

WILLIAM (BILL) J. EDEN (1926-1994)

by Michael Bozozuk

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Bill Eden (centre) with Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research colleagues, from left to right, Carl Crawford, Victor Milligan, Robert Legget, Michael Bozozuk, Don Shields and Lorne Gold. (photo provided by Michael Bozozuk)

Bill Eden passed away suddenly on August 16, 1994, while visiting his sons with his wife Nan. He and Nan had two sons, George and Graham, one daughter, Leslie, and two grandchildren. The news of his death came as a complete surprise and shock to his many friends and colleagues. Bill died from a massive heart attack.

Bill was born on October 1, 1926 on a family farm near Arthur, Ontario, a small town approximately 50 km north of Waterloo. After a brief period in the Canadian military service, he attended the University of Toronto, graduating in 1949 with a BSc in Civil Engineering. One of his professors was the late Dr. Robert F. Legget, a man he held in great esteem. After graduation, Bill joined the Soil Mechanics (Geotechnical) Section of the Division of Building Research (Institute for Research in Construction), National Research Council of Canada (NRC), where he worked as a Research Officer until his retirement in 1985.

Bill worked on numerous projects, including slope stability of Leda clay, shrinkage and swelling of clay and pyritic shales. He took part in a study of varved clays at Steep Rock Iron Mines which aided in mine development and the prevention of slides, worked on construction tests for the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway, and developed and applied in situ testing techniques.

He became well known nationally and internationally as the technical advisor to the NRC's Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research and secretary of the Canadian section of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. In addition, he was the founder and editor of the *CGS Newsletter* (a forerunner of *CGS News*) from 1963 to 1984. In 1985, Bill wrote the first history of the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

In 1976, Bill was the recipient of the CGS Prize for the best paper published during the preceding year in the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*. He was made a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1989.

Bill will always be remembered as someone who could never say “no” to a request and was always kind and willing to help. He was a great guy and a dear friend. The Canadian Geotechnical Society mourns the loss of Bill Eden.