

In Memoriam

Edwin “Ed” Allsopp

December 23, 1944–August 28, 2004



Ed Allsopp of CDS Building Movers, Ottawa, Canada died suddenly on Saturday August 28, 2004 at age 59.

Ed had been an integral part of CDS Building Movers directly for 22 years. His association with John Sweetnam, owner of CDS Building Movers, spanned a period of 35 years. A unique interest in moving buildings generally and heritage buildings specifically brought them together in business.

Ed was a devoted father of two sons and one daughter. He and John shared many stories as their children grew through their teen years and evolved through their first cars, first jobs, and growing into the building moving industry. It was Ed's love of family that he brought to the building moving industry in Ontario.

His strong connection to the structural moving industry brought a professional presence that made him well known. Many of the long established building movers, some second and third generation, considered Ed their friend rather than a competitor. His love of building moving was so strong every year he mentored a new person in the art and science of building moving. This simple philosophy built Ed a strong following of individuals even after they moved on to other areas or professions. As younger contacts matured past summer jobs to marriage, his extended family created a strong bond among professional building movers who desired to have a standard of excellence that approximated the dedication Ed possessed.

Ed was constantly working to push his industry into the 21st century through creating new and innovative equipment. He emphasized safety and productivity on the job that meant the team would arrive home to be with their families a little earlier and without injury.

Ed had that unique ability to radiate confidence. As he progressed more into leadership roles he would arrive at the job site early enough to offer a time saving step or safety tip. In the back of his truck were

always that extra C'clamp, flag or a sharpened chain saw to make a move timely and safe. And in the hot days of summer his cooler was filled with refreshing drinks and an extra lunch for the worker who forgot or left his at home. He cared about his team and their quality of work. Ed had three basic philosophies for his team: 1) show up on time, 2) do what you say you will do plus even a little extra and 3) complete the job.

Because of his love for moving structures and the positive reputation he enjoyed he was elected a Director of the International Association of Structural Movers (IASM) in 1998. He also supported the Ontario Association of Building Movers (OABM) hosting two OABM meetings at CDS facilities in the early nineties. He and David Drummond, of Almonte, devised new techniques and specially designed equipment that was brought to CDS. Ed shared all his ideas, inventions, techniques and practices with all who asked. Many movers from eastern Canada and the United States took advantage of his generosity.

Ed was Team Leader for many heritage building moves and this is where his talent was truly in a spotlight. He loved the challenges of larger and unique projects and did a superior job co-coordinating all the support groups and municipal staff required. He led a team to relocate a mine community 700 miles north of the arctic circle, from Nansivik to Artic Bay on the northern tip of Baffin Island.

He gained great respect in the university town of Kingston when he moved two-thirds of a city block in order for Queens University to build a new library on the site. Ed brought this project to completion in a period of 67 days and it earned him many accolades for the speed, safety and care in handling the heritage buildings involved. He will be most remembered, however, for his sense of 'family' he brought to the structural movers of eastern Ontario. He will be missed immensely.