

**Joseph Edward ('Ed') Lanthier, OLS # 860
June 28, 1926 - March 29, 2013**



Ed Lanthier passed away on Friday, March 29, 2013 in Georgetown, where he became ill while visiting his son Robert and succumbed to a stroke in the hospital.

He was a native of Cochrane, Ontario, where he grew up in a close-knit, bilingual northern community enjoying vigorous outdoor activities and acquiring a life-long love of hockey, skating and fiddling.

In 1950, Ed came to Fort Erie, taking up articles with Maxim T. Gray, OLS., of Hagey and Gray, Engineers and Surveyors. He received his O.L.S. commission in 1954 and shortly afterwards acquired the records of Max Gray who had left the firm.

Ed set up his own practice, J. Edward Lanthier, Ontario Land Surveyor, in Fort Erie, Ontario. In 1965, he re-located to Port Colborne, which was more central to his main area of practice in the former Welland and eastern Haldimand Counties, commuting daily from his home in Fort Erie. Its emphasis was chiefly on cadastral surveys.

One particularly notable project was a survey of the Niagara Parks Commission's Parkway lands along the Niagara River between the Falls and the Peace Bridge, a job distinguished for its deployment of both horizontal and vertical geodetic controls at a time well before these became fashionable for Ontario boundary surveys.

The firm of J. Edward Lanthier produced very conscientious professional work; its survey plans are notable for their neat mechanical lettering, crisp line-work, economical layout and for their clear uncluttered dimensioning.

Like other survey firms, as well as industries, professions and trades in general, the Lanthier firm went through the postwar sea-changes of technological advances: what began with plumb-bobs, steel tapes, rods and vernier-read transits changed progressively through theodolite-mounted EDMs into integrated 'total station' devices and culminated in the pre-emptive black-box magic of Global Positioning which Ed just missed exploiting. Trig-function tables, logarithms and rotary calculators yielded to electric calculators and these in turn to electronic computers with programs pre-designed for the necessary calculations and drafting and storage of electronic plans; while vellum, blue linen, pens, ink, straight-edge and triangle were

swept away by computer-driven graphic plotters. Ed Lanthier belonged to the last generation of land surveyors to have taken part in all these sweeping changes.

Among surveyors who have worked for Ed, are Des Rasch, Doug Marr and the late Doug Lane, but the only one who articulated with him is Mark Gilmore, who went on to buy the firm upon Ed's retirement in 1998 and to operate it under the name of Lanthier & Gilmore Surveying Ltd. at the Port Colborne address to this day.

It seemed to be a point for Ed to keep his business concerns meticulously separate from his private life, little of which even his employees of many decades were privy to. He had married Isobel Neil and with her raised a son, Robert, and a daughter, Debbie. Soon there were six much cherished grandchildren and eventually, at Ed's passing, five great-grandchildren. Isobel and Ed were a devoted couple and are remembered for their conviviality at A.O.L.S. Annual Meeting Banquets. Isobel pre-deceased Ed in 2007.

After practising for 40 years, Ed remained active as always. His enjoyment of playing hockey eventually yielded to skating on Tuesdays in Jordan. His 15 years as a ski patrol allowed him to meet many people and he enjoyed skiing right until 2012.

Summertime enabled him to meet his friends at the golf course and in 2012 he still played 18 holes most days at Fort Erie Golf Club, some as a member of the Seniors League at Alta Vista.

Possibly his most enjoyable times were spent with his fellow fiddlers and the Niagara Olde Time Fiddlers, a group of which he was a past president. He would build violins in his home workshop and looked forward to his Tuesday jam sessions.