

Muskoka Mosaic: Introducing Ginger Davies



FRIENDS: Ginger Davies and his dog Katie relax together on a loveseat in his home's sunroom. Davies was manager of Flotron's for 30 years and is remembered by many as the man who kept time for lacrosse and hockey games through the 60s and 70s.

By Paula Boon

Ginger Davies, 97, has always loved sports and kids.

When he was manager of Flotron's on Main Street for 30 years, one of the highlights of his job was interacting with his youngest customers. "There was a big moose head at the end of the store, and the children would come in and want to see it, so I would take them down and show them," he recalls with a smile.

On the sports front, his contributions to both lacrosse and hockey earned Davies recognition by the Huntsville Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. "I ran the clock for the games," he says. "It used to be cold in there, but I enjoyed doing it."

When Davies and his family arrived in Huntsville in 1957, his sons were seven and nine, and one of his first priorities was to find sports for them to join. "Huntsville was a lacrosse town, so that's what they played," he says.

The next few decades turned out to be the heyday of the sport in Huntsville. Davies' older son was one of seven Huntsville players who eventually played for the Oshawa Green Gaels and helped that team win seven national championships. "We drove to Oshawa every Monday night for the games," Davies says.

Later, after retiring, Davies transferred his passion for sport to golf, which he played several times a week. "I wish I could play now, but my knees are bad," he says.

Nowadays, Davies participates in sports vicariously as a fan, following hockey and baseball on television. Although he admits to "getting thoroughly disgusted" with the Toronto Maple Leafs, he hopes new management will help the team's fortunes.

Davies was born in Oakville, Manitoba. "My name is actually Ryland, but everybody called me Ginger because I was red-headed as a kid," he says.

After his father was killed in the First World War and his mother remarried, Davies was raised by his grandmother until about age 14. At that point, he went to live with his mother, stepfather and their two daughters.

"I didn't go back to school, but I wish I had," says Davies. "I loved school, but that's the way it went."

Because his stepfather owned a small general store, Davies quickly began to learn the retail business. "After a while I was practically running the store," he says.

Davies tried to enlist in the army when the Second World War broke out, but he was rejected due to his flat feet.

Soon after, in his mid-20s, he met Mary, who has now been his wife for 67 years. "I said, 'Would you like to go to a show with me?' and she agreed," he recalls.

When they had been dating for about a year, Mary's family decided to return to their home province of Ontario. When Mary's family asked if Davies would like to join them, he jumped at the chance. They all moved to Lindsay, where he and Mary were married in 1942.

Davies got a job at a department store in Lindsay, and in 1959 the company sent him to Huntsville to manage the store which later became Flotron's. He stayed until he retired around 1990. "My favourite thing was working with people," he says.

For many years, Davies was also an active mem-

ber of the Masonic Lodge, including a period as its master.

After retirement, he and Mary took the opportunity to travel to many European countries. "We really loved Spain," he says. "We stayed for three months at a time there for eight years in a row. They couldn't speak English and we couldn't speak Spanish, but we'd get things figured out and laugh about it all."

Nowadays, the couple stays closer to home. They both love Huntsville, especially its people. "The friends we have are good friends," says Davies.

Recently, three men with whom Davies used to play oldtimers' golf picked up a pizza and came to have lunch with him. "They've done that a few times," he says. "It's so nice to feel that you've still got friends, although you're not taking part in the things you used to."

Thanks to Ken Raven for suggesting that Ginger Davies be profiled. Explore the complete collection of Muskoka Mosaic profiles online at www.thelifecollector.com.

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Capsule Comments

with **Bill Coon, B.C. Phm.**

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If you enjoy that hot cup of coffee in the morning, you might be doing a good job of keeping Alzheimer's disease and other dementias at bay. Recent research in Finland studied middle-aged people who drank coffee seemed to suffer from dementias less often than those who drank no coffee. The lowest risk was found in those who drank 3-5 cups per day.

There are many more people needing kidney transplants than there are kidneys available. Now, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has launched the *Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry* designed to facilitate kidney donations among live donors to help fill the pressing need to save the lives of those needing a new kidney. Contact CBS for more information about this project.

There are so many different claims made for vitamin C. A new report found that vitamin C supplementation might help prevent gout since adequate amounts seem to reduce uric acid levels. Doses of 500 to 1,000 mg daily were used. Take your vitamin C in two doses daily rather than all at once. More will be absorbed.

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