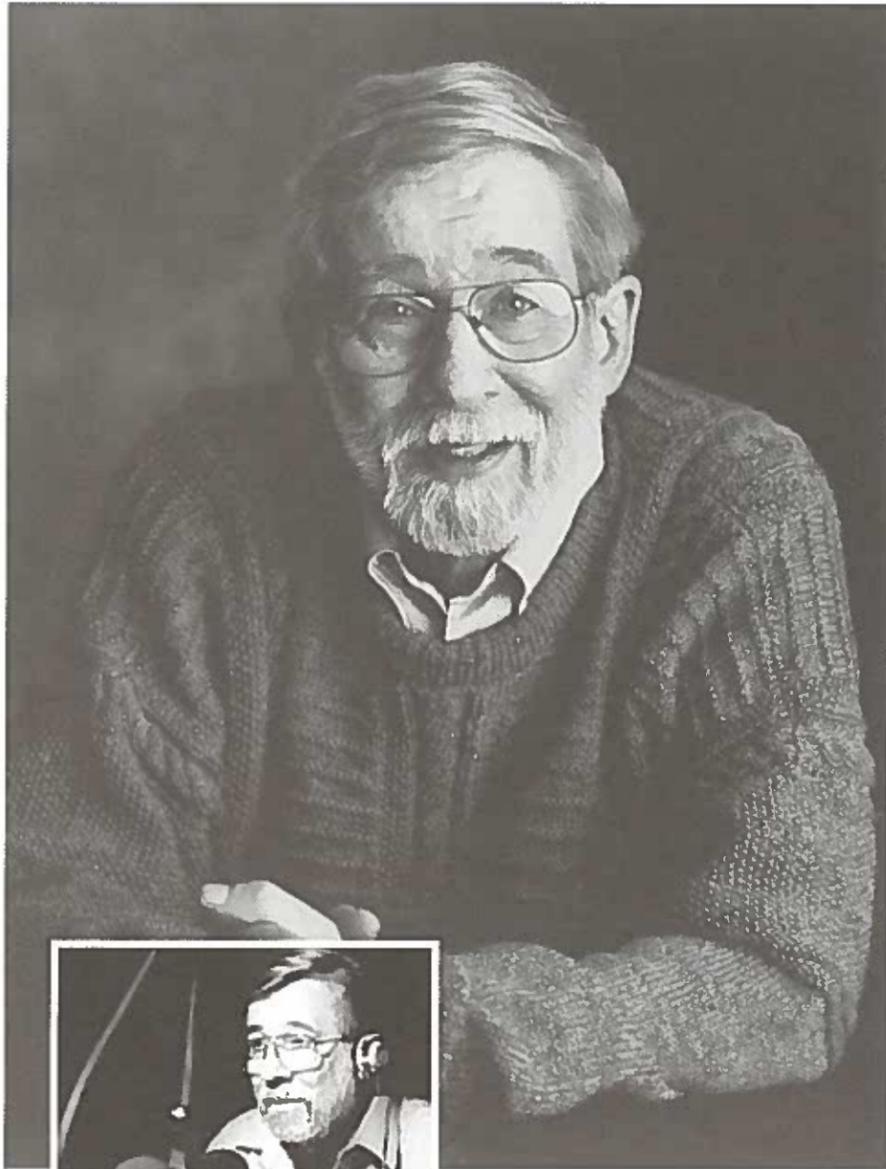


PETER GZOWSKI

Journalism



Inducted: 2003
Years at GCI & VS:
1948 - 1949

Peter Gzowski was born in Toronto on July 13th, 1934 but left Toronto at the age of six and moved to Galt with his mother and her husband, Reg Brown. While here he was known as Peter Brown. His family lived on Park Avenue overlooking Dickson Park and Galt Collegiate. The Galt area had a profound impact on his life. He wrote some significant essays of his boyhood days, particularly time spent playing in Dickson Park. Though Peter attended GCI for only two years, those years were important to his life as a journalist. Later on in his life he acknowledged that former GCI teachers, Frank Ferguson and Helen Rudick, were instrumental in helping him find his journalistic voice. When Peter left Galt in grade 11 he went to Ridley College and took his original surname, Gzowski. Later he attended the University of Toronto and edited the school's student newspaper.

After Mr. Gzowski left the U. of T. he worked on newspapers in Timmins, Moose Jaw and Chatham before becoming the youngest managing editor ever of Maclean's magazine in 1962. He turned to radio in the early 1970's hosting the CBC's *This Country in the Morning*. While he tried his hand at television, radio is where he found his calling. In 1982, he began his sojourn as host of CBC Radio's *Morningside*, which lasted 15 years and made him a household name in Canada. It has been estimated that Mr. Gzowski conducted 27 000 interviews during his tenure at *Morningside*.

Among his dozens of awards, Mr. Gzowski was the recipient of seven ACTRA awards, twelve honorary degrees from Canadian universities, the

Peabody Award for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting (1997), the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement (1995) and the Companion of the Order of Canada (1999). A noted author, particularly of his "Morningside" series, Mr. Gzowski started the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy in 1986 to raise funds to teach people in reading and writing and to inspire Canadians to celebrate literacy.

Mr. Gzowski died in Toronto on January 24th, 2002. From Prime Minister Chretien to hockey icon Wayne Gretzky, tributes filled the Canadian media from coast to coast, honouring the "Voice of Canada".

The New York Times said of Mr. Gzowski, "*In a country forever in search of its own voice, Mr. Gzowski is a stand in for Canada, as curious as he is courteous, interested in hockey heroes and indigenous customs and all the forgotten chapters of a national history and culture that he constantly challenges his listeners to cherish and defend.*"