

THOMAS EDWARD LYONS, OLS # 989
1933 - 2016



Tom loved his Northern Ontario roots. He grew up in Virginiatown and Timmins before returning to his birth town of North Bay for high school where he attended Scollard Hall Collegiate from 1946-1951.

Even as a teenager Tom was not a punctual person and he resorted to running everywhere. His frequent 'practice' and talent landed him Northern Ontario Secondary School long distance running records that subsequently held for over 20 years.

Tom obtained his first job surveying for the CNR in the summer of 1952 and knew this was the career for him. A career that went on for the next 40 years. He apprenticed in Niagara Falls under Barry Watson, OLS from 1955 to 1958. In 1958, Tom received his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor. Tom and his wife missed their family and eventually moved back to North Bay where he worked for Simpson and Taylor, Ontario Land Surveyors. As Tom was a trustworthy and hardworking man, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Taylor asked him to start a satellite office in Parry Sound.

Upon a visit to Peterborough in 1965, he had the opportunity to meet John G. Pierce who was quick to offer him a job in his practice. Tom worked for Pierce & Pierce Ontario Land Surveyors until becoming a partner in 1978 and then taking over the practice years later when Mr. Pierce retired. Over his career, Tom conducted surveys for the TransCanada Pipeline, Township Boundary Retracement Surveys in Northern Ontario, C.N.R. in Northern Ontario, Department of Highways, Ontario Hydro, numerous local land developers, City of Peterborough, and Counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, Hastings, Victoria, and Clarington.

Tom's passion for surveying led to his involvement with the A.O.L.S. in the 1970's where he proudly held the position of President in 1979. He was also an early contributor to the G.I.S. consortium. Tom and his wife, Lucile developed many friendships from the surveying community. He had great admiration and respect for the talented men and women he met throughout his career and was honoured to be a part such a distinguished group of professionals.

Tom firmly believed in contributing to his community. As a Rotarian, he spent countless hours fundraising and organizing events for special needs children through the Easter Seals Foundation and Five Counties Children's Centre. The Peterborough Rotary Club recognized his volunteerism by awarding him with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Tom continued his involvement with Rotary by serving as President of the local chapter in 1986. He was also a man of faith and served in his church for many years and became a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. In his later years, Tom was an active member of several Stroke Survivor groups in Peterborough.

In the winter months, Tom was an avid curler. Representing the Peterborough Rotary Club, he participated in and coordinated North American and International Rotary from 1987 to 2003. He remained a member at large for several more years maintaining the friendships he had established.

In the summer months, Tom could be found in his many gardens, meticulously tending to them daily or building new ones. Above all, Tom was a family man, coordinating family trips, traveling to many sporting events, and later, babysitting his grandchildren. He was married to Lucille (2003) for 47 years and leaves behind two daughters, Patricia (Brian) and Jennifer (David) and four grandchildren, Sarah, Michael, Graham and Eric.

Submitted by Jennifer Pitts