

MAJOR WILLIAM FLETCHER EATON was born 12 May 1875 in Toronto and died at his Ballymena estate, in Oakville on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1935. In 1903, the T. Eaton Company of Toronto received a bonus from the Town of Oshawa to construct a White's Good (textile) Factory, on the southeast corner of Athol and Charles Street. This T. Eaton Company manufactured textiles, such as underclothes, corsets, and petticoats, which were sold at Eaton's stores in Toronto and Winnipeg. This knitting manufacturing company soon employed 150 workers, most of whom were women. Mr. William Fletcher Eaton, third son of Timothy Eaton (who was born in March of 1834 and who died of pneumonia on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1907), began his business career with the T. Eaton Co. at Toronto, and after a stint farming in Manitoba relocated to this Eaton Oshawa factory as General Manager when it opened in August of 1903. W.E. Eaton remained with this Oshawa factory until it was closed in the autumn of 1915 as General Manager of this knitting business and remained manager until 1916, when he moved this business to Hamilton from Oshawa due to the difficulty of securing sufficient female help. The T. Eaton Company- William Fletcher Eaton was Manager of this Knitting Plant – William Eaton was the brother of Eaton's President Sir John Eaton. (Who took over from their father Timothy who died 31 January 1907). William F. Eaton was an active member of Oshawa's YMCA and a proud Masonic member when he lived in Oshawa from 1903 until 1916. Major W.F. Eaton, an older brother of Sir John C. Eaton, (born 28 April 1876 and died 30 March 1922) was head of this Hamilton Knitting Factory and a member of the Advisory Board of the T. Eaton Co., Limited. W.F. Eaton was instrumental in the establishment of an immense knitting factory at Hamilton, the most up-to-date of its kind in Canada in 1917(after moving it from Oshawa the previous year). During the early part of the War, Major W.F. Eaton was on the staff of the Assistant Director of Recruiting for Canada, in which capacity he travelled throughout the Dominion for the purpose of raising troops for the C.E.F. Major William F. Eaton was also a personal Staff Officer to Colonel (later Sir) Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence for Canada from 1911 to 1916. Later he was associated with Col. Greer in the administration of the 1916 Military Service Act of Canada. William Fletcher Eaton was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Boy Scouts of Canada and organized the first Boy Scout Troop in Oshawa in 1909 and always donated or spent lots of Eaton money. Since the start of William F. Eaton's recent illness, in January of 1935 he has remained the General Manager of this large Hamilton knitting factory. Col. William Fletcher Eaton was the last surviving son of the late Mr and Mrs Timothy Eaton and was buried after his death on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1935 with his Eaton family in their Family Crypt in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. The Ballymena estate was established by **William Fletcher Eaton**, surviving heir to the retail, real estate and manufacturing Eaton Empire, who bought this Oakville Lakeshore Road property in 1916. He cleared it of its apple orchards, built an opulent Tudor-style estate and named it Ballymena for his father's birthplace in Ireland. Major Eaton moved into this completed home in 1921 with his wife Gertrude Norah Cook (born 1877 that he married 10 March 1898 in the All Saints Church, in Toronto and she later died in 1942) and their son and daughters. Major William F. Eaton was promoted to LCOL for his World War 1 services but was always referred to as Colonel. (Major W.F. Eaton's Military records are scarce because he did not serve overseas and he held Honorary not actual earned Military rank e.g. William F. Eaton was granted Honorary rank of Major on the Militia List from 31 January 1917 until 1922). In 1943, Ray Lawson purchased this Oakville lakeshore estate, "Ballymena" that was previously owned by William Fletcher Eaton, to have a suitable residence and permanent home, in 1947 close to Toronto and for use in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 1946 to 1952.

**Sir Samuel Hughes, KCB, PC** was born January 8, 1853 and died August 23, 1921.

Colonel the Hon. Samuel Hughes was appointed Major-General, on 22nd October, 1914, dated from the 15th May, 1912; created K.C.B., on 24th August, 1915; and granted Honorary rank of Lieutenant- General in the British Army, on 18th October, 1916. LGEN the Hon. Sir Samuel Hughes, K.C.B. was the Canadian Minister of Militia and Defence from 1911 until he resigned on 13th November 1916. Sir John Eaton privately financed the Eaton's Motor Machine Gun Battery in Toronto on July 1st 1915. This Battery served in France in 1915 and 1916 and was absorbed, then disbanded on November 15th, 1920. I feel that William F. Eaton was created Honorary LT. COL. of his younger brother's Machine Gun Battery on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915 and Sir Sam promoted LCOL Eaton to full Colonel of the Eaton Motor Machine Gun Battery a short time later.





COL. WILLIAM EATON  
1st SCOUT COMMISSIONER  
IN OSHAWA - 1909

William Fletcher Eaton  
1875-1935

Colonel, ROBERT SAMUEL McLAUGHLIN, CC, ED, CD (September 8, 1871 - January 6, 1972) was an influential Canadian businessman and philanthropist. He founded the McLaughlin Motor Car Co. in 1907, (one of the first major automobile manufacturers in Canada, which evolved into General Motors of Canada.) R.S. McLaughlin was born near Bowmanville in the hamlet of Enniskillen, Ontario, the son of Robert McLaughlin, and he started working in 1887 for his father's company, McLaughlin Carriage Works, (at one time the largest manufacturer of horse-drawn buggies and sleighs in the British Empire) With engines from William C. Durant of Buick he produced the McLaughlin-Buick Model F, establishing The McLaughlin Motor Car Company, incorporated on November 20, 1907. In 1908, McLaughlin-Buick's first full year of operation, it produced 154 cars. In 1910 R.S. McLaughlin became a director of General Motors and sold his McLaughlin Buick company in 1918 to General Motors (GM) and became the first president of General Motors of Canada, which continued to sell cars under the McLaughlin-Buick brand until 1942.( In 1918, the McLaughlin family sold their interests to General Motors, but Sam McLaughlin would continue to run the company in his capacity as chairman of the board of General Motors of Canada, in addition to being vice-president and director of the parent company.) R.S. McLaughlin retired in 1945, but Col Sam remained on the Board of General Motors until the early 1960's, as chairman and was coincidentally replaced by Royal Bank of Canada President, Earle McLaughlin, his first cousin once removed. R. Sam McLaughlin remained on the Board of Directors of General Motors of Canada as a member until his death in 1972. On Thursday morning, Sept. 5th, 1946 Col. R.S. McLaughlin was invested with the Silver Wolf by Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of the British Empire prior to Lord Rowallan officially opening the 150 acre Camp Samac. Sam McLaughlin had been interested in Scouting since it started in Oshawa in 1909 (The 1ST Oshawa Scout Group was founded in 1909 by Mack Soanes of the Oshawa YWCA, older brother and Sponsor, George McLaughlin, and Colonel William Fletcher Eaton as District Commissioner) and in 1934 when the Oshawa Boy Scout Association was formed Col Sam became its Honourary President for Life. In 1943 Col Sam McLaughlin purchased the land and erected buildings and gave everything to the Oshawa Boy Scout Association. In 1946 this generous donation from Col Sam became Camp Samac. On June 19, 1971 Governor General Roland Michener presented the almost 100 year old Col Sam with a Boy Scout Centenary medal on behalf of the Boy Scouts of Canada and Oshawa District Council and it is now displayed at his former Parkwood Estate with his Silver Wolf Medal. R. Sam McLaughlin died January 6, 1972 at age 101. His brother, chemist J.J. McLaughlin, founded the Canada Dry company. After J.J.'s death in 1912, Sam also became President of this company briefly until it was sold around 1917. Sam McLaughlin lived well; he built one of Canada's most opulent mansions, Parkwood, in Oshawa in 1917 (for his wife Adelaide, daughters Eileen (1898), Mildred (1900), Isabel (1903), Hilda (1905) and Eleanor (Billie) (1908). His 55-room Parkwood mansion became a National Historic Site after McLaughlin's death in 1972. Robert S. McLaughlin was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Ontario Regiment in 1921 (Service from 1st of May 1920) and held this position until 1931, at which time he was appointed Honorary Colonel of this same unit. In 1936, The Ontario Regiment was designated as The Ontario Regiment (Tank) and became a reserve armoured regiment. Affectionately known as "Colonel Sam," McLaughlin served as Honorary Colonel, when in 1967, Col Sam had earned the distinction as the longest continuously serving Honorary Colonel in the history of the Canadian Forces. "Colonel Sam," served as Honorary Colonel of The Ontario Regiment for 47 years (earning an Efficiency Decoration –ED for 20 years of Meritorious service and the Canada Decorations –CD for the rest of his reserve service), when, in 1967 he became Honourary Colonel for Life. The Oshawa Armoury was built in 1914. It is a Type D, able to accommodate six companies and it was opened on May, 24<sup>th</sup> 1914 and was named, in 1978 or 79 the Col. R.S. McLaughlin Armoury in honour of its benefactor and Patron, Col. Sam. On July 6, 1967 Col. Sam was also appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada and invested on September 18, 1968 for his Service and generous financial donations to Oshawa and National Organizations including The Boy Scouts of Canada., Col Sam McLaughlin died on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972 and was buried in the Oshawa Union Cemetery.



Col. R. S. McLaughlin  
SILVER WOLF  
KITCHIE KAH SOO KIN ESKAYO