In Memoriam

GEDDES, Robert James (Bob) (1939 - 2015) Age: 76

UNTD YORK 1960 U-1129

ROBERT (BOB) JAMES GEDDES OCT 29, 1939 – NOV 19, 2015 Surrounded by family and peacefully, in his 77th year, Bob passed away on November 19th at the Peterborough Regional Health Center. Although unexpected, Bob was surrounded by love as he bravely fought through his final day in order to give his family the opportunity to say goodbye. Having recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary, Bob is survived by his beloved wife, and best friend Donna (nee Turner) 'his bride'. Winning her heart, he described as 'the best thing I ever did!' Bob loved unconditionally, his 5 children and their chosen partners. He was devoted, generous and full of humour. Honoured to call him Dad, his passing is a profound loss to Scott, Ainsley & Barb, Mark & Johanna, Charlie & Crystal, and Courtney & Mark MacPherson. An adoring Papa, his final years were so enriched by doting on his 7 grandchildren: Sarah & Hailey Geddes, Laughlin, Turner & Maggie MacPherson, and Brooklyn & Madison Geddes. Predeceased by his adoptive parents, James and Margaret (Craxton) Geddes and parents-in-law Donald and Doris Turner. He is survived by his sister Peggy Spratt and her family of Canberra, Australia, cousin Joan Osterland, of Mississauga, and so many other dear friends whom Bob loved as family. Born, raised, and educated in Toronto, he graduated from Trinity College, University of Toronto, in 1962. In addition, he attended Queens University, Osgoode Law School and McMaster School of Business. Throughout university he spent summers in the Navy (UNTD Program) supporting and enriching his interest in the military, travel, and patriotism for Canada. Bob completed his career as a Canadian Citizenship Court Judge. Welcoming new Canadians highlighted the proudest stage of his career, serving his role in defining the Canadian mosaic. He began his work on Bay Street with Wood Gundy and moved to Peterborough in 1968 to teach at Sir Sanford Fleming College, later becoming the Registrar. He was Executive Assistant to the Solicitor General in Ottawa then, Registrar of the Surrogate Court of Ontario. Both a risk taker and entrepreneur, and never boring, Bob's career was punctuated by spectacular adventures including a year of traveling the world on his motorcycle, a fish & chips franchise and an elk farm to name a few. Upon retirement, he continued a lifelong passion for politics at the Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Levels. While a loyal Conservative, he would support and mentor aspiring youth from other parties in whom he saw potential. Proud member of the "Blue Machine Advance Team", Bob never missed a political campaign and was honoured to have traveled with Robert Stanfield, and former Prime Ministers, Joe Clark and Brian Mulroney. He was devoted to his community and valued opportunities to serve with many organizations including The Red Cross, CNIB, Alzheimer's, and CARP. He was also a proud Mason & Shriner. Bob considered himself "Blessed" to be a Canadian, to have lived a full life, loving and being loved, and was grateful for his many opportunities to make this world a little better. To honour his memory and support his legacy of giving back, Bob's family would appreciate if you would smile at your neighbour, lend a helping hand, and show kindness to one another. Friends will be received at ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 99 Brock Street Peterboorugh on Friday, December 11, 2015 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Celebration of Life to follow at 2:00 p.m. Reception St. John's Anglican Church. On line condolences may be made at www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com

The UNTD record shows that Bob had at least one UNTD Summer; 1961 - Micmac Division.
Ed Williams and Bob Geddes reacquainted themselves when they were both Chairs of their respective branches of CARP(Canadian Association of Retired Persons), Ed in St John's and Bob in Peterborough. Shedding more light on Bob's life, is the snippet below from a 2012 article in a Peterborough newspaper;

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"Philanthropy is born of powerful motivators: love of home and family, compassion, and a compelling sense of moral obligation, something Bob Geddes knows all about.

Throughout his career, the former Mason and now Shriner has contributed a portion of his after-tax income to charity.

Geddes, 73, was the founding registrar of Sir Sandford Fleming College. He worked as the executive assistant to Allan Lawrence, solicitor general and minister of consumer and corporate affairs in the ill-fated Joe Clark government. He spent about 15 years as registrar of the Ontario Surrogate Court before serving for five years as a judge in the Canadian Court of Citizenship, a term that ended in 1994.

"I was always expected to give 15%, which I always did," he says. "But it was always anonymous. It was not for tax reasons. It was just charity. That's part of Masonry. I would quite often work through the police, because there were a lot of Masons in the police, and they would say, 'This family needs something,' and it would be very quiet. Nobody would know. The family would just get the money."

For most people, that might be enough. But not for Geddes.

"Life is a bit of a craps game," he says, "and I've been lucky. It's payback time."

He recently established Donna's Garden, a $200,000 family trust fund administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, aimed at helping underprivileged children and their families.

"My bride of almost 50 years, Donna, worked for the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society for about 35 years. She is a saint . . . the kind of person who is always trying to help. Over her career she found out there were certain instances when a child under CAS care might fall through the cracks. She was always dipping into her pocket.

"We have accumulated some wealth," he says, "and we have five children who are on their feet, doing well." Through donations from Geddes and his children, he expects to fund to grow to about $1 million in the coming years. The interest will be used to help local children in the system.

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December 29, 2017