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Background: Boundary through the Fraser Valley (British Columbia – Washington); Top Circle: GPS setup on Monument 64 (British Columbia – south-east Alaska); Bottom Circle: North across the boundary to Stanstead (Quebec) from Derby Line (Vermont).





Introduction

The 85th Annual Joint Report of the International Boundary Commission (IBC) sets out how the boundary between Canada and the United States – from Atlantic to Pacific Oceans, and from Pacific Ocean to Beaufort Sea – was maintained in 2009. This Report is an overview of activities, and correlates maintenance activities with short- and long-term maintenance plans.

For the third year this report will be published on-line. This continues the IBC's commitment to allowing wide access to information while minimizing printing and distribution. The report will be produced in two parts. First, this narrative will be available for download on the IBC website. The second part containing the technical appendices will be stored in a Geographic Information System (GIS) data base. A nominal number of hard copies will be produced for formal distribution and archival purposes.

The boundary between Canada and the United States came into being as a result of some 26 Treaties, Conventions, Protocols, Decisions and Awards between the 1783 *Treaty of Peace* (between Great Britain and the United States) and the 1925 *International Boundary Treaty* (between Canada and the United States). Although there were ad hoc boundary commissions over the years, the IBC dates to the 1908 *Boundary Treaty* which appointed two Commissioners to locate and mark the boundary between the two countries. A permanent IBC, established by the 1925 Treaty, has a mandate to maintain the boundary under the supervision of the two Commissioners.

The IBC's mandate is thus found in the 1908 and 1925 treaties, and for the Canadian section, in the *International Boundary Commission Act*, 1960. It consists of a Canadian and a United States section, each of which reports to its respective Commissioner. Technical, administrative and policy personnel within each section are supplemented by seasonal employees. The Canadian Commissioner is Peter Sullivan, who has been appointed by Order in Council by virtue of being the Surveyor General for Canada Lands. The acting United States Commissioner is Kyle Hipsley, who has long served the United States section, most recently as Deputy Commissioner.



Peter Sullivan
Canadian Commissioner



Kyle Hipsley Acting United States Commissioner





MISSION

"The Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the Treaty of April 11, 1908, are hereby jointly empowered and directed: to inspect the various sections of the boundary line between the Dominion of Canada and the United States and between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska at such times as they shall deem necessary; to repair all damaged monuments and buoys; to relocate and rebuild monuments which have been destroyed; to keep the boundary vistas open; to move boundary monuments to new sites and establish such additional monuments and buoys as they shall deem desirable; to maintain at all times an effective boundary line between the Dominion of Canada and the United States and between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska"

(International Boundary Treaty 1925)1

Defining an *effective boundary line* varies according to the social, geographical and administrative needs along the boundary. This results in a variety of maintenance techniques.

5 and 15 Year Maintenance Plans

Background

In 2004, a revised maintenance plan² (consisting of 5- and 15-year forecasts) was developed by both Commissioners to better address the priorities of the IBC. The 15-year forecast addresses recurring routine maintenance (brush clearing, monument maintenance and surveying). The 5-year plan allowed the 15-year targets to be met, by modernizing the IBC's operations and addressing extraordinary issues along the boundary. These included replacing aging maritime range marks, modernizing map generation and processing a backlog of survey data. The 5-year plan took effect in 2005 and expired this year (2005 to 2009).

Progress to Date

As illustrated in the table (fig. 1) and chart (fig. 2), many of the 5-year projects have been delayed or deferred, for three significant reasons. Most notably, little of the boundary mapping project has been completed. Owing to the significant cost of acquiring imagery, mapping represents a high percentage of the costs associated with the 5-year plan. The imagery acquisition has been delayed because both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the National Geospatial and Intelligence Agency (NGA) have agreed to provide imagery. This means that, in the long run, actual mapping costs will be less than forecasted costs.

The costs of two other projects (Point Roberts range towers and British Columbia – south east Alaska monument maintenance and surveying) were significantly higher than forecast. Carrying this additional cost has delayed other projects, and consequently has contributed to the low

¹ Treaty regarding the Demarcation of the Boundary between the United States and Canada. Signed February 24, 1925. Ratifications exchanged at Washington on July 17, 1925.

² Paquette & Moore. Report on the Present State of Maintenance of the United States and Canada Boundary and Recommendations for the Future. February 2004.





completion rates. Finally, and compounding the problem, the United States' section has not been funded for the actual costs of the 5-year plan.

Years	PROJECT PROPOSED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETE
	St. Francis River, GPS survey and marking boundary	Completed in 2004
	Pt. Roberts Range Towers, construction	Completed in 2009
	Boundary Mapping	10% Complete
2005-2009	Survey Data Processing / Adjustment	60% Complete
5-2	Implementation of GIS Technology	65% Complete
500	Halls Stream, surveying and marking boundary	75% Complete
''	49th Parallel to the Pacific, monumenting and GPS	Completed in 2006
	SE Alaska / Portland Canal, GPS Surveying	75% Complete
	49th Parallel (W. Kootenay to Pacific),, GPS Survey	50% Complete

Fig. 1 – Summary of 5-Year Plan (non-recurring projects)

Although 21% of the maintenance in the 15-year plan has been completed (fig. 3), adjustments are required to align actual with forecasted. Strategies being employed to close the gap on the 15-year plan include: utilizing new technology, reviewing vista clearing requirements and developing partnerships with key users of the boundary. These strategies, in conjunction with sufficient funding, will ensure that the long range plan is realized.

5 Year Maintenance Progress

Forecasted Complete Remaining Actual Symmetric Complete Remaining

Fig. 2 - Progress against 5-year plan

15 Year Maintenance Progress

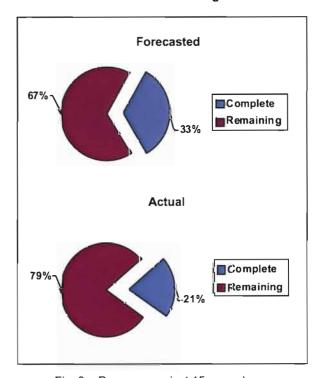


Fig. 3 – Progress against 15-year plan





2009 Highlights

Maintenance Activities

Maintenance took place along many sections of the international boundary. However, two sections in particular took much effort: British Columbia – south east Alaska, and the 49th parallel through the Fraser Valley (British Columbia - Washington).

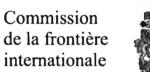
The surveying of British Columbia – south east Alaska has been listed as a priority maintenance project since 2005. Given its isolation, rugged terrain, and unpredictable weather, it represents a significant logistical and work effort. Continuing the work started in the 2008 season; the IBC recovered 61 monuments, established four control points, and surveyed 39 monuments in the 2009 season.



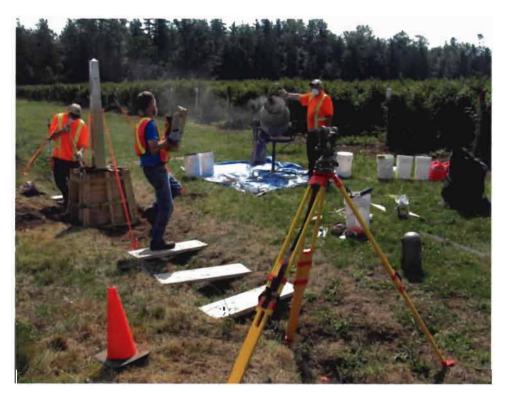
GPS work: British Columbia - south east Alaska

The 49th parallel through the Fraser Valley is one of the most populated sections of the boundary. The boundary runs between the municipalities of Delta, Surrey, Langley and Abbotsford to the north (British Columbia) and Blaine, Sumas and Whatcom County to the south (Washington), meaning that ongoing maintenance is a necessity. In 2009, the IBC surveyed 79 monuments and nine range marks, set 25 new monuments, repaired 10 deteriorating monuments, cleared 44 km (27 mi) of vista and established 25 carsonite markers along this section.









New monument: Fraser Valley (British Columbia - Washington)



Surveying a range mark: Strait of Georgia (British Columbia – Washington)





Supplementing these two major projects were several other maintenance projects:

- North Line (New Brunswick Maine): 272 monuments inspected, six monuments repaired and 69 km (43 mi) of vista cleared.
- St. Croix River (New Brunswick Maine): Six reference monuments inspected and four new bridge tablets placed.
- St. John River (Quebec Maine): 100 monuments inspected and one established.
- 45th parallel (Quebec New York): 31 monuments inspected, 12 carsonite monuments placed and 13 km (8 mi) of vista cleared.
- Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior (Ontario Minnesota): 21 monuments inspected, four surveyed, and one repaired.
- 49th Parallel (Manitoba/Saskatchewan Minnesota to Montana): 775 monuments inspected, 142 line marks inspected, seven monuments repaired and 116 km (72 mi) of vista cleared.
- Waterton Glacier National Park (Alberta Montana): Three monuments inspected and 5 km (3 mi) of vista cleared.



Monument 855: Manitoba - Minnesota boundary





Commissioners' Inspections

- June: Stanstead/Derby Line (Quebec Vermont);
- July: Aroostook Valley and St. Francis River (New Brunswick/Quebec Maine);
- August: 49th Parallel (Alberta Montana);
- August: Fraser Valley (British Columbia Washington).

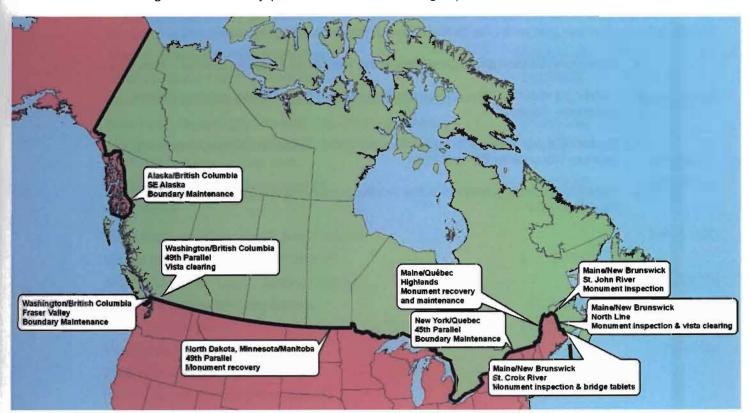


Fig. 4 - Location of IBC Maintenance activities in 2009

As the map suggests (fig. 4), maintenance activities dealt with much of the boundary. Maintaining an effective boundary signals the spatial extent of property rights and allows for jurisdictional and policy certainty. This certainty is critical for operations where time is of the essence.

³ Simmons. Rules over real estate: Trade, territorial conflict and international borders as institution. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. v.49 – n.6. pp.823-848. December 2005.

⁴ A mathematical model of an undead attack, for instance, highlights the need for ongoing maintenance by the IBC to ensure that the boundary is visible to all segments of the population: Munz et. al. When zombies attack! Mathematical modeling of an outbreak of zombie infection. In: *Infectious disease modeling research progress*, Tcuenche and Chiyaka (eds.), pp. 133-150, Nova Science Publishers. 2009.





Geographic Information System (GIS) Development

Contracts for application development were issued to ESRI Canada, and have been mostly completed. The chief objective is to allow all staff to independently update copies of the GIS and then seamlessly rollup the changes to one master database for publication. Additionally, satellite and ortho-rectified imagery was acquired for the Fraser Valley and south east Alaska.

Regulatory Items

The mandate of the IBC includes maintaining a clear boundary line. As part of this mandate, authorization was granted by the Commissioners for the following projects:

- Installing a radiation detection system at the Trout River crossing (Quebec New York);
- Installing a radiation detection system at the Dalton Cache border crossing (British Columbia - Alaska);
- Replacing a damaged cattle fence along the British Columbia Montana boundary, between Monuments 239 and 241;
- Repaving an existing roadway at the Frontier border crossing (British Columbia -Washington).





Financial Report⁵ - April 1 2008 to March 31 2009

	U.S. section (U.S. \$)	Cdn section (Canadian \$)
Total to March 31, 2008:	\$13,304,647.38	\$15,818,662.77
Total to March 31, 2000.	Ψ10,004,047.00	Ψ13,010,002.77
Washington - British Columbia (Boundary Bay)	\$12,508.30	
Washington - British Columbia (Cascade Field Surveys)	\$242,650.98	
Quebec - Maine, Highlands (Field Survey & Monumentation)		\$59,829.00
Alaska – British Columbia (Field Survey)	\$379,594.68	
Glacier National Park (49 th Parallel)	\$10,250.00	
British Columbia - Alaska (Field Survey & Monumentation)		\$194,786.00
New York – Quebec (45 th Parallel Vista Clearing Contract)	\$70,649.57	
North Dakota/Montana/Saskatchewan Monument Recovery ESRI GIS Development Contract	\$1,920.10	\$40,500.00
ESRI GIS Hardware/Software support	\$6,637.82	\$24,000.00
GIS Training	\$9,061.30	
Ortho-photo and Ortho-rectification Contract		\$55,014.00
Glacier National Park Clearing Contract	\$17,980.64	
British Columbia - Alaska Clearing Contract		\$942,309.00
Vista Clearing Contract Inspections	\$1,300.53	\$11,310.00
IBC Monument Database	\$13,709.00	
Vehicle Maintenance		\$12,519.00
2005 Annual Report production	\$4,000.00	
Reference and Boundary Monuments	\$11,250.00	
Technical Field Equipment Support Service (NRCan)		\$22,200.00
IBC Map Geo-Referencing by USGS	\$10,000.00	
Brass Markers		\$4,227.00
Vehicle Operations	\$18,445.18	
Landowners Database Compilation		\$27,798.00
Survey Equipment	\$12,927.86	\$23,957.00
Sub-total for 2008/2009	\$822,885.96	\$1,418,449.00
Total to Date	\$14,127,533.34	\$17,237,111.77

⁵ The financial report does not correspond well to 2009 activities; it primarily deals with 2008 activities.





A Look Ahead to 2010

Maintenance Activities

In an effort to meet the 15-year boundary maintenance plan, several projects are scheduled for 2010:

- Inspecting all monuments along the St. Mary's River, St. Lawrence River, Niagara River, Rainy River, Saint John River and Passamaquoddy Bay
- Clearing 15 km (10 mi) of vista along the North Line (Maine New Brunswick)
- Surveying all monuments through the Portland Canal (Alaska British Columbia)
- Clearing the vista through Halls Steam (Quebec New Hampshire)
- Clearing 60 km (38 mi) of vista along the 45th Parallel (Quebec Vermont)

Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Sullivan Canadian Commissioner

5/12/2010

Canadian Section

575-615 Booth Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9 Canada Tel. (613) 992-1294 Fax (613) 947-1337 Kyle Hipsley

A/ United States Commissioner

United States Section

2000 L Street N.W., Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

Tel. (202) 736-9102





Appendix A – 15 Year Maintenance Plan

YEAR	PROJECT PROPOSED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETE
	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing	Completed 2007
	North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing	95% Complete
	Southwest & South Line, clearing & monumentation	Completed in 2005
2	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
2005	West Line (Vt- Que) brush, side clear, monumentation	50% Complete
7	49 th Parallel (PembTurtle Mts.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel(Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	S.E. Alaska Portland Canal, monumentation & clearing	75% Complete
	St. Clair River, monumentation & GPS surveying	Completed in 2005
	North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing	95% Complete
	Southwest & South Line, monumentation	Completed in 2005
9	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2005
2006	West Line (NY- Que) brush, side clear, monumentation	No Work Completed
``	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	75% Complete
	49 th Parallel (Pemb Turtle Mts.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	St. John River, inspection & monumentation	50% Complete
	Southwest & South Line, monumentation	Completed in 2005
	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2005
	West Line (N.Y Que), brush, side clear, monumentation	No work completed
2007	St. Mary's River, inspection & monumentation	5% Complete
50	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	75% Complete
	49 th Parallel (Minn Man.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing	Completed in 2009
	141 st Meridian, vista clearing	No work completed
	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing	No work completed
	Highlands (NE Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
ω .	West Line (N.YQue.), monumentation	20% Complete
2008	St. Lawrence River, inspection & monumentation	No work completed
	49 th Parallel, (MinnMan.), vista clearing	Completed in 2009
	49 th Parallel, (W. Koot. To Similk.), vista clearing	Completed in 2008
	141 st Meridian, vista clearing	No work completed



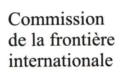


2009	Southwest and South Line, vista clearing	No Work Completed
	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	Niagara River, inspection & monumentation	No Work Completed
7	49th Parallel (Similk. to Columbia V.), vista clearing	Completed in 2009
	141st Meridian, vista clearing & GPS Surveying	No Work Completed
	St. Croix River, inspection & monumentation	Future Work
	Southwest and South Line, vista clearing	Future Work
	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Future Work
10	West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation	90% Complete
2010	49th Parallel (Prairies), monumentation & clearing	Future Work
	49 th Parallet (Similk. to Columbia V.), vista clearing	Future Work
	49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing	Future Work
	141st Meridian, vista clearing & GPS Surveying	Future Work
	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & cleaning	
	North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing	
	St. Francis River, vista clearing	
_	Southwest and South Line, vista clearing	Future Work
2011	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	
7	West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation	
	Detroit River, inspection & monumentation	
	Lake Sup. To Rainy River, monumentation & clearing	50% Complete
	49th Parallel (PembTurtle Mts.), vista clearing	Future Work
	North Line vista & Monument Brook, vista clearing	
	S.W. Branch of St. John River, insp. & monumentation	
	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	
12	Halls Stream, vista clearing	Future Work
2012	West Line (N.Y Que), vista clearing & monumentation	Future Work
	Lake Sup. To Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	
	49th Parallel (Pemb Turtle Mts.), vista clearing	
	Pt. Roberts Range Towers, inspection & refurbish	
	S.W. Branch of St. John River, insp. & monumentation	
m	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	
2013	West Line (N.Y Que), vista clearing & monumentation	Future Work
	49th Parallel (Minn Man.), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing	



2014	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing	
	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	Future Work
70	West Line (N.Y Que), vista clearing & monumentation	rature work
	49th Parallel (Minn Man.), vista clearing	
2015	Southwest & South Line, vista clearing	
	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Eutura Work
	S.E. Alaska, vista clearing	Future Work
	Pt. Roberts Range Towers, inspection & refurbish	
	St. Clair River, inspection & monumentation	
	Southwest and South Line, vista clearing	
	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	
	West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation	
16	St. Lawrence River, inspection & monumentation	Cidera Made
2016	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	Future Work
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing	
	S.E. Alaska, vista clearing	
	-	
	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing	-
	North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing	
	St. John River, inspection & monumentation	
	St. Francis River, vista clearing & mapping	
	Southwest and South Line, vista clearing	
17	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Future Work
2017	West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation	
	St. Mary's River, inspection & monumentation	
	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	
	AND DESIGNATION OF THE AMEND OF THE PERSON	
	49th Parallel (PembTurtle Mts.), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing S.E. Alaska, vista clearing	
	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing S.E. Alaska, vista clearing North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	
218	A9th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing S.E. Alaska, vista clearing North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing Halls Stream, vista clearing & mapping	Future Work
2018	49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing S.E. Alaska, vista clearing North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing Halls Stream, vista clearing & mapping West Line (N.Y Que), vista clearing	Future Work
2018	A9th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing S.E. Alaska, vista clearing North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing Halls Stream, vista clearing & mapping	Future Work







	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing West Line (N.Y Que), vista clearing Niagara River, inspection & monumentation	
2019	49th Parallel (Minn Man.), vista clearing 49th Parallel (W. Koot. to Similk.), vista clearing	Future Work
49 th Parallel (Similk. to Columbia V.), vista clearing 49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing		