

**Charles B. Chapman, OLS # 1004
1935 – 2010**



Charles B. Chapman was born in London, Ontario on December 19, 1935. He passed away in his 76th year on April 22, 2010.

Charles received his education in London at the Victoria Public School, South Collegiate Institute and the University of Western Ontario. He served with the Royal Canadian Navy as a Cadet out of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Charles commenced employment in 1955 with the then Department of Highways, Ontario. He worked in the Survey Division and articulated to become an Ontario Land Surveyor. He became a Party Chief in 1958 and obtained his O.L.S. in 1959. Charles was promoted to Description Writer (before reference plans) in late 1959 in London. He left the Department of Highways in 1960 and took the position of Chief Surveyor at the City of London which he held until his retirement in August of 2000. One of his staff members once remarked, “Charles was a great man to work for. He led the City into the computer age and had the first mini-computer that read magnetic cards in the Survey Division. He was “online” before anybody knew what the heck that meant.”

Charles was an avid reader. He loved books of all kinds and particularly enjoyed biographies and English mysteries. He enjoyed reading The Globe and Mail and was a regular contributor to the “Letters to the Editor” on a variety of social and political topics.

Charles loved music. His favourite was classical music but he also explored other genres like blues and owned at least one album by Whitney Houston. His record collection contained more than 2,000 pieces. He played the piano and owned a grand piano until his latest move in to an apartment. He played the organ and for a period of time served as the back-up organist for a London church. He was even known to travel from London to Toronto specifically to take in organ recitals.

Charles had a wide circle of friends who came from all walks of life and he enjoyed them all. He had a particular taste for good ale and even made his own white wine. Charles was a regular at certain London establishments and he had his group of good friends at each one of them.

Although he did not fish, Charles enjoyed going on fishing trips to the Marten River and to the Manitoulin Island. On these occasions, Charles was the camp cook. His expertise in the kitchen was well-known and he was a member of Cooks Online for many years. Charles also enjoyed his trips to Tobermory for the US Thanksgiving Day football games where the food, drink and long hours of discussion were the highlight of the visit. In the last 10 years, it was impossible to convince Charles to travel to the US. He once said, "I won't go to the US as long as there is a Republican in the White House."

Charles had a weakness for nice cars – the BRG Austin Healy, the Lotus Elan, the Ford convertible and the white Mercedes 350 which bore the license plate CBC 350.

Charles often spoke about the visits to his sister's vacation place near Chesley, Ontario. His sister Jean, his nephew Michael and his wife Jacqui, his nephews Shawn and Jeffrey and his nephew Kevin and his wife Anita were among his "favourite people."

Knowing Charles made a difference. He was a real gentleman, a great guy, a wonderful friend and a very loved uncle and brother.

A tree, an oak will be planted in Charles honour.