

# BOUNDARIES

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The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA), established in 1910, is a self-governing professional association legislated under the *Land Surveyors Act*.

The Association regulates the practice of land surveying for the protection of the public and administration of the profession.

## **If I find a boundary marker in the ground, can I use that to put up my fence?**

First, do not remove or destroy or alter the boundary marker. It is a crime to do so.

Boundary markers are placed by Alberta Land Surveyors for many reasons. The boundary marker you find, for example, may be evidence of a right-of-way boundary but not the boundary of your property. One must also be careful that they have, in fact, found a boundary marker and not something else.



Evaluating and assessing survey evidence is one of the reasons that Alberta Land Surveyors must have a university education along with several years of practical experience before being granted their professional commission.

Even though you think you have found the boundary marker, it is best to retain the services of an Alberta Land Surveyor to have your property line accurately located.

## **I want to put a fence post where a boundary marker is. What can I do?**

If the boundary marker is just where that fence post should be — please build around it. The cost of replacing a marker could be as much as the cost of the fence, driveway or landscaping in the first place.

## **How Can I Get This Real Property Report Updated?**

Question: I have an RPR that was done by an Alberta Land Surveyor in 2005 for the previous owner of the house. The Alberta Land Surveyor has since passed away. I am now selling the house and the purchaser's lawyer wants it updated. How can I get this real property report updated?

Reply: If the Alberta Land Surveyor worked for a firm where there was more than one Alberta Land Surveyor on staff, the surviving Alberta Land Surveyor in the firm may be willing to update the real property report.

However, in this specific case, the Alberta Land Surveyor who passed away was the owner and president of the firm and the company no longer exists. The notes and records,

unfortunately, were destroyed. In these circumstances, there is no choice but to get a new Alberta Land Surveyor to prepare a current real property report.

Sometimes, landowners will state that “nothing has changed” when considering getting a real property report updated. Before saying that

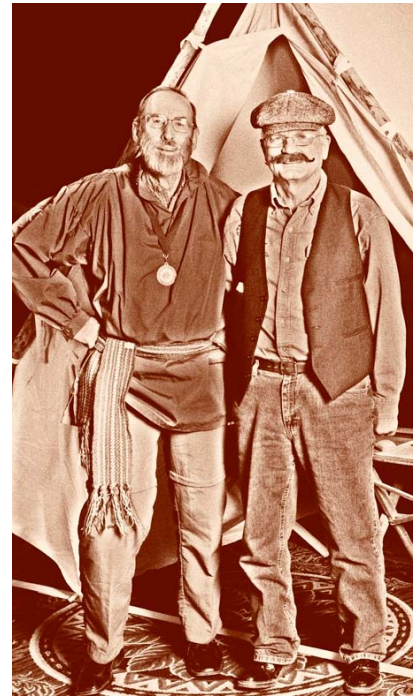
“nothing has changed,” please understand what the standards are and what is required to be shown. Have you built a new fence, deck, shed, garage, retaining wall or some other improvement? Has the adjacent landowner? If so, it may be required to be shown on your real property report.

**Centennial Tour Underway**

“Albertans will help celebrate 100 years of land surveying in Alberta by viewing the historical exhibit of land surveying artifacts and an interactive re-creation of an early surveying camp,” says Don George ALS, President of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association (ALSA).

Called “Making Their Mark” the displays and artifacts show how Alberta was developed through the stories of the men and women who measured and created the boundaries of the land parcels in the province. Without boundaries, land ownership could not be established. Early surveyors were often the first people to see much of early Alberta as they laid out the homesteads and the early urban settlements.

Today’s land surveyors still measure and create boundaries but their activities are far more diverse, especially in the work they do for the creation of boundaries for the energy industry. Also, like other professionals, land surveyors use highly sophisticated equipment—a far cry from the artifacts displayed in the exhibit.



The first showing of “Making Their Mark” is underway at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Interpretive Centre in the east-west pedway where it will be available for public viewing until August 21.

Over the next two years, the exhibition will travel throughout Alberta.

Grande Prairie Heritage Discovery Centre	Aug 21-Dec 15, 2009
Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Centre	Dec 15, 2009-Mar 29, 2010
High Prairie and District Museum	Mar 29-Jun 29, 2010
Medicine Hat Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre	Jul 1-Sep 30, 2010

**For More Information**

This newsletter is published by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association as a public service. If you would like to receive a copy of *Boundaries*, please contact us at [info@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:info@alsa.ab.ca) or 1-800-665-ALSA.

*Boundaries* is also online at [www.alsa.ab.ca/GeneralInfo/Boundaries.htm](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/GeneralInfo/Boundaries.htm)

Readers may reprint an ALSA original article as long as credit is given to the *Boundaries* newsletter and the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

There are still dates available for communities wishing to host the exhibition. Contact the ALSA for details.

## In the News around the World

### [Surveyors paved the way for things to come](#)

*Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune*

Local land surveyor John Lehnerts recounts a time when he was helping a senior co-worker find a survey pin right on the side of a hill at Dunvegan, one of the oldest settlements in the region.

### [Surveyors' Shortage Stymies City's Growth](#)

*The Zimbabwe Standard*

Council says an acute shortage of surveyors has seriously affected the city's expansion plans and delayed the implementation of long awaited housing projects.

### [Arctic seabed mapping renewed by Canada, US](#)

*CBC.ca*

The US has made it clear that it wants the boundary dispute in the Beaufort Sea to be resolved with Canada without international interference.

### [Neighbours urged to settle hedge dispute](#)

*Malvern Gazette*

NEIGHBOURS at war over a laurel hedge in Malvern have been urged to settle their differences as the spectre of two costly court cases looms.

### [New ingenuity centre taps into tech sector for resource industry ...](#)

*Alberta Talks*

Tecterra brings wide-ranging expertise together to bolster what is widely considered one of the top three geomatics groups in the world



## Free Brochures

"*The Real Property Report*," "*Understanding Easements and Rights of Way*," "*Alberta's Subdivision Process*," and "*I destroyed survey evidence—a practical guide to survey markers for the homeowner, handyman and contractor*" are free brochures available from the ALSA and can be ordered by visiting our website, [www.alsa.ab.ca](http://www.alsa.ab.ca)

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