fact, land without a cottage was sold. This was an error *in substantialibus*. However, rescission is not an automatic remedy. The court must weigh the equities and determine in its discretion as between the two parties who acted in good faith, which one is most entitled to relief from the consequences of their mutual mistake. In the immediate case, the equities, including the delay, the difficulty of restoring the parties to their pre-contractual position, the unfairness to W, the fact H could still use the cottage, and the public interest in the finality of property transactions, weighed against granting rescission. The plaintiff was not innocent in the sense that she caused the problem by failing to get the survey before closing when it was such an obvious, easy and prudent thing to do. Therefore, although there was an error *in substantialibus*, the plaintiff was not entitled to rescission, and her action was dismissed. *

Cases and Statutes Reviewed

By *Dr. Brian Ballantyne*

Continuing Education Seminar, SLISA
Saskatoon, November 27, 1998

Surface water

Edwards v Scott, [1934] SCR 332
Kalmakoff v Keys (1995), 138 Sask R 250

Saskatchewan Water Rights Act 1935
Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act 1983

Ad medium filum (middle thread) & Navigability

Keewatin Power v Kenora (1906, 1908), 16 OLR 184
King v Fares, [1932] SCR 78
Re Coleman & A-G Ontario (1983), 143 DLR(3) 608
R v Lewis (1996), 19 BCLR(3) 244
R v Nikal, [1996] 5 WWR 305

Dominion Lands Act 1872
North-West Territories Act 1886
North-West Irrigation Act 1894
Saskatchewan Provincial Lands Act 1931

Bed & Bank of a watercourse

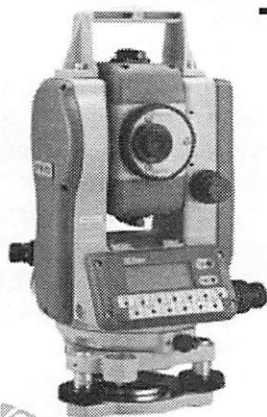
Clarke v City of Edmonton, [1930] SCR 137
Re Queen & very (1983), 149 DLR(3) 688
Robo Management v Byrne (1989), 76 Sask R 40

Erosion & accretion

Volcanic Oil & Gas v Chaplin (1914), 31 OLR 364
A-G Brithish Columbia v Neilson, [1956] SCR 819
Chuckry v R, [1973] SCR 694
Southern Centre of Theosophy v South Australia,
[1982] 1 All ER 283
Nastajus v Northern Alberta Land Registration
District (1989), 64 Alta LR(2) 300 *

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Squashing the Millennium Bug

By R. David Hill, reprinted with permission from the February 1998 issue of "Bartalk", the newsletter of the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch.

You've probably heard the horror stories. Airplanes fall out of the sky, elevators plunge to the basement, and cars stop dead in their tracks - all at midnight, December 31st, 1999. Computers can't cope with the year 2000, leading to crashes and other undesirable results.

Virtually all firms have some kind of computer system, from venerable old 286's to minicomputers - the "average" firm uses IBM compatible PC's, running Dos or Dos and Windows. Will they drop out of the sky, too? What should the firm do about the Year 2000? Most year 2000 resources have focused on the awareness level of business managers about the issue. There does seem to be a certain species of author that enjoys fomenting anxiety - they have latched-on to the Year 2000 (Y2K in computer-speak) with enthusiasm. Other tracts are more in the "don't worry, be happy" vein. Which applies to you?

Most planners adopt a five or six phase approach terminology may vary but the concepts are the same):

Awareness	Inventory
Assessment of Risk	Remediation
Testing and Acceptance	Implementation

Awareness

The popular press has sketched the problem. Computers and their programs may have trouble working with dates above 1999, because, as a cultural value, computer programmers tried to pack their programs to minimum size. "Why use four digits for a year when you can get away with two?", they asked, "They won't be able to use this old program more than a couple of years anyway." So they thought. But the programs are still around - at the heart, in fact, of many large computer systems. Two digit years are everywhere. And that's a big problem when the year goes from 99 to 00.

The problem really needs to be solved by late 1998, since programs often work a year in advance - some accounting programs can't deal with fiscal

periods that end in the next century, for example. Imagine your balance reading "does not compute" on February 1st, 1999.

So, what to do? Fretting is a notoriously poor use of otherwise billable time. You may wish to retain a consultant to fix things up. The most critical factor here is trust. There will be lots of litigation over the year 2000, a good deal of it because someone promised to fix up a computer system and didn't. Judgement creditors will be lined up trying to recover from negligent, impecunious computer consultants. It behooves you to use a consultant you can count on.

He or she is going to get busier on this, so now might be a very good time to start. Law firms are not nearly as complex as the larger installations suffering from the Year 2000 migraine - the task is still manageable.

Inventory

The hardest part of the project is sorting out what needs to go from what can be kept - a Year 2000 inventory of the computer hardware and software at your firm. This may seem simple - but did you think about the photocopier tracking, security systems, the firm limousine, and your telephone system? A walk through your office with your consultant can be a good first step.

To save time and money, prepare a preliminary inventory. List as much information as available about hardware and software. For example, at least the model number of each PC will be required, and the complete version number of each software package.

In the end, you should have a comprehensive list of the computer systems in your firm, and the list should include notations about who is responsible for them. For those under another's aegis (Building Manager for the security system, say), you should be in touch with them as soon as possible to learn their plans to protect you from exposure.

Assessment of Risk

Each item on your inventory needs to be checked for Year 2000 compliance. You might think the answers would be "yes" or "no" - if only that were so. Let your consultant do this for you. He or she should check with the vendors of the products and assess whether the answers are relevant to your business.

As an example, imagine that the maker of your PC advises (or your consultant figures out) that the computer will record dates in the next century, but isn't capable of switching from one day to the next. Maybe your network can handle that for you, by setting each machine's date each morning, as it wakes up. If your network never crashes, and you never work through midnight, then that may be a good solution.

On the other hand, if your network crashes or the date fails to roll over at 12 a.m., your secretary may be deeply disturbed to find her letters and agreements dated in 1980. This is not someone I would care to share a work environment with at 1 a.m.

Some computer manufacturers simply do not comment on the Year 2000 status of their software. For example, Corel Corporation indicates that WordPerfect 7.0 and 8.0 for windows are Year 2000 compliant, but is silent on WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows. Commentators wonder if you can count on other assurances.

The result of all this is that you will need to balance the risk of leaving things as they are against the potential disruption if that item is not functional on January 2, 2000 (or perhaps, January 2, 1999). Especially where a component is critical, you will do well to err on the side of replacement.

Remediation

This is really two phases in one. The first is planning for the repairs, and a second is carrying them out. Suppose you conclude that you would rather upgrade to WordPerfect 8 than to take a risk on the uncertain 6.1. You'll need to include some other details in the plan - can your computers run the new software? Are the hard drives big enough to load it? Will your conveyancing macros run? What will it cost? And so on.

With you remediation plan in hand, you are ready to speak to suppliers and your consultant about putting it in place. Year 2000 demand will drive prices up in virtually all technology sectors next year - "buy early, buy often".

Testing and Acceptance

A cagey computer consultant will undoubtedly think up some ways to work around the Year 2000, but allow time to test them. With the fixes, new hardware, and new software in hand, the acid test is to reset all computers so that they believe they are functioning sometime in 2000. Be very careful doing this, as it can reset things like the accounting system fiscal period, your B. F. system, your calendar, and so on. It is often difficult to return these things to reality.

Be sure to have some formal process in place for indicating your acceptance of the measures taken by your consultants and suppliers. Too often technology projects go astray because one party believes that matters are still up in the air, while the other thinks the task is complete.

Implementation

Having taken a deliberate and cautious approach to the Year 2000, implementation will be a snap. Well, with luck. The usual considerations apply - adequate time for the roll-out, staff buy-in, contingency plans, and so on. With everything operating smoothly weeks in advance, you'll have a chance to call your classmates to see how their Year 2000 projects are progressing. If you can still use your telephone, that is.

*Editor's Note: Some of you may have noticed that the Link appears to be devoting considerable attention to the Year 2000 problem but it is an issue which deserves your notice as it has the potential for creating a great deal of trouble. However, there are software utilities available that are capable of assessing your computer systems for potential areas of concern. One such utility is available, as a free demo, on the internet at <http://www.computerexperts.co.uk>. Also, the Sumantec Corporation will be releasing their Norton 2000 Utility in September or October of this year. Additional details are available on their internet site at <http://www.symantec.com>. **

No prism? No problem.

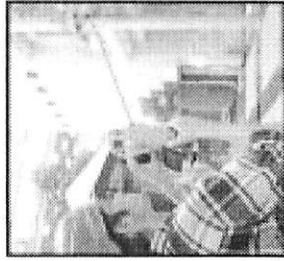


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SLSA Calendar

January 1999 - June 1999

JANUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

New
D
s

Fees Due

BCLS AGM Kelowna, BC

Council
Meeting
#6

ANBLS AGM 21st - 23rd NewBrunswick

FEBRUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

AOLS AGM
Toronto, ON

MARCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

GIS '99, GeoSolutions
Vancouver, BC

APRIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

Good
Friday

Easter
Sunday

ALSA AGM
Jasper Park Lodge

MAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

Victoria
Day

Council
Meeting

SLSA AGM

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31									

