Dr. J. Page Harshman was a well-respected Ontario ophthalmologist who graduated from the University of Guelph. Throughout his professional life, he published many scientific articles. He maintained a daily practice in his field of Ophthalmology in Etobicoke and also gained an international reputation for implementing programs for the blind. A respected leader in his field, Harshman was elected President of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society in 1974.

Harshman was the chair of the Harshman Foundation at the University of Guelph until his death in 1977. In 1978, the year following his death, the University honoured his contributions to the profession by creating a lecture series in his name. The Dr. J. P. Harshman Lecture series is sponsored by the Harshman Foundation, which was founded by H. H. Harshman. The foundation continues to support worthy students through undergraduate and graduate scholarships in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

After moving to Etobicoke, Harshman became involved with many aspects of his community. He worked on the new wing of the Queensway General Hospital and helped to develop the Hospital Auxiliary’s vision screening program.

In the 1987 Etobicoke Civic Awards Program, the former Premier of Ontario, William Davis, referred to Harshman as "one of those outstanding individuals who, in addition to meeting the demands of his profession, happily gave of his time to a wide variety of community interests. He was truly a distinguished Canadian whose belief in the noble values of humanity and decency will long be remembered by those who had the great honour of knowing him."

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1986