

David Matthew Bews, OLS# 977
May 20, 1932 - March 28, 2017



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of David Bews at age 84. Dave was loved and respected by his family, colleagues, and friends for his commitment to community, work and family. Dave was born in Belleville, ON to Douglas and Aline Bews.

He attended Queen Alexandra and BCIVS. When Dave was 11, his mother passed away, and he and his father spent their summers building and selling houses around Belleville. Dave would carry on his love of designing and building throughout his lifetime. His skills as a handyman were legendary.

In 1951, he and his father moved to Kingston where he earned his BSc in Civil Engineering at Queen's University, Class of '56. He cherished his days there, where he secured many lifelong friendships, studying hard and stirring up trouble with his classmates. After graduating, Dave signed on with the Ontario Department of Highways and became an Ontario Land Surveyor based in Toronto. A quiet but social guy, Dave loved golf, tennis, curling, and skiing. It was on the slopes that he would meet Ethel Green, his future wife. When he was offered a transfer to Bancroft, ON, Dave knew that he couldn't go without her. They were married on June 8, 1963.

Dave and Ethel spent many happy years in Bancroft, where they built their first house together. In 1967, they moved to Ottawa, where Dave accepted a position with the federal government. In 1968, they were thrilled to welcome their son, Peter, into their lives and shortly after, their daughter, Christina in 1969. The family settled in Manotick, ON, where Dave and Ethel built two more houses and made a lifetime of happy memories. Dave's love of map reading made family vacations memorable. He was always first to win the geography pie when playing Trivial Pursuit at the family cottage on Robertson Lake near Lanark, ON. The cottage was a refuge where Dave would swim, fish, sail and build new additions. Dave retired from his position as Director of Professional and Technical Services with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1992, after 23 years. He was the Project Manager on the construction of both the Dempster and Liard highways. His career took him all over the world, often accompanied by Ethel.

In retirement, Dave helped Ethel with the gift shop that she owned in Manotick until they decided it was time for a new adventure. They moved back to Dave's hometown, restoring a house right across the street from where Dave was born. They became deeply immersed in the Belleville community, volunteering with Kiwanis and on the board of the Quinte Cultural Centre project. The two were often spotted walking with their golden retriever, Lucy, along the Bayshore or at Massasauga Conservation Area, for which they served on the board. They carried on their love of travel with trips to Europe, the Maritimes, and BC.

Dave is survived by his wife, Ethel, and his sister, Barbara. He was a much loved Grandpa to Alex, Heather, Nick and Abbie Bews, and "Pop Pop" to Will and Maggie Shorthouse. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his wife and children. He will be deeply missed by all.

Source: N.p., n.d. Web. <<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/burke/obituaries/david-matthew-bews/3528>>.