

Countdown to Professionalism

by David T. Humphries



In our society we guard very closely the freedom of expression. Without this freedom we would be unable to examine ourselves, our directions, our continual striving for a more abundant quality of life for our society, our profession, our identity. The points of view of Mr. Endleman in his guest editorial in *THE ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR*, December, and the insert by Mr. Rogers are valuable contributions to this cause. It would seem that both these gentlemen are against separating surveyors into various categories. Would you believe that the Restructuring Committee is of the same opinion and working toward the goal of a Professional Surveyor who is competent and licensed in all the fields of surveying? By-Law No. 73-3 is too restrictive in my opinion and should also include such areas as Survey Engineering, Topographic Surveying, Town and Regional Planning, Land Economics, Management, and Appraisals, among others. Without mention of these topics in the By-Laws of the Association or preferably on the Roll we are continually in danger of losing ground as may be illustrated by the following excerpt from "The Old Dominion Surveyor, November 1973" and I quote:

"The statute provides (1970 Statute of the State of Virginia permitting organization of professional corporations) that no professional corporation shall engage in any business other than the rendering of the professional services for which it was specifically incorporated. In August 1973, the Virginia Attorney General rendered an opinion that a professional corporation offering engineering, land surveying, or architectural services may NOT legally offer planning services if such planning services are outside of the scope of the normal services offered by the professionals pursuant to its charter. We would interpret the Attorney General's opinion to mean that if the services are NOT offered as part of the professional service generally offered by land surveyors, etc., they could not be offered as part of the services of the corporation." Is this another field going down the drain?

I am confident that Mr. Endleman, Mr. Rogers, and any others who hold similar views will be avid proponents of the principle of restructuring (I call it restoration) when they follow through the logic of the philosophy. Permit me to establish a time-table of events in the past, present, and a proposal of events in the future to effect this philosophy that we have embarked on:

1960 — Formation of the Survey Option Course at University of

Toronto, Civil Engineering Department.

1967 — Incorporation of A.C.S.T.T.O. (Already restructured).

1967 — Conference on Survey Education.

1969 — Enactment of The Surveyors Act.

1970 — Conference: The Survey Profession — its structure and its home.

1971 — Institution of the Survey Program at Erindale.

1972 — Enactment of our Regulation delineating level of Academic qualification and term of articles.

1972 — Evolving the terms of reference of restructuring, and laying down the techniques.

1974 — Confirming the necessary changes in legislation to effect restructuring.

1975 — Enactment of these changes.

On page 67 of our Annual Report 1971, our members confirmed their resolve to investigate and make recommendations regarding the procedures required to recognize the fields of geodesy and photogrammetry.

In 1973 our Membership went on record endorsing the principle that the Association embrace various fields of surveying such as Geodesy, Photogrammetry, and Hydography, and that the Association "take such action that is appropriate to open the rolls to those highly qualified surveyors outside our Association . . ."

The issue of re-structuring our Association has become an emotional one, with firm convictions on both sides. Firm convictions are usually stated with a basis in logic. It seems to me that many of us have forgotten what happened to Item Number One in the chronology. Where is our Option Course today? The program of studies at Erindale is a considerable enlargement of the studies taken in the Option Course, to take into account the continually expanding technology. Both programs worked toward the goals proposed in the mid-1950's — the work a surveyor is asked to do calls for an academic standing at the baccalaureate level.

I propose to you that there is no incentive whatever for graduates of the Erindale Program to become members of this Association as it is presently constituted, and that the Erindale Program may follow the Option Course into oblivion without a total commitment by ourselves that,

1. Professional Surveying embraces all aspects of terrestrial and spatial measurement.
2. The Association represents the Survey Industry in Ontario.
3. The A.O.L.S. is the natural Professional home for the Graduates of Erindale.

This is only a statement, but I submit the logic is clear. How, then, do we implement this philosophy?

Not by forming an Institute of Ontario Land Surveyors. We have enough clubs to belong to now — not to mention extra fees, etc.

Not by asking the Canadian Institute of Surveying to become a licensing body. The President's page of the December issue of *THE ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR* outlines the area of responsibility and activity of C.I.S. and the new C.C.L.S., neither of which is a licensing body. Education and licensing body. Education and licensing of professionals falls within the bounds of Provincial responsibility especially in Quebec which has recently restructured the Land Surveyors Act by Bill 261; the Quebec Association has been replaced by the "Professional Corporation of Land Surveyors of Quebec" or the "Order of Land Surveyors of Quebec".

The Resolutions stated aforesaid, together with the many chronological steps taken and proposed, together with the many endorsing resolutions of Council, indicate a clear course for action of this Association. To demonstrate that this Association is truly the professional home for all disciplines of survey we must welcome the disciplines presently outside our Association with a true feeling of brotherhood. Only then will it be evident to our future membership, the graduates of Erindale and similarly qualified people, that this is also their professional home.

The alternatives?

We failed the Option Course.

We will fail the Erindale Program.

We will fail future generations of land surveyors in Ontario.

We have a fine feeling of rapport on the present restructuring committee. If we blow it this time, we will create a credibility gap of monstrous proportions between the disciplines of survey that will not be closed for decades. This Association will become a society of stakeholders, and I would suggest that present members contemplating this course should gain admittance to A.C.S.T.T.O. fast while they can still pass the examinations. As we fade gently into the sunset the graduates from Erindale will find another professional home — probably the P. Eng. who already recognize the Aerial Survey firms.

continued on page 14

Shoot, if you must . . . but spare my theodolite

by ANDREW GIBSON

A few days ago my assistant and I were engaged in the survey of a parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Township of McNab. The weather report had promised blue skies, and so it follows that the rain was incessant. We were up to our armpits in what any developer would call a private lake, but which was known locally as that g d swamp. My assistant was the more waterlogged of the two of us, for, although a non-swimmer, he'd undertaken to retrace a fence through the deepest part of the swamp, and had got into difficulties. Encouraged by my pleas to throw me his wallet, he had survived, but his tobacco and matches were wet, and without these he was not himself. Still, we persisted, whoever he was.

At this juncture, when it might be expected that things couldn't get any worse, we heard, in the distance, sounds as of an irate land-owner, or possibly a sabre-toothed tiger. We also heard the crack of a rifle, but, since we didn't hear the whine of the bullet, we assumed that it was merely a domestic quarrel, and, being persons of delicacy and discretion, ignored what we suspected was a lover's tiff. But, shortly thereafter, we were confronted by the owner of the rifle who, it transpired, had mistaken us for Martians, Godless communists, long-haired creeps, short-haired red-necks, or some other phobia manifestation. The atmosphere was tense for a while but, after I quoted the Surveys Act, and he was assured that we weren't trying to stealthily drain the swamp, we parted amicably enough, to return to the swamp, he to reload.

continued from page 4

Our restructuring committee is having worthwhile discussions regarding proposed acceptable changes to our legislation, our methods of articling, the provisions for acceptance of corporations into Associations, changes to the Code of Ethics, changes to our By-Laws, etc., with the continuous participation of our solicitor. Nothing can be done finally without the approval of the voting membership. The options, to live with, and to be responsible for, are ours and ours alone.

As the matter of voting has been raised it may be informative to the members to quote from the *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* which all our presidents are required to abide by: "Some parliamentary writers have mistakenly assumed that the higher the vote required to take an action, the greater the protection of the members. Instead, the opposite is true. Whenever a vote of more than a majority is required to take

Now I don't want to start any inconclusive arguments about whether surveyors should be shot. That, I feel, is a controversial subject, on which reasonable men may differ. Some persons, having just received their bills, would like to shoot them at once. Others, more humane, would only shoot them after a fair trial. Still others would be content with a sentence of a few years at hard labour. But I feel that the public should be aware that, when they draw a bead on a surveyor, they are contravening the statutes of the Province of Ontario. Assistants can't be shot either, because the law states that the surveyor and his employees can enter on any property whatsoever, without so much as a by-your-leave.

Some may think that this is gross favoritism, and there should at least be an open season, as there is in California. I've done quite a bit of work there, and have been pursued by ranchers, oil men, prospectors, and every variety of nut. Ah, the thrill of the chase! I do miss the excitement. But we Canadians are a dull and stodgy lot, who insist that the lives of surveyors, senators, and even members of Royal Commissions are not to be taken without risk of a civil suit. Also, in my case, my creditors would complain.

So, if you should observe my brother surveyors, my assistants or myself pursuing our measurements, remember that we are protected by the revised Statutes of Ontario, a tome dull enough to turn back any bullet. (*Arnprior Guide*)

an action, control is taken from the majority and given to a minority. For example, when a two-thirds vote is required, the minority need be only one-third plus one member to defeat the proposal. Thus, a minority is permitted to overrule the will, not only of the majority, but of almost two-thirds of the members. If a two-thirds vote is required to pass a proposal and sixty-five members vote for the proposal and thirty-five vote against it, the thirty-five members make the decision. This is minority, not majority, rule."

Please excuse the long quote above and allow me to leave you with a dictum of Einstein's: "No great discovery or advance has ever been made except by those who lifted their noses above the grindstone of details and ventured on a more comprehensive vision". Gentlemen, we need the pursuit of a positive aim that will outrage the negative one of trying to avoid self-destruction.

Books

CARTOGRAPHIC. Land Surveys of Southern Ontario, Monograph No. 8, by Louis Gentilcore and Kate Donkin, published by B. V. Gutsell, Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, 116 pages, \$4.00.

Monograph No. 8 is an introduction to and an index of the field note books for the original township and other Crown surveys for the period 1784-1859.

The book has been broken into two parts and an appendix. Part One explains the history of township surveying, outlines the survey systems, what documents are available and the use of field notes. A further sub-part explains how to use the index which makes up Part Two.

The index is in six separate lists covering A - Townships, B - Counties, Districts and Larger Divisions, C - Lakes and Bays, D - Rivers, E - Roads, F - Named Settlements. In each list the major entries, i.e. townships, are listed alphabetically followed by the surveyor, a key to the amount of detail contained in the notes, the Ministry of Natural Resources book number, date of survey and a partial subject index.

Although surveyors have been using the Crown land records for many years prior to the publishing of this index, it is felt that the material will be of value to those surveyors whose practice permits them to work in various parts of Southern Ontario and who must make frequent reference to the original notes, also to those surveyors attempting to set up practice in primarily rural areas. It is not essential, but a definite assist.

The appendix covers a particular and interesting use made of the original notes that will be left to the reader to discover for himself.

The monograph was published with the help of a grant from the Social Science Research Council of Canada. This writer would like to see others seek similar grants for expanding the current work even more meaningfully and that might provide previously hidden answers to the many questions posed to the practicing surveyor in his use of original notes.

Support
Surveyors'
Scholarships