

MAYOR WILLIAM JOHN HAWLEY::: b. 1882.d. 1951. bur. Ridgeway Mosl.
born:lakeshore Bertie.

Mr. William J. Hawley was born in Bertie Township , near Ridgeway where his father had a large farm along the lake. Birthdate: Feb. 10/ 82. He was the son of the late Edward and Mary Jane Hawley, who were early settlers in the district. He attended S.S. # 5 in Bertie, and later the Niagara Collegiate Institute. After graduation he left Fort Erie, but returned in 1902 , to take a job as Clerk in the store of H.F. Ferguson opposite the Ferry landing. In 1905 he opened his own grocery store on the east side of the Niagara River road, just opposite the Anglo American Hotel. He moved to the west side in 1908, purchasing the store on the N.E. cr. of the Niagara Blvd. & Forsyth St. formerly run by W.N. Everingham. It was a large two story frame building with a large attic above. Mr. Hawley sold drygoods in one side of the store, and hardware in the other. In 1921, he took down the small building that had housed the Liquor Store of Mr. Boag; and in it's place across the north side he built a large addition for a Hardware Store The attic with it's high pitched roof was removed, a stairway was added between the old and the new building, leading to the apartments above. Plate glass windows were added to the front, and the old frame part of the building was bricked over at the front, joining the new with the old. Mr. Hawley then went out of the grocery business, concentrating on hardware, and renting the south side of the store to other grocery merchants. He remained in the Hardware business until 1942, when he sold his stock to a Mr. R.H. Little of Windsor. Marg Dougal worked for Mr. Hawley for over twenty years.

In 1908 he married Maud Carolyn Weaver daughter of Joseph & Carolyn Weaver. The Weaver family moved from a farm in Willoughby to Fort Erie before the turn of the Century, and Mr. Weaver opened a Grain & Feed store opposite the foot of Bertie st., on the river rd. They had a large frame home on the south side of Forsyht St. and after the death of the elder Weavers, William Hawley and Maud resided there. They had one daughter Carolyn May.

Mr. Hawley was not content to run the hardware business alone ; but entered into the political enterprises of the Town. In 1917 he was made Reeve of Fort Erie: 1915 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the school board, and from 1918 was Village Treasurer. After amalgamation of the combined towns of Fort Erie and Bridgeburg in 1932, Mr. Hawley became the first Mayor. He held the post till 1934. He died 1951: and his wife Maud C. died Feb. 8, 1980.

WILLIAM JOHN HAWLEY::: b. 1882 d. 1951.

Mayor Hawley was the first Mayor of the new Town of Fort Erie. he was elected by the casting of a vote by the Town Clerk to break a historic tie between he and the, and Harry Hall . Prior to being elected to the mayoralty, in which he served several terms; he had held various offices in the old village of Fort Erie: treasurer, Reeve etc., and was prominate all his life in the Conservative Association, not only in Fort Erie, but in the Welland County and Niagara riding organizations. He was a past president of the Fort Erie Conservative group, and held executive posts in the larger organizations. He was Fort Erie's first insurer of motor vehicle plates, and saw that particular department rise, from a few plates per. year, to a much larger magnitude.

Mayor Hawley spaned the period between horse and byggy, and gasoline days. He was to the forr, in the old Fort Erie Board of Trade for years, fighting for reciprocity between New York State and Ontario in automobile plates.

Born on his fathers farm on the lake by Ridgeway, Mr. Hawley kept a summer home there, living at 34 Forsyth in the old Weaver home belonging to his wifes family. He entered business in Fort Erie as a young man in 1902, working in the Ferguson General Store, and in 1905 moving into his own place of business, a general Store on the river road, opposite the Anglo American Hotel. In 1908 he moved across the street to the n.e. corner of Forsyth and the Niagara Blvd. into the store vacated by the Everinghams. Realizing there was a great need for a Hardware Store in the village , he took down the small building to the north that had been Boag's Liquor Store, and added a large addition, for such a purpose. He remained in business till aug. 1952 when he sold to R.H. Little of Windsor.

Mr. Hawley was Chairman of the board of the Douglas Memorial Hospital, and one of it's most active supporters. he was a life member of St. Paul's Anglican Church, and held various offices in that congregation. An active Mason, he was pat master, and a former Deputy Grand Master.

Hr was active in the Fort Erie Parks Board, and other local organizations, always willing to give his time to public ventures.

While he was Mayor Harry Oaks dedeed Oaks Park to Fort Erie

Mr. Hawly married Maud C. Weaver, had a dght. Carol(Norton)

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William John Hawley was born in Bertie Township, near Ridegway, where his father had a large farm along the lakeshore. His birthdate was Feb. 10th. 1882. He was the son of the late Edward and Mary Hawley, who were early settlers in the district.

He attended S.S. # 5 in Bertie, and later the Niagara Collegiate Institute. After graduation, he left Fort Erie, returning in 1902, to take up a job as clerk in the store of H.F. Ferguson on the river road opposite the Ferry landing. In 1905 he along with his brother "Puch" Hawley opened a meat store in the heart of the village, a small store on the river side, facing the Anglo American Hotel.

In 1908 he purchased the grocery store of W.N. Everingham, which occupied the N.E. cr. of the river road and Forsyth St. It was a large two story frame building with a large attic above, that had been operated by the Thomas family before the Everinghams. Mr. Hawley sold drygoods in one side of the store and hardware in the other. After moving to this location, he no longer was in business with his brother.

The small one story building on the north side before the Rainsford house, held the Liquor store of Mr. Boag. In 1921 Mr. Hawley moved into this location, and rented his old location to Mr. "F." Hapgood, who continued to operate the place as a General Groceries store. Hawley then went into the Hardware business. He remodelled the new place adding a second floor which contained his office in front, for his secretary Marg Dougall and the back section was rented by Ruby Wiswell Schrank for her Beauty Parlor. Between the old building, and Boags he built a stairway so that you could get to the apartments above, this also allowing access to the apartments above the old Everingham store, where Esther Kinnear rented for a time. Sometime after 1924 Mr. Hawley started major alterations. He removed the high pitched roof that had housed the attic of Everinghams, the long veranda was removed, plate glass windows installed, and the whole front of both buildings was bricked over, making them appear one. He concentrated wholly on Hardware and Mr. Hapgood continued to rent and run his grocery store for a time. Mr. Hawley remained in the hardware business till 1942 when he sold his stock to Mr. R.H. Little of Windsor. Marg had worked for him twenty yrs.

Mr. Hawley entered politics in town and in 1917 was made Reeve of Fort Erie. In 1915 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the School Board, village treasurer in 1918 and in 1932 Mayor of the amalgamated town, holding the post till 1932. He died 1951, and Maude C. died Feb. 8, 1980.