



**Gordon Fraser Mackay – OLS #1162
26 Sept, 1931 to 8 Dec, 2013**

Gordon was born and raised in Cochrane, Ontario. His father was a veteran of both the Boer war in South Africa and of World War I in Europe. He then became the first Sheriff of the Cochrane Judicial District.

After completing Grade 12 Gordon opted for forest ranger training, followed by employment with the then Department of Lands and Forests. However, in 1954 he joined his brother A M (Sandy) Mackay (OLS #828) who had established a survey practice in Cochrane. Gordon quickly became an expert survey party chief, particularly for “bush” jobs such as mining claim surveys in the newly discovered Elliot Lake uranium mining area. These were particularly challenging projects due to the lack of roads in this wilderness area. The work involved long periods away from home, housed in tent camps at the job sites. Chartered bush planes were employed for access to and from the jobs. Other projects he carried out included the survey of portions of the trans-Canada highway location then being extended north of Lake Superior, along the route from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste Marie. He also participated in field work for the survey of the trans-Canada natural gas pipeline route portion across the Hearst – Kapuskasing – Cochrane area.

In 1956 Gordon married the love of his life, Huguette “Timi” Roussy and they commenced raising a family of, ultimately, four boys and twin girls. However, in 1960 Sandy relocated to Owen Sound to specialize in civil engineering. That same year Gordon returned to Cochrane High School to complete his Grade 13 certificate, which was required in order to article towards OLS qualification. By that time Timi and Gordon had two small sons, making this a challenging period indeed for the Mackay family. Timi’s support during this testing time was a huge factor in Gordon’s success in achieving professional status. Gordon ultimately completed the process, articling with his brother Sandy, and was licensed in 1964 as OLS #1162.

During the same 1960-1964 period Talson Rody, who had been with the Mackay firm as an articulated student, completed his qualification, in 1961, as OLS #1096. He and Gordon then operated the survey firm together for the next four years. During this period the firm carried out mostly small legal surveys in the Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls, Kapuskasing and Hearst areas, with Gordon and Talson alternating between field and office duties.

In 1964 Gordon made the career move from the private to the public sector, taking over as Master of Titles for the Land Titles Office at Cochrane. Thus a second generation of Mackays was installed in the Cochrane Court House. He continued in that position until 1968, when he accepted a posting to the office of the Director of Titles in Toronto as Assistant Director of the Legal Surveys Branch under Colin D. Hadfield, OLS. In 1974 the Property Rights Division of the ministry was re-organized and Gordon was promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Titles. He was then in charge of the Legal Surveys Branch and the Boundaries Act Program, and was Chairman of the tribunal empanelled to hear the many applications under that act. He held these positions until 1978.

This Toronto job posting meant a move for the Mackay family, by then complete with four boys and the twin girls, from Cochrane to the Toronto area. The community of Pickering, on the shores of Frenchman’s Bay east of Toronto, was chosen and the family settled in to their new home there. From this pleasant location arose Gordon’s enjoyable retirement pastimes of golf and boating.

In 1978 Gordon’s professional career changed direction again when he was appointed as Land Registrar for the Durham region, ultimately expanding his sphere as registrar to include the Whitby, Cobourg, Port Hope and Bowmanville offices. He continued in this role until his retirement from the public service in 1990. In this role he supervised the extensive modernization of the title records and services of these offices.

During this period Gordon was elected to the Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and served a three-year term. However, at the end of his term he declined to run for Vice-President as he felt the position would conflict at times with his public service duties. His other related functions included five years (1982-1986) as

Chairman of the Legal and Survey Standards Committee and six years (1982 – 1987) as Chairman of the Abstracting Standards Committee.

Gordon was exemplary in all human aspects – family, professional and community. He was also great company socially. He passed away in his 83rd year, on December 8, 2013. He is sadly missed.