



**Johannes Ensio Hietala, O.L.S. # 1009  
1929 – 2009**

**Submitted by his daughter Jennifer  
with additions by Ron Stewart and  
John Quinsey**

Hannes Hietala was born in Finland on November 24, 1929 and emigrated in 1931, with his parents, Helli and Aatu Hietala and his twin sister Lempi, settling in Val Côté about 20 km. east of Hearst, Ontario. He was employed with

the Department of Lands and Forests (later Ministry of Natural Resources) in Hearst, reaching the position of Deputy Chief Ranger, until transferred to the Toronto office, Surveys and Mapping Branch, where he was articled to Chester McKergow, OLS on June 11, 1956. Hannes was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor on May 1, 1959.

In the 1950's, Hannes and his wife Grace West moved to Toronto. For several years, he was often absent from home as the survey projects were located in either northern Ontario or too far from Toronto to commute. The assignments included the resurvey of township boundaries, recreational subdivision and townsite surveys, provincial parks, or other Crown surveys and inspection of surveys conducted by consulting surveyors for the Crown.

Hannes spent a number of years in the field, but eventually landed in the Whitney Block at Queen's Park as Supervisor Crown Surveys in charge of the examination section. Hannes was an expert in Ontario township survey systems and colonization roads. Also in 1969 and 1970, he served on two A.O.L.S. committees. One was Aerial Surveys and Mapping the other was Land Surveying, of which he served as Chair in 1970. Later, in 1973 and 1974, he served the Sub-Committee on Regulations and Acts. In 1975, the Legislation Zone chair, George Babbage reported, "The one-man committee, consisting of Hannes Hietala, is the Association's watchdog at Queen's Park regarding legislation, regulations and the like, that may affect or be of interest to Ontario Land Surveyors". At this time, 1974 to 1976, he was also a Director on the South Central Group, serving as Treasurer. From 1977 to 1979, under Chairman Hannes Hietala, the work of the Legislation Review Committee continued.

Following his retirement from the Ministry, Hannes joined the Surveying and Mapping Division of Marshall Macklin Monaghan (now MMM Group) as a Senior Surveyor on January 20, 1986. As an expert in survey systems and roads, he was a valuable asset to the MMM practice. His knowledge and gentle manner led him into teaching and mentoring many articled students at the firm.

Hannes officially left MMM at the end of 1994 after almost 9 years of service, but that was not the end of his professional career. Hannes was an avid historical

researcher, and was known for his tenacity; he would not quit until he found the information he was looking for. As a result, he was able to put much of his knowledge and experience to print.

Hannes' service on the A.O.L.S. Archives and Historical Committee began in March 1998. He accepted the position of Chairman from February 2001 to February 2005, and continued to serve on the Committee until June 21, 2007. During his time on that committee, Hannes prepared two papers. His first one, *ORPHAN ROADS*, printed near the end of 2001 was published in The Ontario Land Surveyor, Vol. 45, No 1, Spring 2002, pp. 21-24. It is a guide to searching documents in the Ontario Archives to determine the status of abandoned settlement roads in Northern Ontario. His second one *THE WIDTH OF SETTLEMENT ROADS IN ONTARIO*, dated Feb. 28, 2005 is a 20 page draft paper and has not yet been published. The committee will be putting both papers on the A.O.L.S. website, members section, where they will be of use, or of interest to land surveyors.

Hannes passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2009, survived by his daughter Janice, grandsons Joe and Robert Harvey, his daughter Jennifer and her husband James Crowe and granddaughter Emily.