

Ontario-Manitoba Border

Nunavut

The survey of the Ontario-Manitoba boundary began in 1827 and ended in 1950. Both Ontario and Manitoba police forces were established in the "Disputed Territory" between Thunder Bay and Kenora before the Canadian Government awarded the territory to Ontario in 1884. Canadian legislation extended Manitoba's northern boundary to 60 degrees north latitude and extended the eastern boundary to the point where the 89th meridian intersects the southern shore of Hudson's Bay. Ellihu Stewart, O.I.S. ran the first stage of the boundary in 1827. J.W. Pierce, O.L.S., D.L.S., M.L.S. ran sections in 1921, 1922, 1929 and 1936 and his son, John G. Pierce, O.I.S. was assistant on the last stage in 1947.

The survey of the line that intersects Highway No. 11 (survey mile post 162) is called Niven's Meridian. This survey was the first step taken by the Ontario government in the exploration and development of the Cochrane region. During the 1890s interest in Ontario's northern mineral, forest and land resources increased rapidly. Accordingly, surveyor Alexander Niven (1836-1911) ran an exploration line to James Bay by extending northward what was then the boundary between the Algoma and Nipissing Districts. In 1896 he surveyed the line to milepost 120 and two years later extended it to a point just north of the Moose River. All subsequent surveys for mines, logging companies and settlements, including the Exploration Survey of 1900, which provided the first detailed report on this region, have been based on this meridian line. Information acquired by land surveyors included soils information, minerals, forest resources, plant specimens, an inventory and location of animals and fish, the general features of the country, the location of important waterfalls and other geographic information.

Surveying for Settlement



Library & Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1972-26-1360

Canada's newest territory, Nunavut, was established in 1999 after negotiation and ratification of the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. This is the largest concluded land claim treaty in Canada's history. Ontario-based surveyors began the work to establish the boundary of the settlement area in 1994. There were 1,155 land claim parcels that were surveyed, comprising 33,000 kilometers of artificial boundaries. It would take 8 to 10 years to complete the work.

Throughout our history, surveyors have played an integral role in the development of settlement patterns. This is especially evident in Ontario. Today professional surveyors are still heavily involved in the development of cities and towns, in planning and public works, helping to build the communities of tomorrow.

Exploration in Ontario's Northland

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Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

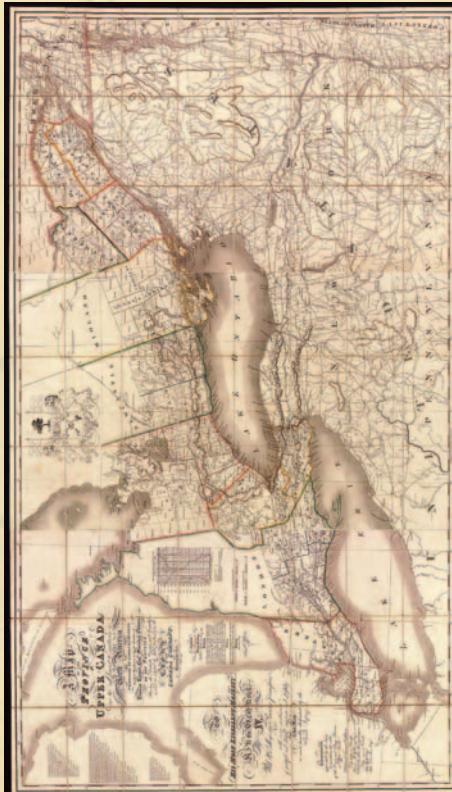
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Under British Rule

In 1763, the British introduced the title of "Surveyor General" to British North America. In 1782, Surveyor General Samuel Holland was faced with a development boom. The American Revolution had just ended and thousands of United Empire Loyalists were arriving in Upper Canada, now Ontario, wanting to settle immediately upon lands once inhabited by aboriginal people. There were not enough surveyors nor time to survey farm lots before the settlers arrived, so whole townships were laid out on paper. Governor-General Sir Frederick Haldimand created the first township system in Upper Canada in 1783. Land was distributed to the Loyalists by drawing lots. The settlers were allowed to reside on land owned by the Crown temporarily until the lot that they had drawn was surveyed and the title transferred properly.



Library & Archives Canada, NMC 113165-1, 113165-2, 113165-3

Canada-US Border

On October 18, 1818, a British-American convention established the western border between Canada and the United States as a line from the farthest north-west part of Lake of the Woods to the 49th parallel and thence to the Rocky Mountains. This latitude formed the southern boundary of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and most of British Columbia. In the Oregon Treaty of 1846 a bitter dispute arose which almost precipitated war between these two nations before they agreed to extend the boundary to the shore of the Pacific along this parallel. Most of the boundary was surveyed by 1874.

Land Treaties

In July 1855, near Allenford, representatives of the Ojibwa conferred with government officials at a meeting later called the "Allenford Pow-Wow." The conference resolved a boundary dispute, which had arisen over the terms of the Saugeen treaty of 1854. The Ojibwa interpretation of this treaty held "Copway's Road," an aboriginal pathway from Saugeen Village to Lake Huron, to be the boundary of the land ceded by them on the north side of the Saugeen River. Lord Bury Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and the government's principal representative, accepted this interpretation, which granted the Ojibwa increased frontage on Lake Huron and removed a major source of hostility. This boundary defined a limit to further settlement by immigrants.

Transportation Routes

Surveyors mapped the routes and led the construction of the Rideau, Welland and St. Lawrence Canals to link them with major water bodies. Surveyors laid out railroads such as the Transcontinental Railway; Grand Trunk Railway; Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway; Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway; Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway; Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway; London and Port Stanley Railway; Ontario and Québec Railway; Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Junction Railroad to connect the settlements established by the settlers to create routes for trade and commerce.

Surveyors opened military roads and numerous "colonization" roads that are still used today. Dundas



Library & Archives Canada, R9266-273

A reserve on the Grand River was established in 1774 for Six Nations Iroquois. Sixteen years later in May 1790, Alexander McKee, Deputy Agent of the British Indian Department, and the principal chiefs of the Ottawa, Potawatomi, Chippewa and Wyandot tribes negotiated a treaty whereby the British Crown acquired title to what is now southwestern Ontario. This treaty completed the process begun with the Niagara treaties of 1781 and 1784, with the result that most of the Ontario peninsula was opened to British and Loyalist settlement.



This figure is from the original 1854 Saugeen Treaty, Library & Archives Canada, R9266-P539.