

Harold Edward Townsend [3B26]

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A highly respected citizen and businessman of Shelburne, Harold Edward Townsend passed away March 22, 1992 at the age of 68. He took sick at his winter home and following a week in Ormond Beach Memorial Heart Hospital, Florida, he was airlifted to University Hospital, London, where he died after further heart surgery.

Harold spent his early life on a farm near Gorrie in Howick Township and enlisted at an early age. During the Second World War he saw action in Italy with the First Canadian Assault Troops, attached to the First Canadian Armoured Brigade. He served with the First Division in Holland and Germany and witnessed the German surrender for the area of Culembourg. In later years he enjoyed four pilgrimages on various anniversaries.

After his discharge, Harold married the former Lucy Galbraith on August 17 1946.

In 1948 he purchased his deceased brother's business in Shelburne and was a successful John Deere Farm Equipment dealer in the area for the next 40 years.

Harold was active in many and varied area organizations and activities, including Sunday School and welding at night school. He was instrumental in establishing the first swimming pool in town, and was a founding member of the Dufferin County Historical Society, where he took a great deal of pleasure in reconstructing the old buildings.

Harold also served on the town council and the Shelburne District Hospital Board. He was a past president of the Rotary Club of Shelburne and member of the United Church.

Over the years, he participated in the various work experience programs offered to the students at Dufferin District High School. Several of Harold's employees completed their apprenticeships under his direction. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Handgun Association.

Being an avid boater, Harold earned various certificates from the Guelph Branch of the Canadian Power Squadron. He also taught engine maintenance for this organization.

He is survived by his wife Lucy, his son Larry and wife Wendy of Guelph, his daughter Laurie (Pixie) and her husband Bradley Sills of Whistler, B.C. Harold dearly loved his grandchildren, Rob and Katie Townsend and Nicholas and Patrick Sills.

A service was held on Tuesday, March 24, at the Shelburne branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Robert Stokes at the Gamble Funeral Home on March 25. Clarence Gillis, an employee for 23 years, was Honorary Pallbearer. The pallbearers were Dan Teeter, Larry Matkowski, Alan Little, Bill Bohan, Bruce Bryan and Tom Bolton, all former employees. Interment in Shelburne Cemetery.