

Rev. Dr. Donald Smith

July 19, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Donald C. Smith died peacefully on July 19, 2023 age 95. Beloved husband of Margaret (nee Finlayson), his wife of 65 years, and loving father of Fiona (Tom), Sheila, Neil (Jackie) and Laura (John). Dear grandpa of Owen, Delaney, Neve, Sheridan and Mackenna. Predeceased by his brother Russell. He was born in Toronto on May 26, 1928 to Douglas Robert Smith and Laura Jeannie Cantlay and was educated at Rawlinson Public School and Vaughan Road Collegiate. While in high school he joined the CCF and was a life long New Democrat. His family were members of Oakwood Presbyterian Church and as a young man Don was active in the Presbyterian Young People's Society (PYPS) and he and Margaret spent many summers with friends at Glen Mhor Camp in Muskoka. He was a graduate of McMaster University, Knox College (U of T) and received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1964 and served the congregations of Knox Church, Port Alberni, B.C. and St. John's Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta where he and Margaret made many life long friends. In 1976 he returned to Toronto as Director of Field Education and Professor of Church and Ministry at Knox College. He was active in many denominational and ecumenical bodies including the Toronto School of Theology and the World Council of Churches. Throughout his life he was passionately committed to social, economic and political justice and supported numerous progressive organizations and agencies. He believed in ministry as social justice and in a new society - one of caring and compassion, of sharing

and sacrifice, of social solidarity, of community. Don and Margaret were active members of Union Church, Halton Hills and lived more than 30 years in Georgetown. He retired in 1996 and enjoyed time with family and friends, reading, writing and traveling. His kind, caring and compassionate nature will be sorely missed. A private service will be held.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Dear Mrs Smith and Family. I am sorry for the delay in making this post as I only read of Dr Don’s passing a short while ago. I have many memories of Alan and Don’s long discussions on Presbyterianism in Canada around the dining room table at the manse in Cambridge. I particularly looked forward to the times when Don would provide pulpit supply for my father during occasions when he needed to be away from his congregation tending to other matters. Don’s style, sermon topics and deep insight were much appreciated during the years I attended my father’s church in my youth. I had the opportunity to attend, with them both, the 40th and 50th anniversaries of their convocation from Knox College in 1959. To listen to the many stories of these aging men, from a time in their lives when they were younger was extremely entertaining. Don would always give a passionate speech about the class of 1959 and their many reunions over the years. Sadly, Don was’t able to join us for the 60th anniversary in 2019. I know my dad looked forward to his weekly Wednesday phone call with Don after my mothers’ passing in 2020. Know that you are all in my thoughts at a time that I know to be of difficult one of transition. Peace and comfort.

Jim Beaton - September 21, 2023 at 04:06 PM

JB

“ Dear Margaret and Family - sorry for the delay in getting this note posted as I only recently learned of "Dr. Don's" passing. I have many memories of our father's lengthy discussions on Presbyterianism in Canada while sharing a meal at the manse in Cambridge. I especially enjoyed the times your dad would provide pulpit supply for my father when he had to be away from his congregation attending to other matters. Don's gentle thought provoking and insightful sermons were a welcome change during the years I attended my father's church. I was fortunate enough, to attend with them, the 40th and 50th anniversaries of their convocation from Knox College in 1959. To listen to the stories, during a time in their lives before I was born was very entertaining. Don would always give a passionate speech, during dinner, about the 1959 class and their many reunions over the years. Sadly, Don was not able to join us for the 60th anniversary in 2019. I know my dad really looked forward to his weekly call on Wednesdays with Don after my mother's passing in 2020. Please know that you are all in my thoughts during this time of what I know to be a difficult transition. Peace, Jim Beaton

Jim Beaton - September 21, 2023 at 01:10 PM

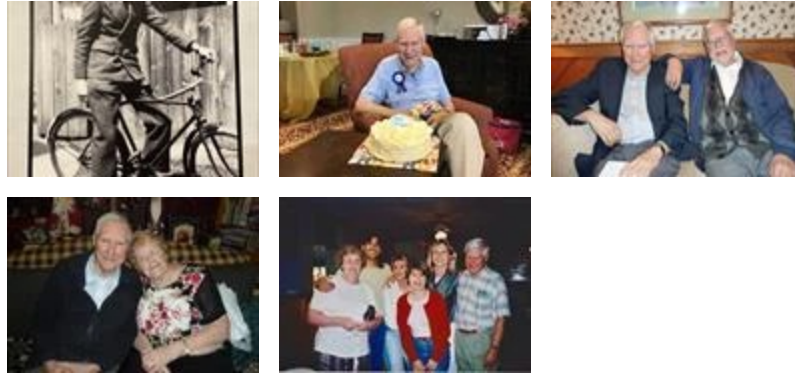
LR

“ Thinking especially of Fiona, Tom, Owen, and Neve who I knew for many years through St. Andrew's Church, Toronto. May you and all of your family know that extraordinary peace of Christ which passes all understanding. I'm glad I had a chance to meet your Dad, Fiona. Blessings, Lori Ransom

Lori Ransom - August 04, 2023 at 10:32 AM

LS

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Smith - July 31, 2023 at 12:01 AM

AB

“ Dear Margaret -- You and Don I knew as I was Russell's best friend at school, university, our weddings and in similar careers. i lost contact with Russ in his depression after Doreen's death. I offer condolences, The families will have treasured memories of both brothers. Love, Arn Bailey arnbailey@rogers.com

Arn Bailey - July 30, 2023 at 02:00 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Smith - July 30, 2023 at 10:57 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

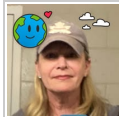


Laura Smith - July 30, 2023 at 10:53 AM

BA

“ I first met Don Smith in 1970 while on my first summer field from EC in the Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod. I had the opportunity to work at a VBS in Medicine Hat where Don was the minister at St. John's. Don was very kind, caring and supportive to me , a young student. He also offered wise counsel on a variety of situations I faced during the summer. He and Marg, along with their 4 lovely young children, welcomed me into their home. My condolences to Margaret and the members of the family.

Brenda (Moncrieff) Adamson - July 29, 2023 at 03:06 PM



Thank you Brenda, I'm so going to miss my Dad ❤️ Sheila

Sheila Smith - July 30, 2023 at 11:29 AM

AF

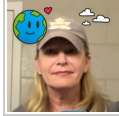
“ Don Smith was fine teacher and mentor to a generation of theological students at Knox College. I'm not the only one who'll remember the "controlled chaos" of his study, the books, files, and stray papers piled high upon his desk, the floor, and various chairs. Yet he could always put his hand on whatever he was looking for.

Andrew Fullerton - July 28, 2023 at 02:10 PM

SS

Thank you! Yes this was my Dad ❤️

Sheila Smith - July 30, 2023 at 11:12 AM



Thank you! Yes that was my Dad and I'm exactly like him ❤️

Sheila Smith - July 30, 2023 at 11:14 AM

AF

“ I knew Don Smith at Knox College. He was a fine teacher and mentor to many theological students. I'm not the only one who'll remember the "controlled chaos" of his study, the books, files, and stray paper piled high upon his desk, the floor, and various chairs. Yet he could always put his hand on just what he was looking for.

Andrew Fullerton

Andrew Fullerton - July 28, 2023 at 01:25 PM

TR

“ While the word mentor wasn't used, that is what Don and Charlie Scott were to me when as a very new graduate I was called as the assistant minister to Grace Church, Calgary in 1971. As the years went by and moves to Ontario took place, I looked forward to meeting Don three or four times a year when in Toronto for meetings. His friendship was a valued one, our conversation lively, and his advice and insights always appreciated. In later years his Christmas letters were always something to look forward to. My condolences to all his family, and my deep gratitude for Don's friendship over the years. Tom Rodger

Tom Rodger - July 28, 2023 at 01:05 PM

KM

“ *The Reverend Dr. Don Smith was a professor at Knox College while I was there in the 1980s. A donation has been made in his memory to Knox College.*

Keith McKee - July 28, 2023 at 12:17 PM

NT

“ *Don and I worked in the two Presby churches in 'The Hat'. Sharing love for socialist politics, the Gospel imperative for justice. Lifelong friends. Neil Tolliday, Werriber Victoria Australia. Love to Margsret.*

neil tolliday - July 26, 2023 at 08:26 PM

MP

Dear Margaret. Our sincere condolences to you in your loss of Don. Treasure all the great memories, they last forever and don't forget to take care of yourself. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

Marilyn Pierce and Margaret Lacourt

Marilyn Pierce - August 03, 2023 at 02:54 PM