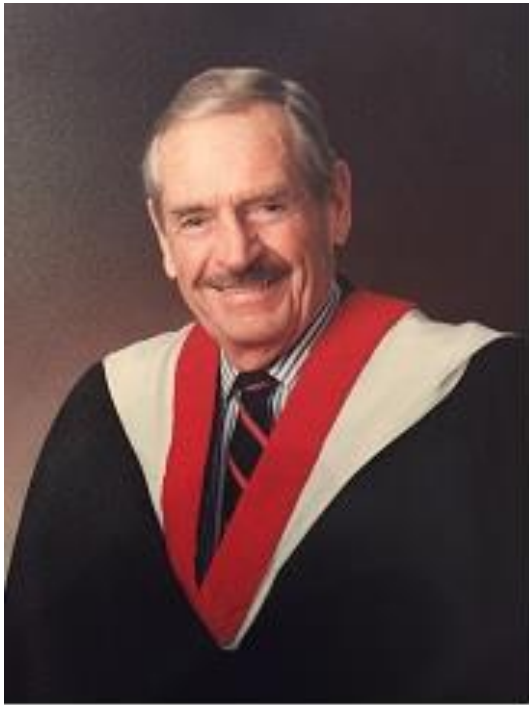


Donald Ross Cleveland (age 93)

February 16, 1923 – March 18, 2016

Soldier, Businessman, Entrepreneur, Mentor, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Friend, & Distinguished Gentleman



Don died in the Dartmouth General Hospital after a brief illness. Born in Montreal, he was the son of Dr. Henry Ross Cleveland (DDS) and Mabel Jane Cleveland (nee Phelan). Don is survived by his loving and supportive wife Janet Marie Kaiser, predeceased by his brother John and first wife Frances, and survived by his daughters Frances Jane Seager (Gary) and Barbara Jo-Anne Dennis (Ron); his grandchildren Todd Seager, Jennifer Seager and James Dennis; his great-grandchildren Lila Bickford-Seager, Jake Swann, Julia Swann and T.G. Seager; his step children Jacqueline Neil (Gordon), Allison Nobes (Brendan) and Colin Kaiser (Leia); and his step grandchildren James Nobes and Eliza Nobes.

Don attended Westmount High School, joined the Royal Canadian Engineers as a boy in 1938, graduated from the Royal Military College in 1942 where he was noted particularly for his dapper appearance and devotion to academics. On leaving RMC, he served six months in England with the Royal Navy and then the remainder of WWII with the Canadian Army in Italy and Northwest Europe. On returning to Canada in 1945, he transferred to the part time militia, retiring in 1954 as a major. In 1996, RMC awarded Don an honorary degree in Military Science.

After obtaining an MBA from Harvard University in 1947, Don launched his business and entrepreneurial careers; working initially as executive assistant to the Presidents of Domtar 1947-50 and Ford Canada 1950-52. He was then president or managing director of Fleet Aircraft 1952-55, Greenbelt Development 1955-57, Atlantic Veneers 1958-60, Richardson Construction 1954-60, Marine Service & Contracting 1954-60, Newfoundland Transportation & Transit 1954-58, Great West Saddlery 1960-70 and Bouygues Offshore Canada 1986-88. He was president of his own consulting firms Professional Directors Inc 1968-2007 and Don Cleveland Associates 2007-2016.

Using his vast business experience, Don worked for investors as a Turnaround Consultant (1988 -2012) to rescue companies in trouble. On a number of occasions, he provided his services for free and sometimes invested his own money in his efforts to save a company.

Keenly supportive of education, Don lectured on business administration at universities and colleges in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was a governor at the University College of Cape Breton 2001–06.

His latest, and unfinished project, was a venture with the Province of Nova Scotia to set up a volunteer mentorship program to help new businesses succeed.

Don was a long-time member of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, and he particularly enjoyed his membership in the Halifax Club and the Nova Scotia Branch of the Royal Military Colleges Club of Canada.

At Don's request he was cremated and there was no funeral service. Don's ashes were buried at sea off the entrance to Halifax Harbour on May 31, 2017. Donations can be made in Don's memory to Autism Canada.