Concepts of a Modern Cadastre

I was fortunate in being able to attend the recent "Conference To Ascertain A Basis For The Creation Of Modern Land Records Systems In Canada" *organized by the Canadian Institute of Surveying and held in Ottawa on October 23 and 24, 1974, at the Government Conference Centre. The C.I.S. must be congratulated on initiating such an excellent meeting.*

The sponsors were Canadian Institute of Surveying, Canadian Bar Association, National Research Council of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and National Advisory Committee on Controls Surveys and Mapping. There were numerous speakers from all across Canada in the survey, law and engineering professions. Other countries represented were the United States, West Germany, Australia, Sweden and the Netherlands. The comments by the foreign visitors were especially interesting.

At the close of the meeting the following conclusions and resolutions were approved as expressing the general view of the entire conference. — J. D. DEARDEN.

Conclusions

1. Need for a Cadastre

Every society needs a system that is capable of producing information related to land and which is commensurate with the demands that will be made upon that system.

2. Mapping

An essential component of any cadastre is an adequate map.

3. Extent of Re-Survey

It appears to be the majority view of the Conference that the development of a cadastre should not require extensive re-surveys of land; but this does not preclude the need for extensive control surveys.

4. Co-ordinates vs Boundary Monuments

There does not appear to be any consensus of opinion as to whether, in association with the cadastre, coordinate values alone should be relied upon for the definition of property boundaries, without reliance on boundary monuments.

5. Compatibility

To minimize duplication of effort, any cadastre should provide for the interrelationship of subsystems by reference to compatible grid co-ordinate systems and to common (i.e. "shared") land unit identifiers, and those identifiers, which will be the key to accessing recorded data, should be unique (i.e. not duplicated).

6. Updating

No cadastre will serve its intended purpose unless the currency of data is maintained through a continuous updating process. It follows that the graphic element of a cadastre must also be maintained in a current state.

7. Responsibility for Maintenance

Each agency that contributes data to the cadastre through a subsystem should exercise effective control over and be responsible for the maintenance thereof.

8. Accessibility of Information

Information that is required to enable a government to carry out its responsibilities should be readily available to that government.

9. Automation

To be effective, a cadastre should lend itself to automated processing of the recorded data.

10. Cost Benefits

Because the benefits to be derived from the cadastre are difficult to quantify, the carrying out of any reliable cost/benefit analysis has been found difficult.

11. Inter-professional Co-operation

There is a growing need, in view of rapid-

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ly changing technology and the expanding volume of legislation, for increased co-operation, discussion and exchange of information between lawyers and land surveyors.

Draft Resolutions

Having regard to the foregoing conclusions, be it resolved:

1. That this Conference go on record as promoting mutually compatible cadastre development by each of the ten Provinces and by the Federal Government, through co-operative effort, to enable each to carry out its constitutional responsibilities.

2. That the necessary steps be taken, at the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government levels, to provide expanded survey control and map coverage suitable for cadastre development.

3. That both the legal and survey professions thoroughly examine the consequences of boundary determination through the use of boundary monuments as contrasted with such determination by recourse to co-ordinate reference, in light of existing and future legislative requirements and the characteristics of the cadastre.

4. That the co-operative effort of the Provincial survey associations and law societies in this matter be promoted, with the continued support of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and the Canadian Bar Association.

5. That the meeting of the Canadian Council of Surveying and Mapping (to be held in Quebec City next week), be asked to consider the deliberations, conclusions and resolutions of this Conference and take appropriate action to bring these matters to the attention of our first ministers.

Active Survey Science Club at Erindale

No sooner was the new academic year underway than the Survey Science Club of Erindale College, University of Toronto, was reactivated for another year. Several projects are occupying the interest of the club members. They have organized the Survey Science Plumb Bobs Hockey Club in the Erindale Intramural League and are planning surveyors' games. Less athletic but equally demanding are the club's plans for the design of a display for the Ontario Science Centre.

North Eastern Member Honored

The Senate of Thorneloe University, Sudbury, conferred the honorary degree of *Doctor of Canon Law* on Len T. Lane of Sudbury "in recognition of his early leadership in the formation of the College." Len Lane served as President, pro-tem, of Thorneloe from 1961 until 1966. From 1967 to 1971, he was active on the board of governors of Laurentian University. Mr. Lane is President of the Sudbury firm of Lane & Lane Limited, surveyors and engineers.

Len T. Lane