

Dion Sceats 1935 - 2008



A New Zealander by birth, Dion was active in helping people with disabilities for over 40 years. Since taking up residence in Oakville in the early 1960's he participated extensively in the affairs of the town as a director and member of various club, municipal and community committees.

A former Rotarian and Jaycee, Dion was a co-founder of the Oakville Big Brothers Association (now part of the Halton BBA) and president of several local institutions including:

- The Sheridan Long Term Care Volunteer Association
- The Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association
- The Friends of Oakville Public Library (founder and president)
- The Wallace Park Tennis Club

During a long and distinguished career, Dion held several teaching and administrative positions in New Zealand, Fiji, Slovenia, England and Canada. His professional qualifications included: BA (McMaster), B.Ed (Toronto), Diploma in Special Education (Toronto), ARA (NZ). He was guest lecturer in North American Political Systems at the University of Liubliana, Slovenia in 1972 where his multilingual abilities (French, Spanish, Polynesian/Maori, and Serbo-Croatian) were put to good use.

He saw active duty serving with New Zealand's Royal Regiment as a Technical Assistant, CMT from 1954 to 1958. He also had the distinction of being New Zealand's first Queen's Scout, being invested by Queen Elizabeth II at Government House in 1953.

Dion had a long standing interest in boats from the time he constructed a 7' sailing 'pram' through to his last craft, a 36' twin-engine cruiser, all of which he maintained himself. A former Captain of TOWARF (Town of Oakville Water Air Rescue Force) he held a Canada Power Squadron Piloting and Navigation certificate, competed in the Freeman Cup, and had considerable experience of deep ocean sailing as a crew member and navigator.

On land he was a motoring enthusiast having competed in many rallies as an FIA (Federation Internationale Automobile) licensed Road Rally and Hill Climb driver, rider and navigator. His

interests also extended to vintage cars and motor cycles. Up until 2006 Dion had a registered and road ready 1953 Citroen Light 15 (car) and held a motor cycle licence for 53 years. And, he also took to the air as a private pilot VFR (Visual Flight Rules).

Other accomplishments attest to his athletic abilities as an international cricketer and long distance competitive ocean swimmer. He maintained an active interest in skiing – on water and snow – having been a founder member of the Hawke's Bay New Zealand Ski Club and member of the Ski Patrol.

On a more practical note Dion undertook the rebuilding and extension of his home in Oakville during the early seventies with the help of his late wife, Doreen. Together they were active participants in the Oakville Club Cabaret for over 35 years enabling Dion to apply his practical skills as a sound and lighting technician, and his vocal ones as a soloist and member of the chorus.

A global traveler by nature, Dion had residences in New Zealand, Mexico and Canada.

And all I ask is a merry yarn
from a laughing fellow 'rover,
And a quiet sleep and a sweet dream
when the long treck's over.

John Masefield

