



W. H. D. (Bill) Ladner

Jan. 18, 1913- Jan. 7, 1989

W.H.D. (Bill) Ladner was born in Vancouver, January 18, 1913. As a young boy he moved to Vernon with his family, where his father practised law. At age eleven Bill returned to Vancouver with his mother and two sisters after his father was killed in a motor vehicle accident.

In 1930, after obtaining his teaching certification, Bill again returned to the Okanagan and at Bearsto Elementary School in Vernon he began a forty year teaching career.

In 1940 Bill volunteered with the B.C. Dragoons and served as Major in the Canadian Armoured Corps, in charge of tank command, until his discharge in 1946. Following WW II, he attended the University of British Columbia. After completing his second degree Bill returned, once again, to Vernon and became Vice-Principal of Fulton Jr. Sr. Secondary School.

In August of 1952 Bill moved his family to Salmon Arm when he was appointed Principal of J.L. Jackson Sr. Secondary School. He became Principal of Salmon Arm Sr. Secondary when it opened in 1961 and devoted a quarter century to making Salmon Arm High School one of the top academic and athletic institutions in B.C.

Bill was an outstanding administrator who provided a strong role model. He was respected throughout the province for his professional abilities, his directness and honesty in dealing with people and for the quality of his vision for his school.

Bill Ladner was an excellent athlete who brought his competitive energy and zeal to his school in the early 1950's. He played and coached many sports and excelled particularly at track and field. Bill held several Okanagan Valley and Provincial records and was Canadian high-hurdle champion. For years he was the official starter at the Okanagan Valley Track and Field Meets.

Bill also established a lengthy community service record. He was President of the Salmon Arm Rotary Club, a director of the Board of Shuswap Lake General Hospital for fourteen years, being a chairman for eight of those. He was instrumental in initiating the plan to improve and beautify McGuire Lake. Bill was a founding member of the Salmon Arm unit of the Canadian Power Squadron, acting as Commander for some time. In 1968 he was honoured as Salmon Arm's Good Citizen of the Year.

Bill Ladner died January 7, 1989. Just prior to his death it was his choice to establish a fund to provide an annual scholarship to a worthy student graduating from S.A.S.S.