

Arvid Landva (1930-2021)

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Arvid Landva was born in 1930 in Drammen, Norway, a short distance southwest of Oslo. Although he started training as a stonemason, he changed paths and attended the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, graduating with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1956. After graduation, Arvid worked at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), initially as an engineer in its consulting division and then as a research fellow. While at NGI, he was directly involved with the development of the direct simple shear apparatus, together with Laurits Bjerrum.

Arvid returned to university in the early 1960s and received his D.Ing. in 1962 from the Norwegian Institute of Technology. His dissertation was on the geotechnical behaviour and testing of soft quick clays, and his supervisors were Laurits Bjerrum and Nilmar Janbu. After working with a consulting engineering firm in Norway for several years, Arvid brought his family to Niagara Falls, ON in 1965, initially for an 18-month work exchange at H.G. Acres Ltd.

With Acres, Arvid worked on the approach roads to the planned Confederation Bridge between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. When that project was suspended after three months (eventually to be completed 32 years later), he accepted the position of resident geotechnical engineer for the construction of the embankment dam for the Mactaquac Power Project near Fredericton, NB. He worked on that project until 1968 – so much for the 18-month work exchange! That year, he joined the University of New Brunswick (UNB) as a professor of civil engineering, where he taught both undergraduate and graduate courses for the next 28 years, retiring from academia in 1996. During his tenure at UNB, Arvid pursued his PhD at Université Laval, under the supervision of Pierre La Rochelle, and graduated in 1980 after defending his thesis on the geotechnical behaviour and testing of peats.

Both before and after his PhD, and after retiring, Arvid focused his research, and published widely, on the geotechnical aspects and innovative field testing of both peat and municipal waste fills – what he considered “non-textbook soils.” In fact, in 1981, he chaired the 34th CGS Canadian Geotechnical Conference held in Fredericton with “non-textbook soils” as its theme. (As an aside, during that conference, Arvid (on violin), Branko Ladanyi (on piano and as the Robert F. Legget Medal awardee that year), Nordie Morgenstern (on clarinet), Jack Clark (percussion) and others formed the “Geo-Orchestra” and entertained the audience at the conference banquet). In 1990, Arvid and David Knowles co-edited the classic 1990 American

Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) publication, *Geotechnics of Waste Fills: Theory and Practice*.

Both during and for approximately 20 years after his academic career, Arvid consulted in the Maritimes with several firms: ADI, Jacques Whitford and Associates, Gemtec, TerrAtlantic and BGC Engineering. He was also a member of expert panels on the 1995 Kobe earthquake in Japan and major geotechnical landfill stability assessments in New York and Los Angeles.

Arvid, for many years, was involved with several ASTM subcommittees including D18.07 (Soil Classification), D18.14 (Waste Management) and D18.18 (Peats and Organic Soils). In 1985, he was awarded the ASTM Hogentogler Award. He was also an active member of the Canadian Geotechnical Society. In 2009, Arvid was a CGS Cross Canada Lecturer and in 2017 he received the CGS Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division's G. Geoffrey Meyerhof Award.

Arvid passed away on May 4, 2021. He would have turned 91 in July 2021. One of his sons, Jørn, is also a geotechnical engineer.