

PELL COURTNEY - BIOGRAPHY - COMMUNITY

# Personality Profile Of The Week

WEEKLY, FEB. 10, 1968  
William Courtney

Over the years this gentleman has served the community as Justice of the Peace, welfare administrator, tax collector, and Industrial Commissioner. The great imposter, he most assuredly is not, and his secretary of twelve years will gladly inform you that William Courtney is the man who has his fingers on the pulse of Toronto Township.

Bill was ushered into the world in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1904. He emigrated to Canada with his parents three years later and in the years that followed he pursued his education at Riverdale Collegiate and Port Credit high schools.

A goodly portion of Bill's younger days were taken up with sporting endeavours; he fondly recalls pitching on the Port Credit Senior baseball team which copped the Lakeshore Championship in 1926. His talents were diversified and when the opportunity presented itself Bill joined the Duluth hockey club in the American Hockey League; he closed out his career with Kitchener of the International league.

Mr. Courtney plays the game of life with the same intestinal fortitude and enthusiasm he put into athletics. He started out in the Township as a tax collector in 1931, from there he spring boarded to treasurer, a position he held until 1952. The coming years brought increasing responsibilities for Mr. Courtney to shoulder. His duties as industrial advisor led him to accept the position of welfare administrator in 1938 and in the year 1954 he was rewarded for his efforts by being appointed Industrial Commissioner for Toronto

Township. This appointment came on the heels of an appointment as justice of the peace which is a major undertaking in itself.

with his wife, the former Vera Young of Brampton, in a lovely home on Sheppard Avenue, Cooksville, since 1942.



William Courtney

Bill is now 61 years old, he has been married 36 years and has 2 children, Bruce and Peggy, and on a wall in his office he has prominently displayed a picture of his four grandchildren. He has lived

His girl Friday, secretary Betty Ann Williamson, gave another picture of Mr. Courtney. She informed me that he is very much interested in aiding retarded children and has helped out in numerous fund raising schemes in the county. She also pointed out that her working twelve years for Mr. Courtney speaks for itself.

Some day in the near future Mr. Courtney would like

to write a book on his impressions and insights obtained through working hand in hand with the Township. He can recall in the early 30's when there were only three permanent employees on the Township staff; today there are over 600. In the span of 35 years he has worked under twelve Reeves and he hastened to point out that in the past ten years he has received more than enough co-operation from that office.

His secretary mentioned that he has stored in his mind a welter of facts on the topographical layout of most any area in the township and he is on first name basis with over three-quarters of the large land owners in the municipality. He is especially proud of the Sheridan Park Research Community. He was also instrumental in the formulation of the plans for the area and if all goes well, it will be the largest Research Community in North America.

Bill Courtney's meteoric rise in the Township has closely paralleled the rapid expansions of industrial development. In 1954 there were thirty seven industries in the Township; today there are 300. Industries don't always come to the Township without a gentle prodding and with this in mind, Bill has done extensive travelling in the United States soliciting with a great deal of success in the New York and Chicago areas.

Many men in Bill Courtney's position find that their time is not their own, but Bill is not a member of this group. He is an inveterate Argonaut football fan and wouldn't miss a home game. With no reservations, he calmly stated that the year 1966 will bring a Grey Cup victory for his team. It is just this optimistic go forward approach which has put Bill in the place in the community which he deserves.