

SMITH, Arthur Harcourt Carington (Harky) [UNTD SCOTIAN 1952 U-69200] - (1934 - 2017) Age: 82



SMITH, Colonel (Retired) Arthur Harcourt Carington "Harky" , MMM, SBStJ, CD, D.ScMil
On Monday, April 24, 2017, Harky slipped away while holding hands with Mary Lee, his wife of 55 years. He was also with his son, Christopher and sister, Eve. In addition to Mary Lee (Lovee), he leaves his daughter in-law Wendy, son Christopher (Lydia Bugden), grandchildren Tyler, William, Sydney and Maggie and his sister Eve. He was sadly predeceased by his elder son Gordon in 2015 and also by his parents Lt Col Gordon Carington Smith and Jacqueline (Dumaresq) Smith. He was born in England in 1934 and as the son of a military officer grew up in interesting places in Canada and the United States. At the suggestion of his father, Harky commenced his military career as an officer cadet in 1952 and thus began a relationship with the Department of National Defence that spanned over 60 years. He enjoyed many adventures in the navy and artillery before finding his true calling as an administrative officer in 1974. He particularly enjoyed his time as the Director of Administration of the Royal Military College of Canada from 1983-1986. He proudly and joyfully followed the careers of every single cadet who attended RMC during those years and affectionately referred to them as his babies. His final act in active duty was as Commandant of the Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics and he reveled in the opportunity to be in command. He retired from active duty in 1989 and subsequently joined the public service with DND's Policy Group and served as Chief of Staff until his retirement in 2013. In his spare time Harky served on numerous Boards such as the Ashbury College Foundation, the Canadian Core of Commissionaires, the ICCS Viet Nam Association and as a Warden with Christ Church Cathedral. He and Mary Lee enjoyed their summers with family and friends at their cottage at Chaffey's Lock and numerous trips of a lifetime around the world. Harky was an "outstanding" husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was a trusted confidant and advisor who loved to help people and took great joy in knowing that he was able to make a difference in many lives. We all have wonderful memories of a life well lived to hold in our hearts forever. A ceremony to celebrate Harky's life will be held on May 13, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario. If desired, donations in Harky's memory to the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada or to Christ Church Cathedral are very much appreciated.
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Harky had 2 UNTD summers; '53 and '54. At the end of that second summer he was diagnosed with colour blindness and was told that he couldn't carry on in the Navy. He transferred to the Army, completed basic training at SHILO and in 1955 was Commissioned as a Reg Force 2nd LT Artillery Officer. After a series of domestic and foreign postings he found himself in Viet Nam in 1973 as a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, for which he rec'd the Order of Military Merit (Member) in that same year. From 1983 - 86 he was the Director of Administration at RMC and from 1986 - 1989 was Commandant - Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics - CFB Borden at which time he ret'd from the CF as a COL and entered the Public Service in DND and elsewhere, where he continued on until 2013. In 2010 he rec'd the Public Service Award of Excellence from the Clerk of the Privy Council. In 2013 at his final retirement event, both the MND (Peter MacKay) and the CDS (Tom Lawson) showed up to congratulate him. In 2014 he was back at RMC to receive an Hon D.Mil.Sci. "In honour of more than 60 years of Military Service". The only other honouree at that event was comedian Rick Mercer who rec'd an Hon LLD, which gives credence to the old adage that if you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined.
As a final accolade ... On July 14, 2016, Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk officially stepped into the role of Commander of the Canadian Army (CCA). While the groundwork for a successful military career was laid by his father, LGen Wynnyk said he benefitted from the guidance of Colonel (Retired) Harky Smith, who was the Director of Administration at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) when LGen Wynnyk studied there. "He was just a tremendous mentor and friend," LGen Wynnyk recalled. "In many ways, he was like a second father."
Bill C.