

Ross E. Baker, DC: A Canadian chiropractic survivor

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This paper is an historical biography of a fortunate man. It begins with a glimpse of Ross E. Baker's origins in south-western Ontario, watches him going to school and working in Hamilton before joining the Canadian Army and shipping off to Europe to fight in the Second World War. At War's end, the article picks up Dr. Baker as he comes home, starts a family, becomes a chiropractor and sustains a viable practice. Now in the twilight of life, the good doctor is last seen content with his retirement, spending days at his cottage property, reviewing his memoirs and reflecting on the tumult, terror and eventual triumph of the D-Day landing at Normandy.

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KEY WORDS: Baker, history, chiropractor

Early Years

John and Susan Jane Baker arrived on the shores of Canada from England, in 1871¹ and settled into what would become their homestead; a 100 acre, mixed-produce farm, west of Ancaster, ON, off Hwy 2, between Hamilton and Brantford.²

Ross was born there to Keith and Annie (nee Pickard) Baker, December 14, 1920. The eldest of four children, Ross began his primary education at Easter 1927, walking almost two miles along rough roads to a one-room

Ce document fait le récit biographique d'un homme heureux. L'article commence par un aperçu des origines de Ross E. Baker dans le sud-ouest de l'Ontario, l'école qu'il a fréquentée, son travail à Hamilton avant sa conscription dans l'Armée canadienne et son départ vers l'Europe pour participer à la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. En rentrant, à la fin de la guerre, le Dr Baker fonde une famille et devient un chiropraticien réussi. Au crépuscule de sa vie, on voit le bon docteur content à la retraite passer ses jours dans sa maison de campagne en évoquant son passé et en réfléchissant sur le tumulte, la terreur et le triomphe final du débarquement du jour J en Normandie.

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MOTS CLÉS : Baker, histoire, chiropraticien

schoolhouse at Alberton. In 1934, he rode a bicycle seven miles back and forth daily, to the small town of Lynden, north-west of the farm, for a year of secondary education called, "Continuation School."

That accomplished, Ross worked on the family farm, earning a dollar a day at harvest time and fifty cents ploughing and planting fields, feeding livestock and mucking out barns. He also sold vegetables, fruit and chickens at the Hamilton markets in the summer and peddled pork and veal during the winter. Ross remembers that in 1939 his

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Figure 1
Juno Beach Landing, June 6 1944.

father traded a Jersey cow for a 1924 Chevrolet touring car with side curtains. Later he milked that cow when doing chores on that farm. [Interview, R. Baker by the author, June 28, 2007]

Preparing for War

World War II began September 3, 1939, with Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand South Africa and Canada declaring war on Germany, subsequent to the Nazi invasion of Poland.³ In 1940 Ross was living with an aunt in Hamilton and taking a “War Emergency Course” at the Wentworth Technical School and was paid seven dollars a week to learn tool and dye making and machine shop operations. Half the classes were in theory and mathematics (algebra, geometry and trigonometry); the other half was practical work in the machine shop. Finishing the program, Ross was hired by the United Carr Fastener Company to set-up and repair equipment throughout the plant, which manufactured small items such as buttons and zippers for military uniforms. One of his jobs was to take raw steel and transform it into small, bomb detonators.

Ross’ position was deemed to be “essential,” rendering him unacceptable for military service, so he drove to Toronto, because he was unknown there, and in September 1942, gained acceptance into the Royal Canadian

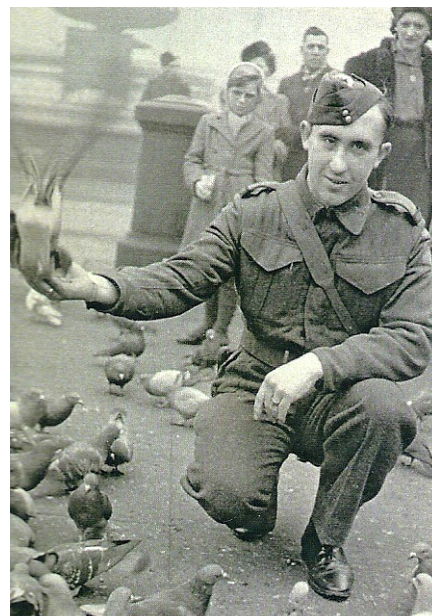


Figure 2
Ross Baker in Trafalgar Square, London, England.

Artillery Corps as a Gunner. Here Baker got basic training before being shipped off to Brampton and then Peta-wawa, in south-eastern Ontario, where his mathematical knowledge gained him classification as a Field Artillery Surveyor. His task was to take coordinates supplied by the Observation Point Officer regarding the position of the target and use them to “zero in” the four guns under his watch, onto their targets. These complex calculations could take hours, using nothing but a pen, paper and flashlight at night.

By August 1943, Baker had risen up the ranks to become Lance-Bombardier (L-Bdr) Baker and his regiment was moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where it boarded the fully loaded Queen Mary, sailing to the Firth of Fourth at Greenock, Scotland, in four days. [Baker R.E. My life as I remember it, Jan. 1993, p. 8. Unpublished.] In Great Britain, Ross got leave to visit attractions such as London, Windsor Castle, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stonehenge. His last posting was to Christchurch, as a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery 14th Field Regiment.

Entering the Fray

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the 14th Artillery Regiment entered the English Channel with the first wave of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, spearheading the invasion of Juno Beach (code name for Bernières-sur-Mer, in Nor-

mandy, France).⁴ Large landing ships, carrying tanks and artillery (LSTs) rode in between the smaller infantry boats, then circled back out to wait until the beach was cleared before landing. Baker's vehicle on the LST was an Observation Point, Sherman Command tank, which hit a mine coming to shore, putting the engine out of commission and compelling the crew to swim in. The Channel was storm-tossed, Baker had been sea-sick for hours and now he was famished. With shells raining down, instead of running for cover, the first thing he did was sit on the beach, pull a chocolate bar out of his pack and devour it. "And then the guns went off. Ours were... 105 mm guns mounted on tank chassis, so they were really mobile." The tanks rolled along the beach to the outside of town "and within a half hour, two of the guns were blown to smithereens, killing nine of our boys and wounding four others."⁵

Baker's regiment fought its way up the coast from Bernières, France to Antwerp, Belgium and on to Bremen, Germany. His surveyor duties could take him 12 miles beyond infantry outposts along with surveillance units. Baker downplays the role of locating the enemy as "interesting," yet his crew had to bulldoze their way through roads blocked by mounds of debris left in the wake of advancing armies, endure snipers, hand grenades, mortars, sleepless nights and the terrible stench of death. On several occasions they were bombed by "friendly" aircraft as well as German planes. Once, Baker waited under a tree for a misplaced Canadian plane to attack. Luckily it was waved off at the last moment.

In his off hours Baker operated his own business. One of the first men to be wounded on D-Day was the regiment's barber. A soldier on the front lines "liberated" some equipment and Ross took over. He charged a guilden (a coin equivalent to one Canadian dollar) per haircut and made enough to be able to keep almost all the funds in his pay book. A second job was mending and pressing his buddies' uniforms.

Coming Home

The Allied Armed Forces announced their victory over Germany on May 8, 1945, naming it VE (Victory in Europe) Day.⁶ Ross arrived home from war November 26, 1945, and rushed into the arms of his fiancée, Margaret Neville. Margaret's parents had both lived in Ontario for several generations. Her father, Arthur Wellington Nev-



Figure 3
Margaret
(née Neville)
Baker.

ille, was named after the first Duke of Wellington who commanded the Anglo-allied army that defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, in 1813.

Margaret was reared on a farm in Canboro Township. When Ross was overseas she obtained a public school teaching certificate from the Hamilton Normal School and was now in charge of the Green Road one room schoolhouse in Caledonia. In mid December they impetuously decided to get married before Christmas and December 22, 1945, Margaret and Ross were joined in holy matrimony by Rev. Ross Crosby in the Dunnville United Church. [Baker MA. My memories, 1997, pp. 69-70. Unpublished] In January 1946, Baker went back to work for United Carr Fastener, however the company was now departmentalized. Baker soon became bored, left to obtain his Grade 13 Diploma, and decided to become a chiropractor.

Margaret had understood the value of chiropractic since childhood. Her Aunt Jean and Uncle Jud Neville were farming near Smithville. One cold day, a Holstein cow fell on the ice and couldn't get up. Dr. Phillip, a chiropractor from Hamilton happened by and offered to lend a hand. Asking for a sponge ball and a mallet, "he used them to put the cow's bones in place and the ani-

mal walked back to the barn. Later, Aunt Jean developed a kidney disease...Dr. Philip treated her chiropractically and she got better.”

September 12, 1930, Uncle Jud sold his Smithville holdings and he and Jean headed for the Universal Chiropractic College (UCC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Established in Davenport, Iowa, in 1910, the UCC was an offspring of the Palmer School of Chiropractic and “had its beginnings through disagreement with the parent institution on matters related to chiropractic philosophy and education.” In 1918, with the stresses of World War I curtailing enrolment and looming financial disaster, the UCC amalgamated with the Pittsburgh College of Chiropractic, transferring its name, location and student body from Davenport to Pittsburgh.⁷

By 1930 the UCC was offering two sessions: One of 18 months given in two calendar years; the other 24 months, over three years. The Nevilles opted for the 18 month program. Whereas Jean had graduated from the Toronto Normal School in 1911, Jud only had a grade eight education but was allowed to enrol providing he could keep up with the class. Jean studied with her husband and upon graduation, Jud outshone his wife, with the highest marks in the class. The Nevilles opened an office in Lake Wales, Florida, and because they were also licensed in Ontario, could adjust relatives and acquaintances on home-made tables, during return visits.

Ross’ family had also benefited from chiropractic care. His mother suffered from sciatica and was successfully treated in Dundas, ON, by Thomas MacRae, a 1920 graduate of the Toronto College of Chiropractic and father of John E. MacRae (CMCC 1960). Ross had his first adjustment for low back problems in 1939, from William H. Cooper in Brantford, ON. Dr. Cooper, a 1912 graduate of the International College of Chiropractic Spondylotherapy, Detroit, Michigan, was the first of four generations of chiropractors to practice there. [Interview, S. Cooper-Latimer, by author, Feb. 26, 2013] Subsequently, Ross obtained relief from neck pain and headaches, through a Dr. Banks, in Hamilton.

Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC)

Baker credits WW II veterans with being the impetus behind CMCC’s rapid expansion. The College opened in Toronto, at 252 Bloor Street West, September 18, 1945 and 30 applicants were expected. By December that

year 115 students had enrolled and a year later the former 10,000 square foot Meadonia Hotel was packed with 243 restless souls, 81 percent of whom had served in the military.⁸ This necessitated the 1957 construction of the three-storey “Henderson Building.” Attached to the back of the original hotel, it increased CMCC’s usable space to 30,000 square feet.

The war vets also improved the quality of CMCC’s education. By 1947 the College was teaching mammalian dissection, but it “did not possess the legal standing to perform human dissection,” as required by the Ontario Board of Regents. At this juncture CMCC’s Branch 450 of the Canadian Legion used its political contacts to influence the addition of human dissection to the curriculum. On April 6, 1950, an Order-in-Council was approved by the Cabinet of Premier Leslie Frost (PC), listing CMCC as one of six Ontario establishments eligible to receive cadavers for dissection.⁹

September 2, 1947, Ross commenced his studies and five days later his responsibilities were compounded as Margaret gave birth to their first child, Donald Ross. College veterans qualified for monthly allowances from the Department of Veterans Affairs. These stipends paid the cost of their tuition and books, plus a modest sum for living expenses. As usual, Ross sought extra income, working part time for Eaton’s department store throughout his four year course and cutting hair in the CMCC washrooms for 25 cents; half the going rate of 50 cents.

In December, the Baker’s were renting rooms at Eglinton Avenue and Keele Street but by the spring of 1948 they had saved enough money to purchase a lot nearby, at 52 Lonborough Avenue for \$630. Ross designed a storey and three quarters home, so they could rent the upstairs and live on the main floor. Post-war building supplies were hard to find and bricks almost impossible. Starting construction in June, Ross used cinder blocks until the end of August, when he located a load of sub-standard bricks in Rochester, NY, and was able to cap the window openings and brick the front of the house. With the assistance of Margaret, an assortment of relatives, and classmates who chipped in on Saturdays, they closed the building in, obtained a mortgage and took possession in January 1949. Ross figures the total cost, not including his labour, was \$12,000, a substantial sum for that era.

May 27, 1949, Margaret gave birth to their second child, Murray Allan. Ross was now swamped with basic

science and clinical subjects. While studying radiology his own spine was x-rayed, revealing the origins of his neck and low back symptoms to be compression fractures of the first thoracic and fifth lumbar vertebrae, probably from accidents that occurred in the war or growing up on the farm. May 16, the Class of 1951 graduated in the Eaton Auditorium. Dr. Ross Edgar Baker was quoted as saying he was “quite satisfied” with his education and “felt confident in treating patients.”

Building a Practice

In June 1951, Dr. Baker received his license to practice from the Ontario Board of Directors of Chiropractic. Ross immediately installed an office in the basement of his home in Toronto and accepted a full-time position as a machinist at A.V. Roe (Avro) in Malton, ON, building military and commercial aircraft. One was the futuristic “Avro Arrow.” In the fall, Baker fashioned a second facility in Aurora’s Town Hall, on Yonge Street, practicing on Wednesday nights and on Saturdays, when Avro was shut. In January 1954, he left Avro, joining Earl Sawyer (CMCC 1950) at his clinics in Cooksville and Hamilton. In October 1957, Ross bid adieu to Dr. Sawyer, opening a new clinic in Clarkson, ON. Having recently sold his Aurora office to Steven Armata (CMCC 1956), Ross retained solo practices in Clarkson and Toronto until his retirement in 1986. Dr. Baker claims he never had a large practice but we know there was a period when he operated out of four offices and in Hamilton, he and Earl Sawyer, alternating with Robert Thurlow (CMCC 1952), saw 75 to 100 patients a day. At home, he was available for drop-ins and willing to make house calls, dragging heavy modalities with him.

In the early 1950’s banking policies were restrictive with respect to lending money to chiropractors but by November 1954, a group in Ontario had counteracted this by incorporating their own branch of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). By the 1970s the Ontario Chiropractic Credit Union (OCCU) had purchased a building in Dundas, ON and hired its own staff. This is when Baker joined the Supervisory Committee, meeting monthly to oversee its conduct. As of 1980, the OCCU had assets of \$1.6 million, but was no longer necessary as chiropractors were being solicited by traditional financial institutions. Therefore the decision was taken to retire the OCCU, amalgamating its members and assets with

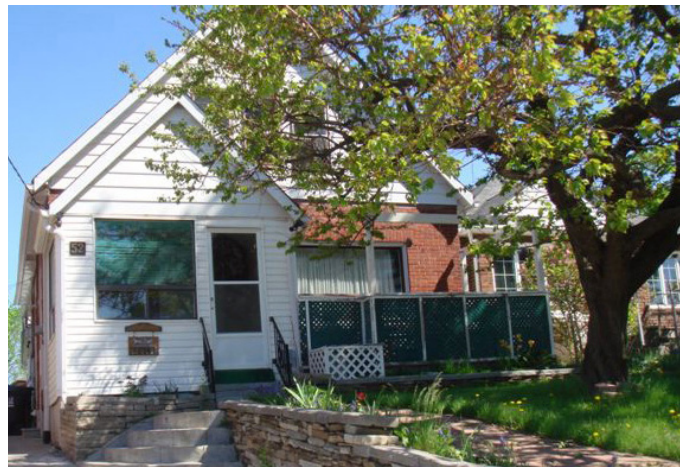


Figure 4
52 Lonborough Ave, Toronto.

CUNA in Hamilton.¹⁰ As Secretary, Baker was one of the signatories of those archival documents.

In May 1955, Dr. Baker had returned to the College to take the James W. Parker (PSC 1946) practice management seminar. One of the pillars of Dr. Parker’s thinking centred around the teachings of Thurman G. Fleet (Texas CC 1935) and what he called “Concept Therapy.” Dr. Fleet’s premise was that disease can be caused by physical objects, mental thoughts or spiritual acts. His work has been described as a precursor to “cognitive behaviour therapy,” or “mental health and chiropractic,” and is “viewed as an early, well-organized form of holistic health care.”¹¹

Concept Therapy became an important part of the Bakers’ lives. In the fall of 1955 Ross and Margaret took the basic Doctor’s training together in Toronto, meeting Dr. Fleet for the first time. Over a span of 15 years they journeyed to cities in Canada and the United States, completing all seven additional phases and visiting the Institute’s “Ranch,” north of San Antonio, TX, where they got to know Fleet and his acolytes, Rev. E.L. Crump and Katherine Calhoun, personally.

Raising the Baker/Neville Tribe

Donald and Murray attended Ross’ graduation with their mother, in 1951. In 1952 Margaret gave birth to a third son, Norman Keith, then James David (1953), Rob-



Figure 5
Metanoia.

ert Earl (1955), and her first daughter, Jean Margaret (1958). The last arrivals were Katherine Darlene (1959), Melody-Ann (1961) and Thomas Arthur Scott (1963).

To put it mildly, with nine healthy children and an open door policy, the Lonborough residence was over-populated. Lakefront real estate in Clarkson was scarce, prices prohibitive and transportation to schools inadequate, causing Ross to apply for an extension to the back of his Toronto dwelling in the spring of 1963. Flooding rains delayed the process still Ross succeeded in pouring the footings and putting up the walls during the summer. With used blocks, joists, floor and roof boards, doors, trim, chimney tile and a fireplace flue obtained from homes being torn down in the area, Ross was able to close the addition by December. Unfortunately, it was a cold winter and the gas furnace recently purchased to replace the original coal one, was inadequate to heat the new area, damaging the footings and cracking a wall. Undaunted, by spring the fireplace was in, the plastering done and the addition complete.

Margaret and Ross were brought up in rural communities under similar circumstances. Both households were industrious, gregarious, church-going and musically gifted. Margaret's relatives gathered frequently to sing, dance and play a variety of instruments. She was a polished vocalist, pianist and organist; Ross played the harmonica, guitar and violin. When first they met, Margaret was sing-

ing in the Dunnville Church Choir. Moving to Toronto, they joined St. Cuthbert's United Church. Ross became superintendant of the seniors' Sunday School and Margaret assisted with the church nursery before assuming control of the children's Sunday School. Together they were associated with St. Cuthbert's for 45 years.

During primary and secondary school the Baker kids participated in numerous extracurricular activities and went on to higher education, immersing themselves in diverse subjects such as accountancy, pedagogy, early childhood care, homeopathy, reflexology, carpentry, electronics, the environment, computer technology and business management.

Roughing It

August 1955, the Bakers spent their first family holiday camping in Algonquin Park. The water was too cold for swimming, there was frost on the tent the first morning and Margaret, who was a month away from giving birth to her fifth son, was severely chilled, abruptly ending this vacation. A couple of years later the family started spending holidays at Ivy Bromfield's cottage, on Bartlett Lake, just north of Sprucedale, on Hwy 518. Ivy, who was a proponent of Concept Therapy, named her summer home "Metanoia," which is Greek in origin and has come to mean "a transformative change of heart, especially a spiritual conversion."¹² Ross and his boys helped to open up the land and expand the cabin into a four bedroom bungalow, where a pack of "conceptologists" could commune on holidays and weekends.

In 1968, Ivy sold Metanoia to Ross along with a parcel of land which he sub-divided into four, one acre, lakefront plots. In 1972, he erected a small cottage called "Hillside," that could be heated in the winter. With the exception of table saws, Metanoia and Hillside were assembled without power tools. Ross retired in 1986, and "needing something to do" he began constructing "Hillview," a structure of comparable size and configuration to his home in Toronto. The first step was to cut down more trees and send them to the local mill, ensuring that lumber would be ready for the spring of 1987. This time, a planer/joiner, router and lathe were "a blessing," because much of the interior was trimmed in solid oak. This edifice, including landscaping and a two car garage, was completed in 1993.

World War II Redux

Ross Baker was destined to travel. Whether by foot, bicycle, car, train, boat or plane, Ross has been on the go for over nine decades. It is true that recreational pursuits, professional inquisitiveness and military obligations had exposed him to urban civilization in North America and Western Europe, but it wasn't until 1969 that Ross was able to revisit the dreadful atrocities he encountered during the Second World War and could appreciate Continental culture.

May 19, 1969, Margaret, Ross, and 80 of his army comrades, flew to Amsterdam, Holland, on the first leg of a two week journey to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their D-Day landing at Normandy, France. Here they "were treated like royalty" before being bussed to the Canadian War Cemetery at Groesbeek, where 2,331 of the 5,000 Canadian soldiers who gave their lives freeing the Netherlands, are buried.¹³ The next stop was Dieppe, a small port on the French coast between Le Havre and Boulogne. Ross was "shocked to see what our soldiers had to face on that awful day, August 19, 1942." The fighting only lasted nine hours but it was a major disaster with 900 Canadians killed and almost 2,000 captured.¹⁴ Following Dieppe they drove to the beaches of Bernières-sur-Mer, where they were welcomed at the Town Hall before joining their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant (Lt) Garth S. Webb in a walk along the sea wall to their initial D-Day gun position. Afterward, they moved on to Paris, taking in attractions Ross had observed when he was there on furlough in 1945. Then they were off to Lucerne, Switzerland, by train and cruised up the Rhine River, back to Amsterdam. From here they flew to London, England, another city Ross had frequented during the War. Besides London, Ross renewed friendships in outlying areas such as Wales, Birmingham and Coventry. On their last night in London, this weary band of gypsies joined for a farewell dinner, before returning to Canada.

In mid May 1972, the Bakers and 38 army personnel left on a second overseas trip. Flying once more to Amsterdam, they travelled by train to Arnhem, where the allies had been thwarted in their quest to capture the bridge over the Rhine before the winter of 1944. Our troops were decimated through the killing or capture of 7,600 soldiers, delaying their march into Germany six months. A book and movie about this battle are titled "A Bridge too Far."¹⁵

Continuing by bus, the crew stopped at the mediev-



Figure 6
Ross Baker
CMCC Memorial
Day 2012,

al, walled city of Rothenberg, Germany, where they ran into one of its historic, monthly festivals.¹⁶ Driving on, they landed in Munich, Germany, dining at the top of the Olympic Tower, three months before the September 5 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by eight Palestinian rebels. This tragedy would seriously undermine the European peace accord these war vets had risked their lives to create. Now they left for Salzburg, Vienna and Innsbruck in Austria, before circling back to Munich, where the group split up to go in different directions. Margaret and Ross proceeded to Scandinavia by flying to Frankfurt, Germany, then on to Copenhagen, Denmark, to end up in Bergen, Norway. The trip from Bergen necessitated driving down a precipitous and dangerous, multiple hair-pin turn road to a ferry that transported them out the fiord to Stockholm, Sweden and on to Oslo, Norway and Copenhagen, before flying once more to Amsterdam, to catch their flight to Toronto.

The Juno Beach Memorial Centre

Ross has always been devoted to the 14th Canadian Field Regiment, attending most of its reunions. June 6, 1994, Margaret and Ross, along with Lt Garth Webb and a large contingent of their unit, found themselves together in



Figure 7
Juno Beach Memorial Centre.

Normandy, standing, on what had been the Juno battlefield half a century ago. Upon receiving commemorative medals from the French Government, it dawned on Webb that there was little on the Beach itself, to remind his children and grandchildren of Canada's involvement in WW II.

In 1998, Webb filled this void by forming the Juno Beach Centre Association. On June 6, 2003, when the Centre opened in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France, Ross was there along with Association President Garth Webb, two prime ministers and an assortment of politicians and dignitaries. Nevertheless, this day belonged to the 1,000 war veterans in attendance and to 13,000 individual men, women and children whose donations contributed substantially to this \$10 million project. The 1,427 square metre learning centre resembles a stylized maple leaf from the air and recognizes the sacrifices of **all** Canadians who served during World War II. With this in mind, there are external kiosks on site, inscribed with the names of thousands of these noble young men and women.¹⁷

Anecdotes

Born in modest circumstances, Ross was raised in an atmosphere of family and friends and still seeks their

companionship. For example, in June 1995, Ross was among 200 descendants of John and Susan Jane Baker who were present in Ancaster, to observe the 100th anniversary of the clan's first reunion,¹⁸ and in August 2013, Ross was driving through Sprucedale when he noticed activity at the United Church. Despite being in a hurry, he simply had to stop and say hello to several parishioners he hadn't seen in a few years.

Margaret and Ross were as energetic as they were prolific and a large part of their lives was consumed by work. Dr. Baker's profession was demanding. It entailed driving to Clarkson in the early morning and adjusting patients all day, to return home in the evening, where he would gulp down his supper and straighten more spines in his basement office. Before going to bed, Ross methodically planned his activities for the morrow, making the best use of all waking hours. Margaret's concerns were even more onerous. The mere thought of raising nine children and looking after an occasionally cantankerous husband is exhausting. Weekends were strenuous but provided a change of pace. The Bakers would pile into their 1962 Ford Falcon Station Wagon and head for Bartlett Lake where they struggled to enhance their large cottage property, but also relaxed; swimming, fishing, reading and playing cards.

Margaret and Ross' hobby was travel. When not working they seemed perpetually on the go. Excluding their European sojourns, between December 26, 1944, when the young couple left by train for Florida on their honeymoon and December 22, 1995, when the old folks celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by floating through the Panama Canal, the Bakers enjoyed 34 substantial voyages primarily in North America, often accompanied by one or more of their children.

Ross would never describe himself as fearless but he has a reputation for courage. His boys, Donald and Murray, have shared that, "Dad is brave and doesn't worry about things over which he has no control." [Interview, D. and M. Baker by the author, Feb 25, 2013] This may explain his detached demeanour on D-Day at Juno Beach, when he paused in the midst of chaos, to eat a candy bar. The day after (June 7, 1944), Ross disarmed a German airman who had a revolver in his hand. A year later, although unarmed and far ahead of the infantry unit to which he was assigned, Ross unearthed a nest of German soldiers and their corps commander, staying on the scene until they had surrendered.

Probably Ross' most unique trait is aggressive physicality, tempered by humility. In the spring of 1943, during training at Petawawa, ON, and in early 1944, at Aldershot, UK, Ross had opportunities to become a commissioned officer but rejected them, because this would have delayed his going into battle. He was anxious to fight and wanted to be in the thick of it, but didn't seek the celebrity of leadership. In 1998, when the Juno Beach Association was formed, Ross became one of two dozen supporters. They met regularly in Burlington, ON, until 2002, when an official governing board was established and Ross stepped deftly aside, dodging the spotlight again.

Accolades

CMCC is justifiably proud of its alumnus, Dr. Ross Baker, and has presented him with the following citations: Life Membership in the College; a "Hands on the Future" plaque, for a making a substantial donation to CMCC's Capital Campaign; and a "Decade of Service" award, for faithful membership in the College's Governors' Club.

L/B Baker had collected a total of 10 medals from Canada, France, England and the Netherlands for services he rendered during World War Two, yet it appeared as though his exploits above and beyond the call of duty



Figure 8
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

were long forgotten. That assumption was premature. In January 2013, Ross E. Baker received by mail, a medal and this letter from David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am pleased to award you the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

In granting you this honour, I thank you for your dedicated service to your peers, to your community and to Canada. The contributions you have made to our nation are most commendable and deserve our praise and admiration.

I wish to convey to you the heartfelt congratulations of your fellow Canadians, to which I add my own.

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