



Desmond John Francis Holmes

May 3, 2023

Feb. 13, 1934 – May 3, 2023

With great sadness we announce the passing of Desmond, following a short stay at the William Osler Health Centre in palliative care, and a long struggle with Alzheimer's.

He is greatly missed by his loving wife of 63 years, Linda (Baker) Holmes, his son Patrick and spouse Allison, his son Trevor and spouse Renee, and grandchildren Katie, Ben, Reese, Kasey, Neve, and Rayne.

Des was born in Malta to Surgeon Captain John Gerrard Holmes of the Royal Navy and his wife, Edith Allerina (Symons) Holmes. The family moved back to England when he was a year old. Due to growing up during the Second World War, he was sent to boarding school in the countryside: Great Ballard in Gloucestershire and Sherborne in Dorset, where he excelled in sports, particularly cricket.

Upon completion of school, Des was called into National Service where he served in the navy. The highlight of his two-year tenure as a midshipman was undoubtedly his voyage on the HMS Perseus, a reconfigured aircraft carrier, ferrying troops to Korea through the Suez Canal.

During a brief stint in the RAF, stationed in Winnipeg, Des developed an interest in Canada and emigrated in 1957, landing in Toronto. He was initially employed at A. E. Ames & Co. investment dealers, then joined Underwood-Olivetti via a sales training course. He was subsequently recruited by Dictaphone Corp. where he enjoyed a successful career in sales and sales

management.

A firm believer in a strong family life, Desmond enjoyed participating in his two young sons' sporting activities, as a coach for youth soccer and manager for hockey teams. He also served as president of the Martingrove Hockey Association. He enjoyed organizing family vacations, whether to a cottage in Musoka, a horse ranch in the interior of British Columbia or along the coast of California.

We will remember Des for his delightful sense of humour and fun. He loved a good party, and his good manners and interest in others stayed with him to the end.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at the Richview Residence, Kipling Acres, Etobicoke Support for Seniors and Etobicoke General Hospital for their care and compassion.

A celebration of life service is forthcoming.