

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

in many parish interests, including working with group committees for the Scouts and Cubs.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and four children, Anne, Patrick, Pauline and David.



HON. WILLIAM GOURLAY WEBSTER, C.E., O.L.S.

1884 - 1965

*by S. W. Archibald, O.L.S.*

W. G. Webster was first elected to the Ontario Legislature for London in 1943 and was sworn in as a member of the Executive Council in 1944. He was appointed Chairman of the Liquor Control Board in 1944. He resigned in 1946 and was Minister Without Portfolio from 1946 to 1948 in the Hon. George A. Drew's Cabinet.

He was born at Toronto on Sept. 25, 1884, the only son of Rev. Andrew Ford Webster and Annie Gourlay Webster. At the age of 11 he entered secondary school at Orillia and went on from there to the University of Toronto, from which he graduated as a civil engineer in 1906.

He practised as a civil engineer on municipal work and railroad construction at Dunnville and Brantford from 1907 to 1914, meanwhile obtaining his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1912. He articulated with Fairchild & Webster of Brantford.

In World War I he enlisted with the Canadian Engineers with the rank of lieutenant, was sent to France as a reinforcement for the 12th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops and served from 1914 to 1918.

In 1919, on his return from war, he formed the Webster Construction Company and had contracts on municipal improvement,

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY AND REPOSITORY

bridges, waterworks, etc., until 1927. He then engaged in levee work in Missouri, U.S.A., until 1932.

In 1933 he founded the Webster Air Equipment Co., London, and was its President. He was a director with MacCraft Company Ltd. of Sarnia, of Webster Bros. Ltd., of Erie Iron Works Ltd. of St. Thomas, and of Chatham Foundry Co. Ltd. of Chatham.

He died Feb. 18, 1965, at Ancaster, Ontario, where his widow, the former Flora Coleman, still resides. He left two sons, both of whom served in World War II. Lieut. John B. of the Royal Highland Light Infantry, 1940-45, was captured in the Dieppe Raid of '42 and was a prisoner-of-war until 1945. Lieut. Peter M. served in Italy with the Lorne Scots. The former resides in London and is President of the Webster Air Equipment Co.; the latter resides in the United States. Mr. Webster's only sister, Ruth, Mrs. Charles Egleston, resides in London.

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