Patrick Anthony Monaghan, P.Eng, OLS #814
October 15, 1926 – June 9, 2013
Submitted by Brian Monaghan and Jim Statham

Pat was born on a farm near Foam Lake, Saskatchewan. He entered the University of Saskatchewan at the age of 16 and obtained Bachelor of Engineering (1947) and Master of Science (1948) degrees before joining the Geodetic Survey of Canada in 1948 as a survey engineer and beginning his professional career.

He would make his mark as a surveyor undertaking survey and mapping work in the Arctic over eight consecutive summers including work on the 60th Parallel and the Dew Line. While with the federal government, Pat was assigned to the Shoran Triangulation Project in the Canadian north. This was the precursor to the photogrammetric mapping of Canada's northern lands after the Second World War. He subsequently joined the Photographic Survey Corporation to work in this developing area of photogrammetric mapping.

In 1952 he partnered with University of Toronto Professors Oscar Marshall, PEng, OLS and Harold Macklin, PEng, OLS who were expanding their survey partnership, Marshall and Macklin, into a new company. Marshall Macklin and Monaghan was created with Pat as General Manager. Pat articled to Harold Macklin, obtaining OLS Certification in 1953. Somehow he found time to attend and complete the MBA program at the University of Toronto in 1956. In 1957 the firm was incorporated and became Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited.

But the real story and legacy that he left is in the story of the growth and success of the company. From its beginnings as a survey firm and with major clients such as Trans-Northern Pipelines and the Don Mills Development Corporation, the firm grew to include engineering and planning disciplines with offices throughout Ontario and projects across Canada and abroad. Pat served as President from 1974 to 1990 and then as Chairman/CEO from 1986 until his retirement in 1991. With a foundation to produce good work to high professional standards and to constantly be on the alert to be innovative and adapt to changing needs and technologies (we now refer to this as being proactive), the firm grew. Pat’s brother, Larry, joined the company in 1955 to manage the survey practice and Pat focused on growth of the firm’s engineering and planning services and expansion into international professional services through the creation of Cansult Limited, a consortium of several Canadian firms. Offices were established in Saudi Arabia,
Abu Dhabi and Oman and many MMM staff had the opportunity to live and work in these locals. At home, the firm had established a number of branch offices in Ontario. The Elliot Lake office brought all of MMM’s professional services together to build this new townsite as the area expanded with the development of uranium mines.

By the time of his retirement, Marshall Macklin Monaghan was one of Canada’s largest, privately owned, multi-disciplined professional services firms. Today, the MMM Group of Companies is a major Canadian provider of professional services across Canada and throughout the world.

Pat was a firm proponent of education, physical fitness, involvement in one’s professional affairs and involvement in one’s community. He served two terms on the Council of the Professional Engineers of Ontario, was President in 1969 and a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He also served on many community Boards including North York Hospital, Ryerson University, Ontario Housing Advisory Board, the Don Mills Industrial Association and others. He served on the Premiers Council in both the Peterson and Rae governments. And he was a founding Director and member of the Donalda Club and a member of the Osler Bluff Ski Club.

In the early 1950s, Pat chaired an AOLS Committee dealing with the relationship of the OLS survey fabric to the geodetic survey control system. Who could have guessed that some 50 years later he, and the firm, would be very much involved in the public-private partnership to develop the POLARIS registry system and that Pat would be a founding Director of Teranet.

To all of us who were privileged to know and work with Pat, he was not only a strong and honest leader but also a mentor, a gentleman and a friend. His management style to hire the best people available, train them well and then get out of their way shaped our professional lives and was key to our own successes.

Pat was predeceased by his wife Margaret in 2002 and is survived by sons Brian, Patrick (Janice), Morgan; grandchildren Megan, Byron, Genevieve, Dominique, Caitlin, Evan and Blair. A Celebration of Life was held at the Donalda Club on June 19th and attended by many family and friends.