

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 willinging 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)