

You're only as old as you think you are. If one should require proof of this old maxim, a visit with Alexander McDermott should do.

Over 6 feet tall and full of bounce and enthusiasm, Mr. McDermott elaborated on his activities, past and present.

He was born on April 19, 1893 on a farm in Elmvale. His early years were spent at the local public school whereupon after graduation, he attended Peterborough Business College as the nearest high school was in Barrie. At 17, Alexander left home to embark on a banking career which would occupy his energies for the next 50 years. It was during his first 5 years at the bank in Brussels, Ontario, that he met and courted Ellen Fox, who was later to become his wife and mother of his two children.

The year 1921 found Mr. Alexander as manager of the Standard Bank branch at Carlisle; it also found him sitting behind the wheel of a swanky model T with his wife of one year. In the year 1932 he journeyed to Port Credit to assume the position of

manager at the Bank of Commerce. The family was located upstairs in the bank building, and Mr. McDermott recalls with clarity the day the McDonald Boys held up the bank. He stated that at the time he was more irked by having to sprawl down and get his suit dirty than he was scared of the bandits. This episode may have influenced Mr. McDermott to move to 18 Brant Ave. in 1939, where he still resides.

Mr. McDermott's interests were not confined solely to banking. He is a Past Master of the Masonic lodge of which he has been a member for 51 years. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Port Credit since its inception in 1952, and he has been a member of the Port Credit school Board, acting as chairman for a year. As a boy, Alexander was very interested in tennis, but with the passing years, he decided to take up golf at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club. He is very proud of his low score of 86 but he wonders if his old cronies would believe it possible.

Mrs. McDermott not to be outdone by her spouse, joined the Women's Auxiliary of South Peel Hospital in which she plays an active role. She would be ready to rest on his laurels and take things easy. On the contrary, he is at present the director of Thompson Lumber and build-



Alexander McDermott

also rides hard on her two daughters Joan and Mary as well as nine grand children.

One would think that at the bone creaking age of 73, Alexander McDermott

ing materials Limited, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Cookville branch of the Halton and Peel Trust and Savings Bank and for the past three years he has worked in an advisory capacity for the South Peel Hospital.

When asked about the opportunities in banking as a profession, he ventured an unequivocal "wonderful". He went on to say that the most important thing for a young aspiring businessman to remember is to remain true to his principals. Returning to the subject of banking, Mr. McDermott felt that retiring from the bank was one of his hardest decisions to make; he thought that there were very few positions from which one could delve as far into the progressive activities of the community as in banking, and retiring would leave a void in his life.

If one would look at the Port Credit records, he would see that at 73 Mr. McDermott's books balance and the community shows a profit.

# Personality Profile Of The Week

PEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY - McDermott  
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Alexander McDermott