

## FRED A. DeLORY (1925-2022)

By Doug VanDine, with assistance from Don Shields and Heinrich Heinz  
(based somewhat on an obituary published in the Toronto Star, October 8, 2022)



On September 29, 2022, the Canadian geotechnical community lost F.A. (Fred) DeLory, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto. Fred was born in Georgetown, PEI, on June 7, 1925. He died in Halifax, NS, at the age of 97.

Between 1943 and 1945, Fred served in the Canadian Army rising to the rank of Lieutenant. After the war, he attended McGill University and graduated in 1948 with a bachelor's degree from the Department of Civil Engineering. Fred worked in construction for five years, first in Trail, BC and then Kitimat, BC.

In 1953 and 1954, Fred took advantage of the Athlone Fellowship program to study soil mechanics at Imperial College in London, UK. Upon being awarded his diploma (DIC), he continued studying at Imperial College towards his PhD, graduating in 1957 under the supervision of A.W. Skempton. Based on Fred's PhD thesis, Skempton and DeLory wrote their seminal paper "Stability of natural slopes in London Clay", published in the proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, London, 1957.

On returning to Canada, Fred worked for a short time with an engineering firm in Niagara Falls (H.G. Acres?). In 1958, he joined the faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, becoming Professor Emeritus when he retired in 1990. Between 1973 and 1988 Fred was Chair of the Division of Geological Engineering within that department.

Fred served as one of the original Associate Editors of the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal* for Volumes 1-5 (1963-1968). He served as the Editor of that journal for Volumes 6 and 7 (1969-1970).

Former students and colleagues at UofT remember Fred as being a clear, helpful and patient instructor, highly dedicated to teaching and well-liked in the department. He had a good demeanor and a dry sense of humour. Many of his students remember his somewhat

entertaining habit in the classroom of continually buttoning his jacket when he faced them, and unbuttoning his jacket when he wrote on the blackboard.

In the early 1960s, he was known to the relatively small geotechnical community in the Toronto area as the one who imported live lobsters from PEI and cooked them for that community's annual get together. In the early 1970s, Fred restored a 60-year-old Connecticut steamboat and frequently sailed it in the Toronto Harbour. As another project, he bought a long length of surplus cast iron fencing from the City of Toronto Parks Department, and adapted and installed it around his swimming pool at his Toronto home.

Among other projects, after retiring Fred volunteered as a driver for Meals on Wheels in Toronto for 17 years. He moved to Halifax in 2008.