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Activist John Ladell dead at 73

John Ladell, a long-time Mississaugan who was a founder and mainstay of the Save Our Trees and Streams Association (SOTAS), has died of a heart attack.

Ladell, who was born in 1924, died this week at the home of his daughter, Lindsay Dutra, in Milton.

Ladell and his wife, Monica, lived on Tecumseh Park Dr. in Lorne Park for many years and were key players in the environmental movement on a number of fronts. Monica Southey Ladell died two years ago.

John Ladell was born in Bangkok, Siam (now Thailand), and was raised on an agricultural station in Jamaica. He came to Canada in 1946 after serving in the Royal Navy during World War II. The forester spent his first winter in Canada in the Quebec bush doing a timber survey for a pulp and paper company.

After earning a PhD from Oxford in 1961, he returned to Canada to work as a senior research scientist at the Ontario Research Foundation (now ORTECH) in Mississauga in 1971.

It was in the 70s that Ladell helped form and run SOTAS, the first organized effort by residents concerned about the destruction of the local environment because of the rapid pace of development.

He became an environmental consultant after working for several years as a faculty member of the forestry department at the University of Toronto.

A prolific writer, Ladell produced numerous technical papers and articles on colonial and medical history. He and Monica co-authored two farm histories, *Inheritance*, a history of century farms published in 1979, and *A Farm in the Family*, published in 1986. He also researched and published an exhaustive history of land surveying in Ontario.

Ladell is survived by his daughter Lindsay and son Simon of Montreal. A funeral service was held Wednesday in Milton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Royal Botanical Garden.