

Diary Treaty Land Entitlement Survey Beaverhill Lake

R.Q. Bastin, GLS, MLS, BCLS

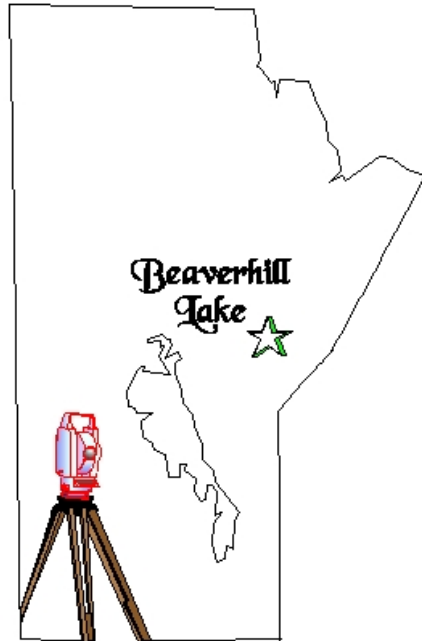
January 14 – February 23, 1996

MANITOBA



**ASSOCIATION
OF MANITOBA
LAND SURVEYORS**

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<p>Sunday Jan 14, 1996 (-25°C windy)</p>	<p>Met Dave and Beattie's fellows at 6:15 McPhillips and Perimeter. Filled up at Pine Dock at 8:50. Zeroed odometer. Arrived Garden Hill at 6:30 after an uneventful trip. Having problems finding</p>	<p>house we are to stay at, as usual there does not appear to be anyone expecting us. Odometer 392K. Got to house and in bed by 10:30.</p>
<p>Jan 15</p>	<p>Breakfast courtesy of Beattie and A. Had meeting at Band Office at 10:00 am. Met cutters et al - said I would split chopper cost if they would take survey equipment. Roy seems to be well organized - our cutters wanted to know if we could work Sunday. Roy was adamant that this was against Band policy - Band policy to be followed whether on reserve or not. Charles Knott - guide Joe Little - cook Alpheus Knott - foreman Ron Knott - cutter Vincent Little - burner Larry Vincent Beardy - cutter</p>	<p>Jack Roni Monias - burner Gave Roy a cheque for \$5000.00 Left Garden Hill for Beaverhill with Larry as guide about 3:00 pm arrived about 6:00 pm - rough trail! Other cutters arrived throughout evening. Cabin a shambles - nothing hooked up, got a fire going in wood stove and had a baloney sandwich supper. Tough being a vegetarian up here. Cook supposed to fly in with survey gear. No cook. 9 hours time. Rooted around in snow to find wood for fire.</p>
<p>Jan 16</p>	<p>Heard an animal eating food outside cabin about 5:30 am. Cutters said it was probably a Marten. Went outside and scared it away - it ate some brown sugar. Spent day organizing cabin - cutters seemed to know what was required. Retract previous days comment about good organization. Cook finally arrives at 10:00 pm with survey gear. No plane -</p>	<p>came by skidoo. (2 skidoos and sleighs) Discovered cutters are being paid \$10.50/hr not mileage - this is going to cause problems. Got oil heater hooked up and running Charles and Jack Roni put out a net and caught a couple of Jackfish - ate them for supper - they were so fresh they were still flipping while they were being filleted. Good though.</p>
<p>Jan 17 (-35°C sunny)</p>	<p>Cook arrived at 7:30 to start breakfast. We got away a little after 9:00. Our guide got stuck in the slush twice, luckily we were following. Found GPS points with no problem David and Charles went to put in Rock post but drill would not start. Cutters got going about 10:30-11:00. Fairly thick bush in this part. Cut approx. 600 m. Quit about 5:00 pm. Good supper. Fixed generator. It appears</p>	<p>switch does not work. Cutters say they are being paid 10.50/hr not mileage. Seems strange as we are paying the Band per mile. No incentive to work hard. However I am quite happy with 1st days work. Vincent sick, did not work. Cook talked to Roy on Radio. Roy claims there is lots of gas and a barrel pump here. Not so - cook said he will send more gas tomorrow.</p>

Jan 18 (-37°C)	Cook got breakfast going a little earlier but we still did not start cutting until 10:00 am. Cutters cut well but seem to want to turn line into a road by cutting felled trees into several lengths so they can be thrown clear. Alpheus and Ron seem to do most of the chain saw work and others clear trash off line. Very cold day. David and Charles put in 2 tubes on 1st line and we finished 2nd course.	Start 2600± metre stretch tomorrow. Should be good going. We got back to camp at 5:00 pm Left a little early as there was no point waiting for Dave to set up and turn angle at 4:00 pm. One sleigh came with 45 gallon drum of gas but no tubes or marker posts from Roy yet and no barrel pump. Very difficult being without direct contact with Roy or my own office. Cut 600 m.
Jan 19 (-35°C)	Got a late start this morning. Some of the cutters were still in the kitchen when Dave and I finally left at approx. 9:30. Cutter did not start cutting until 10:30-10:45. However we did 1300 m. Not great but getting better. Changed line cutting method. Convinced cutters not to leave such a clean line. They had no problem with this and the results showed. Stopped cutting around 4:30. Found moose trail to lake. Charles brought his skidoo up trail. Morning walk will be	shorter. Radio message came saying Alpheus's father was taken to Winnipeg quite ill. He and Charles will probably go to Garden Hill tonight. Cutters said they have no objection to working Sunday. Time will tell. We would get our mile per day if they would only get up an hour earlier. Charles and Alpheus both went to Garden Hill took 2 skidoos. Charles said he would mail letter I hastily wrote to CAB.
Jan 20 (-38°C)	We got a good start this morning. Began cutting by 9:00 am. Mostly in a burned area - very tangly. These burned areas are not turning out to be the gifts I thought. Cutters only worked ½ day today as they want to be in Garden Hill before the store closes. Dave and I cut for about two hours then produced up. Went and cemented in a cap, near beginning of the	line (IR#4) to finish of day. Got home by 4:30 - very cold SW wind. Maybe it will warm up. We cut 720 m. Short days result. We could get reasonable mileage if we could start like we did today ie early. Cutters went home with 2 skidoos. Cutters say they will be back Sunday night.
Sunday Jan 21 (-27°C)	Took day off. Cook borrowed my skidoo to go to his trappers cabin to get some of his stuff. Plus his skidoo. His wife went with him. (I forgot to mention this his wife is also here) They live in a third cabin. Dave and I have the kitchen as our bunk house and office. Shaved and took a birdy bath. Notice a frost bite scar on cheek. Must have frozen it a couple of days ago on the skidoo ride home. (I cannot fathom how people can go about on those things and call it fun) Also did	laundry. I feel quite clean and pious. Decided to try and get two crews cutting ie split crew into two. Will try and train a couple of the fellows on the skill of plumb bob work tomorrow (I'm assuming that all will return tonight as promised). Much warmer day today. Hope that we get a few warmer days next week. Cook's wife asked if I would be interested in selling skidoo after job is over. Said I needed it to go to our own cabin.

Jan 22
(-35°C)

Nobody showed last night - too cold apparently. I have noticed that it is never too cold to make a return trip to Garden Hill. Cook started breakfast for Dave and I at 7:30, ½ hr late.

We went to work alone and started line cutting. 4 boys showed up at 2:00 pm, Larry, Charles, Jack Roni and Alpheus. We did 820 m. Dave and I did about half of that ourselves. Vincent and Ron are supposed to arrive tonight. We will try two crews tomorrow. Asked Joe the cook to wake cutters when he comes to

make breakfast at 7:00 am?? I have a suspicion that cutters brought booze back with them. Why else would Charles come over and take back a jug of juice mix. Also nobody has come for tea (its after 9:00 pm). Bad cutting last couple of days - all burn and just a jumble. Terrain has a lot of ridges. Very little muskeg areas unfortunately. Sorry no booze. They came for their snack at 9:30. Vincent and Ron returned from Garden Hill at approx. 9:30. Brought tubes, T irons and food but no gas.

Jan 23
(-35°C
windy)

Split into two groups. Dave kept his crew at original site, I took Jack Roni, Alpheus and Larry to start new line. Got my skidoo stuck in slush going to GPS station #7. Alpheus was driving - Got my feet soaked to get out of slush. Took most of morning trying to see from #15 to #7. Still do not have a positive angle. However we started cutting anyway. Can correct later if necessary. I went back to camp at lunch to change boots. About ½ hr skidoo ride. We hit heavy spruce and lots of ridges. Dave the same. He cut approx. 600 m. We probably cut slightly

less. We appear to be entering a spruce swamp type of terrain. Maybe with luck my crew will make good progress tomorrow. We have about 2 days gas supply left. Alpheus spoke to Roy Monias by radio phone about situation. Hope he can resolve it. At least food is good. Also hope for a break in the bitterly cold weather. With the wind today was about the coldest so far. Also new oil heater is becoming temperamental. Naturally there is no manuals. Dave and my tunings of it are purely guess work.

Jan 24
(-35°C)

Cook ½ hr late. Cutters also late. We got away a little after 9:00 am Dave suggested at breakfast that they get up earlier as we waste about 1 hr each day. We'll see if they follow this advice or say "F--- you." Only my saw worked on our line and only after about 45 min of screwing around. I would say we finally got serious about line cutting around 11:00 am. We were in light bush today and I am sure we cut approx. ½ mile. Can't be sure without EDM (which Dave has). Dave's crew also had chain saw

problems so only cut approx. 400 m. I hope that this constant cold weather breaks soon. Two skidoos came with gas and survey posts. They arrived at approx. 9:00 pm. Talked to Don Shiach on radio phone this morning. Asked him to relay message to office re spark plug for Rock Drill and Optimal. They also are having chain saw problems. Took my saw apart and left on stove for a couple of hrs. to see if it will dry out and not cause problems. Down to last chain for my saw (started with three).

Jan 25
(-30°C)

Got earlier start this morning. Got on line by approx. 9:30. Larry and I put in 2 tubes. Good cutting for my crew but Dave's crew had a tougher time and cut approx. 450 m. I am sure we cut 2000' - ½ mile. I will find out tomorrow when Dave measures line I am cutting. We will all cut on my line tomorrow. Hopefully we will get to corner so we can turn angle - then Dave can return to his line for Sat. morning. Unfortunately Charles has to return to Garden Hill because of family illness. If we could get a full 5 ½ day with a full crew we would get somewhere. My last chain (for the saw) broke today so my production was curtailed. Easy bush with everyone cutting tomorrow we should do well. Made agreement with cutters that

skidoo rental be shared as my best cutter has no skidoo so would get considerably less pay than the others. They all seemed happy with that. Everyone seems in a cheery mood tonight. It is 10:30 and even the cook and his wife are still here. Signed Time sheets for cook and cutters. They seem (the cutters that is) to be getting paid less than what the Band is being paid by us for their services. The cook on the other hand figures he works a 15 hr day. Doesn't matter to me as we have an upside cost. We generally have only one saw that the Band provided working. Most of the cutting is being done by my saw. Vincent also brought his saw. I am not sure how he will be paid. It was -25°C when we got home tonight.

Jan 26
(-30°C
heat wave)

Got good start today. Charles had to return home last night, wife ill -hope he comes back Monday (or Sunday night-one can always fantasize). Saw wolf on Lake on the way to work. Dave and Larry read angles and distances on line my crew cut while I and other fellows continued cutting - very thick small jack pines. Going through about a 10 year old burn. Very difficult walking Hoped to get to point of bend today but if bush stays the same I doubt if we will get there. Tomorrow of course the cutters will all be leaving at noon, Cook says he will also go in to do shopping. I guess Dave and I will be doing our own cooking on Saturday evening and Sunday. I don't see why I should have to pay the rates and do my own cooking as well. Also the only

saw working today is mine. I am disappointed that there has been no apparent attempt by the Band Management to contact me regarding Job. With this radio system it is next to impossible to communicate. I hope that Alpheus (cutter foreman) can resolve this problem. Vincent seems to spend all his time tinkering with his saw. Unfortunately we really only work a 5 day week (slightly less because of quitting time on Saturday and early afternoon start on Monday) This system stinks!!! With only one saw, essentially what we have is one cutter - not 5. Except for 1 fellow others tend to do very little. However if we are able to maintain 2 crews this problem is lessened.

Jan 27
(-35°C)

Two of the cutters got to breakfast early today, other 3 dragged their asses as usual. Got cutting about 9:30 - only 1 saw working. Cutters quit to go home at 11:45. 2hr 15min day. Big f----- deal. Dave and I cut until 4:00 pm. Very thick bush. Old burn with jack pine about 2" diam. and thick as grass. Cut about 400 m. Cook left note saying he left at noon. Dave cooked and I cleaned up. Very tired. I think we will go back to line tomorrow as we have about 500 m. to go to bend. If we get there we can split into

2 crews again on Monday. Assuming cutters return at a reasonable time. Tried calling on radio when we got home, no response. I think that you only get a response if you speak Cree. I am amazed at the poor grasp of the English language many of my fellows have. We feel that we are very isolated and remote. It is very difficult to manage a job like this under these circumstances. At present I doubt that we will finish mid February. We really only get a good 4 days a week production.

Sunday
Jan 28
(-40°C
windy)

Changed mind about going to work. Tried to raise Garden Hill. Finally asked for a response from anyone. A fellow from Stevenson River replied. He relayed message to Garden Hill. Charles called us about 10:30. Told me Roy was having a meeting with cutters @ 2:00 pm and he would have Roy call me. Asked if I had given a cheque for \$14,000?? I said to tell Roy no production no cheque. Roy called about 5:00 pm Told him I wasn't happy with time on line. I felt to do this job efficiently we need to spend 6 days cutting. I figured that in the last two weeks we have actually spend only about 46 hrs on line. I can't seem to convince cutters that they should turn up on line with either a chain saw or an axe. The Band provided a number of small axes. God only knows where they have gone. I brought 3 - 3 lb axes. One has been lost?? Dave and I at least got the rock drill working. Suggested to Roy that the cutters leave Garden Hill with a full tank in their skidoo plus a 5 gal jerry can. This

would give gas for them for the week plus return fuel. Instead we haul out a 45 gal drum and they use half of it just going back to Garden Hill. One reason we didn't go to work is that I was nervous about cutting line and have one of us injured with no other help and I do not have a great deal of faith in radio. Told Roy he was (the Band that is) responsible as the line cutting contractor to get some production. He agreed and said he had 2 new saws and would see about fellows working a full 6 day week. He also emphasized that they are paid by the hour. Told him at this rate the Band will lose its shirt on the line cutting. He didn't ask for money. I guess my message to Charles was relayed. He said Bill Shepherd delivered a package to him for me when he was in Winnipeg. Wonder if he hit Bill up for more money? Cook left his radio for us. I am presently listening to classical music on CBC. Very pleasant under the circumstances.

Jan 29
(-40°C)

Monday nobody showed till supper. Cook and his wife returned at 3:30 pm. We got 0 km of line done today. 3 fellows returned. Apparently Charles and 1 new guy are coming later. Very disappointing. Unfortunately there is great dissension between cutting crews and administration (Roy) Apparently their time was cut back they were paid \$800.00 for the two weeks. They are quite upset. Actually for the time spent on line I believe they were fairly paid. Alpheus said that they all almost quit. I will think long and hard before getting into a contractual situation like this again. My camp, my men, my power to hire and fire or nothing at all. Problem is we are at the mercy of personality conflicts within the Band's politics. Roy has told them the Job must be finished in 2 weeks as

after that date their line cutting budget will be gone. Got packages from down south and a note from Mere and CAB. CAB's note indicated a previous letter that I did not receive. Having Beattie's crew relay messages to the office has been a real help. I owe them one. Talked to Don Shiach today. They cut 2 miles last week did not work Saturday and had just got back to their camp when I called at approx. 11:00 am. He said he though our guys were returning last night. Ha! ---- In spite of my request to Roy yesterday nobody brought extra gas and we are almost out. Again. Cook said that Roy is complaining that we eat too much. 2 skidoos came out not counting cooks. Charles should be coming with the third. Vincent and Ron did not return.

Jan 30
(-42°C
cold as hell)

3
skidoos
this
week

Woke up, stove out and propane range out. Lite fire under heating oil line outside between tank and wall of shack. This makes oil more fluid and we got a flow through the line. Took propane tank off and brought inside. Cook was able to finally cook breakfast. Cutters were up early. Bitter cold weather did our plans in. But we still got away in not bad time. Told Charles that I interpreted the contract that I was to pay him the rate as per agreement between EMR and the Band. This will boost his pay. Cutters were quite upset last night said they almost quit. They told me that Roy said I should have paid the Band for the skidoo rentals. I told them that the contract clearly states that I am to pay the owners directly. This I intend to do. As mentioned earlier I shall also pay Charles directly, ie I pay the Band for line cutting and accommodation as per contract. I am

sure there will be some negotiation over gas and skidoos that bring out gas and fuel. 2 skidoos came out with gas and a new propane tank tonight. Cook started generator this afternoon, it ran for awhile then quit. It appears to be seized. Probably low oil. I feel badly about this but I feel that I cannot be responsible for it as it and its operation, I feel, is part of the accommodation bill. We cut slightly less than 3/4 mile today. Terrible walk out to lake from end of line (50 min). Larry, Jack Roni, Paul (new guy) and Alpheus cut today. Dave and Charles set monuments. We will split into 2 groups again tomorrow. New Homelite saws provided by Band wouldn't start. Only my saw ran all day. Asked skidoo operator that brought fuel to ask Roy to have Bill send up our other Husqvarna. Dave had a good day - all posts caught up. Over all not a bad day.

Jan 31 (-42°C)	We split into 2 groups today. Dave took Charles and Paul. I took Alpheus, Jack Roni and Larry with me. We had good day. I do not know how much we cut as Dave has the EDM but it was a good days work. Dave is in much thicker stuff so cut approx. 400 m. All in all not a bad day. Sure could use a break in the weather. Stoves were okay this morning. Dave banked snow around the heating oil tank and lines to try and insulate it a little. My saw is working well but of course I spend an hour each evening	cleaning it out. The big problem is that snow gets sucked into throttle area and freezes. Heard Doug Stevens flew into his camp at Stevenson River on Sat and found no one there. Nobody turned up until Tuesday. Had to make his own stove. He must be having a great time. Joe (the cook) said that they will sent out a new or repaired generator. Hope so as need to recharge batteries from time to time. I must comment on how hard Alpheus and Jack Roni work. Great guys.
Feb 1 (-43°C windy)	Got a good start. Same plan as yesterday ie 2 groups Dave used Cooks and Vincent's chain saws. Neither worked too well. He cut 250 metre about ½ with axes. Very thick small pine in his area plus a lot of ridges. It seems to be taking forever to do this south part. My crew did okay, about 1800'. We were in large timber today ie up to 8" to 9" spruce plus some large poplar. My saw needed to be thawed out 1st thing in the morning and again at mid afternoon. It sure would be nice for each crew to cut ½ mile per day. I can't think of what to do to speed	things up. Vincent returned tonight. Unfortunately Dave got a message to call home on a family matter. He will take my skidoo into town tomorrow morning. Larry will go with him. Spoke to Don Shiach this morning. They have no saws that work and no axes. He said he is going to contact EMR - has done about 3 miles. I hope there is no serious problem with Dave. Suggested to Roy via radio link that they send in an airplane. Apparently there are none available. Still no generator. We will soon be having battery problems.
Feb 2 (-33°C windy)	Dave went to town with Larry 2 skidoos mine and Larry's. Rest of us went to line that Dave was cutting. Good day probably 1100 m. Hope to finish most sly section tomorrow. This whole section was tough cutting. Talked to Don Shiach (or Don or Cook?) They were going back to Garden Hill today as nothing works.	They are shutting down till they resolve cutting problems I guess. My saw worked well all day. Hope it remains reliable. Dave called just before supper. He intends to return tomorrow (Saturday) morning. Apparently Dad was hospitalized but is improving. Today was warmer but found it quite cold.

Feb 3 (-30°C)	Went with crew to try and finish line we started yesterday. Almost quit myself today. 5 men cutting, 1 saw, 1 axe, and 1 fisker. 2 cutters?? with no f----- cutting tools essentially standing there with their thumbs up their -----. When saw stops, all stop. We could cut this type of bush quicker with axes that worked for 8 hrs than this way. I suggested that those with cutting tools go ahead of man with saw breaking trail and cutting small bush. I don't know whether what I say makes any difference. As mentioned earlier in this venture, I wouldn't do a job like this again with my hands tied in this fashion. Dave returned with Larry and placed some tubes. My crew worked a full day- no lunch. Wanted to leave an hour earlier to go back to Garden Hill. Did not quite finish line. We cut approx. ½ mile. Dave told me that Beattie and Assoc. are having more problems than I am. Alpheus told me before they left that some of the fellows don't want to come back unless there are more saws. Dave phoned office	- talked to Bob. They hadn't received a request to send up saw. Roy told Dave that he had phoned office. I guess he just thought he did. He said they have no money to replace generator. Dave said Roy made a suggestion that it was my fault. I do not feel that cutters will return Sunday evening. Some talk about a meeting on Monday (Another one!). Gave Alpheus \$110.00 cheque to buy gas. He should return with 4 Jerry cans full of gas. Dave reported that Roy was upset that I paid cutters directly for the snowmobiles. I am simply following the contract instructions. Dave asked Bob to pass a message to CAB about plumbing pipes at home. I wished he had called her himself then he could have brought back some news from home. No mail. Roy told Dave that he feels he is sending out more groceries and gas than arrives here. Having no control over anything and little means to communicate directly it is impossible for me to confirm this.
Sunday Feb 4 (-25°C)	Sunday- decided I should go to Garden Hill. Left at about 1:30. Charles met me ½ way. Dave stayed in camp. Had shower and phoned home-It sure was great to talk to CAB. I sure have missed	her. Ian also called later. The day was a real treat. Stayed with Beattie's crew. They are having serious moral and personality conflicts with the cutters and administration (Band).
Feb 5 (-15°C)	Monday met with the cutters and Roy at Band office. Got an ear full regarding Don S and his crew. Our guys are okay. They left to come out to Beaverhill and Charles and I would wait for 5:00 pm plane to get packages from Office and home and would come up in morning.	Unfortunately Alpheus had skidoo problems and they returned to Garden Hill. Stayed at Beattie's again tonight. Roy suggested at meeting that unless he get more money from DIAND that he would shut his crews down. So who knows whether we will finish job or not.
Feb 6 (-15°C)	I had another meeting with Roy and 2 other committee members. Told them that cutters worked well but heavy bush and bitterly cold weather made ½ mile a more realistic figure than 1 mile per day. Not much happened other than we finally	got away at 6:30 pm 5 skidoos Charles sick and couldn't come. Paul will replace him until he is better. We have a pet weasel in our home. Pure white with a black tipped tail.

Feb 7 (-7°C)	Dave took 3 cutters to finish of most sly section. I took Larry, Alpheus and Jack to other section. Dave and Paul spent afternoon placing posts. Most sly section finally completed. We got to corner north of camp and are now cutting easterly.	Good days cutting. Dave's cutters came over to our line this afternoon. We have passed the ½ way mark. This could be a good week but we are short 2 days. I hope that at the end of next week we will see the end.
Feb 8 (-20°C)	Dave took Larry and Paul to do posting and measuring. I took Alpheus and Jack Roni, Ron and Vincent to cut W-E line just north of camp. Cut to within 100 m. of corner. Very good day between ½ and ¾ mile. It would be great if we had 2 crews doing this kind of production. Alpheus told me that he, Larry and Jack Roni may not come back next week.	Plane came in from Thompson to take cook's wife to Doctor in Garden Hill. She said at breakfast the breathing was painful. My diary entries are becoming shorter. I guess there is nothing new to say about this job. Just a constant slog. New saws that Band bought seem to be working well. Haven't used ours yet. I will keep them as spares.
Feb 9 (-12°C)	Very warm day - cloudy. Had a good days cutting, over ¾ of a mile. Solid bush. So far there has been very few if any gifts on this job. Talked to Don Shiach at Benson Bay this morning. Very poor reception. Asked him to tell Bill to send up some more T irons and caps. Apparently he could hear me and Joe said that they had spares they would send	over. Hope so as we are posting a lot closer than I anticipated due to nature of terrain. Cook said that he told all the cutters to stay and finish the job. I can actually see the end in sight. Roy called, said he got more money for his line cutting and will send out the amended contract on Sunday evening with cutters.
Feb 10 (-12°C)	Got approx. 700 m. cut today. Not as good as yesterday but Alpheus had to leave at noon to have a meeting with Roy at 4:30 at Band Office. Joe, the cook, also went in at same time. I suggested they bring back spare parts for the Band's chainsaws. Dave and Paul spent day posting. We are essentially all caught up with posts. If we can keep it this way we will probably only have a days work to clean up loose ends after cutting is done. Our production was not bad	considering Alpheus was not there in afternoon and we stopped working at approx. 3:30 -3:45. Hope to be past last bend Monday evening. Larry said he is going to Winnipeg to pick up a car. Hope a replacement comes out. Ron and Vincent spent 1st hr of day fixing a skidoo instead of working. I wish I had charge of who plays and who stays. Even Alpheus seemed a little pissed off with them. Went to bed earlier with a terrible burning throat. Can hardly talk.

<p>Sunday Feb 11 (-10°C)</p>	<p>Not supposed to work today but Dave and I spent about 4 hrs on line placing 1 tube and getting a missing distance with the Set 3. Did a bit of chainsaw tinkering and that's about it. I needed distance in order to carry forward my co-ordinate values in order to calculate my last bend which I hope to tomorrow. Throat a bit better. I seem to have a constant throat</p>	<p>problem but seem to be able to prevent it from developing into anything more serious than a constant annoyance. Cook called and said he would be out tomorrow but cutters should be here approx. 10:00 pm this evening. All set for Dave to go to North section while I finish centre section. Cutters arrived in evening 10:00-10:30±.</p>
<p>Feb 12 (-29°C)</p>	<p>I cooked breakfast and we got a very late start. Didn't leave camp until well after 9:00 am. Alpheus, Jack Roni, Charles and Dave went to North section. I gave Dave the wrong start angle so their day was more or less a bust. Jack stayed at his cabin which is near there. Dave said it took 1:10 by lake going and over 2 hrs by trail coming home. I hope they use lake from now on. My crew was short this afternoon as I sent Ron to meet cook on trail. Cook was late so he never returned to line. New man named Roger Knott replaced Larry. He and Vincent with</p>	<p>myself got to last bend and cut approx. 300' past. Last course on this section. Dave not well. He has an infection in his tonsils so I sent him with Charles to Garden Hill tonight. Hope it is not serious and that nurse gives him prescription that he has used for same condition before. I guess we will lose another crew day. Sent agreement back with runner this morning. I sure will have a story to tell EMR upon my return to Wpg. Hoped to finish cutting this week but with Dave crew set back 2 days it doesn't seem likely.</p>
<p>Feb 13 (-10°C)</p>	<p>Snowy morning Dave and Charles are still in Garden Hill. Dave hoped to see nurse when he arrived but I did not expect that. Alpheus left to pick up Jack so we could all cut on our last course in this section. He called me on the walkie talkie to say that he found Jack quite ill. Told him to take Jack to Nursing Station at Garden Hill. This left me with Vincent, Ron and Roger. About 2:30 Ron got hit on the head by a 4"-5" poplar. Split his skin from his eyebrow to his hair line. Sent Roger ahead by skidoo to have Joe call for a Medivac while Vincent and I got him onto a sleigh and travelled back to camp. Got him into kitchen and cleaned up wound. Nasty cut. Placed a dressing on it as best I could. Chopper arrived with nurse at about 5:00 pm.</p>	<p>My main concern was not the gash but any possible head injury. Dave and Charles arrived back from Garden Hill at about this time. Heard later on radio that he is okay and just needed stiches. Haven't heard how Jack is. I guess my planned assault on our last 2 sections this week will have about the same success as the "charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava". Dave said he was diagnosed with a strep throat. I also caught my finger when a skidoo starting rope snapped my hand. Badly swollen and bruised. This is beginning to look like Napoleons' retreat from the gates of Moscow. (I am getting carried away with these historical comparisons.) Alpheus hasn't returned yet (9:30 pm). Quite a day.</p>

Feb 14 ♥♥Valentine's Day (-17°C)	Alpheus did return last night with 2 replacement cutters. Back to a full crew. Dave took Alpheus. Phillip Little (replacement) and Charles to North site. They cut 1000 m-good day. I took Roger, Vincent and Fred Harper (replacement) on last line of middle section we did approx. 750 m. Dave said he is in easy going now. My site has	birch, poplar and spruce-heavy going. Alpheus told Dave that this will be his last week. Talked to Don Shiach this morning. He said they are packing up on Saturday with job incomplete. Too bad we weren't doing this production at the beginning of the week. 3 days left in week. Hope to have most cutting done by then.
Feb 15 (-25°C)	Quite cold today. Strong west wind. Same scenario as yesterday. Dave ran into heavier going so only did 800± m. I had similar conditions as yesterday but still accomplished 800 m. Tomorrow I should be in the burnt area. Vincent left line at about 3:45 to go to Garden Hill	said he would return early tomorrow. Joe said gas is being brought out tonight. Apparently cutters at Benson Bay all quit. Don seems to have quite a time. Gas came out with a Valentine box from home.
Feb 16 (-25°C)	I have very heavy bush. Just got into burn cut approx. 550 m. Dave did 1100 m. With me in burn and Dave almost at last bend in his section. I can see the end in a few days. Vincent went to Garden Hill after work to play hockey as he did yesterday.	Cutters cooked some moose meat. Very good. Had cook slice up lemon loaf CAB sent up. Nice change from no desert. Not much to say today. Things just plugging along. Spent most of evening doing chainsaw repairs.
Feb 17 (-35°C)	I had a good day. 1400 m. I think one more day on my line will finish it. Dave did 700 m. - 1 more day possibly 2 days to finish his line. Should be all wrapped up by Thursday. Cook went to Garden Hill at noon. This is the third weekend that we have been without a cook. This is our 23rd real day at line work. We have lost 5 days so far because of men leaving early on Saturday and not returning until Monday or in one case Tuesday evening.	Only this week have we had a full week and it was broken up by unfortunate occurrences. Vincent didn't return from Garden Hill this morning so I had 2 men on line and Dave had 2 plus Charles. Very cold day. But lake was very pretty on way back from work. The setting sun gave everything a sort of pinkish hue. When I referred to this as being our 23rd day. I have discounted one Sat in which only 2 hrs were spent on line (Jan 27).
Sunday Feb 18 (-25°C)	Sunday. No work - did laundry and dreamed of home. Bad move. Hope they bring gas tomorrow as drum brought out evening of the 15th is all gone. We barely	have enough gas to get to Garden Hill if we had to. I have no idea how we can go through so much gas. I think its these trips to Garden Hill that does it.

Feb 19 (-15°C)	Monday. Of course no one is here to work. We (Dave and I) do not have enough gas to work if we wanted to. Very heavy snow - cannot see south	shore of lake for most of day. Vincent, Charles, Roger and Philip came out approx. 10:30 pm with 1 drum of gas. No cook.
Feb 20 (-28°C)	Cooked breakfast. Had to wake up cutters. However I didn't leave camp until 10:30 and didn't start cutting until 1:00 pm. Dave didn't leave camp until 11:00 am. I cut 800 m. and Dave did 500 m. Poor day, of course it was in reality	only ½ day. I guess we will need 1 more day to finish line cutting. Cook and his wife were here when I got home. We both worked late. (I worked till about 5:30 pm and Dave till about 6 pm.)
Feb 21 (-10°C)	Very warm but I got sweated up 1st thing in morning and as a result I was chilly all day. All cutting finished and I got in 2 posts. Dave also finished cutting and placed all posts at north site. Should finish tomorrow. Charles and Philip left	Dave and Vincent with 1 post left to put in. Kind of pissed off seeing as how I pay Charles \$14.00/hr. We left camp at about 9:00 am. With the job essentially over I guess I can forget about ever starting at 8:00 am.
Feb 22 (-5°C very warm)	Last day. Dave and Charles posted with rock drill and I posted with Vincent. Finished at about 3:00 pm. Told Dave to fill Jerry can with gas in morning and take it with him on sleigh (Just to ensure that we have gas to return to Garden Hill). Cutters stayed in camp. 1/3 of drum of gas left when we went to work empty when we returned. I wonder where it	all went. Packed up and we all returned to Garden Hill in evening. Cook and his wife stayed at camp. Met Roy-loaded truck and began return drive to Wpg. at approx. 9:30 pm. Left a cheque for \$33,000 with Roy on account. This should leave us close to being even. Winter road in good shape.
Feb 23	Still on winter road at midnight. Poor driving from Pine Dock to Wpg. - very	snowy. Dropped Dave off and got home at approx. 11:00 am.