

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