

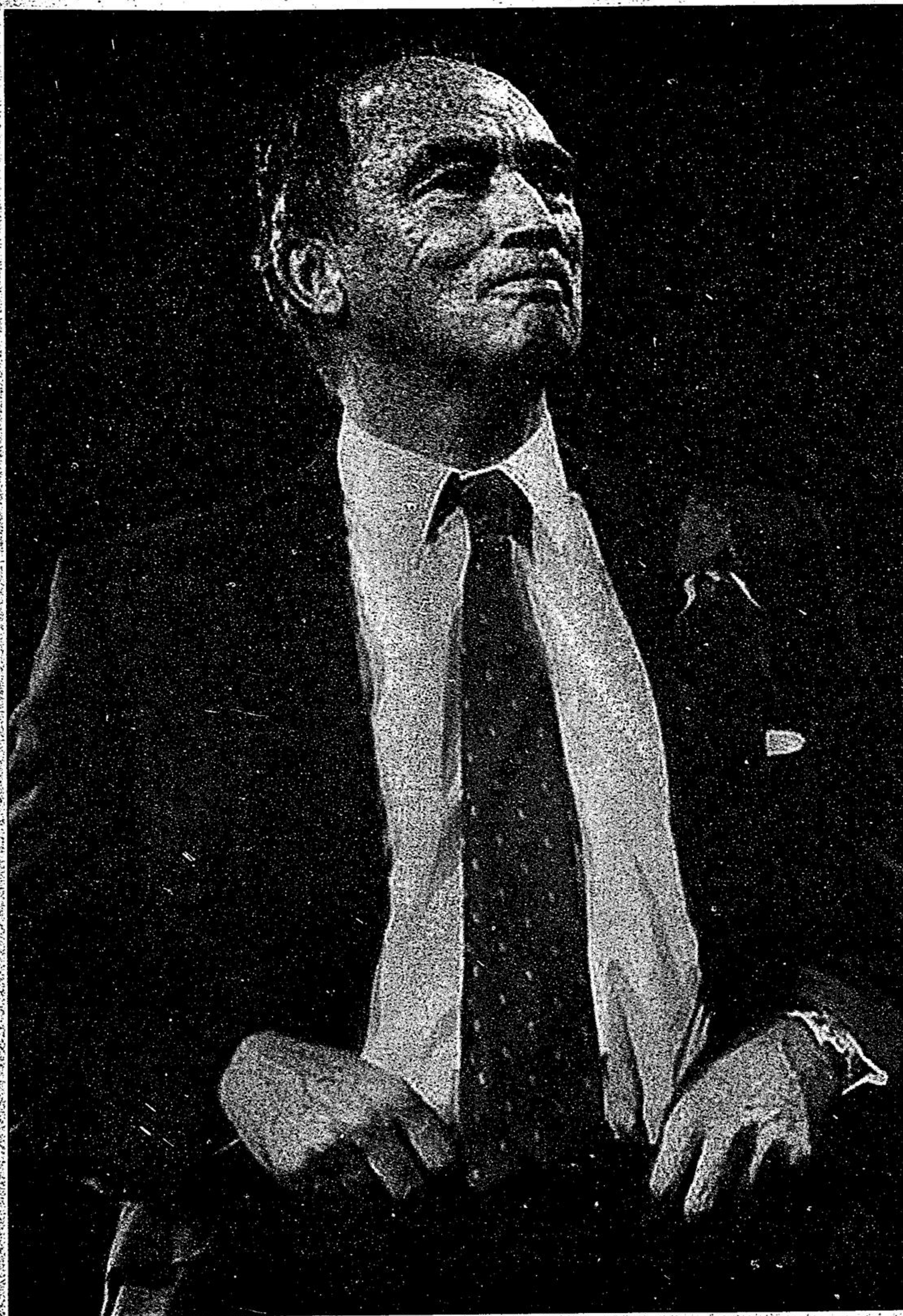
SAYING FAREWELL TO A MAN WHO HAD A TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE ON CANADA AND CANADIANS

TRUDEAU

• 1919-2000 •

He changed Canada. He made Canadians feel as passionately about the country as he did. They may not have agreed with his politics, but they certainly agreed that Pierre Elliott Trudeau had the magnetism, the charisma, the intelligence and the commitment to effect great change.

York Region residents offer their memories and thoughts as we bid farewell to a true Canadian statesman, who died Thursday at the age of 81, after battling prostate cancer.



Remembering a dynamic man

When Luanne Griffin learned that Pierre Elliott Trudeau had died Thursday afternoon, the mother of five grown daughters went to the basement of her Stouffville home and opened a trunk.

Griffin knew exactly what she was looking for — a paper dress, a paper Trudeau dress.

Purchased in 1968 when the country was in the throes of Trudeaumania, the new dress was first worn to a Trudeau rally in downtown Montreal.

"It was such an exciting time," said Griffin. "I loved him. My mother loved him. He was dynamic. He was exciting. I was all caught up in Trudeaumania."

A few years later Griffin and her mother attended the Trudeau visit at the

Fairview Mall in Montreal.

"The prime minister shook my mother's hand and pinched my cheek. I didn't wash for a week," she said.

Paying homage to great man

Suresh Patel, a Markham resident, wrote to us to say he was shocked to learn of the demise of Canada's former prime minister.

"As a Canadian of East Indian heritage, I would like to pay my homage to this great son of Canada," he wrote.

"When I came to this country some 26 years ago, he was prime minister. Since then, he won my admiration because of his great personality and statesmanship.

In 1982, he came to Scarborough to address an election meeting. I went with my family to see him. Due to the large size of the crowd, we had to stand outside to listen to him speak. After his speech, he was passing through the crowd where we were standing. He looked into my eyes and immediately knew that I wanted to shake hands with him, but I was reluctant to extend my hand. He came to me, extended his hand and I shook hands with him. What a great gesture on his part!

Many times he went through great turbulence in his life, but his great courage kept him going. He was a strong man.

"I always compared him to first home minister and deputy prime minister of independent India, the late Sardar Vallabh-bhai Patel, known as the Iron Man of India."

See FITTING, page 4.



(Top left) Pierre Trudeau in his cocky, gunslinger pose, the brash, confident man some described as arrogant.

(Centre) Trudeau, the consummate speech-maker, driving a point home.
(Left) Grieving the death of his son Michel last year, leaning on his son Sacha.

PHOTOS/TORSTAR NETWORK



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