

**William Douglas Ratz, OLS# 726, P. Eng.
December 27, 1923 – November 5, 2017**



Bill was born a farm in Fullarton Township, County of Perth on December 27, 1923.

His early education was at Munro Public School and honour matriculation at Mitchell High School in Mitchell, ON. From 1943 to 1945 he attended the University of Toronto in Civil engineering during which time he was in the Canadian Officers Training Program (C.O.T.C.).

In 1946 he married Dorothy Feltz who he met during his high school years. That same year he started working for the Department of Highways in the Legal Surveys office. Bill was articled of Harold S. Howden and was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in May of 1950. Following his commission, he completed the remaining Civil Engineering examinations and was registered as a Professional Engineer in April 1957.

Bill's survey training and experience as a party chief and field supervisor was wide-spread throughout the province, including several sessions in northern Ontario. In 1957, he succeeded H. S. Howden as Superintendent of Surveys, a position he held until 1975. At that time re-organization of the Ministry brought together the engineering and legal survey activities. Bill became the manager of this surveys and Plans office. He retired from the Ministry in 1980 after 35 years of service.

Outside of work, Bill was active within the surveying profession. He was a member of the Canadian Institute of Surveying (CIS) and the American congress of Surveying and mapping (ACSM). He was also active in several association committees, including two terms with the education Committees; the first being instrumental in establishing the first survey technology course at Ryerson and the second being responsible for promoting and developing the first university degree course in surveying at Erindale College.

Bill was a devout family man. He and Dorothy raised two children, a son, Douglas and a daughter, Deborah. His community and social activities consisted of the following: Registrar and President of a boys and girls sports club for many years, member of a Lutheran church where he served as a Councillor and Secretary. He was also a director of a condominium board. He enjoyed square dancing for 25 years. He loved woodworking and cottage life.

Bill died at the age of 94 and is sadly missed by his family, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Submitted by Dorothy Ratz