

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE INFORMER

LEADERSHIP

WALTER PITMAN



Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

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“A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Leadership

Remembering Ontario's Leaders is a series of special issues of The InFormer, one which takes a look at the lives of former Members of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario beyond their political accomplishments. These are the special individuals who contributed substantively to many parts of community life; visionaries who were able to blend political skills with the drive to make a difference in other areas such as the arts, culture, business, education, and science.

These special issues look at accomplishments by politicians who used their unique leadership qualities to have a profound effect on our society. The individuals featured in this series are people who embodied the essence of leadership: compassion, vision, courage, accountability, responsibility, self-awareness, and encouragement. They were builders and innovators. They led by example, inspiring others to dream bigger, work harder and be creative. In my humble view, their unique lives have never received the recognition they so richly deserve.

Our editorial team will explore the lives of former Members of Provincial Parliament who sadly are no longer with us. As you the reader consider the stories we publish, you may think of other former Members who fit the description used here of leaders who went beyond the bounds of electoral politics. If so, please suggest their names to me.

David Warner, Writer
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**All quotations in this publication, unless otherwise noted, are from the Pitman-Collinge Chronicles*

Walter George Pitman

(May 18, 1929 – 12 June 2018)

Member of Provincial Parliament for Peterborough 1967-1971

Member of Parliament for Peterborough 1960-62

“Walter Pitman was a person of extraordinary talent. He did an enormous amount of good without making much fuss about it. His was a life of almost total service.”

- Tom Symons, founding President of Trent University



Walter Pitman was a leader. He was never the Leader of a political party, although he gave that a try at the New Democrat's leadership convention in 1970. That unsuccessful bid did not dissuade or discourage him from being a leader in the venues of arts, education and social justice.

Walter Pitman made a life-time commitment to trying to better the human condition. When he was presented for admission to the degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters at Trinity College in 2001, the presenter quoted from Jean-Jacques Rousseau's 1762 "On The Social Contract:"

“As soon as the public service ceases to be the chief business of the citizens, and they would rather serve with their money than with their persons, the State is not far from its fall.”

The presenter stated further, “I like to think that it was people like Walter Pitman whom Rousseau envisaged as his ideal citizens: men and women willing to serve with their persons, whose readiness to act on their belief in the primacy of the public good is the sine qua non of the good society.”

The wide variety of organizations to which Walter Pitman belonged, was employed by, volunteered in, and in many cases directed, illustrates how and why Walter Pitman was such an important figure in the life and culture of Ontario.

He devoted his life to politics, education, the arts and social justice, and in every case his tenure was distinguished by his leadership.

The following sections will discuss Walter's activities, and how he was viewed by those with whom he worked. Both his employment and his volunteer work were in the areas of politics and social justice, education, and the arts.

Leadership in Politics

Member of Provincial Parliament for Peterborough	1967-71
Candidate for Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party	1970
Member of Parliament for Peterborough	1960-62

Leadership in Education

Dean of Arts and Science, Trent University	1972-1975
President, Ryerson Polytechnic Institute	1975-1980
Director, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education	1986-1992
Chair, Ontario Education Association	
Chair, Canadian Association for Adult Education	
Chair, Elderhostel Canada	

Leadership in the Arts

Executive Director, Ontario Arts Council	1980-1986
Chair, Arts Education Council	
Member, Board of Directors, National Ballet of Canada	

Member, Board of Directors, Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto
Member, Board of Directors, Toronto Children's Chorus
Member, Board of Directors, Orpheus Choir

Leadership in Social Justice Organizations

Chair, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Chair, Project Ploughshares
Chair, Interim Waste Authority
Chair, Energy Probe
Member, Board of Directors, Campaign Against Child Poverty

One of the founders, For Our Grandchildren

Biographical Snapshot

(1953) Ida, Walter, baby Wade



University Degrees and Honours

Honours B.A.[Modern History]
University of Toronto [Trinity College]
1952
M.A. [History] University of Toronto,
1956
Honorary LL'D's – McGill University,
York University, Brock University,
Trent University
University of Trinity College [U. of T],
Honorary Degree in Sacred Letters
[2001]
Honorary Fellowships – Ontario
College of Art, Ontario Institute for

Studies in Education, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute [Ryerson University]
Honorary Life Member, Ryerson Community
Outstanding Service Award, Ryerson Faculty Association
Chair Emeritus, Elderhostel Canada and Routes to Learning Canada, 1999
Lifetime Achievement Award, Royal Conservatory of Music "Learning
Through the Arts" Program

Other Honours

Officer, Order of Canada, 1992
Member, Order of Ontario, 1991
ORT Centennial Medal, for exemplary contribution to Vocational/Technical
Education, 1980
Greer Award, Outstanding Contribution to Ontario Education, Ontario
Educational Association
Certificate of Merit, Ontario Psychological Foundation, 1989
Canadian Association for University Continuing Education Outstanding
Contributor Award, 1989
Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International
Fabian Lemieux Award for Contribution to Arts Education, Arts Education
Council of Ontario
Warner-Lambert Award, Scarborough College, [U of T], for Excellence in
Arts Administration
Honourary Membership, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering
Technicians and Technologists, 1990
Lifetime Award 2010: The Canadian Network for Arts and Learning

Professional Life

Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences,
Trent University, 1972-75
President, Ryerson Polytechnical
Institute [now Ryerson University], 1975
– 1980
Executive Director, Ontario Arts Council,
1980-86
Director, Ontario Institute for Studies in
Education, 1986-91



(2000) Walter at Lectern

Political Life

Member, House of Commons, Ottawa, 1960 – 62
Member, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, 1967-71. Chair of NDP Caucus,
1967-71, Deputy Leader of the Ontario NDP, 1970 –71

Voluntary Activities

Chair, Elderhostel Canada.
Chair, Ontario Education Association
Chair, Canadian Association for Adult Education
Chair, Energy Probe, Probe International
Chair, Arts Education Council of Ontario
Chair, Arts Education Institute of Ontario
Chair, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Chair, Project Ploughshares
Chair, Interim Waste Authority, Province of Ontario, 1994-5
Vice-Chair, Moderator's Consultation on Faith and the Economy, United
Church of Canada, 1998 – 2000
Member of the Board – National Ballet of Canada, Toronto; Mendelssohn
Choir, Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, Toronto; Toronto Children's
Chorus, Toronto Senior Strings
Campaign Against Child Poverty
Chair of Joint Committee of Trinity-St. Paul's and Tafelmusik Baroque
Orchestra recreation of a Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts.

Publications – Articles and Reports

"The Baptists and Public Affairs in the Province of Canada, 1840-1867"
Arno Press, New York, 1980
"Now Is Not Too Late" – Report on Racism and Violence in Metropolitan
Toronto, 1977
The Report of the Advisor to the Minister of Colleges and Universities on

the Governance of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, 1986
“No Dead Ends” – The Report of the Task Force on Advanced Training to
the Minister of Education and Training, 1993
Weekly articles written for the Peterborough Examiner, 1960 – 1962, 1967-
71
Toronto Star, 1971 – 75; other journals and periodicals, 1952 – 2004

Books

“Teachers – Studies in Excellence” with Joyce Nesker Simmons, Pembroke
Press, 1996
“Learning the Arts in an Age of Uncertainty,” published by the Arts
Education Council of Ontario, 1999
“A Passion for Culture – The Life of Louis Applebaum” The Dundurn
Group, Toronto, 2002
“Music Makers: The Lives of Harry Freedman and Mary Morrison,” The
Dundurn Group, Toronto 2005
“Elmer Iseler: Choral Visionary”, The Dundurn Group, Toronto, 2008.
“Victor Feldbrill, Conductor Extraordinaire”, The Dundurn Group, Toronto,
2010



(2002) Ida and Walter at the cottage celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary

Early Years



(1929) Walter as a baby

It may be helpful to know a bit of background about Walter Pitman's formative years. He was an only child of parents, each of whom had emigrated from England, and met and married in Canada. "Being an only child in a Depression family was a decided advantage. Though my father had a secure job through these years, it was a humble position with a modest salary. Yet, I never remember being without clothes or toys, and was well fed throughout these lean years."

As Walter progressed through Keele Street Public School, Humberside Collegiate and the University of Toronto, where he earned an Honours B.A. (Modern History) and an M.A (History), music and athletics became part of

his foundation for critical thinking about how the arts are connected to learning. Walter sang in the school choirs and in the Senior Choir at Indian Road Baptist Church. In grade 10 he took up the clarinet and played in the school orchestra. On the athletic side, "I particularly liked 'football', as in 'soccer,' and though I was small, I was a fast sprinter and could make a decent contribution to my team's success. As well, I 'made' the school hockey team and even scored a goal on one occasion. Track and Field was, however, my forte, as I actually won the odd race at 100 yards." At U of T, Walter participated in indoor track events as well as intercollegiate wrestling.

Walter provides a candid, colourful description of his high

school experience. “I found English Literature and History intriguing, but failed to make any sense out of mathematics or the physical sciences. Botany and Zoology were fascinating, and with sufficient attention I discovered one could memorize enough to pass. Languages, either ancient or modern, were not my forte and indeed my mind automatically goes back to a Latin teacher, a Miss Belcher, whose technique was to make learning so unpleasant that one succeeded only to avoid endless detentions.”

“I cannot leave the world of secondary school without mention of one teacher who provided me with the inspiration to follow his profession and his passion for history – J. Evan Cruickshank.” And here we see the beginning of what would become Walter’s approach to learning and the arts. “Cruickshank possessed an extraordinary capacity to force, with adroit questioning, an entire class to understand the most complex series of events. Each lesson was a drama that sent students reeling from the classroom realizing that they had conquered the impossible historical conundrum and in doing so better understood themselves and the world in which they lived. I never achieved the heights that he scaled...perhaps it was this sense of inadequacy that led me into administration!”

Ida (born Collinge) and Walter were married for more than 50 years.

Her parents, like his, had emigrated from England and met and married in Canada. Unlike Walter, however, Ida was not an only child. She was the only girl, and the youngest of the Collinges’ 6 children. Both the Pitman and Collinge families settled in Toronto’s west end. Attending church was important to both families, as was music. So it happened that Walter and Ida met as members of Humberside Choir and Band and as members of the Indian Road Baptist Church Senior Choir.

“We can place a date to the formal beginnings of our courtship. It was on the evening of June 14, 1945 that I took Ida to a Prom Concert at Varsity Arena on the University of Toronto campus. It is surprising to realize that there was more “serious” summer symphonic music available to Torontonians in the ‘40’s than today, in the 21st century. Great music and romance were intertwined from the outset of our relationship, not only through singing together in a choir, but through a continuous mutual love of listening to great music.”

Family

**“I set my sights on education as the source of my vocational attention
and on my family as the focus of my life.”**

- Walter Pitman



Front row: Walter, Ida, back row: Anne,
Mark, Cynthia, Wade (left to right)

Walter Pitman's obituary, published June 13, 2018 in the *Toronto Star*, is a great starting point to understanding this exceptional man. The following passages are excerpts from the obituary.

“Walter was a remarkable man who led a remarkable life. Keen, vibrant, and insatiably curious, he supported the arts, social justice, environment, and education – everything that is good and right. A man of rare integrity, he fought passionately for equality and justice. And he did so with compassion, kindness, and joy. In 1952, he married the love of his life, Florence Ida Collinge (1925-2016). They lived a life of great beauty, generously supporting

artistic communities and cultural institutions; almost every day of the week attending opera, film, galleries, museums, symphony, theatre, book launches, and choral concerts. Their home was both a gallery and meeting place, celebrating their commitment to creativity and family. Always on the go, Walter was an avid marathoner, skier, sailor, piano player, and choir singer.”

Walter and Ida had four children, their pride and joy: Wade, Cynthia Lynn, Mark, and Anne. At Walter's funeral, Anne described her dad. “The one thing I hold so dearly is this: imagine what it is like, as a child, that every time you enter a room, your parent's eyes light up? Every single time.

Even when you were a teenager. He consistently wanted to be with you, interested in everything you have to say and, as it turns out, always bragging about you. My siblings and I grew up in a rich and loving environment. Our home was both a gallery for artists' work and a working studio for my mom. It was full of life and love and colour and really loud classical music.”

Anne mentioned what it was like to be out with her dad. “Everybody wanted to talk to him and it would take us forever to walk a couple of

blocks. But it was instructive to witness – his genuine kindness toward everyone he met.”

Athletic endeavour was always a part of Walter Pitman’s life: soccer, track and field, intercollegiate wrestling, then running later on. As Anne described, “He used to drive from Toronto to Ottawa for a 7 am start at the marathon. Run the marathon (without any of those fancy gels, or even very good footwear) and then drive right back to Toronto and then complain about being a little stiff as he got out of the car. We ran together a lot. One epic run I had with him was in England. Jamie had flown back home and Jared was by that time old enough to look after Kier and Noah and my Dad and I drove to some cove on a bright and blustery day and we ran the coastal path. I’ll never forget that run. That’s the way I see him now – running that path.”**

*Quotation from Toronto Star obituary June 13, 2018

“Walter and Ida were married for more than 60 years. They were central to each others’ lives. “He was incredibly brave. Never more so than in these last few years after our Mom died. He was simply devastated. She was his centre, his ground. I think I worried for his sense of his loss even more than my own. He adored my Mom. He would say that she raised us while he was out “saving the world.” The Pitman Residence, at Ryerson University was named for both of them, at his insistence.”**

*Quotation from Walter’s eulogy given by his daughter, Anne, on June 22, 2018



*Walter, Ida and family campaigning in the 1967
Provincial election*

Life as an M.P.



Left to right: Donald MacDonald, Walter Pitman, Tommy Douglas, Stephen Lewis, David Lewis

The stories of how and why someone enters the political arena are varied. A different story for each person elected. Walter Pitman's story is one of unusual circumstances.

"One of the "extras" that I developed with my Grade 13 class, was an annual trip to Ottawa and the Canadian Parliament. It was ever my view that history was essentially the understanding of the present through the examination and analysis of the past. Peterborough was only 5 hours from the nation's capital and it seemed obvious to me that my students should visit the seat of government once during their years of secondary school. It was not that difficult – a matter of contacting the incumbent M.P. Gordon K. Fraser and having him arrange to find seats in the Visitor's Gallery and if possible, a meeting with Mr. Diefenbaker, the Prime

Minister. We watched the House of Commons during Question Period, toured "the Hill" and met with the P.M. in his Office. "Dief" was most gracious, even showing the students the "secret door" that he could use to avoid reporters or unwanted visitors. Little did I know that within a few months, Gordon K. would be dead and that a by-election would be called, one that would change the lives of our entire family.

It seems bizarre that a teacher only recently arrived in the Peterborough constituency four years before would have been selected to run for a political party, even one not yet organized or named. I had no previous history of intimacy with the city and its surrounding countryside. As well, I was very happy in my profession as a secondary school teacher – with no political ambitions whatsoever."

Editor's note: Between 1958 and 1961 the C.C.F. (Cooperative Commonwealth Federation) was known as the New Party. Pitman ran as a New Party member. In 1961 the New Party became the New Democratic Party.



*"I was very happy in my profession
as a secondary school teacher
– with no political ambitions
whatsoever."
– Walter Pitman*

There is a back story, that of a high school teacher, Walter Pitman, spearheading a move to save Peterborough's Market Hall, the last remaining example of 19th century architecture in the city. The Mayor and Council wanted to tear down the largely unused and dilapidated building. Why? Part of the reason was that the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team, who were in town for preseason practice stayed at a hotel directly across from the Market Hall.

The players had been disturbed by the hourly loud ringing of the Hall's clock. Pitman set about organizing a petition to save the Market Hall. He managed to attract

the support of the local paper, The Peterborough Examiner, published by Robertson Davies.

The campaign was successful. The historic building saved, much to the chagrin of the Mayor. This was Walter Pitman's first significant test of leadership and perhaps a springboard for him to seek election in the 1960 federal by-election. The summer of 1960 for the Pitmans started out with a plan which promised an enjoyable, yet rewarding couple of months.

"I had been invited to the Summer School for would-be teachers, in Kingston, to act as a critic and mentor. Bruce Found, a science teacher at Kenner Collegiate had also been invited. We devised a scheme whereby both families would camp in the two cottages we now had on Big Clear Lake (my parents had bought the one next door). Bruce and I could drive to Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute each week-day morning, do our instruction and monitoring of the efforts of prospective teachers and return to our wives and children each afternoon for swimming, boating and other forms of recreation.

For the first week or two all went well. Unfortunately, after varnishing a canoe I carried the finished object rather clumsily and managed to damage my back. I did

not realize that the injury was serious until I arose the next morning and found myself unable to walk. I had to crawl into the back of the station waggon so that Bruce could drive us both down to classes. We left about 6 a.m. as there was a 60-mile drive before classes began at 8 a.m.

Not long after our departure Ida was disturbed by an insistent knocking on the door. The children were still asleep. She rose, threw on a dressing gown and confronted the unwelcome visitor. It was Donald C. MacDonald, the leader of the Ontario CCF. He had been conscripted to find a candidate for the Peterborough federal by-election and after consulting with the local CCF-Labour Committee members and securing our summer address from Ralph Hancox, he set out in the early hours of the morning to find our cottage. He was not happy to discover from Ida that I had departed long since for Kingston and would not return to wife and children until mid-afternoon.

He took off for Kingston, arriving just at a "break" in the morning activities at K.C.V.I. By that time, the pain in my back, which had been quite intense at our departure from Arden, was now excruciating. Indeed, I was virtually in traction and by the end of the morning I had to be carried out to the waggon, taken back to the cottage where Ida took over, transported me back to Peterborough, our doctor, Walter Gow, and an ex-ray machine which revealed I had torn all my back muscles and would have to spend

the rest of the summer in residence at Queen's taking physiotherapy every afternoon, after working all morning at the Collegiate, at the Kingston General Hospital.

The timing of Donald MacDonald's arrival at Kingston Collegiate could not have been worse. To my groans and grimaces, he made his proposition. Would I be the candidate for Peterborough in the election, now called for October 31? There would be help from the "centre" an organizer in the person of Fred Young, an experienced worker in the CCF and the labour movement. There was no chance of winning – so it would not be necessary for me to take a leave of absence from my chores at Kenner Collegiate.

By now the pain had become unbearable and, with all my admiration and respect for Donald, all I could think of was a way to ensure his immediate departure from my presence. I agreed. He went. The deed was done and life was never to be the same. The back recovered slowly...the children loved watching their "crooked" father try to walk and play games while Ida could not repress her mirth when I announced daily 'I think it is getting better' as I stood before the mirror ignoring the distinct 30-degree angle of my body from the waist upwards."

It is easy to understand why Walter Pitman was told there was no chance of winning. In the 1958, general election the CCF candidate

for Peterborough, John Taylor, received 6.6% of the vote. The local C.C.F. Riding Association was small, with very little money. While the local unions were supportive of the C.C.F., there was a bitter battle between two unions; U.E. (United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America) and I. U. E. (International Union of Electrical Workers). Having a candidate from either union was not a good idea. What was needed was a candidate who could not only bring the unions together in a common cause, but one who would have wide appeal in Peterborough. This is where we see Walter Pitman's leadership. He not only was able to get U.E. and I.U.E. to talk to each other, but they both provided election workers and raised money. Walter had a good public profile because of his fight to save the Market Hall. He was respected because of his reputation as a high school history teacher. His writing revealed an academic who understood the rural area as well as the City of Peterborough.

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus, but a molder of consensus."

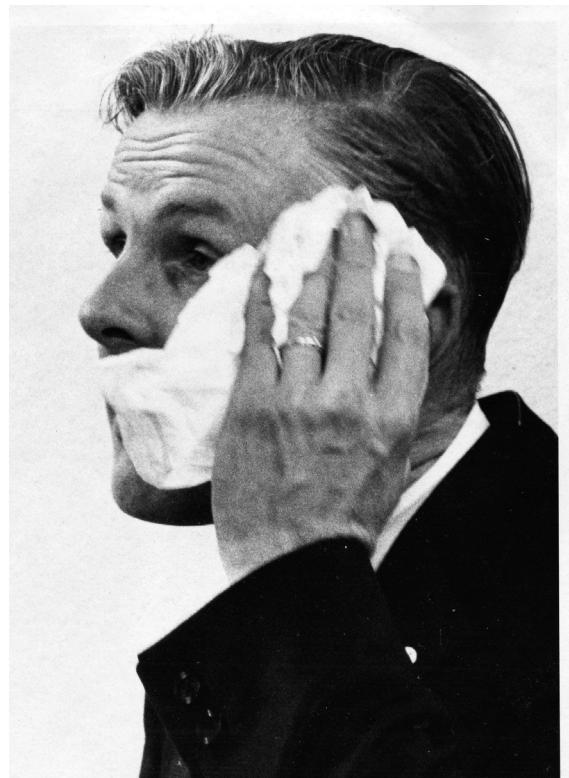
- Martin Luther King

On Halloween evening, Walter Pitman, the New Party candidate increased the previous vote total of 6.6% by almost 40%, defeating the Progressive Conservative candidate,

Harold Matthews by 3,000 votes. He took 6 of the 7 city wards and all the rural polls.

This unexpected victory meant quick decisions about Walter's teaching position as he was expected in Ottawa in two weeks' time. Then, what about the family? Should they move to Ottawa? Walter could take a leave of absence. The family would stay in Peterborough. Walter would travel to and from Ottawa by car, bus or train. A relative would provide a room in the west end of Ottawa.

The unforeseen victory was followed by an unexpected leadership role. In the general election of 1958 the CCF lost 17 seats, returning just 8 Members of Parliament. The New Democratic Party was yet to be created.



(1967) Walter on election night

“As the only New Party Member of Parliament, it became necessary for me to show the colours from coast to coast. I found myself travelling off to Mount St. Vincent University in New Brunswick, to a constituency meeting on Vancouver Island...on and on, to various party enclaves across the country. I became the symbol of what could happen in the next election in every constituency. Unfortunately, for the party, winning a by-election in conservative and Conservative Peterborough was about as fragile a victory as one could have attained in Canada in the early '60's. It meant that, as well, I had to be around the constituency and that meant that even though I might be home for a week-end I was off to some meeting of a municipal council, or an agricultural society...or whatever. My wife would greet me on a Friday evening with a list of phone calls as long as her arm, calls that had already taken up many hours of her time and promised to take up as much of mine. I was not an easy time.”

Walter Pitman had a rather unusual role in Parliament and in his chosen political world. There were 8 CCF Members of Parliament and Walter Pitman who had been elected as a New Party Member of Parliament. “The solution: the group of 8 CCF and 1 NDP would be known as the NDP-CCF Caucus – thereby recognizing the election results of all the members while signifying a changing entity that would emerge in August 1961.” There was another problem and that involved leadership. The CCF Leader at the time was Hazen Argue, who Walter describes as “an ambitious but somewhat lazy and unreliable figure whose main interest remained rooted in Saskatchewan and in agricultural matters.” It was rumoured that the Premier of Saskatchewan, Hon. Tommy Douglas, was seeking the leadership of the newly formed New Democratic Party. This was unsettling news for Hazen Argue. After the Leadership Convention of 1961 and Tommy Douglas being elected as the N. D. P. Federal Leader, Hazen Argue then joined the Liberal Party.



(1972) Hon. Bill Davis on Walter's weekly tv show on CHEX Peterborough

Walter Pitman settled into the role of Member of Parliament quickly and became incredibly busy. Three different Party names in a couple of years; from C.C.F. to New Party, and finally to New Democratic Party. A grand total of 9 M.P.s in this new New Democratic Party. The expectation was that Walter Pitman, although a first term M.P., would travel extensively on behalf of the N.D.P. His Peterborough Riding was both urban and rural,

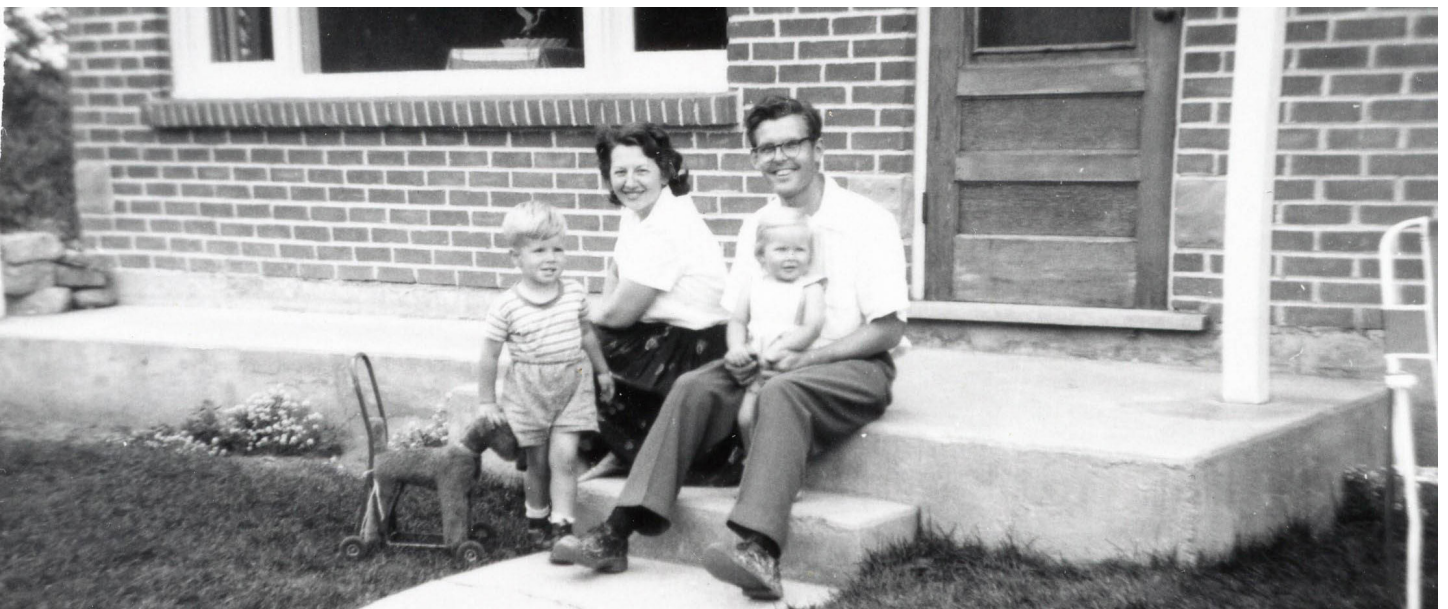
each with its own unique issues. The Peterborough Examiner asked Walter to write a weekly column, "Parliamentary Letters" provided he promise not to use the column to promote himself or his Party. This was not to be an opportunity to get votes or members for his Party. Walter also had a weekly television show on CHEX, a local CBC affiliate. He wrote articles on a wide variety of topics for submission to the Baptist Church's publication. Walter Pitman, although a bundle of frenetic energy, was focused on his Party's platform as well as the issues about which he cared deeply. This was the era of the 'Cold War' and nuclear destruction was of serious public concern. Walter spoke often and passionately about the threat of nuclear war, promoting peace. This remained an abiding interest. Project Ploughshares Canada, a not-for-profit organization dedicated

to peaceful, non-military solutions to problems was founded in 1976. A few years later Walter was Chair of the Board.

The following year there was a general election, one which saw a Conservative elected in the riding of Peterborough. Walter Pitman returned to teaching. The election of 1962 resulted in a minority government. A year later, another election and the second defeat in a row for Walter Pitman and his last time as a federal candidate.

The family moved to Toronto, then back to Peterborough and another chapter in the political life of Walter Pitman began.

**All quotations from this section are from chapter four of the "Pitman-Collinge Chronicles"*



(1956) Left to right: Wade, Ida, Walter, Cynthia – 298 Welsh St., Peterborough

(1967) Ernest Pitman with his son, Walter



Life as an M.P.P.



(1977) Walter in a pensive mood

Life was good in Peterborough for the Pitman family. "Looking back as adults, all the kids agree – it was a fantastic place to grow up". Walter expresses in his 'Pitman-Collinge Chronicles', "Peterborough was that supportive community that every child should experience." Walter and Ida however, found the cultural side of life in Peterborough wanting. Peterborough was close enough to Toronto for a monthly visit to enjoy the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Increasingly, between 1963 and 1966 there was an almost magnetic draw to Toronto for various events, especially the Santa Claus parade. The Royal Ontario Museum, the Science Centre, various children's programs in small theatres, Christmas presentations at the O'Keefe Centre all contributed to

more time being spent in Toronto. The turning point however was, as Walter describes it, "I had become disappointed in the rather narrow attitude of the Peterborough Board and an invitation from Art Murch, an old associate from Bathurst Heights days and now a principal of Langstaff Secondary School to head the history department and also to be a Master Teacher in History for the entire York Central Board of Education, was too appealing to reject."

The Pitman family moved into a new housing development in North York. A few months later Walter was invited to Peterborough's new university, Trent, to be Associate Registrar and lecturer in history. Thus, in the spring of

1966 the Pitmans moved back to Peterborough. An Ontario general election occurred the following year.

Walter, in considering whether to run, reasoned that the Legislature didn't sit as long as in Ottawa, the commute to Toronto was easier than to Ottawa, the campaign would be short so he wouldn't have to take time off his daily duties at Trent University and he still had high name recognition. A couple of circumstances added into the mix. The Conservative incumbent had become unpopular and decided to retire. A strike at a local plant had been particularly bitter and some of the prominent NDP supporters had defied the court order to limit picketing and had been sent to jail. This seemed to galvanize the local New Democrats. Walter enjoyed the campaign. "I was blessed to have two civilized opponents, Mr. Sam Murphy, a prominent lawyer, and a Mr. Redmond, a decent man whose son, Mickey now played hockey in the NHL, but had some years before been in my history class at Kenner Collegiate."

Editor's Note: Mickey Redmond played in the NHL, for the Detroit Red Wings and Montreal Canadiens, from 1967 to 1976 and on Canada's National Team in 1972

In the 1967 election Walter Pitman, the man who was happy being a teacher, with no political ambitions, had now been elected twice, including the honour of being the first New Democrat to be elected

provincially in Peterborough.

It was only one term as a Member of Provincial Parliament, but Walter Pitman made his mark as a knowledgeable and passionate advocate for public education.



Walter, 1967 Provincial election

The Progressive Conservatives enjoyed a majority government from 1967 to 1971. The Hon. William G. Davis was Minister of Education and Walter Pitman Education Critic for the New Democrats. It is instructive to read Hansard. The exchanges between the two men were respectful and reveal a comprehensive understanding of the challenges in education. There are examples of Walter Pitman beginning his speech about a Bill by congratulating the Minister

on bringing forward progressive legislation. Mr. Davis, when he started his response would thank the Member for his thoughtful approach and promise to seriously consider the Member's observations. A civility long lost.

Walter Pitman's approach, as a Critic, was to look at the component parts of our education system; elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools as well as the fundamental purpose of public education. What is the relationship of our system to a civil society? To democracy?

In The House

Walter Pitman treated the House as a place for reasoned, rational debate; an opportunity for an exchange of ideas. He thoroughly enjoyed debates on Bills, Resolutions and Motions, and the presentation of Ministry Estimates. Philosophic discourse was how new concepts could be developed. Such discourse was common between Walter Pitman and Bill Davis.

Highlighted here are a few of Walter Pitman's contributions related to the current system and restructuring of the education system.

Elementary School: Walter Pitman had contributed a study for Justice Emmett Hall, a Justice on Canada's Supreme Court and Mr. L. A. Dennis, a former School Principal. This remarkable, ground-breaking report came to be known as the

"Hall-Dennis Report". Its' actual title is "Living and Learning, The Report of the Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives of Education in the Schools of Ontario." It was a blueprint for fundamental changes in our educational system.

Walter's comment in the House: "One of the things which I came to feel as I was doing a study for the Hall Commission, was that a great deal of what we do in the elementary school is completely irrelevant to students now." (1968, Vol.1, pg. 234)

A student of history, a teacher of history, a consultant who visited many classrooms, Walter was a keen observer of children's classroom experiences. While he loved history he understood the shortcomings of the current approach. "Then in grade 7, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you, we turn to Canadian history and we teach them responsible government. They just got off the ship with Columbus and suddenly they are learning about responsible government." (1968, Vol,1, pg. 234)

Restructuring: "They (students) are going to be involved in basic decisions, along with parents, and along with their teachers, in what the kind of curriculum will be in that school, and the kind of administrative procedures in that school; that they will have some input instead of simply being the objects of the educational process and simply being put upon, so to

speak, by every other sector in the educational spectrum.” 1968 – Vol. 3 pg. 3909

Emotionally disturbed children:

“The place that we can deal with emotionally disturbed children first, is the place where they are all to be found eventually, where they can be identified, where the degree of emotional disturbance can be assessed, where at least preventive measures can be taken, where indeed it can be decided if the emotionally-disturbed child will do best in an ordinary school setting, or in a special classroom, or whether it may very well need a residential school setting in order to provide the equality of educational opportunity for that particular kind of child.” 1968 – Vol. 3 pg. 3906

Technological changes: “It (technological changes) has many implications. I think it means lowered teacher-pupil ratios. It means using teaching machines not simply for the sake of saving money, but in order to provide individual instruction for individual needs. Educational TV is going to have to be brought in with the greatest care and sensitivity so that there will not be any effort to find ways of replacing teachers, or providing larger classes, or any of these depersonalizing aspects which educational TV can produce, and has produced. I have seen this at another level. A technological society means a changing society, and many of the things which the Minister has suggested would, I hope, provide for a kind of flexibility

of mind.” 1968 – Vol. 3 pg. 3909

Post-secondary education:

In 1967 a report commissioned by the Ontario government was released, the MacPherson Report; Undergraduate Instruction in Arts and Science: Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Instruction in the Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1967. The report recommended the following:

- All students would take a total of five courses a year
- Each of these courses should contain a lecture and tutorial element (tutorials with 12 students each)
- All first year tutorials should be given by senior staff
- There would be no examinations in second year.
- Arrangements should be made to supervise teaching of both teaching assistants and young leaders.

The five courses per year was the only one of these to be fully implemented. At Scarbrough however, senior staff taught first year tutorials and they experimented with the concept of no exams in second year. Three other measures outlined in the report had been implemented by 1975.

Walter Pitman spoke about the MacPherson Report: “In that report, you find again and again

the demand that we get away from large lectures, that we try to set up more seminars, that we try every means possible to bring student and professor together, that we try to get rid of the lack of individuality that takes place when students feel they are nothing but a number over in the registrar's office; when, indeed, they very rarely have an opportunity to say one word to the professor who has taught them throughout the year. These are not merely agitators, they are people who are in essence trying to achieve what we in this chamber would regard as legitimate goals, the increase of individuality." 1968 – Vol. 1 pg. 4184

Civics: Politicians and others have long had an abiding concern that young people are not learning sufficiently about our parliamentary democracy. The most common approach to remedy the problem is 'we need more civics courses in school'. This refrain is echoed in various motions and Private Members' Bills. Walter Pitman, while a solid supporter of democracy, held a different view. "I stress that our system of education is not there to teach young people to be citizens. It is there to teach young people to be human beings; exciting human beings, and critical human beings." 1968 – Vol. 1 pg. 235 "I think that the only way to teach democracy is by giving democracy." 1968 – Vol. 1 pg. 235

Robertson Davies, Editor of the Peterborough Examiner, encouraged Walter to write a weekly column

for the paper. Walter obliged. He wrote about expanding our view of education, making the schools more accessible to adults as well as children and including the parents in the development of programs. He questioned the fundamental nature of schools, "institutions which seemed more about custodial care than learning". (chronicle ch. 6) Walter tackled a wide range of topics, everything from the causes of poverty, to concerns about the environment and even Canadian content at the Canadian National Exhibition. He devoted some columns to Members of the House who he describes "being of interest to him", Jim Renwick (NDP), Robert Nixon (Lib.), Gordon Carton (P.C.), Tim Reid (Lib.) and John White (PC). He became involved with the Metropolitan Educational Television Association, a Toronto initiative in the area of educational television. Walter hosted a weekly television program on CHEX, a Peterborough CBC affiliate.

***Quotations are from Hansard, Legislative Assembly of Ontario*

Walter Pitman For Leader

Walter Pitman certainly had enough to keep himself occupied; a constituency which was a city two hours drive from Toronto, a weekly television show, weekly newspaper columns to write, extensive work as the Education Critic for the NDP and a family with 4 children. Donald MacDonald stepped down as Party Leader in 1971. Mr. MacDonald

had survived a leadership bid in 1969 from Jim Renwick, but a more formidable challenger, Stephen Lewis, came forward two years later. Walter Pitman, a first term M.P.P., had attracted sufficient support to warrant a try at leadership. He had no illusions about winning, however he energetically travelled the province attending rallies, receptions and all-candidate meetings. The outcome was never in doubt. The first order of business following the Leadership Convention was that the NDP Caucus elected Walter Pitman as Deputy Leader.



(1970) Walter Pitman and Stephen Lewis, Leadership opponents, chat on a TV program

An Exit From Queen's Park

The 1971 general election had, as a major focus, the extension of funding for grades 11, 12 and 13 to the Roman Catholic Schools. The Liberals and the New Democrats had adopted this extended funding as Party platform. Bill Davis' Progressive Conservatives opposed

the measure. Later, Premier Davis just prior to retiring reversed that decision. However, in 1971 it was a divisive election issue and one which helped sink Walter Pitman in Peterborough. Walter lost to a man who later would be Speaker, John Turner.

"This ended my active political career. I returned to Trent, now as full-time faculty, but without a full-time schedule, thus explaining the time I had for journalism and television work. I remained solidly in the N.D.P. ranks, but my role at Trent, and the weekly column for the Toronto Star that was offered to me meant that some political distance was necessary. Then began years of closer attachment to Ida and the kids, at a time when their lives, as they advanced towards adulthood, became a focus of our attention."

- Ch. 6 of Pitman-Collinge Chronicles



Leadership at Trent University

"He was a person of extraordinary talent. He did an enormous amount of good without making much fuss about it. It was a life of almost total service."

- Tom Symons, founding president of Trent University



In 1966, the Pitman family moved back to Peterborough. A few months after their move Walter received what he described as a "strange invitation". He was invited as a guest speaker at the newly created Trent University. This was the first year of Trent and the modest number of professors and students were housed in a couple of buildings in downtown Peterborough.

Walter Pitman describes the advent of the university as "It was a triumph for a city which had hoped for a junior college of some kind but had enlisted the redoubtable influence of Leslie Frost, the Premier of the Province as well as the M.P.P. from Lindsay, just completing his political career and retiring home to his beloved community. With the

good sense to appoint Tom Symons as President and Vice-Chancellor, to bring Denis Smith, John Pettigrew [expected to be Registrar], and Dick Sadlier, the first College Head, this recently spawned university had every chance of succeeding. All had attended Trinity College and had gone on to graduate work in Oxford and Cambridge and were one in terms of the kind of university that they believed Ontario needed."

The invitation for Walter to speak at the University was really designed to result in an invitation for him to join the faculty as an associate registrar and lecturer in history. A serious highway accident resulted in the designated Registrar, John Pettigrew, not being able to take on that role. Walter was the

only person who had any time-tabling expertise.

"My summer was taken up with trying to bring some logic to the myriad of special arrangements that had been negotiated in terms of days of the week for lectures, seminars and tutorials for faculty in each department and discipline. It was a nightmare even though the numbers were sparse and the alternatives were severely limited by both space and available personnel. The courses were all given in an old building, Rubidge Hall, which also housed the small library, and in the colleges, at that point, large existing Peterborough homes purchased for becoming residential and academic buildings.

It was indeed "the honeymoon" phase of building an institution which we believed would serve the ages. Great care was taken with the selection of faculty and staff and outstanding people came to a university which had a very clear purpose and mandate: to be a small liberal-arts university, with an emphasis on small group teaching and with residential colleges an important aspect of its reality. In those first years, it was possible to bring students in with an interview that might be more revealing of an active and curious mind than the marks submitted by the high school attended. Many hours were taken with interviewing young hopefuls who lacked a mark or two but in some cases, went on to distinguished careers in graduate school."

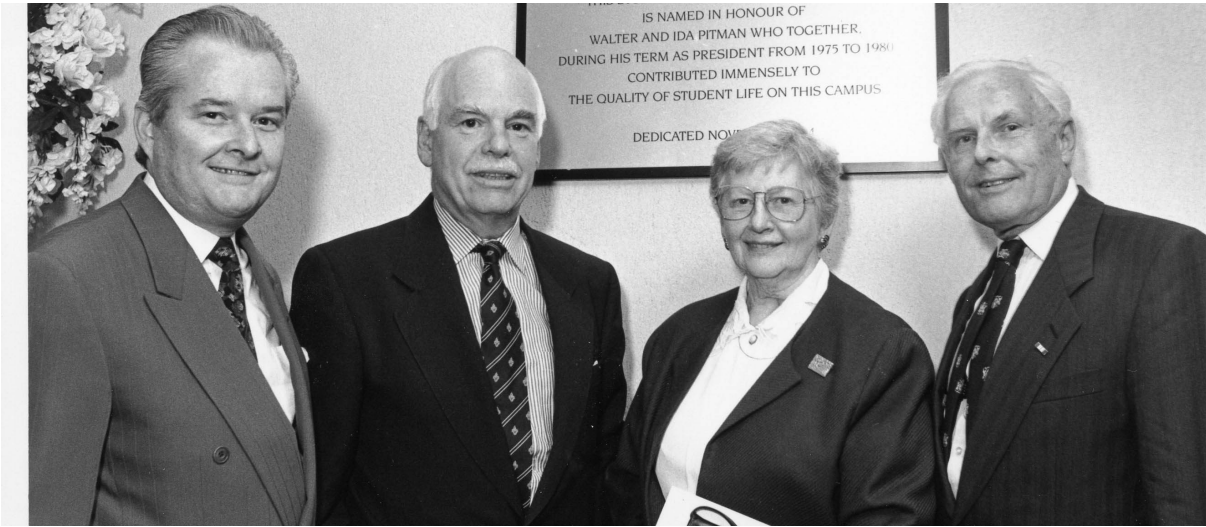
One of the several roles that Walter took on was that of "secondary school liaison". Walter would visit high schools across Ontario trying to convince prospective graduates that they should take a chance and attend this unknown and untried institution in Peterborough.

Trent ended up with not only enough Canadian students, but many from overseas.

Eventually a university campus was constructed. Walter provides a beautiful description, 'Very quickly, a handsome campus under a drumlin covered with sumac that blazed in colour every fall, had magically been created. Great moments transpired, one memorable one being the visit of Premier Leger of Quebec on the opening of Champlain College, the very name of the first constructed college building attested the commitment of the Trent community to the unity of the Canadian state."

Walter Pitman began working at Trent in 1966 as Associate Registrar, and later, as Dean of Arts and Science in 1972, a position he held until 1975. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University in 1993.

Leadership at **Ryerson**



(1994) Pitman Hall dedication. Terry Grier is second from left.

Walter Pitman served as President of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute from 1975-1980

1948 – The Beginning

The Ryerson Institute of Technology was founded in 1948 as an experiment in post-secondary education. Established primarily as a training ground for the growing workforce of a booming post-war economy, the Institute was a novel alternative to the traditional apprenticeship system of technical learning. When it moved into the century-old buildings of the Toronto Normal School in historic St. James Square, the Institute followed in the footsteps of its namesake, Egerton Ryerson, the architect of Ontario's educational system. It was on this site that Ryerson established the province's first teacher-training facility, as well as a museum, art school and agricultural laboratory.

1950's – Rapid Growth

Ryerson Institute of Technology in its first years, offered short trades-oriented programs geared to prospective job markets. Under the guidance of its founding principal, Howard Kerr, it matured into an institution with a curriculum that increasingly emphasized management skills and the humanities.

In the late 1950s, a multi-million-dollar modernization program was launched to accommodate the Institute's rapid growth. In 1963-1964 the Ontario Government granted the appointment of a board of governors and changed the Institute's name to Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, effectively

providing the 15-year-old institution a mandate for reorganization and self-determination.

1970's – Dramatic Change

Changes came in the areas of physical resources and facilities, academic policies and procedures, and communications, resulting in three important developments: a building program incorporating new facilities for classrooms, administrative and student services, learning resources and technology; a more open and experimental approach in the classroom; and most importantly, the authority to grant degrees, in 1971.

The new division of Community Services was established. Three schools of nursing were transferred from the hospital sector to the Institute. Day and evening programs were integrated. And new ventures, including Open College, Ryerson Applied Research Limited, the Management Development Institute and three major resource centres were undertaken.

1975 – A New President, Walter Pitman

Rapid and substantive change was the order of the day. There was a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Vision, innovation and creativity were vital. At the same time, a President who could inspire acceptance of change with those who did not readily embrace change was essential. Walter Pitman

eagerly accepted the challenge.

“Walter laid the foundation for one of the most progressive and relevant post-secondary institutions in Canada.”

- Ken MacKeracher

Ken MacKeracher knew Walter Pitman as a boss, a mentor and a close friend. Their paths intersected at O.I.S.E. (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the “lunch bunch” over the course of some 40 years.

An Interview with Ken Mackeracher By David Warner

“Walter was recruited to resurrect and establish academic excellence at the then Ryerson Polytechnic Institute (aka Rye High). With exceptions, many of the programs had become moribund because of an ageing curriculum and the insulated and literally “old boy” comfortable self-serving academic leadership.

Ryerson found itself competing with the exciting developments taking place in the encircling, emerging dynamism of the competing community college system. There was a surprising level of internal resistance to Walter's appointment and toward the new faces he was recruiting to fill positions that had become voluntarily or otherwise vacant, including the one I was occupying,

Ryerson's first Dean of Continuing Education, having been recruited from Humber College. One only has to admire the evolution and current imaginative levels of Ryerson University's facilities and programming to appreciate the foundation that Walter laid.

A long-serving administrator had applied for the position of President, but lost to an "outsider", Walter Pitman. This set the stage for an unanticipated acrimonious and time consuming diversion from the goal of renewal. It was truly a measure of Walter's admired accommodating character and patience and probably survival instincts learned in earlier political jousting that, with the assistance of an insightful Board chair, the choppy waters were calmed and the challenger moved on to other opportunities.

I am sure this was just one of many groups of people who enjoyed Walter and Ida's company in post-retirement. Meeting monthly for five or more years a group consisting of: Walter and Ida Pitman, Don and Kay Brundage. Alan Thomas and myself met to discuss and argue about whatever was itching any member of group that day or just shoot the breeze.

Given Walter's background and continuing political involvement, saving humanity and the planet tended to dominate many conversations. The group persisted until illness or death intervened; the

final gathering was when Walter's son Wade and his wife Rose drove Walter and his wheelchair in their van from his retirement home in Oakville to lunch with Kay Brundage and me in an off the beaten track downtown Toronto restaurant about two years ago."

What were Walter Pitman's leadership qualities?

"Given the many competing external and internal demands and pressures Walter was under to "fix" Ryerson, I don't believe anyone saw him angry or lose his temper in public outside of perhaps his loyal and supportive office staff or his family. Among his acknowledged coping skills were a love of music, singing and running.

Basically, Walter was genuinely a nice guy whose positiveness and sincerity struck you immediately upon meeting him. Walter Pitman embodied integrity, caring, highly principled, fair, generous, progressive, respectful, level headed, practical, forgiving, and trusting (possibly too much sometimes). And, a sense of humour and fun and a hearty laugh.

During his time as President, Walter took the time to regularly teach history to undergraduates who ate him up (he was a great presenter) while simultaneously providing him with an informal direct pipeline to current student concerns and suggestions."

What was Walter Pitman's Contribution to Ryerson?

"First, that he stabilized the institution including but not exclusively in terms of academic and administrative leadership which in turn permitted the appropriate leadership to flourish; consequently the provincial government was persuaded to increase funding; he gained the respect of the sometimes partisan provincial government and Board of Governors to the effect that this clearly identified socialist President could manage and energize this moribund university-in-waiting; directly and indirectly Walter encouraged faculty to adopt a 'can do' attitude resulting in new and revised curriculum which in turn resulted in a significant increase in student enrolment and diversity amongst students and instructional staff.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

- John Quincy Adams

In short, Walter laid the foundation for what has become and will continue to be one of the most progressive and relevant post-secondary institutions in Canada. Hallelujah Walter!"

Editor's Note: Ken MacKeracher was a senior administrator at

Ryerson when Walter Pitman was President. Ken received a B.A. (Sociology-Psychology) from Montreal's Sir George Williams University (Concordia) and later an M.Ed. (Adult Education) from OISE. As well, he completed courses at the McGill School of Social Work, Atlantic School of Theology, and York University. Ken worked 11 years with the YMCA, being posted in Montreal, St. Catharines ON, Halifax NS, as well as being on the YMCA's National Council. Post graduate postings included: Humber College (Dean, Continuing Education), Ryerson University (Dean, Continuing Education), British Columbia Institute of Technology Vice-President (Institute Resources), Royal Ontario Museum (Associate Director, Public Programs). In retirement Ken served as a Lay Chaplain for a six-year term with Toronto's First Unitarian Congregation.

From Discord to Harmony

"I knew that I had to do something that would give some confidence to the faculty and students that there was to be a change of regime...and even more, a change of philosophy. My first step was to freeze all the upper level salaries which were clearly out of line with those in the lower ranks. My second step was that of removing all the parking privileges in the central quadrangle of Kerr Hall. I wanted to change a very ugly campus and this was a signal that special privileges that blocked that

end were to be discontinued. Finally, to banish the remembered image of an administration under siege on the 13th floor during a strike some months before, I established an hour to hear out both student and faculty concerns in corner of the common room on the first floor. It worked, it got attention and it was a symbol of seriousness about change. It was with some satisfaction that a year later my work had been judged by the same editorial board and had been found adequate, yea, even effective and praise-worthy.”

Walter Pitman, while serving as the President of Ryerson was also the Chair of C.A.A.E. (Canadian Association for Adult Education). “This seemed ironic as the continuing education program at the Institute was as feeble as could be imagined. I was determined that at least this aspect of the Ryerson’s role would be improved and by bringing on a first-class adult educator, Ken MacKeracher, we began the long hard road to raising the profile of continuing education to the point that it was soon soaring, indeed, became the largest program in any post-secondary institution in Canada.”

Funding Woes

“The on-going crisis of inadequate government funding overwhelmed all the other problems. The Ministry of Colleges and University Affairs simply could not understand that polytechnic education, with all the smaller

classes and laboratories and special equipment, could not be operated at the same level as a classics program at the University of Toronto.

Year after year of internal planning exercises with the purpose of reducing costs, of unloading any activity that might be valuable but less crucial, was frankly debilitating. In the last year, there was a strike by the part-time faculty, a protest with which I had the greatest sympathy. Not only were they underpaid but lived from year to year on a short-time contract. However, there was little one could do as the operation of the university was dependent on this kind of exploitation.”

Walter realized that Ryerson had to go beyond government funding and secure money from the private sector. He had difficulty convincing the Ryerson Board of Directors, who thought the Ontario government would provide the needed funds. Walter eventually could convene a fund-raising committee.

The Joy of Teaching

Walter Pitman was, first and foremost, a teacher. He loved teaching. At every position of administrative responsibility which Walter held he found a way to also be teaching.

“My greatest joy was that of teaching history to a class of Radio-Television Arts students at 8 o’clock in the morning. [the only time I could

free up my schedule]. These were students, many of whom would go on to be newscasters and public affairs analysts. [Allison Smith at CBC is a stellar example]. We taught European and Canadian History “backwards” ...using the historical method to explain the current state of affairs. It was a lively group who, like the rest of the student body knew why they were there and were determined to mine every nugget of information and wisdom they could find. Ida and I hosted the class each year at “the bowling alley” and I have met the graduates in radio and television studios ever since – perhaps the ultimate self-justification of any career in education.”



Pitman Hall, dedicated to Walter Pitman in 1994 (retrieved from Ryerson libraries)

Walter The Runner

Balancing work, family, interest in the arts, social justice causes was Walter Pitman’s challenge, almost always met successfully. Included in the mix was athletic endeavours, especially running.

“I was delighted to find that some of my Ryerson colleagues were also runners...and running in marathons became a part of my rather insane fitness strategy. I was greatly advantaged by being able to keep a locker at Hart House and could supplement my running schedule by using the paths through the park and by the Don River to arrive at Hart House in the morning before I had to teach and could return at night with a back-pack containing all my soiled clothes. This process became a part of my schedule after I moved up in the early ‘80’s to Bloor Street and the



Adolphus Egerton Ryerson (1803-1882) a founder of public education and teacher education, also unfortunately supported residential schools (Flickr/Joe)

Ontario Arts Council, and later along that street to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, as all these venues were within walking distance of Hart House and my precious locker.”

Walter Pitman was President of Ryerson Polytechnic Institute for 5 years. His leadership resulted in significant changes to how Ryerson functioned and its reputation in the wider community. In 1980, The Walter G. Pitman Award was established to recognize his passion for lifelong learning.



(1979) Walter opening Ryerson Fitness Trail

Race Relations in Toronto

The mid-seventies saw large immigration to Canada from South Asia, particularly from Pakistan. A significant number of the immigrants settled in Toronto where there was an already settled South Asian community. They were not universally welcomed. What happened next resulted in Walter Pitman being asked by Paul Godfrey, Mayor of Metropolitan Toronto to head up a Task Force to examine the situation and make recommendations.

“Suddenly there was the reality that people in Scarborough were riding the bus amongst passengers wearing turbans and saris WASP inhabitants of apartment buildings were smelling the cooking of exotic foods. And the myth began that these people were taking jobs from Canadians, as well as swelling the welfare rolls. Before long there was “Paki, Go Home” graffiti on the walls of railway underpasses. Then, the inevitable happened. Young toughs, carrying out the prejudices of their parents and friends, began to harass these people whose skin was darker than theirs and who were dressed differently, even pushing them in front of subway cars. On one New Year’s Eve, there were several serious incidents. Something had to be done.”

Walter Pitman was asked by Paul Godfrey, Chairman of Metropolitan

Toronto, to head up a Task Force to examine the situation and make recommendations.

The Task Force report "Now Is Not Too Late" made recommendations which were well received by Metropolitan Toronto Council and some reforms were made.

There are 41 recommendations, 17 of which are directed to the Police. Key recommendations were aimed at inclusion of racial minorities in the structure of civil society.

- That Metro Council adopt a policy of making appointments to boards and commissions from visible minorities until the representation of these visible minorities on the boards and committees has some relationship to the present mix of population in Metropolitan Toronto
- That Metro Council request a precise strategy from the Metropolitan Toronto Police Commission for extending an intense program of racial and cross-cultural understanding to every member of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force
- That Metro Council recommend to the Government of Ontario that exceptions to the height and weight requirements for employment on the police force be set aside to accommodate members of visible minorities whose physical size does not normally meet these requirements.
- That Metro Council, in making its grants to the artistic and cultural activities in Toronto, recognize the special advantages of those programs which assist young people to respect and applaud the talents of those who have a different color skin and come from different cultures.

The Police accepted and implemented all but one of the recommendations of the Pitman Task Force, that of relaxing height and weight requirements for employment on the police force.*

The Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto established a task force to plan longer range strategies on how the agency could best meet the needs of ethnic communities and individuals, and expanded the multiculturalism content of its Permanent Staff Training Program.*

The federal and provincial governments agreed to establish a mechanism to provide improved coordination of settlement services to immigrants in Metropolitan Toronto.*

The Board of Education for the City of Toronto developed 'a comprehensive strategy and set of procedures for dealing with racism and racial incidents in its schools.*

** From the minutes of Metropolitan Toronto Special Committee on Race Relations meeting June 13, 1978*

Leadership at the Ontario Arts Council

Walter Pitman, Executive Director 1980 – 1986

*“The arts are, above all, how we express the finest elements of our humanity – our understanding, our compassion, our caring, and our love.”
- Walter Pitman*



*(1994) Lawrence Park Church Choir – Christmas. Walter 3rd row up, 2nd from left.
Ida 1st row, 2nd from right*

Ryerson offered Walter Pitman a second five-year contract as President. An interesting set of circumstances however resulted in Walter turning down the offer and accepting instead the position of Executive Director of the Ontario Arts Council.

Walter met Louis Applebaum on a planning committee which had been set up at T V Ontario, shortly after it began broadcasting. Louis Applebaum at the time was Executive Director at the Ontario Arts Council, after a successful career at Stratford's first musical director, music composer for 250 movies.

“Little did I realize to what extent our lives would become entwined some years later. We “hit it off” well. I appreciated his quiet, humble demeanor. I was to discover much later that he knew more about television production than all the rest of us on the Committee put together. We met about once a month during the fall and winter and at one point I became involved in “future” studies, simply as a mechanism for determining how a CEO might learn to predict with some accuracy the direction of human affairs. I wrote a paper for TVO but a few months later I was asked to address the Ontario Art Council. I had no premonition

that I was preaching for a call.”

Walter was intrigued by the opportunity to be working full time on the affairs of the arts, a bonus being that this interest was shared by Ida. A much lower salary and relinquishing the house which Ryerson provided for its President did not dissuade him from turning down Ryerson’s offer.

“I felt that my main work was completed. I had pulled the Institute together, cleaned up the administration, put a dynamic continuing education commitment in place, begun an international outreach program, sorted out the immediate financial problems and had continued the course of enhancing Ryerson’s many unique programs to the degree level, while strengthening the liberal arts base that gave them legitimacy. In spite of the 5 year offer to remain, it was time to go.

As Walter describes it, “My work at the Arts Council was filled with both sheer joy and intense frustration. It came down to providing support and advice, which was little needed, to Officers who ran all the programs like Dance, Music, Theatre, Literature, Film...as well as those who had responsibility for more interdisciplinary and broadly based programs such as Community Arts, Touring and Arts Education.”

The frustration came from having to continually lobby

government for more money at a time when, after years of considerable spending there was serious restraint.

An Interview with Robert Sirman By David Warner

“Walter was a visionary. He saw community as a fundamental building block of society, and approached the arts as a powerful catalyst for strengthening community.”

- Robert Sirman

Robert Sirman worked at the Ontario Arts Council from 1980 until 1990, and served as Director of Operations during Walter Pitman’s six years as Executive Director from 1980 to 1986. They worked closely together and were physically separated only by the office of the Chair. Robert regularly edited Walter’s writing before publication.

Promoting Egalitarianism

“The Arts Council is a grant giving body, and funding is typically allocated through a competitive process that by definition includes some and excludes others. Walter’s approach to arts practice was extremely egalitarian. Singing in a community choir was every bit as important to him as playing in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, regardless of the quality of performance, because both built meaningful relationships within civil society. Walter said yes to almost every invitation he received, no

matter how modest the event. One time I expressed frustration with his hectic schedule, observing, 'Walter, you can't say yes to everything.' Walter's response: 'Why not?'"

Management Style

"Walter's egalitarian approach to the arts was mirrored by his attitude toward staff. People were expected to speak their mind. I remember a meeting where Walter remained calm and silent as staff took him to task for a slip he had made in an internal memo. After the meeting, as we were walking back to our offices, Walter turned to me and said, 'What this place lacks is a hierarchy of outrage.' Walter knew

what was important, and he didn't want to waste energy on stuff that didn't contribute to the bigger goal."



(1994) June Arts and Letters Club – Jim Parr. In addition to writing poetry, Parr composed selections for the piano and wrote operettas that were performed at the Toronto Arts & Letters Club



(1992) O.I.S.E. presentation to Walter – at Skydome

Leadership at **Ontario Institute for Studies in Education**

“Walter had a remarkable passion for the arts, social justice, the environment and education. He joined OISE following his term as President of Ryerson, and he provided leadership during a challenging time. He was a thoughtful, caring contributor to our community.”

- OISE In Memoriam



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

In 1987, some of the faculty at O.I.S.E. (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) approached Walter Pitman about being the new Director of the Institute. It was a natural fit. Walter had been supportive of O.I.S.E. from its inception in the 60's and had participated in many of its activities. In fact, he had been honoured as a “Fellow of O.I.S.E.” As someone who relished a challenge he had been successful in putting Ryerson on a smoother path and this was a similar challenge.

“Things were not happy there. The Provincial Treasurer, Robert Nixon was threatening to end its life. O.I.S.E. was a Bill Davis legacy. There was a great deal of internal strife.

I believed that an institute able to do necessary research on matters of learning and teaching was necessary. As well, teachers needed an institution to which they could retreat to catch up on the latest developments and bring new relevance to their own work. I was afraid that without assertive leadership, the Institute might simply be thrown into the Graduate Studies operation at the University of Toronto and no longer be able to serve teachers. There were other reasons. I did not think I had said all I wanted to about education and this job presented me with the opportunity.”

During Walter's final year at O.I.S.E. he could organize an international arts education program that had considerable influence

during the early and mid-nineties. To ensure the success of the program Walter insisted on teaching, something he did while President of Ryerson. He did not have a Ph.D. This caused some angst with U. of T.'s School of Graduate Studies. Walter produced letters attesting to his suitability. Included was a letter from Tom Symons, founding President of Trent University. He was given permission to offer a course in Arts and Education, provided he accepted supervision from a junior member of the faculty.

“Arts and Education, a course connecting the various arts disciplines and the process of learning, was born. It had full enrolment of splendid students to whom I was able to bring stellar examples of the field such as composers Harry Freedman, Louis Applebaum, critic William Littler, along with many others.”

The international conference led directly to the formation of organizations that provided services to teachers in the classroom through most of the '90's, the Arts Education Council of Ontario whose members were the teachers and consultants responsible for arts programs in Ontario schools along with another organization made up of artists who were invited into those classrooms thereby becoming teachers in all reality.

“There was now in place a capacity to extend and amplify the influence of the arts in the minds and

hearts of the province's students that included a publication, the *Artspaper*, which survived a hostile decade as a source of information and, on occasion, inspiration. A good deal of my own writing found its way into that publication.”

Praise from a colleague

“Walter Pitman was the finest person I worked with in my professional career at OISE and the University of Toronto. He led by example, by his devotion to public service, to education, and to music and the arts, subjects he wrote about extensively. His personal warmth and positive attitude inspired those who worked with him, myself included. Sadly, there are too few of his caliber in education and politics anywhere today. In retirement, we became close personal friends and shared our concerns about current developments in politics and public education as well as the environment. We were both relics of a more hopeful past when people were more important than profit. We also shared a passion for music. I miss him more each day.”

- Malcolm Levin, Former Assistant Director of OISE, Director of ICS (Institute for Child Study), Principal of UTS (University of Toronto Schools)

Remembering Walter's Influence on the Arts...

Excerpts from interviews with friends and colleagues

By: Victoria Shariati



Mendelssohn Choir celebration for Walter

Jean Ashworth Bartle



Jean Ashworth Bartle spoke glowingly about Walter Pitman, someone she had known for several decades. Someone with whom she shared a passion for music. She knew Walter and Ida Pitman from

the 'music world' in Toronto but also as friends. When you know her background, her words of praise for Walter are especially meaningful. In 1986 Ashworth Bartle was awarded the Roy Thomson Hall Award for her outstanding contribution to musical life in Toronto. In 1998, she was invested in the Order of Ontario, and received the Order of Canada. In 2002, she received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in London, Eng., and in Nov 2003 she was awarded an honorary life membership in the Ontario Music Educators Association. In 2004, an award named in her honour, the Jean Ashworth Bartle Music Education Award, was established at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. She founded the Toronto Children's Chorus (TCC) in 1978

to provide a children's choir for the Toronto Symphony. She has been a choral clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor throughout North America, Europe, Israel, South Africa, the Far East, and the Pacific Rim.

"I first met him in the '80s at an Ontario Choral Federation, it's now called Choir of Ontario, they used to have these annual events for people who sing in choirs and they would bring over famous conductors. People who sang in choirs all over Ontario would come and there would be 200 or 300 people there and then we'd do a big work – Brahms' Requiem or whatever. You came supposedly knowing your notes and then you'd work with someone for a few days. So here was this man, he said, "I'm Walter Pitman and I love singing in choirs."

He was a member of our board of directors. I asked him to come on the board because at that time he was a member of the Lawrence Park Community Church and that's where our offices were at that point. I asked him because I knew he was a strong advocate for music education, for youth in arts. Walter always did the right thing and that sounds like a cliché but he was honest, straightforward, wise. As a member of our board, he was very supportive of what the Toronto Children's Chorus was doing.

He will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to the arts in Canada. Contribution and

support. Not necessarily financial, but the strongest advocate for the arts you could ask for. It reminds me of when someone said we shouldn't be spending money on the arts and Winston Churchill said, "then what are we fighting for?" Walter felt the same way.

He and his wife were members of Lawrence Park Community Church. There was an incident where he felt that one of the ministers there was not treated fairly and he and Ida then went to Trinity Saint Paul's on Bloor Street. That's really something that they would trek all that way down every Sunday. And because Tafelmusic rehearses there, he helped build the arts centre which is the home of Tafelmusic.

Whenever I was at concerts at Mendelssohn Choir or Orpheus Choir, he and Ida were always there and you can't mention Walter's name without Ida. I do remember of course, when he started to write his books, he came over to our house, he was writing a book on the Iselers and my husband was a founding member of the Elmer Iseler Singers. He had known Albert for 50-60 years. Walter came to the house with his little modest tape recorder and sat in our sun room with our husband for 3 or 4 hours and chatted with the tape recorder on. I can see it is as clear as day, I would go in and offer tea or coffee and they'd say no. His retirement was writing these books on these outstanding Canadians."

Robert Cooper



Robert Cooper is one of Canada's foremost choral musicians. He is also Artistic Director of Chorus Niagara, the Opera in Concert Chorus and the newly created Ontario Male Chorus. He taught for several years as a member of the Choral Department, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and has had the honour of conducting the National Youth Choir of Canada, the Ontario Youth Choir (1979, 2007, 2016) and a Celebration of Canadian Choral Music at Carnegie Hall. He has provided strong artistic mentoring to singing youth in the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir as well as the Orpheus Choir Sidgwick Scholars and Vocal Apprentice Programs, influencing over 2000 young adult singers.

For 31 years, he was Executive Producer of Opera and Choral Music for CBC Radio Two. Robert is recipient of the St. Catharines' Trillium Arts Award, received an Honorary Doctorate from Brock

University, the Order of Canada as well as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his significant contribution to the Canadian choral community.

"Well, it goes back 40 years, because I was a young student in Germany and I had a workshop in Toronto. It was a choral workshop. A gentleman came up and introduced himself to me and said, "My name is Walter Pitman and this is my wife Ida. Who are you?" That's where it starts. He reached out to me and was kind and gracious. Walter really was a mentor to me, like a second father. If ever I had any issues or was questioning something, he would help me.

He was on the board of directors at my Mendelssohn Youth Choir. But he wasn't directly involved with the Orpheus Choir. That's the interesting thing. He and his wife had always directly supported me or supported my work with the choirs. He liked the idea of some of the programming I did that would speak to topical ideas that were out there, whether it was abuse or political issues or the Holocaust.

He helped fight many important battles for me. One of the most important was when the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir was going through a very difficult period with the demise of one of our conductors with a brain tumour and there was a lot of nasty political things going on. Walter was the one person who

seemed to be able to take over all the opposing voices and bring calm and perspective to the different sides.”

Ian Morrison



Ian Morrison is spokesperson for Friends of Canadian Broadcasting. He was instrumental in creating Friends in 1985. Previously, he served as president of Frontier College, Toronto. He was a friend of Walter Pitman for more than 40 years.

“I was the executive director of a Canada-wide non-profit called the Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE). This no longer exists. It was an advocacy group that linked people across the country to support adult education. I started to do that in 1974 and I left in 1993.

So, I met Walter in 1973 which was the last year that I was president of another organization called the Frontier College and I remember meeting Walter at some

event that the Canadian association for adult education had organized and I was a member of the at the association of that time and Walter was leading a seminar about changes in the needs of adults for education for citizenship and civic participation purposes that's how I met him and I knew him through to you know when he died. And so, I followed his career since then and when I met him he was the VP of Trent University.”

“In 1984/85, we were involved in Friends of Canadian broadcasting F. C. B., Walter and I were instrumental in creating that organisation and I can remember a date shortly after the election of Brian Mulroney as a conservative prime minister of Canada we hosted a dinner with a lot of community leaders, like you know the head of the United Church. And it was all about protecting Canadian broadcasting particularly public broadcasting and Walter and I hosted that dinner I paid for it with my credit card. It grew from you know the 12 people who attended the dinner I just mentioned in '84 to what is today at 364,000 Canadians to defend the quality and quantity of Canadian broadcasting.”

“He was the kind of person when you walk into a room, people would notice and he just radiated. He did make a lot of noise. I remember I left the seminar he was teaching thinking wow that is a really impressive person.”

“We’d probably jogged 1000 kilometres over the years together because we both cared about fitness and I remember we’d meet at Hart House and go for a long run and sort of talk about our work and our interests and I remember he said to me once, he said “I’ve never had an original idea in my life, but boy can I run with other people’s ideas. I don’t think that’s true I think he have all kinds of original ideas but I think it was it kind of an insightful comment that he was like almost like a vacuum cleaner for information.”

“He had that combination of energy and values. He was very generous. He was just the opposite of selfish and he was really interested in people and if I were asked if there was anyone who was more important in my life, in the development and coaching of my career, I would say he was number one.”

“Leadership is a skill that you can learn but I think you can also have an innate capacity. Walter was a natural in the sense that he didn’t have to ask people to do something, they came to follow him. Walter quoted Gandhi to me, saying, ‘excuse me I have to hurry up in order to catch up with my followers.’ People were drawn to him and he had a gravitational force. He had complete integrity and his values were on his sleeve. He was tolerant of dissent.”

“Although he had a lifelong affiliation with the NDP, he was

politically promiscuous. He wasn’t a very partisan person and he could attract people from all over the spectrum. Some people spend their whole life learning to be a leader, but he was born with it. He once gave a speech at the Albany Club, which is a generally conservative club, and there he was hitting it off with those 50 people.”

“He connected with people instantly. He was the kind of guy who you looked at and wanted to have him over at your house, sitting around your table, sharing a meal with.”

“We were raising money for this Canadian Association for Adult Education. Once we went to see an elderly man, Walter Gordon, who had been the Minister of Finance for Lester Pearson. So here, Walter and I go in to see this man, and we needed \$5 thousand. The two Walters were already friendly, across political boundaries. So, we go in to pitch and Walter Gordon interrupts us before we can start and says, “I’ll give you the money, but I don’t want to talk about that, I want to talk about politics.” He turned to Walter Pitman and told him if he were in politics today, he would be an NDP. It shows the openness that Walter Pitman encouraged.”

Project Ploughshares



Ernie Regehr, (Order of Canada), is a Canadian peace researcher and expert in security and disarmament. He co-founded Project Ploughshares, a peace research organization focusing on disarmament and international security, based in Waterloo, Ontario, with Murray Thomson in 1976 and served as its Executive Director for thirty years. Walter Pitman served as Chair of the Board for a few years. Ernie Regehr describes Walter's contribution and leadership role.

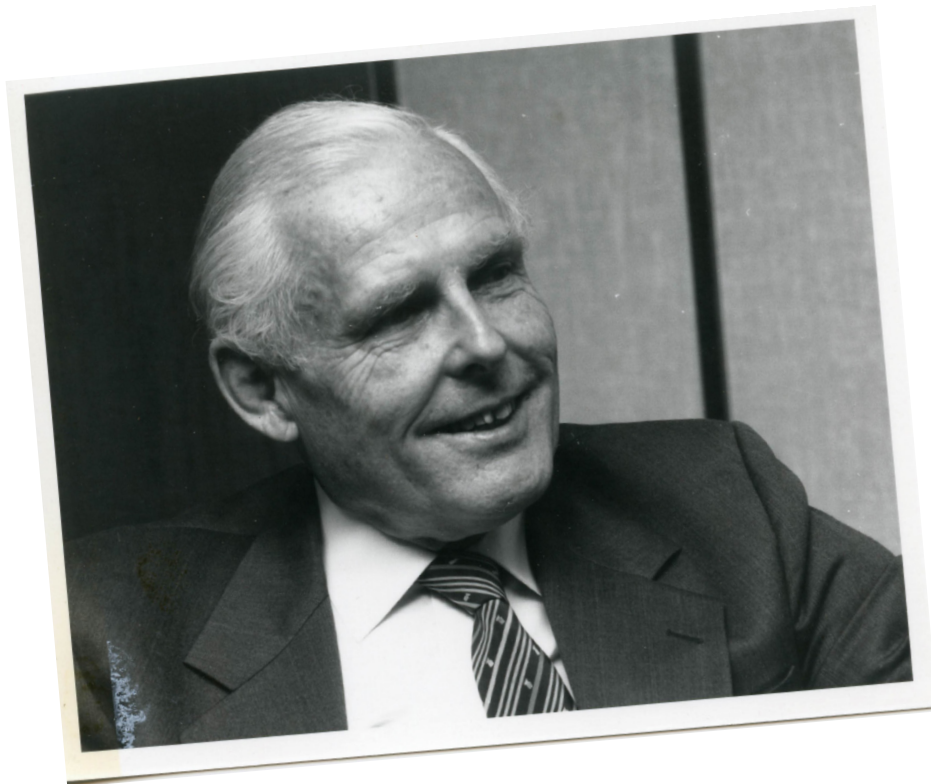
"I knew him fairly well. I wouldn't put myself in the category of his best friends, so we weren't close personal friends but knew each other well. I first got to know him a while back when he and I were both on the Energy Probe Board, which was 1980's. Perhaps early 1990's. We kind of stayed in touch throughout that time and then later when we were looking for a chairperson for Project Ploughshares, we got in touch with him and he was gracious enough to do it. I don't recall exactly how long he was the chair but probably 3-5 years."

"He was the chair of the board. I was executive director. We had a close working relationship throughout that time and he's kind of the perfect board chair. He's very attentive to things, very positive and supportive but also challenging and encouraging us to do more. That was the way I experienced him. Someone who was very positive and supportive but also liked to challenge us to do as much as we could."

"His general presence was so impressive. He was always attentive

and always following closely to what he did. In some ways, my wife and I are also very avid concert-goers, so that was another level on which we connected with him and his wife. He was extraordinary in his support for the arts. We had that element in common as well.”

“He will be remembered for an absolute unwavering commitment to the arts and the work he did for us was an unwavering commitment to social justice and progressive policies on the part of government and as a strong advocate and supporter of civil society but someone who also understood the dynamic and limits of government. Very strong in his endorsement, in our case nuclear disarmament. He was fundamentally supportive of all the disarmament objectives that we identify. He encouraged a strong engagement with government and recognized the limits that government faces. In our circles, he will be remembered for that and for, more than anything, the personal interest he took in all our staff members at Project Ploughshares. He always stated in strong terms how appreciative he was of us.”



Walter Pitman (1994, *Canadian Achievers & Their Mentors*)

Elderhostel



(1995) Walter and Ida – Elder Hostel, Vienna Austria

In 1975, the concept of providing non-credit learning opportunities for older adults, in an inexpensive setting was launched at the University of New Hampshire. All that was needed was a university campus, residences when they were not being used and interested faculty. A wide variety of disciplines were offered; philosophy, politics, arts and science. At the time, Walter Pitman was Chair of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. He was intrigued with the concept, so invited Bill Berkely, the American Director of Elderhostel to Toronto to speak about the program. Before long Walter was the Chair of Elderhostel, Canada for several years and even joined the American board. He and Ida became enthusiastic participants in the program.

“Ida and I took a Visual Arts program in Madrid and Barcelona that was excellent. All the major Spanish artists, Velasquez and his successors, Ribera, Zurbaran, Murilla, Goya and El Greco were featured at the magnificent Prado Gallery, and Miro, Picasso and Salvadore Dali were to be appreciated in several museums in Barcelona and neighbouring communities.

On two occasions, we spent a week in Baltimore at the Peabody Music School, a part of John Hopkins University, taking courses on Beethoven’s

music. As well as the excellent lectures, there were several concerts in the evening given by senior regular students who would soon join the professional ranks.

Our most delightful experience, however, was one we took to Vienna some years later. We were in a hotel in the very centre of Vienna, close to the royal palace and could walk to the plazas and gardens nearby, or indeed run to them in the morning. We visited all the galleries and most important all the magnificent churches and cathedrals where there were performances of the great choral works of the centuries. As well, we went off to operas and concerts and even a glorious rehearsal of the major broadcasting orchestra and outstanding soloists performing a major Richard Strauss opera. We visited the sites near Vienna where the great composers had lived and enjoyed meals, and wine, in the local hotels. The palaces, the zoo...all were very much worth seeing...but the music was transforming. Maybe we will return to that city and its culture in future days!"

The relationship with Elderhostel Inc. was extremely positive until the early years of the '90's, when, in keeping with the values of the new decade, a new C.E.O. arrived to take Bill Berkeley's place and decided that he wished to make the U.S. organization the dominant seniors' learning and travel organization on the planet and decided the presence of Elderhostel Canada was a burden. His solution was to deny the use of the designation "Elderhostel" to Canadians any longer. It was a bitter lesson. The Canadian organization had to change its name, lose 20 years of its identity, and begin again as "Routes to Learning Canada". Ironically, Elderhostel Inc. could not provide Canadian programming for its own American clients and had to buy services from "Routes to Learning" and this transaction became the basis for the financial support of the Canadian organization. There was much pain and disruption, perhaps most borne by Robert Williston, the Canadian C.E.O. whose health was broken by the circumstances of the split! It was a cruel loss to Canadians, though there are many learning-travel programs today compared to the '70's when the Elderhostel movement was pioneering the field. Now "Routes" is finding its place in the spectrum and courses for Canadian will be the mandate to be celebrated.

A Visionary and Juggler



(1993) Walter is presented the Order of Ontario by Lieutenant Governor Hon. Lincoln Alexander

Walter Pitman embodied the leadership skills which resulted in substantive achievements as well as inspiring others.

Central to Walter's life was his wife, Ida and his family, Wade, Cynthia Lynn, Mark and Anne. They were his touchstone. "Their home was both a gallery and meeting place, celebrating their commitment to creativity and family. Ida herself was a master spinner and weaver, and together they sought out craftspeople all over the world. They lived a life of great beauty, generously supporting artistic communities and cultural institutions; almost every day of the week attending opera, film, galleries, museums, symphony, theatre, book launches, and choral concerts."*

* obituary of Walter Pitman, Toronto Star, June 13, 2018

In writing the story of this remarkable person, it was amazing how many people I encountered who had known Walter in his different vocations. Paul Godfrey, for example, observed, "I remember the great Walter Pitman in at least two of his careers. He taught high school at Bathurst Heights where I attended, and he was adored. Also as a wonderful member of the Ontario Legislature, and the report he did for me (when I was Chair of Metropolitan Toronto) which was adopted by the Metropolitan Toronto Council."

I had a chat with a family doctor whose mother had Walter as a history teacher at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough. She said that her mother credits Walter for her life-long interest in history.

Visionary

Central to his educational philosophy was the understanding that the arts are an integral part of learning. The arts, inter-connected with education, provide a pathway to community. And, it is community which is the fundamental base of society. When you consider the diversity of Walter's community involvement, from the National Ballet of Canada to the Interim Waste Authority and something as personal as Elderhostel or For Our Grandchildren, it is easy to realize that Walter understood how the various elements of society are inextricably linked.

"The arts facilitate joyful learning as no other process can. The quality of life for future generations depends on the degree to which the arts, individually as disciplines and integrated in their full power, will be recognized as essential to the well-being of every citizen."

- Walter Pitman

Juggler

To say he was busy is an understatement. Walter was a bundle of frenetic energy as he applied himself to a myriad of activities, yet he was always able to juggle time with family, work, volunteer organizations, running, choir and writing. Being adept at time management and constantly arranging priorities made it possible to be the President of a university, jogging to and from work, volunteer in a not-for-profit organization, attend choir practice, and devote some time to writing. Yet, he always had time for family. Walter Pitman's life is a great definition of self-discipline

As we have shown in preceding sections, Walter Pitman embodied the leadership skills which resulted in substantive achievements as well as inspiring others. Central to Walter's life was his wife Ida and his children: Wade, Cynthia Lynn, Mark and Anne. They were his touchstone.

"Their home was both a gallery and meeting place, celebrating their commitment to creativity and family. Ida herself was a master spinner and weaver, and together they sought out craftspeople all over the world. They lived a life of great beauty, generously supporting artistic communities and cultural institutions; almost every day of the week attending opera, film, galleries, museums, symphony, theatre, book launches, and choral concerts."*

* obituary of Walter Pitman, Toronto Star, June 13, 2018

Pitman Family Tree



(1967) Walter Pitman and daughter, Anne



(2012) Identical sweaters for Walter and grandson Dan Pitman



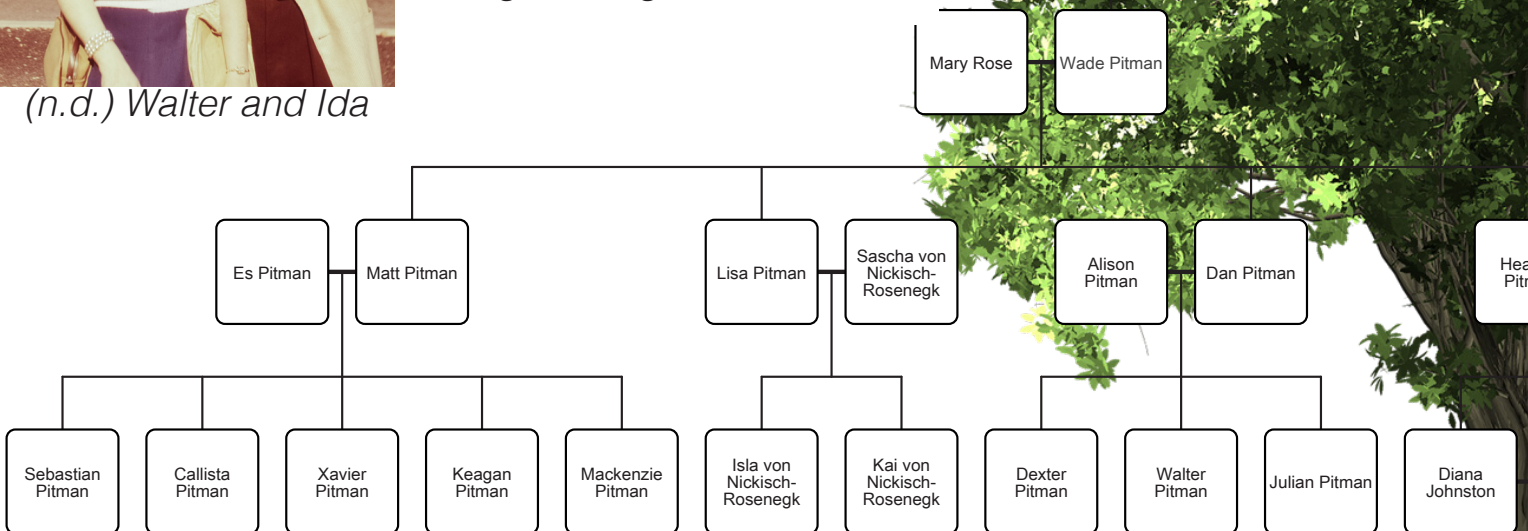
(1977) Ida and Walter 25th wedding anniversary



(n.d.) Walter and Ida

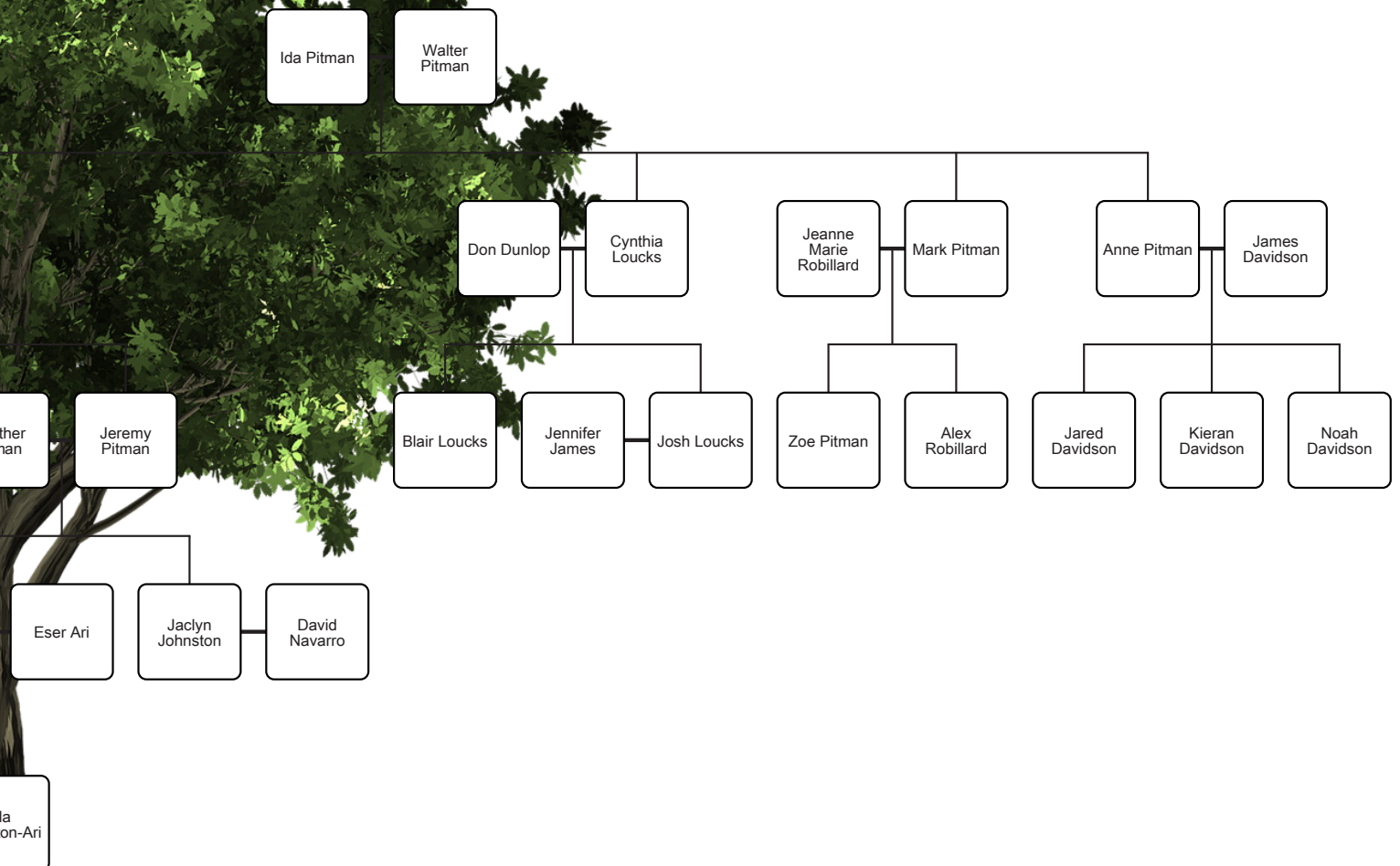


(1997) Walter with granddaughter, Zoe Pitman





(n.d.) Pitman Family: Walter, Anne, Cynthia, Ida, Mark Wade



Acknowledgements and Resources

Learning about the life and accomplishments of Walter Pitman has been a fascinating journey. And it has been made possible by the assistance of both written sources made available to me and people willing and eager to talk to me about Walter. In this final section, I am delighted to acknowledge the role of both the written and spoken resources that have enabled the writing of this book.

Walter's son, Wade Pitman, made two major resources available to me: the "Pitman-Collinge Chronicles," ["the Chronicles"] a journal written by Walter which recounted much of his life; and a large collection of digitized photos. The reader will have noted that the previous chapters owe a great debt to the Chronicles.

Other written sources provided background for me in understanding Walter's approach to the arts and learning:

"For Arts' Sake – A History of the Ontario Arts Council 1963-1983" by Roy MacKimming, published by the Ontario Arts Council, 1983

"Learning the Arts in an Age of Uncertainty" by Walter Pitman, published by the Arts

Education Council of Ontario, 1998

"Remembering Walter Pitman" by John Hobday, Vice-Chair, Canadian Network for Arts and Learning.

Another indispensable resource were the interviews with several of Walter Pitman's former colleagues, Terry Grier, Ken MacKeracher, Malcolm Levin, Jean Ashworth Bartle, Robert Cooper, Robert Sirman, Ernie Regehr and Ian Morrison. Ian Morrison was especially helpful in providing insight about "what motivated Walter." Without exception, everyone was eager to talk about working with Walter Pitman. My questions were responded to in reverential tones with sincere admiration for how Walter provided inspired leadership. Paul Godfrey, who as Metro Toronto Chair commissioned Walter to do a report on Race Relations, admired Walter from an earlier time as high school teacher.

There are other individuals who deserve thanks for their assistance in locating and providing archival materials of great assistance to my task: Jennifer Grant, Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, York

University Libraries

Jonathan Hebert, Hansard, Library of Parliament

Kate Terech, Rosalind Guldner, Claudette Henry, Mary Sherlock, Alice Hong, Hansard, Legislative Library, Legislative Assembly of Ontario –

Sarah Carson, Archivist, City of Toronto Archives

Kirsten Gunter, Director of Communications, Ontario Arts Council

The production of this book is the result of a team effort. Two remarkable Interns, both fourth year Ryerson Journalism students, Victoria

Esterhammer and Victoria Shariati, assisted with the research. Victoria Esterhammer was both a photographer and layout artist. Helen Breslauer, as she has done on a previous special edition, applied her superb editing and proofreading expertise. My thanks to all three.


Appendix

Walter and Ida's Family

From what you have read here about the life and accomplishments of Walter Pitman, it should come as no surprise that the last page of his journal would be a tribute to his family.

“The examination of our family and its growth and development, has been a glorious journey. We, [Ida and I] come away with a sense of awe, wonder, joy and appreciation of the children we have created and the richness of mind and spirit, decency, civility and intelligence they exhibit. They take responsibility for every action and face consequences with courage and determination. We are so thankful and proud, fully realizing that we played only a small part in the development of these, our off-spring and even less are we responsible in any way for the fine qualities we witness in each of our grandchildren. We feel blessed beyond measure!”*

*quote is the concluding lines of Pitman-Collinge Chronicle



“While it is obvious that leaders must be grounded in reality and learn from the past, what really sets them apart is when they can inspire us, waken us to our collective responsibility, and take us to a higher place.”

- Lieutenant Governor Hon. Elizabeth Dowdswell

