

APR 6, 1966

# Port Credit Resident Named Chairman Of Ontario Hydro

WEEKLY, APRIL 6, 1966

The new chairman of the Ontario Hydro is Port Credit resident George Edward Gathercole, Indian Valley Trail, who was the province's first Deputy Minister of Economics and Development.

Mr. Gathercole replaces Ross Strike, retiring from Hydro after nearly 20 years at the top. Mr. Gathercole was appointed as the commission's first vice-chairman in November, 1961.

As Hydro's new chief, he conveys well the power and enthusiasm of the field. He knows too the value of nuclear power and is well-versed on the subject.

Mr. Gathercole was born in Hamilton in 1909, the son of English-Irish immigrants. He attended the local public schools there and the Hamilton Technical Institute.

At the age of 18, he went to work in an automotive plant to assist his family through the depression, and it was here, after meeting university-trained plant engineers, that he decided to go on to university. Through a night school program, he completed his high school credits and in 1931, enrolled at McMaster University, as a political science student.

## Ardent Player

During his university years, he was an ardent football and hockey player and at one time hoped for a future in professional hockey.

Following graduation in 1935, Mr. Gathercole went to the London School of Economics where he used his sports abilities to finance his studies. He returned to Canada before completing his M.A. but finished this later at the University of Toronto.

In 1937 he was chosen to assist the Ontario Government in its submission to the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations. He became a member of the Royal Commission's research staff in 1939 and later that year joined the Hydro as economic executive assistant.

He served in the Royal Canadian Navy during the war, part of his time with Operations Intelligence Centre.

In 1943, he married the former Helen Henderson of Oshawa. They have two daughters, Lynn, a second year student of the University of Western Ontario, in Honor Economics and Georgia, nine.

## Deputy Minister

In 1945 he joined the Ontario Government as assistant provincial statistician and in 1951 was promoted to Provincial Economist. Three years later he was also assistant controller of finances and in 1956, was made deputy minister of the newly-created Department of Economics.

When the departments were merged in 1961, he was made Deputy Minister of Economics and Development, but left his position in 1962 to become first vice-chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

Mr. Gathercole has also served on the special committees which developed the



**George Gathercole**

Ontario Hospital Services and Insurance program and the Ontario Portable Pension Plan, and was chairman of two advisory financial committees; the Public Trustee Fund and the Ontario Supreme Court Fund.

Mr. Gathercole still golfs, curls whenever he can find the time. He was a director and vice-president for two years and the president for three years of the Mississauga Golf and Country Club.

He is also president of the Canadian Club of Toronto, a member of the Ontario Advisory Committee on University Affairs, the Ontario Advisory Committee on Confederation, the Ontario Eco-

nomie Council, the Sheridan Park Research Corporation (vice chairman) and is a member of the board of directors of Hamilton's Royal Botanical Gardens.