



RICHARD BRYCE CODE

B.A. Sc., P.Eng.

1910 - 1993

by Fraser Code

R. Bryce Code passed away on February 20, 1993, at the age of 83, as a result of congestive heart failure. Bryce was born on January 24, 1910, in Cobalt, Ontario, where his father Stan Code and his uncle Tom Code ran a joint practice in land and mine surveying. Indeed, surveying was well established as a preferred occupation for Bryce's family, as all three remaining paternal uncles (Silas, Bill and Ted) were also Ontario Land Surveyors.

Bryce spent his formative years in Toronto and in Mimico. He graduated from Mimico High School, then studied Metallurgical Engineering in the "little red schoolhouse" at the University of Toronto, obtaining his B.A. Sc. degree in 1934. During his university days, his interest in mining and metallurgy led him to summer jobs at numerous mines in Ontario and Quebec. At this time, he developed a secret passion for poetry which he maintained for the rest of his life.

After graduation, he worked for the International Nickel Company in Sudbury as an underground engineer. Following World War II, he moved his family back to Toronto, and articulated as an Ontario Land Surveyor under his father, becoming

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a member of the Association in 1947. After a few years of working in his father's private practice, Bryce had the opportunity to become a planning engineer with the Toronto and York Planning Board, which later became known as the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board. In 1956, he left the Metro Planning Board to set up his own business, which he described as "a small practice of Land Surveying, Engineering and Planning...in the general course of the development of land".

For over 25 years, Bryce was actively self-employed. The type of work that he undertook was diverse, ranging from the smallest of mortgage surveys to medium-sized subdivisions (which often included the skills of a consulting engineer), and taking him from busy sidewalks in the city centre to peaceful locations in the northern lakes and woods.

Bryce delighted in his work as a Land Surveyor. He especially enjoyed being able to reconstruct the history of land development in Ontario from the patterns of roads and subdivisions found on contemporary maps. Often he was intrigued by the interplay between ordinary people, the land that they own, and the land that their neighbours own. He remarked to many of his friends and colleagues that "Land is the fundamental commodity".

In quieter moments, he enjoyed his summer camp on the east arm of Healey Lake, near MacTier. True to his previous experience, he even obtained possession of the mineral rights to his cottage property.

Bryce also did volunteer work for the Anglican Church. He served as a Lay Member of Synod, with much of his attention being directed to the activities of the Urban Board and the Church Development Board. Recently, he sat on the Board of Directors of the Jubilee Senior Citizen's Residence, associated with the Church of the Atonement (Alderwood).

Bryce Code was buried in the cemetery of St. George's Church On-The-Hill (Islington), his home congregation for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife Winifred (nee Horwood), his two children Mary Ann and Fraser, his grandchildren Steven, Eric, Larissa, and Heather, as well as his sister Muriel, and several cousins including Robert G. Code, O.L.S.

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