



DR. DONALD F. PUTNAM

# Erindale's Putnam is dead

Dr. Donald F. Putnam, professor emeritus of geography at Mississauga's Erindale College, University of Toronto, died Feb. 23 in Oakville.

He was 74 years of age. Dr. Putnam graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1931 and joined the staff of the University of Toronto the same year as a class assistant in the department of Botany.

He was awarded the Ph. D. in 1935 for a thesis entitled "Comparative Studies in Potato Virus Diseases".

Through work in many parts of Canada for the Federal Department of Agriculture he recognized the importance of climatology, geomorphology and pedology to an understanding of environmental

relationships, so that in 1938 he was invited by Professor Griffith Taylor to become a member of the new University of Toronto department of geography. He served as chairman of the department from 1952 to 1963.

In 1951 Dr. Putnam was invited to become the first president of the Canadian Association of Geographers and two years later was awarded the Coronation Medal in geography by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1969 he was awarded the Massey Medal by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and in the same year the University of Toronto's extension division established the Putnam Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the program for part-time degree students.

Dr. Putnam joined the faculty of Erindale College as one of the original 10 faculty members who, in 1966, undertook the planning and development of the new college.

According to a spokesman for the College, Dr. Putnam, as the oldest and most senior member of the faculty, set a standard of enthusiasm and devotion to the task at hand that left his junior colleagues limp with exhaustion.

"His devotion to the College remained unchanged, and although his health was not good, he continued to visit the college often and was indeed still teaching a course to part-time students in 1976-77," said the spokesman.