

**In Memory of Donald Reginald Edmondson  
St. Genevieve, PQ**

Passed away February 12th 2009

December 18th 1932 - MONTREAL, PQ

February 12th 2009 - MONTREAL, PQ



**DONALD REGINALD EDMONDSON** - in Montreal at St. Mary's Hospital on February 12, 2009 at the age of seventy-six, beloved husband of Evelyn Edmondson (born Williams). He also leaves to mourn his brother George (Barbara), sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, many nieces and nephews. The family will receive condolence on Sunday February 22, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. followed by a service at 2 p.m. in the Chapel, at the Groupe Yves Légaré inc. (Alfred Dallaire) Funeral Home Complex, 14370 Boul De Pierrefonds, Pierrefonds, QC. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkinson Society of Quebec or WIAH Autism Department would be appreciated.

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The untimely passing of Don Edmondson caught many of his friends by surprise. He was admitted to St Mary's Hospital with a virus, two weeks prior to passing away. Contracted pneumonia, while in the hospital. His immune system was unable to withstand the set back. Evelyn was at his bedside when he died.

The past twelve months were fairly stressful for the Edmondson's... Parkinson's had advanced to another level...selling their home in Pierrefonds PQ, moving into a senior's residence in St. Genevieve, that provided 7/24 medical services...there were a number of signals, that Don's health was slowly deteriorating...

Our heart felt condolences goes out to Evelyn and the entire Edmondson and Williams families..

Christmas arrived a tad early at the Edmondson household in 1932. Northern Telecon Technician George Edmondson's wife Louise (Gannon), gave birth to their second sibling, seven days prior to Christmas. Don, along with his sister and two brothers were all raised and educated in Montréal. He attended Holy Family Elementary School, completing Montreal Catholic Secondary School in 1949.

In November that year, he accepted a job offer, as an assistant bookkeeper at G.V. Price Insurance

Brokers. Moved on to Royal Typewriter, as their Head Bookkeeper in September 1955, before heading into the municipal work force.

A series of events began to unfold, five years prior to entering the municipal recreation kingdom. In 1956, a friend, (Mount Royal's Assistant to the Director of Recreation) approached Edmondson to coach a minor baseball team. He accepted the challenge to lead the Mount Royal Juvenile Baseball entry. Then took over the coaching reins of their Junior team. His organizational and leadership skills, caught the attention of Herb Linder, head of the Mount Royal Recreation Department. They offered Edmondson, the vacant Arena Managers' position. Six years later, Don was promoted to Superintendent of Recreation Facilities. Named Director of Recreation in 1975. The City added Community Support Service to his portfolio in 1985.

His new career began to unfold February 16th 1961... *A memorable one to say the least...* a major ice storm had knocked out the electrical power to his new home, the Mount Royal Arena. He was on the phone that first day, pleading with Hydro Quebec, to get the power back on. The organizers of a major hockey tournament that had just got underway, were understandably beginning to panic. Inside the arena, ice conditions were slowly beginning to deteriorate. Don's body language told it all!! *What next he pondered??* For the record, this was Don's baptismal into the business. Thirty six years later, Don announced to City Council on March 18th 1997, that he would retire May 1st 1997.

Volunteering was a way of life for this young upstart. He spent 15 years as the General Manager of the Mount Royal Jr. B Hockey Club. He also found time to serve as President of the Metropolitan Montreal Hockey League. (Founded in 1954-55, as an outgrowth of the Mount Royal Junior League). In 1969 the league merged with the Provincial Junior League to form the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Held numerous portfolios with the Quebec Ice Hockey Federation. Seriously considered an opportunity, to join the newly formed World Hockey League. Offered a senior position with the Chicago Cougars. After carefully weighing all his options, he elected to remain in municipal recreation. His job and affiliation with a number of organizations and groups was his life.

A bachelor for forty three years...In 1972, a young lady "Evelyn Williams" entered his life. The Edmondson and Williams families both maintained summer homes in the country, at St Columbian. During one of Don's regular weekend visits, he met Evelyn. This particular day, he was delivering building materials to the family home at 6AM. The early morning meeting struck a pleasant chord. Followed by a four year courtship. They exchanged wedding vows, October 16th 1976. They have no children.

Shortly after entering the arena field, Edmondson realized the need to look beyond his community to broaden his knowledge in facility management. He considered several options. Turned his attention to Ontario. Specifically the OAA. Enrolling in the OAA/ORFA programs, offered at the University of Guelph. Acknowledging that the opportunities provided him with new skills, to carry out his duties. Don's background, crunching numbers, blended in extremely well in this discipline. He also enrolled in the Recreation Leadership opportunities at Concordia University.

The OAA/ORFA programs, and annual conferences not only provided training and upgrading, but also allowed him to establish a net work, second to none. Don's volunteer contributions went beyond Mount Royal. He was Jada's Dahmer's unqualified helper, on numerous occasions, during the Annual Training programs at the University of Guelph. Edmondson was elected to the OAA Executive Committee in 1973. He served four terms as a valued Director from 1973 to 1977.

Herbert Williams, a Department Head at Remington Rand and his spouse Iris, raised three daughters. Evelyn the eldest, born June 16th 1945, was educated in Montreal. Completing her secondary school-

ing in 1962. Went on to college for a further two years. She held several teaching positions with the Montreal English School Board. Serving as a teacher with both the English and French Language School Boards. Also worked at Shawinigan Engineering as a Secretary and a Purchasing Agent. Evelyn still teaches school... children with autism disorders

Evelyn was also an active volunteer in the community. A guide at Chateau Ramsey, led Arts & Crafts groups, Thi Chi. at the Public Schools and West island Manor.

Bowling and completing challenging puzzles, along with Alumni activities, took up Don' leisure hours, now that sports are well behind him. When opportunities would lend themselves, Don would reflect on his extremely successful and rewarding career.

At the very outset of the Alumni Gatherings, Ev & Don were regular participants and contributors. Don took on the task of Alumni Historian...nagging health issues, brought things to halt.. they were no longer able to travel and catch up with the gang...Contracting Parkinson's simply changed everything.



The happy couple celebrating their  
**25th Wedding Anniversary**  
October 16th 2001



**Bottom Right:** Don is holding “**The Alumni Founders Committee Recognition Award**”, that was presented by the Founder’s, September 8th 2004, during the 24th Alumni Family Gathering in Brantford..Don was a member of the committee from 1997 - 2003..



Don, at OAA Convention in Montreal '67



Don, Alumni in Wallaceburg October '96



Don, Alumni in Niagara Falls Sept. '93



Ev & Don, Alumni in Hanover June 26 1998



Ev & Don, Alumni in Peterboough June '95



Don, Alumni in Niagara Falls September 16 '93



Evelyn, Alumni in Bracebridge Sept '96



Ev & Don, Alumni in Bracebridge Sept 25th '96