



Dennison Headley Browne, C.L.S., O.L.S.
May 24th 1931 – April 28th 2005

Dennis H. Browne was born in Ottawa, Ontario, on 24 May, 1931, the only child of Gerald Lionel Browne and Grace Browne. He received his primary education in boarding school at St. Alban's in Brockville, Ontario, graduating in 1947. He then attended Ottawa Technical High School and graduated in 1949.

In 1949 he served for 6 months as a cadet in the Merchant Navy (Deep Sea) on a tramp steamer. He was then employed as an apprentice to a chartered accountant for 2 ½ years followed, in 1952, by 5 months in the Canadian Army as an Officer Cadet at Camp Borden, Ontario.

Dennis joined the Legal Surveys Division (the Office of the Surveyor General of Dominion Lands) of the federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys (now the Department of Natural Resources) in 1953 and qualified for apprenticeship for a commission as a Dominion Land Surveyor in 1954. He completed his articles in 1957 and his final examinations in 1958 and was commissioned as a Dominion Land Surveyor (no. 844) on 20 March, 1958, at Ottawa. Dennis received a commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor (no. 1216) on 16 May, 1968.

From 1958 to 1960 Dennis headed survey parties on surveys of Indian Reserves in British Columbia. From 1961 to 1965 he was responsible for surveys in Yukon, including subdivisions in a number of communities including Whitehorse and surveys along the Alaska Highway. In 1966 he participated in subdivision surveys of Kahnawake Indian Reserve in Montreal, Quebec. After 1968 he surveyed Indian Reserves and National Parks in Ontario and the Akwesasne Indian Reserves at Cornwall, Ontario, and in Quebec. In Ontario his surveys were primarily in the southern part of the province and in the Georgian Bay, Sudbury and North Bay areas.

In 1970 Dennis became the regional supervisor for Ontario. When the Surveyor General's Office created regional offices across the country in 1972, Dennis was appointed Regional Surveyor, Ontario. He moved to Toronto and set up the Ontario regional office on St. Clair Avenue just east of Yonge Street. Along with the British Columbia office this was the Surveyor General's largest regional office from the point of view of staff, budget and work. As a result of these duties, Dennis had contacts with many surveyors across Ontario. He remained Regional Surveyor, Ontario, until 31 March, 1990, when he relinquished the position to undertake studies for the Surveyor General concerning the organization and financial operations of the Surveyor General's Office. He retired from the federal government on 31 March, 1991. One of his notable work achievements as regional surveyor was a systematic, multi-year program he instituted to have all the exterior boundaries of Indian Reserves in Ontario resurveyed. At the time many Indian Reserves in Ontario, especially in northern Ontario, had not been surveyed in 70 to 100 years. The program was eventually extended to other regional offices.

Dennis was a great believer in, and supporter of, the activities of professional organizations, especially educational initiatives. He became a member of the Ontario Land Surveyor Association's Complaints Committee in 1976 and served as Chair of the Committee from 1977 to 1979. In 1983 he was the member responsible for Professional Practice Audit Task Force in the Executive Group chaired by B. T. Davies, O.L.S. Those who articulated with Dennis or were mentored by him include: D. E. Arnold, C.L.S.; C. F. Bonnell, D.T.S., N.S.L.S.; G. C. Campbell, C.L.S., O.L.S.; G. Consoli, C.L.S., O.L.S.; D. E. Culham, C.L.S., O.L.S.; D. Dryden, C.L.S.; S. A. Hutchinson, C.L.S., A.L.S.; A. M. MacLeod, C.L.S., O.L.S.; R. G. McBurney, C.L.S., O.L.S.; A. E. Peterson, C.L.S. A.L.S.; and P.I.R. Sauve, C.L.S., O.L.S. In April, 1992, he presented the first Dennis H. Browne Survey Student Awards at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute in Toronto.

In 1995 he became a member of Archives & Historical Committee and served as Chair of that Committee in 1996 and 1997 until he suffered a stroke on 11 June, 1997. Dennis also had an avid interest in model trains and stamp collecting.

Dennis married the former Rosemary E. Budarick of Palmer Rapids, Ontario, in 1957. They had three boys, Randy Wayne, Gregory Miles and Stephen Lee. Dennis passed away 28 April, 2005 at Providence Centre, Toronto. He was interred with his wife at Highland Memorial Gardens, Markham, Ontario.
