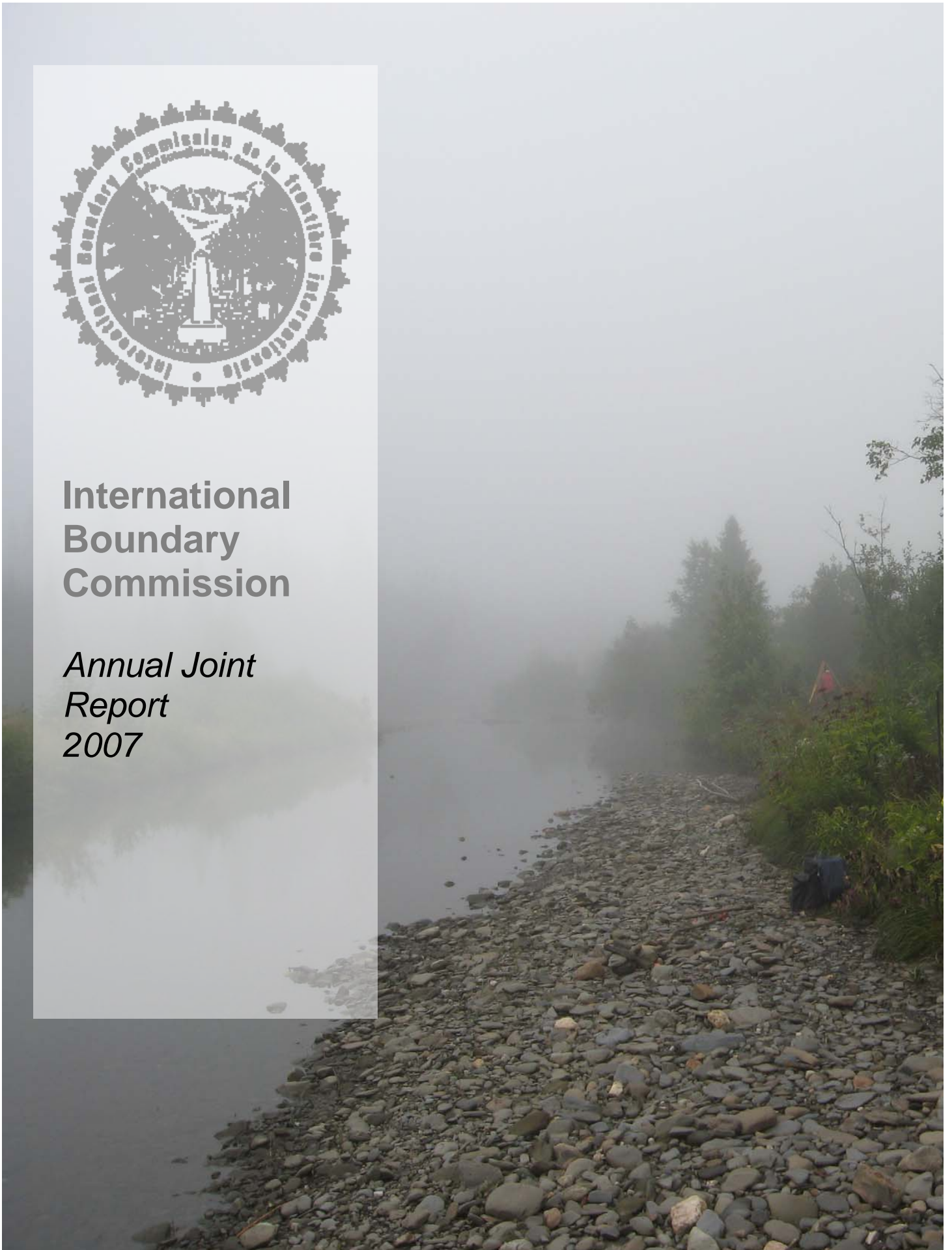




International Boundary Commission

*Annual Joint
Report
2007*





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Cover Page: Hall's Stream along the Quebec – New Hampshire boundary (August 2007).



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Introduction

This is the 83rd Annual Joint Report of the International Boundary Commission (IBC), and 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 2007. This Report is an overview of activities, and correlates maintenance activities with short- and long-term maintenance plans.

For the first time the report will be published on-line. This will support broad access to the 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 as required by treaty 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 20 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 the United States and Canada). Although there were sundry “Commissaries” and ad hoc boundary commissions over the years, the IBC dates itself to the 1908 *Treaty of Washington*. This treaty 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 is structured in 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 United States Commissioner until July 2007 was Dennis Schornack, appointed by the President of the United States. For the latter half of 2007, the acting United States Commissioner was David Bernhardt, appointed by the President of the United States. Mr. Bernhardt also serves as the Solicitor to the Department of the Interior.

The International Boundary Commission recognizes former Commissioner Schornack for his service between April 08, 2002 and July 10, 2007, and wishes him well in his future endeavours.



Peter Sullivan
Canadian Commissioner



David Bernhardt
United States Commissioner



Dennis Schornack
United States Commissioner



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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”*

(Treaty of Washington 1925)¹

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

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 was designed to address recurring routine maintenance (brush clearing, monument maintenance and surveying); the 5-year plan focuses on projects designed to modernize the IBC's operations and address a number of extraordinary issues along the boundary. These include replacing aging maritime range marks, modernizing map generation and processing a backlog of survey data. The revised maintenance plan replaced the previous iteration from 1996 and took effect in 2005.

Progress to Date

The 5-year forecast table (Fig. 1) shows that several maintenance items have been delayed, and that there is a significant lag between expected and actual maintenance, for several reasons (Fig. 3). First, only the Canadian Section has been funded for the maintenance plan. Second, boundary mapping has not proceeded as forecast, because efficiencies have been sought in partnerships with other agencies. Both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) are being approached to provide imagery, which will reduce costs. In addition, the North Line (Maine – New Brunswick) was mapped as a pilot project to allow standards to be developed before proceeding with large-scale production. Third, there were significant costs forecast for surveying the British Columbia – Alaska boundary. Activity in this section of the boundary was delayed given the remoteness and the associated logistical and safety issues. Fourth, after initial work on the Point Roberts – Boundary Bay range marks, the

¹ *Treaty regarding the Demarcation of the Boundary between the United States and Canada*. Signed February 24, 1925. British Treaty Series 1925/37, U.S. Treaty Series 720

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



United States Coast Guard agreed to assist with the design of new marks. This has had the effect of delaying the work, but the cost will be significantly less.

Years	PROJECT PROPOSED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETE
2005-2009	St. Francis River, GPS survey and marking boundary	Completed in 2004
	<i>Pt. Roberts Range Towers, construction</i>	<i>30% Complete</i>
	<i>Boundary Mapping</i>	<i>5% Complete</i>
	<i>Survey Data Processing / Adjustment</i>	<i>50% Complete</i>
	<i>Implementation of GIS Technology</i>	<i>5% Complete</i>
	<i>Halls Stream, surveying and marking boundary</i>	<i>60% Complete</i>
	49th Parallel to the Pacific, monumenting and GPS	Completed in 2006
	<i>SE Alaska / Portland Canal, GPS Surveying</i>	<i>No work completed</i>

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

The 15-year forecast table (see Fig. 2 and Appendix) is a very real appraisal of the IBC project progress. Of the 17 unique maintenance items on the list from 2005-2007: 11 have been completed (64%), 3 are ongoing (18%), and 3 have yet to be started (18%)

Although significant progress is being made, adjustments will be required such that the 15-year plan can be realized. 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. It is hoped that these strategies, in conjunction with sufficient funding, will ensure that the long range plan is realized.

15 Year Maintenance Progress

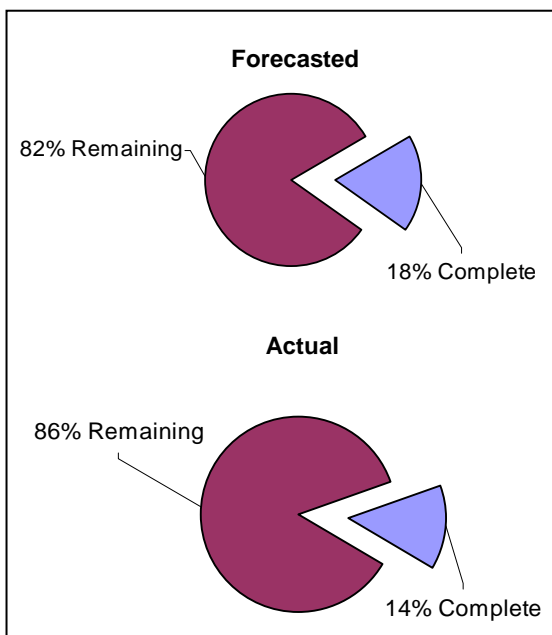


Fig. 2 – Progress against 15 year plan

5 Year Maintenance Progress

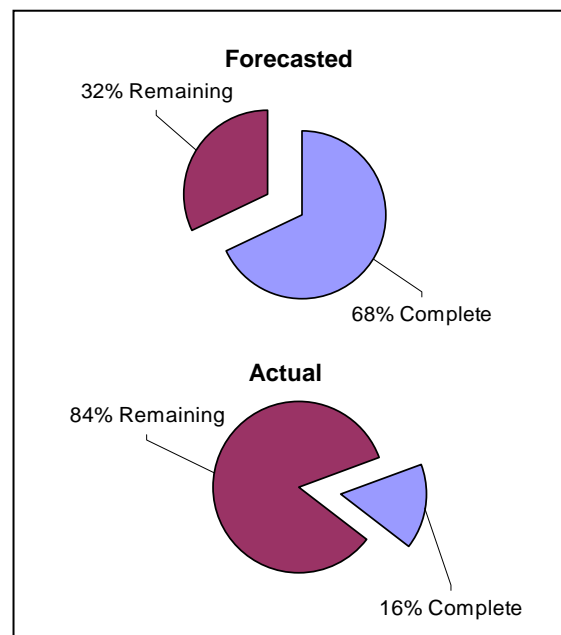


Fig. 3 – Progress against 5 year plan



2007 Highlights

Maintenance Activities

Maintenance activities focused on two main sections of the international boundary: Hall's Stream (Quebec – New Hampshire), and Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior (Ontario – Minnesota).

Hall's Stream has been listed as a priority maintenance project since 2004. Although the boundary was established by 1842 treaty down the middle of the stream, by 1908 the stream had shifted in location. Some of the shifts were gradual; others were sudden. The 1908 treaty thus established the boundary as a series of straight courses; some followed the 1842 channel and some followed the 1908 channel. However, the stream has continued to shift in location, by as much as 200 m (656 ft) over the past century. It is now necessary to monument the many turning points (of the straight courses) on land. From May to September, 165 boundary turning points were established and a 2 m (6.6 ft) wide line of sight was cleared.



Surveying along Hall's Stream. IBC staff eschew the 'Robert Broom' dress code for field work³

The Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior boundary is commonly divided into two sub-sections:
a) From Lake Superior to Rainy River, and
b) From Rainy River to Lake of the Woods.

The former sub-section is primarily a 467 km (290 mi) remote water boundary accessible by canoe. It is little wonder that only modest maintenance has occurred over this sub-section in the last century. The latter sub-section, in contrast, is easily accessible because Rainy River passes through developed farmland and Lake of the Woods is a popular tourist destination. The field

³The Scottish paleontologist Robert Broom is well known for his discovery of an *Australopithecus africanus* fossil. The professor was notorious for conducting field work in a formal dark suit complete with top hat. When temperatures increased, his garb became less orthodox. Trinkaus & Shipman. *The Neanderthals: Changing the Image of Mankind*. Pimlico. 1994. Quoted in: Bryson. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Broadway Books. 2003.



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work along both of these sub-sections resulted in the inspection of 674 monuments; 589 were in good condition and 85 were either missing or in poor condition.



A view across South Fowl Lake on the Ontario-Minnesota boundary

Supplementing these two major field projects were several one-off maintenance activities:

- The clearing of the vista along the 49th Parallel through 77 km (48 mi) of the Cascade Range and 99 km (62 mi) of the Kootenay Range was initiated through a private contractor. A total of 42 km (26 mi) of the Kootenay Range was cleared.
- A contract was initiated for the construction and installation of replacement range towers at Point Roberts and across Boundary Bay (British Columbia - Washington). The locations of the existing range towers were re-surveyed, and two railings - that were menacing sea-birds - were repaired.
- On the North Line (Maine – New Brunswick), a 50 km (31 mi) vista clearing contract was completed.⁴
- A contract was issued for the repair of range marks at Passamaquoddy Bay.
- On the West Line (Vermont - Quebec), four decorative obelisks were set at three border crossings: Beecher Falls – East Hereford, Hereford – Canaan, Norton – Stanhope. Also, at the request of Canada Border Services Agency, the boundary was re-established for road painting and sign placement purposes.

⁴ The setting is now tranquil, a far cry from the winter of 1839 which saw the outbreak of the “Pork and Beans War.” Carroll. *A good and wise measure: The search for the Canadian-American Boundary, 1783 – 1842*. University of Toronto Press. 2001. p.208.



- On the 49th parallel along the Manitoba – North Dakota boundary vegetation was cleared from within 200 m (656 ft) of the various border crossings, and monuments were painted.

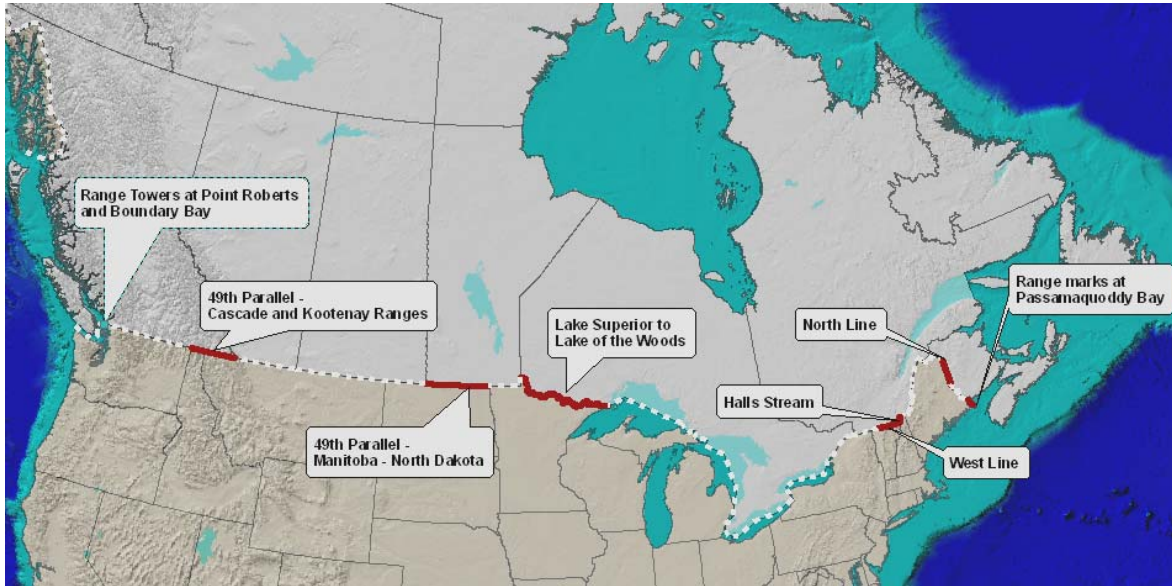


Fig. 4 – Location of IBC Maintenance activities in 2007

Over 770 km (478 mi) of the boundary was covered in this year's maintenance program. Although this might seem paltry compared to the total length of the Canada-US boundary of 8,891 km (5,525 mi), the length maintained in 2007 equates to the boundary between Colombia and Peru or twice the boundary between France and Germany⁵.

Field Inspections

- In February, both Commissioners were in Point Roberts (Washington) and Delta and Surrey (British Columbia) to host Town Hall meetings on the Boundary Bay range marks, and to inspect construction by a United States landowner near the boundary.
- In March, staff held meetings in Spokane (Washington), Blaine (Washington), and Swanton (Vermont) with Border Patrol and the RCMP to inform them of the forthcoming maintenance activities.
- In June, staff attended a public meeting in Stanstead (Quebec) on the proposed closure of three streets connecting the town to Derby Line (Vermont).
- In June, the Advisor to the Canadian Commissioner visited the Hall's Stream area.

⁵ Also equivalent to 38,726 chains, an English unit of distance long used by surveyors. Furlong & Gleditsch. *The Boundary Dataset. Conflict Management & Peace Science* 29(1): 93. 2003.



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- In July, the Canadian Commissioner investigated a land slide along Tomifobia River (Quebec – Vermont). It was suspected that the slide had nothing to do with IBC activities; a geomorphologist (landslide expert) confirmed this assessment.
- In July, staff inspected the monuments and vegetation growth along the 49th Parallel (Montana – British Columbia).



A view along the 49th Parallel in the Kootenay Range

- Staff investigated the complaint of a landowner in Stanstead (Quebec) that a tree felled during boundary maintenance had damaged a fence. The evidence, however, was that the tree had fallen as a result of strong winds.
- In December, staff inspected construction by a United States landowner near the boundary at Oroville (Washington).

Geographic Information System (GIS) Development

The conceptual design of the IBC GIS was contracted to the Environmental and Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The GIS will be used to modernize information management in the IBC. Applications will include: managing the 15 year maintenance cycle, generating automated maps on demand and managing field logistics. Although the GIS is expected to be fully functional by 2010, components should come on-line early in 2009.

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:

- Constructing a pipeline near Baileyville (Maine) beneath the St. Croix River.
- Removing 20 trees from the Peace Arch State Park in Blaine (Washington).
- Installing a tide gauge on a range mark in Boundary Bay.
- Paving roadways near the Metaline Falls and Frontier (Washington) points of entry.
- Repairing buildings at the Jackman (Maine) port of entry



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Financial Report⁶

	Expended By U.S. Section	Expended By Cdn. Section
	(U.S. \$)	(Canadian \$)
Total to March 31, 2006:	\$11,969,167.38	\$12,975,585.77
 <u>From April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007</u>		
Maine – New Brunswick (North Line)	\$75,644.00	
Quebec – Vermont (West Line)		\$167,340.00
British Columbia – Washington (49 th Parallel)		\$82,906.00
Quebec – New Hampshire (Halls Stream)		\$172,566.00
Montana – British Columbia (49 th Parallel)	\$186,000.00	
Quebec - Maine Clearing Contract (Highlands)		\$213,000.00
Vista Clearing Contract North Line	\$80,000.00	
Vista Clearing Contract Southeast Alaska – British Columbia		\$643,695.00
Passamaquoddy Bay Range Mark Maintenance Contract	\$15,000.00	
Vista Clearing Contract Inspections	\$720.00	\$21,923.00
ESRI Development GIS Contract	\$49,027.00	
Point Roberts Range Tower Repair Contract	\$174,820.00	
 <u>Other Expenditures</u>		
Pt. Roberts and Blaine Range Lights		\$105.00
USGS Map ortho rectification	\$10,000.00	
Joint Annual Reports (writing)	\$7,582.00	
Joint Annual Report for 2003 (writing)		\$15,565.00
Boundary Monuments		\$2,849.00
Purchase GPS equipment	\$11,967.00	
Capital Equipment		\$48,018.00
Vehicle purchase (Track vehicle & Backhoe)	\$187,717.00	
Total Station		\$20,012.00
Vehicle licences/repairs		\$23,409.00
Field equipment support service (NRCan)		\$22,185.00
Database compilation		\$17,420.00
	<hr/> \$12,767,644.38 <hr/>	<hr/> \$14,426,578.77 <hr/>
Total to Date		

⁶ The financial report does not correspond well to 2007 activities; it primarily deals with 2006 activities.



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A Look Ahead to 2008

Centennial Plans

Next year, of course, marks the centennial anniversary of the IBC. Revelry celebrating this remarkable period of cooperation between the two nations is intended. The theme of the year will be “Maintaining a Peaceful Boundary for more than a century”. Two events are planned for June 2008 - at the Peace Arch Park (on the British Columbia – Washington boundary at Surrey - Blaine) and at the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. Two historic plaques will be placed on monuments close to the Peace Arches to commemorate the event. In addition a decorative medallion with the IBC logo emblazoned thereon is planned as the official memento of the event.

In addition to these two major celebrations, numerous other activities are planned:

- Three articles about the IBC will be written, for circulation to major newspapers across both countries.
- A commemorative pin (less ornate than the medallion) is planned for wider circulation.
- A new poster and brochure will be developed.
- A 100-page book on the history of the boundary will be produced.

New Web Site

A redesign of the web site⁷ is planned for the upcoming year. Among other things, the new site will feature an in-depth history of the boundary and of the IBC, as well as access to Annual Joint Reports and boundary monument coordinate values.

Maintenance Activities

Several of the items listed in the 5-year plan (priority projects) are scheduled to either commence or be completed in 2008. Among them:

- Hall's Stream (Quebec – New Hampshire) – Completing surveying and monumenting.
- Point Roberts & Boundary Bay – Completing installing range marks.
- British Columbia - Southeast Alaska – Surveying and monumenting.
- Highlands (Quebec – Maine) – Inspecting boundary monuments.

The latter two are the most rugged sections of the entire boundary. Logistically, they represent large challenges. In addition to these priority projects, it is expected that the vista will be cleared between the Cascade and Kootenay Ranges, and that the West Line (Quebec – Vermont) will be assessed to determine the requirements for the 2009 season.

⁷ Current Domain in use - <http://www.internationalboundarycommission.org>



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Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Sullivan
Canadian Commissioner

David Bernhardt
United States Commissioner

Date:

12/2/2008

Date:

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Appendix A – 15 Year Maintenance Plan

YEAR	PROJECT PROPOSED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETE
2005	Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing	Completed in 2007
	<i>North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	<i>40% complete</i>
	Southwest & South Line, clearing & monumentation	Completed in 2005
	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	<i>West Line (Vt- Que) brush, side clear, monumentation</i>	<i>50% complete</i>
	49 th Parallel (Pemb.-Turtle Mts.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel(Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	<i>S.E. Alaska / Portland Canal, monumentation & clearing</i>	<i>50% complete</i>
St. Clair River, monumentation & GPS surveying	Completed in 2005	
2006	<i>North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	<i>40% complete</i>
	Southwest & South Line, monumentation	Completed in 2005
	Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2005
	<i>West Line (NY- Que) brush, side clear, monumentation</i>	<i>50% complete</i>
	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	Completed in 2007
	49 th Parallel (Pemb.- Turtle Mts.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
2007	<i>St. John River, inspection & monumentation</i>	<i>No work</i>
	Southwest & South Line, monumentation	Completed in 2005
	Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2005
	<i>West Line (N.Y.- Que),brush, side clear, monumentation</i>	<i>No work</i>
	St. Mary's River, inspection & monumentation	Completed in 2005
	Rainy River, inspection & monumentation	Completed in 2007
	49 th Parallel (Minn.- Man.), vista clearing	Completed in 2004
	49 th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	49 th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing	Completed in 2005
<i>141st Meridian, vista clearing</i>	<i>No work</i>	
2008	<i>Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing</i>	<i>Future work</i>
	Highlands (NE Section), vista clearing	Completed in 2006
	<i>West Line (N.Y.-Que.), monumentation</i>	<i>Future work</i>
	<i>St. Lawrence River, inspection & monumentation</i>	<i>Future work</i>
	49 th Parallel, (Minn.-Man.), vista clearing	Completed in 2004
	<i>49th Parallel, (W. Koot. To Similk.), vista clearing</i>	<i>30% complete (2007)</i>
	<i>141st Meridian, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future work</i>



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2009	<i>Southwest and South Line, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Niagara River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Similk. to Columbia V.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>141st Meridian, vista clearing & GPS Surveying</i>	
2010	<i>St. Croix River, inspection & monumentation</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Southwest and South Line, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Prairies), monumentation & clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Similk. to Columbia V.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing</i>	
<i>141st Meridian, vista clearing & GPS Surveying</i>		
2011	<i>Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>St. Francis River, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Southwest and South Line, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Detroit River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Lake Sup. To Rainy River, monumentation & clearing</i>	Completed in 2007
<i>49th Parallel (Pemb.-Turtle Mts.), vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>	
2012	<i>North Line vista & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>S.W. Branch of St. John River, insp. & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Halls Stream, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (N.Y.- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Lake Sup. To Rainy River, inspection & monumentation</i>	Completed in 2007
	<i>49th Parallel (Pemb.- Turtle Mts.), vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
<i>Pt. Roberts Range Towers, inspection & refurbish</i>	<i>Future Work</i>	
2013	<i>S.W. Branch of St. John River, insp. & monumentation</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (N.Y.- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Minn.- Man.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing</i>	



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2014	<i>Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (N.Y.- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Minn.- Man.), vista clearing</i>	
2015	<i>Southwest & South Line, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (N.E. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>S.E. Alaska, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Pt. Roberts Range Towers, inspection & refurbish</i>	
<i>St. Clair River, inspection & monumentation</i>		
2016	<i>Southwest and South Line, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>St. Lawrence River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Rainy River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Fraser & Columbia V.), vista clearing</i>	
<i>S.E. Alaska, vista clearing</i>		
2017	<i>Passamaquoddy Bay, inspection & clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>St. John River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>St. Francis River, vista clearing & mapping</i>	
	<i>Southwest and South Line, vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>West Line (Vt- Que), vista clearing & monumentation</i>	
	<i>St. Mary's River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>Rainy River, inspection & monumentation</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Pemb.-Turtle Mts.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Foothills to W. Koot.), vista clearing</i>	
<i>S.E. Alaska, vista clearing</i>		
2018	<i>North Line & Monument Brook, vista clearing</i>	<i>Future Work</i>
	<i>Highlands (S.W. Section), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Halls Stream, vista clearing & mapping</i>	
	<i>West Line (N.Y.- Que), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (Pemb.- Turtle Mts.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>49th Parallel (W. Koot. to Similk.), vista clearing</i>	
	<i>Pt. Roberts Range Towers, inspection & refurbish</i>	



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