

# Sir Edgar J. Bauer

Sir Edgar Jacob Bauer may have been a Roman Catholic knight and a prominent businessman in Waterloo, but he may also be remembered as the father of eleven children who made certain there was an ice rink behind the family home each winter.



Bauer and Alice Bertha Hayes were married in 1912 and they raised their family in a large home on the corner of King and Allen streets. The home was across from the historic Bauer's Ltd. factory, a flourishing business established by Bauer's father Aloyes in 1888 - the same year young Edgar was born.

Bauer's efforts in the backyard were rewarded. All of his sons distinguished themselves in the world of hockey. Perhaps best known was Bobby Bauer, a member of the famous "Kraut Line" that played successfully for the Boston Bruins, and Reverend David Bauer who went on to coach and help found the first Canadian Olympic hockey team.

Bauer's legacy of love for the game transcended the generations with one of his thirty-nine grandchildren, Lisa Bauer, playing for the Olympic field hockey team in 1984.

Bauer's career at Bauer's Ltd., now known as Bauer Industries Ltd. on Dutton Drive, is equally auspicious. The 119-year-old supplier to the automotive industry is thriving today under the leadership of a fourth generation of Bauers. The company started out in the late nineteenth century making cotton felts and batts for horse-drawn carriages. As the automotive industry evolved, the business began supplying thermal and soundproofing materials for cars.

Edgar Bauer attended St. Jerome's College before spending six months in the Bauer factory learning the trade. He then went to Standard Woollen Mills in Toronto for just over a year, before returning to Waterloo to work with his father.

He was known as an "executive of unusual ability" who devoted more than 50 years to the family business, serving as the president, general manager and chairman of the board.

Sir Edgar Bauer's participation in the community was just one of the reasons he was honoured with being the first Roman Catholic layman to have a local school named after him in 1970. Prior to that, all separate schools were named after saints or prominent churchmen.

In deciding a name for the new school on Glen Forrest Boulevard in Waterloo's Lakeshore neighbourhood, a school board member said Bauer was "an outstanding Catholic layman who contributed much to this community and to Catholic education."

In 1957, Pope Pius XII conferred Bauer a Knight Commander of St. Sylvester in recognition of his aid to schools and church. Bauer served as a trustee on the separate school board and was a city councillor for three years between 1922 and 1925.

He was actively involved in many Roman Catholic organizations including St. Jerome's College, a Hamilton Diocesan charity campaign, the Knights of Columbus, and the Holy

Name Society. Bauer was a member of the League of Sacred Heart, and of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church for 69 years. He was also instrumental in bringing the Carmelite nuns to St. Agatha.

He took on various executive capacities in Waterloo sporting organizations and served as commissioner of Waterloo Public Utilities between 1947 and 1950. He was a past president of the Waterloo Board of Trade, a member of the Canadian Manufacturers Association and the Waterloo Young Men's Club.

*Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Public Library*