WEBINAR FOR OPFA REGISTRANTS:
Association of Ontario Land Surveyors project to Modernize the Surveyors Act

When: Tuesday September 27th from Noon to 1pm
Cost: Free to attend
This webinar is available only to OPFA registrants – **registration is required**.

Speaker information:

Brian Maloney is the Executive Director of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. Prior to that he was the owner and operator of Fiducial Points Consulting. He retired from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) in 2013, where he served in many positions ranging from Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Management and Information Division to Surveyor General. He also worked in surveying for the Ministry of Transportation for 16 years and was the Chief Surveyor. He has brokered many cost and information sharing agreements with private sector, government and non-government organizations to leverage capacity to deliver information services and products and provided national leadership through a variety of federal and national committees.

Brian will speak about the challenges facing the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors that are leading them to consider requesting changes to modernize the Surveyors Act and will discuss some of their proposals.

The following information has been provided by the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors.

Background

The Association of Ontario Land Surveyors is undertaking a project to modernize the Surveyors Act which will include a review of its governance, its licensing model, and its statutory procedures, such as handling complaints and discipline. We are seeking input and feedback from organizations that may be impacted by possible changes to the Act and are particularly interested in hearing thoughts related to the definition of professional and cadastral surveying.

The current definition of professional surveying in the Surveyors Act is very broad and allows for members practicing in a variety of fields to be registered as an Ontario Land Surveyor~~s~~. Except for cadastral (boundary) surveying, which is a practice that is exclusive to licensed Ontario Land Surveyors, it is not necessary to be an Ontario Land Surveyor to practice professional surveying.

We expect the current role of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors to continue. That role, as ~~is~~ defined in the Surveyors Act is as follows:

- The principal object of the Association is to regulate the practice of professional surveying and to govern its members and holders of certificates of authorization in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the by-laws in order that the public interest may be served and protected.
- For the purpose of carrying out its principal object, the Association has the following additional objects:
    1. To establish, maintain and develop standards of knowledge and skill among its members.
    2. To establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification and practice for the practice of professional surveying.
    3. To establish, maintain and develop standards of professional ethics among its members.
    4. To promote public awareness of the role of the Association.
    5. To perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are imposed or conferred on the Association by or under any Act.

The current definitions are as follows:

> "practice of professional surveying" means the determination or analysis of spatial attributes of natural and artificial features on, above or below the surface of the earth, whether or not the surface of the earth is situated below water, and the storage and representation of such features on a chart, map, plan or graphic representation, and includes the practice of cadastral surveying

"practice of cadastral surveying" means advising on, reporting on, conducting or supervising the conducting of surveys to establish, locate, define or describe lines, boundaries or corners of parcels of land or land covered with water

The non-exclusive (i.e., anyone can practice) disciplines of surveying include:

- Geodetic surveying (registered Surveyor)
  This is the science of locating and relating the position of objects on the earth relative to each other, while considering the size, shape and gravity of the earth. This type of survey is suited for large areas and long lines and is used to find the precise location of basic points needed for establishing control for other surveys. Geodetic surveyors establish horizontal and vertical networks that form the primary spatial reference system used in mapping, boundary demarcation, and other geomatics applications. Geodetic surveyors use a variety of equipment and processes but tend to favour the use Global Navigation Satellite Systems such as GPS.

- Hydrographic surveying (registered Surveyor)

  Hydrographic surveyors practice the science of measuring and describing the physical features of rivers, lakes, and oceans. Hydrographers survey and chart waters for navigation, to determine water depth and to measure tide currents. Hydrographic applications include the preparation of navigational charts, tide and current tables, sailing directions and related publications for commercial, industrial and recreational use. Hydrographers also conduct surveys for dredging and construction projects, submerged pipeline and cable crossings, location of wrecks, and maritime boundary delineation.

- Photogrammetric surveying (registered Surveyor)

  Photogrammetric surveyors specialize in the science of obtaining reliable spatial information from photographic images and remote sensing technology. Photogrammetrists analyze aerial and terrestrial photographs and remote sensing data to obtain information about physical objects and the environment. The most common utilization of photogrammetry is in the production of base maps. Mapping generated using photogrammetry provides a cost-effective method of establishing an accurate digital base for such things as urban planning, terrain analysis and forest management. Photogrammetry can be used for landfill or gravel pit monitoring, determining the location of ore bodies or determining proposed locations for utilities, such as highways, pipelines and transmission lines.

- Geographic information management (registered Surveyor)

  Geographic Information Management (GIM) is a specialized aspect of information management science employing an integrated approach that encompasses the acquisition, processing, analysis, presentation and storage of geographic data. Geographic Information

Managers direct the activities of geographic information system specialists engaged in creating and editing geographically indexed databases, used in generating maps and related statistical reports. Geographic Information Systems are used in a broad range of activities such as planning urban growth, managing a forest, implementing "precision farming", assessing insurance claims, siting an automatic teller machine, routing 911 vehicles, assessing groundwater contamination, designing a cellular phone network, guiding "intelligent" vehicles, assessing the market for manufactured goods, managing a city, operating a utility, improving wildlife habitat, monitoring air quality, assessing environmental impact, designing a road, studying human health statistics, minimizing water pollution, undertaking real estate transactions, preserving wetlands, mapping natural hazards and disasters, providing famine relief, or studying the causes and consequences of global climate change.

For the purposes of consultation we have created draft proposed new definitions as follows.

Cadastral Surveying means:

1. the measurement of land or airspace to determine, locate, define, describe, establish or re-establish Boundaries
2. the preparation of maps, plans and documents in any format with respect to determining or establishing boundaries
3. integrating any monument that defines a boundary, either directly or indirectly, with a network of geodetic points of any order of precision and determining coordinate values for the monument when those values are used in the development or maintenance of a geographic information system that will be used in whole or in part for determining or establishing boundaries
4. advising on, reporting on or supervising any of the activities listed in 1 to 3.

Boundary means a natural or artificial line on the surface of the earth, below the surface of the earth, in airspace or in or on any structure, the purpose of which is to indicate the extent of a legal interest in land, land under water, water, airspace or natural resources, or in a structure.

Professional Surveying means determining the location of any natural or artificial feature on land or in airspace relative to a boundary for the purpose of certifying the location of the natural or artificial feature and may include establishing control points for the purpose of Cadastral Surveying.

We are proposing that Cadastral Surveying would remain the exclusive domain of Ontario Land Surveyors, but that Professional Surveying would be a shared-exclusive practice with Professional Engineers and Professional Geoscientists.