

**Henriette (Henri) J. Verhoef, OLS# 1817**  
**July 7, 1966 – October 10, 2017**



Henriette – Henri to all who knew her – was born in Peterborough, Ontario. The family moved to Campbellford in 1974 after her father, Nick Verhoef (OLS #1134), opened his own survey business there.

Henri graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1989 with a B.A. Joint Honours degree in English and Psychology, and a Canadian Studies Honours option. Her interest in surveying began that summer, when she was hired by the county of Northumberland to work as instrument person on a survey crew. When this job ended, she worked at Keat and Verhoef Surveyors, Inc., from 1989-91. This is where she realized just how much she loved surveying, and decided to pursue it as a career.

To that end, Henri studied Geological Science at Queen's University in Kingston from 1991-92, in order to upgrade her skills and complete the courses she needed as prerequisites for entering the survey program at the University of Toronto (Erindale). From 1992-94 Henri was registered as a special student in the Surveying Science Program at University of Toronto. Upon graduation, Henri articulated with Ronald H. Smith in Kingston from 1994 to March of 1997. Henri was commissioned as an OLS on August 13, 1997. She was hired later that year by Jim Bowman, of W.J. Bowman Ltd., to manage his Fort Frances office. Henri obtained her CLS on July 11, 2001. After Jim Bowman retired, the company underwent several transitions. In 2008 Henri took over the management of both the Fort Frances and Dryden offices, and at the time of her illness, the company was called exp. Services, Inc.

Henri was an active member of the Northwest Regional Group. Over the course of her career she eventually served on all the executive positions in the group. She built good working relationships with many of her colleagues, whose friendships she enjoyed and whose professional knowledge she greatly respected.

As a surveyor, Henri was committed to ensuring that her clients received the best quality work and that they fully understood the survey process. She was also very dedicated to her employees, doing her utmost to create a positive work environment and to provide continued employment in uncertain economic times.

Henri's dedication to her work left little time for other pursuits, but much like her father Nick (who passed away earlier in 2017), she had a great love of the outdoors and nature. This was evidenced in her interests and activities. She was a member of the Emo Christian Reformed Church. She enjoyed birdwatching, hiking, canoeing and rockhounding. She was active in groups such as the Rainy River Valley Field Naturalists and the Rainy Lake Conservancy. She mentored on the Rainy River Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Henri was a co-recipient (with Ahlan Johanson) of a provincial volunteer award for their work in establishing an interpretive nature trail in Crozier Township through the peat bog, which opened in July 2006.

During her final weeks in the hospital, Henri reflected on her career by answering a series of interview questions from Ann Cole, BSc, OLS, CLS. The resulting article, called “Recruiting the Best and the Brightest” appeared in the Fall 2017 issue of “Ontario Professional Surveyor” (Vol. 60, No. 4). Henri tells in her own words, what her life and career were like as a surveyor, a surveyor’s daughter, and a female in a largely male profession.

Henri came to love living in Northwest Ontario, where she truly felt at home. She met her cancer diagnosis with a positive attitude, and her concern for friends, employees, colleagues and clients, remained paramount even in the face of her illness. She will be missed by many.



Henri and Nick Verhoef, May, 2017

Submitted by Monique Ibey