

Additional Tribute Information
Evergreen Avenue Commemorations
June 6, 2015

Jack Rabb

Jack Rabb joined the Legion in 1951 and in the 60 plus years has held every position of meaning and authority at both branch and zone levels. He drew up the plans and was the driving force behind the present day structure, which took 14 months to complete. He was instrumental in lobbying for designing and supervising the Old Home Week 2000 wading pool and the Dough Walton Pavilion in Victoria Park. He donated his time to such projects as the play structure at Lower Reach Park, the CPR Caboose renovations, Memorial Community Centre renovations etc. etc.

To the youth of this community he was a volunteer, an executive member, coach and convenor in Smiths Fall Minor Hockey, T-ball and Rideau Lakes District 7 Boy Scouts. Somewhere in all this he was a civilian member on the Smiths Falls Hospital Board working for its successful accreditation. He was a driving force behind our present day Dialysis Unit, visiting ever Legion in surrounding areas.

Jack was an integral committee member and constant parade marshal for many of the Settlers Days festivals and in organizing of the successful Old Home Week 2000 as well as the Santa Claus Parades. Jack's selfless efforts were noted when he was made Citizen of the Year 1985. He won the Charlie Gilhully Award for his contribution to recreation in Smiths Falls 1977. He received the Ontario Bicentennial medal in 1984 for contributions to heritage life in Smiths Falls and for his work with Heritage House and the CNR museum. In 1992 he was awarded the Canada 125 medal honouring persons who made significant contributions to their fellow citizens, their community and to Canada. He was the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee medal in 2003.

Jack in his later years took great interest in Evergreen Avenue, toiling away beautifying the grounds as an excellent shovel and wheelbarrow operator. He was a proud member of the Lest We Forget Project Board encouraging students and teachers in investigating the lives of local first World War dead and encouraging the trips the Europe. The Record News benefitted by their articles

Submitted by Enid Rabb

Alex Banford

William Alexander Banford, known to all as Alex, had an unrivalled generous heart and an unbounded community spirit.

Alex, the eldest child of six, grew up on Maple Stock Farm, near Iroquois, Ontario. When the war began, Alex left his career as a car salesman to answer the patriotic call to duty. He served for five years in a number of war zones, including Sicily, Italy, North Africa and Holland.

The war did bring Alex together with the love of his life and soul-mate, Marie Sellence. In August of 1945, Sergeant Major Banford of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, who was in Holland at the time, managed to secure a 48 hour leave. During those forty-eight hours he travelled to England where he and Marie were married.

In 1946, Alex and Marie Banford settled in Smiths Falls where they lived and raised their family for the next 66 years. During those Smiths Falls' years Alex held many positions including railroader, business owner, municipal and provincial employee. At the age of 90, he retired from his position serving in the courtrooms of Smiths Falls and Perth.

His community spirit led him to be a charter member of the Smiths Falls Lions Club. Over the next 50 years Alex was an active worker in numerous community projects, fairs and fund raisers. Melvin Jones, founder of Lions, and Alex shared a personal code, " You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else." The Lions motto "We Serve." was Alex's personal promise to Smiths Falls.

His generous heart and sense of love was well known to his eight grandchildren. Alex paid special attention to their many adventures and escapades even though they were not all Conservative party supporters.

In his later years, he was profoundly proud of his work here on Evergreen Avenue. And if you take a moment and look up in the sky, I'm sure that Alex is smiling down on us here today with that well known twinkle in his eye.

Submitted by his children, Heather and John

Omar Beckett

Good morning everyone. My name is Kim McKenna and I am here today with my family to honour my father Omar Beckett.

It seems to me, looking back, that the idea of Evergreen Avenue took root in the Trinity United Church hall. But my first memories of the idea becoming reality are of watching men and women in trucks and cars with shovels and work gloves and bug spray and a vision of a beautiful space in their minds eye.

So...Here we are today in this beautiful space to honour those men and women. Their mission accomplished. My dad was part of this.

My father enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1940 He was 17. In 1942 he was assigned to the Canadian Merchant Navy. The Merchant Navy was an integral part of the war effort as they were responsible for protecting supply ships headed to Great Britain, North Africa and India just to name a few. These ships carried vital supplies as well as tanks, railroad engines and munitions. The North Atlantic was a dangerous place that was full of German submarines.

Dad was a lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 95. He served as President and 2 terms as 1st vice president. He did many speaking engagements at schools in the area during the days leading up to Remembrance Day.

To speak of my dad is to speak of many things. He was the 10th person hired at what was then the Ontario Hospital School. During his 28 years of service he formed a marching drum and bugle core. They travelled about to many parades and fairs. They were a huge success.

Dad completed the chairs of the Mason and went on to become a member of the Tunis Temple Shriners. Here, he and Harold Smith started the Shriners Face Painters.

He was Citizen of the Year in 1982. He was an active member of the Smiths Falls Curling Club and the Smiths Falls Golf and Country Club.

A man for all seasons.

My father is never far away from me. I honour him in my heart daily.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the families of our loved ones we honour today and thank the Evergreen Committee for placing this plaque in their honour.

Submitted by Kim McKenna

Bill and Dorothy Hudson

The family of Bill and Dorothy Hudson is very pleased to have this memorial stone placed along Evergreen Avenue. As former residents of Smiths Falls and the area, both were well-known in this community. Mr. Hudson was in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War 2 and the family is also pleased that the stone is located in the same area as other Air Force veterans. The family thanks the Evergreen Avenue committee for making this commemoration possible.

Submitted by Chuck Hudson

Roy Wilson

Roy Wilson and his wife Elva arrived in Smiths Falls in 1954 where they raised their children Cathy and Terry. From his start in the car business, Roy moved into real estate. He was interested in all aspects of housing from buying to renting, to building and re-selling properties, as he built up a long-standing relationship with the people of Smiths Falls. Even after they moved to the lake, he would drive into town every day to keep his finger on the pulse of each new development - such was his love for the town. He never wanted to retire because he loved his work and enjoyed helping things come together for other people. Today his family proudly honours Roy in this lovely area of Smiths Falls.

Submitted by Catherine Wilson

Patricia Foulkes

Pat was a mother, a wife, a grandmother and a professional, but in all of these roles she was a mentor and lead by example. She taught us to always respect others, that kindness puts others at ease and could build consensus. Patience is an invaluable trait when dealing with committees, and Pat always demonstrated to others how to listen actively and respond in an encouraging way. She was generous with her time and energy and her legacy is that of giving back to the community in which you live. There is no better way than public service.

Submitted by Melanie Foulkes

Larry Manson

For over forty years, as a resident of the area, Dad saw the importance of contributing his time to the building up of the Community of Smiths Falls. For many years he brought music and fellowship to St Francis de Sales, he helped shape education in our area through his many years of involvement with the public school board, he volunteered with the local Liberal party, he valued and committed his time to the work of REAL, and, most notably, he spearheaded a community Christmas dinner that nourished souls as well as bodies for over three decades. Dad's political, environmental, and social volunteerism is an example and inspiration to many. It is gratifying to see his efforts honoured in such a meaningful way.

Submitted by Melissa Manson-Kuchma

Carolyn Fraser

Carolyn was an active member in the community since she moved here with her family in 1974. She was part of the Girl Guides of Canada for over 30 years, she started out as a Brown Owl, then a Guide Leader and eventually a District Commissioner. Carolyn also was an active member of the congregation at Westminster Presbyterian Church, some of the many roles she took on included Sunday School Teacher, Choir member, Elder and Clerk of Session. Carolyn was the treasurer for the REAL organization and spent many hours volunteering in our schools as a parent and as a grandparent. For all the hours put into these organizations she treasured most the ability to give back to the community, touch the lives of young people and the lifelong friendships she made along the way.

Submitted by Laurie Bedford