

**Robert Bruce Stinson, OLS # 737  
1919 - 2010**



Bruce Stinson (as everyone knew him) was born January 9, 1919. He grew up on Brandeston Farm just 4 miles west of Bobcaygeon. At the age of 5 he moved to Bobcaygeon where he grew up with 3 brothers and 2 sisters. At 16 he spent a lot of time around the train station in Bobcaygeon of which he made a model in later life. This model is currently on display at Settlers Village in Bobcaygeon. At 20 he tried to join the Air Force, however due to colour blindness in his right eye he was unable to become a pilot. Bruce worked at Westcloaks in Peterborough where he met his wife Winonah Audrey Stewart Nill. In July 1941 Bruce rejoined the RCAF as an Instrument Maker. Bruce became engaged to Audrey at Christmas 1941 and married her on February 24, 1942. They lived happily for 66 years until Audrey's death on September 16, 2008. Bruce and Audrey had 3 sons and 1 daughter, 6 grand children and 7 great grand children.

Bruce went overseas to war at Christmas 1942 on a nine day voyage on the RMS Andies. He was stationed at Middleton St. George, England, as an instrument maker with the rank of Corporal. On November 6, 2010 Bruce received his 60 year bar and pin from the Bobcaygeon Branch 239 of the Royal Canadian Legion. He was the oldest living member of this branch.

Upon returning home from war he went back to school to upgrade to become an Ontario Land Surveyor. After attending school in Brockville he went to Peterborough and apprenticed under J.W. Pierce OLS for three years. Bruce was commissioned an Ontario Land Surveyor on July 14, 1950. He set up his practice in Bobcaygeon and worked out of his office in the basement of the house he built in 1954 until he retired after 35 years. The large area Bruce surveyed stretched from South of Lindsay, West of Fenelon Falls, East of Lovesick and north of Haliburton. He loved the challenges associated with finding original posts. He located one Tree Post put in in 1825 in Harvey Township. This post had partially rotted away so was replaced. The original Tree Post is now located in the OLS Museum in Toronto.

Bruce loved life which included Square Dancing, Volunteer Fire Fighter for 45 years, riding his 1946 Harley Davidson trike, reciting poetry, golfing and preserving history. Bruce built his own boat a "Dippy" (better known as disappearing propeller) which still works to date. Bruce belonged to the Kawartha Model Boat club and built a 65" model of W.T.C. Boyd's Steam Yacht the Calumet which cruised the Kawartha Lakes. This model is currently on display at the Boyd Museum in Bobcaygeon.

Bruce has been a great example as to how to live and love life. He will be deeply missed by all family and friends.