

## ROBERT GEORGE CODE 1919 - 1997

Robert George Code was born in Windsor, Ontario in 1919 and started his surveying career in 1930 working with his father Robert Wilmot Code with whom he articulated in 1937.

Having obtained a B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering at Queen's University in 1943, he served in the Royal Canadian Engineers until 1945. Following demobilization he practised municipal engineering and surveying in London from 1946 when he was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor, to 1955 when he joined the Department of Lands and Forests as head of the engineering section in the Division of Surveys and Engineering. In 1958 he was appointed head of



the Public Land Administration Branch and in 1962 Surveyor General and Chief of the Lands and Surveys Branch. On the formation of the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1972 he became Director of the Surveys and Mapping Branch from which he retired in April, 1983.

Programs initiated or conducted by the Surveys and Mapping Branch or its predecessor organizations during the period Mr. Code was Surveyor General and branch head include: the resurveys and restoration of township boundaries, land use planning and acquisition, Forest Resources Inventory, Ontario Land Inventory of land capability classification for forestry, wildlife and recreation, water inventory and management, hazard land identification, coordinate control surveys, investigations into and the development of a variety of standards for the geographical referencing of land related information including systematic topographical mapping under the Ontario Basic Mapping program; and research and development and technology transfer of remote sensing at the Ontario Centre for Remote Sensing established in 1973. Agreement between Quebec and Ontario on the location of the interprovincial boundary in Lake St. Francis and the St. Lawrence River, unsolved for about thirteen decades, was reached by the two provinces in 1980. Mr. Code was an alternative Ontario member on the Lake of the Woods Control Board from 1962 to 1965 and Ontario member of the Board from 1965 to 1972.

Robert Code was predeceased [1985] by his wife Margaret (Clemo). He will be greatly missed by his sons Rob, Ted and Pete.

## Ode to Robert Code

There's many a man who's run a line  
Through heavy spruce and virgin pine,  
And many a man defined the metes  
Of lots that front on crooked streets,  
And among these men who've claimed to see  
In England's ancient Coventry  
The shameless way Godiva rode  
Is a man by the name of Robert Code.

Now Robert started very young  
To climb upon the ladder rung  
Of surveys, for when just a lad  
He was a chainman for his dad.  
Then to further this career  
He became an engineer, -  
A man of Queens, - The Blue and Gold, -  
An iron ring to have and hold.

Robert thought he knew the score,  
So after he had won the war  
And taken Margaret for his bride,  
He started on his own - and tried  
And tried to make surveying pay;  
And when he saw there was no way  
He smartened up and joined the bunch  
Who get the Queen to pay for lunch.

When he went into Public Lands  
He soon mastered its demands  
To such a very high degree  
That no one knows as much as he  
About this subject even yet:  
So still the surest place to get  
The information that you need  
Is Robert Code; - all pay him heed!

Weldon Beatty was retired  
His job went to the man he'd hired  
To fill his boots, thus did Bob Code  
Take on the Lands and Surveys load,  
And now for over twenty years  
He's managed clerks and engineers.  
Surveyors, planners, draftsmen, too -  
The skills he's missed are rather few.

And throughout his long career  
Surveyor-General, engineer,  
All the staff who've worked for him  
Have not liked - they've worshipped him,  
A man whose talent is outshined  
Only by the way he's kind  
to every soul along the road  
Let's drink a toast to Robert Code.