

Mayors of Brantford

William Muirhead (1847)

Born: 1802 in Niagara District

Died: 9 June 1882 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford, Ontario

Did You Know That: he was the first manager of the Bank of Montreal

Dr. Alfred Digby (1848, 1849)

Born: January 1806 in County of Meath, Ireland

Died: 12 June 1866 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford, Ontario

Did You Know That: he was the first physician (1835) in the Town of Brantford

P. C. (Phillip Cady) Van Brocklin (1850)

Born: 1808 in Camden, New York

Died: 22 June 1902 in Reading, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Buried: ?

Did You Know That: he opened the first industrial business in Brantford, a small factory where he manufactured stoves and plows (at the corner of Dalhousie and Queen Streets)

John H. Moore (1851)

Born: 1817 in Tyrone, Ireland

Died: 25 April 1890 in ?

Buried: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York, U.S.A.

Did You Know That: he had a store on the corner of Colborne and Market Streets with dry goods, groceries, and hardware

Arunah Huntington (1852)

Born: 2 February 1791 in Vermont, U.S.A.

Died: 10 January 1877 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he opened a shoe shop in the village in 1823

George Samuel Wilkes (1853)

Born: 20 February 1822 in Toronto, Ontario

Died: 8 July 1906 in New York, New York, U.S.A.

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he built the Wilkes Dam to provide waterpower for his business, the Holmedale Mills

James Kerby (1854)

Born: 1824

Died: 7 March 1904 in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he opened the Kerby House at the corner of George and Colborne Streets in August 1854

William Matthews (1855-1856, 1869-1871, 1873-1874)

Born: April 1809 in the west of Ireland

Died: 18 January 1877 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was a critic of the Upper Canadian government, got involved in the 1837 rebellion, and had to escape to the United States when it failed (eventually received a general pardon)

Thomas Botham (1857, 1859)

Born: 10 March 1820 in Shropshire, England

Died: 15 June 1893 in Toronto, Ontario

Buried: ?

Did You Know That: he became a partner with Cook and Strobridge in the mercantile business, eventually getting exclusively into the dry goods trade

Matthew William Pruyn (1858)

Born: 22 October 1819 in Fredericksburgh Township, Lennox County, Ontario

Died: 10 March 1898 in Napanee, Ontario

Buried: Riverside Cemetery, Napanee, Ontario

Did You Know That: he was a member of the House of Commons for Lennox and Addington in 1885-1886

Joseph Duffett Clement (1860-1863)

Born: 15 March 1802 in St. David's Ontario (Niagara district)

Died: 14 January 1889 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was the owner of Doyle's Inn (northwest corner of Colborne and King Streets) as well as the Mansion House (corner of Market and Colborne Streets)

James Weyms (1864, 1865)

Born: 16 May 1815 in Kingscourt, County Cavan, Ireland

Died: 15 December 1889 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was the police magistrate from 1865 to 1889

John Elliott (1866-1868)

Born: 15 August 1822 in Heck in the parish of Sanith, Yorkshire, England

Died: 18 April 1891 in Toronto, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: his building firm, Elliott and Melville, built the parliament buildings in Quebec and the addition to the Normal School in Toronto

Dr. James W. Digby (1875-1877)

Born: 13 March 1842 in Brantford, Ontario

Died: 29 May 1906 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he practiced medicine in Brantford from 1866 to 1906 and was the son of Dr. Alfred Digby, mayor of Brantford in 1848 and 1849

City of Brantford (became incorporated as a city on May 31, 1877)**Robert Henry (1878-1879, 1887)**

Born: 30 November 1844 in Perthshire, Scotland

Died: 30 January 1918 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was elected as the Conservative MP in the House of Commons for South Brant in 1896

Dr. Reginald Henwood (1880-1881)

Born: 1828 in Cornwall, England

Died: 22 May 1904 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he started practicing medicine in Brantford in 1852

William Watt Sr. (1882-1883)

Born: July 1818 in Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Died: 19 June 1903 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: his planing mill on Waterloo Street was destroyed by fire in 1883

William J. Scarfe (1884-1885)

Born: 14 April 1844 in Burrowes County, Kilkenny, Ireland

Died: 11 April 1891 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was the sheriff of Brant County from 1885 to 1890

Charles B. Heyd (1886, 1888-1889)

Born: 23 February 1842 in Rochester, New York, U.S.A.

Died: 15 September 1929 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was a Member of Parliament for South Brant from 1897 to 1904

Samuel G. Read (1890-1891)
Born: 12 May 1843 in Brantford, Ontario
Died: 22 September 1930 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he started his career in the real estate and auctioneering business in 1870

Dr. Levi Secord (1892-1893)
Born: 1854 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Died: 8 May 1914 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he started his medical practice in Brantford in 1884

George Watt Sr. (1894-1895)
Born: 1825 in County Down, Ireland
Died: 24 February 1910 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: his grocery store, George Watt and Sons which opened in 1855, was in business for more than a century

Thomas Elliott (1896-1897)
Born: 10 December 1850 in Brantford, Ontario
Died: 7 September 1909 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he owned the business which later became known as the Wood Coal Co. from 1857 to 1903 and was the son of John Elliott, mayor of Brantford from 1866-1868

William Gawtress Raymond (1898-1899)
Born: 24 March 1855 in Clapham, England
Died: 22 April 1942 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was a tuning instructor at the Ontario Institute for the Blind

Harry Cockshutt (June 1899-1900)
Born: 8 July 1868 in Brantford, Ontario
Died: 26 November 1944 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was lieutenant-governor of Ontario from 1921 to 1927

David Beattie Wood (1901-1902)
Born: 22 August 1858 near St. Mary's, Ontario
Died: 30 April 1921 in Hamilton, Ontario
Buried: Hamilton Cemetery, Hamilton, Ontario
Did You Know That: he and his brother, William Bruce Wood who was mayor from 1909-1910, ran a flour mill in St. George and later established the Brant Milling Company in Brantford

Matthew K. Halloran (1903-1904)
Born: 1852 in Limerick, Ireland
Died: 20 September 1914 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: St. Joseph's Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was a cigar manufacturer

Charles Horatio Waterous Jr. (1905-1906)
Born: 1851
Died: 10 June 1925 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he became the president and general manager of the Waterous Company when his father died

J. W. Bowlby (1907-1908, 1916-1917)

Born: 1837 in Waterford, Ontario

Died: 9 May 1923 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was a lawyer in Brantford for over 60 years

William Bruce Wood (1909-1910)

Born: 11 June 1848 in Aberdeen, Scotland

Died: 19 March 1928 in Montreal, Quebec

Buried: Mount Royal Cemetery, Outremont, Montreal, Quebec

Did You Know That: he was the Liberal member for North Brant in the provincial legislature from 1886-1895 and was the brother of David Beattie Woods, mayor of Brantford from 1901-1902

Ross A. Rastall (1911)

Born: 1 March 1860 in Kincardine Township, Bruce County, Ontario

Died: 28 July 1928 in Kincardine, Ontario

Buried: Kincardine Cemetery, Kincardine, Ontario

Did You Know That: he was the first manager of Mickle, Dymont and Son and worked for this company in Kincardine and Goderich before moving to Brantford

Charles H. Hartman (1912-1913)

Born: 1852 in Buffalo, New York, U.S.A.

Died: 31 January 1932 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was a drill instructor of the Victoria Hook and Ladder fire company

John H. Spence (1914-1915)

Born: ? in Toronto, Ontario

Died: 8 August 1940 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was appointed Collector of Customs while mayor and he held this position for 23 years

Morrison Mann MacBride (1918-1920, 1925, 1933-1934, 1936-1937)

Born: 20 August 1877 in White Lake, Ontario

Died: 5 June 1938 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was the only man in Brantford to hold the positions of mayor (1936-1937) and member of the provincial parliament (1934-1938) at the same time

George K. Wedlake (1921-March 3, 1922)

Born: 1856 in Brantford, Ontario

Died: 3 March 1922 in Brantford, Ontario

Born: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he died during his second year as mayor

Charles J. Parker (March 24-December 1922)

Born: 1870 in Brantford, Ontario

Died: 4 April 1953 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was elected mayor when George Wedlake died suddenly

Frederick W. Billo (1923-1924)

Born: ca. 1866 in La Salette, Ontario

Died: 11 January 1943 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he acted as Registrar for the electoral district of Brantford when the National Registration was done in 1940

John Austin Dufferin (J.A.D.) Slemin (1926-1927)

Born: 6 March 1891 in Toronto, Ontario

Died: 26 September 1980 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he enlisted in the 125th Battalion under Col. M. E. B. Cutcliffe and went overseas in 1916; he was seriously wounded at the battle of Amiens

Ross L. Beckett (1928-1932)

Born: 22 July 1892 in Welland, Ontario

Died: 29 August 1966 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he became his father's partner in the funeral business in 1919

Malcolm A. Colquhoun (1935)

Born: 13 April 1869 in the Township of Mulmur, Dufferin County, Ontario

Died: 3 August 1950 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he left for Valcartier in August 1914 with the first contingent from the Dufferin Rifles as captain; became commanding officer of the Dufferin Rifles in 1919

Reginald J. Waterous (1938-1940)

Born: 9 December 1896 in Brantford, Ontario

Died: 9 June 1955 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was director of human and material resources with the National War Service Department during World War II

John P. Ryan (1941-1945)

Born: 1888 in Brantford, Ontario

Died: 24 June 1949 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: St. Joseph's Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was president of the Ontario Municipal Association in 1937

John H. Matthews (1946-1947)

Born: 1888 in Guernsey, Channel Islands

Died: 7 July 1956 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was a member of the mechanical staff of the Brantford Expositor and was in his 41st year of service when he died

Walter J. Dowden (1948-1949)

Born: 1893 in Somerset, England

Died: 14 December 1949 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was an alderman in Brantford in 1928-1929 and 1946-1947 and was re-elected as mayor for 1950 just nine days prior to his death

George J. Patte (December 19-31, 1949)

Born: 1886 in Ayr, Ontario

Died: 14 January 1959 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: he was appointed mayor of Brantford when Walter J. Dowden died suddenly on December 14, 1949

Howard E. Winter (1950-1953, 1956, 1971-1972)

Born: 1907

Died: 17 November 1997 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford

Did You Know That: his 29-year career in municipal politics started in 1944 when he was elected as an alderman for Ward 5

Reg Cooper (1954-1955)

Born: 1909

Died: 28 March 1998 in Brantford, Ontario

Buried: Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was the City Clerk from 1956 to 1974

Max Sherman (1957-1958)
Born: 15 September 1914
Died: 28 February 2010 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Congregational Beth David Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he spent 31 years in municipal politics and helped negotiate the Brant-Brantford Annexation Agreement in 1979

Lloyd D. Hogarth (1959-1960)
Born: ?
Died: 20 June 1989 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: cremated
Did You Know That: he represented the Brantford Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Jaycee International Congress in Hong Kong in 1962

Richard B. Beckett (1961-1970)
Born: 1919 in Brantford, Ontario
Died: 7 March 1983 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Farringdon Burial Ground, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was the son of Ross L. Beckett who was mayor from 1931-1932 and he was elected to the Ontario legislature in 1971

Charles R. Bowen (1973-1980)
Born: 1923
Died: 17 May 1992 in Brantford, Ontario
Buried: Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford
Did You Know That: he was an alderman in Brantford's Ward 5 from 1963-1972 and 1988-1991

Dave Neumann (Dec. 1980-Fall 1987)

Karen George (Fall 1987-Dec. 1991)

Bob Taylor (Dec. 1991-Dec. 1994)

Chris Friel (Dec. 1994-Dec. 2003)

Mike Hancock (Dec. 2003-Dec. 2010)

Chris Friel (Dec. 2010-present)