



DARSHAN CHANDER KAPOOR
1923 - 1993

by J.K. Young, O.L.S.

The surveying community and the University of Toronto were deeply saddened by the death of Professor Kapoor on January 19, 1993. "Kap", as he was affectionately known, suffered a heart attack at Erindale College. He was highly respected by his students, his colleagues at the University, and in the surveying and hydrographic community throughout the country and around the world.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Punjab in 1942 and immediately joined the Royal Navy. On V.J. Day at the end of the war in 1945, he was on a ship in the Sea of Japan. He received the Burma and Pacific Stars in 1945 for his World War II service. He continued his work in the Royal Navy Hydrographic Service and reached the rank of "Rear Admiral".

In 1972, Kap became Director of the International Hydrographic Organization based in Monaco. During this period he became known in the International community and played a major role in the moulding and shaping of standards, techniques, and methods used in the high-tech survey and hydrographic chart production used today. In 1983, Kap joined the Faculty of the Centre for Surveying Science at Erindale College, University of Toronto. He developed the

Hydrographic Survey Program at Erindale and also developed a special course in Maritime Boundary Delimitation that was held annually at Erindale under the sponsorship of the Government of Canada. Senior and middle management personnel from many developing nations in Africa, the Caribbean, South Pacific, and the Indian Ocean took this course and returned to their respective communities with skills to negotiate problems associated with their maritime boundaries.

As an international expert on maritime boundaries Kap was called upon as a consultant many times on various assignments around the world. Just prior to his death he was working on a boundary problem between Jamaica and Columbia.

Kap was also involved in the operation of our Association. He was the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council Appointee to the Board of Examiners and the Academic Experience Requirement's Committee commencing in June 1987 and was the first Hydrographic Surveyor to receive a Certificate of Registration under the grandfathering regulation after the new Surveyors Act was proclaimed at the end of 1988. He served the Association well and was awarded the Fellowship Award at the AOLS Annual Meeting in March 1993. Kap was nominated for this award by 25 Ontario Land Surveyors, and the following is a quotation from their submission to the awards committee.

"Ontario Land Surveyors owe a debt of gratitude to Kap for his continued support and involvement in our profession. Kap listened, evaluated and when asked for his opinion, spoke with conviction and the authority of a wise man. His contribution in the field of Hydrographic Surveying not only in Ontario but throughout the world are too numerous to mention."

A memorial service was held for Admiral Kapoor at the University on February 5th. One of the speakers paying tribute was Ross Douglas, the Dominion Hydrographer from Ottawa. Ross closed his tribute with the following:

"We know that Kap will always have a strong wind in his sails and that he will always be watching our actions from his command position on the starboard side of the bridge".