



Douglas Haig Cochrane

October 16, 2025

Oct. 27, 1918 - Oct. 16, 2025

With family at his side, Doug passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Veterans' Residence in Toronto on October 16, 2025 at the age of 106.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 72 years, Margaret Grace (Weaver), two brothers, Ian and Mac, his mother Myra Blanche MacKinnon Cochrane and his father David Cochrane.

He is survived by his son, Wayne, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, daughter, Heather (Bruce) Sutton, of Toronto, grandson, David Cochrane of Halifax, granddaughters, Kaleigh Sutton (Bryan Cresswell) of Toronto, and Ashley (Ben) Elliot, great-grandson Cole Douglas Elliot of Aurora, Ontario, many much-loved nieces and nephews and close friends.

Blessed with a quick wit, phenomenal memory and love of people, he was always great company and will be sorely missed by his cherished family and friends. So many have said that they could listen to him tell stories for hours as he was always so interesting and entertaining.

Doug enjoyed a long and rewarding life. At the onset of World War II, while working in the banking industry, he was recruited by the Royal Canadian Air Force for an elite special investigative unit and was trained in a remote area of the Laurentians near le Domaine-de-l'Estérel. He served in Canada and overseas. It was in the RCAF that he met his beautiful wife, Margaret, who also served with the RCAF.

A month after they were married, Doug was posted to England for the duration

of the war. His journey overseas on the Aquitania took ten and a half days as they zig-zagged across the Atlantic avoiding enemy submarines. His table-mate and main companion walking the decks on the voyage was Tommy Douglas, the politician who was to become the father of Canada's beloved universal health care. Doug and Tommy kept in touch and in 2006, Doug was invited by Shirley Douglas to a Toronto street naming ceremony in honour of her father.

Following the war, he first worked in Chatham and then Peterborough, Ontario with the London Life Insurance Company. While in Peterborough, he followed his lifelong passion for hockey and as a sideline became the President of the Peterboro Petes. He and a very young Scotty Bowman as coach would spend many a long and enjoyable night strategizing on plays while Marg would keep the plates of sandwiches coming. They remained forever close friends, exchanging frequent emails and phone calls .

Also, in Peterborough, Doug acquired the nick name of 'Clutch'. As a kid, Doug played goalie in rubber boots as it was the depression and skates were a luxury. As an adult, when he started playing friendly games of hockey with his friends in Peterborough, Doug couldn't skate well so he had to 'clutch' onto someone to help him stop!

In 1960, he was transferred to Halifax. Doug was well liked in Peterborough and before he left, the city bestowed many honours on him including naming a street after him.

In Halifax, Doug re-joined the banking industry. He rose to Vice President of Central Trust and expanded the company to other provinces. Employees stated that he treated the company like family and that he was wonderful to work for. Many remained close friends throughout the rest of Doug's life.

Doug also served as Chairman of the Board for the Halifax Waterfront Corporation and was instrumental in helping transform the waterfront area from a drab industrial area to the beautiful boardwalk, shops and restaurants we all enjoy today.

In retirement, Doug continued to be very busy serving as a director on many

corporate boards, including Scotia Covenants, the Dartmouth Hospital Foundation, Pine Hill Divinity College, Halifax- Dartmouth Bridge Commission, Neptune Theatre Foundation and many others.

He also served as a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and as a Member of the National Capital Commission, Ottawa.

Under his leadership, the Canadian Cancer Society Nova Scotia branch built 'The Lodge that Gives' for a much needed home away from home for cancer patients and their families.

Doug and Marg moved to Toronto in 2004 to live near Heather and her family. In 2015, they moved to Sunnybrook Veterans' Residence where they were lovingly cared for by the wonderful, compassionate and skilled staff of the Residence. Sadly, Marg passed in 2016 but Doug continued on in the residence.

Words cannot describe how grateful the family is for the exemplary and loving care both Marg and Doug received at Sunnybrook.

Interment and family service will be with Marg and her family in Arnold's Cemetery , Chatham, Ontario at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sunnybrook Veterans Program would be appreciated. Contact <https://foundation.sunnybrook.ca/> and click on Veterans Program under Donations or give to a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

KG

“ I had no idea what an amazing life your Dad lived, Wayne. It is a reminder to all of us of the importance of family, friendship and maximizing our time spent on this Earth. You, David and the rest of the Cochrane family are in our prayers as you navigate life without this truly special man. Thinking of you all- Tim, Kate and Timothy

Kate Gernand - October 27, 2025 at 08:30 PM

HS

“ Never had the pleasure to meet Doug but I heard many stories. After reading this, one is left stunned. What an incredible man, what a life! My heart felt condolences for the family.

Harry Staple - October 27, 2025 at 09:21 AM

MA

“ *Douglas Haig Cochrane*
Celebration of Life
23 October 2025

Good afternoon everyone.

My wife and I want to express our deepest condolences to family and friends on the loss of Commander-in-Chief General Douglas Haig Cochrane. The titles are ones that we awarded to him in our neighbourhood for many years to his great enjoyment!

My name is Marcel Maessen, and like many many others, I had a very special relationship with Doug.

While many others knew him through financial institution connections, hockey connections, relations through boards, commissions, foundations, and various committees, I knew him as a very close friend, and I mean close friend! You see we were his next door neighbours for close to 20 years!

When I first met him, he was retired from work, but was still very active and involved in many activities, committees and other charitable work.

He hired me for years to cut his grass and shovel the snow from his driveway, always feigning that my work was incredibly substandard and not even worth being paid for. Before paying me, he would always invite me into his study and regale me with numerous stories before he reluctantly handed over a cheque. He always claimed he overpaid me generously, but that was all part of the big show!

He told me stories about how he was the first to give Scotty Bowman his first coaching assignment with the Peterborough Petes, how he solved an internal fraud at his bank by using a corrupted key on the typewriters (the 'E' was the culprit), how he outsmarted members of committees who were there for the prestige and not the good intentions he preferred, and he regaled me with war time stories about his training at Camp X, his exploits and secret

assignments overseas during the war, and much more.

I could never just cut the grass or shovel the driveway without being invited into his well-decorated study to hear more stories, and I loved every minute of it!!

I would like to leave you with one final story. I was walking home from work one day and yelled out a greeting to Doug as I passed by. He was standing out back by the driveway when I noticed that his Chrysler K car was not in the driveway. Hey, where is that old beater of yours I asked. He said it was in the repair shop getting new driver side steel plates welded to the bottom. I was incredulous! I asked how old the car was and he said only 12 years old and there were holes developing in the bottom on the driver's side which had to be fixed. I said my goodness, why don't you just buy a new car, you can certainly afford one.

Well, this is when another one of his life-lessons to me kicked in! He said imagine if the criminal element were scouting out the neighbourhood for its next hit. They would drive by and see my Camry parked in my driveway, and then they would see a K car parked in his! Who do you think they're going to target he asked!!

My life with him was always full of learning done in the most fun and educational way. We got along very well. I still have a voice message from him from last year asking how my wife and me are; he was a true one-of-kind gentlemen, and one for the ages.

I will certainly you miss Commander. Cheers, Marcel

Marcel - October 26, 2025 at 09:37 AM

MA

“ Dear Heather Sutton, Wayne Cochrane & Family,

Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved Father, Doug Cochrane. I'm grateful to have had the honour of making 2 very special cakes for a very special person. Reading about Doug, his incredible life and remarkable work was an absolute inspiration. I enjoyed hearing about his love for strawberries. Thank you Heather, for allowing me to create a special memory in honour of Doug today. I will always cherish your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

*Maryam Alam
Redway Rd*

Maryam Alam - October 23, 2025 at 06:19 PM

HS

Thank you so much Maryam! I appreciate your kind and thoughtful words. Everyone loved your cake and even the crumbs on the bottom of the platter were scooped up for consumption! It was extra special because we knew you made it.

Heather Sutton - October 24, 2025 at 03:22 PM

“ DOUGLAS HAIG COCHRANE
OUR TREASURED FRIEND

My first encounter with Doug was in university when a group of us including Wayne started car-pooling to Dalhousie. It may have been earlier during my years at Dartmouth High but that memory hasn't come around yet.

One of my fondest memories was going to his home on Saturday nights and watching the NHL hockey game. I usually bet on the game, perhaps a dime or a quarter, and I usually lost. He always treated me to snacks and a soft drink. It was many years later that he added up the bill and discovered to his annoyance that the bets I lost were a fraction of the cost of the treats I had enjoyed.

Mutual acquaintances we shared were another joy. He was very kind to my mother especially after my dad passed. His regular telephone calls to her lightened her lonely days and she always called me to say how he had cheered her up. He continued calling her after he and Marg moved to Toronto and thence to Sunnybrook. When my dad passed in the '70's, I started referring to him as my adopted dad.

Another common acquaintance and friend was Wendell, a City of Dartmouth police inspector. Our outings to the old Mic Mac Tavern for lunch, occasionally accompanied by Wayne, were looked forward to with eagerness. It was always amusing to watch the waiter when Doug ordered his steak. I can still hear him saying "Cook it until it is well done. And then cook it again." The look on the waiter's face was cause for a chuckle. The staff there were very understanding as they came to recall how he liked his steak.

He took a special shine to my wife. He understood that this somewhat extroverted son of a couple Newfoundlanders was a handful. He guided us through life commencing with stickhandling our first mortgage. His calls to us, mostly to commiserate with Joyce, were frequent.

Doug was a very personable fellow. He was sensitive, caring and empathetic with all those he met and I know that this was well appreciated.

Doug will be forever remembered with warmth and affection. Our

*sincerest sympathies to his loving family.
Gordon and Joyce Boyce
Dartmouth*

Gordon - October 22, 2025 at 06:57 AM

HS

Thank you Gordon. You were definitely like a son to Dad. I so enjoyed reading your wonderful memories.

Heather Sutton - October 24, 2025 at 03:24 PM

DL

“*Dear Heather and family,
We were very saddened to hear of your father’s passing. It was a privilege to have known and cared for him — a remarkable man who led such an extraordinary life with grace, humour, and kindness.
My heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.
With sympathy,
Dr. Ken Lam and staff*

Dr. Ken Lam - October 21, 2025 at 05:53 PM

HS

Thank you Dr. Lam. He certainly valued his friendship with you and appreciated the wonderful care you gave him. He always asked for you and missed his visits with you.

Heather Sutton - October 24, 2025 at 03:28 PM

UE

“ To Heather Bruce Ashley and Kaleigh so sad to hear of the passing of your father/grandfather. We hope you take comfort in the memories you have of this remarkable man. Not many have led such a full honorable life.

Heartfelt sympathy Ursula and Wayne Elliot

ursula elliot - October 20, 2025 at 01:47 PM

HS

Thank you so much Wayne and Ursula. He will be sorely missed by the whole family and all his friends. Even at almost 107 it is so difficult to say goodbye but we do have wonderful memories to hold onto. Much love to you both!

Heather Sutton - October 26, 2025 at 12:16 PM

GS

“ Please accept my most sincerest sympathy in the loss of your Father, Doug. I knew he and Marg when they lived at the Berkeley here in Bedford. He was a great guy....interesting, funny and such a remarkable life and career and I enjoyed so much staying in touch after their move to Toronto. He didnt have to say too much to make me laugh! Rest in peace Doug. You will certainly and most definitely be missed.

Gail H Skidmore - October 19, 2025 at 05:30 PM

DC

Deborah Coward.

Please accept my condolences on the passing of your father Wayne. He and Margaret were lovely people. I met them when I worked at the Berkeley here in Bedford. He and Margaret came down to the dining room every morning for breakfast and I had the pleasure of serving them. What a great man your Dad was. I would often come visit them in their apartment where I would hear story after story about his life, hockey, and his work on various boards. He also had a great sense of humor. They were missed when they went to live in Toronto. I loved them both dearly and feel privileged to have known them. Rest in Peace Doug. You certainly lived a full life. Your father was a great man Wayne, and someone I admired greatly. May the Lord comfort your hearts in your loss.

Deborah Coward - March 07 at 05:02 PM

MG

*“ To Wayne, Heather, and Family: Our sincere condolences on Doug’s passing. He was a remarkable person who did so much to help so many people. May his memory be a blessing. We are keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers. In sympathy,
Myrtle and Heather-Anne Gillis*

Myrtle and Heather-Anne Gillis - October 18, 2025 at 02:34 PM