



Chuck Salmon



BC Survey *Plans for the Future*

Since the arrival of Europeans on the West Coast of North America, the delineation of land has played a strong role in the settlement and economic development of this area. Mappers and hydrographers mapped the area and the coastline but it was surveyors who began laying out the settlements.

Surveyors, at the request of the Hudson's Bay Company, conducted the earliest surveys and that company developed the first register of these lands. Since that time, disposition of the land has transferred from the Hudson's Bay Company to colonial governments and finally to the province of British Columbia.

The Land Registers recording the first surveys of land are housed in the vaults of the Lands Department, along with the surveys of those lands. Once the land was disposed of by one of the various forms of grants, the registers of the Land Title Offices became the official record of the titles and any subsequent transfers. We have come a long way from the days when

draftspersons would painstakingly create composite maps or record names and addresses in registries using open-nibbed pens and India ink in handwriting that was impeccably neat and legible.

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generated documents. Survey plans, however, did not go through the typewriter stage; draftspersons used Letraset or Leroy pen sets.

The advent of the computer has transformed us further with the development of electronic documents for filing conveyances and other forms necessary in the transfer of land.

But what about the survey plans? Currently they are created on computers and plotted using large-format ink jet plotters. Once registered these plans are scanned and then made available in electronic format to the public.

For the past five years, the Surveyor General has been reviewing the possibility of receiving and filing plans in digital or electronic format, eventually eliminating the need for storing large rolls of hard-copy plans and relying on the electronic environment. In the early stages of this project, money was difficult to come by. Because the government is very serious now about moving this project forward, by April 2005 they will be accepting some plans in digital or electronic format.

There are two distinct parts to developing digital or electronic survey plans.

First is the requirement for a legal document to define interests in land. The technical requirement can be met by having the surveyor compile the plan, then save the document to a raster-type image. Adobe seems to be the front-runner in this with their portable document format (PDF). Many software packages have the capability of producing a PDF of the survey plan. This PDF can then be filed in an electronic format and easily accessed and viewed or printed as needed.

Currently there is a requirement for signatures by the surveyor, approving authorities, owners, charge holders, etc. This requirement can be overcome by allowing the use of a paper document or allowing a mechanism similar to the electronic filing of documents now in use

by the Land Title authorities. These are some of the issues that need to be resolved prior to implementation.

Second, there is a need by all levels of government, as well as the public, for a smart digital file for the ongoing development and maintenance of the cadastral fabric. Currently there are many variations of composite maps or reference mapping of the provincial cadastre. Some are paper-based (hardcopy); some are in digital format, using geographic information systems (GIS).

Some local governments have developed their own base map for their use; many, however, have relied upon outside agencies to provide a hard-copy map product. As the need grows for a more accurate and up-to-date base cadastral map, the only possible way to develop and maintain this product is through having all plans filed in a digital format that can be used to provide real-time maintenance of the cadastre.

I am sure most of you are aware of the government announcements regarding the proposed establishment of an independent not-for-profit Land Title and Survey Authority to manage the land title and survey systems of this province. At the present time, there is no structural information regarding this authority because the entire process is in its infancy. It does, however, provide the opportunity for speculation about positive gains that could benefit the users of the system and the people of BC.

I personally believe this is a very positive step that will lead to that often-talked-about single agency for all survey and title information. It is apparent that all providers of the information and the users of that information will see some significant change in the next short while, but the overarching benefits will well outweigh the inconvenience that may be caused by the changes contemplated.

I look forward to the outcome of this new proposal and being part of that change. ▲

Chuck Salmon, BCLS, is the Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar of the Corporation of Land Surveyors of the Province of British Columbia.

Techno Tips

Michael Angelo Rubino

What are Internet cookies?

Basically, cookies represent pieces of information about who you are, where you've been, and what you may have clicked on while you were visiting a Website.

Every time you access the Internet to view your favourite sites to catch up on world events or shop online, Web servers generate Cookies based on information gathered from you while you're surfing the Web; they store them on your computer for later use. Windows stores all this information in your Cache or Temporary Internet Files. Cookies can be accessed by the same Web Servers at a later time or by different Web Servers on a new site you visit.

That all goes on behind the scenes without your consent or your even being aware it exists. It gives you a sense of awareness about how **not so private** you really are while surfing the World Wide Web.

These cookies and temporary Internet files may be taking up needed space on your hard drive; it's comforting to know you can delete them.

How to delete them (For Internet Explorer 6.0)

The most common way is as follows.

1. Open your Internet browser to any Web page.
2. Click on Tools.
3. Select Internet Options.
4. Under the General tab, click on Delete Cookies; click OK. To the right of that button, you'll find the Delete Files button. Click on that, then click OK to remove the Temporary Internet Files from your Computer. You're done!

How to make sure they are gone!

I like to make sure the files are gone. If you're like me, you might want to take a look. Use the same steps as above, only this time, do the following.

1. Under the General Tab, Click on Settings.

Photo: Anna-Maria Salvatore



2. Then Click on View Files. Here you'll see all your Cookie files. You can select them all here and watch the files being deleted.

How to delete the list of Websites you've visited

1. Open your Internet browser to any Web page.
2. Click on Tools (same as before).
3. Select Internet Options.
4. Under the General tab, click on Clear History. The list of Websites you've visited will be deleted.

How to keep your computer safe from potential attackers

With today's high-speed Internet connections (DSL, Cable), it's necessary that you equip your computer with antivirus software and at least, a software firewall. The Antivirus software will help you detect, quarantine, and remove any viruses that may be hidden on your hard drive, eating away at your files or crippling user-functionality. The software firewall provides protection between your computer and the World Wide Web. This software will give you more control over what comes in and what goes out. You can decide everything. Best of all, you can find free versions of the firewall software on the Internet, such as Zone Alarm at zonealarm.com.

These tips will go a long way to help keep your computer safe. ▲

Michael Angelo Rubino is a support specialist in the e-Commerce industry.