

Autograph Target

# Frost Tells Surveyors To Seek Out History

Former Ontario premier Leslie M. Frost demonstrated yesterday he is still the target of autograph seekers.

He turned part of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors' annual meeting into a literary luncheon when he presented all in the room—200 to 300 persons—with copies of *Early Days in Haliburton*, by H. R. Cummings, to which he had written the foreword.

The meal had scarcely started before an officer of the association sitting next to Mr. Frost

began putting books in front of him for signature. After his speech, dozens of the surveyors lined up to have their copies autographed.

Mr. Frost made it clear he had come to the meeting to win support for a cause, but not one related to partisan politics. He urged surveyors to interest themselves in the history of the province and to seek out for local archives the priceless historical material contained in the notes of their predecessors who guided early Ontario settlement.

It was impossible to avoid mentioning politics, but Mr. Frost scupulously avoided the contemporary scene. He recalled that during his premiership a memorial had been erected in Algonquin Park to a pioneer surveyor, James Dixon.

"He was not of the same political communion as the one in which I was a bishop," Mr. Frost recalled.

Mr. Frost was soon aware of the rapport he established with his audience as he spoke of the hardy survivors who laid

out the roads from the Ottawa Valley across his beloved Haliburton to Georgian Bay. "A person can hardly consult you fellows under \$100 today, but in those days surveyors laid out whole townships for \$100," he said good-naturedly.

He quoted anecdote after anecdote from the field notes of pioneer surveyors. He seemed about to conclude three or four times, then went on again as if unwilling to leave his favorite subject—his home country and its history.

*Globe and Mail, Toronto, Feb. 13, 1963*

**SPECIAL ARTICLE**

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ARE WE SURVEYORS OR RESURVEYORS?

by A. Phillips Bill\*

Recent years have seen surveyors all over the continent howling around what is described as the problem of "RESURVEY".

Now, it seems to me that the problem is misconstrued from the outset, by its name. There is, I submit, no action on the part of the professional surveyor that should, or can, properly be designated as a "RESURVEY". Every professional service we render should be regarded as a "FIRST" survey, whether we are more precisely defining the location of monuments already established, or stating the position of new monuments established by us.

Much has been said, and some of it most cogently, about the primary responsibility of the surveyor in his "retracement of the footsteps of those who have gone before him". All of this is obviously most germane to our professional responsibility for far too many of us seem to think this responsibility stops when we have stood in those footprints! Discovery and recognition of these first actions constitutes only a part of our duty. We must then define their position on the face of the earth in a technical language that will permit easy recovery and a general knowledge. For instance: - How often have we seen a plan of field notes prepared in a hasty, sloppy fashion, deficient in quantities, and frankly, most difficult to evaluate, even as a professional? How often have we seen a plan that failed to show monuments found and placed? How often have we seen a plan that failed to show any evidence of study of surrounding title boundary evidence? How often have we seen a plan that, on investigation, failed to indicate occupational evidence of ancient character that might well influence title? Or, conversely, how often have we seen a plan that showed only occupational evidence without any apparent regard for title boundary?

Further: - How much real attention do we give to that most essential duty of more precisely measuring to the monuments of our survey? Do we constantly seek to incorporate the best methods of survey into our daily practice? Do we keep our measuring equipment, our mathematics, and our general execution up to the best modern standards? Have we introduced coordinate mathematics - a system of filing mathematical information that is admitted by all who have bothered to learn which eliminates majorelements of error formerly found in survey data - into our regular service to our clients?

Have we investigated the possibilities of aerial photographs in cutting reconnaissance costs to our clients? In our topographic surveys, do we employ an intelligent variety of measuring techniques consistent with the varying problem? In our small subdivisions, do we keep abreast of planning for the area involved, or do we bang through the problem, only to run into a planning scheme which could easily have been met if we had bothered to recognize it?

I submit that we are SURVEYORS, not RESURVEYORS! Let's live up to the worthy name!

\* A. Phillips Bill, Honorary O.L.S.,  
Chairman, Property Surveys Division - ACSM Education Committee

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

From time to time there has been an interest shown in the Association securing liability insurance coverage. Your insurance committee has in the past investigated several proposals from various companies. Although there was a possibility of getting group coverage, it would be of little or no advantage as far as premiums are concerned since premiums would be based on individual assessment of participating firms. Apparently premiums were considered too high for the average surveying firm in relation to the coverage offered, as there was not sufficient interest in participation for a group policy to be formulated. The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping has arranged liability insurance through Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc. for various associations in the United States, and it was hoped that this company might provide liability insurance for surveyors and engineers in Ontario for a more reasonable premium rate than had been previously offered to us. However, when they were contacted, they advised that they were not licensed to operate in Canada.

For the information of those who might be interested in obtaining liability insurance on an individual or firm basis, I have on file correspondence from two agents who have indicated their interest in providing such coverage. These are: A. E. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Dundas Building, 195 Dundas Street, London, Ontario (Brock Patterson, Representative); and Hunter, Rowell & Co., Ltd., 481 University Avenue, Suite 171, Toronto 2, Ontario (M. B. Dale, Representative). There are no doubt other agents in various centres who could also provide such coverage.

\* John Gray, O.L.S., Chairman, Special Committee on Insurance

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