

Lifestories

A celebration of lives well lived
and people well loved
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Realtor loved family, cottage and hockey

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If you're familiar with the name Howard Lee, you might find it difficult to wipe a smile from your face.

The longtime Unionville resident was a kind, caring individual who always kept everyone's best interests at heart.

Born on Oct. 13, 1929, and growing up in East York, now a borough of Toronto, Lee enjoyed a busy life alongside his six siblings Sidney, Ernie, Elmer, Clifford, Irene and Marlene.

After the unexpected death of his father, Lee's mother eventually remarried - adding stepsiblings Roberta and Vic to the mix.

Lee went on to marry his high school sweetheart, Margaret 'Marg' Letisha Fisher, sharing a blissful 63 years of marriage while raising their five children. They have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"My father grew up without many luxuries and learned from a very early age that if you wanted to get ahead in life you would have to be prepared to work hard at times," wrote Lee's son Jim, in his eulogy for his father.

"This was a trait that our father engrained in himself and in our character as we grew up and is one of the biggest gifts he taught us at an early age."

Aside from the strong love he had for his family, Lee kept a special place in his heart for one of Canada's greatest sports - hockey.

Lee played on five Sr. A Championship teams for Canada. After win-

ning the Allen Cup in 1955 with the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen, the team went on to represent Canada in the 1956 Olympics in Cortina, Italy, where they won bronze.

Being a member of the Canadian men's hockey team was one of his proudest moments, wrote Jim.

(The team included goalie Denis Brodeur, whose son Marty has had a 20-year career in the NHL.)

Following his Olympic debut, Lee signed a professional contract with the Cleveland Barons - professional hockey that's just a step below the NHL. That season, the team won the Calder Cup.

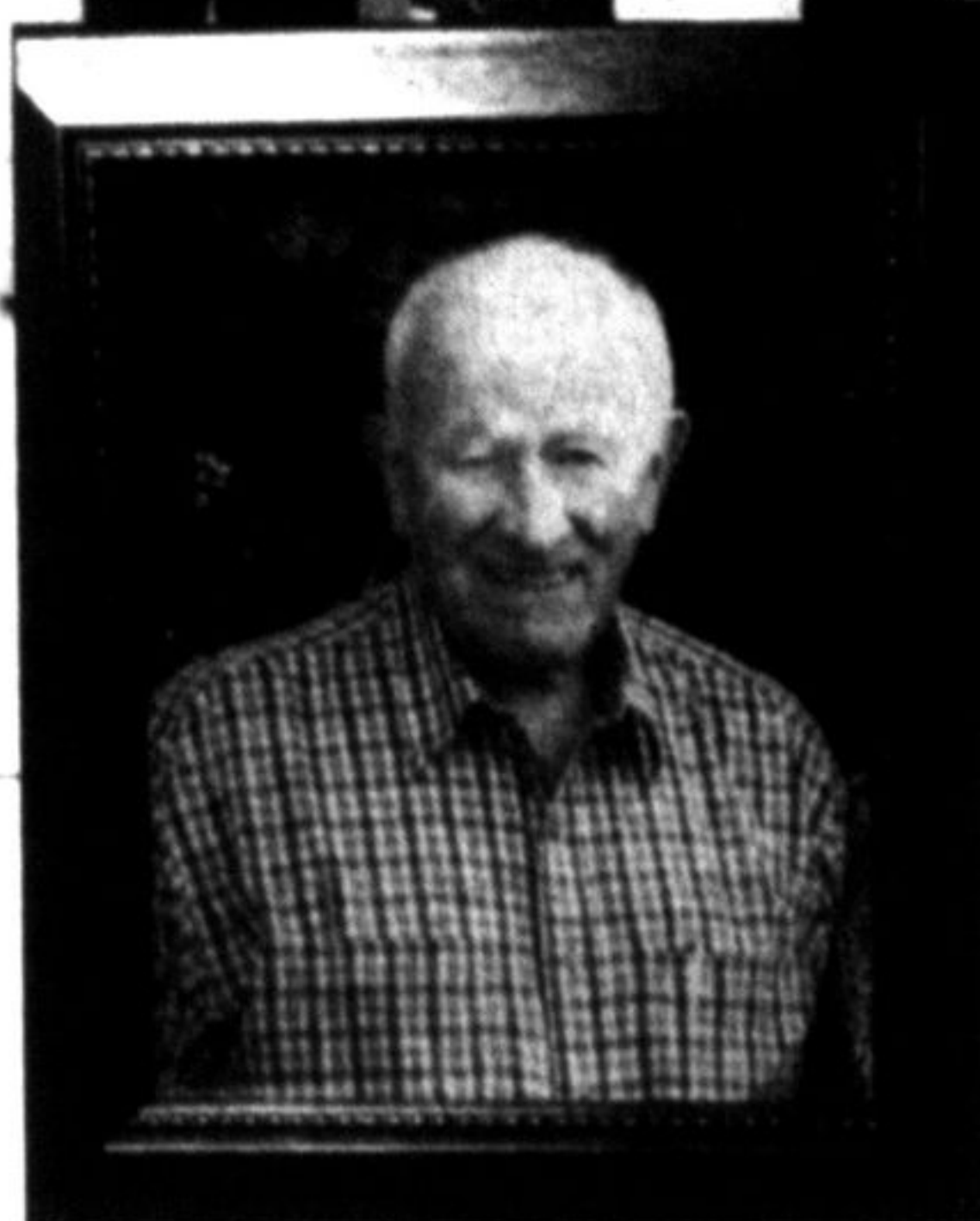
If that wasn't impressive enough, the eager athlete also dabbled in lacrosse, playing for the Hamilton Tigers in 1948 and winning the Mann Cup with brother Elmer at his side.

During that time, Lee worked as a lithographer.

Unfortunately, some time later, an eye injury sustained during a game of hockey resulted in a serious loss of vision. After a year of rehabilitation and working his way back up the ranks to play with the Sr. A Orillia Terriers, Lee chose to hang up the skates - which led him to buy 80 acres of farmland in Unionville which he owned until 1989, when the family moved.

As things began to wind down, Lee became a real estate broker while still finding time to coach in the Unionville Minor Hockey League. The purchase of a cottage in Halliburton became the next great accomplishment, while developing various properties in Ontario and Florida.

In his spare time, Lee also



HOWARD LEE

enjoyed semi-retirement and spending time with his grandchildren, playing hot rum, euchre, 31 and horseshoes.

In his later years, Howard and Marg found comfort in living with their daughter Debbi.

"Our dad was a winner in both the game of life and the game of

hockey," wrote Jim. Surrounded by family, Lee passed away on Nov. 13 at age 85. Services were held at Low & Low Funeral Home in Uxbridge. In recognition of Lee's love for sports, the family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to

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Canadian Tire Jumpstart - a program designed to remove financial barriers so kids across Canada can enjoy recreational sports.

Life stories



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"Adored by children, universally respected and an inspiration to her peers, Mrs. McCluskey was a tireless volunteer, quick to deflect the praise heaped on her."

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