

Donald G. Magee

June 30, 1923 - January 23, 2009



Rotarian: May 13, 1960 - January 23, 2009

Don Magee was a friend to all who knew him - and a dedicated, fine Rotarian for over 48 years. He passed away in his 86th year on Friday, January 23, 2009. Don suffered from health problems for the past few years, but he always came to Rotary when able - with a big smile and friendly greeting.

Don was born in Stettler, Alberta and grew up on the family farm. At age 19 he joined the Royal Canadian Navy then fighting WWII. After his discharge from the Navy, Don spent many years in the Construction industry until his entrepreneurial spirit led him to business success in Bates Equipment (1974) Ltd. He retired in 1988 turning the thriving business over to Neill.

Don was honored at our Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration as a Founder of The Rotary Club of Calgary South (Manchester.) Founders were men who joined the Club in its first ten years and built the Club's Membership, Ideals and Culture in those formative years. Don joined the Club in 1960, served as Treasurer in 1964-1965, Director from 1967-1969 and Club President for the Rotary Year 1974-1975. He also served as a Director of the Rotary Peace Park Association.

As Club President in Rotary's seventieth year, Don eagerly picked up on RI President William R. Robbins' call to "renew the spirit; build better men, dedicated men" to ensure Rotary's real significance in the local Community and place in the Future. His 48 years of Rotary Service were exemplary in dedication and commitment to Rotary.

Don was one who questioned the "male only" initiatives in the Club in the late 1990's, bringing his Statesmanship to bear on the subject, helping to open the door and lay out the Welcome Mat for the many outstanding Women Members who contribute so much to the Club of the 21st Century.

Don was predeceased by his wife Marion (McNeill), a wonderful Rotary Ann/Rotary Partner who passed away October 8, 2007. His Rotary Legacy lives on in Son Neill and Son-in-Law Bob Boyden, our President-Elect. To Don's Family, we extend our deepest condolences and our appreciation for a fine Rotarian who made a difference to his Club and his Community.

Rest in Peace Don.

(Written by Mel Gray)



Presidents Confer - Don Magee with Howard Mallabone