

# Parkwood National Historic Site

## The Private Side of R.S. McLaughlin



A man with many business interests, Sam was also a director of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canadian General Electric Company, Canadian Pacific Railroad, Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Famous Players Theatres Ltd, International Nickel Company of Canada, Loews Canadian Theatres Ltd, McIntyre Corporation of Canada, Royal Trust and Toronto Dominion Bank.

Proudly involved with the Ontario Regiment, Sam was named Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel of the 11th Ontario Regiment in 1921, Honourary Colonel in 1936 and Honourary Colonel for Life in 1967. Sam's philanthropic interests were as widespread and varied as his business endeavours. He donated many major gifts, bursaries and scholarships to educational institutions and made major contributions to institutions in health care, recreation, literature, arts and culture, and science. In 1952, he established the R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation which continued to fund various charitable purposes until its completion in 2002.

Sam was the recipient of numerous honours and accolades including the Companion to the Order of Canada in 1976; he was the recipient of Honourary Doctorates from the Universities of Acadia, McGill, McMaster, Queen's, York, Saskatchewan, Toronto and Guelph.

An avid sportsman, Sam had an active interest in many sporting activities including fishing, curling, duck hunting, billiards, and racquet sports. His passion for horse racing led to a successful sideline that lasted three decades, including to the formation of Parkwood Stables, known today as Windfields Farm.



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When Sam McLaughlin died in 1972 in his 101st year, he was mourned by leaders in industry, philanthropy and the arts. He was paid tribute by school children and senior statesmen alike. Fondly known as Mr. Sam or Colonel Sam, he will remain in our memories as a great Canadian.

In 2003 Sam McLaughlin was designated by Heritage Canada and Parks Canada as a Nationally Significant Person. This important honour follows the 1989 double designation of his home and gardens as a National Historic Site.

