



ALLAN DOUGLAS FORD
(1912 - 1978)

The surveying profession lost one of its renowned City Surveyors when Doug Ford died on November 26, 1978.

He was born on April 13, 1912, a third generation Torontonian, the son of Allan Ford and Mabel Lily Davis, in the former Town of North Toronto.

He received his early education at the John Fisher Public School and then at Central Technical Secondary School, where he graduated with top honors at the age of 17. While still attending school, he worked a summer on the "topping off" of the Canada Life Building on University Avenue, following in the footsteps of his ancestors, who were home builders in Toronto.

He commenced employment with the City of Toronto on November 11, 1930, as a chainman, in the City Planning and Surveying Department, under the guidance of the then City Surveyor, Tracy D. leMay, to whom he was articled. He was admitted as the 604th member of the Association on November 6, 1934. It is an anachronism that he was not recognized officially by the City as an Ontario Land Surveyor until February 5, 1945, when a position finally became available after the employment freeze was lifted following the end of the great depression.

He became City Surveyor in 1945, a position which he held until he retired on April 30, 1973. He also held the position of Commissioner of Public Works from 1961 to 1964. Doug continued his education while employed with the City and became a Professional Engineer in 1970. He worked to establish Land Surveying at a University level and believed strongly in continuing education.

He was City Surveyor during the City of Toronto's greatest expansion period and yet he still found time to be the founding member of the First National Conference on Urban Surveying and Mapping in 1970 under the joint sponsorship of the National Research Council, the Department of Lands and Forests (Ontario), the Department of Municipal Affairs and the City of Toronto; the first Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto Urban Surveying and Mapping Committee, as a Founding Member and District Representative in 1966, and the President of the Ontario Chapter of the American Public Works Association in 1967.

He personally surveyed the Shuter Street extension from Sherbourne to River Streets and the Dundas Street East extension, from Broadview Avenue to Kingston Road.

Doug Ford also prepared the plans of subdivision for the prestigious Thorncrest Village in the City of Etobicoke, which remains a premier subdivision today.

He initiated a program to have controversial street limits confirmed under the Boundaries Act, commencing in the downtown area of Toronto, including the original Town of York. He also pioneered the first unofficial integrated survey area in Ontario.

It was our Association's loss when his peers failed to elect him when he stood for office in 1971.

He was a member of the South Central Regional Group, the Canadian Institute of Surveying, the American Society of the Institute of Municipal Engineering, the American Public Works Association, the Institute of Public Cleansing (U.K.), and the Board of Trade for Metropolitan Toronto.

He was a member of St. John's York Mills Anglican Church while in Toronto and Treasurer of St. Mark's Anglican Church in Southampton (Ontario) upon his retirement.

He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Kathleen Rosalene Longfield in 1936, whom it is said he met in Sunday School when she was only 4 years old. The Fords had three children, Rosemary, Carol and Susan.

The Fords relocated to Southampton in Bruce County upon his retirement in 1973 where they were quickly accepted as a part of the community and where they were both subsequently interred, his wife having predeceased him in 1975.