

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

BY RON ROBERTSON

COMMONLY KNOWN presently as the "Board". The Board will acquire a name change upon approval and implementation of the Surveyors Act, 1983.

Composition

The Board, at present, is composed of a Chairman, who is appointed to this position by virtue of being the Vice-President of the Association, and hence this is a yearly position. The Secretary, as set out in the Surveyors Act, is a permanent member. There are two lay members who may or may not be Ontario Land Surveyors, and four members of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. As well, there are at least eight assistant members of the Board, of which one is also Secretary to the Board. The assistants are all AOLS members in good standing, who are appointed as assistants to the Board by Council.

Evaluations

Persons who have attended or graduated from any university or college, or surveyors from other jurisdictions may apply for evaluation. The aforementioned evaluations, done with the assistance of a recognized authority in University courses and Survey Sciences are to determine what additional courses an applicant would require in order to be able to sign Articles of Agreement. The additional academic courses can be obtained by correspondence, auditing courses (day or night classes), or by full time attendance. All are usually at the University of Toronto, Erindale Campus.

Monitoring

All Ontario Land Surveyors Board members and assistants are assigned articulated students to monitor. A meeting is held with the Board, the articulated student, and the student's OLS sponsor. A general outline of what is required of the student and his sponsor is given at this joint meeting. The student's monitor then has a private session with the student and his sponsor to indicate what is required of the student for his monitor. Each monitor has basically the same requirements for the quarterly report as submitted by the student.

The monitor is the student's link with the Association, hence, **any** questions or problems the student has relating to his articles, reports etc. must be addressed

directly to the monitor. Each Board member and assistant has a number of articulated students to monitor with the maximum number being five students per member or assistant.

Part of the monitor's work is to check over the student's quarterly report and comment on the clarity of field notes, weight of evidence, adherence to regulations, amount of field time and office time pertinent to the articles, final plan as compared to field notes, etc. It should be noted here that a monitor's comments may conflict with the supervising surveyor's procedures on how field work should be accomplished. In just about every instance, the supervising surveyor has not taken the monitor's comment negatively. It should also be noted that a student cannot write his Professional Exam without first receiving approval from his monitor that he is ready to write the said exam.

Orals

The Board members are also called upon to give the Oral Examinations each year. Three Board members question one student, in private, and subject to the number of students, two groups of three members each may be in attendance simultaneously. The student is questioned in a relaxed atmosphere as the Board is interested in **how** a problem is resolved, as well as the correct answer.

Exam marks for the Orals are determined by the three examiners immediately after an interview with a student. This mark is confirmed by the Board as a whole during its next regular meeting.

Statute and Professional Examinations

These exams are set by the Board members and Assistants. A Board member may occasionally monitor an exam sitting.

The marking of these exams is done by the Board members and Assistants so that each examination is reviewed by several members of the Board or the Assistants to the Board. If there is a large discrepancy between the marks given on any one particular examination, these are reviewed. The marks for the Statutes and Professional Exams are also ratified by the Board as a whole.

No member is aware of whose paper is being marked, as each exam is identified by the student's exam number. Only after the marks are approved by the

Board as a whole, are the students' names revealed.

In regard to the Professional Exam, the student is notified by telephone within hours of ratification of said marks, if at all possible, as this Examination is the one that leads the student directly into the commission as an O.L.S.

Field Note Assignment

All field note assignments are set and marked by Board members and Assistants. Usually two persons will mark this assignment in order to obtain a fair and reasonable mark because of the ambiguity of the subject. Again, if there is a large difference in the mark, a third member is called upon to give his opinion as to what he feels should be awarded to the student. This assignment **must** be completed within the first year of the student's articles.

Approval of Articles

The Board formally approves applications for articling between a qualified student and an OLS in good standing. It is recommended that the OLS be in private practice running his own business for a minimum of five years in order to pass on business and office management experience to his student.

The articles and applications must be in a prescribed form and documented accordingly as the articles are in fact a contract document between two parties and ratified by a third party. The articles, contrary to popular belief, are for a **minimum** of two years, usually run for three years and occasionally four or more years.

These comments are passed on to the students and their supervising surveyors at the "Monitoring" meeting, and sometimes prior to that meeting if the Board wishes a discussion with the proposed supervising surveyor prior to signing of articles.

The Board also approves the Assignment (transfer) of Articles and Cancellation of Articles.

Re-Admissions

The Board, as a whole, also deals with those former members who have resigned in good standing and are requesting re-admission as a Registered Land Surveyor. For those retired, wishing reinstatement, there is a prescribed section of the Surveyors Act which basically states that the retiree must pass such examinations as the Board may require prior to his reinstatement. A retiree is one who voluntarily relinquishes his name as a registered

surveyor, for one month, one year, etc. In fact, no minimum time exists, so that those who consider voluntary retirement must look at this very carefully before making the said decision, as reinstatement is neither automatic nor easy.

Course Formats

The Board studies and comments on survey courses at both Erindale and Ryerson, however it does not get too involved with either Erindale or Ryerson, as the Education Liaison Committee deals directly with these two institutions. The Board also confers the ELC Committee and staff at Erindale on an occasional basis in matters of mutual concern.

Grandfathering

Specific members of the Board sit on this newly formed Committee to determine the procedures for acceptance, by grandfathering, of the hydrographic, photogrammetric and geodetic disciplines into the AOLS.

The Board, as a whole, will be involved in some of the upcoming proposed decisions regarding this new segment of the AOLS.

Workshops

The Board, as a whole, or certain selected members have occasional workshops throughout the year to hammer out obstinate problems, prepare procedure guidelines, work on handbooks such as the proposed "Articling" handbook, and a myriad of other problems deemed to take too much time at a regular meeting.

Clarification Discussions

Meetings are held, usually on a formal basis, and at irregular intervals, between the Board and others who wish clarification of certain issues. This could be a situation wherein an OLS felt he retired prematurely and wishes reinstatement without writing an exam. A supervising OLS may not be sure of his commitments to his students and the Board. A prospective supervising OLS may want to be advised of what is required of him should he proceed to article a student. The meeting may be called to discuss with a student and a prospective new supervising OLS seeking special considerations, such as a reduction in articling time, or possibly less field time or office time or similar like considerations.

In general, a fair amount of time is given to this committee. Hence, once committed to this group, the Board member must be prepared to give his time unstintingly. ●