

May 21-80
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Bert Smith

Peel Blog
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The full and productive life of Bert Smith ended last week, but his memory will live on for many years in Mississauga.

The 85-year-old Port Credit resident founded The Port Credit Weekly in 1938, the forerunner of this newspaper. But he was much more than a community newspaper publisher.

Bert served as chairman of the Toronto Township Board of Education in 1957 and was largely responsible for the establishment of Red Oaks Public School for the mentally retarded. That was at a time when the needs of the retarded were not as widely known as today and his actions displayed an overwhelming social conscience.

When a child died during the long ambulance ride to Toronto, Bert and his newspaper launched a campaign to raise funds for a hospital to serve the fast-growing communities west of Metro. Bert became one of the Mississauga hospital board's founding members and served for 22 years until 1975.

He was active in the Port Credit Rotary Club, helped found the Credit Valley Lions Club, served on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, was a member of Trinity Anglican Church and active in the Progressive Conservative Party.

Although he sold the paper in 1963, his interest in the growing weekly never waned. Editors and publishers of today's Mississauga Times would receive phone calls from Bert, which invariably helped the managers of a modern community newspaper in a huge city remember their roots.

We join with Bert's family and friends in sorrow over his passing and pride in having known a man who contributed so greatly to the richness of life in his community.