

**William "Bill" Bolan, O.L.S.# 1051**  
**July 9, 1934 – 2016**



William (Bill) Edward Bolan was born to William and Marie Bolan, one of four boys, and an identical twin, on July 9, 1934 in Midland, Ontario.

As an enterprising young man, Bill worked for the Department of Highways. It was there that he acquired his passion for land surveying, such that he determined to pursue a degree at Ryerson and become a full-fledged Ontario Land Surveyor.

It was while working at highways up in the North Bay area that Bill met and fell in love with a young receptionist Myra, who became his wife and mother to his three children: Christopher, Laura-Lynn and Gregory.

Bill worked out of North Bay for a time and then, in 1967, bought an existing land surveying practice in Sault Ste. Marie. He settled into the Soo for good, operating, initially, as William E. Bolan Ltd. Bill ran several crews conducting surveys in the Soo and the wide surrounding area.

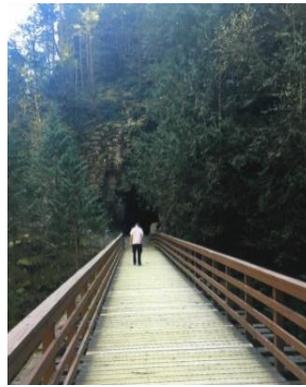
Although none of his children followed in his footsteps, his two sons did work extensively with him over the years and learned to run both prints and a transit.

Bill had a great passion for land surveying, not only the study and practice itself, the social life as well. Bill and Myra were always to be found in attendance at the annual conventions and social gatherings.



As the years went on and his business thrived, Bill got into the field less and less, but he never lost his taste for it. While Bill was, by his own admission, only half-ways handy with an axe or saw, he always remained a darn fine party chief. He knew his way around the registry office as well. He was well liked by his employees and managed to be their boss and bend more than the occasional elbow with them at the same time. He became lifelong friends with some of them.

Bill was proud of the camaraderie that the surveyors in the Soo and area enjoyed. In the early days, the group was made up of Murray Acheson, Burt Chambers, Larry Miller, Ted Wall, and Colin Trivers. Later on, Dave Urso would join forces with Bill, and Mike Tulloch settled into Thessalon. Bill maintained good relationships with all his fellow surveyors. Even after he retired, Bill continued to work for some of his colleagues because he enjoyed doing so. The picture to the right shows Bill going into one of the Othello tunnels in BC, which he visited with his son to admire that great feat of land surveying and engineering



Bill was a man who liked to participate and give back to his community. He volunteered at his church and the Soup Kitchen and was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus. Bill enjoyed following and playing all manner of sports, especially Canadian ones such as lacrosse, football, and curling. He was a lifelong enthusiast of cross country skiing, loved walking and cycling on the Hub trail, and was a proud Soo Greyhound season ticket holder. He will surely be missed and just as surely remembered with fondness by his family, colleagues and friends.

Submitted by Laura-Lynn and Chris Bolan