



Arthur Hector Death, O.L.S. (666)
May 17, 1913- January 22, 2006

By Bruce I. McMurchy, O.L.S., C.L.S.
Assisted by the Death Family

Arthur Death was born in Dixie, now Mississauga, Ontario. It was here he married Lois Helen (nee Stewart) to enjoy married life for 68 years. In 1936 they moved to Brampton where he raised a family of two boys and two girls, Barry, Jamie, Nancy and Betty. At his death Art had 17 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren in whom he took a great interest in knowing what they were up to. Arthur was an active member of the community serving as an elder at Brampton's Knox Presbyterian Church for over 60 years, a charter member of the Brampton Flying, a life member of the Lions Club and a founding member of the Brampton Curling Club, while bringing up a family.

While in Brampton, for a short period of time, he served as Deputy Registrar for the Peel County Registry Office prior to Stewart Beatty becoming Registrar. As Deputy he initiated many innovations in the abstracting of land subdivision parcels.

On March 15, 1946 he articulated to Mr. Frank Kitto, (646), O.L.S., D.L.S., which was witnessed by Vera Cation, later to succeed Stewart Beatty as Registrar. Arthur was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor on June 18, 1948, to carrying on a business as Kitto and Death until 1950 then as a sole practitioner until 1962. During these twelve years of practice many legal surveys were prepared throughout the then Peel County and surrounding Counties. In addition, drainage surveys were performed, with the assistance of Ernest Brisco, Jr. O.L.S., in Toronto Township.

In September of 1962 he turned the business over to Donald McLean, O.L.S., Bruce McMurchy, O.L.S. and Ernie Biason, P.Eng. to carry on business as Death, McLean and McMurchy later to become McLean, McMurchy & Biason in Brampton and Bolton. This allowed Arthur to focus on his new career as a land developer and spend more time at his beloved Muskoka cottage.

With his partner Ray Carruthers the development firm of Decar Developments Limited constructed a residential subdivision, a strip shopping centre and several apartment buildings all in Brampton. With land development now his focus, he decided it was time to retire as a survey professional, resigning on the first of January 1979, leaving a legacy of excellent survey field notes and records. He also left as a Lifetime Member of the Association's Education Foundation

Art was a self-taught expert in many subjects, in particular cars (fast cars) from Studebackers to Cadillacs. He could quote line and verse on the mechanics and attributes of all models. This knowledge remained with him into his 94th year, along with an acute awareness of current events, business news and the many places in the world he had travelled. He bought his first computer and was hooked up to the Internet in his eighties. He was a voracious reader who never stopped learning.

A witness to Art's intelligence or shrewdness was witnessed by one of the lawyers in a case in which Art was called as an expert witness in a survey or drainage related legal case. The lawyer remarked that the Surveyor (Art) was one and sometimes two questions ahead of the cross-examiner's agenda.

Art left his mark in many ways on the community and beyond. The survey Plans that abound bearing his signature and the buildings he erected in Brampton will stand as a testament to his planning and ingenuity. For those who had the privilege to work with him or know him, his excellent work in the profession of land surveying and his commitment to the community he lived in set a standard which affected those around him and those who followed him into the profession. He epitomized the best of his profession and it was an honour to have known him. Thank you Art. Rest in peace.
