



# Standards - Controls - Bureaucracy

BY MARTIN VORSTEVELD

In light of the experiences and events of the last few years, Council recognized the need for standards and proceeded to form a "Standards Task Force" which now has been active since February 1981. The Task Force was requested to write minimum standards for the following:

1. Boundary (legal) Surveys;
2. Fieldnotes;
3. Plans of Survey;
4. Items related to 1, 2 and 3.

There are some compelling reasons to require standards. Some of the most important are:

- A. The lesson learned from the many disciplinary hearings we had in the last few years, that the accused were either poorly trained or had forgotten everything they were taught.
- B. The Complaints Committee needs guidelines to deal properly with cases of a purely survey nature.
- C. The fact that quite often surveyors, not only in different geographic locations, but also in the same area, do similar surveys for similar purposes in such a different manner that they are not comparable.

Now let's look at items A, B and C.

## A. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Although we will continue to have them, I am convinced that we will never again experience the like of the last few years. The incompetent surveyors have been weeded out and, with the coming of the so-called "two wise men approach" of which you have already heard, those devastating and costly hearings will be held to a minimum.

## B. COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Standards are and will continue to be a tool for the deliberations of this Committee.

## C. SIMILAR SURVEYS

Here the need will be most urgent for the following reasons:

- i. It is ridiculous for a person to have a boundary survey done by one surveyor and then ask for the same service from another surveyor and receive a different product.
- ii. All of us now have liability insurance. If one of us "sins" badly, we

all pay for it through increased premiums. In a sense, we have become our "brother's keeper".

- iii. If we have to appear in court as an expert witness, we had better talk the same language.

The first draft of the proposed standards will soon be distributed. As a matter of fact, you might already have received a copy when reading this. I have always been in favour of standards, but I would like to emphasize **minimum** standards, and for a very good reason.

As soon as standards are in place, there will be, without doubt, voices requesting more standards. If we are not careful, the thing will start to snowball and pretty soon we will be standardized and regulated to death. Consequently, common sense and personal initiative will be stifled. For instance, it was suggested that in the standards we should include the hardness of pencils to be used for fieldnotes. Suggestions also have been made that pencilled fieldnotes should not be allowed -- they should be made in ink. How ridiculous can you get! If somebody wants to engrave his fieldnotes, that is fine, but don't tell me that I must do that too!

There is another aspect to standards which we should keep in mind. With standards in place, there will be voices calling for a mechanism to make sure that we all adhere to the standards. Sounds reasonable, doesn't it? But think again. It is a fact of life that when such a control mechanism is in place, it tends to grow and grow and we will end up with a bureaucracy with too much power at an enormous cost to us and the public. We have all heard of the Parkinson's Law that bureaucracies must inevitably grow. Power leads to corruption. A very good example is what happened to a gentleman just outside Kitchener who owned about 100 acres, with a pond, pool and restaurant, which facilities were used for daycamping. His dream was to turn part of his vacant land into a mobile trailer park with all services provided. The process took 87 approvals, all in the name of protecting the public interest. After many years of fighting the establishment, the man gave up. The park was closed. Bureaucracy gained a smashing victory, but was the public interest served? I agree, this is an extreme case, but I am sure you have had similar experiences.

We are Ontario Land Surveyors working under the laws of Ontario. We are to work under these laws, not for **self** interest, but for the protection of the **public** interest. We are to produce quality work, delivered in the time agreed upon, at a reasonable profit.

With proper education and high integrity of all individuals, we require only minimum standards and minimum control. It is up to us to show that we can stand on our own feet. ●

# ACADEMIA

BY J. K. YOUNG

The fall term is underway at Erindale and again we have a first year enrolment in the low fifties in the survey science program.

There are a number of new faces on the faculty this year. Bob Stocker, O.L.S. has taken over the area of survey law this year as a sabbatical replacement for David Lambden, who is studying in Ireland, and, we expect, cultivating a new accent. Dr. Petr Vanicek is our new geodesist, as mentioned in the summer issue. Our visiting professor this year is Dr. Simha Weissman from the University of Tel-Aviv who specializes in Photogrammetry and Geodetic Science.

There are several part-time instructors also. Paul Church, O.L.S. is assisting in the field surveying labs, John Stevens, a planner with the Town of Vaughan, is teaching Land Planning, and Gerry Wade from Canada Centre for Inland Waters is teaching the hydrographic portion of the Survey Design course.

Another change in our organization is having Bob Gunn, O.L.S. at the helm of the Survey Science program for the 1981-82 academic year.

The student Survey Science Club is, once again, active with Terry Deitz serving as president of the club. ●

## HI, GRANDPAS! (and congratulations)

OLS's who passed grandfathering examination held on February 19 and 20, 1981.

Quinsey, William John; Reis, Kuldar; Sutherland, Norman Elliott; Vinklers, John; Visser, Raymond John; Hook, George Stephen; Maughan, Michael James MacDougall; McConnell, Kenneth Harvey; Mellish, Herbert Leslie; Middleton, John Arnold; Desrochers, James Joseph; Smith, Ronald Howard; Beacom, Keith Irwin; Coote, Basil Douglas; Delph, Frank Boothby; Graham, Edward Allan. ●