

It's All About The Wine!!

By Wikar A. Bhatti, O.L.S., O.L.I.P., Crown Surveyor, Office of the Surveyor General
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



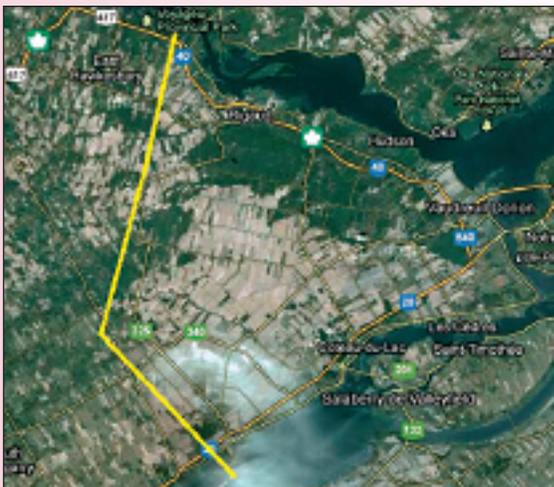
I thought that title might get your attention!!

Recently, I read that Bill C-311 received royal assent, amending the *Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act*, enacted in 1928. This recent amendment eliminates federal restrictions that prohibit Canadians from transporting wine across **provincial boundaries**, encouraging Canadians to visit wine regions and support the development of our world class wine industry. (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/nwsrm/rlss/2012/m06/nr120628b-eng.html>)

Now you're probably wondering what all this has to do with surveying.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has the legislative authority under the Public Lands Act for the control and jurisdiction of the Province's Crown land. That duty also requires that the Office of the Surveyor General be responsible for the definition and maintenance of Ontario's **provincial boundaries**.

The subject matter of this article is the retracement of the 43 km long segment of the historic limit between Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). Contrary to most maps out there, there is no solid black or yellow line in the field marking this boundary. It's just not there!!!



History:

The boundary was originally created under the Constitution Act of 1791, which divided Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada. However, no provisions were made for actually marking the boundary in the field. As you can imagine, over time confusion arose as to the dividing line's true location. As such, an Act in 1860 (*An Act respecting the Line of Division between Upper and Lower Canada*) gave permission to have this boundary line surveyed and delineated on the ground. E.T. Fletcher, P.L.S. performed this survey, setting 46 stone markers along the boundary.

An Ontario/Quebec joint-venture to rehabilitate the line was carried out by P.E. Mercier and E.T. Wilkie in 1922. They found 43 of the original 46 markers and they set several new monuments.

The provinces jointly inspected the line in 1969 and 1987 and found that a majority of the monuments from 1922 were still in place, albeit in various states of disrepair. Many of the original monuments had been either destroyed due to road widenings, agricultural and construction activities, even automobile accidents or being pilfered by persons unknown to be used ostensibly for souvenirs.

While they recommended some form of monument remediation be undertaken by the provinces, no work had taken place – which brings us to the present.

The issue of the monuments being in disrepair had attracted the attention of local organizations on both sides of the provincial boundary. In the fall of 2010, the Glengarry Historical Society requested a site meeting of representatives of the Office of the Surveyor General (Ontario) and the Bureau de l'arpenteur général du Québec (QSG) to view the damaged monuments and generate some willingness on the part of the provinces to restore the monuments.

From that meeting, a partnership was formed to support an initiative to undertake the retracement of the provincial boundary and the establishment of additional monumentalization at the intersections of major roads and the provincial boundary to encourage visitation by the public and promote the heritage of this historic limit.

Now, as you can imagine, the logistics of such a project presented some rather unique challenges, from partnering with a jurisdiction outside Ontario to designing the type of monuments to be used, the coordination of the various contractors, as well as resolving transportation and construction issues, all within the constraints of two autonomous provincial procurement guidelines.

As overwhelming as this project seemed at the start, it was pretty basic - using the principles of best evidence to retrace the limit, a number of the original monuments from 1922, as well as 1860 were located in stable condition. This actually resulted in several bends in what was defined under the



1860 Act as “theoretically straight lines” that followed the seigneuries of New Longueuil, Vaudreuil and Rigaud.

Based on this, new monumentation consisting of a combination of Stanstead granite monuments and steel bars with aluminium caps were set at the locations as shown below. Red tags indicate the location of granite monuments and yellow tags indicate the location of steel survey bars.



The newly placed monuments are located with public access in mind; you can easily walk up to the new monuments - a line is also scribed into the foundation so one can actually see the direction of the boundary line as it crosses open fields or thick forests. The monuments are inscribed with Ontario on one side, Quebec on the other, and marked with the monument number and the year of installation.

Final deliverables for the complete project will consist of a Confirmation Plan and a mapping product. The Confirmation Plan is presently being drafted. There will be two official versions, each signed by the respective Surveyors-General and housed in their respective offices in Peterborough and Quebec City. The mapping product will consist of a series of sheets with the appropriate imagery and the boundary line superimposed on top. Each sheet will also contain a table of the coordinates for the respective monuments.

The Glengarry Historical Society is erecting additional public signage to promote a greater appreciation of the



Monument 20A - Southern limit of the 8th Concession Road

heritage of the boundary. Local newspapers have printed articles highlighting the efficiencies of the progress and commending the partnership of both provinces.

This is a good news story! All Ontarians and Quebecois alike have a vested interest in the heritage of this boundary.

Administering the Province’s Crown land can be overwhelming at the best of times. This project was no different. While efforts began many years ago to carry out this project, it was under the auspices of Susan MacGregor and Daniel Roberge, Surveyors-General of Ontario and Quebec respectively, that this project was completed. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Eric Belanger, a.-g., and the staff of the Bureau de l’arpenteur général du Québec for their cooperation and significant contribution in establishing an excellent working relationship throughout the process to make a complex project proceed to a successful conclusion. 

Monuments Through The Ages



Sites to See

GeoBase

www.geobase.ca

GeoBase is a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative that is overseen by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG). It is undertaken to ensure the provision of, and access to, a common, up-to-date and maintained base of quality geospatial data for all of Canada. Through the GeoBase portal, users with an interest in the field of geomatics have access to quality geospatial information at no cost and with unrestricted use.