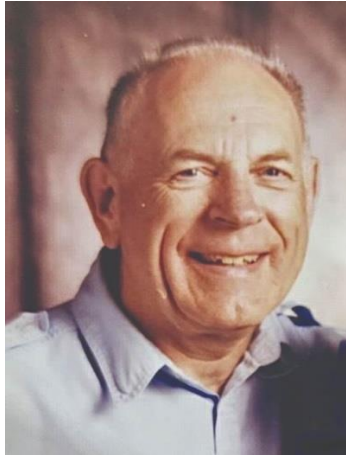


John Donald (Don) Scott (1928-2023)

By Vivian Giang and Ward Wilson
based in part on a family obituary



John Donald (Don) Scott passed away on July 1, 2023, at the age of 95 years, after a long life of engineering and adventure.

Don was born February 11, 1928 in Transcona, MB, now part of Winnipeg. After high school, he worked for a seismic/survey company, starting as a chainman, with projects mainly in southern Alberta. Realizing his interest in engineering, he then attended Queen's University in Kingston, ON, graduating with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1954. After working with an engineering firm for a number of years, Don returned to study for his master's and PhD in geotechnical engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He then embarked on an academic career as a professor at the University of Ottawa, the University of Waterloo and finally the University of Alberta.

Don joined the UofA Faculty of Engineering in 1980, as the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority (AOSTRA) Research Chair in Oil Sands. Among his many research accomplishments, he made fundamental contributions to understanding the behaviour of oil sands tailings and helped develop the concepts of segregation behavior and of composite (or consolidated) tailings. While at the UofA, Don developed and operated a multi-million dollar research laboratory to examine the effects of the high temperatures and stresses. He also initiated laboratory studies of geosynthetics to support research on geotextile filters and geogrid reinforced slopes.

During his career, Don authored or co-authored over 100 papers on geotechnical engineering, resource geomechanics and geosynthetics. He edit the 1st edition of the *Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual* (1978) and co-authored *Geotextile and Geomembrane International Information Source* (1984), both published by the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

Don retired from U of A in 1993, but continued to mentor master's and PhD students, and maintained his interest in research projects related to tailings as a Professor Emeritus, until well into his 80s.

In 1998, Don was awarded the 1998 Syncrude Oil Sands Research Prize that honours significant contributions to science and technology in Alberta. He was awarded the CGS R.M. Quigley Award in 2001 for the best paper in the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal* and in 2010 became a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada. In recognition of his long-term service to the UofA and to the local geotechnical community, in 2005, the Geotechnical Society of Edmonton named its annual retaining wall competition and trophy the "Dr. Don Scott - Applied Geotechnical Design Award".

Don had a keen interest in the sport of orienteering, a navigational sport using a map and compass to navigate from point to point. He successfully competed locally, across Canada and internationally, and won many medals in doing so. He and his wife, Mary-Lou Hogg, enjoyed many adventures together traveling to many destinations worldwide, always with an orienteering component included.

Don was a much-loved and respected colleague, teacher and mentor. He is survived by his two children, Ivy and Mark, his two grandchildren, and his wife of 22 years, Mary-Lou.