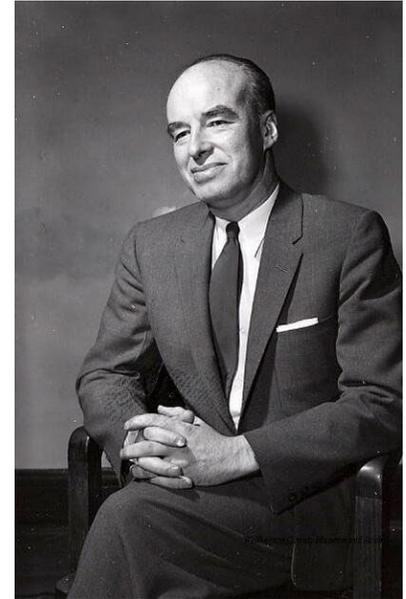


## **CULTURAL MOMENT FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2026 CELEBRATES MARVIN HOWE**

Marvin Howe was born on February 24, 1906, and raised in Palmerston. His first career was as a schoolteacher in Port Arthur until his father became very ill. Marvin returned to Palmerston to run the family business of George Howe and Son, a grocery and dry goods store.

In 1934 he took over the business formerly owned and operated by J.A. Stephenson on the corner of George and Frederick Streets in Arthur. This store had been with the Stephenson family for approximately 60 years. In the 85 years of the store's existence, only two names had been on the store front. The Palmerston store closed in 1937.

Mr. Howe, in his life in Arthur, was not content to be just a businessman, but decided early in his career to devote part of his efforts to public life. This ambition has resulted in him being Member of Parliament for Wellington-Huron from 1953 to 1972, successfully retaining this seat for the Conservative Party in three elections. He also served the public in the following positions: Public School Trustee (2 years), Councillor of Arthur Village (3 years), Reeve of Arthur (4 years), and the Arthur-Drayton Area High School Board (2 years).



Marvin Howe married Helen Blair, granddaughter of Arthur Village 1<sup>st</sup> Reeve, Anthony Buschlen. After the marriage, they lived in a house built by her grandfather, Anthony Buschlen. Together they raised four children. The house still stands at 240 Smith Street in Arthur – a beautiful stone house with arched windows with bay windows on either side of the front porch. Helen kept beautiful gardens around the house.

After retiring from politics, Howe was appointed to the board of directors of Bell Thread Company of Arthur, the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), and the local ministerial food bank. In 1993 he was honoured by the VON for his 19 years of volunteer work. Marvin stayed highly active in the community, especially in the Lions Club. He was a charter member of the Arthur Lions Club, a member of the Prince Arthur Masonic Lodge Branch #334, and a member of the Arthur United Church. In 1980, at the annual skate-a-thon, he was the oldest skater competing.

Mr. Howe enjoyed daily walks when he would often chat with neighbours and friends along the way. In his later days, he would often be seen with a young boy chatting up a storm as they strolled along together. That boy was Ted Arnott, who went on to have a lengthy career in provincial politics and was the subject of our July 28, 2025, Cultural Moment.

Marvin Howe passed away on July 17, 1996, at the age of 90.

*Submitted by Bonny McDougall, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable*