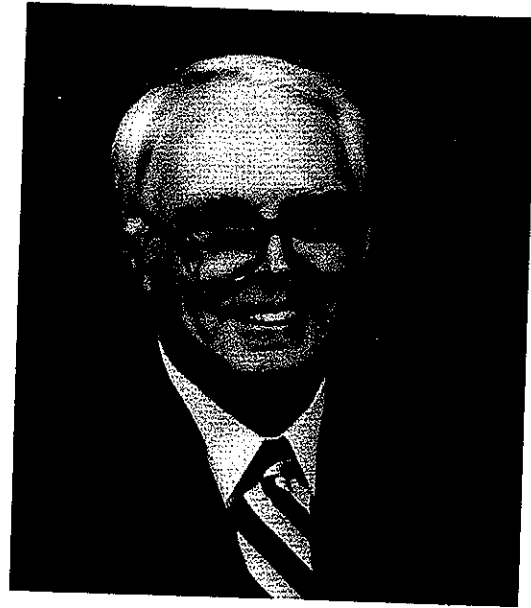


DONALD F. BURDEN
October 1928 – June 1, 1999

by Joseph M. Burden

Donald F. Burden was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 1928. He attended Saulte High School and worked summers at Algoma Steel, on Lake Tour ships and building camp cabins. My dad told me when he worked on the ferry and tour boats, he had to butter hundreds and hundreds of slices of toast with a four inch paint bursh and a can of hot butter.



After graduation, he came to Hamilton to find permanent work. He obtained a position in a bank but was told by a doctor at his physical to get a job working outdoors.

Don joined Mackay, Mackay and Peters and under the tutelage and encouragement of Austin T. Reding, one of the partners, he began night classes to get his O.L.S. degree.

He married Margaret Moorcroft in July of 1954 and in October of that year became an O.L.S. He was an only child and had two boys and five girls. Five of his children worked with Mackay's during the summers and one, to be different found a summer job with A.J. Clarke & Associates Ltd.

He enjoyed an excellent reputation among the Hamilton area surveyors and was much respected. As well, he in his turn, encouraged the many young people who turned up on his crew through the years.

He enjoyed his work and had a large store of anecdotes about the hazards of surveying out in the field. He used to tell of one time, he and a female helper cutting crosses on the grounds of the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital when he looked up to find himself surrounded by police with drawn guns. Someone in the neighbourhood had reported seeing an inmate with an axe over his shoulder taking a girl into the wood and suspecting the worse, called the police.

He built a summer cottage in the Kawartha Lakes region after his marriage and enjoyed many happy years there. His favourite recreation was fishing for bass and secondly eating them. He also enjoyed playing bridge and played every month with a group of friends.