

Hon. CHARLES DUFFERIN "Duff" ROBLIN Jr., PC, CC, OM, LLD

Inducted 2003

Charles Dufferin Charles Roblin Jr. was born in Winnipeg Manitoba on June 17, 1917. He was the son of Charles Dufferin Roblin and Sophia May Murdoch, and was a descendant of two United Empire Loyalist families: Philip Roblin and wife Elizabeth Miller of Adolphustown, and Isaac DeMille and wife Mary Dixon of Sophiasburgh. As such he was a member of the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL for several years. His grandfather was another prominent Canadian, Sir Rodmond Roblin, who served as Premier of Manitoba from 1900 to 1915. Duff was educated at Winnipeg Public Schools and St. John's College School, Winnipeg. He went on to the University of Manitoba and University of Chicago. He joined the Canadian Army as a Private in 1939. At the end of the war he served as a Wing Commander in the R.C.A.F. in Northwestern Europe.



Duff was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature on Nov. 10, 1949 as member for Winnipeg South. He was re-elected on June 8, 1953, June 16, 1958 (the constituency now re-named Wolseley), and May 14, 1959. He became Leader of the Manitoba Progressive Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition in June, 1954. In August of 1958, he was married to Mary Linda Mackay. From 1958 to 1967 Duff served as Premier of the Province of Manitoba. In 1963 he unveiled a plaque in Prince Edward County to honour his grandfather Sir Rodmond Roblin who had grown up on Fish Lake Road in the County. In 1967 Duff resigned as Premier in order to run from the leadership of the federal Conservation Party, losing out to Robert Stanfield.

Perhaps the greatest legacies left by him were the establishment of a system of provincial parks in the province, and the construction of a floodway around Winnipeg to divert the flood waters of the Red River away from the city. Despite major opposition to its construction, it has resulted in the prevention of major destruction due to floods since its completion in October of 1968. The floodway was nicknamed "Duffs Ditch" in his honour. Duff Roblin Provincial Park, near the Floodway at Winnipeg was also established in his honour.

Duff was made a companion of the Order of Canada in 1970 and was appointed to the Federal Senate in 1978. The Duff Roblin Building at the University of Manitoba was also dedicated to him. He has been the recipient of many awards and honours over the years. More recently he has published his autobiography "*Speaking for Myself: Politics and Other Pursuits*".

Duff Roblin died in Winnipeg Manitoba on May 30, 2010.