

# Earl Rowe dies at 89

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Witness News Editor

NEWTON HUNTSVILLE — They came to this small village, located just south of

Cookstown, to pay their last respects to a political legend.

Gathered in the Newton Robinson United Church, with the rain falling softly outside, they listened as Rev. Henry Daldin per-

formed the service. It was the final tribute to a man whose political career spanned almost 66 years.

William Earl Rowe, former lieutenant-governor of Ontario and political veteran, died last Thursday at his Newton Robinson home after suffering a heart attack. He was 89.

Born in Iowa, Mr. Rowe grew up in Simcoe County, where his political career began in 1919 when he became mayor of West Guilford township. He spent 25 years as a Conservative legislator at both the provincial and federal levels before he was named lieutenant-governor in 1961. A former leader of the Ontario Conservative Party, Mr. Rowe was also the youngest member in the H.B. Hensel cabinet, where he served as minister without portfolio.

In 1968, his daughter Jean Casselman Wadda was elected to parliament, making the Rowes the first father-daughter team in Canada's history. She now serves as on the Macdonald Commission on the economy.

In addition to his long and distinguished political career, Mr. Rowe was also actively involved in harness racing throughout his life. Together with his son, Bill, he founded both the Harris and Windsor Harveys.

Among those attending the funeral service held Monday afternoon at Newton Robinson United Church were Lieutenant-Governor John Blackbird, Premier William Davis, New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield, Solicitor-General George Taylor, former lieutenant-governor Roland Michener, and York-Root MP Sinclair Stevens.

Premier Davis described Mr. Rowe as "a great Canadian who will be remembered as a man who excelled as parliamentarian, Queen's representative in Ontario, as a breeder and racer of standard bred horses, a farmer, and most importantly, in raising a fine family."

Mr. Rowe's wife, Treva, died five weeks ago after suffering a series of strokes. They are predeceased by a son, Lennox.

Mr. Rowe leaves a sister, Mary Lammert and a daughter, Jean Casselman Wadda. In addition, he leaves to mourn grand children Mrs. Jane Hutchins, Nancy Casselman of Toronto, Earl Rowe of Shanty Bay, Clare Casselman of Toronto, Scott Rowe of Cookstown, Cindy Rowe of London, Matt Rowe of Cookstown and great grandchildren Jennifer Stephens, Katherine and Crystal Rowe.

Mr. Rowe was buried at Newton Robinson Cemetery.



## A legend

October 1989

An avid harness racer, the Honorable Earl Rowe will be remembered for his racing career as much as for his political one. Below, mourners gather at the funeral service held for Mr. Rowe who died last Thursday. For more photos, see page six.

