

Thomas, Donald Arthur

Don Thomas Dies in England

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The last family operator of one of Belleville's most familiar and longest-owned family stores has died suddenly in England, where he had retired.

Donald Arthur (Don) Thomas, 61, died Sunday at his home in Caterham, Surrey.

He was long active in Belleville's community affairs and served six terms as a city councillor.

Mr. Thomas was the last member of his family to own the store — which still bears the Thomas name — on Front St., south of the Four Corners. It was opened in the mid-19th

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century on the east bank of the Moira River as a general store, it later was run by his father, Ed, one of the city's most prominent sport organizers.

Mr. Thomas took over the business from his father — and also himself was active in sports.

But, his community participation was wide-ranging. He was a former president of the Kinsmen's Club and also assisted in local theatre productions.

He served overseas as an artilleryman in second world War.

He was first elected alderman in 1949 and served successive one-year terms to the end of 1954 — when he ran unsuccessfully in a three-way race for mayor.

Mr. Thomas sold the family business some years ago and later became night manager at the Queen's Hotel.

Then, two years ago he left Canada and took up residence in England, where he married.

He leaves his wife, Kathleen, a stepdaughter, Frances, and a sister, Mrs. *Anders*

Shapley, Simcoe, Ont.

The funeral will be held in England.



DONALD THOMAS

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