

Federal Court judge got his start growing up in Chateaugay Valley

Judith Taylor
THE GLEANER

Serving as president of the Student Council at the Ormstown High School in his graduating year of 1965 was at least an indication of things to come for Michael Kelen.

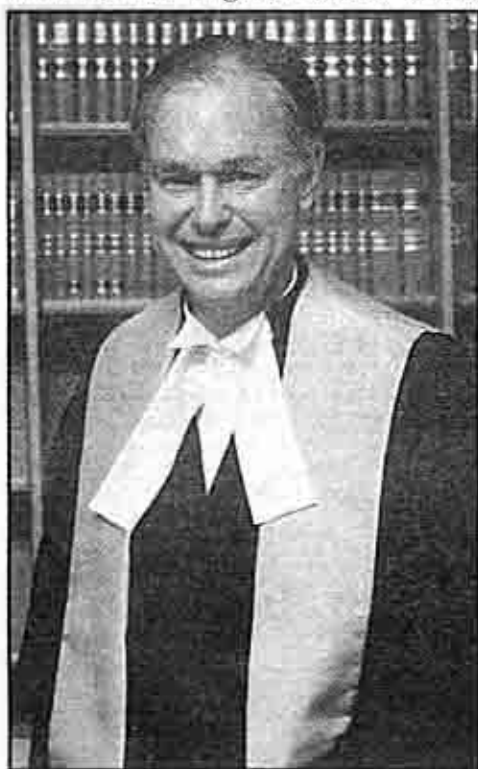
During the 36 years between that time and the summer of 2001, the Ormstown High School became an elementary school with the opening of Chateaugay Valley Regional High School in 1967, and Michael Kelen went on to university and a distinguished career in jurisprudence, culminating last year in his appointment as a Judge of the federal Court of Canada.

Now living in Ottawa, the Hon. Mr. Justice Michael A. Kelen retains close ties with his home town, where his parents, retired doctors Andrew and Marian Kelen, still live.

Michael and his four siblings, Susan, Wendy, Sari and Steve, all grew up in Ormstown. With the exception of Steve, now in BC, they have all remained within an easy day's drive of home: Sari is the closest in Hudson; Wendy lives in Kingston, Ont., and Susan and Michael are both in Ottawa.

Michael's career saw him complete a Bachelor of Laws degree at Queen's University in Kingston in 1972. He was

admitted two years later to the Ontario Bar, and spent six years as a Counsel with the Civil Litigation section of the



Mr. Justice Michael Kelen on the day he was appointed to the Federal Court, August 1, 2001.

(Photo: Couvrette Ottawa)

Department of Justice. In 1980, he set up in his own practice, specializing in matters related to federal government legislation, international trade law, commodity tax law and administrative law.

But he still remembers fondly his early school days in Ormstown.

"When Mike was in Grade 5, he told us Phyllis Upton MacDougall was 'the best teacher in all the world'," recalls his mother Dr. Marian Kelen. "The next year, it was Mrs. (Willie) Hooker who got that title, and Mike always swore that Mr. (Leigh) Coffin taught him more French

than anybody. Mike certainly got a good start to his education right here."

BIRTHS & DEATHS CARD OF THANKS, IN MEMORIALS, ENGAGEMENTS

DIED

ALIX, Fernand Rene - Aged 84 of East Main St., Chateaugay died Wednesday, May 1, 2002 at Alice Hyde Medical Center, Malone, NY where he had been a patient since April 16, 2002. Born in Springfield, MA on July 18, 1917, he was the son of Emile and Rose (Maynard) Alix. They predeceased him. He was married to Irene Rubel on September 10, 1948 in Tonawanda, NY by Rev. John Weismantel. Mr. Alix is survived by his wife of 53 years, a daughter and son-in-law Cheryl and Mark Dunham of Plattsburgh, NY, 3 sons and daughters-in-law John and Nancy Alix of Chateaugay, NY, Richard and Kerstin Alix of Iceland, James and Christine Alix of Chicago, IL, a sister Rita Tracy of Springfield, MA, 2 brothers Francis Alix of Yonkers, NY and Louis Alix of San Diego, CA, as well as 9 grandchildren. Mr. Alix graduated from High School of Commerce, Springfield, Mass. He entered into the United States Army on June 18, 1942 in the Army Air Corp and served until January 10, 1946 when he was honorably discharged as a sergeant. He became manager of Woolworth's Stores serving the northeastern United States for 25 years. Moving to Chateaugay in 1957, he began his own business, Alix's Five and Dime on Main St. and continued to work up to the time of his death at Alix's True Value. He built his life around the store; he was very musical playing the violin, piano and organ without ever having taken a lesson. Fernand loved to garden and was a horticulturist. In his early years, he was a pro wrestler and was holder of the New England Championship. Mr. Alix was a member of St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay, a 53 year member of the Chateaugay American Legion, Knights of Columbus Third Degree, former member of Chateaugay Rotary and was involved with the Civil Defense Corp. A memorial mass was held on Friday May 3, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. in St. Patrick's Church with Rev. Stephen Gratto and Rev. Fay Ager. Burial will be private. Donations in his memory may be made to Chateaugay Fire Company, PO Box 911, Chateaugay, NY 12920 or American Cancer Society, 94 East Main St., Malone, NY 12953. Arrangements by Chateaugay Funeral Home, P.O. Box 4, 36 Church St., Chateaugay, NY. Phone 518-497-6781, Hubert A. Wilcox, Funeral Director.

DIED

CLARK, Kenneth J. - Following a courageous battle with cancer, at the Kingston General Hospital, Kingston on Monday, May 6, 2002 Kenneth J. Clark founder of Ken Clark Transportation (Clark Leasing Ltd.) in his 65th year. Beloved husband of Elizabeth "Betty" Clark, loved father of Diane (Ed) Reid of Perth, James Clark of Ottawa, Sharon (Ken) Shaw of Belleville and Dan (Greta) Clark of Pickering, cherished grandfather of Adam and Tricia Reid, Calvin and Benjamin Clark, Dylan and Kurtis Shaw and Ryan and Sara Clark. Dear brother of Lois Williams of Kanata, Joan Dery of Cold Lake, Alberta and the late Alton and Roy Clark, son of the late Reta and John Clark. Ken will be sadly missed by his sister-in-law June Robinson of Toronto, brother-in-law Archie (Marion) English of Ottawa, his nieces, nephews, family and many good friends. Friends may pay their respects at the Blair & Son Funeral Home, Perth Wednesday, May 8 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral service will be held in St. Paul's United Church, Perth Thursday at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception in the Church Hall. In remembrance, contributions to the Foundation of the Great War Memorial Hospital, Perth or the Cancer Society would be appreciated.

DONNELLY, Kathleen - At the Barrie Memorial Hospital on May 4, 2002 passed away Miss Kathleen Donnelly, age 90. She leaves to mourn 6 nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on Tuesday, May 7 from 7-9 p.m. at Kelly Funeral Home, 19 Lake, Huntingdon. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, May 8 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Westville, N.Y.

CARD OF THANKS

Words could never express my thanks to Drs. Surowanec, Lemieux, Hebert and the nursing staff on the Third Floor and in the Emergency Department of the Barrie Memorial Hospital for the excellent care and kindness shown to me while I was a patient there. Also thanks to the clergy Kate Jordan, John McPhadden, Susan Estabrooks for visits and many friends and neighbors for beautiful cards, flowers, food, gifts, visits and phone calls. All was very much appreciated.

Norah O'Hare (Millar)



Some of the members of the Kelen family who attended the ceremony in Ottawa: from left to right, standing: Susan, Sari, Michael; seated Drs. Marian and Andrew Kelen. (Absent from photo: Wendy and Steve.)

(Photo: Couvrette Ottawa)

Fatal accident



Police and ambulance personnel were quick to answer the call to the scene of the crash.

(Photo: PL)

Dundee woman dies after crash

A Dundee woman is dead following a violent head-on collision on Route 132 in Ste-Barbe early Friday afternoon.

The crash occurred just before 1 p.m. when a car driven by 54-year-old Denise Gauthier collided head-on with an appliance-repair van from Coteau-du-Lac on the highway, a few kilometers from Port-Lewis.

The van came to rest upside down on the road, while the car was thrown off the pavement by the impact. Mme. Gauthier was severely injured and taken by ambulance to the Suroit Regional Hospital in Valleyfield where she died shortly afterward. One occupant of the van was badly

hurt; the other was less severely injured and police said neither had life-threatening injuries.

Firemen from Ste-Barbe/St-Stanislas were called to the scene to aid in extricating the victims. The cause of the accident has not been established, although an investigator from the SQ's Montreal-based special accident squad was dispatched to the scene. District Coroner Marcel Clément was also called in to investigate, police said.

The highway remained closed to traffic for some time following the crash.

(P.L./J.T.)

60th Wedding Anniversary
in honour of
Maggie & Bill Arthur
SATURDAY MAY 11, 2002, 2-5 pm
At Blair's,
1421 Rte 202, Franklin Centre
Best Wishes Only
Everyone Welcome