

Sheridan College founder dead of cancer at 62

NOT FOR CIRCULATION
Red Bldg. Hk.
July 20-83
MN

Sheridan College founding President John M. (Jack) Porter died of cancer at his Mississauga home Saturday, July 9. He was 62.

Porter, who joined Sheridan in April, 1967, left the College in June, 1981 — but not to retire. After a 34-year career in education, he sought a different kind of challenge as president of Omnibus Video Inc. in Toronto, a position he retained until his death.

Porter was the driving force behind Sheridan's growth from 400 students at two campuses to 7,000 full-time students at Ontario's fifth-largest community college.

"He will be remembered by former colleagues at Sheridan and in the college system, to which he made many contributions with his creative and high-energy personal style," said Sheridan board chairman William Hawkins, of Burlington.

"Teacher and educator — those are the two words which come to mind immediately about him," said current Sheridan President Don Shields.

Porter began his career in education teaching secondary school geography and history at North Toronto Collegiate. In 1956, he was appointed head of history and economics at Western Technical Commercial School, and in 1957 became principal of Downsview Collegiate Institute in North York. From 1961 to 1963, he was the first assistant superintendent of secondary schools for the North York Board of Education.

In 1963, Porter was named the first director of the Galt Board of education, and served there



JOHN PORTER

until 1967. He was born in Galt, and completed his own secondary education there.

A list of his activities in education includes chairing the Provincial Committee of Presidents of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, co-chairing the Joint Committee on Cooperation between Universities and Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, and serving on the board of directors of the Ontario Council for Leadership in Education Association. In 1978, he was honored by being named a Fellow of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for his outstanding contribution to education in Ontario. He was also a former member of the board of directors of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (OECA).

Porter is survived by his wife, Grace, daughter Janet (Mrs. W. Gambrell), sons Bruce and David, and grandchildren David and Sarah.