

There's A Law**Frank Kitto Deplores
Removal Of Official
Surveyor's Markers**

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Radio and TV are
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such P.R.*

Standard iron bars used as survey markers in designating boundaries of existing properties, may make excellent crowbars, but the expense runs high. According to the Federal laws pertaining to land surveys, possession of the markers carries a penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The bars, one inch square, four feet long and pointed at one end, are often removed from the ground, damaged, or shifted out of position by persons desiring to make use of them, or merely for the purpose of clearing a path for excavation. In tampering with the mathematically located markers, the person, responsible increases the difficulty of accurately surveying any given location.

In explaining the problem, Frank Kitto, Ontario Land Surveyor, employed by the Grimsby and District Planning Board, says the problem is becoming worse instead of better. "We have considerable trouble locating a starting point when irresponsible people move those markers," he said.

It was further explained, the 'Standard Iron Bars', referred to as SIB's, are set in position at main corner intersections, especially used in the laying out of sub-divisions. The surveyor places the markers at the corners of the plan prior to the routine steps required in receiving final approval for the new development. Once the approval has been granted, heavy machinery moves onto the job to begin excavation operations. It is at this point the problem of dislocated markers enters the picture.

Careless operation of the machinery, with little or no regard for the careful, precise measurements of the surveyors, brings many a headache, Mr. Kitto stated. "When those markers are shifted out of position, our job becomes extremely difficult," he said.

The surveyor referred to the mammoth task of re-surveying the area in preparation for what is known as

'location surveys'. Once the excavation work is complete and the builder moves onto the job, a 'location survey' must be made to ascertain the exact boundaries of the individual lots. Should the SIB's be moved, the location survey cannot be conducted, since the accuracy must be measured down to a tenth of an inch.

"It is to be hoped that subdividers and contractors will become aware of the importance of the surveyor's markers," Mr. Kitto said, "without proper caution, a tremendous amount of harm can be done in a very few minutes."

Another problem arising at times, although to a lesser degree than the destruction, or removal of markers, is interference in the conducting of a land survey. Unaware of the penalty involved, a property owner will attempt to stop a surveyor from entering onto his land.

According to the Survey's Act —

Section 6, 'a surveyor, or person in his employ may at any time, enter and pass over the land of any persons.'

The surveyor may also enter any building for the purpose of surveying at any time suitable to the occupant, but is liable for any damage that may result from the work being performed.

The Act states, that any person who interferes or obstructs a surveyor or his employee, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the Act, is guilty of an offence and on summary conviction, is liable to a fine of not more than \$100.

Mr. Kitto suggested that when a contractor finds a marker in the path of his excavation plans, he should notify the surveyor immediately instead of shoving it out of the way or covering it over. Once notified of the hinderance, the surveyor can easily re-locate the marker, temporarily until the work is completed.

Markers that are in the path of sidewalks could be driven into the ground flush with the top of the pavement and left in plain view of anyone desiring the information they contain. Too often the marker is buried under cement or asphalt, contributing to a complex problem through such action.

"We can only achieve an accurate survey of any given area through the consideration and fore thought of everyone involved," Mr. Kitto said. "I don't believe we are asking too much of anyone".

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THE MAIL BAGAdvantages of the Decimal System

The Editor,

I wish to draw your attention to an article on page 58 of the June issue of the Civil Engineering magazine. This article points out the advantages of the decimal system rather than the metric system, and may be of interest to the members of the Association.

J. C. Kirkup

Editor's Note: Another excellent article on this subject is "The Yard or the Metre, Which?" in the June, 1961 issue of "The Engineering Journal". Both articles are too long for publication in "The Ontario Land Surveyor". Perhaps our friend, Jack Kirkup would be good enough to boil them down to a few pages.