

Eganville loses a proud and loyal citizen

By Gerald Tracey
Leader Co-Publisher

Eganville lost one of its most loyal citizens on Tuesday, December 24 with the sudden and unexpected death of Ross Charles Stuart.

Mr. Stuart, who had retired as manager of the Brewer's Retail store in Eganville in May, 1983, was 71 years of age.

The son of Charles and Ellen (Lett) Stuart, he grew up on the family farm on the eastern fringe of the village in Wilberforce Township. Shortly after the second world war broke out and at the age of 20, he enlisted in the air force and trained at Camp Ippwash.

Mr. Stuart was united in marriage to Mabel Stitt in St. Thomas' Anglican Church at Rankin on August 14, 1942 and the couple raised two daughters, Sharon (Mrs. Ken Clark) of R.R. 1, Eganville, and Patricia, who resides in Georgetown with her husband, Joseph Hagge and their four children.

He farmed on the family farm in the 1940s and 1950s and in the late 1950s, Mr. Stuart secured a part-time position in the Brewer's Retail store in Egan-

ville. He retired from farming in the spring of 1957 and three years later, on July 1, 1960, he and Mabel opened the *Milky Way Dairy Bar and Coffee Shop* on Hwy. 41-60, across from the Brewer's Retail.

In 1980, Mrs. Stuart was diagnosed as having alzheimers. She remained at home for the next five years, receiving loving care from her husband and family with assistance from a caregiver. Mr. Stuart took an early retirement from his job in May, 1983 to devote more time to his wife. In 1985, she became a resident of Groves Lodge Park in Renfrew where she remains today.

The late Mr. Stuart was active in all aspects of community life. He was a longtime member of Branch 353 of the Royal Canadian Legion and held many positions on the executive over the years, including a term as president in 1960 when the branch built its new hall. At the time of his passing, he was also a member of the executive, serving as Poppy Chairman and chairman of the Leadership and Planning Committee.

"Ross was one person who never said no," remarked branch president Reta Behm. "Whenever I asked him to attend a



Ross Charles Stuart

meeting on our behalf he'd go. No matter what you needed, he was one of the first ones who was willing to look into it and to do anything else he could to help out."

He was also a longtime member of the Eganville Rotary Club, having served 34 years with this organization. In 1987, he was presented with the *Paul Harris Fellowship* award, the highest honor that a Rotarian can receive.

He was active in his church, St. John's Anglican, and throughout his lifetime he served on all committees as well as the parish council.

"He was faithful in attendance and an active participant and leader in the life of the parish," said Rev. George Sinclair, Pastor at St. John's. "Over the years he held just about every position other than pastor. Ross was loyal. He was not afraid to speak his mind at parish council, but if the vote was against him, he would faithfully carry out the will of the council. He will be missed."

An active sportsman, Mr. Stuart enjoyed the outdoors and such sports as hunting and fishing and not so many years ago snowmobiling. He was also an avid curler and still enjoyed the sport.

Despite his busy and active schedule, Mr. Stuart devoted much of his time and energies to the Eganville Centennial Committee. He joined the committee at its first meeting in January, 1988 and remained an active and devoted member up until the time of his death.

The late Mr. Stuart rested at the Laundry Funeral Home. The largely-attended funeral service

was held Saturday, December 24 at 11 a.m. in St. John's. It was presided over by Rev. Sinclair. Also in attendance was Canon Kenneth Cowan, a former pastor at St. John's and longtime family friend. Hymns were sung by a ecumenical choir from the Eganville community.

Pall-bearers were grandson Scott Clark and Damian Stuart Hagge, nephews Eric and David Stuart and Douglas Glover and cousin, Rod Wilcox.

Honorary pall-bearers were Stanley Visutski, Leslie Moor, Gerald Tracey, Harry Lett, Jim Buckwald and Harry Zohr.

An honor guard from Branch 353 formed outside the funeral home and the church. It was comprised of George Seegmiller, Charlie Rosien, John Enright, Welly Wright, Eldon Bates, Ivan Hewitt, Harry Pattinson, Orville Menard and Dan Letters.

Interment was in the church cemetery.

The late Mr. Stuart is also survived by a brother, Herb of Sudbury and sisters, Eva Glover, Dundas and Helen deCosta, Florida, and grandchildren, Kendra Clark and Jenna, Adanna and Brendan Stuart Hagge.

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