



John McMillan, OLS # 1517

1949 -2009

**Submitted by his son, Michael
McMillan**

John McMillan was born August 17th, 1949 in Paisley, Scotland and came to Canada with his parents, Bernard and Agnes, and sister, Elaine, when he was a wee lad of 2 ½ years old. A Ryerson Graduate, John was an accomplished Ontario Land Surveyor since 1981. Not long after meeting Margaret (during

their best friends' wedding) they married in 1976 and were blessed with two wonderful children, myself (Michael) and Maureen. John worked diligently as a land surveyor who enjoyed the outdoors immensely for many years and became the proud owner of Tarasick, McMillan, Ltd., operating in Mississauga since 1954. He was also Chairman of South Central Group and a member of the A.E.R.C. of The Association of Ontario Land Surveyors from 1994 to 1998.

I'll always remember my very first day working as a summer student for my Dad. Unfortunately, I arrived 2 minutes late and he threatened to fire me before I even had a chance to holster my plumb bob. I believe it was my Mom that ended up saving my job in the end but none the less, it's a day I will never forget and as a result, I now show up to work 2 hours early.

I remember the pride, passion, and respect John had for the survey industry, his business, co-workers and clients alike and although I never became an OLS, I continue to support and work in this industry that he loved so much. He always spoke very highly of his fellow Surveyors and, in turn, I believe the feeling was mutual. At the annual meetings, OLS events and day to day sales calls as a survey equipment representative, I am pleasantly reminded of what a great man he was and how he influenced so many people. With all the kind words and comments that are conveyed to me about my dad, I can only hope that one day I too will be as respected and loved as he was.

John had a great relationship with his employees, well, as long as you didn't come back to the office with a dropped Sokkia total station or had taken 800 topo shots and forgot to check the back site. Not that I am speaking from experience or anything here, but whether it was the generous Christmas gifts or the "take as much time as you need", or even just the simple fact that he was concerned and cared about what was going on in the lives of the people who worked for him, his employees stayed with him for many years and in some cases, were like an extended family. He always put them first.

John's long list of clients both large and small helped Tarasick McMillan Ltd to become a very successful company that has surveyed, staked out, and had a part

in developing subdivisions, golf courses, racetracks, roadways, railways, waterways, airports, commercial, residential, and government properties across Ontario.

After a long hard-fought battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) John passed away peacefully surrounded and supported by his loving family in April of 2009. Even after going through all that came with the ALS disease, he said to me, "Always look on the bright side of life". Imagine these words coming from a person who knew their life was cut way too short, but that was who he was and that is why so many people wanted to be around him. No matter what the challenge, what the obstacles, what life had to offer, business or personal, he always made you feel that if you worked hard, you could overcome anything and happiness was not far away.

Some time has passed since he has been gone but heart warming reminders are all around. It might be playing golf on a course John surveyed in Mississauga or Oakville, or a new house that stands where the old one use to be, down by the lake in Port Credit or Lorne Park. It might be watching horses, with hundreds of other people, race around the track at Woodbine and remembering all of the hard work and thousands of grade stakes that were hammered into the ground. Whenever I see something like this, I am very proud to say, "My father surveyed that".

Thank you to all that supported and continue to support me and my family. John, my father, would have appreciated it very much.