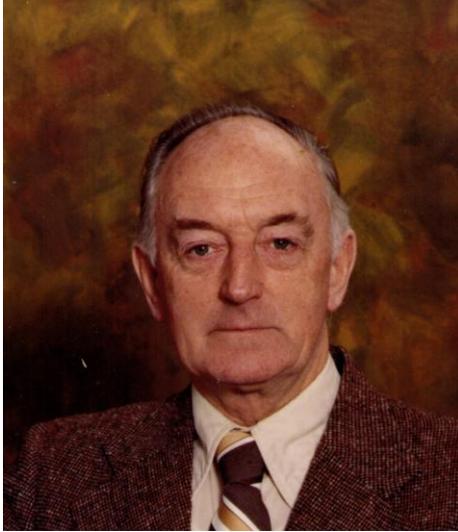


E. H. (Henry) Uderstadt, O.L.S.
August 30th, 1916 – October 19th, 2006



Henry was born and attended school in Germany. In 1937 he graduated from college in Land Surveying. In 1938 he was drawn into military service. For about seven years in the responsible position of Warrant Officer in the German Airforce, he was assigned to forward area mobile signals units where he provided radio homing for returning Luftwaffe airplanes to base airports. During the war, on March 6th, 1943, he married Gerda, his surviving spouse. Following the war, Henry worked in a private land surveying practice in Rostock, Germany.

In 1951, Henry immigrated to Canada. During a visit to the AOLS office in Toronto where he was seeking a connection with an Ontario Land Surveyor, by great coincidence he met Colonel S.W. Archibald, O.L.S., P.Eng. who immediately offered to employ Henry and take him to London. So Henry began his apprenticeship anew articling with the firm

Archibald, Gray & McKay while also brushing up on his English language skills and preparing for the exams to qualify him to practice surveying in Canada. In 1956, when he might have taken his final examination, Henry had to undergo major surgery – the result of complications from wounds he received in Russia in 1941. But with the help and persistence of his now friend “Arch”, Henry was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor (No. 1131) on May 7th, 1963.

While in London, Henry assisted with legal surveys in southern Ontario and with surveys for pipelines through the bush lands in Northern Ontario. He also helped with the preparation of numerous Municipal Drainage projects in an area extending from London northwards into the Bruce Peninsula. As his boss and mentor neared retirement, Henry worked less on legal surveying and more on drainage projects until eventually he did this exclusively.

In 1964, Henry relocated to Orangeville to join Triton Engineering Services Ltd. as head of the drainage department and officer of the company. Here, working as a drainage engineer under the Drainage Act, he continued the drainage work of the predecessor firm L.L. Campbell & Associates. Also, many of the municipalities for whom he had worked while in London continued to select and appoint him as their drainage consultant.

In 1970, E.H. Uderstadt Inc., Municipal Drainage Consultant, was created and Henry continued his work specializing on municipal drains under the Drainage Act. He served a large part of Southwestern Ontario from the Stratford area in the south up into the Bruce Peninsula, and from Lake Huron to the Lake Simcoe area in the east.

Finally in 1980, looking for retirement, Henry sold his business to R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd.; however, he continued working for another four years to train and mentor a new engineer in the ways of the drainage practice.

Throughout his career, Henry produced perhaps about 1500 drainage reports under the Drainage Act and oversaw their construction implementation. This has been a tremendous help to agriculture in obtaining outlet drains and thereby improving much of Ontario’s wet farmland. Henry maintained that “a good

farm is not without good drainage”. His last project was one of the largest ever undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act. It included major improvements to approximately eight kilometres of open channel and a watershed of about 89,000 hectares, and involved ten municipalities, three villages and about 7,300 assessed landowners.

Henry was a long standing member of the AOLS Drainage Committee. During the three years he was its chairman, the committee’s task related to the review and updating of the Drainage Act 1962-63. He spearheaded a detailed and extensive submission to the Select Committee on Land Drainage in Ontario under the Honourable Lorne C. Henderson, Minister of Agriculture and Food, which resulted in the new legislation, The Drainage Act 1975.

In 1976, Henry was selected as a member of the AOLS-APEO Joint Drainage Committee whose members were appointed by the respective professional associations. This committee’s task was to probe the alleged inconsistency in the practice of land drainage consulting. As part of his involvement, Henry compiled, edited and provided comments for the “Interpretation of the Drainage Act 1975” for publication in the Ontario Drainage Journal in late 1977.

By Ontario Government ministerial appointment in 1978, he was one of five consultants to take part in the preparation of “Design and Construction Guidelines for Work Under the Drainage Act 1975” which was completed and submitted in February 1980 to the Honourable Lorne C. Henderson, Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Henry made numerous presentations to assist the understanding of Municipal Drains and the procedures under the Drainage Act. One such presentation was given at a Department of Municipal Affairs Drainage Seminar in October 1969 where he explained the “The Principles of Assessment”. Another presentation was at the 33rd Annual Convention of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario at Honey Harbour in 1971. A synopsis of this presentation was published by Municipal World magazine in August of that year.

The success of young people in surveying was important to Henry, and to that end he contributed regularly and generously to the AOLS Education Foundation where he was a member since 1973, and became a Life member in 1992.

In his 91st year Henry passed away peacefully on October 19th, 2006 with his wife of almost 65 years at his side. His funeral was attended by many of his previous co-workers and representatives of the former municipal clients whom he had served. These people remarked that they remembered Henry as a hard worker who understood his work and the Drainage Act very well and was not easily swayed; he produced excellent reports and he explained all related questions and concerns that landowners and Councilors raised. In a nutshell, they said: “He knew his stuff and he was tough, but most of all he was fair”.

To all of this we, his family, can happily add that he was a good provider and a wonderful dad. He was a gentleman who lived a long, good, clean, honest life and loved us all.