

## **MICHAEL BOZOUK (1929-2020)**

By Harry Baker and Tim Law



Dr. Michael Bozozuk, a respected mentor of many young engineers in the Canadian geotechnical community, died at the age of 90 in Ottawa on January 12, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Poland and immigrated to Canada with his family in the early 1930s. They settled in Winnipeg.

Michael graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BSc in Civil Engineering in 1952, and a MSc in Civil Engineering (Soil Mechanics) in 1954. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he attended Purdue University and graduated with a PhD in Geotechnical Engineering in 1972.

In 1953, Michael joined the Division of Building Research at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. He worked as a Research Officer in the Soil Mechanics Section of that division until his retirement in 1989.

Michael conducted research on numerous projects involving sensitive clays, such as the consolidation settlement of structures and earth fills, damage to house foundations by trees, bearing capacity failures of farm silo foundations, landslides, tunnelling, negative skin friction on piles, in-situ soil testing and field instrumentation. Many of these projects were carried out with researchers from a number of Canadian universities.

In addition to his research work, Michael was a thoughtful leader in the geotechnical community and was very active in the Canadian Geotechnical Society, university programs and technical committees. He was a proponent of life-long learning and continued to serve and give back to the geotechnical community long after he retired.

He served as: Chairman, Ottawa Geotechnical Group; Associate Editor, *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*; Vice President and Executive Director, Engineering Institute of Canada; President, Canadian Geotechnical Society (1987-88); Treasurer, Canadian Geotechnical Fund; and President, Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique (formerly known as GeoContributions). When the Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research was dissolved in the early 1990s, Michael was pivotal in finding ways to sustain the role of the Associate Committee in fostering excellence in the geotechnical field in Canada by funding the awards, prizes and distinguished lectures of the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

Michael received many honours and awards. He was a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE), the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE), and the Canadian Society for Senior Engineers (CSSE). He received the John B. Stirling Medal and the Canadian Pacific Railway Engineering Medal from the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1990 and 2003, respectively. From the Canadian Geotechnical Society, Michael was awarded the inaugural 1973 CGS Prize (now the R.M. Quigley Award) for the best paper published in the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, and the 1994 R.F. Leggett Award (as it was then known), the CGS's most prestigious award.

The Ottawa Geotechnical Group named its Michael Bozozuk Student Forum in his honour. He started the forum in 1976. The Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique named its Michael Bozozuk National Graduate Scholarship in his honour. He was President from 1999 to 2004.

Predeceased by his wife, Marcelle, of 62 years, he left behind his three daughters (Lyne, Sylvie and Camille), six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.