

MAYORS OF SAANICH: THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Saanich Council, Reeve Fred Quick seated at centre, 1908 (2012-015-003)

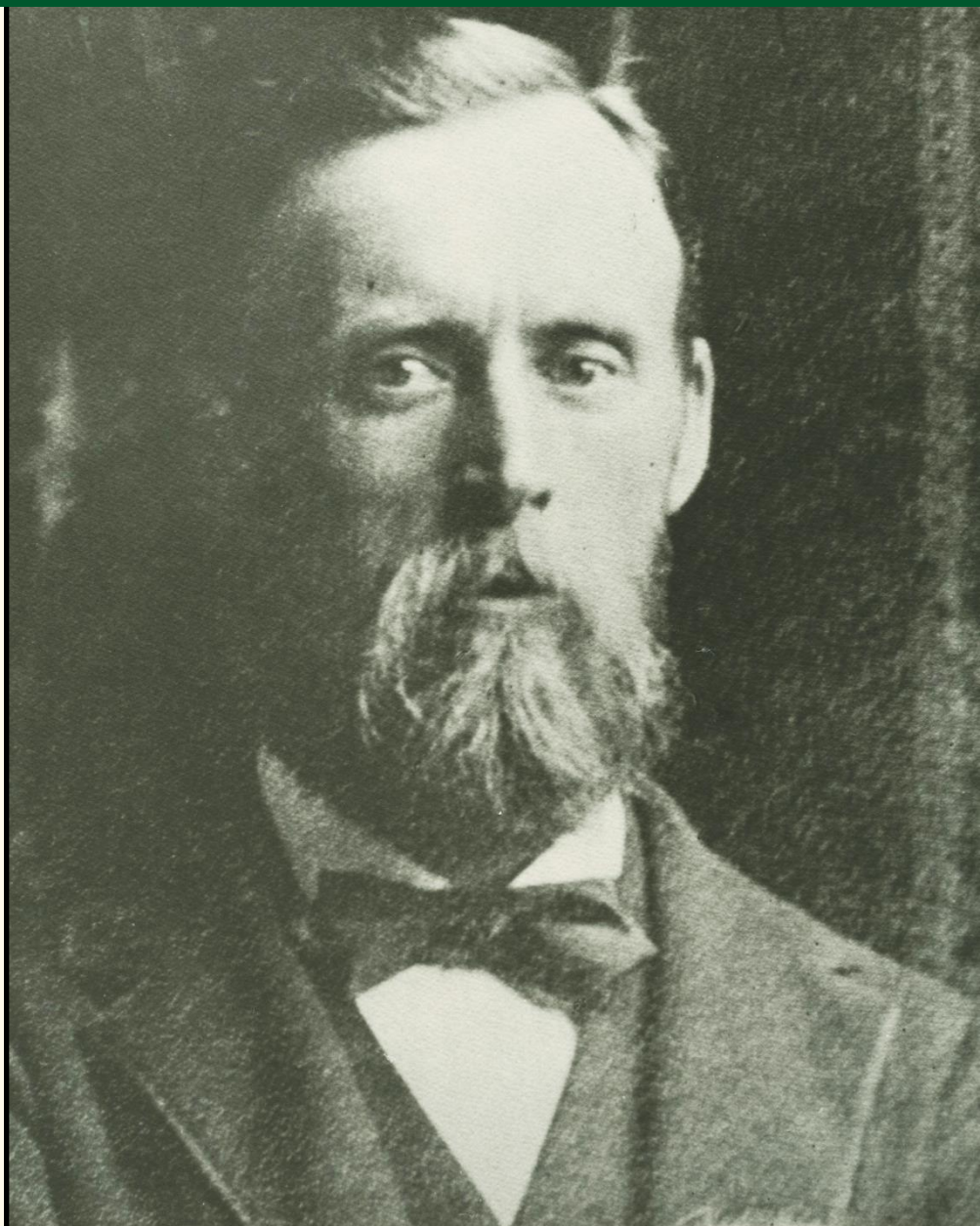


EXHIBIT BY SAANICH ARCHIVES

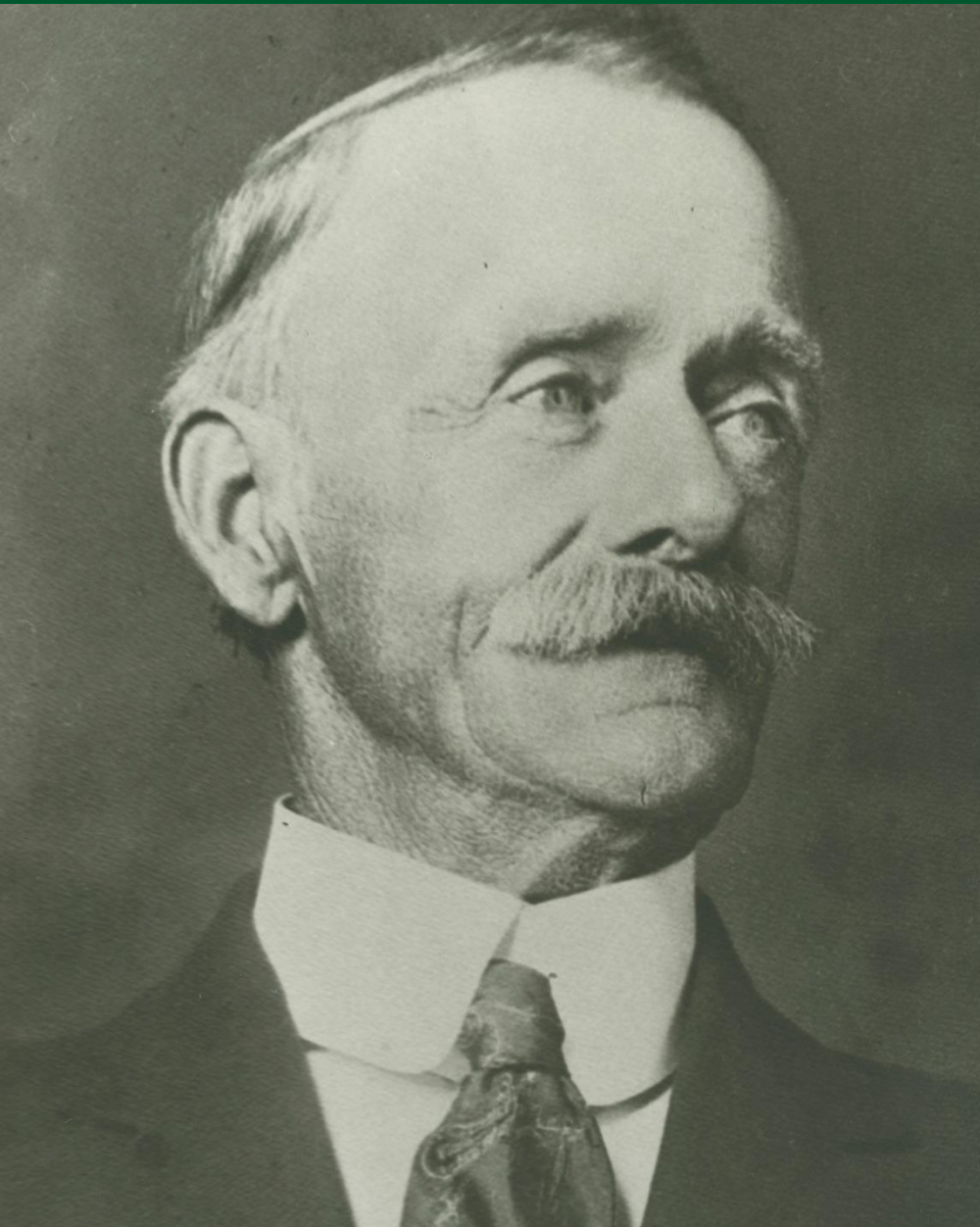
THOMAS BRYDON 1906-1907

Thomas Anderson Brydon was born in Selkirk, Scotland, in 1857. In 1885, he and his wife Mary (Malcolm) moved to Victoria, where he worked in construction and supplemented his income by building coffins. He had a keen interest in local politics and served on Victoria's municipal council in 1899 and 1901. Brydon was a strong advocate for the incorporation of Saanich as a distinct municipality and became its first reeve in 1906. After one year as reeve, he ran unsuccessfully for the provincial legislature. His focus then turned to growing fruit on his Glanford Avenue farm. Thomas Brydon died in 1920 at the age of 64. Brydon Park in the Royal Oak neighbourhood was named in his honour.

T.A. Brydon , 1906 (2012-015-002)



FRED QUICK 1908-1909



Frederick George Quick was born in 1861 in Ballarat, Australia, and came to the Victoria area in 1890 with the rest of his family. He eventually settled on a farm on Wilkinson Road, and he and his brother William made a name for themselves raising Jersey cattle. In 1907, he served as councillor for Ward Four of Saanich, and the following year he was elected reeve of the District. He returned to council in 1912 and 1913. Aside from public affairs, Quick was very active in St. John's Church in Victoria, where he served as a committee member for seven years and as Rector's Warden for two. In his retirement, he focused on his farm. Fred Quick died in 1928 at the age of 66.

Fred G. Quick, 1909 (2012-015-004)

JOSEPH NICHOLSON 1910-1913

Joseph Thomas Nicholson was born at Lost Lake Farm in Saanich in 1868. He had a strong interest in public affairs and local politics, and served as a councillor in Saanich for three years before becoming reeve in 1910. Nicholson was a member of the Pacific Club, and president of the Saanich Conservative Association. After completing his term as reeve in 1913, then mounting an unsuccessful campaign for a seat in the provincial legislature, he became Road Superintendent for the provincial government. Joseph Nicholson died in Saanich in 1921.

Joseph Nicholson, ca. 1910. (2017-013-006)



GEORGE MCGREGOR 1914-1916



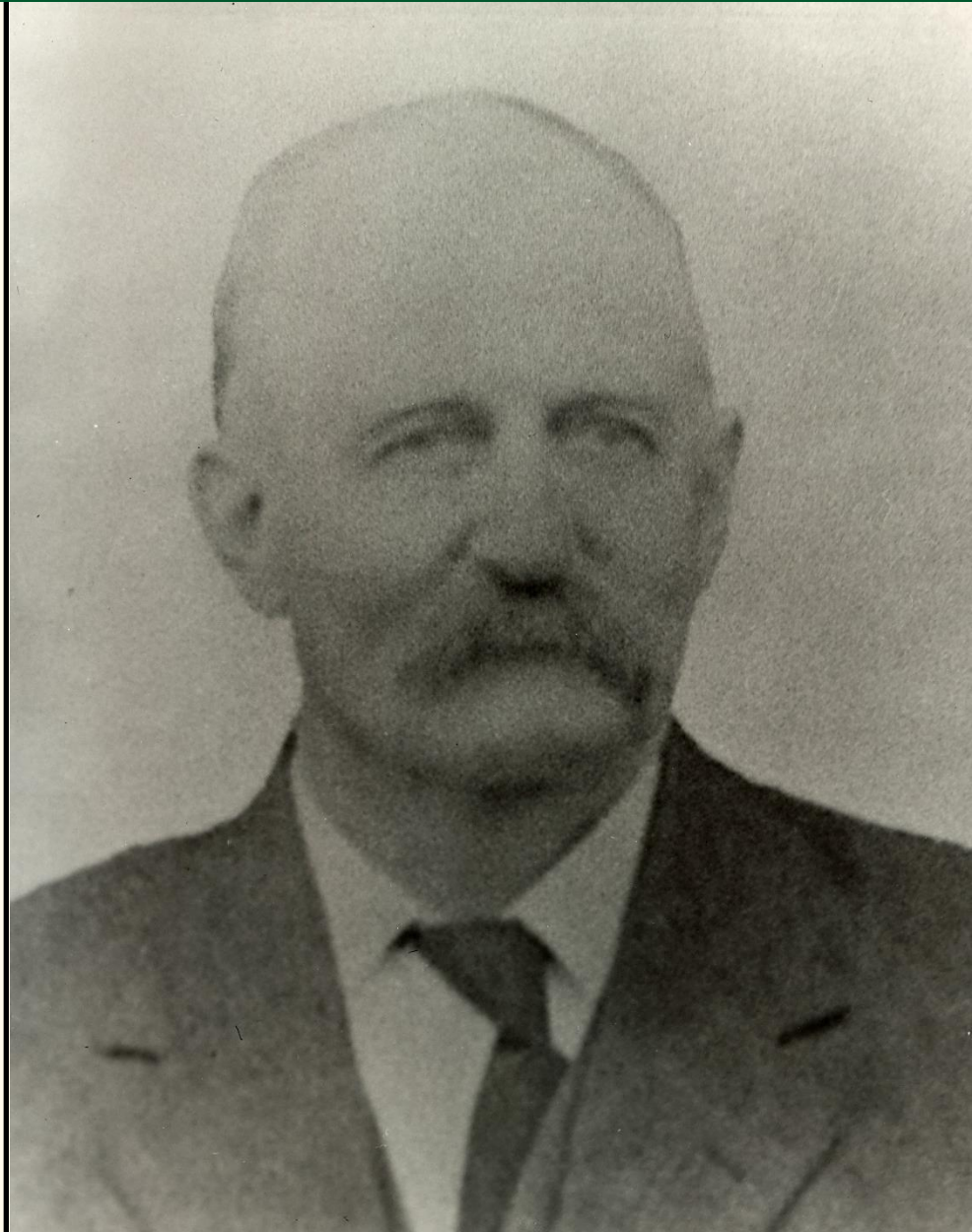
George McGregor was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1863. He first came to Canada in 1884, and later made his way to Victoria where he founded the Victoria Tug Company. One of his tugboats transported the stones for the construction of the BC Parliament Buildings in 1893. McGregor served on the Saanich School Board, was the president of the Victoria Rotary Club, and served on the Royal Jubilee Hospital Board of Directors. McGregor was elected reeve of Saanich in 1914. During his time in office, he was instrumental in bringing paved roads to the municipality. He passed away in 1947.

George McGregor, ca. 1914 (2012-015-007)

FRANK BORDEN 1917-1918

Frank Borden was born in Nova Scotia in 1859. He came to Victoria in 1890 and leased North Dairy Farm from the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. With his wife Millie (Pickard), he made a living from dairy farming and fruit growing. Borden served on Saanich Council from 1910 to 1916 before becoming reeve in 1917 and 1918. Despite the lean times brought on by WWI, Borden's municipal government was able to keep Saanich financially strong and stable. After his time as reeve, he focused again on farming. Frank Borden died in 1933, at the age of 74.

Frank N. Borden, 1917 (1981-004-005)



CHARLES JONES 1919



Charles Bentley Jones was born in Vermillion, South Dakota, in 1857. By 1903, he had moved to Victoria, where he married Maggie Susannah Blackbourn. A civil engineer and contractor, Jones served as a Saanich school trustee and a Saanich councillor. In 1919, he was elected reeve of Saanich and served for a single one-year term. Following a 1921 trip to New Zealand, Jones and his family emigrated to that country, and he remained there for the rest of his life. In New Zealand, he was instrumental in forming the first Canadian Club. Charles Jones died in Auckland in 1961.

Charles Bentley Jones, 1919 (2012-015-010)

GEORGE WATSON 1920-1923

George Fraser Watson was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland, October 6, 1868, and came to the Victoria area in the late 1880s. He established himself as a stonemason and began taking part in community affairs, serving as a school trustee and a councillor for Ward Three in Saanich, before being elected as reeve in 1920. Under the platform “Watson for Water”, he achieved his goal of supplying water to the Gordon Head area. While Watson was in office, Saanich created a Memorial Avenue along Shelbourne Street, planting trees to commemorate BC soldiers who died in World War I. He had an affinity for music, conducted choir in several local churches, and was president of the Victoria Music Festival for several years. George Watson died in 1930.

George F. Watson, ca. 1920 (2014-008-067)



ROBERT MACNICOL 1924-1926



Robert Macnicol was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1887. He immigrated to Canada in 1912, and in 1915 he enlisted for service in WW1. He was wounded at the Somme in 1916 and attained the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant before returning to Canada in 1918. Macnicol was elected to Saanich Council in 1922, and later served as reeve from 1924-1926. In 1925, he was made a Justice of the Peace, and was a member of the Veterans' Assistance Commission in Ottawa from 1936-1937. During WWII, he was the overseas manager of the Canadian Legion War Service in Britain, and later became the assistant general manager for that organization in Ottawa. Robert Macnicol died in 1961 at the age of 73.

Robert Macnicol, ca. 1924 (2012-015-012)

WILLIAM CROUCH 1927-1938

William Crouch was born in September of 1871 in Leicester, England. By 1911, he had made his way to Brandon, Manitoba, where he was an alderman, the vice-president of the YMCA, and the owner of a tannery. In 1921, he came to Victoria, then in 1927 he became reeve of Saanich. Crouch earned the nickname “Mister Saanich” due to his length of service to the municipality and his desire to keep Saanich’s best interests at the forefront of local politics. After he was unseated as reeve, he was appointed Secretary of the Board of Management by the provincial government. William Crouch died in 1953, at the age of 82.

William Crouch, ca. 1927 (2012-015-005)



ARTHUR LAMBRICK 1939-1940, 1946



Arthur Graham Lambrick was born in Cornwall, England in 1892. At the age of 19, he came to Victoria, where he worked for the City and in a local shipyard before turning his focus to farming in 1916. In 1924, he and his wife Clara moved to Gordon Head, and Lambrick drove his 20 dairy cows up the length of Shelbourne Street to their new farm. He was a dedicated dairy farmer who became chairman of the Vancouver Island Milk Association. He served as reeve of Saanich for two years, 1939-1940, and was elected for an additional term in 1946. When he sold his farm in 1966, he had a herd of 75 cows. In the same year, 47 acres of his land was sold to Saanich to be used as a park. Arthur Lambrick passed away in 1967.

A.G. Lambrick, ca. 1939 (2012-015-019)

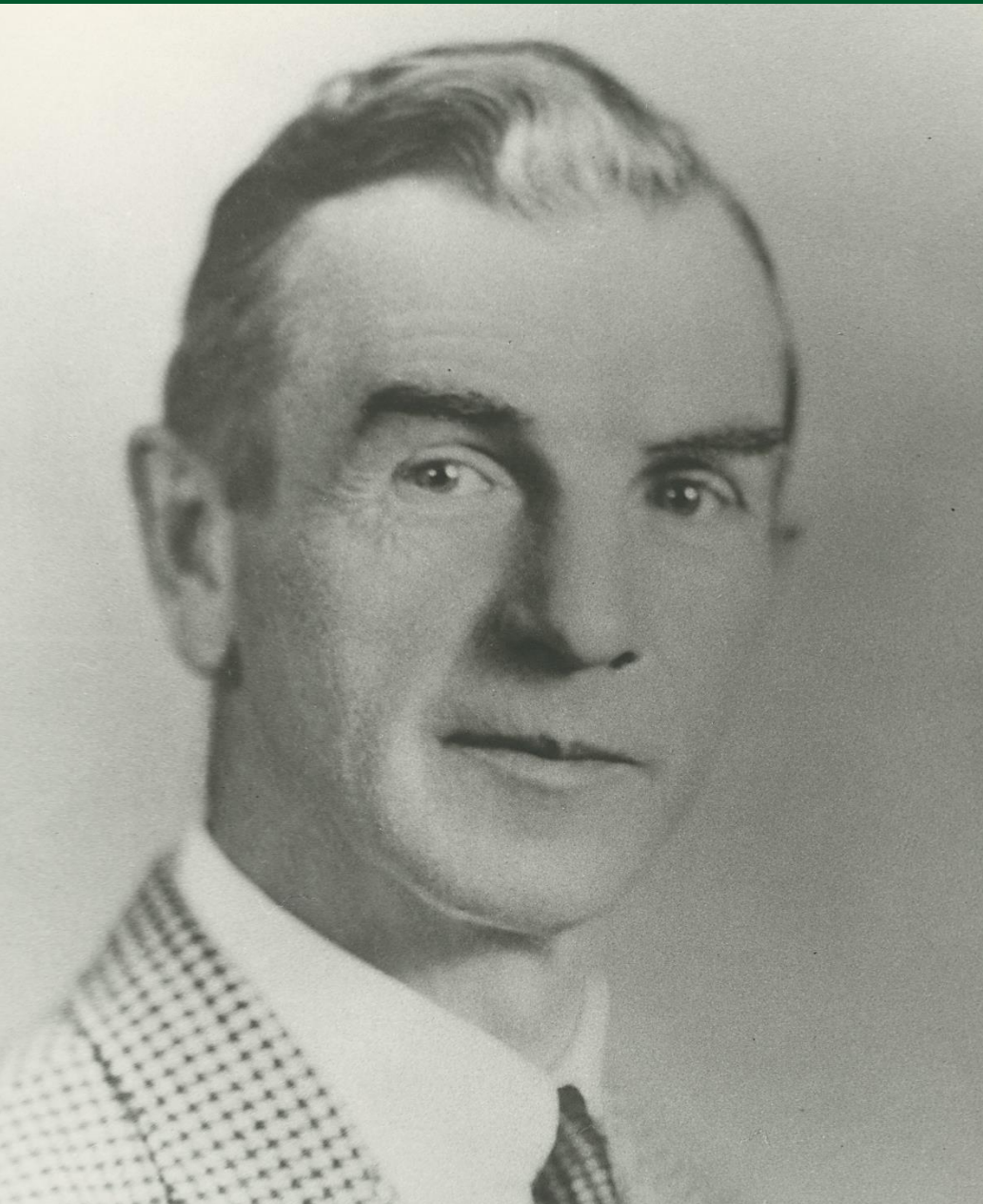
LESLIE PASSMORE 1941

Leslie (Les) Henry Passmore was born in Somerset, England in 1898. He came to Canada around 1906, and then to Victoria in 1912, where he worked as a plasterer and a baker. In 1936, he was elected to Saanich Council after defeating the popular incumbent. In total, he served 34 years on council, including his time as reeve in 1941. During his time on council, Passmore was part of over 66 committees, projects, and boards. After his retirement, he became an active member of the Saanich Silver Threads Services for Seniors. He was chosen to be a Freeman of Saanich in 1975, and the Les Passmore Seniors Activity Centre on Hampton Road was named in his honour. Les Passmore died in 1986 at the age of 87.



L. H. Passmore, 1941 (2012-015-020)

JOHN SCOBY 1942



John Reginald Scoby was born in 1888 in Yorkshire, England. He immigrated to Canada in his late teens and settled in Manitoba, where he married Margaret Cawood in 1915. A year later, he signed up to serve in WWI, attaining the rank of lieutenant before the end of the war. By 1927, Scoby was the manager of the Dominion Bank in Victoria. In 1938, having retired from banking, he campaigned in the municipal election and won a seat on Saanich Council. He served in that capacity until 1942 when he was elected reeve. On March 23, 1942, at the age of 54 and less than a week into his term as reeve, John Scoby passed away due to an illness. E.C. Warren was appointed acting reeve for the remainder of the term.

John Scoby, 1942 (2012-015-021)

EDWARD WARREN 1942-1945, 1947-1949

Edward Charles Warren was born in 1890, in Cornwall, England. In 1910, he immigrated to Canada, settled in Victoria and married Annie Jane Pendray in 1914. He entered politics and served on Saanich Council for eight years before taking over as reeve following John Scoby's death. He remained as reeve until 1945, then lost to Arthur Lambrick in 1946. He was elected reeve again from 1947 to 1949. Warren was strongly against amalgamation and sought to keep Saanich financially sound during the years of WW2. He served as vice-president of the Union of BC Municipalities and was one of the founding members of the Greater Victoria Metropolitan Water Board. In addition to his work in public affairs, he was also a barber for 43 years. Edward Warren passed away in 1972.

Edward Charles Warren, 1945 (detail of 2012-015-020)



JOSEPH CASEY 1950-1956



Joseph William Casey was born in Victoria in 1894. He worked as a mechanic before entering the political arena in 1932, when he won the presidency of the Liberal Association of Canada. Prior to his election as Saanich reeve in 1950, he served on council for several years. During his time as reeve, Casey presided over the secession of Ward Six (which became the District of Central Saanich) and oversaw the connection of the Gorge area sewer system to that of Victoria. After leaving municipal politics, Casey became the superintendent of the B.C. Electric Railway. Joseph Casey died in 1974 at the age of 79.

Joseph Casey, ca. 1950 (2009-061-001)

ARTHUR ASH 1956-1958

Arthur James Richard Ash was born in Brandon, Manitoba in 1906. He served as a soldier in World War II before representing Saanich as a Liberal MLA in the provincial legislature from 1948 to 1952. In 1956, he was elected reeve of Saanich and served until 1958. After his time in local politics, Ash moved to the United States for ten years. In 1971, he and his wife Marie returned to Victoria, and both became instrumental in having a columbarium built at Royal Oak Burial Park. Arthur Ash passed away in 1988, and his was the first interment in the new columbarium.

Arthur Ash, ca. 1955 (2009-061-002)



GEORGE CHATTERTON 1958-1962



George Louis Chatterton was born in Kimberly, South Africa, in 1916, into a family of dairy farmers. In South Africa, he earned a BA in Agriculture, before winning a scholarship to study animal genetics at Cornell University in the United States. During World War II, he served as a navigator in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the war, he and his wife, Katherine (Cavanaugh), made their way to Vancouver Island, where he became Supervisor for the Veterans' Land Act. In 1957, Chatterton became a Saanich councillor, and won the election as reeve the following year. After serving as reeve, he was elected to the House of Commons, and was later the Associate Deputy Minister of Housing. George Chatterton died in 1983 at the age of 67. Chatterton Way was named in his honour.

George L. Chatterton, 1959 (detail of 2012-015-055)

STANLEY MURPHY 1962-1964

Stanley Albert Murphy was born on January 6, 1917, in Medicine Hat, Alberta. By 1956, he was teaching English at Victoria High School. That year, he campaigned for and won a seat on Saanich Council. In 1962, he was elected reeve. In addition to a strong interest in furthering urban development in Saanich, Murphy was a proponent of amalgamation with Victoria, Oak Bay, and Esquimalt. In 1964, he stepped down as reeve to take a teaching position in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Stanley Murphy died in 1971 at the age of 54.

S.A Murphy, 1962 (detail of 1984-006-056)



HUGH CURTIS 1964-1973



Hugh Austin Curtis was born in Victoria in 1932. After graduating from Victoria High School, he began a career in radio broadcasting. Curtis was elected to Saanich Council in 1961 and then reeve in 1964. In 1968, the title of **Reeve** changed to **Mayor**. Curtis' tenure saw the acquisition of major parklands and the Cedar Hill Golf Course, the construction of recreation centres and the Les Passmore Seniors' Centre, and the Gorge Beautification Project. After he stepped down as mayor, he was elected to the provincial legislature. Curtis served as an MLA and held several cabinet posts until 1986. He was named a Freeman of Saanich in 2002. Hugh Curtis died in 2014 at the age of 81.

Hugh Curtis, 1965 (1981-021-006)

EDWARD LUM 1974-1977

Edward Fook Lui Lum was born in Victoria on August 19, 1928. His first job was in the family greenhouses, and he later continued with his own greenhouses. Lum was a Saanich councillor from 1963 until 1973, when he stepped down from local government. In 1974, he was convinced to return to politics, and he made a successful bid for mayor. He maintained an interest in park enhancements, with Braefoot, Majestic, Copley, Lochside, and Lambrick Park all benefiting from his tenure. After his term as mayor, Lum returned to running his greenhouses and caring for his family. He was very involved in the local Chinese community as a founding member of the Chinatown Lions Club, and an elder in the Chinese Presbyterian Church. Edward Lum died in 2007 at the age of 78.

Edward Lum, 1977 (1980-014-019)



MELVILLE COUVELIER 1978-1986



Melville Bertram Couvelier was born in Vancouver in 1931. He worked in the office of a pulp mill in Ocean Falls, BC, before purchasing a general store in Vancouver. In 1960, he moved to Victoria, where he owned and operated Maplewood Poultry Processors, and later, Couvelier's Fine Apparel. His interest in politics began in 1970, when he became the president of the B.C. Liberal Party. He was elected to Saanich Council in 1974 and became mayor in 1977. As mayor, he focused on the business community and promoting Vancouver Island during Expo '86. After his time as mayor, Couvelier was elected to the B.C. Legislative Assembly, where he served as Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations. In retirement, he lived in Sidney, BC. Mel Couvelier died in 2011 at the age of 80.

Mel B. Couvelier, 1983 (2012-015-056)

HOWARD STURROCK 1987-1988

Howard Fleming Sturrock was born in 1927 in Scotland and came to Saanich around 1955. In Saanich, he continued a career in engineering while being active in the Cadboro Bay Community Association. Sturrock was elected to Saanich Council for five terms before running successfully for mayor. As mayor, Sturrock served on several boards including the Capital Regional District, the Municipal Finance Authority, the Saanich Police Board, and the Victoria Transit Commission. In 1988, he was awarded the BC Community Service Award by the Association of Professional Engineers. After retiring as mayor, Sturrock became a member of the Board of Directors for both the BC Assessment Authority and Pacific Opera Victoria. In 2013, he was named a Freeman of the District of Saanich. Howard Sturrock died in 2016 at the age of 88.

Howard F. Sturrock, ca. 1987 (1992-016-001)



MURRAY COELL 1990-1995



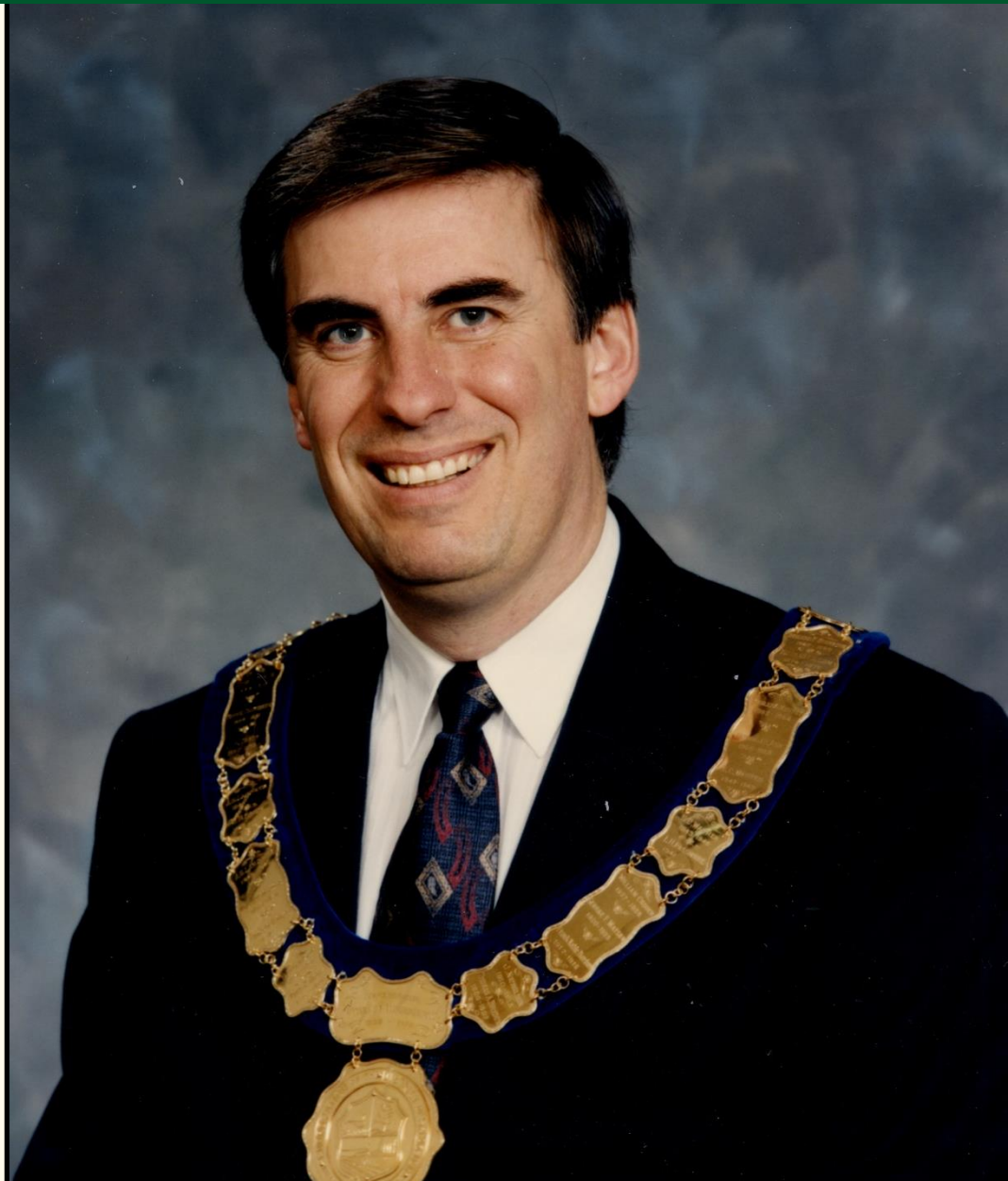
Murray Coell was born in 1954 in Kamloops, BC. Prior to entering politics, Coell earned a social welfare degree from the University of Victoria, and was a social worker and small business owner. He was first elected to Saanich Council in 1984 before being elected mayor in 1990. After two terms as mayor, he went on to spend 16 years in the provincial legislature, where he held numerous cabinet posts, including Minister of Labour and Minister of the Environment. In 2012, Murray Coell chose to step away from politics, deciding instead to help his community in other ways.

Murray Coell, 1990 (2012-015-057)

FRANK LEONARD 1996-2014

Frank Leonard was born in 1954 in Vancouver. After moving with his family to Saanich in 1969, he attended the University of Victoria. Before becoming mayor, he managed his family's tire business. He was Director of the BC Chamber of Commerce, President of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, and served on the boards of local tourism and economic development groups. Leonard was first elected to Saanich Council in 1986 and became mayor in 1996. During his years as mayor, Saanich acquired Haro Woods, Panama Flats and Blenkinsop Lake with the goal of preserving these natural areas for future generations. Since leaving office, Frank Leonard has served on the BC Agricultural Land Commission and the Victoria Airport Authority.

Frank Leonard, 1996 (2012-015-058)



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For more Saanich history, visit our website saanich.ca/archives



Saanich Council 1967, Mayor Hugh Curtis seated at centre (1980-014-017)

Saanich Archives, June 2023



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