

Personality Profile Of The Week

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Gordon Lummiss has been associated with the Township of Toronto Clerk's Department for the past 13 years. He began his duties in the township as Deputy Clerk in July, 1953. In May, 1960, he received a promotion and became Clerk of the Township of Toronto.

Born in Belleville, Ontario, Mr. Lummiss chose that city for his first municipal career. He began work with that city in 1948, following his discharge from the Royal Canadian Navy.

Immediately after receiving his matriculation in the Belleville School system, he began work in the Toll Department of Bell Telephone Company of Canada. As Canada was involved in the Second World War, duty called and Mr. Lummiss served 26 months as a wireless operator in the North Atlantic with the Navy.

Following the war he took up an administrative career in Belleville. His Deputy Clerk's position in that city satisfied him for five years. Then he chose the more challenging locality of Toronto Township to further his career. He left Belleville to join the township staff at the same position, desiring the change only because he saw Toronto Township as an area of rapid growth and development.

STAFF OF FOUR

When Mr. Lummiss first joined the township, the Clerk's Department was manned by a staff of four. Today there are 18 full time employees in the department. Not only has he seen a great growth in his own department, but in the township as a whole. The entire township payroll involved only 40 persons in 1953. The present staff numbers 550.

Not only has his staff increased, but the difference in the work-load is staggering. Each year of the township's development has seen increases in the amount of business transacted by the municipality. Most of that business passes through the



Gordon Lummiss

Clerk's Department in one form or another. Fifty years ago, in 1916 the Township of Toronto passed 18 by-laws. Last year the by-laws numbered 575.

Mr. Lummiss believes that the whole system of local government is changing. "The trend in administration," he states, "must change to keep up with the growth of the Township."

MANY ASPECTS

Among his own duties, he acts as the general secretary of council; the returning officer for the municipality; he compiles statistics; works on the capital budget; and some other 90 projects each year. His duties have changed however, since he first gained the responsibility.

With the larger staff employed by his department

now, the clerk finds himself directing others in their jobs much more than in the past. At the same time, his own paper work has been cut down, so that the position of township Clerk has become one of organization rather than clerical.

In his spare time Mr. Lummiss loves to fish, play bridge, and travel. His spare time, however, is limited, as each year the duties of his position become more detailed and complex, requiring more thought and more time.