

**Max Berman, OLS# 907**  
**February 17, 1926 – January 28, 2017**



Max Berman was born in Kingston, ON on February 17, 1926, to parents Jacob and Dora who had emigrated from Romania several years earlier. He has one elder brother and sister, and one younger brother. Max did very well in school and went on to study engineering at Queen's University. However, after completing one year of university and at just 17 years old, he decided to join the military. With his parents' permission he entered basic training and was then sent overseas to London to work in an administrative role. In 1946, he returned to Canada and to vocational training in Brockville, after which he returned to

Queen's for another year. After the death of his mother in 1948, he decided to follow his sibling and father to Toronto where he acquired a surveying job with the Department of Highways.

I met Max in 1950 and we were married in December a year later. At the time he was working in a survey party which took him to areas east and north of Toronto, which included surveying for the new 401 highway. He also worked in areas near Windsor and many other areas in the east and closer to Toronto. Max was sent to the Kingston office and was there from 1953-1955, surveying for roads north of Kingston.

During that time, Max decided that he wanted to study for his OLS and was sent back to the Downsview office, where he could complete his studies. In 1956 he became an OLS and was made a party chief assuming responsibility for a survey party. His son Stephen was born that same year and his daughter in December of 1957. We had moved to Brampton that year and Max continued working out of the Downsview office, still involved with the survey of properties that would become the new 401 highway as well as other areas.

Max was transferred to the Kingston office in 1960 as the Sr. Inspector of Surveys. He had to spend some time in the field overseeing projects that were underway. In 1964 a job became available in the Department of Lands and Forests at Queen's Park in Toronto and was the successful candidate for the job. We then decided to relocate to Willowdale where Max commuted downtown to an office in the Parliament Buildings. Max was working under Robert Code who was responsible for all the surveying in that department. His days were usually spent in the office overseeing their projects.

Max was very fortunate to retire near the end of 1981 on a full pension, as he was able to buy back three years of his war service. After he retired we spent some time at our condo in Florida, which we sold in 1984 and then moved to our country home in Ennismore near Peterborough. Max was an avid work-out guy and he was at the YMCA usually 4 mornings a week at 6:00 a.m. and home in time for lunch. He stayed healthy and we loved all the years there and the pleasure of having four older grandchildren with us regularly.

In 2005, we realized that the property was too much so we sold and moved into a condo in Peterborough. We enjoyed several wonderful years but in 2015 he started having issues with his memory and balance. Max then went into Long Term care at Fairhaven in May 2016 as I could no longer care for his need, but I was still able to be with him every day. In the later months he was no longer able to walk and remained in a wheelchair. He was still doing quite well until the end of January, however his health took a turn and he passed away Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. We had 65 wonderful years of marriage, which I am grateful for.

The years that Max spent in the government were really good ones for him. He really enjoyed the work that he did and the relationships he made with his colleagues. He respected them, and they likewise. Max was honest and forthright and could always be trusted. Although his short term memory disappeared, his long term was quite good and he would have been able to recite all the names of the people that were in his working career. If I could've been able to do that it would have been the 'icing on the cake'. Reaching almost 91, max enjoyed a long and happy life, and I feel privileged to have been able to recount parts of it.

Submitted by Dolores Berman