

Owen S. Williams

Toronto '50

Oxford Cup Roll No. 43

Considered Beta Theta Pi's Canadian conscience in recent years, Owen S. Williams, *Toronto '50*, has given selflessly of his time and energies to the Fraternity's presence there, particularly in Ontario and Quebec.

Chairman of the Board of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation of Canada, he became an involved alumnus for Beta soon after earning an honours BA in economics. Entering the real estate field, he became an Accredited Real Estate Appraiser of the Canadian Institute and then earned an MBA from York University, Toronto, in 1968. He joined the new educational system of Community Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology at Seneca College, as assistant chairman of Business, later becoming director of the Real Estate & Insurance, Business Administration and General Business courses.

He retired in 1987, subsequently teaching retailing and related subjects at Ryerson University, Toronto, while concurrently holding an appointment as a field faculty professor of Business from Norwich State University of Vermont.

While a collegian, he was rush chairman and treasurer. "As procurer of scarce postwar items for the chapter," he conceded, "I was labeled 'Angles.'"

Owen has served on the Beta Theta Pi Foundation Board of Directors since 1995. He was chapter counselor to Theta Zeta (Toronto) chapter for more than 25 years, has been president of the chapter house corporation since 1976 and was chief of District IV, 1963-67.

Former treasurer and president of Theta Zeta Alumni Association, he was vice president of two Beta General Conventions and chaired the 50th, 75th and 90th Theta Zeta anniversary banquets. In 1996, he was awarded the additional chapter roll N° 1000 by Theta Zeta.

Born and residing in Toronto, Owen was commissioned in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1942. He served in various seagoing wartime assignments, latterly as executive officer of the Canadian Naval Repair Dockyard in Newfoundland.

Owen has four children: Kevin, a mechanical engineer; Mrs. Sheila Yeap, a teacher of mentally challenged young adults; Brian, a robotics technician, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Norland, a management consultant. "I have five grandchildren under 10," he adds, "and two are computer literate."

Director of the Naval Officers' Assn. of Canada, Toronto branch, he is on the executive of the Royal Canadian Legion, Fort York branch; deputy chair of the communications and marketing committee of St. John Ambulance of Canada and a member of the Soldiers' Tower Committee of the University of Toronto.

An officer of the Order of St. John, he was honored with the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation medal for community service and a Silver Medallion of the Naval Officers' Association of Canada. Owen is a member of the York Downs Golf & Country Club and the Beaver Valley Ski Club.

L.E. (Erv) Johnson, Idaho '53, Editor, The Beta Theta Pi