

BRUCE ARNOLD SMITH

It is with infinite sadness that we record here the passing, on December 26th at Hamilton General Hospital, of Bruce Arnold Smith, in his 88th year, after a brief battle with cancer. Bruce was cremated and a memorial service was held at Wellington Square United Church in Burlington on January 6th. As this was the same date as the January T.M.H.S. meeting, out of respect for Bruce and deference to those members wishing to attend the service, the T.M.H.S. meeting was postponed to Saturday, January 13th.

Raised in the Soo, Bruce was a graduate of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law (Victoria College) and also of the Ontario College of Education. During World War II, he served with distinction in Europe with the Second Division Signals. He later worked on air with C.B.C. radio in Toronto, and is perhaps best known for the 23 years during which he hosted the morning radio show "Toast and Jamboree", assisted by newsmen Walter Bowles and sportscaster Ed Fitkin, and later on he hosted an afternoon show for homeward-bound commuters. He was active in a number of organizations and he was the first Honorary Mayor of Black Creek Pioneer Village.

During the course of his radio shows, Bruce often mentioned lake ships and it was only natural that he was one of the founding members of the Toronto Marine Historical Society when it was created in 1968. He carried Membership Card No. 9, and for many years he served as our President. His easy speaking manner and his richly resonant voice made him an excellent chairman of our entertainment meetings. He was a staunch supporter of T.M.H.S. right up until his passing. We shall miss his voice, his smile, the twinkle in his eye and his friendship.

Bruce was predeceased by his parents and three sisters, and by his wife Beth. He is survived by his companion and partner, Betty Barnes, by his four children and by many grandchildren, and to all of those we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ave atque Vale, dear friend.

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Bruce's family suggested that memorial donations to anyone's charity of choice would be appreciated. If we might be so bold as to suggest it, donations in Bruce's name to the Toronto Marine Historical Society (even if not tax deductible) would help us do the work that Bruce so strongly supported. Thank you.

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MARINE NEWS

In our last issue, we reported that the McKeil organization had acquired a major vessel, this being the 1967-built Swedish motorship MENOMINEE, (a) HOLMSUND (97). She had been owned by Great Lakes European Shipping AS., which used her in the import lumber trade to Lake Michigan. When we prepared that report, details of the Canadian registry of the ship had not yet been posted to the Transport Canada website, but are now available. The ship was registered at Hamilton on November 27, 2006, as (c) KATHRYN SPIRIT (C.830871). Her owner is listed as McKeil Ships Limited, which we believe to be yet another new McKeil subsidiary. On the Canadian books her metric dimensions are shown as 143.03 x 20.20 x 11.20 (469.26 x 66.27 x 36.75 in feet), 9261 Gross and 4442 Net. The ship was made ready for Canadian service by Heddle Marine at Hamilton, and she was hurried down the Seaway just before its closure to make sure that she was not trapped in the lakes during the winter. In fact, she was the last commercial vessel to pass down the St. Lawrence canals before they closed. By year-end, she was moored at Sorel-Tracy. It is said that she will be used on the lower St. Lawrence River, likely in the aluminum trade. Not much painting was done on the ship before she sailed, apart from the application of her new name. For those who keep track of such things, her IMO Number is 6717069.

And speaking of McKeil matters, observers will be pleased that two of the company's best-looking tugs, both recently renamed, have been stationed at Toronto to move sugar storage boats during the winter. They are JARRETT M. (formerly ATOMIC) and WYATT M. (ex PROGRESS). Both were built by Russel Bros., in 1945 and 1958, respectively. Not to be confused with this WYATT M., the McKeil tug WYATT McKEIL was sold recently to Heddle Marine Service Inc.