

SCRYMGEOUR

John Alexander

JOHN ALEXANDER SCRYMGEOUR 82, died August 30, 2003 in New York. Born on August 12, 1921 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia he was the son of Alice Rebecca Newbury and Charles Edward Scrymgeour. He is survived by his wife, Dana H. Scrymgeour; son, Jack (Ann) and their children, Carly, Christy, Devon, Rosy and Luke; great grandsons, Nicholas and Isaac; son, Charles (Karen); son, Alexander (Julie) and their daughter, Joanna; daughter, Nancy (Leslie) and their children, Andrew and Faith; daughter, Tiffany Shewell (David) and their daughter, Chloe; and his sister, Shirley.

A proud Nova Scotian, he received his early education in Dartmouth and attended Dalhousie University where he graduated in 1943 with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Following graduation, he was commissioned in the Royal Canadian Navy where he served during the Second World War. After the war, he departed for Western Canada and became a major figure in the Alberta Oil Patch - first as an executive with Home Oil and then with Commonwealth Petroleums Limited, which at the time was Canada's largest oil well drilling contractor. He expanded this enterprise into a global corporate entity and further diversified into the field of plumbing and electrical supply and distribution, forming Westburne International Industries Limited. As the founding Chairman and CEO of Westburne, he built one of the largest drilling, wholesale plumbing and electrical supply and distribution companies in North America with operations spanning the globe. One of John Scrymgeour's crowning business achievements was when, with Texan partners, he formed SEDCO Industries to build offshore drilling rigs and directed that the construction of several floating drill rigs take place in his native province of Nova Scotia.

John Scrymgeour was the first Canadian to be named a Governor of the American Stock Exchange; he was granted honorary doctorates from the Technical University of Nova Scotia in 1984, Dalhousie University in 1993 and was elected to the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame in 2002. John Scrymgeour served on many corporate boards, including Brascan, Luscar, Encal Energy, and ATCO Industries, was a director, life member and strong supporter of the Fraser Institute, and an Honorary Member of the Canadian Association of Oil Well Drilling Contractors. A lifelong supporter of the arts, he made significant contributions to the Edmonton Art Gallery, the Dalhousie Art Gallery, where the main gallery is known as the Scrymgeour Gallery and to other galleries and museums across Canada. He will be truly missed by his family, many friends and business associates and by countless others for his quiet and discrete acts of kindness and generosity.

Source: The Globe and Mail, 2003-09-05

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