

# Mrs. Frost one of many notables outstanding in Lindsay and area

The death Wednesday of Gertrude Frost, wife of former Ontario premier Leslie M. Frost, has again placed Lindsay on the map, and the funeral today will bring the present Premier John Robarts to this town.

Toronto newspapers devoured space Thursday to editorial tributes to the late Mrs. Frost. Typical were The Globe and Mail's comments:

### **LONG PARTNERSHIP**

"The strength a successful politician derives from his wife and helpmeet and companion was singularly exemplified in Gertrude Frost. In her case, because of her wit and her lack of pretention, she was able to give former Ontario premier Leslie Frost a balance, she was able to help him keep his sense of proportion . . . . Mrs. Frost had political knowledge and experience that stretched back further than her husband's — her father, John Carew, held the Lindsay seat for the Conservatives in the provincial house that Mr. Frost himself eventually occupied. That political knowledge and experience, spiced with humanity, worked for her husband throughout the long partnership that was ended yesterday by death."

Many Lindsay residents have personal memories of the former First Lady — some will recall Sept. 18, 1967 when she made her first public speech at the unveiling of the plaque on the Centennial cairn at the Lindsay Central Exhibition. The plaque honored her father, John Carew, and other fair board presidents. Mr. Carew headed the fair board from 1910 to 1923.

Mrs. Frost was introduced by her husband who told those gathered that in all her years of public life, she had never made a speech in public.

"She has made many speeches at home, though," he observed.

Mrs. Frost agreed with him.

### **MANY NOTABLES**

A surprising number of celebrities have lived in Lindsay and area over the years, some born here, others spending a portion of their lives in Victoria County.

There was the controversial and colorful Major General Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia for Canada during the difficult days of the First World War; General Garnet Hughes, son of Sir Sam; Senator George McHugh, one of the pioneer farmers in Ops township; Ernest Thomas Seton, who spent his boyhood on an Ops farm and later became a naturalist with the Manitoba government and published over 40 books on animal lore.

### **EMPIRE BUILDER**

Born in India, Mossom Boyd moved to Bobcaygeon and built a vast lumbering empire; John Campbell of Mariposa gained international fame in the 1800s as a farmer and stockbreeder; Sir William McKenzie of Kirkfield joined with Donald Mann in founding McKenzie, Mann and Co. which developed the Canadian Northern Railway System.

In journalism and the arts, this area can claim Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, son of an LCVI principal, Thomas Kirkconnell, and author of numerous books including a history of

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# **Mrs. Frost**

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Victoria County; J. Blakett Robson, publisher of the Canadian Post; novelist and composer William McDonnell; and George H. Wilson, who with F. W. Wilson founded The Lindsay Daily Post in 1892.