

Prominent lawyer honored



Daisy McCullagh

A studio photograph of Mrs. McCullagh in 1969 when she received her Q.C. Mrs. McCullagh has practised law in Cobourg for 25 years.

Retiring after 25 years



Members of the bench who were honoring Daisy McCullagh, centre, on her retirement from practicing law were left to right; provincial court judge, John Bark, county court judge Robert Carely, retired

county court judge John C.N. Currelly, county court judge Russell Honey, provincial court judge (family division) Ben C. Thompson and retired provincial court judge Ron B. Baxter.

She appreciated the Association having the dinner for her and hoped the new members of the bar enjoyed working in Northumberland County as much as she did.

"I look back at my years in the legal profession with joy," she said.

Lawyer Harvey Brent, a long time friend of Mrs. McCullagh's presented her with a red and turquoise floral table centre. In thanking the Association for the gift, Mrs. McCullagh said in conversation with Mrs. Brent earlier, she had been asked quite casually if she had everything for her home, and she replied that she still needed a red and turquoise table centre, not dreaming Mrs. Brent was trying to find a gift idea.

County Court Judge Robert

Others who paid tribute to Mrs. McCullagh were John Funnell, area legal aid director; Ken Gorman, Northumberland County Sheriff; Bill McCaig, retired local registrar, SCO and Brad Halls and Dave Stewart, Cobourg lawyers.

Clarke said Daisy was a credit to the law society. She was a hard worker, honest conscientious, and gave good service. She exemplified the best in professional legal service to her clients and she will be missed by her associates, he said. This was the largest turnout he has seen, attending an Association dinner, he said.

Head table guests were County Court Judge Robert Carley, retired County Court Judge John Currelly and lawyer James Clarke, president of the Northumberland Law Association, who was chairman for the evening.



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By KAY MANN

Cobourg's lady lawyer, Daisy McCullagh, Q.C. who has retired from the legal profession after 25 years of practice, was honored by members of the Northumberland Law Association at a dinner held at the Cobourg Motor Inn, Monday night.

At an earlier Association meeting it was decided to give Mrs. McCullagh an honorary life membership in the Northumberland Law Association.

Introducing Mrs. McCullagh, Judge J.C.N. Currelly said she was born in Toronto and began her practice with the late Judge J.C.M. German in 1956. She was a rarity, as she was the only lady lawyer in the United Counties, and she practised the courts for many years, he said.

She was always immaculately dressed in court and served her clients well, Currelly said.

Prior to going back to University at age 35 to get her BA and going to

Osgoode Hall, where she was given the coveted gold key, Mrs. McCullagh was a student at North Toronto Collegiate and went into nursing from school. In her first year in nursing school she won the proficiency award.

Daisy McCullagh married Gordon McCullagh in 1935 and became a resident of Cobourg.

They have two daughters, Joan and Anne, and six grandchildren. The oldest grandson is a third year law student.

While she was raising her family, Mrs. McCullagh worked at several jobs in Cobourg, among these were the Cobourg Chamber of Commerce, her husband's insurance agency and with Judge J.C. German as a law research assistant.

After graduating from Osgoode Hall in 1956, Mrs. McCullagh joined the late J.C. German in the practice of law, leaving him in 1960 to go in practice for herself on Division St. In 1963 she bought the McCullagh building on King St. W. and Tom Hart who joined in her practice in 1970 and later became a partner continued as such until 1977 when he moved to Brantford.

The business and building were sold to Paul Macklin and John VanDuzer and is still being carried on at the renovated premises at the same location under the name McCullagh, Macklin, VanDuzer and Halls.

During her 25 years of practices she has always found courtesy from each of these judges and the members of the bar, which she said she appreciated very much.

She misses her practice, she said, but not having to get up early and work late.

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County Court Judge Robert Carley said in 1956 when Mrs. McCullagh graduated there were only two woman lawyers in the class, but in today's classes thirty to forty per cent of the graduates are woman.

"She was not only immaculate in her decorum, but she was always prepared," Judge Russell Honey, said.

"She was a fine counsel, an honorable lawyer and her word could always be trusted. We are fortunate to have had Daisy here," he said.

Retired Judge R.B. Baxter said she was the spark plug for the Northumberland County Law Association with her magnetic personality, and she was always jovial and good natured.

Fifteen years ago Daisy was the president of the association, county court Judge R.B. Baxter said. Provincial court (family division) Judge Ben C. Thompson paid tribute to Daisy as did provincial court judge John Bark, and both expressed wishes for her and her husband, for a long and happy retirement.

"She was the best partner I ever had," Tom Hart, said who was with the firm from 1970 to 1977. Hart, came from Brantford especially for the occasion, and said he missed Cobourg.

Clarke said Daisy was a credit to the law society. She was a hard worker, honest conscientious, and gave good service. She exemplified the best in professional legal service to her clients and she will be missed by her associates, he said. This was the largest turnout he has seen, attending an Association dinner, he said.

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