

**Beverly Graham Cook (B.G. Cook), OLS # 1149
1934 -2013**



Born in Toronto in 1934 to John and Mary Cook, and raised in Flesherton, ON, Bev was the 2nd in a family of three children, he being the only boy. Bev was just a child when WWII broke out at which point his father was compelled to enlist into the army and was shipped off to training and then to Europe. For the next six years, Bev saw very little of his father until his final return home from Europe in 1946. During this period, summers were spent at his mother's family farm in Priceville, ON, no doubt where he developed his "animal whisperer" ability to make friends with all manner of animal creatures, whether domesticated, raised, or even wild.

After completing high school in 1953, Bev was trying to decide on a career path when a friend spoke at length about job opportunities in surveying with the Ontario Department of Highways. In the early 50's, following a complete halt of all non-essential construction during WWII due to the short supply of labour and materials, the DOH resumed its efforts to complete Highway 69 to connect Sudbury directly with Southern Ontario. Teams of surveyors were sent to lay out the highways through the thick bush and clearings, around and over the lakes and rivers and swamps, and over any highlands that stood in the path. Over the next several years, his time spent in the bush working the Highway 69 project, far from the farm fields of his native home, shaped his love of nature and his appreciation for the beauty of Northern Ontario which was to become his permanent home. It was also the eventful time & place where he met Anita Bouchard, who would later become his bride and lifelong sweetheart.

In 1960, Bev married Anita and together they made Sudbury their new home. Meanwhile, he continued working for the DOH until successful completion of his articling. But after all those years with the DOH, and the constant travel required, Bev was interested in settling down especially after the family started expanding, and so he decided to join a private firm in order to be home more often. His first stint was with Murray Maher OLS, followed by Lane & Lane Ltd. And so within a few short years there appeared James, Robert, Christine, and Michael.

In 1974, Bev's compass brought him and his family in the Dodge Polaris station wagon to Kirkland Lake, working in association with Arden Blackburn OLS of North Bay. The arrangement was short lived and, after some deliberation, Bev

decided to hang out his own shingle in 1976. The 2nd floor office above the Capital Grill Chinese restaurant on Government Road has since been torn down, but it served well for all the years that Bev worked the area, surveying properties of all kinds, and including numerous mining claims during the exciting gold and mineral exploration / claim staking period from the late '70s until the late '80s. In fact, along with employee and personal friend Sue Gamble, Bev was also a budding rock hound, staking personal claims on a promising gold deposit with a past development gold mine near Larder Lake. As a hobby prospector, he never found the Mother lode but had a lot of fun looking for it.

All three sons, and his favourite son-in-law, worked for Bev at one time or another, whether part-time, summer time, or full time and after being initiated to cutting line in the bush, they saw firsthand his strong work ethic and his tireless energy. Eventually, all settled on different career paths but all were able to benefit and make good use of the surveying knowledge that had been handed down from Father to Sons.

Bev's work in the Kirkland Lake area continued until his relocation in 1995 to a water front house on the beautiful French River following Anita's retirement from the Kirkland Lake school board.

Old surveyors never completely retire of course; they just take longer to draw their plumb bob. And so despite the quiet life on the French River, enjoying the river and the forests and the scenery, Bev continued taking on the occasional surveying job in the French River area for the next few years, even enlisting his own clients to assist with the field work at times. It was also during this period that Bev got busy making marshmallow sticks for the many campfires when the grandchildren started appearing, eventually reaching eight in number. For health reasons, Anita and Bev moved back to Sudbury in 2001 and his plumb bob was sheathed for the last time.

Bev was a natural athlete, able to play any sport well even on first try. Baseball, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing were all sources of pleasure through the years. But his favourite sport of all was hockey, having followed the NHL from the days of the Original Six, playing it throughout all of high school, and continuing playing right through to the Old-timer's league when he was well into his sixties. Despite the current expanded NHL being "watered down" as he would declare, he still enjoyed following the Leafs year after year.

One of Bev's legacies will be the Bevisms he regularly used, these being his replacement words for everyday language. For example, ketchup was not called ketchup, it was barn paint. And despite driving Anita crazy at times with his odd habit, it was fun and infectious and definitely lives on in his absence. Another of Bev's habits was collecting Nature's curiosities of tree branches and roots found while working in the bush. Over the years, he constantly delighted in bringing home a newly discovered piece made from intertwined branches, a strange looking knot, or an unusual root cluster.

Bev was a member of the Knights of Columbus for almost four decades and was quite active during his time in Kirkland Lake. The entire family often participated in the various social and fund raising events hosted at the KoC camp on nearby Nettie Lake.

Bev was an excellent surveyor, as well as a good surveying teacher for the many employees he had over the years. Throughout his surveying career, he set a good example for conducting meticulous work that had to be correct in every way and he was held in high regard by his surveying peers for his ethics and knowledge. He was a master at finding long buried and obscure monuments even in the most remote locations. And, he remained deeply passionate about surveying throughout his entire career.

Bev was considered by all to be a true gentleman, and, a gentle man. He was happiest while spending time with his extended family, and friends, both at home & by the lake. Bev passed away on October 27th 2013 at the Vale Hospice in Sudbury. He was 78.