

## Early Mayors – *Louis F. Dietrich, 1868 - ?*



Louis Frederick Dietrich was born in St. Agatha on Sept. 13, 1868. Around 1888 he apprenticed as a blacksmith in Baden and in 1892 opened his own shop in his home village. The following year he expanded his business by adding a salesroom for handling John Deere farm implements.

From 1901-1909, he was an assessor for Wilmot Township. Later in 1909 Dietrich moved to Waterloo, becoming the agent for International Harvester in 1911. Four years later he became the town's first automotive dealer, acting as a sub-agent for the Ford Motor Co. In 1916 he secured the Dodge franchise for Waterloo County while continuing to operate his farm implement business in a separate part of the building.

Dietrich was active in many local religious organizations, including the St. Louis separate school board, where he served for 20 years, the St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, the League of the Sacred Heart and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.



Dietrich served on the town council from 1922-1928 acting in the position of reeve from 1924-1928. In 1929 and 1930 he was elected mayor by acclamation. Dietrich's terms in office are marked by the opening of the Kitchener-Waterloo Municipal Airport on Oct. 12, 1929, the installation of new flood gates, improvements to Silver Lake and the development of plans for the expansion of the town's market building and its operations.