

Albert (Al) Francis Allman
December 1921 to August 2003

Albert was born at Central Tech School in Toronto where his father was employed as Superintendent and where the family resided. He was the second son of Martha and Richard Allman and brother to Richard and Tom. He attended school in Toronto and spent almost as much time on the athletic fields as at his desk. He was mad about sports and, in his years at University of Toronto, played in nine major sports. He also played football and hockey for the Michigan Wolverines.



He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1945 with a degree in wood technology, and from the University of Toronto in 1947 with a B.Sc. in forestry.

He worked for the Ontario Department of Highways from 1945 to 1949, as a party chief, and was apprenticed to Harold Howden. He was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1949, and moved to the Toronto and York Road Commission to work as a surveyor the same year. From 1954 to 1956 he worked with the Metropolitan Roads Department (successor to the Toronto & York Road Commission) as supervisor of surveying. In 1956, he qualified as a professional engineer for the Gardiner Expressway, working on this project until 1959, when he was appointed project engineer for the Don Valley Expressway. In 1966 he went into private practice in Toronto until the fall of 1968 when he accepted the post of secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association. In 1971 the work was split into separate jobs, and became executive secretary of the Association. In 1972 he qualified as a registered professional forester (Ontario).

As executive secretary, Al had perhaps the most exacting full-time position in any Canadian survey association. He enjoyed the variety and the challenges of the job, dealing with hundreds of Ontario Land Surveyors and apprentices, examinations, council and meetings. He served as executive secretary until 1975 when he moved into a rewarding private practice.

Al soon became actively involved in municipal politics and was elected Alderman in Etobicoke, serving two terms from 1978 to 1982. He continued to be very active in municipal, provincial and federal politics.

Al met June Henderson in 1952 and they married in 1956. They raised four daughters in Etobicoke where they lived for 27 years. Many family activities included going to the cottage, fishing, boating, canoeing, skiing, skating, camping, gardening and woodworking. He was continuously active with some project. Al also loved to sing and in his younger years, he performed in several musical productions with Melody Fair. He was a recreational pilot and later enjoyed taking his daughters up for flights in floatplanes. One of his great loves was the cottage on Lake Simcoe that he and his family built. Once the girls grew up and moved out on their own, June and Al retired to her hometown of Parry Sound in 1990.

Al was a 13 year lung cancer survivor, but passed away suddenly of heart failure in August 2003. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, two son-in-laws and five grandchildren.
