

# **JOHNSON, Douglas C.**

## **(1923 – 2015)**

**A** leading architect in Windsor for over 40 years, Douglas C. Johnson was among the first to introduce a distinctive modernist style to the architecture of Western Ontario after WWII. Born in Windsor, he served in Germany in 1942-45 and returned to Canada where he graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto in 1950.

From 1953, in partnership with Cunningham S. McWhinnie, he designed several significant institutional, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings in the Windsor area including the competition-winning design for The Cleary Auditorium & Convention Hall (1958-60), Cody Hall at the University of Windsor (1959-61), and City of Windsor Bandshell (1958-59). His early designs for educational buildings include Princess Anne Public School (1956-57), Alicia Mason Vocational School (1960-62), and the William Hands Vocational School (1962-64). He later

designed the Main Branch of the Windsor Public Library in 1971-73. The partnership of Johnson & McWhinnie remained active until 1985 when Johnson became a Senior Associate in the Windsor firm of David A. Novick & Associates.

Douglas Johnson was highly respected by his professional colleagues who elected him as President of the Ontario Association of Architects in 1965. In 1967, he was nominated as a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. In 1989 he took a leadership role in the creation of the new firm of Archon Architects Inc. of Windsor, and he helped to mentor a number of young architects who were members of that firm. After his retirement in 1993, Johnson continued to take an active interest in this new firm, offering advice and support in the development of the office. He leaves a legacy of important buildings in the Windsor and Essex County region, many of which are still in use today.