

AERIAL SURVEYS - AND YOUR CLIENT

Photogrammetry can be used as a tool to better our work in the interests of our profession and our client.

The main purpose and desire of a land surveyor should be to be of service to his client. He must not consider himself in a money-getting business, nor consider that he operates in a competitive commercial world. He has a duty and obligation to his client and the profession to provide the best service possible.

The Commonwealth Conference on surveying, held in Wellington, New Zealand in 1950, defined the Land Surveyor as "One who measures and delineates the natural and artificial features of the earth" (O.L.S. Annual Report 1951, Page 151). This definition does not state by what means the measurements and delineations are to be made. There are many surveying instruments, which aerial surveying firms own, that a land surveyor requires and yet cannot afford to own because of their limited application to his work.

Land Surveyors are negligent in their duty if they deny their clients the advantages of these modern instruments and techniques. It is not sufficient to refer a client to an aerial surveyor. The client has requested, and must receive, a high quality product guaranteed by the signing surveyor. The Land Surveyor must, himself, engage the services of an aerial surveying firm to supply him, for his client, a high quality product. As with all parts of a survey, it must be checked or carried out in a self-checking fashion to ensure the accuracy and completeness required. Use a reputable aerial survey firm and then carry out field and office checks to ensure compliance with the contract.

The important point we are trying to drive home is that the surveyor must use all his resources to fulfill the needs of his client. We must keep abreast of the technical advances being made and must not allow any survey technician, whether he be a chainman, draughtsman, party chief, or photogrammetrist to assume that he is a professional land surveyor.

One member of your Committee put it this way, "in the application of aerial surveying and photogrammetry to legal and topographic land surveying, who will be in the driver's seat". "In view of the value of photogrammetry as an aid to surveying and of the rapidly increasing accuracy of results of measurements and location perpetuation by aerial survey methods, the relationship between the public (client) through the land survey firm to the aerial survey firm, should be the same as that of the public (patient) through the doctor to the radiologist."

We must recognize the important contributions to the science of surveying which photogrammetric engineers are making and couple these with the art of land surveying for the benefit of all. The aerial surveying firms prefer, when carrying out small projects, to deal directly with a qualified surveyor who understands their method of operation, the many applications of their product and its limitations. Co-operate with these firms and use their product in the best interest of your client.

Other papers discussing the uses and new application of photogrammetry to land surveying will be presented in future editions of the Ontario Land Surveyor.

Committee on Aerial Surveying and Mapping.