

Peel
Bury
Bk.

Pallett put in a lot for all of us

N. 21-81 MN



Since losing the 1962 election, former Conservative MP John Pallett has built up what is probably Mississauga's largest legal practice as well as participating in a great variety of community activities.

Looking at John Pallett's curriculum vitae, one wonders how a man can cram so much into 60 years of life.

But the former Conservative MP for Peel and parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister John Diefenbaker learned how quite early. Service to the community is in his blood — his grandfather was a school board trustee for 17 years and his father was reeve of New Toronto as well as a councillor and warden of Peel County.

"Dinner table conversation during my whole early life was focused on political discussions, it was all I knew," says Pallett. "I was a Conservative, though I wouldn't say all the others were, so we had pretty vigorous discussions. But one thing that was instilled in me around the table was the need to serve the community. You must put something back in whether its politics or coaching hockey or something else. But something."

Pallett has put a lot back in. Born in what was the town of Dixie (the Dixie Rd.-Dundas St. area), Pallett graduated from the University of Toronto in 1941 and subsequently served with distinction in the Canadian Army in Europe.

On his return he went into law at Osgood Hall and in 1948 set up practice with his

what are they doing now?

brother on Lakeshore Rd., in Port Credit, where the firm was to remain for the next 32 years. On the death of long-time Tory MP Gordon Graydon in 1954, Pallett was elected to replace him in a byelection, his first time out.

"I was one of the bright young men of the Conservative Party and now I'm one of the bright old men," he says with a satirical spark in his eyes.

Pallett enjoyed his time in Ottawa. In 1957 the Tories, under John Diefenbaker formed the government and in 1959 he was made parliamentary secretary to the minister of trade and commerce and also chief government whip. In 1960 he was made parliamentary secretary to Diefenbaker, a post he held until he was beaten by Liberal Bruce Beer in the 1962 election.

"The happiest thing in my life has been to see Diefenbaker recognized in his true light. He was an outstanding Canadian and a wonderful prime minister, much more so than people gave him credit for."

But it was Diefenbaker who, by cancelling the Avro Arrow project and thereby throwing thousands of people out of work in Peel, sealed Pallett's electoral fate in 1962.

"People say I'm the only man who doesn't blame Diefenbaker for my defeat but cancelling the Arrow was the proper decision for the nation as a whole."

After the election, Pallett once again turned his attention to his law practice, building it into what is now probably the largest law firm in Mississauga. Last year the firm, Pallett, Valo, Barsky, and Hutcheson, moved to spacious new quarters in the Mississauga Executive Centre.

He also turned his attention to an amazing number of community activities. His latest project, as chairman of the Friends of Mississauga Hospital Foundation, is to raise \$1 million so the hospital can buy a CAT three-dimensional x-ray scanner.

"Otherwise I'm busy practising law, I'm active in the Shriners, I play golf, a little curling, a little travelling, and I haven't lost my interest in politics."

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PALETT, John