

Heritage Award 2022

Ernie Woods-Lifetime achievement award 2022



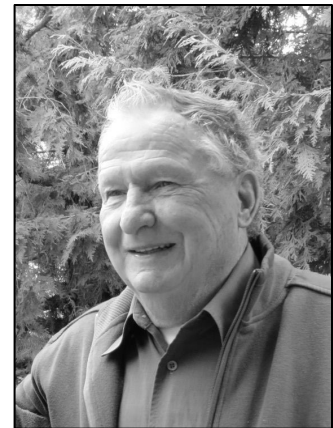
Normally this award is given in recognition of someone who has contributed to the understanding and preservation of our history, but in Ernie's case he is such a part of that history that we are making an exception. Nobody deserves this honour more than him, in recognition of a lifetime of devotion to his community. He retired in 2003 after 30 years as the Chief of Police for Morin-Heights, and was feted at a well-attended retirement party at that time, including a special edition of *Main Street* in his honour. Anyone who attended will remember Neil Zach's song *El Morin*, with special lyrics, sung to the tune of Marty Robbins' "El Paso." Now 85, Ernie lives a quiet life in Morin Heights, spending time with his daughter Ann and his three grandsons.

Ernie was born in nearby Dunany but soon moved to Morin Heights. He was the Eastern Dominion cross-country ski champion in the early 1950s. In his younger days he stacked shelves and made deliveries for Vaillancourt's. He trained as a firefighter with the Canadian Forces at the Lac St-Denis base, became a Morin-Heights firefighter and part-time constable before being appointed fire chief, and then Chief of Police in 1970. In Margot Dalton's 2002 text "*Peacekeeper: Good neighbor, Tough cop,*" she said, "he had an uncanny ability to defuse a



situation, often talking people out of hurting themselves or others...Almost everybody in Morin Heights has an Ernie story...and he has earned the love and respect of this entire community."

Thank you, Ernie.



Part of the 1980 poster created for the opening of Ski Morin Heights