

GEORGE MURPHY

George was born in Quinnsville, Quebec in 1923 and joined the Army in 1942 (one of three Murphy brothers to join the army). His basic training took place in Peterborough, followed by advanced training in Camp Borden.

In November, 1943 George was sent overseas as part of the Service Corps where he was stationed at Hull, England prior to taking part in the invasion of Normandy. As the time for the invasion approached, "We were busy getting our trucks waterproofed; we were told that our lives depended on the way we prepared our trucks." George left England on D-Day and spend a day or more on the English Channel prior to landing on Juno Beach. Ironically, because of some mix-up, George was ordered to drive a completely different truck off the barge, a make that he had never driven before. However, even though the sea water came all the way up to the steering wheel, "The driver who was supposed to drive this truck must have done a good job waterproofing because I made it to shore."



With heavy, almost continuous rain during the days before and after the D-Day landings, sleeping in trenches was very miserable. "We would park our trucks over the trenches for protection from the rain which wasn't very smart with two tons of ammunition in the truck on top of you". As part of the first wave of the invasion and part of the liberation of Belgium and Holland, George has memories of both the horrors and the positive aspects of the drive to victory in Europe. In particular, he remembers the welcome of the Dutch people and their hospitality towards Canadian soldiers. Another fond memory is of his brief meeting with his brothers in the Reichswald Forest in Germany at the end of the war in Europe.



George volunteered to take part in the Canadian forces being prepared for duty in the Pacific. However, victory over Japan occurred so soon and abruptly that George did not see action on that front.

1948 marks a major turning point in George's life. He joined International Nickel (Creighton Mines) as a driller, rising up the ladder to eventually become Mine Captain. And, in November, 1948 he married Heather Beardsell, eventually becoming the father of nine children and grandfather of seven. After retiring from INCO in 1976, George and his family moved to Richmond where he carried on his association with the Legion. George has been President of the Branch # 625, is a past president of the Branch's Club 55, and has been chairperson of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Policing. In recognition of

his service to the Legion and to the broader community, George has been made a Life Member of the Legion.

Obituary George Bernard Murphy December 2020

George was born in a log house in Gatineau Pointe, Quebec on March 23, 1923. On December 16, 2020 at Ryan. Great-grandpa to Aiden, Oliver, Madeline, Nicholas, Ray, Seamus, Riley, Tia, and Lucas. He is survived by sisters in law Wanda Willard, Jewell Lawrence and Claire McGillvray. George is pre-deceased By his parents Peter and Lucy, and many of his and Heather's extended family.

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George was a veteran of WW II, especially proud of his overseas service and his contribution to the Juno Beach landing and the liberation of the Netherlands.

1948 marked a major turning point in his life. He moved to Creighton Mine, Ontario and joined International Nickel as a driller, rising up the ladder to become Mine Captain. In November, 1948 he married Heather Beardsell at St. Michaels Church and together they settled in Creighton Mine and then Lively, Ontario. He retired from

INCO in 1976. He was a founding, and active member of the Creighton-Lively Elks Lodge. He remembered his time, colleagues and friends in Creighton and Lively often and fondly.

Upon his retirement the family moved to Richmond, Ontario where he was never idle. He took his age in stride, enjoyed family and community activities and volunteered in many organizations (Royal Canadian Legion Branch #625, St. Philips Church, Club 55, Neighborhood Watch, and Community Policing), enhancing the community and providing assistance to others on a regular basis. He served with the Knights of Columbus and was instrumental in building the Richmond Legion Branch #625 where he continued to volunteer into his 90's. In honour of his service to the Legion and his community he received a Legion lifetime membership, and the highest legion honour, the Palm Leaf award. In 1999 he was recognized by the township of Goulbourn with a "senior of the year award".



George was the center of every family gathering-and is well remembered by his family and friends for his hard work, good nature, sense of humour, curious mind, playing euchre, playing darts, telling stories, joke Playing, and rug hooking!

He was most happy when surrounded by family and friends or in his workshop repairing, building or working on his latest project. He enjoyed repairing everything, pulling something apart, fixing it and putting it back together - for the most part successfully. He could tinker for hours on his car, his 1964 red GMC truck or his 1929 Model A Ford.

George volunteered at Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre (PRVHC) over the years, and it was where he requested to spend his time if he was in need of long term care. The staff and volunteers at the PRVHC became George's extended family as he battled dementia over the past 3 years. Given COVID restrictions family was often unable to visit George and were fortunate to provide him with a caregiver. We recognize and thank Anne Moylan for her care, support, and dedication to George during this time. Gatineau 2 North - your send off to dad was meaningful to us - you are simply the best.