

# Farewell, Tom Campbell

*Obituary from Ferris Funeral Home*

CAMPBELL, Thomas Joseph (Tom) - Passed away peacefully with family at his side on Sunday, May 14th, 2017 at Brantford General Hospital. Mr. Tom Campbell of Simcoe at the age of 85. Beloved husband of Denise (nee Deforche) for 51 years. Loving father to David of Simcoe and Susan McCartney (Craig) of Dundas. Cherished Grampie to Lea and Keira. Dear brother to Marie Harris (Don) of Toronto. Tom will be sadly missed by his many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Tom grew up in Hamilton and moved to Toronto where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography from St. Michael's College, the University of Toronto. Tom held teaching positions in Toronto, Aldershot and Simcoe before becoming head of the Geography Department, in 1969, at Port Dover Composite School where he remained until retiring in 1986. Tom influenced the lives of many as a teacher for over 30 years with many former students taking the time to keep him updated on the events in their lives. Tom was also active in the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, serving as president of District 5 (Brant Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin), 1969-70. His retirement was a geographer's dream, involving, among other things, travel to the four corners of the world. He and Denise created travelogues to share with friends, family and organizations. As a geographer he was interested in the environment, geopolitics, both local and global and the sustainability of world resources and many hours of his week were filled with leadership and volunteer work devoted to these causes. Tom was a member of the following: the Council of Canadians; the Simcoe Probus Club; the Simcoe Amateur Radio Club; the Simcoe Chapter of the Knights of Columbus; and Friends of Canadian Broadcasting. In recognition of his contributions to volunteering, Tom was a recipient of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. An avid chess player, Tom always had the chess board ready for a game and he was always up for an ambitious game of golf. An ardent and devoted Blue Jays fan, one of Tom's last conversations before he passed, involved a discussion of Kevin Pillar's walk-off home run. Friends are invited to visit on Thursday, May 18th from 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 p.m. at the FERRIS FUNERAL HOME, 214 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe (519-426-1314). At Tom's request a private family service will be held followed by private interment at Delhi Cemetery. If so desired, donations may be made in Tom's memory to the Juravinski Cancer Centre or a charity of One's choice. Parish prayers will be said from the funeral home on Thursday at 7pm followed by the Knights of Columbus service . Online condolences may be made at [www.ferrisfuneral.com](http://www.ferrisfuneral.com)



## *Tom's Who Am I talk from February 2014*

Tom Campbell was born in Hamilton in 1931. After graduating from Cathedral High School, he worked for three years as a research lab assistant at Irvington Varnish and Insulator Company, which made, among many things, lid liners for St. Williams Jam company jars in Simcoe.

In 1952 he went to Hamilton Teachers College, then taught for two years in Aldershot.

In 1955, Tom decided to get his degree studying philosophy and geography at the University of Toronto. While at university, he took the officer training course and completed his training with Canada's NATO forces in Germany in 1958.

Back in Canada, he taught geography and math at junior high schools in the Metro Toronto area for five years. He also joined the Canadian Army Supplementary Reserve as an officer and remained during the Cold War.

From 1964 to 1969 Tom taught geography at Simcoe Composite School.

In 1969, he became head of the geography department at Port Dover Composite School. He took early retirement in 1986. Tom and his wife Denise have enjoyed traveling the world.

Tom has long been interested in the environment and sustainability.

In 1992, he founded the Haldimand-Norfolk round table of the environment and economy. It had representatives from local industries, local government, service clubs and agriculture. The group successfully lobbied to allow artefacts from the S.S. Atlantic shipwreck to be displayed in local museums as a tourist attraction. Tom was the group's chair until the Ontario government ended funding in 1995.

In 2000 Tom helped found SPAN (Smoke-Free Places Action Network), a committee of volunteers that partnered with the health unit to advocate for smoke-free public places and cars and, most recently, for smoke-free homes.

For the last two years, Tom has researched relocalization projects in the United States and Canada. A good example is Tompkins County in New York State. These projects prepare contingency plans to respond to economic catastrophes, such as high energy prices, that will call for food and other necessary products to be sourced locally.