

Restoration Of Township Boundaries In Northern Ontario

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With funds made available through the Ontario Seasonal Employment Program for labourers' salaries and transportation costs, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Surveys and Engineering Branch, developed a program of township boundary restoration as an adjunct to the existing resurvey (retracement) program.

This approach to township boundary restoration involved merely the opening up of township lines and the replacing of the original wood posts with Crown land survey monuments. This was only feasible in particular areas of Northern Ontario where the evidence of boundaries could be located with little difficulty.

With limited funds available for the existing program, O.S.E.P. presented the opportunity to carry out additional boundary maintenance in areas where evidence is still in existence but which is rapidly deteriorating due to forest fires, natural decay and logging.

Selected Projects

Projects were selected in the administrative districts of Cochrane, Kapuskasing, Kenora, Swastika and Sudbury, and were based on factors such as accessibility and commuting distance, title and ownership of adjoining lands and the need for the management and development of natural resources. The respective district foresters were responsible for supervision.

Agreements were entered into with Ontario Land Surveyors in five areas to provide direction to the line cutting crews as to the location and width of the boundaries and to restore Crown survey points. A Crown survey point is interpreted as being a survey point forming part of the original Crown survey fabric which was identified by any object that was placed, planted or marked in the original survey, or being a survey point defining the position of a point on an original survey line which forms part of the original Crown survey fabric.

9 Crews Organized

In total, nine line cutting crews each comprising of six to seven axemen and a foreman were organized. An Ontario Land Surveyor or a survey technician was attached to each crew.

The surveyor was not required to make or record angular and linear measurements between survey points, but was allowed to make angular and linear measurements of such standard sufficient to

assist him in locating Crown survey points. Originally blazed trees were only reblazed either above or below the existing blazes.

The surveyors were required to submit a report, daily diary and to record all Crown survey points restored.

Winter Months Only

The terms of O.S.E.P. restricted the operation to the winter months which did present problems of access, locating monuments and other difficulties due to extreme low temperatures.

The crews were bussed as close as possible to the project sites and in some instances were transported the remaining distance by snow vehicles where terrain and snow conditions permitted. In most instances the crews had to snowshoe the remaining distance since snow conditions and depth last winter made snow vehicles inoperative. In some instances it was necessary to construct temporary access by opening old logging roads.

Work Undertaken

In three months, one hundred and seventy-four miles of township boundary were re-opened and forty-five points restored. Numerous original Crown land iron posts were found which were not renewed. The points were restored according to such evidence as original wood posts and bearing trees.

Points opposite blazed trees were monumented when it could be referenced to a geographic feature such as a lake or a river and when no other Crown survey points could be found within approximately one mile. Observations for azimuth were not required for the boundaries were in part visibly open especially in spruce swamps while in other areas sufficient number of blazes existed. Across burnt or cut-over areas devoid of blazes, the lines were run by transiting or picketing until evidence again was found.

In view that field notes of resurveys of township boundaries which had been surveyed in the early nineteen hundreds denote that in most instances the chainages agree within three links in a mile, it was anticipated that original monuments could be and were found at intervals of plan distances. The locating of the points involved shovelling of snow to a depth of 50 inches.

Economical Approach

This approach to boundary restoration

is very economical. Also since the original measurements have proven to be sufficiently accurate for cadastral and mapping purposes, there is no present need for remeasuring distances and bearings between Crown survey points but rather only to restore the point.

Although township boundaries were surveyed primarily for the purpose of subdividing lands for settlement and for the development of natural resources, these were also accepted by government agencies to define the limits of their administrative or jurisdictional districts. The visibly opened boundary is therefore a benefit to all administering the functions of the various Ministries of Government as it is to the public in general and to the Ontario Land Surveyor.

Wild Mushrooms Without Fear

(continued from page 8)

varieties in the same bag or basket with the ones you intend to eat. A single Amanita mixed into a whole stew of safe varieties can be lethal.

And thirdly, never listen to anyone who tells you he has a rule-of-thumb for differentiating safe from poisonous varieties. There is no general rule that works. One of the commonest such beliefs is that a poisonous mushroom gives itself away by tarnishing silver, and the medical casebooks are filled with people who have paid with their lives for this belief; the Amanita, for one, will not tarnish silver. People who tell you they have been eating mushrooms for years on the basis of some such rule are living on borrowed time. If they keep it up, sooner or later they are going to happen on the mushroom that is the exception to their rule.

In other words, the overall point to keep in mind is that in mushroom-hunting there is no substitute for positive identification of the specimen you plan to eat.

But remember too that such identification can be easy. Mushroom hunting can, indeed, be far safer than ocean swimming. For in the ocean it is the shark, not you, who selects the menu; and while the shark is notoriously catholic in his tastes, you can pick and choose.

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