



MONUMENTATION IN BUILT-UP AREAS

During the past twelve months our insurance adjuster, F.C. Maltman & Co., has dealt with six claims arising from damage *to* underground utilities caused by the placing of Standard Iron Bars. On each occasion the claim has been denied, as the underground facilities were proven to have been laid coincident with property lines or comers and in some cases at only nominal depth below grade.

In every instance of damage to underground hydro lines or gas lines there is a potential for injury to the person planting the monument, to passers-by and to local residents. There is also a danger that telephone service, which might be required for emergency use, would not be available if damaged by the placing of a Standard Iron Bar.

In the interests of safety, and to minimize the cost to the insurance fund of defending claims for damage to underground plant, Council recommends that witness monuments or monuments other than Standard Iron Bars be used at front property comers in built-up areas where the possibility of damage to underground plant exists.

Provision for alternatives to Standard Iron Bars resides in O.Reg. 525/91 S. 11, which states in part:

- (4) If it is impossible to plant a monument required by this Regulation because of underground structures or services or lack of overburden, the surveyor shall plant a short Standard Iron Bar.--
- (5) If it is impossible or impractical to plant a monument required by this Regulation or permitted by subsection (1) because of the nature of the location of the point, the surveyor shall plant the monument as near as possible, but not closer than one metre, to the point.
- (6) The surveyor shall, if possible, plant the monument authorized by subsection (5) on the existing or proposed boundary of the lands being surveyed.