

Port Credit Yacht Club founder dead at 78

Paul B.O. April 3/98 M.N.
Howard Cousins, a long-time Mississauga resident and a founder of the Port Credit Yacht Club, died Tuesday at the age of 78.

A memorial service will be held at Port Credit First United Church, 151 Lakeshore Rd. W., today (Friday) at 2 p.m.

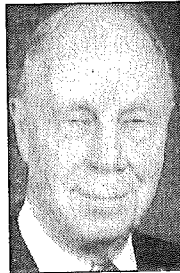
Cousins was just 14, one afternoon in midsummer 1933, when he went with his father to see the famed Nova Scotian Bluenose schooner that was visiting Toronto en route to the Chicago World Exposition.

In the wheelhouse during a sail around the harbor islands, Cousins

was startled as a hand clasped his shoulder. He turned around to meet the gaze of celebrated skipper, Angus J. Walters.

That brief brush with-living history cemented Cousins' fascination with ships and the sea — a passion that would play a part in much of his later life.

In 1936, he helped found the Port Credit Yacht Club, a facility the members built with their own hands at the mouth of the Credit River. He remained a member throughout his life and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1983.



COUSINS

convoy duties in the North Atlantic. "You could say the war took six years out of my life, but on the other

The Second World War intervened in 1939 and Cousins was among the first young men to join the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. His next six years were spent on

hand, the experience taught me much," he later wrote in Selected Memories, a compilation of his naval experiences. "I joined as a boy and came out a man."

Those years included some of the most severe weather conditions ever recorded in the North Atlantic. On watch duty one night he was swept overboard, but miraculously survived.

Cousins met his future wife in Halifax in 1941, and they were married in 1946 after he was honorably discharged from the navy and returned to civilian life in Port Credit.

"I was Howard's souvenir from the war," Eleanor Cousins said.

In 1950, the couple built a house in Port Credit where they raised two sons, Douglas, a Mississauga barrister and solicitor, and Gordon, a Calgary businessman.

For more than 30 years, Cousins worked as a project engineer with the Campbell Soup Company.

Cousins was a life-long member of Port Credit First United Church. As well as being on the executive of the Port Credit Yacht Club, he volunteered with the Sea Scouts, the Boy Scouts and the Power Squadron.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

COUSINS HOWARD

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