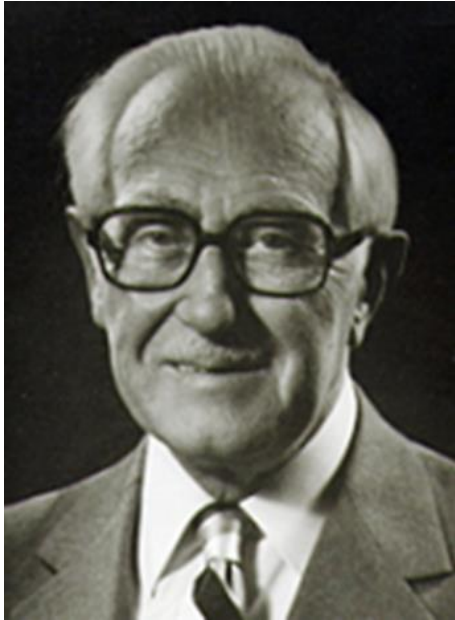


Maj Derrick Humphreys (1913-2006)



Maj Humphreys helped re-establish an engineer cadet corps in North Vancouver after WW2 and was the first Commanding Officer of 2573 RCACC. He held a keen interest in the well-being of the corps and until his health began to fail, enjoyed attending the annual reviews and talking with the cadets.

Derrick was born in Croydon, England, November 6th, 1913. As a young man, he emigrated to Australia, where he graduated from the West Australia School of Mines in Kalgoorlie to work as a mining engineer, a mining company manager, and the Inspector of Mines at Broken Hill, N.S.W.

During World War 2 he served in the Australian Army in New Guinea and the South Pacific. After the war he managed a De Beers industrial diamond plant in South Africa before moving to Edmonton in 1950 to run an oilfield equipment company. Subsequently he joined Trans-Mountain Oil Pipeline Company and then Fabco Manufacturing in Vancouver.

Thereafter, he consulted on projects that ranged from peat moss processing in the Queen Charlotte Islands, mining in Brazil, to rebuilding the town of Churchill. He was a Life Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy.

Between 1956 and 1986 Derrick held elected office on the North Shore serving as Alderman in North Vancouver and then West Vancouver. In 1978 Derrick was elected Mayor of West Vancouver and served until 1986.

The Provincial government appointed Derrick as Chairman of BC Transit where he oversaw the planning and initial building of the Skytrain system.

In recognition of his many contributions to the community, he was made a Freeman of West Vancouver in 1995. Derrick was a founding Director of Junior Achievement of B.C., and worked to create the West Vancouver Foundation.

At various times, he was president of the West Vancouver Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, chairman of the West Vancouver Masonic Hall Society, president of the West Vancouver Kiwanis Club, president of the West Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club, a Life Member of the Royal Society of St. George, a Life Member of the Terminal City Club, a National Director of the Progressive Conservative Party, a member of the National Parole Board, and a member of the B.C. Gaming Commission. He passed away in August 2006.