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DOUGLAS WRIGHT

President and Vice-Chancellor

University of Waterloo

Douglas Wright grew up in Toronto and, while still in his teens, entered the University of Toronto's engineering school at Ajax, just after World War II.

He was graduated, in civil engineering, in 1949, and became a structural engineer with a consulting engineering firm. Later he attended the University of Illinois where he completed a master's degree, in 1952. In 1954 he received a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, where he attended on an Athlone Fellowship.

He taught civil engineering at Queen's University until 1958 when he became the first professor and the first chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the fledgling University of Waterloo. A few months later he became Waterloo's first dean of engineering.

In 1967 he moved to Toronto to become the chairman of the Ontario Committee on University Affairs and in 1969, chairman of the Ontario Commission on Post-Secondary Education. In 1972 he became a deputy minister at Queen's Park, in the social development policy field, and later in the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. He returned to Waterloo to become the university's third president and vice-chancellor, in 1981.

Dr. Wright continues to maintain an interest in engineering. He has served on technical committees and as a consulting engineer in Canada and abroad. Some of the projects with which he has been involved include the Ontario Place Cinesphere and Forum, the sports palace for the 1968 Mexican Olympics, and the proposed domed stadium in Toronto.

Following his service as chairman of the Task Force on Federal Policies and Programs for Technology Development, in 1983-84, he has frequently served as an unofficial spokesman for the university research community in Canada and has attempted to bring to the attention of his fellow Canadians the potential of our universities to contribute to our industrial and economic well-being in an era of high technology, rapid change and innovation.

He is a director of Electrohome Limited, Bell Canada, Westinghouse Canada, and the Stratford Shakespearian Festival.