

John Campbell "Jack" Milne, OLS# 888
Dec 2, 1931 - May 1, 2016



Jack is the son of Dr. John Eric Milne and Rhena Milne (Campbell).

Born in Durham Ontario Jack grew up the son of a country Doctor in Flesherton and Markdale Ontario. As a young boy and teenager with his love of the outdoors he became an avid hunter and fisherman. He also played senior hockey where he led both Flesherton and Markdale to Championships as team captain and later player coach winning the MVP of the league.

He often attended the Annual General Meetings with some sort of bandage which was evident of his physical play. His playing days ended with a serious head injury after which he spent a weekend in the hospital recovering. He was a long time volunteer with Owen Sound Minor Hockey, Lacrosse and softball coaching and managing various teams.

He was instrumental in bringing harness horse racing to Owen Sound in the 1970's. He had a show on the local radio station called "Horse Talk with Jack Milne". He was the Secretary Treasure of the W. J. Hyatt Association. He was also a long time member and volunteer at Georgian Shores Church formerly Division Street Church.

Dad excelled at school being accepted to the University of Toronto Civil Engineering program at 17. There was a high emphasis put on education. Dad did not enjoy life in the big city and decided on a different career path. He taught at a 1 room school house in the small village of Massie teaching some students his age. After teaching for a year he began working for Maurice Hewett, OLS where he later signed his articles. He was commissioned in July of 1955 at the age of 23. The firm was called Hewett, Dinsmore and Milne and in 1962. Hewett and Milne as it is known today.

I enjoyed many conversations with my dad about his early days of surveying. As a young O.L.S. he was assigned a project on Manitoulin Island. His field crew was comprised of a few veterans who had served along with Maurice Hewett in World War Two. With the exception of the veterans, many got sick after drinking the water on board the ferry from Tobermory to South Bay.

Dad spent many months working away from home during the mid to late 1950's and early 1960's. Hewett and Milne had grown to a staff of 50, acquiring projects through the Department of Highways. The company had four OLS's and an articling student. During 1959 my dad was the project manager for the surveying of Highway 101 from Chapleau to Foleyet returning in October to marry my mother Sheila Ann Milne (Mackinnon). Their honeymoon was spent in Huntsville while Dad was the project manager of another survey project in the area.

He also worked on part of Highway 401. Towards the end of his professional career, from the mid 1990's to 2007 when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he worked in the field as much as possible. His big smile and laughter continued on even after being ill.

He was a kind, dedicated, and loving family man. He is the proud father of four children Ian, Neil, Allison and Ann and seven grandchildren.

He was very well respected in the profession and community. He was the recipient of the award of honorary citizen of the City Owen Sound. We had a great working relationship in which I enjoyed our discussions of survey issues past and present. Dad is missed every day.

Submitted by Neil C. Milne, OLS