

President – George Warburton HODGETTS

George Warburton HODGETTS was the first President of the St. Catharines Rowing and Canoe Club and served two years, 1903 and 1904, in that position.

George was born on October 29, 1850 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England. He came to Toronto, Canada in 1854 and moved to St. Catharines sometime between 1880 and 1891. He was married to Jessie Agnes CLARK (b1852-d1935). Their children: Alfred Clark was born July 25, 1880 in Simcoe County; Alice Edith was born November 15, 1883; George Henry was born October 31, 1876 in Toronto; Susanna Harriet was born November 9, 1874 in Toronto. In St. Catharines the family lived at 11 York Street before moving to 165 and then 167 Ontario Street. George was the manager of the Bank of Toronto at the corner of King and Queen Streets.

In Toronto he was a member of the Congregationalist Church, by the time he arrived in St. Catharines he was a member of the Free Church and then the Presbyterian Church.

George died on December 28, 1933 at Clarkson, Toronto Township and he and his wife are buried in Old Section 'R' of Victoria lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines

Vice-President – Doctor William Hamilton MERRITT

Dr. William Hamilton Merritt served two years as Vice President before becoming the second President of the Club in 1905. He likely served a second year as President in 1906.

William was born on June 13, 1865, the son of Jedediah MERRITT and Emily Alexanderine (nee) GRAYDON and the grandson of Hon. William Hamilton MERRITT.

In April of 1888 he graduated from Trinity Medical College, University of Toronto and then studied further at the Royal College of Surgeons at the University of London, England, continued post graduate studies in Edinburgh, Scotland and Leipzig, Germany. He returned to St. Catharines and opened a medical practice and practiced here until he retired in 1908.

He married Maud Cloudman HUDSON on October 12, 1892 in Chicago. They had two children: son Thomas Rodman MERRITT who married Duthga MURRAY and a daughter Marian Emily who married Murton A. SEYMOUR. The family lived in the spacious home now known as Rodman Hall.

He was definitely community minded and served as an Alderman in 1909, 1910 and 1911 and was the Mayor of St. Catharines in 1912 and 1913. He served on the Library Board; was a chairman of the Board of Education; a member of the Church of England; the Masonic Order; the Oddfellows; the Great War Veterans Association; and served on the Board of Governors of Ridley College. In business, he was Vice President of the Imperial Bank of Canada; Director of National Life; and Vice-President of the Suspension Bridge Company.

He was very active in the local military: organizing the Seventh Field Battery in 1892 and becoming the commanding officer; in 1914 he raised a battery for the second contingent to go overseas; in 1916 he went to France with the second contingent and a battery for 9 months, then transferred to the Medical Corp. and served in that capacity until demobilization in 1919 and mustered out on March 29, 1919.

Dr. Merritt died in St. Catharines on April 22, 1924 at the age of 58 years. A large funeral took place and his remains were buried in Old Section 'P' in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines.

Secretary-Treasurer – Arthur Courtney KINGSTONE

Arthur 'Courtney' KINGSTONE was born on October 24, 1874 in Toronto to Frederick William KINGSTONE and Henrietta Georgina (nee) GRASSETT.

He attended Upper Canada College and Ridley College and then went on to graduate with a B.A. in 1896 from the University Of Toronto. He studied law at Osgoode Hall and was subsequently called to the bar in 1899. He became a barrister and practiced law continuously in St. Catharines since 1899 with his law firm known as Ingersol and Kingstone. He received the title King's Counsel in 1920. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario in August 1932.

He married Marion DePendergast PARMENTER in Toronto on September 28, 1902 and they had three sons: Jack, Stewart and Courtney; and one daughter: Mrs. Margaret WINGFIELD. The family lived at 53 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines.

Courtney was a Warden of St. Thomas Anglican Church; a member of the Order of Foresters; secretary of the Canadian Club; served on St. Catharines City Council for three years, 1904 through 1906 and was finance committee chair for two years; was City Solicitor in 1916. In business, he was a vice-president of the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge Company until appointed to the bench. He belonged to the University Club, Kappa Alpha Society, Toronto Club and the Toronto Golf Club. He was also vice-president and member of the Board of Governors of Ridley College; and chairman of the Collegiate Institute Board.

Hon. Justice Arthur Courtney KINGSTONE, K.C. of the Supreme Court of Ontario passed away suddenly on Wednesday, January 5, 1938 while on vacation, visiting his son, in Vancouver. The funeral was held at St. James Cathedral, Toronto on Tuesday, August 19 with interment following in the family plot in St. James Cemetery, Toronto where both his parents are also buried.

Director – George Bennett BURSON

George Bennett BURSON was born on September 28, 1868 in St. Catharines, Ontario to Rev. George BURSON (he was minister of Knox Presbyterian Church for 28 years; died May 7, 1895) and Esther (nee) QUA (she died January 13, 1912 in Toronto).

George was educated locally before attending the University Of Toronto. He became a barrister and by 1904 was employed by his firm of Collier and Burson and eventually became a King's Counsel (K.C.). George was a St. Catharines Alderman in 1904, 1905 and 1906 and was the first chairman of the St. Catharines Parks Board.

George lived at 18 Academy Street. He died on December 22, 1928 at the family residence 15 Midland Street, St. Catharines and is buried in the family plot in Old Section 'G' of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines. He was survived by one sister Mrs. D.C. MEYERS and two brothers: H.A. and Dr. E.C. BURSON, all of Toronto.

Director – Arthur Wellesley BATE

Arthur Wellesley BATE was born on September of 1877 in St. Catharines and lived in the city all his life. He married Harriett A. HYDE (died December 16, 1953). They lived at 37 Yates Street. Arthur was brewer by trade, actively engaged in the Taylor and Bate Brewery as member of the firm. He was an enthusiastic hunter in his younger days and was a graduate of Trinity College, Port Hope. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas Anglican Church.

Arthur died in his 74th year, at his home 35 Yates Street, on Wednesday, September 8, 1948 and was survived by his wife and two brothers: H. Newell BATE of St. Catharines and Edward

BATE of Toronto; one sister Mrs. E.H. FULLER of Montreal. The funeral service was held at St. Thomas Church with the internment taking place in Old Section 'D' of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines.

Director – Dr. Joseph Morley JORY

Dr. Joseph Morley JORY was born on November 8, 1869 in Norwood, Peterborough County, Ontario. Educated in Norwood and studied under Dr. FORD while in Norwood. He graduated from Trinity Medical School in 1894. He became a medical surgeon and established himself first in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County before coming to St. Catharines prior to 1901. It was said that he was the best know physician in Niagara. He served as a surgical captain in the Boer War in South Africa with the Canadian contingent. Upon returning to St. Catharines from Africa, he practices medicine and lived at 14 Queen Street, later moving to 113 King Street and then 73 King Street by 1914. He was a past president of the Lincoln County Medical Association, a past chair of the St. Catharines General Hospital medical staff and coroner for Lincoln County for many years.

In religion he was of Methodist faith and member of St. Paul Street United Church. He was a St. Catharines Alderman in 1909 and 1910. He served as chair of the Board of Education. His obituary indicated that he was prominently connected with all lines of sport, especially lacrosse; an enthusiastic golfer and member of the St. Catharines Golf Club; member of the Hunt Club and a member of Empire Lodge No. 87 I.O.O.F.

Dr. JORY died Sunday, March 20, 1932 at the age of 63 years at his residence, 153 King Street, St. Catharines. He was survived by his wife Alice Mary nee DOCKER (1878-1969); two daughters: Dorothy Alice (Mrs. Stewart ROBERTSON) of Toronto and

Gwendolyn (Mrs. DORFMAN) of St. Catharines; and one son J. Donald JORY of Toronto. The funeral was largely attended and one of the pall bearers was Arthur Courtney KINGSTONE. His remains were interred in Old Section 'T' of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines.

Director – John T. GROVES

John T. GROVES was born on November 15, 1863 in Ontario. He married Ella S. HERRIMAN (born March 1, 1868 in Ogdensburg, New York, U.S.A. and immigrated to Canada in 1887). They had a daughter Louisa (born August 25, 1888).

John was an accountant. He was a member of the St. Catharines Board of Trade. In faith, he was a member of the Church of England. Sometime after he became a director of the Rowing Club in 1903 he moved to New York City, as he appears there in the 1920 census. He and Ella were living in New York City when Ella died on May 25, 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio. John died after Ella.

St. Catharines Rowing Club's First Club Captain (1903): Ralph Bergen HAMILTON

HAMILTON was born on April 11, 1875 in Toledo, Ohio but grew up in Saginaw, Michigan with his parents were John Allen HAMILTON and Harriet Hale (nee) ROWLAND. He studied mechanical sciences at Polytechnik in Dresden, Germany and then obtained his Mechanical Engineering Degree from Cornell University, Ithica, New York in 1896.

During his time at Cornell, Ralph took up the sport of rowing and stroked the Cornell crew that went to the Royal English Henley in 1895. The Cornell crew list for Henley stated Ralph was 5-feet and 8 1/2 -inches tall, weight 155-pounds and 20 years of age, that he

had stroked his freshman crew and last year was a varsity crew substitute, that he was capable of a very rapid stroke and can get way up into the forties if necessary. The crew trained on Lake Cayuga and was clocked at 6 minutes and 51 seconds over the Henley distance of a mile and 550 yards, this time having been the best time recorded at Henley, so prospects of success were good prior to heading to England to race for the Grand Challenge Cup.

After graduating from Cornell University in 1896, Ralph worked for several companies in Buffalo, New York. In 1901 he became Acting Manager of Packard Electric Company in St. Catharines, Ontario, and by 1912 he had risen to the position of President while retaining the position of General Manager. As well, he became President of several other companies including Packard Fuse Co. (1916) and Canadian Standard Products Ltd. both located in St. Catharines.

In the summer of 1899 he married Edith Raphael SEIXAS, the daughter of Gershom A. SEIXAS of New York City and the sister of Edward SEIXAS who would become the President of the St. Catharines Rowing Club and a key individual in the rowing scene of the City. The wedding took place in Trinity Chapel in New York City. A reception was held at the SEIXAS home on West Thirty-Ninth Street. Ralph and Edith had four children: three boys (Bergen Ralph, John A., Stuart F.) and one girl (Phyllis) and the family lived at 155 Ontario Street before moving to 15 Welland Avenue, and then to 30 Bellevue terrace, St. Catharines.

He was a member of many groups: including the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and an Associate of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; as well as the University Club of Buffalo; the National Club, Toronto; Alpha Delta Phi, New York; Club, and President of the St. Catharines Board of Trade in 1906-7. When World War One

broke out Ralph he was appointed by the Imperial Munitions Board as a special representative on investigation pertaining to munitions manufacture.

In late 1919 Ralph relinquished his interests in the local Packard Electric Co. Ltd. firms and the family moved to Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. He became vice-president of the National Safe Company in Cleveland. Shortly after arriving in Cleveland, Ralph died of a heart attack on December 24, 1919 at the young age of 44 years, 8 months and 13 days. He was buried on December 26, 1919 in Lakeview Cemetery, 12316 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

There was also a Rowing and Canoe Committee consisting of Arthur Courtney KINGSTONE, Godfrey SPRAGGE and Frank NELSON