

HALTON MOURNS QUEEN'S PASSING

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Halton residents are mourning the loss of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen, who sat on Britain's throne for 70 years, died last Thursday (Sept. 8) at the age of 96.

At the Escarpment Tea Room in Milton, which features no shortage of royal memorabilia, owner and tea lady Edwina Doddington discussed the death of Canada's head of state.

"We are sad, and it really hasn't quite hit me yet. May she rest in peace," she said. "She's done a superb job. A lot of women have modelled themselves after her."

Originally from the Midlands region of England, Doddington said there may be some sad faces in the tea room for the next few days,

noting she finds Canadians are more dedicated to the monarchy than a lot of British people.

Queen Elizabeth II visited Canada 22 times during her reign.

Some of her most notable actions during those visits included officially opening the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, opening the Montreal Olympics in 1976 and participating in the patriation of Canada's constitution in 1982.

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said he had the honour of meeting Queen Elizabeth II twice during his time as Speaker of the Ontario legislature.

One meeting took place at 10 Downing Street in London, England while the other occurred at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

"On both occasions she



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The passing of Queen Elizabeth II is being felt by residents across Halton.

came up to me and asked about Canada and Ontario and what was happening. She was very friendly, and I got a chance to chat with her a little bit," said Carr. "It was really one of the

highlights of my career, getting to meet her."

Carr said the thoughts and prayers of the people of Halton are with the royal family.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick

Bonnette noted Queen Elizabeth II gave her life to public service.

"Regardless of whether you consider yourself a royal watcher or not, one must admire and recognize her service and dedication to the people," he said. "I think the world will be mourning with the Royal Family during their time of grief."

Bonnette, who is 67, said he grew up with Elizabeth II as the queen and noted adjusting to her absence will be difficult to get used to.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said that as Britain's longest-reigning monarch, Elizabeth II's loss will be greatly felt around the globe.

"We are grateful for her record-setting length of service to Canada and the world," said Krantz.

Marilyn Serjeantson, former Halton Hills mayor and the first woman on Halton Hills council, pointed out that the Queen contin-

ued working right up to the end, appointing Britain's new prime minister, Liz Truss, on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

"That's absolutely amazing. She's just had an incredible life," said Serjeantson.

"I admire her for all her strengths. She's been through a lot and she's been able to manage it really well. There's hardly anyone who could match her resilience, so when I heard about her death today, I felt really sad."

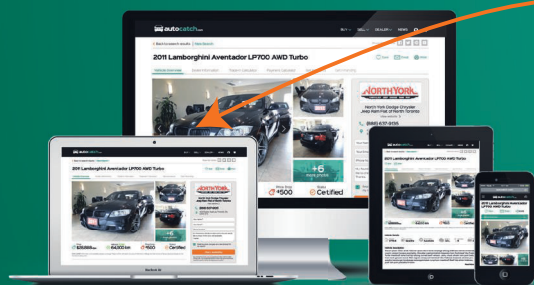
Back at the Escarpment Tea Room, Doddington's sadness over the Queen's death is paired with curiosity about what the future will bring.

With his mother's passing, Prince Charles has become King Charles III.

Doddington said she wonders if there will be a grand coronation or a more low-key affair.

She also has questions around how long his reign will last and what that reign will be like.

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