

## Early Mayors – *Dr. William L. Hilliard, 1868-1966*



In 1868, William Hilliard was born in Glen Allen where his father owned a small newspaper. Upon completion of school, he attended the University of Toronto where he graduated as a doctor in 1891 at the age of 23.

When his family moved to Waterloo, Hilliard accompanied them, setting up a medical practice in the town in 1897. He became medical director for Equitable Life Assurance Co. when it was established in 1920 and also became a director of the Dominion Life Assurance Co., a business his father had helped him establish.

Hilliard was an enthusiastic Methodist lay reader and a strong supporter of the British war effort during the First World War. A sports enthusiast, he continued to lead an active lifestyle into his 90s.

When he was elected mayor in 1916 –1917, Hilliard became one of only two men in the town's history to assume this position without first having served on council.



Under Hilliard's leadership, the war years saw council support the British war effort and create a soldier's insurance plan for local recruits.

On the home front, the question of amalgamation with Berlin was rejected in 1916, improvements in service were made to the Berlin and Waterloo Street Railway and the municipality purchased William Snider's mill pond, a key piece of property in the town's core. Following his mayoral term, Hilliard continued his medical practice and later served as the Town of Waterloo's medical officer of health from 1940-1946. He retired from medical practice in 1948.