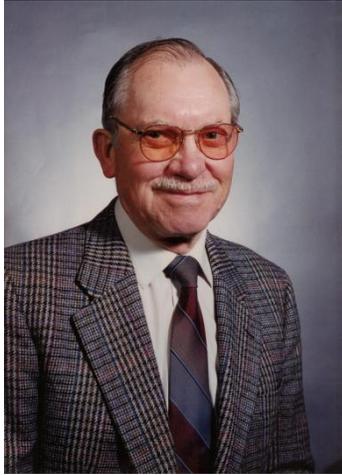


**Wallace Franklin (“Frank”) Robinson, OLS # 952  
1924 – 2010**

**Submitted by his son, Ian Robinson, OLS**



Frank was born & raised in Guelph, Ontario, where he attended high school at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute. After completing high school in 1942, he proudly served his country by enlisting in the Royal Canadian Volunteer Navy. He completed his basic training & advanced signals training in Quebec before being assigned to the newly built frigate, HMCS Kirkland Lake (K-337) as a telegraphist (one of his ship's officers was Signals Officer, lieutenant John Black Aird, who later became Ontario's 23<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Governor from 1980 – 1985). Frank served aboard the HMCS Kirkland Lake from its first sea trials in early 1944 until the end of

the war. Because of its highly advanced sonar & radar equipment, the HMCS Kirkland spent most of its time doing specialized convoy escort duty & sub hunting in the more vulnerable areas of the North Atlantic, English Channel & Mediterranean Sea. After being discharged from the Navy at the end of 1945, he spent a year at University of Toronto's School of Engineering in Ajax under a Veteran's program, before deciding an engineering career wasn't what he wanted. In 1947 Frank enlisted in the Canadian Army where he received officer's training, commando training & was commissioned as a lieutenant.

Frank's introduction to land surveying began when he joined the surveys division of the Department of Highways (D.H.O.) in the late 1940's. Most of his time with the D.H.O. was spent working on survey crews in Northern Ontario (out of their Toronto office), initially under the recently passed Vern McCutcheon, OLS (then a young party chief) and later as a party chief himself. In 1951 Frank married the love of his life, Frances Reive Pickard and the newly married couple made their home in Guelph, where they had both been born and raised.

Frank's job with the D.H.O meant he was only home for a short weekend every week or two and soon after their first child (Ian) was born in 1952, Frank made the decision that he needed a job that would allow him a better family life. In the later part of 1952 he was hired by the highly respected Edgar Peterson Bowman, OLS, DLS, P.Eng, the senior partner in the firm of Bowman, Black & Shoemaker (upon the sudden death of D.A. Niven, OLS in 1923, Mr. Bowman had taken over the Guelph land surveying practice established by Mr. Niven in 1915. In 1951 Mr. Bowman had taken on two partners, S.W [Fred] Black & R.L. Shoemaker, both of whom had articulated under him). The firm was always very busy & with his solid grounding with the D.H.O. & Mr. Bowman's guidance, Frank's surveying expertise grew quickly. Frank became articulated to Mr.

Bowman, working during the day & studying at night, eventually earning his commission as OLS #952 in 1957. Mr. Bowman died a few short months after his retirement in 1965 and in 1966 Frank became a partner in the company known as Black, Shoemaker & Robinson. In 1975 the company became known by its current name of Black, Shoemaker, Robinson & Donaldson with the addition of A. Bruce Donaldson as a partner. By 1988, Fred Black had retired & Frank's son Ian had joined the firm as a partner. The onset of progressive blindness led to Frank's retirement at the end of 1988. To his co-workers & employees he is fondly remembered for his fairness & easy-going nature. To his clients, peers & business associates, his professional legacy was his unwavering commitment to quality, his integrity & his trademark field notes (many OLS's have commented to the writer that they are among the best they've ever seen).

For most of his life, Frank was an avid fisherman, golfer & curler, and in spite of becoming legally blind he actively continued with them all until late in his retirement years. In recognition of his over 50 years of membership & service to both the Guelph Country Club (golf & curling) and the Milton West Fish & Game Club, he was awarded Honourary Lifetime Memberships. At various times he was on the Board of Directors for the local YM/YWCA, a member of the Wellington Men's Club, an elder in Dublin Street United Church and together with his wife, enjoyed travelling.

All of his life Frank was a survivor, having made it through 1 ½ years of front line service in WWII (including a very near torpedoing), a head-on collision with a tanker truck, two triple heart by-passes, 3 heart attacks, a mild stroke & blindness. In spite of these many challenges, he was unfailingly positive and enjoyed his life to the fullest. He is remembered with respect and love by his family & friends as a kind, easy-going man who made the most of life & always saw the best in everyone. Frank is survived by his wife Frances, sister Doris, children Ian, Judy & Scott, and his grandchildren Krista, Jason & Nicholas.