

PEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY

Canada  
Sport

Oct 16  
1968

# SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

By **DON EDWARDS**  
Staff Reporter

**MISSISSAUGA**—Bert Oldershaw is a paddling and water safety enthusiast who, in the summer months, even finds some time to look after his thriving sales and service business in South Peel.

Along with Bill Collins, another well known former resident of Mississauga, Bert Oldershaw founded the Mississauga Canoe Club at the mouth of the Credit River some 10 or 12 years ago. They started from a dilapidated little shack which they called their club house and had a total of eight boys which made up the roster of their club.

Today, the Mississauga Club is the proud holder of the Canadian paddling championship for the third straight year and the club membership is well over the 100 mark.

An active paddler with the old Island Canoe Club for close to 20 years, Oldershaw was a member of the Canadian Olympic team on three occasions.

### Canadian Representative

In the 1948 Olympics at London, England, he was one of the seven paddler team representing this country. He and his partner finished fifth in the 10,000 metre C-2 event. Four years later, at Helsinki, Finland, he was one of 12 paddlers who carried the Canadian Olympic banner. Then, in 1956, Bert Oldershaw took

part in his third Olympics at Melbourne, Australia.

It was in the middle 50's when Bert Oldershaw, his wife, Marcelle, and their young family came to Port Credit. They had a beautiful home built overlooking the lake just outside the western limits of the town of Port Credit.

The Oldershaws' oldest boy, Dean, is one of the top canoe paddlers in the country. He is presently attending university with the aim of majoring in physical education. The younger boys, Scott and Reed, are, naturally, also paddlers with the Mississauga Canoe Club as is their sister, Lee.

Mrs. Oldershaw is a regular club booster and is well known for her connection with the Sweet Adelines choral group which has won honors in various competitions.

### Racing Victories

In his active paddling days, Bert Oldershaw won 15 Canadian Canoe Association championship races, all while paddling with the old Island Canoe Club.

Today, his sons are winning their share of the honors as Mississauga dominates the paddling scene in Canada.

Among the other community activities which Bert Oldershaw has taken part in South Peel are the Red Cross Water Safety program and Mississauga's water safety canoeing program which he first

organized back in 1960. He is also a committee member with the E.M.O.'s welfare and planning branch and a sailing member of the Port Credit Yacht Club.

He is also a member of the Argonaut Club; the Canadian Olympic Association executive committee; the Dominion Day Regatta Association; chairman of the advisory committee of the Ontario Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant; creator and editor of the Canadian Canoe Association's Paddling Yearbook.

### Business Ventures

In the business world, this energetic and ambitious individual started out as a tool maker and purchasing agent with an engineering company and has worked himself up to the point where, three years ago, he started his own business, known as Oldershaw Sales, situated in Port Credit.

His company handled many impressive projects during Canada's Centennial year including the creation and design of a number of displays for the Ontario government and some of the province's leading industries.

Bert Oldershaw is one of the leading advocates of having a regulation paddling championship course constructed on the Credit River. He spearheaded a similar project at the Toronto Island which was successful and has high hopes of accomplishing the same thing here.

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**BERT OLDERSHAW**

Staff Photo.