

## SHORE, Leonard Eldon (1902 – 1989)

**L**eonard Eldon Shore practiced architecture in Toronto for more than forty years, with the exception of three years in the Canadian Army during the Second World War. Following the war, he joined Robert R. Moffat to establish the firm Shore & Moffat, Architects, which became one of the most important architectural firms in Ontario, and indeed in Canada. Shore was a strong and effective manager which contributed significantly to the success of the firm.

Leonard Shore was born on July 31, 1902 in Clarksburg, Ontario. He received his primary and secondary education at Thornbury Continuation School and Meaford High School, graduating in 1921. He studied architecture at the University of Toronto, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Architecture in 1928.

In 1926-27, Shore worked in New York City as a draftsman for the noted firm Carrere & Hastings, Architects, while studying "the mechanical equipment of buildings" at Columbia University. Following graduation from the University of Toronto and working for a year for Mathers & Haldenby, Architects, he joined William L. Somerville, Architect, with whom he worked for more than a decade, in later years as an associate (virtually a silent partner), responsible for directing the work of the drafting room. A notable project in which he was involved in those years was the approach plaza to the Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls. Between 1943 and 1945 Shore served in the Canadian Army with the rank of Major. He acted as a consultant architect, initially on new buildings, alterations and accommodations for ordinance, subsequently on military hospitals.

In 1945 Shore joined with Robert R. Moffat to establish the firm Shore & Moffat, Architects, in Toronto. The firm was successful, initially specializing in the design of school buildings. While Moffat assumed the role of design partner, Shore concentrated more on the management of the firm, directing its steady growth; Shore & Moffat had a staff of 150 in the boom years of the nineteen-sixties. When Moffat died in 1960 Shore became the sole proprietor of the firm, but in 1962 he brought seven associates (four architects and three engineers) into partnership and the firm was

renamed Shore & Moffat and Partners, Architects, Engineers and Site Planners. Shore gradually transferred the ownership of the practice to his new partners and ceased active participation in 1982 when the firm was reorganized as Shore Tilbe Henschel Irwin.

Although Len Shore concentrated on the administration of the firm, he was nevertheless directly responsible for many of its projects including the Borough of Etobicoke and Board of Education office buildings (first phase of the Etobicoke Civic Centre), McLaughlin College at York University in Toronto, the Barriefield Military Hospital in Kingston, and the British American Oil Company Office Building in Clarkson (Mississauga). As a member of the executive committee of UPACE (University Planners, Architects and Consulting Engineers), a joint venture of his firm with John B. Parkin Associates, Architects, and Gordon S. Adamson & Associates, Architects, he was also involved in the master planning of York University, Ryerson Institute of Technology, and Brock University in St. Catharines. However, the project in which he took the most interest and pride was the master planning of the University of Waterloo, and the design of many of its buildings, including the Arts, Engineering, Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics and Central Services buildings, and the Library.

Shore was an admirer of the celebrated American firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and wished to create a firm similar to it, capable of providing a wide range of services. In the nineteen-sixties, especially, he came close to achieving his ambition as Shore & Moffat and Partners provided not only architectural services, but also engineering and site planning. He was concerned that architects should provide the services that clients needed, and to this end he believed that the architectural student "must be much more than an artist, or draftsman, or delineator, or designer," and that the older tradition of the "architect-businessman must be reinforced and amplified."

Shore became a member of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) in 1931. He remained a member of the OAA until his death (after 1984 as an Honorary Member). He was a member

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of the OAA Council from 1946 to 1947, serving as President in 1948. He became a Fellow of the RAIC in 1951.

Leonard Shore died on November 16, 1989, survived by his wife Mae. His greatest professional achievement was the development of Shore &

Moffat into one of the largest and most important architectural firms in Ontario in the nineteen-fifties and sixties, responsible for the design of a large number of buildings in the Modernist design tradition.