

(by: Bill Stevens; edited from what was originally published in the September 2002 Newsletter)

An article in the April 14, 1982 issue of The Standard paid tribute to Wilfred Bald, titled "Paved Way for Region". Much of the following information is taken from this article. Wilfred Bald died suddenly on Tuesday, April 13 at the St. Catharines General Hospital at the age of 89 years. He was born on August 14, 1892 at St. Catharines and lived here all his life. He lived at 32 Wolseley Avenue. He was mayor of St. Catharines in 1959 and 1960 and was the city's last mayor before amalgamation with the former towns of Merritton and Port Dalhousie and former Grantham Township. The newspaper article quotes another former mayor, Mackenzie Chown, "He led us through that very difficult period when we were arranging amalgamation .... a gentleman with a sensible level headed approach to politics. He has a way about him that did us proud". Wilfred was a St. Patrick's Ward alderman for 13 years before he was mayor and another 10 years after being mayor, including the time that Mr. Chown was mayor from 1968-1972. Wilfred was chair of the St. Catharines Centennial Committee in 1967. For 43 years he was an accountant with the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway, retiring in 1957. He was a member of St. Paul St. United Church (now Silver Spire United Church) where he was a member of the board of trustees. He had been a member of Maple Leaf Lodge 103, A.F. and A.M., for more than 50 years. His wife Laura Amelia was born in 1891 and died in 1979. He was survived by several nieces and nephews. Service was held at the Butler Funeral Home, with burial on April 16, 1982 at Victoria Lawn Cemetery (Old Section E, Div. 8, Lot W 1/2-1, grave 3).