

HIS WORSHIP, JUDGE DONALD C. SMITH Tribute, 2018

Donald C. Smith had the distinction of being the youngest appointed magistrate in Canada, at the age of 27 and served on the bench for a period of 47 years. At the time of his retirement in 1985, he was the only provincial judge still serving, who had been appointed before 1941.

He had been a graduate of Queen's University in 1930, and after studying law and receiving his degree at Osgoode Hall, he was called to the bar in 1933. He showed early promise as a young lawyer, and received much publicity, for successfully defending the accused in a challenging case where his client was charged with murdering his housekeeper. When war broke out in Europe, he entered Officers' training and thereafter served with the rank of Captain in the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment arriving in Europe with the 1st Canadian Division, which saw battle in the Italy and Sicily campaigns.

Upon his return, he resumed his position as Magistrate, serving Lanark County. Years later, he held the new designation of Judge of the Provincial Court.

He was well known for his compassion, and it was said that he never lost sight of the fact that he was a servant of the people. He was lauded for "his easy application of common sense to complex issues, resulting in practical solutions." He was described by the legal community as "colourful and well-liked, and never became jaded in his service, handling cases with a Lanark County familiarity without losing sight of the dignity of the law."

During his years in his beloved town of Smiths Falls, he served on the executive of many organizations: he was a lifelong member and President of the Rotary Club. While Chairman of the Parks Board he was also Chairman of the Community Centre Committee which raised funds to build the first Community Centre, which became the home of the Smiths Falls Rideaus hockey team. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Education, and, as Magistrate, he chaired the Police Commission. An avid golfer and curler, he served terms as President of the Smiths Falls Curling Club and the Smiths Falls Golf Club, of which he was an original proponent and long standing member.

Never forgetting the importance of spiritual life, he was a lifelong member of the Trinity United Church, serving in various leadership positions.

His family is pleased and gratified that his life of distinguished community service is being honoured as part of the Evergreen Project.

Submitted by his daughter, Dr. Susan C. Smith

April 29, 2018