

# BOUNDARIES

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## Make Sure It's an Original

Buying or selling a piece of land is usually the only time landowners will ever need a survey.



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.

may have tried to use an image editor and a photocopier to remove something or add something that he doesn't want you to know

A real property report is a type of land survey that shows the boundaries of the subject property and improvements (such as the house, deck, shed, garage, fence) relative to the property lines.

Many people look at the diagram on the real property report but might overlook some really critical information.

First, the real property report needs to be an original. If it is a copy, then some

unscrupulous person

about. Real property reports are copyrighted to the Alberta Land Surveyor who signed it.

Second, make sure the real property report has an original signature. The signature should be in blue ink. With digital technology today, it can sometimes be difficult to tell if it an original signature. If it is not, don't accept it as a valid real property report. The signature tells you which professional land surveyor is taking responsibility for the document.

If the real property report was done by a licensed surveyor's corporation, it will contain a permit stamp stamped in red. If the real property report was done by a sole practitioner, there will not be a permit stamp on the document but it is still valid.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has recently been made aware of rumors of a couple of incidents in which landowners allegedly drew in a new fence or a deck onto an original real property report and submitted it to the municipality for compliance purposes.

This is unacceptable. A person who alters a land surveyor's legal document could face serious legal action. A municipality that knowingly accepts such a document could also be taking on a significant legal liability.

## 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.

## Do You Require the Services of an Alberta Land Surveyor?

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association does not provide land surveying services to the public.

It 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.

Members of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association do provide services directly to the public. One of the most common types of surveys is called a real property report. A real property report is a legal document that clearly illustrates the location of significant visible improvements relative to property boundaries.

Click on one of the following links if you need a real property report and are located in [Calgary](#) or [Edmonton](#). If you are outside of those cities or need a different type of survey, visit the [Alberta Land Surveyors' Association website](#).

## In the News around the World



### [Lawmaker seeks speedy resolution of border dispute](#)

The Tide, Nigeria – 18 July 2008

### [The science of surveying](#)

Regina Leader-Post, Canada – 16 July 2008

### [Partitioning Land in Jamaica](#)

Jamaica Observer, Jamaica – 16 July 2008

### [Monument helps put Willamette Meridian on the map](#)

Tualatin Times, OR - 18 Jul 2008

### [Flushing away neighbourly ties](#)

Times Colonist, Canada - 4 hours ago

## 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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## Let's Have Some Fun!

Have you ever wondered what it is that a land surveyor does? Have you ever thought that you might want to pretend to be a land surveyor – even if it just for a day?

Well there are some things you can do and places you can go to start to get a feel for what it is like to be a professional land surveyor.

[Geocaching](#) is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. The [CNIB](#) is hosting a geocaching fundraising event this summer in Calgary.

[MapZone](#) is a totally free, bright and lively web site produced by the UK Ordnance Survey that aims to teach children, between 7 and 16 years, mapping skills in a fun way. This free resource offers interactive play with stimulating questions and answers together with animations and games to make the structured learning process a joy to come back to.

[CG Atlas Online](#) is a mapping tool created for you to see and make really detailed maps. You can see the entire country or even a map of your neighbourhood. Turning off and on different levels of information will help you customize your map adventure.



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