

Max Wolfe

# Boy's one-horse operation grew into grocery giant

The Globe and Mail

Max Wolfe, who as a teen-ager bought a horse, wagon and load of apples, then parlayed it into the Oshawa Group Ltd., died on Tuesday night in Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. He was 94.

Mr. Wolfe had suffered a stroke last fall and never recovered. He had remained honorary chairman of the board and showed up daily at his office until his stroke.

## OBITUARIES

The Oshawa Group is one of Canada's largest grocery retailing businesses.

Mr. Wolfe launched his one-horse business venture in 1909 but by 1914 the business had grown into the Ontario Produce Co., which he founded with his brother Maurice.

During the First World War it supplied produce to several armed forces bases and later became a full-scale food wholesaler under the name Oshawa Wholesale Ltd.

It is now known as the Oshawa Group Ltd. and Ontario Produce is still one of its divisions. The Oshawa Group operates IGA, Food City, Dutch Boy, Towers Department Stores, Drug City and other related businesses.

Mr. Wolfe was born in Lithuania and came to Canada in 1905 with his mother. They joined a sister who was already living in Brown Hill, Ont., northeast of Newmarket. Although he spoke no English, he enrolled in public school.

At the age of 16, he ventured into the produce business by putting up \$25 of his own savings and combining it with a \$60 loan.

He leaves his wife Beatrice, a daughter Phyllis, a son Harold, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.