

Earl K. Brownridge

Earl K. Brownridge, the first Canadian president of American Motors Canada and chairman of the Mississauga police commission, was buried Monday.

The 57-year-old Toronto-born executive died Thursday of cancer at Toronto General Hospital.

His distinguished career saw him rise through a 16 year career in the aviation industry to become works manager with the A.V. Roe company of Malton and then vice-president of a subsidiary firm, Orenda Engines Limited. These accomplishments came despite the fact Brownridge quit school at the end of Grade 10.

While at Orenda he obtained a certificate in business administration from the University of Western Ontario. Shortly after he became president of Orenda.

Cancellation of the Arrow aircraft led Brownridge to American Motors Canada as a vice-president and general manager. In 1961 he became that firm's first Canadian-born president.

Resigning to contest the federal Peel riding for the Progressive Conservative Party in 1968, Brownridge lost to Liberal Hyl Chappell.

He then became president of Brewers Warehousing Corporation. He resigned four months after being elevated to the presidency of Formosa Springs Brewery Limited.

Since then he served as vice president of Security Capital Limited. He was a director of Spar Aerospace, American Motors Canada and the Ontario Motor League.

A member of the Mississauga police commission since the town came into being, Earl Brownridge was chairman of the commission when he died.

"He did an excellent job for six years," Mississauga Mayor Chic Murray recalled Monday. "I had great respect for his judgement and devotion to public service."

"Mr. Brownridge was a gentleman who was extremely capable contributed greatly to the community and the police department," regional police chief Douglas Burrow commented.

Brownridge leaves his wife, Lucy; daughters Glenda and Gail and sons Gary, Gordon and Glen.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Lorne Park Road.