



"LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE"

RESEARCH - FIELD NOTES

One of the major causes of poor surveys is the lack of proper research of field notes. Why does this take place? Some the reasons given are:

- "There is no need to get field notes now that there are a great number of reference plans available"

FACT: This is not acceptable. Too much prior survey evidence and fabric is missed by the failure to obtain survey notes prior to attending in the field. This is true whether one is surveying within their regular area of practice or elsewhere in the Province.

- "If I find something during the survey, I will look up the surveyor and get the Notes"

FACT: This is not acceptable. One cannot determine the necessity for obtaining field notes by what the field crew finds in the field, or conversely, by what is not found.

- "I cannot get notes from John Doe O.L.S./ John Doe O.L.S. is abusive if I request notes "
"I have to pay for notes"

FACT: These are not acceptable reasons for lack of proper research. The surveyor undertaking the survey is responsible for proper research. If another O.L.S. will not provide field notes within a reasonable time, this must be brought to the attention of the Association in order that the practice can be corrected.

- "Guess I missed those earlier notes in my own files"
FACT: The field notes in one's own office must be suitably indexed and filed and used so that you do not disagree with your own earlier survey on the basis of not providing your party chief with all your own records.

The Surveys Act and common survey practice require that the best evidence available be obtained, and this must include the field notes available for the area. These should be obtained prior to any survey work being undertaken.

Properly researching surveys costs money and time and must be reflected in your fees to your client. The "price-cutter" generally cuts research first as this is not noticed by the client at the time of the survey, however this method of cutting costs results in poor surveys which will cost both the public and the profession in the future.

Allow the time and money to properly research your survey work in order that both the public and you, the surveyor, will be protected.

POORLY PREPARED FIELD NOTES AND LACK OF PROPER RESEARCH REGARDING FIELD NOTES MUST BE DIRECTLY ADDRESSED BY ALL THE PROFESSION IN OUR STRIVING TO IMPROVE OUR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.

Standards Officer