
Alexander M (Sandy) Mackay. O.L.S. #828
1927 – 2014



Sandy was born and raised in Cochrane, Ontario with four brothers and two sisters. The activities of his busy youth included a stint as Scout Master (with the young Tim Horton as part of his troop!). He spent three summers manning a fire lookout tower for the Department of Lands and Forests. He was a busy young man with wide interests.

In 1949 he married the love of his life, Trudy Seaman of Sauble Beach, Ontario, near Owen Sound. They raised two children together and were inseparable until her passing in 2004. Sandy was very much a devoted family man.

Sandy graduated from the University of Toronto in 1950 and was licensed as a Professional Engineer the following year. He articulated with Ivan Lloyd Thompson, OLS #769 and, in 1953, was licensed as Ontario Land Surveyor #828. He and Lloyd Thompson established the partnership of Thompson and Mackay in Cochrane that year. This partnership continued until 1955 when Lloyd Thompson moved on.

In 1955 Sandy's brother, Gordon joined Sandy as a field party chief, with a view to articling and eventual partnership. Surveying activity in northern Ontario was picking up and Sandy and Gordon were kept very busy during the 1955 – 1960 period. The Elliott Lake uranium field was booming then and they surveyed a number of mining claim groups in the area. Other projects carried out during that period included surveying portions of the right-of-way of the trans-Canada highway in the region north of Lake Superior. Next were the route location survey and legal right-of-way survey for significant portions of the Trans-Canada natural gas pipeline in the Hearst – Kapuskasing – Cochrane area.
