

Folksy Kennedy had old-time political touch

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Doug Kennedy, a lifelong Peel resident born into a family tradition of public service that carried him all the way to Queen's Park, has died aged 86.

Kennedy, who was elected to the Provincial Legislature in October 1967, followed in the political footsteps of his father and his uncle. His father was the clerk of the

Township of Toronto and his uncle, Thomas Laird Kennedy, was the long-time Ontario Minister of Agriculture and briefly the Prime Minister of Ontario in 1948-49.

Kennedy was born in a house on the Dundas Highway in Cooksville, but moved to a farm on Second Line East (now named Tomken Rd. after Tom Kennedy) when he was 2.

"I started in a one-room school and when the addition was made to Burnhamthorpe Public School in 1929, I recall I was the first pupil to enter the portals after the Christmas holidays," Kennedy recalled years later.

During their formative years the children were stars, along with their mother Evelyn, in a popular radio

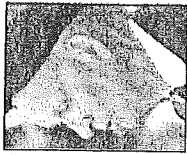
show called *The Kennedy Kids* which was based on everyday occurrences on the farm.

After leaving Port Credit High School, Kennedy graduated in 1939 from the University of Guelph before joining the army where he served as a captain during World War II.

He worked for the federal government for several years helping

returning soldiers get settled back in Canada, before taking his first run at office in 1955. He served eight years on the Toronto Township Board of Education, two as chairman. Then in the "toughest election" of his life, he won a seat on the local hydro commission.

After taking the Tory nomination



KENNEDY

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Kennedy a pioneer

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for Peel South, Kennedy easily held the seat for 18 years before retiring in 1985.

The folksy politician was a grass roots campaigner, known for his common touch with voters.

Among his accomplishments while in office were the approval of the Sheridan Villa home-for-the-aged in Park Royal in 1969, and the purchase of the 67 acres of the Cawthra-Elliott Estate.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen and children Sue Rogers, John Kennedy, Pat Bond and Janet Graham as well as brothers Art, Ted, Dick, Don and Harold, who served for 27 years on city council.

Visitation is today from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at Skinner and Middlebrook, 128 Lakeshore Rd. E. in Port Credit. The funeral is tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 26 Stavebank Rd. N. in Port Credit.