

**Richard W. Barrow, OLS # 1479
1940 -2012**



Walter Richard Barrow was born in what was British Guyana (now Guyana) in South America on December 8, 1940. Following elementary school, he attended Queen's college in Georgetown which he left in 1957 after completing the General Certificate of Education.

His first job was as a trainee telecommunications technician but he left that to pursue studies in land surveying at the Guyana Technical institute, and was licensed as a Sworn Land Surveyor in 1964. The first major project he worked on was the building of a new road through sand and virgin forest from Georgetown to McKenzie, the bauxite town, sixty-five miles up the Demerara River from Georgetown.

An opportunity in the Bahamas beckoned and he spent three years there with O'Brien engineering Company. There, he was involved primarily in the opening of new land developments in Nassau and the out islands. It was in the Bahamas that he met his wife Anne and they were married in England in 1971. Soon after that they emigrated to Canada, settling in Toronto where his only child Matthew was born. In Toronto, Richard completed the requirements for his Ontario Land Surveyor's License in 1979, articling with Speight and Van Nostrand Limited. After working for a time in Toronto, the family moved to Alberta. They settled in Edmonton and there he was employed as Party Chief, working in various parts of Alberta. When Alberta's economy slowed down in the mid 80's Richard returned to the Bahamas. This time around in the Bahamas, in addition to his surveying duties, he designed and implemented training programmes for on the job training of junior staff. Outside of work, he became an accomplished deep sea diver.

He returned to Canada in 1986, taking up the position of Project Surveyor with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton where he worked on the rapid transit corridors. When that project came to an end, he was employed by Fairhall, Moffatt and Woodland Limited. Following that employment stint, Richard was self-employed, providing technical survey support services to surveyors and municipalities. He returned to Toronto in 1997 and worked with Bennett Young Limited, and Delph and Jenkins.

Richard was a member of the AOLS and served as Sergeant at Arms at the 102nd AGM in 1994. He was also a member of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics.

Richard was a stickler for detail. As one of his colleagues noted, he might take longer than most, but when Richard handed in his completed work, there was

little chance of finding an error. He was an avid reader, and his reading interests were wide and varied. As a young man, Richard loved music and dancing. While still in his teens, he was member of a band in Georgetown called "Combo Seven", in which he played the bongo drums. His musical tastes grew to include the classics, blues, jazz and he has left an extensive collection of CDs and tapes.

Unfortunately Richard developed heart disease and diabetes in his later years. However, he enjoyed reasonably good health for at least seven years following bypass surgery, but then other things began to take their toll. His vision became affected by Macular Degeneration and he suffered balance problems which affected his gait. All of this negatively affected his daily living and he became less and less involved. However, he was able to visit with his son in Egypt who was a teacher there, and was able to attend his wedding in Greece. Most fortunately, Richard was able to attend his grandson's baptism in Chicago in April 2011.

His sudden and unexpected death was a great shock to us all, and we greatly miss him.