

## HARVEY J. McFARLAND

*Inducted 2016 September 10*

Harvey McFarland was born in the hamlet of Roblin, Ontario in 1904 to John Henry McFarland and Della Bradshaw. He was a descendant of loyalists Jephtha Hawley and James Bradshaw. He left school at the age of 12 and began to do work in the local farm area. In 1920 he purchased a team of horses to begin threshing and hauling rocks from farms. This became the start of a successful business. By 1930 he started to haul crushed gravel to various municipalities and operated his own gravel pit. His big break came in 1937 when he received a paving contract for the highway from the Glenora Ferry to Picton, and he established the business as the H.J. McFarland Construction Company. During the war he received many contracts for paving, starting with Mountain View Airport in 1940. He received a contract in 1951 worth \$1.3 million for the construction of two runways at Uplands Airport in Ottawa for Canada's new CF100 and F86 fighter planes.

That same year he was acclaimed as Mayor of Picton, and Harvey became the longest running Mayor in the history of the town, serving for 20 years.

In 1956 he constructed a huge cement plant along the Bay of Quinte shores that became known as Lake Ontario Cement, which is now owned and operated by Essroc. During this time he was involved in the construction of 10 Canadian Airports. In addition to his construction and cement companies, he also established Roblindale Quarries Ltd. and Loch Slog Holding Co. Ltd. The McFarland Construction Company was also responsible for building major sections of Highway 401 and the company's vehicles became a common sight in central Ontario for the next 20 years. Despite establishing such a large and prosperous business, he kept the common touch and was always known simply as "Harvey". In the late 1970s his construction company was sold to Wimpey Construction and is now part of Lafarge.

In addition to his business and political work, he was actively involved in the communities of the Quinte area. He joined the Bay of Quinte Branch UELAC as a charter year member in January of 1957 and took an active interest in the branch. He also built and donated the custodian cottage that is still located beside Old Hay Bay Church. In the 1950s he also donated the land which was used for the construction of the new Prince Edward County Hospital. He also donated the large stained glass window in the current Picton Museum. The Christmas display at his company office in downtown Picton became a popular destination each year for both young and old.

He also had a keen interest in sports. While as mayor, he helped to promote and organize the Miss Supertest speedboat competitions, which brought participants from around the world to the Quinte area. He also owned the Belleville McFarlands hockey team in the 1950s. In 1958 his team won the Allen Cup. His team paved the way for other professional hockey teams in Belleville such as the Belleville Bulls.



Harvey was married to Arley Ruby Empson, and had two sons from his previous marriage: Harvey J. and Malcolm. The H. J. McFarland Memorial Home in Picton and the McFarland Conservation Area along the road to Glenora are named in his honour. His biography Everyone Called Him Harvey was written by local author Alan Capon in 1982. He is also included in the book “Keeping Ontario Moving” by Robert Bradford.

Harvey J. McFarland died in Picton on January 10, 1974 and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Picton.

He was inducted into the Bay of Quinte Hall of Honour by Brian Tackaberry on September 10, 2016.