

G. Arthur Welsh

Former Sunderland man served in cabinets of three Premiers

G. Arthur Welsh, Ontario cabinet minister in the government of George Drew, T. L. Kennedy and Leslie Frost died from a heart attack early yesterday in Hastings, Barbados. He was 68.

Arthur (Art) Welsh was widely known in Lindsay, Sunderland and district largely because of his keen interest and in matters pertaining to the business, farming and sporting associations with people. He was not large in stature, but he was a veritable dynamo in local circles, especially in the games of baseball and hockey. "Bunny" Welsh as he was nicknamed was one of the key players with the Sunderland ball team in the days when it won championships in a League, which was one of the best in Ontario. He pivoted in the shortstop area and directed many a winning play.

He was fast and effective in hockey and soon acquired the name "Tiger" Welsh, a name he carried with him through his days with the 45th Regiment in Lindsay and across the battlefields of Flanders and Germany.

Mr. Welsh was a fighter pilot in World War One and was decorated by King Albert of the Belgians after he attacked three German planes strafing the King's chateau. He downed two planes and drove the third off.

Premier Leslie Frost hailed Mr. Welsh, when he departed from the cabinet as one of Ontario's most illustrious soldiers.

The late G. Arthur Welsh leaves his wife, the former Ruby Miller who was with him at the time of his death. He also leaves a son Thomas who teaches school in Bancroft and a daughter Mrs. Norman Wilson of Omeme. Mrs. Jack Beall of Lindsay is a relative of the late Col. Welsh.

Mr. Welsh was born in Sunderland and attend the LCI and later the University of Toronto. He played rugby at one time with the Hamilton Tigers.

During the second World War, Mr. Welsh a colonel commanded the 14th Battery. He was invalided home in 1944. A year later he was elected Progressive Conservative member of the legislature for Muskoka-Ontario and was re-elected in 1948 and 1951.

He served as Minister of Travel and Publicity in 1945 and Minister of Planning and Development in 1948. He was provincial secretary and registrar in Leslie Frost's cabinet of 1949.

Mr. Welsh was for three years liquor commissioner for Ontario and at the time of his death was sheriff of Ontario county and local registrar of the Supreme Court. He lived in Whitby.

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