



In Memory of Former Victoria Fire Chief and City Councillor Eric Simmons

Date: Thursday, January 2, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City is recognizing the recent passing of former Victoria Fire Chief and City Councillor Eric Simmons, at 99 years of age.

Simmons' career with the City of Victoria spanned over four decades. He began working at the Victoria Fire Department as a fire fighter in 1946, served as Fire Chief from 1967 to 1980, followed by 10 years as a Victoria City Councillor.

“Eric will be remembered as a vigorous, engaged and distinguished community member,” said Fire Chief Paul Bruce, “It was always very satisfying to share news of the department with him and to receive his comments on issues with the community and, importantly, with the well-being of the department. He remained engaged and inquisitive to the very end.”

His career with the Fire Department began after returning from active duty during World War II. His leadership was telling through a variety of elected positions with the Victoria Firefighters Association, including Secretary Treasurer and concluding with the achievement of Sixth District Vice-President. Simmons was appointed to Fire Chief in 1966 and retired from active duty in 1980.

In 1980, Simmons was successful in transitioning to the role of City Alderman (Councillor) and kept that position until his retirement in 1990. He was involved in many community groups including Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia, British Columbia Professional Firefighters Association, Silver Threads, Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities and a member of the Uplands Golf Club. Simmons was a devoted husband to his wife, Anne, who passed away on October 12, 2019. He was also a father and grandfather to his son and two granddaughters.

As an active member of the Victoria Firefighters Historical Society, Simmons assisted with its inception in 1990. Accordingly, in 2017, an award was established in his honour recognizing Community Service by a member of IAFF Local 730; the Eric Simmons Community Service Award. This is awarded annually to a member of the Victoria Fire Department who has demonstrated outstanding service and promotion of our role in the community.

Funeral and recognition service details will be announced in the near future.

Attachment:

Photo of Victoria Fire Chief and City Councillor Eric Simmons, Photo Credit: Victoria Firefighters Local 730 and City of Victoria Archives image M08054 - detail

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