



## JUNE CALLWOOD

1924 – 2007

June Callwood was a much-honoured journalist, author and social activist. She loved her Etobicoke neighbourhood and Hillcroft Drive house. In a 1984 interview, she said “I love my street, the access to the creek (Mimico Creek), the bicycle path – I walk there in the winter. I also love to use the Olympium Pool... it’s a wonderful neighbourhood.” At that time, Callwood and husband Trent Frayne had already lived and raised their four children there for over thirty years. Their two daughters,

Jesse and Jill, are authors. Callwood also had two sons, Brant and Casey. Sadly, Casey Frayne, her youngest child, was killed by a drunk driver on April 19, 1982, when he was only 20 years old.

When hired by the Globe & Mail in the early 1940s, Callwood maintained her birth name because at that time married women could not be employed in the newspaper industry. After leaving the paper to raise a family, she remained a freelance journalist for the rest of her professional life. Callwood wrote dozens of books and published articles in *Maclean’s* and *Chatelaine*. She also appeared on popular television shows including Front Page Challenge and The Journal. Callwood also earned her pilot’s license in the late 1940s and became a regular flyer and life-long member of the Beaver Valley Soaring Club.

Callwood is particularly renowned for her passion for social justice, especially advocating for issues concerning women and children. She founded or co-founded dozens of organizations committed to improving the lives of people in need and the rights of all Canadians, including Nellie’s Women’s Shelter, Casey House and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Callwood’s contributions to her community, city, and country were recognized in countless ways, including a professorship in social justice established in her name at the University of Toronto. She was made a

member of the Order of Canada in 1978 and promoted first to Officer in 1985 and then Companion in 2000. She was awarded the Order of Ontario in 1988. In 2004, she was honoured with the Canadian Journalism Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and was named Toronto Humanist of the Year. A city street near Queen Street East and Broadview Avenue was named in her honour in 2004, and in 2005 a Toronto park located near the Bathurst Quay was also named after her. As an additional honour, in 2008 Premier Dalton McGuinty declared June 2 as June Callwood Day in Ontario.

In November 2003, June Callwood was diagnosed with cancer. She refused treatment but continued to work as a social advocate and a writer until her death in 2007. Callwood was inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in recognition for her outstanding contributions to her community and her country.

Inducted into the *Etobicoke Hall of Fame* in 1992