



**Donald Horace Galbraith, O.L.S.**  
1927 – 2005

**By Steve Vollick, O.L.S. (ret)**

Donald Horace Galbraith, the youngest child of John Galbraith and the former Mary Johnson was born in the Township of Medonte, County of Simcoe on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1927.

Don spent most of his life in the area that he would always call home in northern Simcoe County and in the District Municipality of Muskoka. After serving as a “Boy” soldier in WW II, Don returned to school to receive his senior matriculation from the Kitchener Training and Rehabilitation Institute and went on to serve articles with the late Charles P. O’Dale receiving his O.L.S. commission in April 1954. Despite advice to the contrary, he promptly opened a private practice in the Village of Coldwater, the office being located now, where it stood 52 years ago.

The completion of Hwy 103 from Port Severn to Mactier in 1957 allowed Don’s business to flourish in the area of southern Muskoka that he would make his home for several decades. The development of “cottage country” along the shores of Georgian Bay and the many lakes of southern Muskoka required the expertise of a man who knew the area from childhood and hundreds of cottage properties are delineated by the rock posts capped with aluminum, bearing his registration number. He also served for many years on the Township of Georgian Bay, Planning Advisory Committee.

He did not like to venture far a field believing that surveys were best left to the local practioner who was intimately familiar with the surroundings. Don took great pride in hiring local staff who were familiar with the people, land marks, terrain and unmarked channels between the islands of Georgian Bay from Waubaushene to 12 Mile Bay.

Don was an active member of the Association attending regional group meetings of both Georgian Bay and North Eastern Regional groups. He thoroughly enjoyed lively discussions with his colleagues and was always there with insight and advice to any who asked. He could be seen in attendance at almost all of the annual general meetings held over the past 51 years and particularly liked to share an anecdote or story at the veteran's dinner. Don believed adamantly in continuing education and attended seminars on a regular basis to ensure his opinion was known.

An avid writer, Don edited and published several local papers and contributed to the Ontario Land Surveyor on a regular basis. His passion for travel led him to all corners of North America and his professional association with FIG allowed him to travel the world attending conferences.

After a brief battle with cancer, Don passed away on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in the Village of Coldwater. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Hazel, 2 step children, 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

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