

Paul Peters



Paul Peters was born in Galt, Ontario, on November 17, 1924, and was the son of Abraham Peters and Lucy Magerdumo, Armenian immigrants who changed their surname from Bedrosian to Peters after arriving in Canada. Paul attended St. Andrew's Public School as a boy, and later enrolled at the Galt Collegiate Institute's technical course in 1938. At the same time, Peters effectively became the principal breadwinner for the family with the death of his father, and left school in June 1939 to support his family and work at the Galt Wood Heel Company as a sander. As far as his hobbies were concerned, Peters enjoyed trout fishing and was a motorcycle enthusiast, and was also actively engaged in a variety of sports activities. According to his sister, Irene, Peters enjoyed anything that was "fiery and dangerous."

Peters lied about his age when he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in June 1943, at the age of seventeen. He was overseas the following January, where he proved himself as a skilled and courageous air gunner in No. 300 (Polish) Squadron. During his second operational flight, on August 26, 1944, Peters and other crew members went on a bombing mission over Germany in a Lancaster bomber but never returned. He and the rest of the crew were presumed to have died during the mission.

In later years, Peters' youngest sister, Irene, worked to have his name memorialized in some way in Cambridge. The Peters surname was already being used as a street sign, so Irene petitioned that a park be named after him. In May 2012, a small city park named after Peters was created and outfitted with playground equipment. "Paul would have loved the idea," Irene had said, "...he would have loved to see all the kids playing in a park in his memory."

Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2032413?Paul%20Peters>; Kevin Swayze, "Paul Peters park honours Galt airman killed in 1944," *The Record*, accessed November 10, 2018, <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/2607078-paul-peters-park-honours-galt-airman-killed-in-1944>; Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa; World War II Newspaper Clippings, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Archives (GCI Archives); World War II Service Cards, GCI Archives.

Photograph of Paul Peters, RCAF (Canadian Virtual War Memorial).