

ALFRED DRYDEN HALES
1909 - 1998

A dynamic leader who was proud of his heritage, Alfred Dryden Hales served both family and community tirelessly over the years. Born on November 22, 1909, Alf Hales was raised in a strict, religious and loving household. As a child he attended the Macdonald Consolidated School, now the Macdonald-Stewart Art Centre. In his teenage years he attended the GCVI where he enjoyed sports, social events and academics. He was active in Students' Council and also was a member of "the Greys", a group whose original members still meet every two years to reminisce.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture Degree from the Ontario Agricultural College, now part of the University of Guelph, he worked in Toronto with the Swift Canadian Company, and soon became manager of the small stock division. During that time he also played for the Toronto Argonauts. Returning to Guelph, Alf Hales married the girl he had met at MacDonald Hall, Mary Graham. He eventually took over the family meat business in 1944 and was very successful.

In 1953 he entered politics as a Progressive Conservative and went on to become the longest serving MP under a single party since Confederation. He served from 1957 to 1974. Active and well liked, Alf Hales was a strong supporter and leader in many community groups and events. These included the Kiwanis Club, the YMCA, the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation, the Guelph Italian-Canadian Club, the Guelph Police Commission, the Guelph Prayer Breakfast Group, the Ontario Veterinary Council, the Colonel John McCrae Society and House Committee, and many other groups.

After retirement, Alf Hales was still active within the community, doing work for the Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels, the Guelph Historical Society and many others including many of the groups he joined before retiring. Alf Hales received numerous awards including the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, a "50" year Kiwanis Plaque, the Guelph Kiwanis Club Mel Osborne Fellowship, and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary award, the highest award given.

He was also inducted into the University of Guelph Sports Hall of Fame. At the age of 89 Alf died on Saturday, February 28, 1998.

Alfred Dryden Hales was a tireless community worker whose contributions and drive were an inspiration to all of us.

Tania van Spyk
May 1996