



**William Albert Baker, O.L.S.**  
**February 14, 1924 – December 26, 2008**

(William) Bill was born in Stratford Ontario on February 14 1925, the only child of Dr. Albert and Mrs. Helen Baker. He received his education at Falstaff Public School and later graduated from the Stratford Collegiate-Vocational Institute. As a boy Bill was a member of the Stratford Boys Band (trumpet), and while in his teens had a job delivering ice.

Bill enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1944 and trained as an air gunner in Prince Edward Island. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1945. While in the Air Force Bill must have developed an interest in aviation because for a time after his discharge he pursued (but never completed) a degree in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Toronto.

Bill then gained employment with Ontario Hydro and worked on survey crews in Northern Ontario (where they lived in tents for much of the time). He once recounted that it was sometimes necessary to hire elder Native guides who were able to identify “axe blazes” which had been placed in trees many years previous and had since healed over (but which still constituted “evidence”).

Bill married Norma (Roegele) in Stratford, in August of 1950. Norma, no doubt desirous of habitation in something more substantial than a tent was probably influential in Bill’s decision to seek employment further south (Goderich). Bill articulated to Wilfred G. Ure (O.L.S., P. Eng.) in January of 1951 and was admitted to the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors in September of 1953. Their first son (Gregory) was born in Goderich in 1954. In 1956 Bill and Norma moved to Woodstock where their second son (Philip) was born.

Bill, continued to work for Ure and Smith (Robert Smith O.L.S., P.Eng. retired) through the 1950's and 60's and in 1968 purchased a 50% share in what had become two associated companies (W.A. Baker Surveying Inc. and Springbank Consulting Engineers Ltd.). For the next 20 years Bill supervised thousands of surveys for legal, engineering and architectural uses. Notably he looked after the land mapping and acquisitions for the Pittock Dam, Simcoe to Nanicoke railway, Woodstock O.B.M. for M.N.R., and County and Municipal rights of way retracements and widenings. He always insured that all the work was done to a high standard. He was liked and respected by all who worked with him.

In 1988 Bill sold his shares in the company and retired. He and Norma traveled and enjoyed their grandchildren for many years. In the early 2000's the Parkinson's disease which Norma had contracted years earlier confined her to a nursing home. Bill who remained in remarkably good health sat with her every afternoon and evening for the next seven years.

Bill died of natural causes on December 26, 2008. Norma joined him 2 months later.