



Francis M. (Frank) McGregor, O.L.S.
September 17th 1922 – November 19th 2005

Frank was born in England, but was of Scottish extraction. He was born in Wallasey, Cheshire in the United Kingdom, where he attended Wallasey Grammar School. Upon graduation he was accepted as a shipping clerk with the firm of Evans and Co., Liverpool, an exporter. In 1940 he joined the R.A.F. and trained as a navigator, and then flew in Lancaster's with Bomber Command. In December of that year he received the news that the family home had been completely destroyed by an enemy plane and that the four family members who were there, including his mother did not survive.

His night time missions in the Lancaster's continued until 1942 when his plane was shot down in flames in the Baltic Sea. It quickly sank taking the crew with it, and of the seven crew members, just five survived. They were rescued by a fishing boat and were then handed over to German authorities and interned, eventually in Stalag 8B for the next three years.

As the war hostilities were winding down, the camp was evacuated because of the Russian advance, when Frank, under armed guards, became a member of the infamous death march through Poland and Germany for the next three winter months. As the end of the war drew near, he and a former crew member seized the opportunity to escape, ending up in Goslar in the Hartz Mountains.

Back in England after demobilisation he returned to the Evans company, and whilst working there learned of a government course offered in Land Surveying, which appealed to him, he applied and was accepted. After completing the course, and taking various exams, he was assigned to city surveying in Southampton and continued there until he was re-assigned as an instructor of additional courses. Whilst engaged in this work, he met Louise, later to become his wife, and was transferred to London.

Having been interned with Canadians of the R.C.A.F. he had a desire to live in Canada, and in 1953 Frank and his family, which now included a son Trevor, and a daughter Christine, did emigrate. Frank obtained work with James and Wandabense, O.L.S. in Port Credit. He then took the necessary exams and articulated with Dane. Later when Dane Wandabense moved to Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Frank, now an O.L.S. went into private practice in Longbranch, Ontario. At this time he was offered the opportunity to be part of a team setting out a new town site for the Inuit at Lake Harbour on Baffin Island, and accomplished this project. Shortly after his return to Ontario he accepted an offer to work with Speight and Van Nostrand, O.L.S. in Toronto.

In 1968 he relocated to Moffat, near Guelph and became employed by Black, Shoemaker and Robinson, Ontario Land Surveyors in Guelph. In 1973 the family moved to Smith Falls where he joined the firm of George W. Bracken O.L.S., where he remained surveying in Lanark County and District for the next eleven years. Frank managed the Perth branch office for George Bracken, which was later purchased by Brian Kerr.

Now at retirement age, he took advantage of the opportunity to leave Ontario winters behind and spend the winters in Florida in the Daytona Beach area. At this time Frank also moved to the Kemptville area where he and Louise shared a home with their daughter Christine and husband, Jeff Luriviere, M.Eng., Ph.D., a systems computer engineer. Trevor is employed with Canadian Gypsur Co., in Mississauga, Ontario as Manager of Architectural Services, which entails much travel in Canada and the U.S.A.

In 2003, Frank and Louise moved to Victoria, B.C. to enjoy milder winters than those in Ontario. He enjoyed good health through the years, until he was suddenly stricken with acute Leukemia, to which he succumbed seven months later on November 19th 2005. Frank was cremated and his ashes taken to England near his family resting place.

As the last employer of Frank, I would like to pay tribute to Frank and his time working for my firm in Smith Falls. He was a very hard working, quiet, unassuming and dependable employee who I valued very highly. He enjoyed his work and had a great relationship with other staff and clients. Frank had many friends and loved jazz music.

Although like many other veterans he said little about his past war experiences, he did once relate some of these experiences to me. In his office there was always on proud display, beside his Survey Certificate, a picture of a Lancaster bomber.