



**FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 25, 2011**

James Grassby  
Celebrating a Life Dedicated to Greater Sudbury

Friday, February 25, 2011 – The community gathered at Laurentian University’s Fraser Auditorium today with family members to remember a unique Sudburian. Dr. James Neil Grassby spent a lifetime making Greater Sudbury a better place to live.

At the celebration, a message from Premier Dalton McGuinty was read. In part, it said:

*“In his distinguished 42-year career with Inco, James was known for his professionalism and innovative, forward-looking ideas....His extensive and varied community service and financial contributions did much to strengthen the City of Sudbury, the Province of Ontario – and Canada as a whole.”*

Rick Bartolucci commented that Grassby *“has dedicated an unprecedented amount of time to the betterment for residents of our great city which he loved so dearly....His actions completely embodied what a true humanitarian is.”*

Chris Nash officiated the community celebration. *“Every so often we witness a life that changes every aspect of a community for the better,”* she said. *“James Grassby’s life was one that made our City, our Economy, our Community stronger.”*

A professional engineer, James Grassby served his country in WW2, and introduced computerization to INCO (now Vale) when others could not see the future as he did.

Grassby gathered people around him to build the Fire Hall in Lockerby. Through him, Sudbury gained its first Credit Union that gave a start to some of our City's most successful businesses that employ hundreds of people.

When our United Way started up, James Grassby was its champion, and he continued to support it.

An Anglophone, Jim also championed the founding of le theatre de Nouvel Ontario. Meals on Wheels and the Parish of the University of Sudbury owe much to his influence. The Rotary Club of Sudbury honoured him as a Paul Harris Fellow.

James Grassby was a visionary who could see a need and work with others to meet that need. This was how the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth came into being in full cooperation with other agencies, including the Regional Police service. Jim gave his own money to what has become an award-winning agency and established a fund with the Sudbury Community Foundation to ensure its continuation.

At the event, a Christian memorial service officiated by Father Ron Perron, University of Sudbury Parish, included a message from Jacques Monet, past president, University of Sudbury: *"Jim Grassby's passing marks the end of an era at the University Sudbury. I am very grateful for the grace to have known him and witness at close hand his extraordinary care and concern for the University and all its students."*

Friends and colleagues gathered together at Alumni Hall following the celebration to enjoy refreshments and share memories.

Sudbury's own Silverbirch Quartet performed at the celebration and a jazz combo from Lockerby Composite School performed at the reception following.

– 30 –

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