The Reliction in the Finnish Cadaster - A Very Finnish Problem

Kalle Konttinen (Finland)

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SUMMARY

During the last glacial period 12 000 to 110 000 years ago, much of northern Europe was covered by ice sheets which were often couple kilometers tight. The weight of ice caused the surface of Earth fall. After ice melted Earth's surface started to bounce back. In Finland Earth's surface is still bouncing back at average pace 1 meter per 100 years. This bouncing back creates vast reliction areas at Finnish coast-lines. In Finland, country with long Baltic Sea coastline, 188 000 lakes and 179 000 islands, effects of this phenomenon to cadastral surveying are known to every cadastral surveyor in Finland.

In Finnish cadaster reliction area is primarily owned by owner of the water area. One exemption to this are so called unattached reliction areas. Before year 1911 manmade reliction area could form such area that owners of the area were those who made it. These areas were many decades outside cadastral system and ownership papers could be in someone's drawer. Last of these areas are just now formally put to Finnish cadaster.

Common cadastral problem with reliction areas in Finland comes with summer cottages. It is very com-mon that to front of a lake- or seaside summer cottage forms reliction area. This problem is solved in Finland with Reliction area expropriation. Every land owner has right to expropriate, within exact limits, reliction area which has formed in front of their land. Expropriation is conducted by cadastral surveyor.

In recent years has brought new problem with reliction areas. In many rural lakes there is growing inter-est to rise water surface of the lake. Now there is need for reverse reliction expropriation. This new prob-lem is solved in Finnish legislation by land consolidation.