

Ontario
ARENAS
Alumni
"Where old friends meet"

In Memory of

Frank Charles Westoby

Dundas, Ontario

April 3rd 2009 - Dundas, ON

November 15th 1915 - Dundas, ON



WESTOBY, Frank Charles Passed peacefully away at the Dundas Retirement Home on Friday, April 3, 2009 in his 94th year. Predeceased by his loving wife Laureane in 2007. Dearly loved and missed by his daughters Patricia Raynsford (Bob) and Bonnie Barrett-Hamilton (John) and son Gordon (Carolyn). Remembered always by his grandchildren Michael (Wilma), Mark (Nadine), Leisa, Brendan, Amy (Howard), Kevin (Caroline), Jenny, great-grandchildren Billy, Emily, Ashley, Marissa, Tricia, Tracy and his sister-in-law Marjorie Westoby. Predeceased by brothers William and Norman, and his wife Norma. Frank was a proud lifetime resident of the Town of Dundas. He served overseas in WWII in the 102nd Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery and was a 65 year member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 36. He was long serving Director of Recreation in Dundas and a chartered member of the Ontario Arena Association. Frank was a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Friends will be received by the family on Sunday afternoon and evening from 2-4 and 7-9 at the Cattel, Eaton and Chambers Funeral Home, 53 Main Street, Dundas. A celebration of Frank's life will take place on Monday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. at KNOX

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 23 Melville Street, Dundas. Interment Grove Cemetery. In kindness, donations to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 36 or the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family. www.catteleatonandchambers.ca

Westoby was born, raised and educated in Dundas. He passed his entrance exams before reaching his fourteenth birthday. His parents secured a work permit for him In 1929. Frank went out and found employment with a local grocery store. Working seventy hours a week was not uncommon in those days. **His take home pay for one week's work was approximately six dollars.** Frank continued on with his High School studies, and also attended night school for the next two years, while holding down his grocery store job. He followed his father's military footsteps, enlisting in the Canadian Army in 1941. He was assigned to the Army's 102nd Light Anti Aircraft Battery. Westoby was discharged in 1946. Returning to civilian life as a salesman with Hills Bakery, and then with Standard Life Insurance.

While he served as President Royal Canadian Legion Branch 36, he also agreed to accept an appointment to the municipality's Arena Building Committee in 1949. The following year Council appointed Frank to the Dundas Community Centre Board. This latest appointment in 1950, would set the stage for Westoby's entry into the municipal work force. He showed a keen interest in arena facilities. Frank resigned from the Board in 1951, to apply for the vacant Assistant Arena Manager's position. Frank accepted the Board's job offer. September 1st 1951, he set sail on his maiden municipal voyage. His responsibilities amongst a host of other tasks, included operating the concession stand. In early 1953, Arena Manager Art Jerome, tendered his resignation to enter into business. Frank was offered the position March '53, succeeding Jerome. At the urging of Provincial Ministry of Recreation staff in 1955, Dundas Council agreed to include recreation programming as part of Westoby's overall responsibilities. Without hesitation Frank took on the dual role of Director of Recreation and Arena Manager.

Riverside, Ontario was about to open a new arena in 1956. The opportunity got Frank's attention. Electing to follow his instincts, he pursued the Riverside opening. He accepted their offer. Westoby was off to the Windsor area. His immediate duties were to open the new facility and set up the programming. The Riverside experiment was short lived. He tendered his resignation before completing a full year, returning to Dundas. Feeling blessed that he was able to return to the Dundas job, that he had left behind and had not been filled...He spent his entire 28 year municipal career in his home town, except for a brief period in Riverside. The other 23 years in other disciplines. Frank retired at the age of 65, December 1980.

Aside from his busy life and innumerable volunteer commitments, he found the love of his life, Thamesville native Laureane Carther. They met February 1936, while she was employed as a beauty parlor operator in both Toronto and Dundas. They were married four years later, February 23rd 1940 in Dundas. They celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary in 2007. The Westobys leave three children behind, Patricia, Bonnie, Gord, many great and grand children. Laureane in poor health for a number of years passed away December 24th 2007.

Frank and Laureane were good curlers, with the bride holding the upper hand over Frank. They enjoyed bowling and cards. Laureane was always a **"stay at home mom"**, devoted to raising the family and was an exceptional baker. In his youth Frank participated in track & field, and softball. Enjoyed gardening, growing vegetables and flowers. He took great pride in growing their gardening needs from seed. They led a very active and busy life. **Spending a lifetime improving the quality of life in their community.**

Frank would readily admit that his first arena training took place on the job. He also ensured that members of his Arena Committee played an active role, often accompanying Frank to the Ontario Arenas Association meetings. His peers in the Arena Association recognized Frank's commitment and interest. He was elected to the executive as a representative for the Niagara District. Dundas was selected to host the OAA's annual meeting in 1956. In its formative years, Arena meetings were held on Sundays. Hurricane Hazel battered Southern Ontario that weekend. The severe storm prevented President Jimmy

Webb from attending. Past President Bob Crosby seconded Frank to conduct the election of officers. Frank went on to serve the Association for the next sixteen years, holding a number of executive positions, including one term as President. He was the co founder of the first magazine that the OAA produced, along with Gib White. Frank also served as its first Editor. Upon retirement Frank was made a Life Member of the organization.

Westoby played a major role in educating Arena personnel and those entering the field. He wrote "**the facilities section**" in the OAA's Community Arena Programmes manual. Lectured at the first OAA training program at the University of Western Ontario in 1956. The program was moved to University of Guelph after only one year in London. Frank continued to enroll in the courses offered by the OAA at that institution. He lectured at Guelph for a number of years, in what was often referred to as the "Geo Smith Course" (Refrigeration Operators Certificate).

In 1957 Mohawk College approached Westoby to assist in the development of a curriculum for their yet to be announced Arena Management program. College staff were impressed with Frank's background and credentials. Selected to lecture second year students, and part time Recreation Practitioners, who were pursuing the opportunity to upgrade their skills in Arena operations. The College's Advisory Council "**Recreation Programs**" was his next stop. Dedicating fifteen years to Advisory activities, including five years as Chairman. Frank announced in 1981 that he was retiring from the Advisory activities. Mohawk College President presented Frank with "**The Award of Merit**" for his invaluable contributions, professionalism, and years of service. He also participated in a weeklong seminar that he headed up, for the Department of Recreation, at Acadia University. *The Ontario Recreation Ministry regularly sought out Frank's services, to lecture at numerous seminars held throughout the Province.*

Unquestionably, Frank was unselfish. He gave innumerable volunteer hours to a host of local, provincial and national organizations over the years. *A charter member of both the SDMRO and the Ontario Recreation Society.* John Skochyla and Frank were chosen by the OAA to represent their interests at the ORS. *During the formation of ORS, Frank was elected its first Treasurer.* Served as the Welfare Officer for the 102nd Infantry's Unit for 30 years. He produced their newsletter, served as President and Secretary Treasurer. The Infantry Unit celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1995. A founding member Dundas Granite Curling Club. Served a number of terms on the Club's executive. Frank was also a member of the Rotary Club.

Education was on the agenda of newly elected OAA President Bob Crosby, who several years earlier, was appointed to Manage, the newly constructed Kitchener Memorial Auditorium (1951). Crosby a former educator appointed Ebbie Bishop, Manager Guelph Memorial Gardens, to Chair the Association's first "**Training Committee**". Known simply as "The Course Committee". Sometime later it was renamed, "The Education Committee". **Crosby along with Committee members, Tom Dickson (Leamington), Frank Westoby (Dundas), and newly appointed Secretary Manager, Jada Dahmer (Stamford), met for the very first time in Guelph, at Bishop's office.** Agreeing to collectively shoulder the responsibility, for "**developing a course of study**". Crosby in his wisdom had a vision that would address both the immediate and future needs, of arena managers and their staff. Together, they assembled a dedicated core of instructors, with a variety of backgrounds, who brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise, to the classroom. Westoby claims he taught the first "**Basic Refrigeration Course**", at Huron College. He continued to teach the program for the next 14 years. Elected Chairman of the OAA's Professional Development Committee in September 1955. The fledging Ontario Arenas Association, tackled formal training opportunities for Arena Manager's and their staff at their historical Fall Meeting at the N.O. Hipel Farm, in Hespeler. It should be noted, that the late George Hipel and his father enjoyed the opportunity, to host numerous OAA meetings, at their 100-acre estate. The Hipel's built 90 arenas in Ontario.

The first "In Service Training Program" was held in 1956, at Huron College, University of Western Ontario, with 65 in attendance. The program was moved to the Ontario Agriculture College in Guelph, the following year. Bill Mitchell, Department Head, Physical Education Department, became the first liaison at the College. Mitchell appointed Professor Glen Warlow, as the OAA's prime contact, and course development adviser. Several years later, Dr. Norm High replaced Mitchell. It was during Dr. High's term, that a "Three Year Training Program" was introduced. The courses of study were; General Arena Business, Communications and Basic Refrigeration. Upon successfully completing the "3 year certificate program", one would become eligible, to write the "Comprehensive Exam", in the fourth and final year. Then subject to meeting the Province's criteria, were eligible to receive a "Permanent Arena Manager's Certificate", issued by the Department of Education.

With the departure of Dr. High to the University of Waterloo, Professor Warlow was appointed course coordinator. Glen remained in that capacity until 1978. Professor Jim Murray took over from Warlow. Arena Managers were facing rapid changes in responsibilities. Many were beginning to manage other recreational facilities, given more responsibility and losing some autonomy, in the process. It was inevitable, that preparing them to handle their new rolls, would necessitate taking 'training opportunities' to another level. Enhancing the essential Refrigeration component. Following an evaluation meeting, with Professor Warlow, Glen concluded, that the Association needed a face to address their needs. Warlow was confident, that the University had that resource. Dr Jim was the best person to meet the Association's needs. He eventually took over from Glen, to become the new contact and education advisor. According to official OAA records, a grand total of 4807 registrations were recorded, for its programs, during the period 1956 - 1984. The following year it received 290 registrations, exceeding the 5000 mark, in its 30th year.

