

# All Robes Lead to Windsor

GEORGE W. KING

The recent retirement of Chief Justice Heather Smith presented Justice Douglas W. Phillips of the Ontario Court of Justice in Windsor with another curating opportunity.

The generous donation of the robes belonging to Chief Justice Smith brings to 16, this unique collection of judicial robes, recreated nowhere else in Canada. Eight of the robes are from federally appointed judges.

Included in the collection are

Ontario Court of Justice. They are currently in the secured area where judge's offices are located in the Court House (off-limits to members of the public). Justice Phillips wants to obtain funding for a 40-foot-high glass enclosure that will house 18 robes that can be put on display in a public space in the courthouse he has pinpointed.

A tour of the collection provides a remarkable judicial history not only from Windsor-Essex but across this province and country. If you are ever in Windsor, it is highly recommended you visit this

world-class museum.

Thank you, to retired Chief Justice Smith for your donation and thank you for your amazing irrepressible efforts Justice Phillips.

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*"Included in the collection are robes worn by Chief Justice of Canada, Brian Dickson, and Chief Justice of Ontario, Roy McMurtry. Doug is especially proud the collection now includes the robes of the first female Chief Justices of the two Ontario Courts – Chief Justice Heather Smith and Chief Justice Annmarie Bonkalo of the Ontario Court of Justice."*

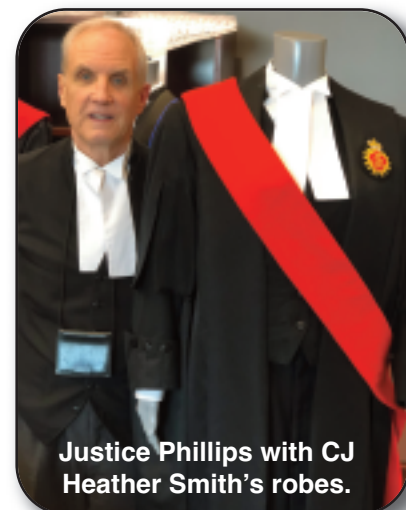
In addition to an impressive judicial career since his appointment in 1991, Doug has been amassing a truly remarkable collection of judicial robes, documents, photographs, paintings, writings and artifacts dating back more than a century. In all the collection presently exceeds 450 items.

A brief conversation with Justice Phillips reveals what a life passion this collection has been over these many years. He is visibly animated when explaining how he has obtained many of the treasures in the collection.

A highlight of this collection are various judicial robes.

robes worn by Chief Justice of Canada, Brian Dickson, and Chief Justice of Ontario, Roy McMurtry. Doug is especially proud the collection now includes the robes of the first female Chief Justices of the two Ontario Courts – Chief Justice Heather Smith and Chief Justice Annmarie Bonkalo of the Ontario Court of Justice. Additionally, the collection also includes the Master's robes worn by Justice Mary Jo Nolan. She was the first female Master before being appointed to our court in 2005.

Unfortunately, the robes are not yet on public display in the



**Justice Phillips with CJ Heather Smith's robes.**

