

Ronald G. Theyers, OLS# 924
January 20, 1931 – July 15, 2017



Ron was born in January 20, 1931 in Scarborough, Ontario. He was the second child of four born to Leonard and Linda Theyers. Brother Raymond was the oldest and sister Rosalind and brother Ralph were younger. Like many Canadian families, they struggled through the Depression. Ron even spent time living with his Uncle Jim and Aunt Kay in Sudbury.

He attended Oakridge Public School in Scarborough and Scarborough Collegiate. Before graduating high school, Ron joined the Army Reserve. He did his training at Camp Meaford where he spotted for the Artillery. He

served weekends while still in high school and graduated in 1949. After graduation, Ron tried out for the RCMP but wasn't accepted. Insufficient height was probably the main reason. He then succeeded in obtaining a position as a draftsman for the Department of Highways of Ontario in Toronto. He also took a math class in the evening to further his career.

Being a person who loved the outdoors, Ron applied to be articulated as a surveyor and was accepted. One of the first big surveying projects he worked on was the new Highway 401. There was much anger and opposition to this project due to the amount of prime farmland being expropriated. One old lady constantly sat on her porch with her shotgun. No one dared go on her property. They ended up surveying around it.

Ron was sent all over the province on many highway projects. One cold winter day up north, the crew was keeping warm by the campfire during lunch and was not responding to a call to get back to work. One old grizzled character in the group decided to help things along by throwing a handful of .22 bullets into the fire. Needless to say, the rest of the crew scrambled back at record speed.

On another occasion, while cutting a survey line, the crew came upon one of the largest trees for miles around. Of course, it was right in the middle of the line. They set about the task of cutting the tree down. After a couple of minutes, during a momentary pause, a loud buzzing sound was noticed. Looking up, they saw a very large wasp nest and a huge swarm of wasps trying to figure out what was going on. Not wanting to bring the nest down to ground level, it was prudently decided to survey around the tree.

In October 1952, Ron married Irene Weeks and in less than two years they had their first child, Brenda. As regional offices started to be established, Ron and family were transferred to London. There he and Irene had their second daughter, Elaine. It was in London that Ron also joined the Masons. He continued working on advancing his career and received his OLS designation on August 15, 1956.



After several years, Ron was transferred to North Bay where he was made an Inspector of Surveys (field supervisor). Meanwhile, sons Bruce and Dennis were added to the family. The eleven years in North Bay were busy ones for Ron. Work, Cub Scout and Boy Scout events, church committees, family camping trips, the Masons, and a vegetable garden in the backyard kept him hopping. He even made time to try his hand at prospecting. Ron and three partners staked out some land of geological interest, probably discovered on a Scout canoe trip. This venture never panned out.

In the fall of 1968, Ron accepted the position of College Instructor at Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology in Timmins. During Christmas break, Ron, Irene, the four kids, the dog, the pet bird and the vacuum cleaner were somehow all packed into a car with an already-full trunk and headed north.

Ron soon settled into his teaching career. He was big on “the practical” and often took his students out of the classroom and into the field to deal with real-life land surveying. Students were also taken on surveying-related field trips to government offices in Toronto and Ottawa. Ron enthusiastically involved himself with college activities and sports. He even cut ice out of Porcupine Lake to make ice sculptures for the Timmins Winter Carnival. With his help, Northern College won the ice sculpture/snow sculpture contest several years in a row. Apparently measuring skills are useful for turning a drawing into a 3-D ice sculpture. Ron also worked with local surveyors on side jobs and involved himself with local issues involving land surveys.

Ron retired from teaching in 1987 but then took on the job of College Arbitrator for contract disputes for one year. He also did some part-time teaching.

Retirement didn’t slow Ron down. He now had the time to get more involved in community activities. Ron started the clown unit of the local Shrine club. He played the role of Rondo the clown for many years, doing hospital and school visits as well as parades, and raising money for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal. He was involved with Scouts, Meals on Wheels, and church activities. Ron also enjoyed puttering around the cottage, working in his garden, and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ron passed away suddenly while gardening on July 15, 2017.

Submitted by his family