

A-Cobourg - Legal System C07-04)

# Cobourg's new judge drawn to area's history

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By KAY MANN

The provincial court in the Cobourg area has a new part-time judge.

Judge Peter Bradbery Parker, at one time a judge in the sprawling Northwest Territories, has recently moved to Cobourg and will sit in the court on a part-time basis.

The general appearance, cleanliness and history of the Cobourg area, as well as a cottage at Cordova Mines, north of Marmora, helped the judge and his wife Marion in their decision to settle here, he said in an interview.

Judge Parker comes to Cobourg from Toronto where he presided in the provincial court for 10 years, mostly at the old City Hall.

He was born in England and his family later moved to New Jersey, before coming to Canada. He attended boarding school at St. Andrew's College in Aurora before receiving his BA from the University of Toronto. He went on to Osgoode Hall law school and was called to the bar in 1940.



**Judge Parker**

Parker joined the navy in 1941, going on convoy duty between Newfoundland and Northern Ireland. He retired from the navy with a rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He was discharged from the navy in 1946 and went into law practice in Yellowknife, N.W.T. with his brother John, who already was established. His brother later left the practice to become a supreme court judge in the Yukon.

Parker was appointed a judge in the Northwest Territories in 1962 and for a time was the only judge for the area. He said he had to travel to various courts by plane and each week covered an average of 1,000 miles.

The whole court would travel in one plane, he said. This included counsel, probation officer and quite often interpreters. The interpreters were needed because Judge Parker dealt mostly with Inuit people in the outlying districts.

The judge said there was a total of 45,000 people in an area of 1.3 million square miles, and most lived in small communities.

Sometimes the court was held in a regular courtroom, but quite often a school, a Legion hall or a log cabin was used for court, Judge Parker said. If the weather was bad, the plane sometimes served as the courtroom, he added.

Judge Parker met his wife in the north when she was a nurse with an Anglican mission. They were married in 1951.

The couple have two sons and a daughter. The oldest son is an engineer with the Canadian International Development Agency in Ottawa, the other son works in the architectural field. Their daughter is involved in early childhood education.

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