# Bluff Erosion in the LeSueur River Basin

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## Aerial Photographs





#### Sources of Uncertainty

Georeferencing the aerial photographs
Selecting the bluff crest

Not quantified yet

Assumptions made about how buffs erode

#### Georeferencing

- Arc GIS was used to georeference photos
  First order polynomial (affine) transformation used to reduce warp
- Eight or more stable poin georeference aerial photo
   RMS error calculated by georeferencing error



ArcGIS help (spatial analyst: warp)

#### **RMS** error

1st order polynomial



#### Assumptions on bluff erosion

- Erosion at the base of the bluff causes failures near the crest of the bluff
- Material that slumps down and forms a toe is removed quickly by the river
- Minimum estimate of bluff erosion assumes a wedge of material being removed where greatest amount of sediment is removed near the crest of the bluff

## Assumptions on bluff erosion











Average erosion 1938-2005: 0.15 m/yr ± 0.06 1971-2005: 0.14 m/yr ± 0.04

Histogram of bluff retreat rate





Total Volume lost assuming top wedge only 1938-2005: 25000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr 1971-2005: 23000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr

Bluffs with less than 1000 m^3 volume loss



Volume lost assuming top and bottom wedge



Volume lost for top and bottom wedge 1938-2005: 28000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr

#### **Ground Based LiDAR**



http://www.optech.ca/prodilris.htm

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#### Sources of Uncertainty

Error associated with scanner
Bluff alignment – done using PolyWorks
Vegetation and other erroneous points
Direction of change

## LiDAR and Vegetation



After Vegetation is removed

## Bluff Alignment



This is an example of bad alignment.

- The colors indicate the magnitude of change between two scans

#### **Direction of Change**



Result of looking at change in only one direction where bluff is curved

When using multiple vectors normal to the average surface, a more accurate estimation of the retreat is found





















Average erosion rate 0.10 m/yr Average volume lost 50 m<sup>3</sup>/yr





#### Review

- Aerial Photographs:
  - 80 bluffs measured
  - Bluff change from 1938-2005 (67 years)
  - <u>Retreat Rate: 0.15 ± 0.06 m/yr</u>
- LiDAR:
  - 40 comparisons made on 13 bluffs
  - Amount of bluff change in 100 to 650 days
  - Retreat Rate 0.10±....m/yr

#### **Aerial Photographs**

- Inexpensive many aerial photos are available online
- Only shows changes of bluff crest and river migration
- Low resolution (m)
- Covers longer time period

#### **Ground Based LiDAR**

- Equipment costs >\$100,000 to own; to rent is about \$8000
- Shows changes on the bluff face and may give details about erosion processes
- High resolution (mm-cm)
- Can be used to track annual changes

