

**Alan Shapter Cochrane, O.L.S. # 1077**



**11 November 1922 to 10 May 1982**

**Submitted by his Family**

Alan Cochrane was born in Toronto in 1922. He was the son of Alexander Robertson Cochrane and Muriel Mennon Shapter. His father was born in Brantford, Ontario in 1880 and died in Toronto in 1958. Alexander had been a Corporate Lawyer in Toronto. Alan's mother was born in Toronto in 1888 and died in Toronto in 1970. Alexander and Muriel married in Toronto in August 1920 and had two children, Alan and Peggy. The family, including Alexander's children Catherine and John from a previous marriage, lived in Toronto.

Alan attended Runnymede Public School and Humberside Collegiate Institute in Toronto. After high school, in May 1943, Alan enlisted in the Sherbrooke Fusiliers (27<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured) Regiment. After time spent training in western Canada and England, he landed on Juno Beach in Normandy several days after D-Day, in June 1944. His regiment was involved in the battles at Caen and Falaise and then ultimately with the liberation of the Netherlands. When the war ended, he returned to Canada in January 1946.

After the war, he attended the University of Toronto and in 1950 he obtained his B.S. in Forestry.

Alan married Margaret J. Salisbury in Toronto in September 1950 and they had two sons, Peter and Robert. The family lived most of their lives on Horsham Avenue in North York.

He worked for the Ontario government in Forestry from 1950 to 1952 and then in the Department of Mines from 1952 to 1954. In 1954, he started working for the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario (Ontario Hydro). He joined the Surveys Section of Ontario Hydro on 11 March 1957. On 1 July 1957, he was articulated to William Henry (Harry) Williams O.L.S., Chief Surveyor. He was sworn in as Ontario Land Surveyor # 1077 by Surveyor General F.W. Beatty on 3 May 1961 and received standard of measure # 757.

Alan worked in the field for Ontario Hydro for two years on various projects, including the layout for construction of the Lakeview Generating Station. He then transferred to the Special Studies and Titles Section under R. J. Topham, O.L.S. They were responsible for resolving special survey problems and for the preparation of all parcel descriptions.

He left Ontario Hydro in 1962 and joined the Surveys Section of the Roads Department of The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (Metro). While there he worked under Ralph A. Smith O.L.S. Chief Surveyor/Administrator Central Mapping Agency. Alan performed control surveys and later administered the survey field office on Lawrence Avenue East.

In 1968, he left Metro to teach the Cartography Program at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute under J.J. Able, P.Eng., Chairman of the Civil Technology Department. A year later, in 1969, Alan returned to Metro as Senior Control Surveyor.

In 1975, the Surveys Section was split into two. Engineering surveys, cadastral surveys and property management stayed with the then Roads and Traffic Department. The Central Mapping Agency, including control surveys, was transferred to the Management Services Department. Alan was appointed Supervisor of Geodetic Surveys.

Alan's years performing and supervising control surveys were challenging times. Metro was establishing and maintaining new networks of about 12,000 horizontal and 6,000 vertical control markers. Metropolitan Toronto was the first Canadian municipality to establish a detailed horizontal control network, which required the development of computer systems, operational methods and quality control procedures.

Alan had a large woodshop and completed many building projects around the house, including finishing his basement, furniture, and a sunroom. His hobbies included carpentry, sailing, playing bridge and model trains. Margaret is an accomplished artist who illustrated several children's books and school books. Her oil and watercolour paintings currently adorn the walls of many homes of family and friends.

In 1967, Alan and Margaret built a cottage on Ahmic Lake near Magnetawan, where the family enjoyed swimming, boating, sailing and relaxing.

In 1981, Alan took ill with pancreatic cancer and had to retire from his position at Metro and from the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. He passed away on 10 May 1982 and continues to be sorrowfully missed by his family and friends.

Margaret Cochrane is currently enjoying life in a retirement facility in Perth, Ontario. Peter Cochrane is a Survey Technician with McIntosh Perry Surveying Inc. in Perth and lives at Fallbrook with his wife Rae Anne. Rob Cochrane is a Civil Engineer with AMEC Americas Ltd. in Oakville and lives in Oakville with his wife Trish.