

Leonard Melvin McNeice OLS #695
April 1 1924 – March 9, 2012



Len was born in Wallaceburg, ON to parents Laura and Leonard G. McNeice. He was the first born of four children, (Len, Jean, Don, & Gary). He moved to Orillia with his family in 1931, as his father had accepted a position as the manager and town engineer of the Orillia Water, Light & Power Commission.

Len followed his father's lead and took engineering at Queen's University and was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1948. He articulated to Ernie Cavanaugh & Watson for 3 yrs. He married Ruby Skinner on Dec 31, 1947 and had 4 children (Sharon Judy, Wendy and Randy)

Len's father (Leonard G. McNeice "Mac") retired from the Commission after 21 years of service. He and Len (jr) formed McNeice Associates Surveyors & Consulting Engineers. Together they specialized in water supply and purification, sewage treatment and drainage, town planning, legal surveys, subdivision, land surveying, bridges and other structures. They had commissions for large water and sewage projects at North Bay, Powassan, Sutton, Huntsville, Cookstown and Bracebridge. They were especially proud of the floodplain for the Mathiasville Power Plant, the Shaw sub-division and several highway jobs in the Minden – Hwy 35 area.

Working by his father's side was a dream come true for Len jr. as he idolized his father and thoroughly enjoyed the daily contact and accomplishments they had acquired together. Unfortunately this dream was cut short after only 2 short years, due to the sudden and untimely death of Len's father in March 1956. This was a devastating blow for Len.

Len continued to survey under "L. M. McNeice Land Surveyors" for the next 33 years. He continued surveying contracts for The Dept. of Hwys, Victoria Point, Couchiching Point, Washago, Lagoon City, and the Shaw subdivision. Len felt honoured to have a street named after him, "Leonard Ave." in this subdivision and "McNeice Cres." in Washago. Len was also responsible for surveying the location of communication towers throughout Ontario. Len was a very intelligent & well-respected land surveyor. Len's professional ability, integrity and his desire to give good service allowed him to build a very successful business as an Ontario Land Surveyor and to continue the McNeice legacy.

Len was a very loyal boss and went on to mentor a few of his workers to assist them with apprenticeships and eventually open their own businesses. Len had a huge heart and would often do pro-bono work for those experiencing tragic loss and less fortunate events.

Len, like others from that era, could be considered as somewhat of a pioneer of surveyors. He was surveying back in the days before GPS, calculators and computers. This would require a keen eye and mind as well as a talent for mathematical calculations. This untamed land would also require clearing of trees and rock etc. This was right up Len's alley as he loved the bush. He would go hunting every year at the family hunt camp. His son Randy would accompany him on these hunting trips and would eventually work with him during the summer months. There are many landmarks and parcels of land in the Orillia and Muskoka areas that Len was involved in by creating the initial plans and surveying what was once open fields, rock cuts and forests.

Len retired in 1991 just as the technical world was exploding. He sold his business to Galbraith, Harvey & Zubek. John D'Amico bought out Zubek and eventually the firm of McNeice , Harvey & D'Amico was created. D'Amico sold the historical records to Deardon & Stanton in 2010.

Len enjoyed photography and winemaking and he pursued these hobbies in his retirement. He thoroughly enjoyed travelling the countryside in his 5th wheel R.V. with his wife and his beloved animals. Len and Ruby have known each other for the past 70 years. They celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on Dec.31, 2011. Len was a very private, unassuming and compassionate man. He taught his children by example. He was a kind, generous, considerate and tolerant of others "All for one and one for all" was his main motto. He possessed a remarkable modesty and honesty that he instilled in his four children. His love and guidance to his family and loved ones will never be forgotten. His untimely death on March 9, 2012 has left a definite void in the lives of his wife, Ruby and his four children. He will be greatly missed by 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren as well as many lifelong friends. Len lived a good life and has definitely left his mark. Though his loss will always be with us, the compassion, faith and understanding that Len taught us will help to bring healing to our hearts. His lasting love will reach across time and keep us forever close in spirit. What a gift it was to have him in our lives and what an honour it is to call him family. Thanks so much for all of the precious memories!

Your loving family