



**Major Donald (Don) Stuart Robertson, OMM, CD
Sept. 29, 1926 – June 14, 2021**

Our dearly loved Don passed away peacefully on June 14, 2021, with family at his side.

Major Donald (Don) Stuart Robertson, OMM, CD was a veteran of two Canadian Peacekeeping Missions, the United Nations Military Observer Group (India/Pakistan) in 1968-69 and, in 1973, as a staff officer with the Canadian Contingent of the International Commission for Control and Supervision (ICCS) of the ceasefire in Vietnam. He also served with NATO forces in West Germany in 1951-52 and again from 1963-66. In 1964 he coordinated the PPCLI 50th Anniversary Celebrations (Europe) and obtained the Freedom of the City of Ypres for the Regiment. He retired in 1975 following service as the Deputy Base Technical Services Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer, 1 Service Battalion, at CFB Calgary.

Born and educated in Victoria, BC, he attended Victoria High School and Victoria College. Earlier, he rose from Scout to King Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster with 2nd Cathedral Troop. Bay Street Armoury was home for many activities and, prior to WW2, he served as "mascot" with the Canadian Scottish Pipe Band for eight years and was the first sergeant-major of the new cadet corps.

At university, he was active on the 'Ubysssey' newspaper 1947-48 and for the next two years ran the Vancouver Sun Campus Bureau. He was later employed as a reporter on the Sun's City Desk. Robertson joined the Seaforth's (1949) after completing the three-year COTC program at UBC. He joined the Regular Army in Nov. 1949, and on graduation from UBC (1950), posted to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Calgary. A qualified parachutist, he served as a platoon, company commander and staff officer in number of locations from Camp Borden, Valcartier, Calgary, Victoria, Edmonton and overseas.

In 1974, Major Robertson was awarded the Order of Military Merit (Officer) by the Governor General for 'outstanding military service.' In 1974, he had the distinction of briefing Admiral-of-the-Fleet, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, at his UK estate, 'Broadlands,' on the accession of his daughter, Lady Patricia Brabourne, as Colonel-in-Chief of the PPCLI. He and his wife accompanied the Mountbatten's on their Canadian tour.

Major Robertson retired from the Canadian Forces in 1975 and pursued a freelance writing career (member of both the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association and Outdoor Writers Association of America) as well as became a newspaper journalist. His articles appeared in BC Outdoors, BC Sports Fishing magazines, Tourism BC publications, as well as several Inflight and travel publications. He is a former 100 Mile House Free Press columnist (10 years) and the short-lived Spectator, plus a stint as editor of the Advocate newspaper until its demise. For two years he was a guest columnist with the Peace Arch News. He recently published, with his grandson's help, a book entitled "A Soldier's Story."

A resident of the Cariboo for 27 years, he was a founding member and publicity director of the Cariboo Cross-Country Ski Marathon, charter secretary of the 108 Mile Lions Club; South Cariboo member of the Regional Highways Commission; President and publicity director of the Cariboo Tourist

Association (15 years). He also served on the provincial Tourism Advisory Council for several years.

He moved, with his wife Yvonne, to South Surrey in 2002 and subsequently to White Rock. (After 62 years of marriage, she passed away in March 2014). The Robertson's have two children, Laird Robertson (Nanaimo) and Sandra Marples (South Surrey) and four grandchildren Trevor Marples, Brodie Marples, Jannel Robertson, Dan Robertson. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion (Crescent Br. 240), PPCLI Regimental Association and Past President of the Surrey Chapter, Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans' Association and served on the PPCLI 100th Anniversary Private Returns Committee (2014).

Don was an avid reader, writer, photographer, and soldier and, in retirement, gardener with a dry wit that disarmed anyone and many a situation. His practical matter-of-fact style and sharp mind combined with humour showed he was a soldier to the end.

He was currently residing with his daughter and son-in-law in Morgan Creek, South Surrey at his time of passing. He will be missed but remains with us, as his 'spirit' lives on in our hearts. God speed, be well, see you in time.