

Raymond Edward Moore, O.L.S., C.R. #1
April 30, 1926 – May 24, 2006



Ray the Professional.

Ray had an amazing life and an exceptional career.

He was one of the fortunate people to have arrived in an organization that provided him with opportunities and experiences which kept him excited about the work that he was doing. He started his 39 year career with the Surveys and Mapping Branch of Energy Mines and Resources, Canada, as a surveyor and eventually became the Branch's Director General. These experiences shaped him as an individual and influenced the people in his life.

Ray applied for a number of positions after graduating from Civil Engineering at Technical University of Nova Scotia in 1949. On a train, on his way from his home in Woodstock, New Brunswick to begin work for a construction firm in Nova Scotia, Ray was handed a telegram at the stop in Truro. The telegram was from his mother saying that he had been offered a job as a surveyor with the Federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Ray was ecstatic. This was his dream job. The adventure of going North that really excited him. He got off the train, borrowed some money, turned around and headed to Ottawa.

8 Years of Field Surveys – No family camping!

Ray surveyed in many parts of northern Canada until 1956. The field work would take months to organize and plan. And just as long to complete. He would be responsible for everything from equipment and supplies to food and transportation, everything...

The one thing that he often said was: "You needed a good cook because the work was so labour intensive...sometimes it was the only thing you had to look forward to."

He met all kinds of people, and encountered all kinds of unique situations. Ray had many stories of his time in the field:

- Befriending Max Ward of Ward Airlines, who, at the time was a bush pilot based in Yellowknife;
- Surveying from the tops of 50 foot trees, using the tree trunk as the surface for his theodolite;
- Visiting the site on the Thelon River where the adventurers John Hornby and Edgar Christian had starved to death.

One day, many years later when his children were teenagers, Ray was asked why they never went camping as a family, because most of their friends did it on a regular basis with their families. Ray responded, “organizing and going on a camping trip is not a vacation for me ... I did that for a living.” So there were few outdoor adventures for the Moore family. Ray preferred the modern conveniences of a bed, a roof, and electricity.

Post Graduate Degree in Holland.

The 8 years Ray spent doing field work were challenging and fulfilling, and his interests and career were evolving. Ray’s love of learning led him to pursue postgraduate studies in photogrammetry at the Delft Institute of Technology in 1957-58. The program had a renowned faculty which attracted students from around the world.

In addition to mastering the science and technology of photogrammetry, some of the other highlights of this time in Holland included,

- The birth of his and Barbara’s first child;
- One of his professors was also the first Prime Minister of the Netherlands and a member of the Dutch Resistance during WW II. He was a hostage for 18 months during the War. This was a courageous, intellectual leader. Ray was honoured to have benefited from the experience and knowledge of such a great man.
- Another experience which he often spoke of was the diversity of languages spoken among his classmates. It was common for them to speak three, four or five languages.

As a result, Ray and his wife Barbara made sure that their five children began schooling in French to have the benefit of a second language.

National Defence College.

Another opportunity which was offered to Ray had played into his passion for history and world politics. In 1968-69 Ray spent 11 months at the National Defence College (NDC) in Kingston, Ontario. His classmates included senior military officers from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as individuals from the Foreign Services and the RCMP and the private sector. NDC’s focus was to prepare senior Defence and Civil Service officers with a broad understanding of Canada and the World; how Canada fits in the World, and how these factors relate to national security and foreign policy.

The class of 32 members traveled to all parts of Canada, and many parts of the world. They met with business, government and military leaders to discuss issues and prepare research papers on various topics of strategic importance.

The time Ray spent in close quarters with his classmates allowed Ray to develop a deeper understanding of their perspectives which ended up influencing his perceptions and understanding of world issues. They learned from one another.

It was through this travel that Ray came to understand first hand such issues as:

- The devastating poverty that exists in a place like Ethiopia.
- The secrecy and intimidation that existed in Communist countries of the time such as East Berlin and Yugoslavia.
- The danger and violence that exists in countries like Columbia.

These experiences had a profound impact on Ray and allowed him to fully appreciate the privilege of being Canadian and living in Canada. NDC's class number XXII has met regularly since graduating 37 years ago. Ray truly treasured the friendships that were fostered from that period.

Career Advancement and Accomplishments.

After completing NDC in 1969, Ray was promoted to Director of Topographic Surveys, and then to Director General of the Surveys and Mapping Branch of EMR in 1973, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. Under Ray's leadership the Branch completed the 1:250,000 scale mapping of Canada as well as the control framework for larger scale mapping. Ray was instrumental in transforming the Branch from one that gathered and mapped data to one that managed information.

Note From a Friend.

A few days after the Ray's death, the following letter was sent to his family by Dr. John McLaughlin, President of the University of New Brunswick:

"...I have always thought of your dad not only as a friend but as a mentor. He was one of the great leaders in the Canadian Surveying and Mapping world, a real pioneer in the world of computer mapping. He was also a very thoughtful and generous person, whose encouragement and support meant the world to me. The year I spent in Ottawa working for Ray in the early 1980s was a defining time for me - his intellect and his vision were very, very special. He changed my thinking about the nature and direction of our profession and more importantly about how surveying and mapping related to the bigger issues of our society. He will be deeply missed but in many ways will live on through the impact he has had on others. John "

Ray the Person.

Ray became the 'man of the house' at the age of 4 when his father passed away. He has never shied away from responsibility, commitment or generosity with his time and resources.

Ray recognized that his professional and personal accomplishments were made possible as a result of the support, skill and dedication of those around him. At Ray's funeral service there were numerous people who shared stories with his children of ways he had helped them. He was tough minded, always fair, a very good listener and willing to help, regardless of the circumstance. These were his gifts to all of us.

Through successive surgeries and as Ray's illness progressed his family benefited from this special time to share stories and experiences that had been forgotten or not shared before. Ray maintained his strong spiritual faith and his sense of humour through this trying period.

Although he has left us now to be with God, Ray's memory is kept alive in the hearts of his wife of 50 years, Barbara, their 5 children, Mary, Maureen, John, Ray and David and their 4 treasured grandchildren, Philippe, Michel, Rachel and Eric. He also lives on in the memories of those who knew him and the many others whose lives were touched by his kindness and generosity.

This is a proud legacy for the boy from Woodstock, New Brunswick to leave behind.