

# REMEMBERING GEORGE DAY

BY DEBORAH QUAILE  
ROCKWOOD & AREA

The recent passing of George Day on Monday, July 20, has taken one of Rockwood's most interesting and involved citizens.

George was born September 12, 1913 in Eramosa Township, at home on the family farm on 4th Line. His father, Frank Day, emigrated from England at age 18 and first obtained work on a farm in Rockwood at Crewson's Corners. He met his wife while attending church; they married and had four children: Fred, George, Roy and Marion. Frank was Rockwood's Postmaster from 1928-45, and George worked with his father for many years. In 1935, Grace moved to Rockwood and frequently met George both at church and the post office. They were married in 1940.

George enlisted in the spring of 1941. However, at age six, George caught measles, which had given him ear trouble and kept him from active overseas duty during the Second World War. He did work in Ottawa, Toronto and Trenton, usually at air force stations setting up post offices, until he returned home in 1945.

As a veteran, George had

first choice for a job, and when his father left the post office he took over as Postmaster, working from 1945 until his retirement in 1972 at age 59.

George was also organist in Rockwood United Church for 25 years, although he was absent during the war. He served on different boards at the church and acted as an elder.

"He knew everybody, and had a finger in everything one way or another," wife Grace recalled. "He was a great walker and went out for an hour every night, walking down the street and calling people by name."

Certainly, George Day was not one to let grass grow under his feet. He was a Trustee on the County School Board, Secretary Treasurer of the Township, a tax collector for the Township, an early member of the Eramosa Snowmobile Club and a Charter Member of the Rockwood and District Lions Club. As well, he was Treasurer for the Lions for many years.

In 1982 George published *Rockwood* with Don Hilts. Josef Drenters designed the cover for *Rockwood*. The book was "produced to preserve the

heritage of the Village of Rockwood in pictorial form and sketching the history of the early years to the time of its founding." Many local residents have autographed copies in their possession. They worked hard for two years gathering pictures. Don Hilts made copies of photos while George wrote the captions to explain each one. Perhaps George got the writing bug from his father Frank, who, years before, had written *Here and There in Eramosa*, a reference book of the Township.

Throughout retirement, George and Grace enjoyed travelling, with seven trips to Great Britain to keep in touch with relatives, as well as Ireland, Wales, Majorca, and Barbados. George formed the Bridge Club in the village, first organizing classes and teaching over two winters, and then started the Thursday night bridge club at the Rockmosa Community Centre, which later moved to the United Church Hall.

Once a week, George attended the Men's Club in Guelph, during which retired businessmen met Tuesday evenings, and the Rockwood retired men's club, which they called the "Orbit" Club, or "Old Rockwood Boys in Trouble."



GEORGE DAY

The last five years were extremely difficult for George, who suffered from Parkinson's and spent time in both St. Joseph's Hospital and Home.

According to Reverend Lynne Bandy, who delivered George's eulogy, there was only once that she saw George at a loss for words, and that was when they dedicated the United

Church Hall. George apparently had no idea why he was called to the front during the ceremony, until he found the name was to be the "Day Fellowship Hall."

George is survived by his wife Grace, sister Marion (Greer) and his two daughters, Janet and Jean, and their families.

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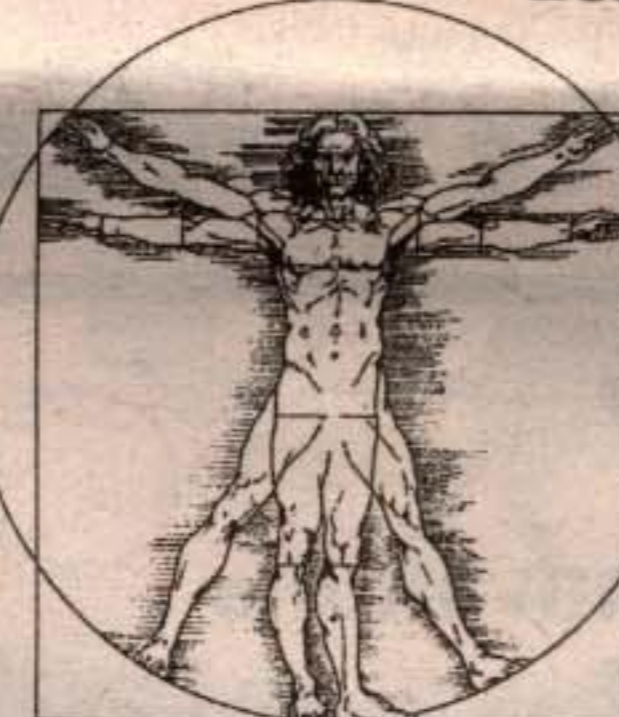
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