



JOHN HENRY CHRISTIE
1925 - 1992

John Christie was born on August 26, 1925, in New Toronto. He was raised in the New Toronto area and attended Mimico High School until he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943.

John flew on numerous missions during the war as a rear gunner, primarily in the Halifax series of aircraft. In the fall of 1944, John and his companions of 433rd Squadron had their aircraft shot down, forcing them to parachute into enemy territory. The men were subsequently captured and held as P.O.W.'s for the duration of the war. John earned various service medals, and the Caterpillar Pin signifying membership into the Caterpillar Club for his parachute jump.

After the war, John returned to the New Toronto area and he continued on with his education. His interest in surveying began with casual work for Mr. Alfred Cook in New Toronto, which eventually led to full-time work and the start of his articles in 1947.

In the spring of 1947, John married Audrey Joyce and settled down in New Toronto. Between studying and writing exams, John accepted new employment with the Department of Highways of Ontario, and finished his articles under Mr. Harold Howden. On October 6, 1952, John was admitted to the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors.

Working for the D.H.O. took Jack (as he was known at the Department) and his family to North Bay in 1955, then back to Toronto in 1960. The family settled in the country in the Caledon Hills area in 1965, where John retired from the re-named Ministry of Transportation & Communications, Surveys and Plans Section, Central Region, on June 30, 1982.

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John thoroughly enjoyed his retirement in the country, and it allowed him time to organize and catalogue the boxes of stamps that he accumulated since he was a child. He helped to organize and was a past president of the local stamp club. His vast stamp collection also permitted him to assemble seven small stamp books, one for each of his grandchildren.

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John always found time for his four children, David, Robyn, Brian and Paul, and whatever project or event that was on the go. He was a member at the Inglewood United Church, helping to prepare tickets, or carve turkeys whenever needed.

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John placed the same care and consideration into his work as he did with his family and his friends. He will be remembered for his advice and his kindness.

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(Submitted by Paul Christie)

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