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Peel County Biography

SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

By **DON EDWARDS**
Sports Editor

Given the chance to do a radio sportscast in Edmonton about 12 years ago as a last-minute fill-in, Don Chevrier jumped at the opportunity and has steadily climbed the ladder of success ever since.

Born in Toronto, Chevrier spent most of his life in the Edmonton area as he built up the background for his flourishing career. Now he lives in the Forest Glen area of Mississauga with his wife and four children and handles the play-by-play on television for the CBC of CFL games.

Happy with the degree of privacy which he and his family have here, Don Chevrier also appreciates a certain amount of publicity which goes hand-in-hand with his success.

A tall, slim, dark-haired chap, Chevrier seems serenely content with his present situation because he is doing a job that he likes . . . and doing it well.

MOVING DAYS

Born in the St. Clair and Avenue Road district of Toronto 30 years ago, Don moved to the Lakehead district with his mother when quite young. His father died just before he was born.

"We lived around Fort William for four years and then moved to Vancouver for a year," he said. "Then we

went to Edmonton where we settled down."

While attending high school in Edmonton, Don did a little sport reporting for the local newspaper. After the end of one school term, he went to radio station CJCA where he wrote the sportscasts for the station's regular commentator.

When asked to fill in on an emergency basis one day, Chevrier went on the air and carried out the five minute assignment. It went well, better than he had hoped, and the result was a steady broadcasting job for the station that lasted for the next seven years.

RADIO VOICE

It was in Edmonton that Chevrier married and, together with his wife, Donna, started to raise a family. Today they have four children: Malcolm, 13, Timmy, 12, Jeffrey, 4, and, finally, a little girl, Melanie, 13 months.

While in Edmonton, Chevrier became the radio voice of the Edmonton Eskimos for five years before moving to Ottawa to handle the Rough Rider games there for two years.

From there, the Chevriers moved to Montreal where Don handled the radio play-by-play for the Quebec Rifles and the Montreal Beavers of the Continental Football League. In 1965 he also did the home games of the NFL New York Giants for a Montreal radio

station. In 1965 and '66, Chevrier provided the play-by-play coverage of the Grey Cup games for the CBC radio network.

In the spring of last year, Chevrier auditioned for a show in New York and wound up as anchorman for a weekends sports show produced by the American Broadcasting Company. He commuted back and forth while doing that job.

ARGOS AND HOME

The offer to do the play-by-play for the telecasts of a dozen Canadian Football League games for the CBC this year brought Don Chevrier back home again.

He considers that the Argos have one of the best first team lineups in Canada this year and that Wally Gabler is the fourth best quarterback in the country. (Both these remarks were made prior to last Friday evening's league opener against Edmonton).

"They certainly won't end up worse than third and they could well finish second this year," he predicted.

With so much of his time taken up with football and his regular sports broadcasts on radio, this South Peel personality finds little time for golf or curling which are two of his favorite past-times.

His wife, however, is active in a district homeowner's group, with her main interest, naturally enough, on the recreation end of the business.



DON CHEVRIER

Staff Photo.