

Willis F. Roberts

Home grown and educated Willis Roberts was born on July 7, 1919 in Fredericton (Lincoln), New Brunswick. After high school, Willis attended UNB receiving his BScF in 1940. During World War II he served with the RCA overseas, being “mentioned in dispatches”. In 1945 he was discharged with the rank of Captain; continued serving in the militia until 1957 retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Willis’s contribution to forestry and related programs lists as follows:

- Researched and developed the 1”=40 chains cadastral maps for the province.
- Organized and implemented surveys of Crown Lands using aerial photography and base mapping.
- Introduced coordinate monument system for legal surveys.
- Introduced planimeter, topographical, property and digital mapping for urban and resource needs.
- Leader in the formation of Maritime Land Registration Information Service
- Proposed formation of LIRSIC for the province.
- Influential in formation of Association of N.B. Land Surveyors and establishing Department of Surveying Engineering at UNB.

Willis has presented papers at International conferences in Canada, USA, Great Britain and Europe.

Willis Roberts is recognized in the Hall of Fame as described in the presentation of the Massey Medal in 1983 “For his early vision of resource Data Banks and the research and development of GIS systems in New Brunswick”. He is equally recognized for his development of mapping; use of aerial photograph; and survey systems for the Maritimes and particularly New Brunswick.

