

# THE MODERN TALE OF RIP VAN WINKLE

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Section 3(2) of the Surveyors Act, 1987 states: "The principal object of the Association is to regulate the practice of professional land surveying and to govern its members and holders of Certificates of Authorization in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the By-Laws **in order that the public interest may be served and protected**".

The Survey Review Department, through its function of Systematic Plan Reviews and Comprehensive Reviews, document items that would appear to negatively affect the public interest.

When these reviews are analyzed by the Registrar, the Manager of the Review Department, the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Advisory Service with the surveyor so that a plan of action can be implemented for the protection of the public, there always seems to be the same comments made time and time again. These comments are:

- The plan looks as if it were drafted 30 years ago.
- That was the way we were taught to keep field notes (1957).
- When I articulated in 1957 the only Case Law I heard of was "Home Bank".
- The surveyor who I articulated to didn't do very much research.
- That's the way it has always been surveyed in this area.
- Those same plans have been on the wall of his office for over thirty years.

## HOW LONG HAVE THESE SURVEYORS BEEN SLEEPING.

In the Code of Ethics it stated that "....every member shall:

- a. Conduct his or her professional and private affairs in such a manner as to **maintain public trust** and confidence in the profession.
- b. **Abide by the Standards** of practice prescribed herein.

- c. **Follow a program of continuing education** and maintain a level of proficiency that will meet the needs of the public; .....

Periodically every surveyor should ask himself the following questions.

- Do I attend the Regional Group meetings?
- Do I participate in the discussions?
- Do I submit items that should be discussed?
- Do I attend all or almost all of the continuing education seminars?
- Do I put into practice what I have learned at the seminars?
- Do I read all the Bulletins and information that the Association sends out or is made available?
- Do I understand the contents of the Bulletins and the information?
- Do I avail myself of the information that is made available?
- Do I get my staff involved in seminars?
- Do I have a continuing quality control program to ensure that my staff and I carry out the requirements and needed changes?
- Do my staff and I know and understand the Regulations and Standards?
- Do we always put them into practice?
- Do I carry out sufficient research?
- Do my staff carry out proper field procedures?
- Am I proud of each and every Plan I sign?

**Surveying has changed!!! Have you???**

Every member who is privileged to use the title "Ontario Land Surveyor" should evaluate the answers to see if he is a modern Rip Van Winkle. If the beard reaches to your feet, you have your work cut out for you. If you are clean shaven, you must be congratulated.

