

Hard grind, but worth it

First woman land surveyor

Special to The Globe and Mail

LEAMINGTON — For the first time in its 132-year history, the profession of land surveyors in Ontario has admitted a woman.

Lorraine Setterington, of Leamington, mother of three girls and a former school teacher, was commissioned yesterday as an Ontario Land Surveyor.

Mrs. Setterington was articulated (apprenticed) to her husband, surveyor-engineer William J. Setterington, four years ago in a precedent-setting decision of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors.

Since then, she has been a surveying student in her husband's office, learning the work of the surveyor in all its complicated detail. Half her time was spent in the field and during the course of her apprentice period she wrote three sets of tough examinations, passing all 24 of them with marks considerably above the average.

Mrs. Setterington conceded her apprenticeship had been something of a grind, especially when it was added to her homemaking tasks. She was relieved that it was all over but "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Her interest has always been in maths and science and when she started helping her husband in his business, it grew.

She began thinking about becoming a land surveyor in 1964. One day she told her husband she

was going to write Grade 13 trigonometry examinations and apply for articles as an Ontario Land Surveyor.

He was enthusiastic about it, although he warned her about the long hard grind ahead.

"She had a fairly good idea of what was involved before she started," Mr. Setterington said. "She had been doing a lot of calculating, some field work with transit and tape and a bit of drafting."

How did her male colleagues react to her intrusion into what had been a completely masculine profession?

Most of them saw it as a further example of modern change which finds women entering many fields previously thought restricted to men.

Said one association official: "Women have been part of and even headed survey parties in Europe for years. We have nothing against anyone becoming a land surveyor provided they have the qualifications and can meet our requirements."

Mrs. Setterington did all that and still found time to manage the affairs of an active family. Her three daughters are Sharon, 12, Lee-Anne, 10, and Mary Ann, 3.

The Setteringtons live in a nine-room house on a 150-acre farm in Mersea Township, two miles west of Leamington. They sharecrop the land, and as a hobby, raise quarter horses. Mr.

Setterington and the girls ride but Mrs. Setterington says, "I have a thing about these horses of ours. I never quite seem in control and so I don't really enjoy myself."

Mrs. Setterington has other interests which range from hand-sewing (not as much as she once did), gardening, tennis and curling. She is a past president of the Leamington Kinette Club.

She was born and raised in Copper Cliff where her father, Thomas Gladstone, is employed as a supervisor in the smelter of the International Nickel Company of Canada Ltd.

Following graduation, she attended North Bay Teachers' College and went on to teach in a Sudbury public school (Princess Anne), before going to Barryfield near Kingston in 1954.

While in Kingston, she met her husband who was studying civil engineering at Queen's University. They married in Leamington in 1955 and returned to Kingston until 1956 when Mr. Setterington graduated.

He articulated as a land surveyor in Windsor and received his commission in 1959. He later opened his own practice in Leamington in consulting engineering and land surveying.

Ontario's first surveyor was Henry Strange of Rockwood who was sworn in on Nov. 30, 1838. Mrs. Setterington is the 1,234th surveyor to be sworn in.

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CANADA: ENGINEERS REPRESENTED IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Close to 1,500 federally-employed professional engineers and land surveyors will be represented and collective bargaining by the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, it was announced by the Public Service Staff Relations Board. In a vote on representation held by the P.S.S.R.B., over 96 per cent of those who voted, cast their ballots in favour of the Professional Institute. This was one of the highest

percentages in favour of an employee organization ever recorded by the P.S.S.R.B.

The Engineering and Land Survey Group which is in the Scientific and Professional Category is the 34th professional group for which the Institute has been certified. Employees of the group are responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of physical and chemical processes, systems, structures and equipment; the survey and measurement of features of the earth's surface; as well as

the development and application of engineering standards and procedures.

Almost every department and agency in the federal government employs these professionals. Of the approximate 1,500 engineers and land surveyors in the public service the largest numbers work in the Departments of Public Works, Transport, National Defence, and Energy, Mines & Resources. These employees work in every province but the largest concentration is in Ottawa in the various departmental headquarters.