

The Hon. Pauline M. McGibbon

— a most active senior citizen 1980



The Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon

When the British Commonwealth's first lady lieutenant-governor retires from office on September 15, although she will be leaving the centre of the stage, the spotlight will follow her. At 69-years of age, Pauline M. McGibbon, is a most active person full of energy, which has sustained her through her years of outstanding service.

Ontarians are proud of the fact that they were the first province in Canada to have a lady appointed to this office, a native of

Sarnia, Ontario, who even without the honour of being named to high office would have deserved mention as an outstanding Ontarian.

Does she have a philosophy on life to share with others? You get the feeling that her life and her life-style are a living illustration of a credo others could follow. The very fact that at 63-years of age she was invited to assume the office she has carried out so admirably for the past seven years, is indicative of the fact that

Ontario seniors have a lot to offer.

"I think there is a subtle change occurring in the attitude to seniors and we are recognizing the contribution seniors can make," she said.

She believes that everyone has something to give.

"For those people facing retirement they should consider volunteer work. They may not realize that they have something to give. If they bestir themselves and volunteer they can find exactly what they can do. There is a great source of strength in senior citizens," she said. At a time when volunteers are playing a vital role in the delivery of social and support services more will be needed.

How does she manage to retain her vitality? She attributes it to the constitution she inherited from her forebears. Today she can function with six hours of sleep. And she usually has seven days of activities. She is usually up at 6:30 a.m., breakfasting with her husband of 45 years, Donald W. McGibbon, former vice-president and treasurer of Imperial Oil Limited. She breakfasts on half a grapefruit, and always squeezes an orange for her husband, adding frozen orange juice to make up an 8-oz. glass. They either have bacon and eggs, an omelette or poached egg and coffee and then they go their different ways. She has some suggestions for men facing retirement.

"I'm terribly concerned about retiring husbands, who have no hobbies or interests," she said.

Her own husband has a very busy schedule. He is concerned with Victoria College, has corporate commitments and is involved with the Order of St. John, and is vice chairman of the Ontario Arts Council.

"It is important for everyone to have interests."

Her life, of course, has been immensely full since 1974. She feels that her experience as first woman Chancellor of the University of Toronto, and President of the University of Toronto Alumni Association as well as many other offices she has filled, such as national president of the IODE, were excellent training grounds for the office of lieutenant-governor, and the various responsibilities of that office.

She has entertained many dignitaries. The King of the Belgians visited Ontario, and the President of Mexico visited this year. She has received The Queen Mother on two occasions on her visits to Ontario as well as Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, and Princess Alexandra. Although Her Majesty the

Queen has not formally visited Ontario during her term of office, Her Honour has visited The Queen. Usually a visiting monarch entertains the lieutenant-governors of each province at a formal dinner. So that Her Honour attended a dinner on board the Britannia, The Queen's yacht.

We always hear about the choice of wardrobe The Queen has selected when she goes on overseas tours, but what about a lady lieutenant-governor, who must also dress well on royal visits?

"It is much easier for a male lieutenant-governor. He can get by with a few good suits, but a lady cannot appear too frequently in the same outfit," said Mrs. McGibbon.

She has solved her dress problem by having a dress maker design her clothing to suit her style. She believes in very simply designed suits and dresses of soft (no pattern) colours and never wears costume jewelry. Her Honour has some good jewelry, particularly opals, which her husband has given her across the years.

Perhaps it is too soon to ask her exactly what she will be doing on her retirement? She will continue as Chancellor of the University of Guelph and Honourary Colonel of the 25th Toronto Service Battalion, and she has also indicated that she will be involved once more in voluntary work.

Does she feel old?
"It's your attitude of mind that has much to do with how you feel. I've known people who are ancient at 45 years of age, and eighty year olds who are still going strong. One of the peppiest ladies I have met for a long time was an 85-year old resident of Dearness Home in London," she said.

And our petite lieutenant-governor is still herself peppy. Her only exercise, apart from standing and participating in formal meetings, she says, is running up 53-steps to her office in the parliament buildings. She pointed out that she had gained eight pounds since she assumed office.

When she moves from her office in September all of the numerous gifts and personal possessions will go with her. She only has an apartment and wonders if many of the items will have to be stored. She is very positive in her tone of voice as if her stepping down is not something she will regret, as she has served her province well, and has other things planned for the years ahead.

And she is most definitely not ready to retire from living.

Burgessville Institute

Hosting board mee

BURGESSVILLE (C) — Mrs. Ross Johnson was hostess for the March Burgessville Women's Institute meeting.

Mrs. Jack McCready presided for the meeting and opened with greetings to all. The Mary Stewart Collect was sung and the Ode repeated. Mrs. Johnson the secretary gave the minutes of the last meeting also the treasurer's report. We were

reminded of the spring board meeting to be held in Burgessville. A conveners meeting will be held on March 21 at 1:30 p.m. A number of reports were read by the different conveners.

Roll call was responded to by 12 members and one visitor by telling a memory of your early school days. Funds for fun was a penny for each letter of your school and your first by

school. The second part of the program was on family and consumers' affairs. Mrs. Charles Austin read a poem on St. Patrick's Day. Mrs. Charles Kelly read the motto and gave an article "There is always a bonus."

Mrs. Kelly introduced the guest speaker Mrs. Elliott of Woodstock who gave an interesting talk on Child placement in foster homes and sometimes are adopted by other families. The



Rodney SILVERTHORN WAS between the pipes for Norwich.