

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY AND REPOSITORY



FRANK WELDON BEATTY, B.A.Sc., D.L.S., O.L.S., P.Eng.
SURVEYOR GENERAL, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, 1946-1962
1892 - 1965

by W. F. Weaver, O.L.S.

Suddenly on October 13, 1965, Frank Weldon (Weary) Beatty, surveyor, engineer, soldier and a great friend of many, crossed the Great Divide. His passing was a great shock to us all and it is difficult to believe that the booming voice of Weary Beatty is forever stilled. No longer will the Ottawa Valley, which he loved so much and worked in, for so many years, hear his footsteps along its forest trails. Fellow surveyors and engineers, and in particular the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, in which he took such an active interest for so many years, will miss his wisdom, his humour and understanding. From his exterior blustery manner to his heart of human kindness, he was all man.

Weldon was educated at the public and high schools in Pembroke, Ontario, and graduated from the Toronto University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in the year 1913.

Following graduation he joined the staff of the Topographical Surveys Branch of the Government of Canada where he served his Dominion Land Surveyor's apprenticeship with two past presidents of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and Photogrammetry, namely, R. B. MacKay and J. W. Pierce. Weldon received his Dominion Land Surveyor's commission in the year 1914 and shortly after the outbreak of World War I, he joined the 43rd Battery of the Royal Canadian Field Artillery. Following the end of the war, he continued his surveying career with the Government of Canada until the year 1923 when he left the service and joined his brother, Herbert Beatty, O.L.S., in private practice in Pembroke, Ontario. This partnership carried out extensive surveys for close to a quarter of a century in the Ottawa Valley and in Northern Ontario where numerous base lines, meridian

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lines and township outlines were surveyed for the Ontario Government. One base line which bears the name of Beatty's Base Line is the 7th base line which extends across the province between Manitoba and Quebec.

During the years when Mr. Beatty was in private practice he took an active interest in municipal affairs. He was a member of the Board of Education for the Town of Pembroke; a member of council for four years; Reeve for four years and Mayor for the years 1939-1941. He was also interested in Legion affairs and was President of the Canadian Legion Branch in Pembroke, where he did much to entertain the troops at Camp Petawawa.

Upon the retirement of Mr. C. H. Fullerton, Surveyor General for Ontario in the year 1946, the Ontario Government convinced Weldon that the office of Surveyor General offered such challenges that he should forsake his private practice and take over the duties of Surveyor General. He accepted the position and was sworn in as Surveyor General on the 1st day of May, 1946.

During Mr. Beatty's career as an Ontario Land Surveyor he served on almost every committee in the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, both as a committee member and chairman. In the year 1939 he was President of the Association and in the year 1954, following the death of Mr. Tracy D. leMay, he became Chairman of the Council of Management and Chairman of the Board of Examiners. Mr. Beatty was also an active member of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and Photogrammetry throughout the years. He received the honour of being elected President of the Institute in the year 1954. He was also an Honorary Quebec Land Surveyor.

The period of 1946-1962 as Surveyor General of Ontario presented many challenges to Mr. Beatty. These, coupled with an expanding department and a continually increasing workload, were taken in stride, and accomplished in Weldon's own inimitable manner. During his regime, he was a member of the Provincial Boundary Commission and the provincial representative for Ontario on the Geographic Board of Names. As a boundary line commissioner, the last remaining section of the Ontario-Manitoba boundary extending to the Hudson Bay, was surveyed and the boundary confirmed by a special Act of the Legislature, passed by both the Ontario and Manitoba Governments.

Upon Weldon's retirement in 1962, he was appointed by the Ontario Government to act as the representative of the Province on the Ottawa River Engineering Board. He was a member of this Board up to the time of his death.

It is of interest to note that Weldon and his brother, Herb, were not the first Beattys who became surveyors. Walter and David Beatty, who were Provincial Land Surveyors in the nineteenth century and who worked out of Eganville and Parry Sound, were cousins of Weldon's father.

Weldon was the father of the late F/O Walter Bennett Beatty and the late William Davidson Beatty. He is survived by his wife Annie Bennett and his sister Mrs. E. C. McKay of Smiths Falls. Interment took place October 15, 1965, at Wesley United Cemetery in Pembroke.