

H. D. (Harold) Wilford will be tendered a testimonial dinner this evening on the occasion of his retirement following 35 years as Victoria County engineer and road superintendent. He was the recipient of gifts previous to this occasion from the staff of the Engineer's office and roadmen on the County Road system, as well as being present at a coffee party held by officials and staff members in various departments in the court house.

"Main Street" however wishes to focus the attention of readers on another avenue of service in connection with the sojourn of Harold Wilford in Lindsay and elsewhere, in the field of athletics. He is remembered by many citizens as a scintillating star on the hockey ice pad, on the rugby gridiron, on the golf green and fairways, on badminton courts and on ice curling lanes at Lindsay and Lakefield.

Although young "Dodo" Wilford spent many a day cavorting around the old bandbox rink on Lindsay Street South where he figured in many a spirited battle, perhaps his best hockey was with the Toronto University second team in 1919. Following the termination of World War , three Lindsay juniors were stars on the 'varsity team — Harold Wilford, Art Carew and Dick Sutton. Wilford was a fast forward. Carew was

equally good on the line and on the defence and Sutton with his speed, long reach and clever stickhandling was a key man on the team in the days when McGill and Queen's turned out their best teams. Art Carew was for a time on the Allan cup roster and he also played a sturdy game of rugby with the University "blues" and was on the line-up in a Grey cup match. Dick Sutton, son of Doctor J. L. Sutton of Lindsay, learned the rudiments of the game on North Ward rinks. He was so good that for a time he played with the New York Americans.

The game of hockey was one of the sports Harold Wilford enjoyed the best and loved the most. Following his graduation from back-yard ice rinks he found himself scooting hither and thither with the Lindsay Juniors, the Intermediates and the old Victorias. He was popular with local fans during his hockey career in Lindsay.

## **WORLD WAR II**

When the World War II conflagration was in the early stages Harold Wilford joined the service with the Artillery, where his ability in mathematics was duly recognized. He was held for a long time at Camp Petewawa teaching young officers sines and co-sines, logarithims and trigonometry despite his requests for inclusion in overseas drafts. While he was in the service his work in the county engineering department was handled by his father F. R. Wilford.

H. D. Wilford was born in Iroquois, Ontario, on May 15th, 1900. He graduated from the University of Toronto in mechanical engineering in 1923 and worked for the

construction firm of his father F. R. Wilford until he joined the county in 1930. Mr. Wilford, senior, was an engineer on the St. Lawrence canal when Harold was born and moved with this job to St. Catharines around 1903. The family moved to Lindsay in 1907. Harold Wilford was married to Marjorie Taylor in 1924, his bride being a daughter of the late A. E. Taylor of the Bank of Montreal in Lindsay.

H. D. Wilford's contributions to road and bridge improvements have been many and varied during the duration of this work with the County of Victoria. He witnessed a great deal of change and increasing complexities in the administration of the road system.

His term of work included forty new bridges and a hundred miles of road paved, many of which have since been assumed as provincial highways.

The tribute to Mr. Wilford was as follows: "Perhaps his greatest accomplishment has been the creation of so many very enduring friendships with councillors, contractors and ratepayers alike".

It is of interest to note that the late Jas. B. Begg, former mayor and reeve of Lindsay, while a member of county council was the first road superintendent in 1917 for

which he received an honorarium of \$50. He was followed by a permanent superintendent named George Marundale who has a salary of \$100 a month. A fully qualified and experienced engineer E.L. Miles was hired in 1919. When Engineer Miles was called to Halifax to fill another position he was succeeded by Harold D. Wilford. The retirement of County Engineer Wilford terminates the services of a highly esteemed gentleman and a dedicated official of Victoria County.