

In Memory of

Cecil Joseph Nobes

Brantford, Ontario

October 17th 2009

**September 2nd 1924 - Marmora Lake
Township**



NOBES, Cecil Joseph Passed away peacefully at the Brantford General Hospital on October 17, 2009, in his 86th year, surrounded by family. Husband of Shirley Nobes and predeceased by Winnifred Nobes (Brooks). Beloved Father of Jim (Janet) of Brantford, Lynda Kelley (Daryl) of Brantford, Greg (Lyn) of Saskatchewan and Daryl of British Columbia, Step-father to Jim Kraft (Delani) of Ottawa, Paul Kraft (Dorothy) of Brantford. Grandfather to Paul (Dawn) of Nova Scotia, Michael (Melissa) of Brantford, Patty of Ottawa, Amanda and Michelle of Brantford, Matthew and Lisa of Saskatchewan and Great-Grandson Logan of Nova Scotia. Predeceased by his Father James and Mother Ethel, brother Doug and sister Barbara and survived by sisters Miriam of Coburg and Betty of Stirling and brother Garry of Madoc. Cecil was actively involved in the community and although he never played sports himself he was able to turn his passion into helping

others participate by managing and designing sports facilities. He oversaw the construction and management of the Brantford Civic Centre and numerous facilities in Saskatchewan. He was a quiet man that never let physical handicaps overcome him.

A special thanks to doctor David Thompson and the nurses of the 4th and 7th floor that made his passing as comfortable as possible. Friends were received at the DENNIS TOLL FUNERAL HOME, 139 Charing Cross Street, Brantford on Wednesday, October 21st from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. and a Memorial Service was held at Marmora Protestant Cemetery on Saturday, October 24 at 2 p.m. Donations to the Diabetes Association in lieu of flowers would be appreciated.

Two brothers spend a life time in the municipal facility forum. Both passed away within weeks of one another. Their regular Sunday morning long distance telephone calls ended abruptly with the passing of Doug Nobes. And now.... Cecil Nobes has passed on...

Cecil Joseph Nobes was born in 1924 on a homestead north of Marmora. He always considered that area to be his home. He contracted polio at the age of four, that left him with a life long disability that caused him many problems.... *but never defeated him....* Doug was an avid outdoorsman.....he enjoyed fishing and hunting.....*Cec dearly loved to join his brother...the handicapped one... simply could not keep up with the pace set by his brother.....Doug often conceded that Cecil was a superior marksman....he handled a rifle with supreme accuracy....*

After completing secondary school, Cec became a welder during World War II, working on experimental aluminum parts for the Lancaster bombers. He returned to Marmora after the war. Found employment at a local limestone mine. When he met and married Winnie Brooks. They raised four siblings; Jim, Lynda, Greg and Daryl. Cec uncovered a draughtsman's position in Belleville. A skill he would later utilize in designing facilities. The move marked the beginning of many journeys the family would endure, as the head of the household pursued a better life style. The siblings enjoyed sharing a litany of humorous and some times challenging stories of their experiences, being uprooted time after time. Winnie passed away in 1979.

The municipal excursion began in 1958 in Colborne. Cecil accepted an offer to fill the vacant Director of Recreation's position. The municipality had a limited facilities inventory. Other than the town hall, it included an outdoor rink, and a ball field. It didn't hamper Nobes enthusiasm....one iota!! He organized a bowling league in nearby Brighton. A hockey league in Grafton. Developed a marching band program that performed throughout Ontario. The Colborne experience marked the beginning of Nobes' 30 year career. He was appointed Director of Recreation and Arena Manager in Ingersoll in 1962, following his close friend Joe Ianneralli from Schumacher, Ontario, who later moved on to fill a similar position in Esquimalt, BC.

Nobes in the meantime, was keeping close tabs on Brantford, less than an hour's drive away. Successfully landing the Arena Manager's position in that city. Assisting with the design, construction and fundraising for the 3000 seat building. The venue attracted many big name artists. Professional hockey training camps. Major Junior A and Senior hockey teams and lacrosse. The Brantford & District Civic Centre officially opened in March 1967. Cecil hired the late Thelma Learn who came over from the Fund Raising Team, to fill the vacant Secretary to the Manager's position. Thelma was elevated to Manage the Centre after Nobes moved on to Markham in 1973, overseeing the new Centennial Centre Complex on McCowan Road. The Markham experience was short lived. The next episode began to unfold in Western Canada. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Recreation was seeking someone with an extensive background in facilities management, to fill the vacant "consultant's position". Following a series of interviews, the position was awarded to Nobes. The family settled in Regina.

Cecil worked very closely with municipal politicians, bureaucrats, and facility managers. His vision to create an independent provincial voice to meet the needs of facility operators... Nobes along with a dedicated team, were credited with forming the Saskatchewan Recreation Facilities Association.

He travelled extensively and regularly throughout the Province. Nobes got to know first hand a majority of the facility staff on a first name basis, in well over 750 communities. Offering guidance and finding solutions to the SRFA needs. Supporting funding for retrofitting facilities and new capital projects. Communities looked to Nobes for advice, at times direction, in their pursuit to develop both short and long range goals. In collaboration with SRFA, developing a province wide staff training program, along the lines of the highly successful program offered by the Ontario Arenas Association. Formulate follow up checks and balances, for a wide and varied range of recreation facilities, from arenas to pools and everything in between.

Cec was a charter member of the Saskatchewan Recreation Facilities Association . A past member of the BC, Alberta and Manitoba Recreation Facilities Association. He also found time to sit on Inter Provincial Recreational Facilities Task Forces. The SRFA honored Cec in 1986 by establishing the “Cec Nobes Award of Excellence”, available to communities for the best design of Recreation Facilities. Failing health forced Cecil into early retirement in 1987.

He found time to serve the Ontario Arenas Association, elected as a Zone Director in 1964, while in Ingersoll, 2nd Vice President in 1967, 1st Vice President in '68 and one term as President in 1969-70. Recipient of ORFA's “Award of Distinction” in November 2007.

Upon retirement Nobes moved further west and settled on Vancouver Island in '87. Electing to return east, re establishing his roots in Brantford. In 1990, he met Shirley. They were married April 3rd 1993.

Cec was beginning to enjoy retirement, when he got a call from a group of his peers that were pursuing the formation of an Alumni. They were wondering if he would be interested? He caught up with Morris Snider, Paul Saxe, Bill Kurelo, Jada Damher and Bud Stanley in Kitchener in 1992, that led to the formation of the Ontario Arenas Alumni in 1992. The six-pack were credited as the Alumni Founders. The six men were afforded a special recognition September 9th 2004 during the 24th Gathering in Brantford for their foresight.

Cec and Shirley were active members of the Alumni Family for several years.... They attended many Alumni Family Gatherings...until health issues began to stand in the way. They still endeavored to catch up with the gang on occasion



L to R: Nobes accepting ORFA's **Award of Distinction** from Earl Gaukel..Shirley Nobes..3rd Gathering, Woodstock.. June 1994.. Robert McQuiggin, Cec & Shirley



Left: 6th Gathering, Brantford.. September 1995
Above: 5th Gathering in Peterborough, June 1995
 Morris Snider & Nobes



Above left: 5th Gathering in Peterborough, June 1995.. two brothers..**Above:** 2nd Gathering in Niagara Falls September 1993..**Below Left:** 8th Gathering Bracebridge September 1996...Ebbie Bishop, Cec and Paul Saxe..**Below Right:** 3rd Gathering..Woodstock June 1994..(gals pic taken separately)

