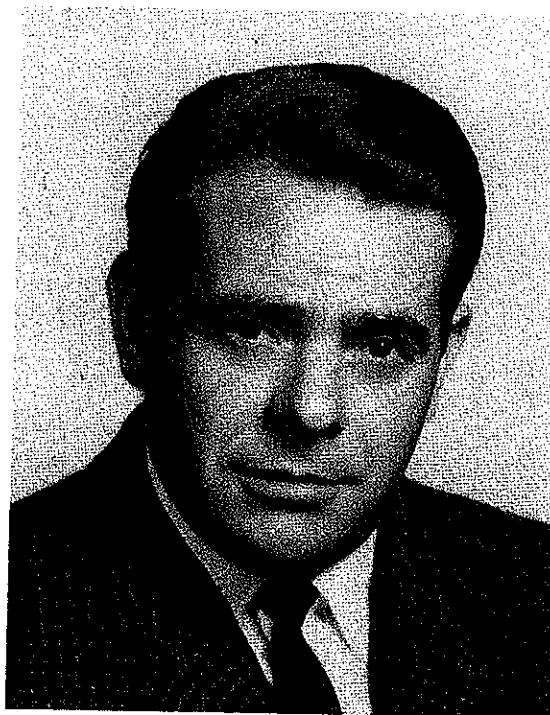


MARIO IAROCCI 1929 – 1997

By Josephine Iarocci



Mario was born on September 27, 1929 in Bonefro, a small town in the Molise region of Italy. He attended primary school in Bonefro and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Rome from 1946 to 1950. After serving in the Italian Army for two years, he supervised a reforestation project in Morrone Nel Sannio, where he met and married his wife, Josephine Pallotta. He emigrated to Canada in October 1953 to join his older brother, Vincent in Brantford, Ontario. Mario was always grateful to Shirley King, OLS, who first hired him and encouraged him to continue his education and pursue surveying. He then apprenticed with the firm of George MacAulay, OLS, and was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in May 1964. Between 1967 and 1969 he had his own practice in Hamilton, Ontario.

Mario was dedicated to his profession, in which he was able to combine his pursuit of scientific knowledge and his love of the outdoors, spending many years doing what he loved best, field work. In November of 1969, he joined the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Works Department as Chief Surveyor, retiring in May 1994, after twenty five years of service. Mario always took pride in being part of a team involved in the development of the city. He was active after retirement, enjoying cycling, tai chi, gardening and writing fiction, publishing a short story in *CARP Magazine* in February 1996 [reprinted in the Spring 1996 issue of the *Ontario Land Surveyor*]. Mario also hoped to continue surveying, having obtained his certification as a Florida Land Surveyor in 1981. He joined The Canadian Executive Service Organization and did volunteer survey work with the Aboriginal Services at the Onyota Ka First Nation Settlement on Southwold, Ontario. He had hoped he would be able to combine his love of travel with surveying work overseas.

This short but active retirement was abruptly interrupted when Mario was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome in October 1996 which progressed rapidly to Acute Leukemia. He refused chemotherapy so that he could spend the little time he had left at home with the people he cared for the most, his wife and his kids.

Mario passed away on July 27, 1997.

Mario loved life and lived every day to its fullest. He is greatly missed by his wife, Josephine of Toronto, his son, Tony of Victoria, B.C., and daughters Louisa of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Bernice of Toronto and Angela of Ottawa and sons-in-law Brian McLaren, Andrew Filarski and Peter Rogers.