

# F.R. (DICK) MATTHEWS, Q.C.

## CLASS OF 1948

The Matthews family, originally from Nebraska, settled in Alberta during World War I, when Dick's father bought a farm 25 miles east of Calgary. The Matthews family raised work horses, an important commodity at a time when there were no tractors on the Prairies.

Taking the advice of his legal career mentor Marshall Porter, a senior practitioner at the time, Dick studied accounting pre-law. Dick's study of accounting was interrupted in his third year by his service during WW II. Dick joined the navy and was assigned to HMCS Prince Rupert, the only Canadian naval vessel in the South Pacific. His ship left Honolulu the evening before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. The navy posted him to Ottawa, Vancouver and Halifax.

Following law school, Matthews articulated with Marshall Porter, who incorporated Home Oil and sat on its board of directors. Following the discovery of oil at Leduc and Turner Valley, many of Matthews' classmates worked in oil-related businesses, often working fifteen-hour days. The economy was booming and there was a great demand for lawyers. His accounting background was particularly useful in dealing with many financing issues that his clients faced.

The firm of MacKimmie Matthews became the successor firm to Porter Allen & Millard. MacKimmie, a barrister from Nova Scotia, was recruited after he was featured in a front-page story in a Calgary newspaper as successfully defending the mayor of Sydney, N.S. on a manslaughter charge. Matthews knew Mr. MacKimmie from MacKimmie's time in Halifax at the Judge Advocate General's Office.

Matthews served on the Boards of Directors of many oil companies, as it

was convenient in the early days to have the lawyer as the Secretary of the Board, especially when taking these companies public. He took many trips for clients related to their Alberta oil business, visiting such places as Iran, Algeria, Italy and Austria. One major corporation Matthews set up was Pan Arctic, which was created by several local major oil companies and the Federal government, to explore in the high Arctic. This resulted in several trips for Dick to the Arctic islands. Another of his clients, Westburne, provided the drilling rigs in the North Sea and elsewhere. Other companies Dick did work for were Ranger Oil, one of the first Canadian companies to explore the North Sea, and Murphy Oil in Dallas.

Matthews practiced tax and corporate law. He took several tax cases to the Supreme Court of Canada. He retired from his practice in the early 1990s.

Matthews' grandfather had the Steinway agency and owned a music store in Nebraska, later moving the operation to Calgary. Growing up, Dick played a number of instruments, although he confesses that he didn't play them very well. His father moved from the farm to join the music business. This exposure to music was a key element in his life.

Matthews began attending concerts at the age of 11 and developed a passion for music. He and his wife Joyce attended symphonies everywhere they went. The symphony brought them together in Ottawa and Vancouver where they both served in the navy. In the 1940s, the Calgary Symphony only played one or two movements of a symphony. When Dick went to an annual meeting of the Symphony to complain, he found himself leaving the meeting as a Director of the Board. Ultimately,



he became President. Later, Joyce was also the symphony board President. Matthews' hands-on support of the Calgary Philharmonic and his desire to see it succeed for generations to come, prompted him and his wife to make a recent donation of over \$6 million to the CPO Foundation, an endowment that funds the orchestra.

Flying is another passion in Dick's life. As a teenager, Dick was an instructor in model airplanes at the YMCA before the war. When he became involved in gliding, he bought an aircraft to tow the gliders. Ranger Oil CEO Jack Pierce organized a Concord to land in Calgary for the opening of the airport. With their work in the North Sea, Ranger had contacts with British Airways. The senior pilot for British Airways invited about 30 Calgarians to fly back to Dulles International Airport with him. Jack flew the plane, as he was an experienced 727 pilot. Dick was invited to the cockpit. As he had a 1st Class instrument rating, the British Airways pilot suggested Matthews take the controls and do some "S" turns, which he was thrilled to do.

To demonstrate his commitment to the Faculty of Law, Dick Matthews set up an endowment to fund a scholarship for an entering student with an accounting background. The funding continues if the student maintains a satisfactory academic standing.

Thank you Dick for this most generous gift!