



Mr. Donald Herbert Medhurst

December 17, 1924 - July 11, 2022

The Honourable Donald Herbert Medhurst

December 17, 1924 – July 11, 2022

Retired Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

It is with deep sadness but profound gratitude that we announce the peaceful passing of Donald H. Medhurst on July 11th, 2022 in Calgary, Alberta, at the age of 97... a gentle man and a gentleman.

Don cherished his wife, Audree, and their five daughters and families. He is survived by daughters Janice Medhurst, Anna-Jean Olson, Joan Hotchkiss (Tom Hires), Jill Medhurst (Brian Tivadar), and Judy Spangler (Allan). Don was predeceased by his parents, Arthie and Fred, loving wife Audree, brothers Neil and C. F. "Bud," and son-in-law Bud Olson.

Don was dearly loved by his 12 grandchildren: Andra Olson (Robroy Schmidt), Andrew Olson, Marissa Cotter (Chester), Stephen Hotchkiss, Katie Hotchkiss, Allison John (Sunil), Matthew Hotchkiss (Lynley), Nicholas Tivadar (Karli Pansky), Lauren Tivadar (Danny Weber), Donald Spangler, Jillian Spangler (Mike Lalonde), and Sam Spangler.

Don was blessed to have 8 great-grandchildren: Emmelia, Macsen, Coco, Georgie, Cael, Oak, Josie, and Judah.

Don developed his strong work ethic and appreciation for the importance of family at a young age. He was raised along with two elder brothers by his loving parents, Arthie and Fred Medhurst, in the village of Foremost, Alberta.

His older brother, Neil, graduated in Law from the University of Alberta in 1940. After admission to the law society, Neil enlisted in the Canadian Army, serving until he was killed in Belgium during the invasion of Europe in October, 1944.

Don's older brother, Charles Frederick (Bud), graduated in Engineering from the University of Alberta in 1940. He served overseas in the Royal Canadian Engineers and returned to practice his profession in Vancouver, where he lived until his death in 2006.

In his personal and professional life, Don demonstrated selfless dedication, compassion, and determination. Don was proud to have served in the Royal Canadian Air Force until his discharge in 1945. He then attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1950 with a combined Arts and Law degree. In 1952, Don's life changed forever when he married Audree Timmins in Calgary. They were happily married for 63 years until Audree's passing on November 11th, 2015.

With his beloved wife, Audree, Don cultivated lifelong traits of patience, gratitude, and humour raising five daughters born within six years in both Calgary and Medicine Hat. His daughters will always be grateful for Dad's advice, support, and encouragement, which he likewise extended to his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and wider community. Don's daughters will always remember cherished family trips, especially one where Don bravely captained a station wagon, pulling a TeePee trailer with his five daughters and wife as far as Disneyland. No matter the distance or Audree's

loving advice, Don maintained his calm and gentle demeanour.

Don began his legal career with the Fenerty law firm in Calgary. In 1958, Don and family moved to Medicine Hat when he became a partner in the law firm Stone Pritchard, which later became Stone, Pritchard, Medhurst, Lerner, and Wilkins. In 1974, Don was appointed to the District Court of Southern Alberta and the family relocated to Calgary. He served until 1979, and when the Supreme and District courts of Alberta merged, Don became a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta and member of the Court of Appeal of Alberta, in addition to his position as a Judge of the Northwest Territories.

In 1989, upon reaching supernumerary status, Don was appointed the first chairman of the Copyright Board in Ottawa, which held hearings regarding Canadian broadcasting compensation for retransmission of Canadian cable programs and music.

In 1999, upon reaching mandatory retirement, Don was appointed a member of the Canada Pension Appeals Board, a part time position that enabled Don to travel to various provinces in his beloved Canada. He served on this Board for approximately 10 years until fully retiring in 2009. Overall, He achieved almost 60 years of dedicated service in the legal profession. At the time of Don's passing, he was the oldest surviving retired Justice in Alberta, yet he remained sharp as a tack—often with a feather in his cap and a pin in his lapel—never losing his much-loved quick wit. Throughout his judicial career, Don appreciated the friendships he formed with his fellow judges, clerks, orderlies, and colleagues in Calgary and across the country, as he truly valued their counsel, camaraderie, and support.

Beyond his work in the legal profession, Don always valued the importance of community. While at the U of A, Don was a member of the Delta Upsilon

Fraternity, where he made many lifelong friends. He also served as President of the Medicine Hat YM/YWCA, where he was instrumental in the construction of their new building. Don was a passionate golfer and member of the Calgary Golf and Country Club. He was also a longtime supporter and fan of the Calgary Flames and Stampeders. Don enjoyed watching the Toronto Blue Jays, golf, curling, and tennis throughout the year.

Don was blessed to have a wonderful life well-lived. Whether he was sharing his love of sports or discussing current and world events, Don never failed to brighten others' days with his clever commentary and wealth of knowledge. It was Don's lifelong love of learning that motivated him to learn French at the age of 50. No matter the situation, Don maintained his caring, kind, and generous disposition, earning the admiration and respect of everyone around him. We will miss his speeches, humour, and joie de vivre. The family will be forever grateful for the loving care and support shown to him by the staff of The Journey Club at Westman Village in Calgary.

At Don's request, his family will gather privately for a Celebration of his life. While Don will be greatly missed, he will live on in the hearts of those who loved him dearly.

As Sai Baba notes, "Life is a song—sing it. Life is a game—play it. Life is a challenge—meet it. Life is a dream—realize it. Life is a sacrifice—offer it. Life is love—enjoy it."

Funeral by Rupi Kaur

"When I go from this place
dress the porch with garlands
as you would for a wedding my dear
pull the people from their homes
and dance in the streets

when death arrives
like a bride at the aisle
send me off in my brightest clothing
serve ice cream with rose petals to our guests
there's no reason to cry my dear
I have waited my whole life
for such a beauty to take
my breath away
when I go let it be a celebration
for I have been here
I have lived
I have won at this game called life."

To send condolences please visit www.lylereeves.com . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (403.652.4242).

Tribute Wall

BH

“ *To Judy and all of your family. We were sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. We are thinking of you at this time. What an amazing life he had.*
Bill & Cheryl Holmes

Bill & Cheryl Holmes - August 26, 2022 at 11:52 AM

LM

“ *To The Medhurst Family*

The Executive and Members of the Southern Alberta Pioneers & Their Descendants (SAPD) send our condolences on Don's passing. Don was a valued Gold Card Member of the SAPD and will be missed by all who knew him.

In memory of Don, the SAPD will give a \$50 donation to the Sothern Alberta Pioneers Foundation.

*Lynne Marquess
Membership and Remembering Committee
Southern Alberta Pioneers & Their Descendants*

Lynne Marquess - July 25, 2022 at 09:16 AM

DA

“ *The Medhurst Family.*

My condolences on Don's (or as we always called him Mr. Medhurst) passing. As you know we have so many formative childhood memories of your Dad and Mom from Elkwater and Medicine Hat. They were such dear friends of my parents and the memories of family dinners, campground breakfasts, wedding anniversaries and many other events is a strong part of the fabric of my life. There are so many fond shared experiences. I can still hear both your parents voices and remember well your Dad's kind approach. I will miss them with you but they will carry on in our great memories of them.

Don Archibald

Don Archibald - July 22, 2022 at 11:53 AM

AW

“ *Judy, Allan and family*

Our sincere sympathy to all. May the memories and support from each other give you strength during this time.

Alana & Rob

Alana Williamson - July 20, 2022 at 08:58 PM

CH

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss - may you cherish your memories as they will always be with you.*

Eric & Cheryl Heinz

Cheryl Heinz - July 18, 2022 at 06:07 PM

CH

“ On behalf of Court of Queen's Bench staff, Medicine Hat, please accept our deepest condolences. As we have staff of 45 years and 40 years here that have worked with your Dad many times over the decades. As described in the obituary he was a gentle man and a gentleman. The last time we saw him was when he attended the screening of the Medicine Hat Agreement at the old Monarch Theatre. I have attached pictures from that day. If I recall he came down with Justice Dixon. I had given them instructions on coming to Medicine Hat using the 201 from South Calgary through Gleichen. Every Judge got lost that used that route! In any event, we are sorry for your loss.

Shauna Jobagy and staff, Medicine Hat Queen's Bench



Court of Queen's Bench Med Hat - July 18, 2022 at 11:02 AM

BM

“ Dear Judy, Allan, Donald, Jillian and Sam,

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Your dad sounds like he was an amazing man - just like your family. Take care.

Brenda, Graham, Mallory, Leah and Paige

Brenda McCredie - July 17, 2022 at 09:48 PM

RM

“ *Jill and family please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of your Dad. You do not need me to tell you what a kind and decent man he was but in these early days of grief perhaps a small measure of comfort can be found in knowing the fondness so many of us held for him. He embodied all the qualities that the rest of us only aspire to.....*

Rick McKee

Rick McKee - July 17, 2022 at 11:46 AM

JG

“ *Thinking of you all at this sad time - Judy, Allan, Don. Jillian, Mike and Sam in the loss of your Dad and Grampa. To me Don seemed like a very wise and gentle man who cared very deeply about his children and grandchildren.*



*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
George and Judy*

Judy Groeneveld - July 16, 2022 at 05:38 PM

CP

“ *Our deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved father. He was a real gentleman and a wonderful , caring , and compassionate judge. He was a terrific colleague too. He will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family.
Hon. Carolyn S Phillips (retired) and John Cordeau, QC*

Carolyn S Phillips - July 16, 2022 at 01:13 PM

CL

“ Dearest Jill (& ‘all’ of the Medhurst sisters)... what a wonderfully written & composed obituary ‘honouring’ your dear beloved Dad. So special to include anecdotes & memories of Don’s 2 brothers, of his wife Audree, & of his devoted wonderful daughters too. I was blessed to know & enjoy time with both Audree & Don. Some fond and special memories indeed💕 Your Dad & Mom are ‘together again’ 😊. Sending you much love, & my deepest sympathy as you walk through your grieving journey 💕 Cory (& son Matthew)



CORINNE LINDER - July 15, 2022 at 06:36 PM

LB

“ To Jill and family,

My sincerest condolences to you and your family. Your dad was a true gentleman. He was the Judge that called me to the Bar about 100 years ago! He was so kind, and I will always remember him in that way. You all have so much to be proud of.

Lonny Balbi

Lonny Balbi - July 15, 2022 at 05:16 PM

CH

I share the family’s sadness at Don’s passing. We were judicial colleagues for many years and I always enjoyed seeing him after he retired. He was a dedicated and thoughtful judge who made a terrific contribution over his long years of service. A life well and meaningfully lived.

Connie Hunt

Connie Hunt - July 16, 2022 at 04:34 PM

HN

To Janice, Jill, Judy, Annajean and Joan

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your dear father. His absence leaves a real void in our lives. We share your grief.

Sincerely,

Hugo and Olga Naten

Hugo Naten - July 18, 2022 at 01:38 PM

AG

“ *Judy, Al and family, so sorry for your loss, our sincere condolences. Lloyd and Alice Groeneveld*

Alice Groeneveld - July 15, 2022 at 03:43 PM

DL

“ *Jill and family, please accept my condolences on the passing of your Dad - he was a very fine man, and will be much missed by many. David Linder*

David Linder - July 15, 2022 at 03:07 PM

JL

“ *To the Medhurst Family - Condolences from a fellow DU on the passing of a fine and gracious man. In addition to his *many* other activities, Don was an active supporter of our efforts to establish a Calgary DU chapter in the late '80s and early '90s, and I always greatly enjoyed his company at DU events. He was a couple of years ahead of my parents, Joyce Morris (as she then was) and Merv Leitch in the then-5 year Arts/Law program at the University of Alberta (and some fellow named Lougheed, among others ;-). My thoughts are with you. Jim Leitch, Alberta DU '86, Calgary DU '89.*

Jim Leitch - July 15, 2022 at 01:09 PM

MI

“ Condolences from an old Medicine Hatter to the Medhursts, my parents, Bill and June Montgomery, had huge respect for your dad! I know he will be missed. Warm respects to you all, from Michelle (Montgomery) Deyholos

Michelle - July 15, 2022 at 12:50 PM

JW

“ To the Medhurst ‘girls’ and their families. A wonderful tribute to your dad, who was indeed a gentle man, great dad and good neighbour. A life well lived and loved. My condolences and sympathy to you all. Janice Wilkinson

janice wilkinson - July 15, 2022 at 12:28 PM

PC

“ I am sending my condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Justice Medhurst. His Lordship admitted me to the Bar of the Province of Alberta in 1981. My family travelled from Ontario and British Columbia to be part of the ceremony, and Justice Medhurst made the event a very special time for all of us. As a judge, Justice Medhurst was kind, fair, and never made counsel feel as though he was hammering at you. May you all feel loved and supported at this time.

Philip E. Carr - July 15, 2022 at 11:48 AM

LB

“ Thinking of you all during this very difficult time. Your Dad was such a wonderful, gentle and kind person to know, and we have so many fond memories of him and your mom and family in Medicine Hat, Elkwater and Calgary. Sending our love and sincere condolences. - Laurie Beverley (nee Mogridge) and Family

Laurie Beverley - July 15, 2022 at 10:36 AM

MD

“ Thinking of you.....Judy and your entire Family, so sorry to read of the loss of your Dad. You always spoke so proudly of your Dad and Mom. May they Rest In Peace....together again.

Michele Durand - July 15, 2022 at 10:07 AM

EB

“ Judy, Allan and Family
Please know, that you are in my thoughts at this time. I have just read Donald's Obituary, and his was indeed a life well lived.
All the Best
Edward L Bagyinka

Edward L Bagyinka - July 15, 2022 at 10:07 AM

KC

“ Dear Judy, Alan, and family. My sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the life Don lived. This has been passed on to you, Judy, and you life with Alan, and your family, and now their families. This is legacy, this is a life well lived.
Blessings as you celebrate, with tears of joy, and sadness.



karen Crawford - July 14, 2022 at 09:36 PM

RL

“ Rick & Shirley Laycraft lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Herbert Medhurst



Rick & Shirley Laycraft - July 14, 2022 at 05:01 PM

SD

“ *To a life well lived
Our condolences*



sheri dwernychuk - July 14, 2022 at 04:44 PM

DD

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and
your family during this difficult time.*



Daryl & Janet Davies - July 14, 2022 at 04:14 PM