

**Edward (Ted) Allan Graham, OLS # 963
1934 – 2014**

Submitted by Peter Atkinson with help from Doreen Graham



Ted grew up in Saint Catharines and began his surveying career in Sarnia where he had his own business. He later moved to Toronto where he joined the City Surveyor's Department and steadily rose through the ranks. He subsequently joined the Land Registry Division within the Ontario Government where he worked as a plan examiner.

In the late 1970s, Ted moved his family (wife Margaret and three sons) to Jamaica for a three year CIDA assignment with the Jamaican highways department

where he performed surveys in connection with bridge repair and maintenance. Ted took to Jamaica like a duck to water. His three years there began a lifelong passion for Jamaica, both the land and its people.

Returning to Toronto, Ted was assigned to the POLARIS project that was then in the early days of modernizing the Ontario land registry system. This was where I first met Ted. We were part of a team that was developing the techniques for building a digital cadastral map of Ontario. The working relationship with Ted was one of the most productive and satisfying of my career. With Ted there were never any hidden agendas, no game playing and Ted never put personal ambition ahead of getting the job done.

After about two years, Ted returned to Jamaica for another two year CIDA assignment. We were starting to wonder if he would ever return, so great was his love for the country. However, he did return and the POLARIS project was moving into a production mode so Ted was given the task of managing the mapping production operation. This grew from modest beginnings of four or five people to well over 50 in house staff as well as hundreds of staff in firms that were contracted to deliver mapping for the project. Ted was an excellent manager of people. He managed to combine getting the best out of his people with a deep sense of concern for their well being. When the process of privatizing the POLARIS project was underway, a lot of Ted's staff had concerns about what the future might hold. Ted's response was to have the entire team over to his house on a Saturday evening so that everyone could talk through their issues. Ted was also very good at encouraging his staff to take risks and stretch themselves. Many people who were given such opportunities by Ted later rose to responsible

positions in Teranet. Ted continued to manage this group until he retired in late 1999.

Ted was no "stick in the mud" surveyor. He relished all the technological innovations which were revolutionizing the survey and mapping industry during his career. He often told me that he felt very lucky to have been involved with the POLARIS project. The challenges of getting the most out of rapidly changing technology and managing a production team that grew by leaps and bounds made the last 20 years of his career interesting and rewarding for him.

Ted was a warm, caring, generous person and a devoted family man. He married Margaret Chapman and they raised three sons, Terry, Rick and Edward. Margaret died in 1995 and Ted was fortunate to find a new love, Kate Evans, whom he married in 2000 and acquired a whole new extended family. One only had to listen to Ted proudly describing the accomplishments of his grandchildren or to look at some of the photos of Ted with his children and grandchildren to know how important his family was to Ted. Ted also gave his time generously to various charities (often associated with Jamaica in some way) and to friends who needed advice or a friendly ear.

Apart from Jamaica (where he vacationed many times) and life in general, Ted's great passions included maps, of which he built a sizeable collection, tennis, which he played until shortly before his death and photography. He was also passionate about music and his taste ranged from reggae to classical and just about everything in between. He also read widely and enjoyed travelling, especially to Europe and the Caribbean.

I think that what I admired most about Ted was that he never allowed life's idiots or idiocies get in the way of his enjoyment of life. Situations that had me tearing my hair out just seemed to bounce off Ted. It was not that he was not bothered by the person or situation, he was just not going to allow it to spoil life for him. I am reminded of the title of a book that was something like "Don't sweat the small stuff, and life is all small stuff". I think that was Ted's philosophy and I think we would all be happier if we could emulate Ted.

Ted's last few years were a struggle with a series of cancers. Although the illness and treatment slowed him down physically, his outlook on life was unchanged. Even when he got the news that the fourth cancer was terminal, he seemed to accept the situation calmly and without regret.

Ted was a gentleman and a gentle person, I never heard him make a nasty comment about anyone. He was devoted to his family, warm and generous to his friends, fair and supportive of colleagues and staff. His easy going nature, wide ranging interests and gentle sense of humour made him a fun and interesting person with whom to spend time. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.