

Municipal Facility & Asset Naming
APPLICATION FORM**A. NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION (*A COMMEMORATIVE NAME MAY BE USED ONLY ONCE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS—SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS MAY BE DENIED)**

Name (Individual or Organization): Frank Blakeley

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] _____
Home Work

E-mail: [REDACTED] _____

Affiliation to Nominee: Family member, born and raised in Almonte

B. NOMINEE'S INFORMATION (NAME TO BE COMMEMORATED)

Name: BLAKELEY (family name on behalf of all family members)

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] _____
Home Work

E-mail: [REDACTED] _____

C. NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION (*A COMMEMORATIVE NAME MAY BE USED ONLY ONCE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS – SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS MAY BE DENIED)

Name (Individual or Organization): Frank Blakeley

D. NOMINEE'S INFORMATION (NAME TO BE COMMEMORATED)

Name: BLAKELEY

E. APPLICABLE CRITERIA (SELECT ONE)

☐ The nominee is an original inhabitant/family of the Mississippi Mills area having historical significance

☒ The nominated person/organization demonstrates excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring special credit to the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, the Province of Ontario and / or Canada;

☐ The nominated person/organization volunteers and gives extraordinary help or care to individuals, families or groups, or supports community services or humanitarian causes. The quality of the contribution should be considered along with the length of service by the individual;

☐ The nominated individual risks his or her life to save or protect others above and beyond expectations;

☐ The nominated individual achieves a deed or activity performed in an outstanding professional manner or of an uncommonly high standard that brings considerable benefit or honour to the Municipality;

☐ The nominated person/organization has made a significant contribution towards a facility or asset owned by the Municipality;

☐ The nominated person/organization has a direct relationship with the facility or asset to be named;

☐ The nominated person is an employee, including an employee of a corporation which is owned by the Municipality in whole or part or a member of Council who is deceased, has retired or is no longer active in their field

☐ The nominated name reflects an historical event significant to Mississippi Mills

F. RATIONALE FOR NOMINATION AND ATTACHED BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELATED TO THE CRITERION CHOSEN, WHICH SUBSTANTIATES ALL CLAIMS MADE: INCLUDE ITEMS SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO COPIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, CERTIFICATES, AWARDS, LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR COMMENDATION, SERVICE RECORDS, PICTURES.

Please note all information provided below and/or attached to this Application Form will form part of the Naming Application Form and will therefore be released to the public in any public notices/advertisements produced, public Agenda and Minutes, Committee discussions/meetings and Reports which may go forward to Council.

G. Do You Wish the Name to be Used for a Specific:

☐ Park

☐ Facility

☐ Road YES

☐ Asset within a Facility

☐ Other

☐ Current Identification, Address or Location Information:

H. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (ADD INFORMATION AS NEEDED)

Family's service information can be verified by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 240

Family has been part of Almonte for 101 years

See attached sheet for all of our family members' contributions to the Town of Almonte.

Please note that the correct spelling of our last name is **BLAKELEY**

**I. CONSENT TO THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN SECTIONS C- J IN
WHOLE OR IN PART**

CONSENT

I / We consent to the release of the information contained in this application in Sections C-H to members of the public for the purposes of allowing Council to receive public input into the proposed naming.

MFIPPA STATEMENT

The information collected on this form will be used as part of the Municipal Facility and Asset Naming Process.

Personal information on the form, attached to the form or subsequently submitted to be included or attached to the Application Form, and all subsequent information collected as a result of the research and the staff investigation of the person's information, including but not limited to information found on websites, in local archived materials, in newspapers articles, or as a result of a public consultation process, will be used by staff and will be made available to the members of the public, and councillors—except the information collected in Sections A and B .



Nominator's Signature

September 22, 2020

Date



Nominee's Signature¹

September 22, 2020

Date

¹ The nominee or a representative on their behalf (next of kin, solicitor, notary public, etc.) must provide consent to this nomination.

BLAKELEY family street naming application information for the Town of Almonte

My Great Grandfather, John Blakeley, came to Almonte with his family in 1919... over a hundred years ago. He took up residence on 24 Malcolm St. in April of 1919, and managed the Shoddy Mill for about 10 years until his death in 1929.

The Almonte Gazette archives show that he was elected to the Town Council in 1921, as well as to the Board of Education in 1925. He was involved in many of the town's activities over the years, even to being named an Honorary President of the Almonte Hockey Club.

The Blakeley descendants have had a long standing and prolific presence in Almonte over the years. My grandparents, Tom and Lillian Blakeley, raised seven children in their home at 229 Ann Street, and Uncle Bill and Aunt Clara Blakeley raised four children at 115 Colina Street.

John Blakeley's sons, Tom, and Bill, and Bill's son, Keith, were all longstanding members of the Almonte Fire Dept.; my grandfather Tom Blakeley retiring after 35 years in 1958, and his brother, my Uncle Bill, served for 51 years. Keith rose to the position of Deputy Chief of the Almonte-Ramsay Fire Dept. until he passed away in 1983

My Uncles Don Blakeley and Earl Blakeley, and Bill Blakeley's son, Wally Blakeley all served overseas, but Wally did not make it home. In a June 17, 1944 letter... 11 days after D-Day... from my Uncle Don to my grandmother while he was overseas he wrote *"I bet there was quite the excitement the day we landed, eh! I'd have liked to seen one of the papers."* Almonte was there and was part of D-Day!! There is a graphite portrait of my Uncle Earl in the Canadian War Museum as part of an exhibit of 14 portraits of Canadian War Veterans.

My Aunt Clara Blakeley, wife of Bill Blakeley, was a Silver Cross Mother because her son, Wally, was killed in action.

In addition to our family's wartime service, in peacetime, my dad, Murray Blakeley, first served in the Royal Canadian Navy aboard the HMCS New Liskeard, as well as in the mid 1950s he was a soldier in the Regular Army stationed at Camp Borden.

Our family's service information can be verified by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 240.

My mother, Marion Blakeley, was a nurse in the Rosamond Memorial Hospital, and then in the new Almonte General Hospital when it opened in 1961. As I recall being told, she was involved in the delivery of the last baby to be born in the Rosamond Hospital, and the first baby to be born in the new hospital.

My grandmother, Lillian Blakeley worked at the candy counter and my grandfather's sister, Edna worked at the ticket booth of the O'Brien Theatre for many years.

Keith Blakeley, in addition to his service on the Almonte Fire Dept., was also Director of the Almonte Fair Board for a number of years.

Keith and Stella Blakeley's daughter, Bonnie, was a school teacher in Almonte and Pakenham, and their other daughter, Sherry, served on Almonte Town Council for 7 years under Mayors Dorothy Finner and Ron Pettem.

The archives of the Almonte Gazette follow the progress of myself, my siblings, and my cousins as we progressed through school year after year, as well as a number of articles telling of the happy events and the sad ones our family experienced.

John Blakeley Card of Thanks
on being elected to town council
Almonte Gazette Jan 7 1921

Card of Thanks

To the Electors of Almonte:

I cannot find words appropriate enough to convey my thanks for the way in which the electors supported me on Monday. I can only say that I shall do all in my power to advance the interests and promote the happiness of the people of Almonte.

JOHN BLAKELEY.

John Blakeley to Board of Education - Gazette June 5 1925

J. BLAKELEY NEW MEMBER OF BOARD

Succeeds W. A. Sawteli as Member of Almonte Board of Education

Mr. John Blakeley is the new member of Almonte Board of Education. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. W. A. Sawteli.

The nomination meeting was held on Friday evening. Mr. Blakeley's name was put in nomination by Mr. D. Williams and Mr. H. Brown. There were no other candidates and Mr. Blakeley was declared elected by the presiding officer, Mr. R. A. Jamieson.

John Blakeley

The funeral of John Blakeley, prominent business man, whose sudden death on Thursday, caused keen regret throughout the town took place on Saturday from the family home on Malcolm Street, to the Auld Kirk Cemetery, and was the occasion of an impressive tribute, by the large gatherings of citizens, representing every phase of the life of the town, to the very high esteem and popularity, of one whose loyal and kindly disposition had won a host of friends during the years he had lived here. It was conducted under Masonic Auspices and local and visiting Masons in large numbers marched in a body at the head of the cortege. The Board of Education of which deceased was a member also attended in a body.

The deceased was an attendant of the Presbyterian Church here. Impressive services were conducted at the home by the Rev. J. R. MacCrimmon.

The relatives at the funeral from out of town were: Mrs. J. W. Barras (daughter), Toronto; Mrs. Willard Hicks (sister), and Mr. Hicks, Toronto; brothers, Joseph Blakeley and Walter Blakeley of Paris and Smith Blakeley of Hamilton; James Williams, Brantford, (nephew); Other friends from out of town were Mrs. W. R. Collinson, Toronto, W. L. Good Montreal; A. L. Code and J. Douglas, Perth; H. Steet, D. B. Taylor, J. Garvin, and Mrs. W. Houston, of Carleton Place; Alex Wilson and Lloyd Smith, St. Hyacinthe, Que.; T. A. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Lowry, George Lowry, Jas. Drynan; Percy Drynan, of Ramsay; Mrs. Wilbert Fulton, Cedar Hill; Dr. J. Mackintosh Bell, Ottawa, and many others.

The pallbearers were: Messrs. Nelson Washburn, Dr. W. M. Johnson, Ed. Nicholson, J. B. Illingworth, John Lindsay and Max Young.

Many messages of sympathy were received by the bereaved family and a large number of beautiful floral tributes. Offerings included those from Presbyterian Church Choir; Mississippi Lodge, A.F. and A.M.; Board of Education; Public School Teachers' staff; Directors Rosamond Memorial Hospital; Yorkshire Woolstock Mills; Almonte Fire Brigade; Smith Manufacturing Co., (Toronto); Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. John Gorton; Mrs. Wm. Illingworth and family; Mr. and Mrs. Collinson, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Hawkes, Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. A. Hogan, Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sadler; Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Sadler; Smith Blakeley and family, Hamilton; Mrs. Mary Fair and family, Brantford; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hoey, Brantford; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson and family, Woodstock; W. L. Good, Montreal; Friends of Zion Chapel, Toronto; Pillow, Father and family, Paris; Gates Ajar, Wife and family.

SERVICE IS HELD FOR SGT. WALLACE BLAKELEY

A memorial service was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blakeley on Friday morning, Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. for their son Sgt. Air Gunner Wallace Blakeley, who was killed in action on Sept. 5th. They had been advised by Overseas military authorities that at four o'clock that afternoon (11 a.m. here) the first native son of Almonte to lose his life in this war, would be buried with military honors in Stonefall Cemetery, Wetherby Road, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. The service here was conducted by Rev. A. J. Fowlie, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of which the Blakeley family are members. A comforting thought from the standpoint of the dead soldier's relatives is that their boy lies only a few miles from the place where the family originated and where his forefathers are buried. The sympathy of the whole community goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Blakeley in the loss they have suffered.

Almonte Silver Cross Mothers - 1944 -
Aunt Clara is 4th from the left in back row



June 17/44.

Dear Mr. Allen
Just a line to let you know I
O.K. Received your 2 cards, & marks
& was at ever a well getting them.
I have my life engaged getting
them as it is not what I get
that, along with a couple from
Blagden & one from Mary Caldwell.
I'll bet there was quite an ex-
citement the day we landed it.
I'd have liked to see one of the
papers. This is the first chance
I've had to write a letter, but
I hope you got the 2 cards
I sent. I'll had to hurry & get
the boat fixed up because we
hope to have this job done
in short order & I'll be home
before you know it. And don't
worry because it is as bad
as you'd think. So long.
Love to all the family.
See you soon. Love

June 17/44

Dear Mom and Dad

Just a line to let you know I'm O.K. Received your 2 air mails & was it ever swell getting them.

I never in my life enjoyed getting mail as it did when I got them, along with a couple from Glasgow and one from Mary Caldwell.

I bet there was quite the excitement the day we landed, eh! I'd have liked to seen one of the papers.

This is the first chance I've had to write a letter, but hope you got the 2 cards I sent. Tell Dad to hurry & get the boat fixed up because we hope to have this job done in short order & I'll be home before you know it. And don't worry because it isn't so bad as you'd think. So long.

Love to all the family.

See you soon.

Don

FIELD



SERVICE

POST CARD.



The address
only to be
written on this
side. If any-
thing else is
added the
post card will
be destroyed.

Mrs Thomas Blakeley
Anne Street
Gloucester Ontario
Canada.

P.O.

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

I am quite well.

~~*I have been admitted into hospital*~~

~~*{ sick }*~~ *and am going on well.*

~~*{ wounded }*~~ *and hope to be discharged soon.*

~~*I am being sent down to the base.*~~

I have received ~~*{ letter dated*~~
~~*{ telegram*~~ ,,
your ~~*{ parcel*~~ ,,

Letter follows at first opportunity.

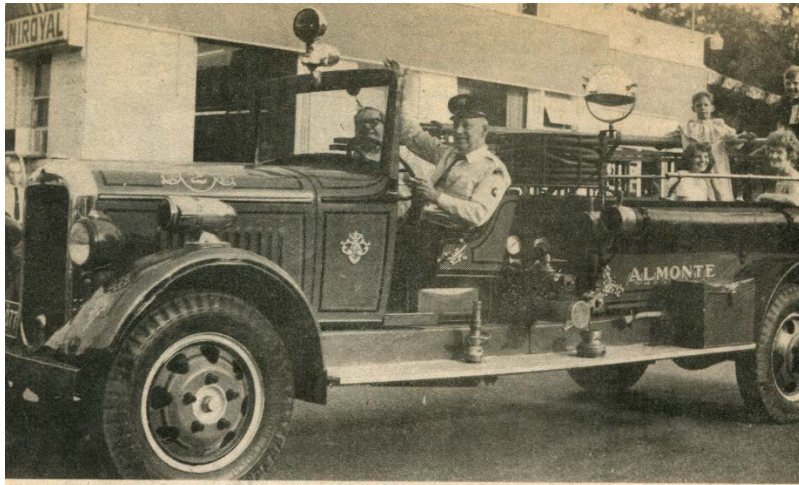
I have received no letter from you

~~*{ lately*~~
~~*{ for a long time.*~~

Signature
only

Date

10 June 1944
D. T. Blakeley.



No parade is complete without a fire truck, and the big Almonte '75 parade last Saturday featured lots of them, both old and new. This old pumper of the Almonte Fire Department was driven by a couple of old hands, Bill Blakely and Cheezer Clement.



ALMONTE, ONTARIO, THURS., APRIL 3RD, 1958

PRESENTATION MADE TO TOM BLAKELEY BY HIS FELLOW FIREMEN

A member of the Almonte Fire Brigade was honored at the Thursday night meeting of that organization, when Tom Blakeley retired after 35 years of service.

Tom was one of the most faithful men on the force and was much respected by those who worked with him.

Mr. Blakeley was presented with a handsome smoking stand and an attached lighter bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Thomas Blakeley by the Almonte Fire Brigade for 35 years' faithful service."

The presentation was made by Mr. Ken Horton and the following address was read by Mr. Thorpe Kelly:

Dear Tommy,

It was with sincere regret that we accepted your resignation from the Almonte Fire Department.

Your happy temperament throughout your thirty-five years of service made you its most popular member.

Being the senior member of a well known firefighting family, you established a tradition which will be hard to surpass.

Your faithfulness and willingness to work made you a valuable firefighter and a good officer and we are sorry to have you leave our ranks. But since it must be so, we can only wish you good luck, good health and lots of happiness.

In closing we ask you to please accept this small token of our esteem. May it find good use in your home and remind you of your good times with us.

Your brother Firefighters,
Signed by all the members of the Fire Department.



GEO. H. DOUCI
wins Lanark Ridh
vative ticket.

HENS AND CHICKENS OUT AT NIGHT

There will be no... at the big Centenni... in Almonte this year... ional space can be fi... decided at the Boar... meeting in Almonte... night. The poultry s... very light in recent... Directors decided to... ing for an exhibit of... this year only. Fu... about the antique sh... leased later.

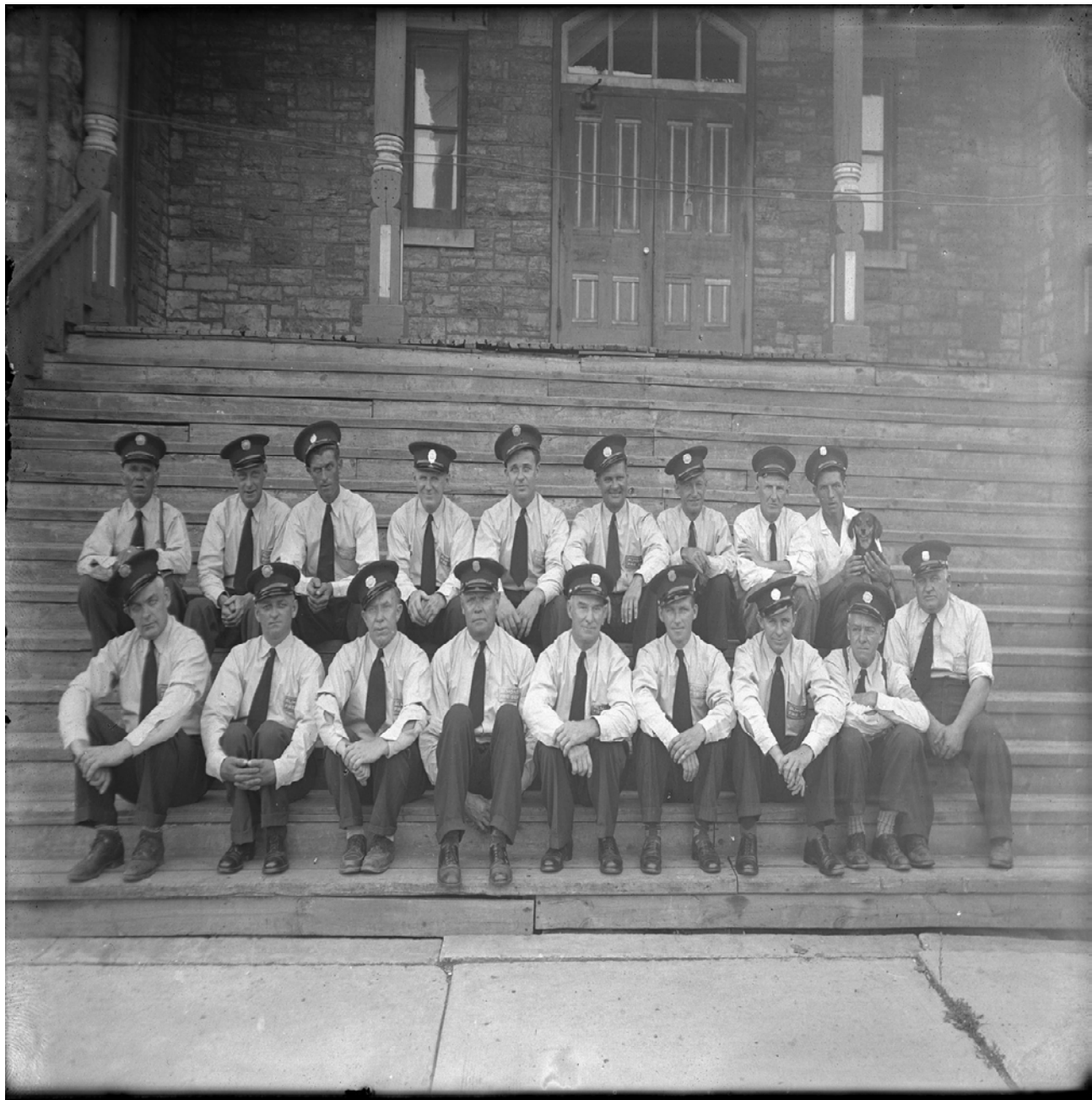
Amendments to it... were considered ir... for getting it printe... date. The beef cattl... be set up according... tions used at the R... There has been som... the past when differ... life were used for the

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to H. L.
t., \$255;
to Scots-
Scobie &
als. Pass

Almonte firemen on town hall steps (1948) –
Grandpa Blakeley in back row, 3rd from the right and Uncle Bill 2nd from the left in back row



CITY

OBITUARY · EARL BLAKELEY



PAT MCGRATH, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Only three weeks ago, Earl Blakeley attended the opening of Elaine Goble's exhibit of 14 graphite portraits of Canadian veterans at the Canadian War Museum.

Humble war veteran never sought spotlight

**'There was something triumphant
about his approach to life'**

BY CHARLES ENMAN

On the walls of the Canadian War Museum, there's a portrait of Earl Blakeley — a pencil portrait that shows a warm and welcoming man, holding an early family photograph in his lap and, in his right arm, one of his two artificial legs.

"I hope you can really see the Earl I came to know and love in that portrait," artist Elaine Goble told the Citizen. "Life didn't deal Earl the best hand, but there's his openness and approachability, I hope, and that optimism that helped him always see life's glass as half full."

Only three weeks ago, Mr. Blakeley, a resident of the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, attended the opening of her exhibit of 14 graphite portraits of Canadian veterans, which will remain part of the museum's permanent collection.

"I asked him to be 'my date,' and he was delighted, though I think he was a bit dismayed to see his portrait on that wall," Ms. Goble recalled. "He was a very quiet and humble man, never one to seek the spotlight."

Mr. Blakeley was in fine form that day, his spirits good and his mind sparkling, she recalls.

Last Friday, Mr. Blakeley died suddenly. He was 79.

His niece, Arlene Dugdale of Carleton Place, says Mr. Blakeley had "a wonderful attitude — there was something triumphant about his approach to life."

He seldom spoke of his wartime experiences, but she believed they marked him profoundly. "He talked about things like finding the dog tags of soldiers he knew, but the stories were pretty sketchy," she says. "I think he saved them for men who had gone through the Second World War like he'd done."

Mr. Blakeley joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in the middle of the war. At 17, he was too young to serve but, like many young men, he lied about his age to go overseas.

After the war, Mr. Blakeley developed a drinking problem, which his niece attributes to the traumas of military service.

Mr. Blakeley didn't lose his legs as a result of wartime action.

Several decades ago, after a night of drinking, he fell on ice and passed out. By the time he was found, his legs were frozen and had to be amputated.

"But no one ever heard Earl complain," Ms. Dug-

dale recalled. "Instead of falling into depression, he tried to help other amputees adapt to their situation, especially soldiers in veterans' hospitals."

In his 50s, he suffered another physical insult — cancer of the esophagus, which, after treatment was finished, left him with no taste, no sense of smell, and forced to nourish himself through a feeding tube.

"For decades, at the hospital, he'd just take the food the staff would bring in, put it through a blender, and then inject it into his stomach," Ms. Dugdale recalled. "He looked after that and never complained."

His friends at the Perley and Rideau Centre were a great comfort to him, his niece said.

"Oh, sometimes we'd get him out for a drive, but soon he'd just want to get back to the centre, where his friends were," she said.

Ms. Dugdale last spoke to her uncle last Wednesday, when he said he had "a touch of flu." On Friday morning, a staff member who was taking in his breakfast tray found he'd passed away overnight.

Mr. Blakeley is survived by his sister, Jean LeBlanc. Three sisters and two brothers predeceased him.

His funeral will be held at 1 p.m. today at the chapel of the C.R. Gamble Funeral Home in Almonte. Cremation will follow.