

Tribute to Ian Fraser, 2018

Good morning everyone, my name is Laurie Bedford it is an honour to be here today with my family to take part in this commemorative event recognizing such deserving community members including my father Ian Fraser.

Dad was a strong, quiet and humble man. He preferred to roll up his sleeves, work hard and get the job done, no fuss. So he would want me to keep this short.

Dad worked for the Parks Canada over seeing various construction projects along the Rideau Canal. When the head office was moved to Smiths Falls in 1975, my Dad, Mom, sister and I moved here too. They bought a house which at that time was at the edge of town and Dad lived there until he passed away in May of 2017.

I am not sure if Dad was born with a green thumb or if he developed it in his youth through all the hard work helping his parent run "Fraser's Florists" in Mariatown but there was no doubt he had a talent for gardening. Dad was able to put that talent to good use here on this walkway, Evergreen Avenue. He spent hours, planting trees, laying and repairing blocks on the walkway and putting in place the commemorative stones. When he could he brought one of his grandson's along for an extra set of hands and they worked through some of the hottest days to get the job done.

Dad was an active member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was always happiest giving of his time behind the scenes. There very may well still be a stool in the kitchen at Westminster where he sat and helped peel many, many pounds of potatoes for church dinners. He also gave of his time, expertise and passion to oversee building maintenance projects at the church including the repair and repointing of the stone work and bell tower.

Before going to school at MacDonald College Dad trained with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders during WWII for which he was very proud. After retirement he became an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion here in Smiths Falls. He was a member of the colour party and took part in many parades and events. He helped with the annual poppy drive every year taking shifts at various locations around Smiths Falls. The last medal he received from

his legion comrades was the commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge.

Dad was also an active member of the Smiths Falls curling club, a sport that I believe my Mom introduced him to but became a lifelong passion. He curled on many winning teams and gave of his time to help with bonspiels and other events. It became a second home for Dad and even when his body wouldn't let him be on the ice anymore he would be sure to stop by for a visit and lend a hand.

His time spent here at Evergreen Avenue, at the church, at the Legion or at the rink was where he was happiest. He liked the work and he loved the people he shared time with. I am sure Dad is honoured to now have his name on one of these stones on Evergreen Avenue alongside my Mom, knowing that the volunteer hours that they gave back to this community has made it little bit better place than the way they found it. Thank you.