

## Alexander (Alex) Raeburn



ONE DAY AFTER ALEXANDER CLARKE RAEburn CELEBRATED HIS 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, FLAGS ON ALL TOWN OF CALEDON FACILITIES WERE LOWERED, ANNOUNCING HIS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED PASSING.

According to Councillor Allan Thompson, who spoke with Alex just days earlier, Raeburn retained his wit and firm grasp over his mental capacities to his dying day.

Best known locally for his service to the community, Raeburn also enjoyed a long career in the aircraft industry. He was a proud member of the team that built the Avrocar, the Avro Arrow, the Lancaster bomber, CF-100 (a Canadian jet interceptor/fighter serving during the Cold War both in NATO bases in Europe and as part of NORAD) and the DC-8, DC-9, DC-10 jet airliners.

He was equally proud to serve his beloved Caledon as a school trustee, Deputy Reeve, Caledon Councillor, and Peel Regional Councillor. In addition, Raeburn served numerous terms on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ontario Waste Management Board and many other committees. He was a founding member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and served numerous terms on LACAC, Caledon's Heritage Committee, of which he was the first Chair.

In its early years, Caledon Village was known as Reburn's Corners, after innkeeper Robert Reburn (c.1785-1870). Reburn was instrumental in the founding of Caledon Village. He, along with his brothers, constructed buildings on three corners of the settlement, including his hotel.

Thanks to the hard work of Caledon Village Heritage, namely Fay McCrea and Marg Foster (who predeceased Alex by two weeks shy of a year), at least a part of Caledon Village is once again known as Raeburn's Corner. On Friday, November 9, 2012 Alex Raeburn, direct descendant of Robert Reburn (original spelling), bore witness to the formal inauguration of the redesigned and renamed Caledon Village parkette.

Raeburn, a member of Caledon's Walk of Fame (located in Caledon East), was also a respected historian. In addition to his extensive contributions to the local community, Mr. Raeburn was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1980 and was recognized in 1997 with a Certificate of Achievement.

"Mr. Raeburn has been an active member of our municipality, giving so much of his time for its betterment. The naming of this parkette in Mr. Raeburn's honour is a fitting tribute to his legacy," said Mayor Morrison.

To commemorate his life, a tree will be planted in memory of Alex in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville, and a dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. | CS



From left to right: Area Councillor Doug Beffort, Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, Alex C. Raeburn, Heather Wilkinson (Caledon Village Association), John Raeburn and Fay McCrea (Caledon Village Heritage) pictured around new sign at Raeburn's Corner. Photo supplied by Town of Caledon, taken November 2012.

## ALEX RAE BURN

Alex turned 100 years old on November 26, 2012. Many family and friends partook in wishing him a happy birthday and to honour a fine gentleman who exemplifies community spirit and hard work.

Alex was born in Hamilton and shared that it was the only time that he was not a resident of Ward 1. His early years were spent in Caledon Village where he developed an outstanding knowledge of his home community and contributed immensely to all aspects including sports.

As a young man Alex became a tool designer and worked in a number of small shops before becoming attached to the aircraft industry. At the beginning of World War II he worked for Victory Aircraft and built

Lancaster bombers for the war effort. I had the privilege of taking Alex to the Aircraft Museum in Toronto where we reminisced about the Lancaster and his last effort, the AVRO Arrow aircraft; Alex and my Uncle, Harry Beffort, were the last two people to close the doors and leave the AVRO Arrow production plant in Malton. He had many stories of those days.

Alex stayed in the aircraft industry for many years building CF100 and CF10 fighter jets, as well as wings and other parts for DC9 airplanes. He became a valued member to the management team of DeHaviland and Douglas Aircraft, travelling to England and many other places where Lockheed and Boeing parts and planes were made.

For his co-workers, the operative expression of the day was “if there’s something you need help with, call Alex.”

Alex became interested in the politics of his community and became a member of the Township Area School Board. He was instrumental in building Caledon Central P.S. and Belfountain P.S. He moved on to municipal politics as a Deputy Reeve for the old Caledon Township. After amalgamation, he served as Regional Councillor for Ward 1 the Town of Caledon.

As a sports enthusiast and coach and manager for various Lacrosse teams he left quite a legacy. His teams won the Ontario Jr. B. Bantam Championship and other Ontario Championships. Before his death, Alex lived in the Village of Alton. The view from his family room overlooked the beautiful Alton Mill waterfall.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I bid Alex Raeburn, my friend and mentor, a fond farewell. | CS