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**SIDNEY WILLIAM WOODS**  
**(1904 - 1980)**

Sidney William Woods was born in a small village near South-End-On-Sea, Essex, England on June 3, 1904, and immigrated to Canada with his parents and sisters at the age of 5.

He attended Earl Kitchener Public School and Central Collegiate in Hamilton until his father's death at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, when he entered the work force.

The Rotary Club of Hamilton assigned to each member a boy whose father had been killed overseas and the Rotarian assigned to look after Sid Woods was the late J.J. MacKay, O.L.S., who gave him his first job in surveying about 1920. He later worked for the City of Hamilton, Engineering Department, laying storm sewers through the Westdale area and was part of the Harvester excursion to the west during the late 1920's, working in Powell River and in Vancouver, in the concrete industry and on the farms and cattle ranches of the Prairies.

He returned to Hamilton in 1929 to MacKay and MacKay, Engineers & Surveyors, where he received his O.L.S. commission in 1934 and his Professional Engineering certification in 1938. In 1935 he married Merna Thomson who, at the time, was Col. MacKay's secretary, and they had three children--Lawrence, Kenneth and Vilma.

He spent some time as a draftsman for the Department of Highways and in 1936, went to Timmins in partnership with the late Archie Gillies, O.L.S. In 1941, following two bouts of pneumonia caused by going through the ice on mining claim surveys and medical advice to return to a less hazardous climate, he once more returned to Hamilton and the firm of MacKay and MacKay, remaining with them until 1945, when he was persuaded to work for Canadian National Railways as Assistant to Chief Surveyor Sid Smith.

In 1949 he opened his own Engineering & Surveying office in Dundas and moved the business to Hamilton the following year. He remained active until medical problems forced him into semi-retirement during the late 1970's.

Sid Woods is survived by three sisters, his wife, three children and eleven grandchildren. He had very diverse interests. He was a church elder, extremely interested in co-operatives, having been involved in the formation of Credit Unions in both Timmins and Dundas. He was a member of various clubs and organizations over the years including the Hamilton Chess Club, Dundas Historical Society, and the Diabetic Association.

He served on the Council of the Town of Dundas for several years and was the first non-builder president of the Metropolitan Hamilton Home Builders Association. He was an active member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton and was extremely interested in their rehabilitational and child service programmes. He was also an early chairman of the Hamilton and District Group of Ontario Land Surveyors and founding member of the Hamilton Chapter of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada. He was a member and past chairman of the Hamilton Planning Board and the Committee of Adjustment. He was a voracious reader, a world traveller and generally interested in the world, its people and religions. He loved poetry, Shakespeare and history. He passed away on August 3, 1980, at his home in Dundas.