



HAWKESBURY

150 FACTS AND MEMORIES



THIS SOUVENIR MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HAWKESBURY
AND POSSIBLE THROUGH CANADA 150 FUNDS



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

JEANNE CHARLEBOIS

This year we are celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary. For 150 years, the residents of Hawkesbury have shared their hopes and dreams building a better life for their children and future generations. Let us all take the opportunity to read the stories of our people and our town.



This souvenir magazine will captivate the interest of the people from our community and our region.

I would like to thank the Recreation and Culture Committee, the volunteers and all those who were involved in the preparation of this souvenir magazine.

As Mayor and on behalf of the municipal council members, we hope you enjoy reading stories about our community.

Let us be proud of Canada, our country and of our Town of Hawkesbury.

Jeanne Charlebois
Maire de Hawkesbury





FEDERAL MP'S MESSAGE FRANCIS DROUIN

Chers concitoyens et concitoyennes,

À titre de député fédéral de Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, je vous souhaite une joyeuse fête du Canada.

Here, in Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, it means paying tribute to the communities that make up the cultural mosaic of our wonderful region. More specifically, our Indigenous, Francophone, Anglophone communities and new Canadians.

Je suis fier que le gouvernement du Canada appuie la tenue d'activités à l'échelle locale, régionale et nationale pour que les Canadiens d'un bout à l'autre du pays soient de la fête, et pour faire de 2017 une année mémorable.

Bon Canada 150! Happy Canada 150!

Francis Drouin, federal MP
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell

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PROVINCIAL MP'S MESSAGE

GRANT CRACK

The British North American Act was signed in 1867. A new state was then born.

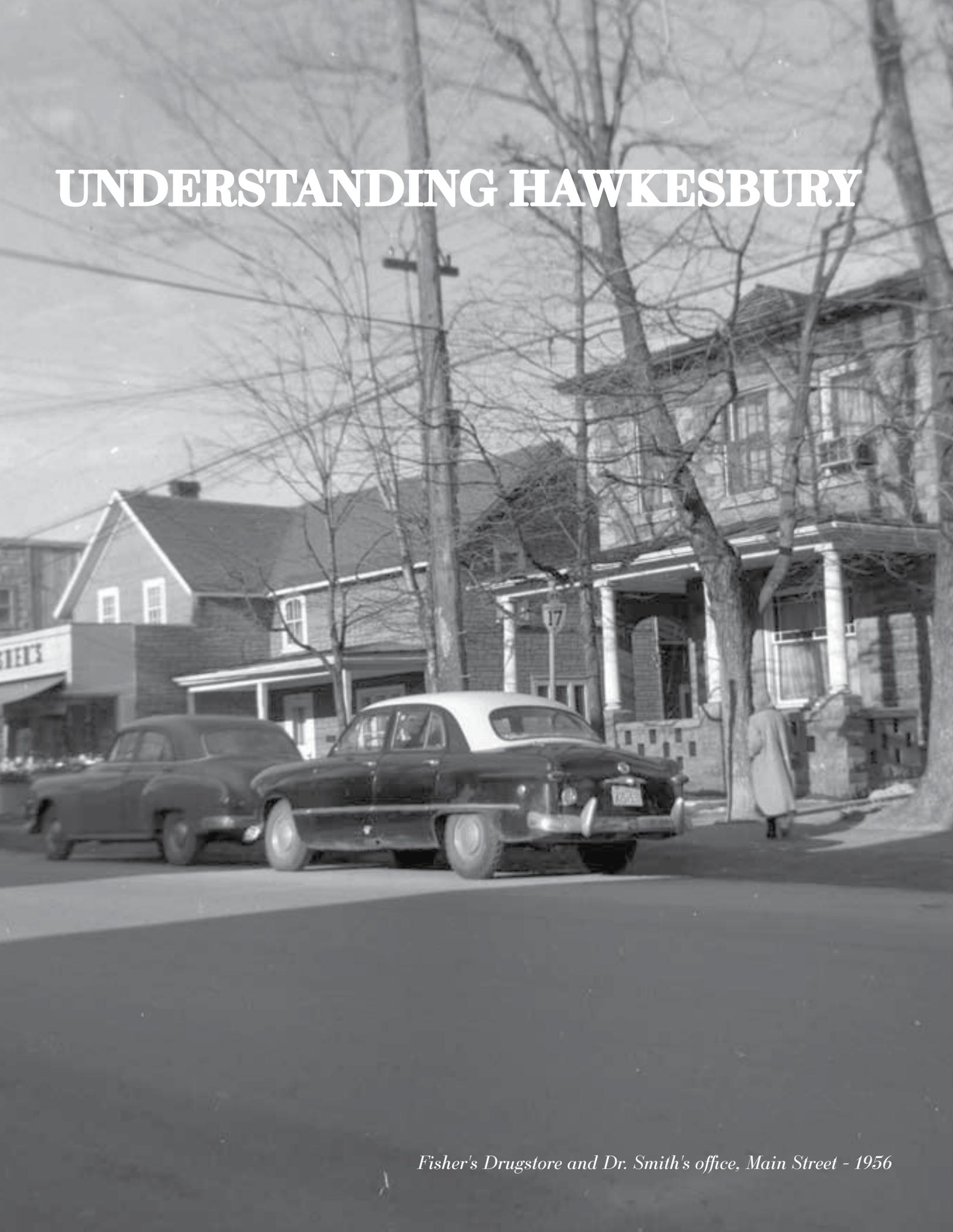
This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation. Let's take full advantage of the events that are being held everywhere in the country, in Ontario and more specifically in the Glengarry-Prescott-Russell region. Be proud to be Canadian.

Happy 150th anniversary
Canada!

Grant Crack, député
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell



UNDERSTANDING HAWKESBURY



Fisher's Drugstore and Dr. Smith's office, Main Street - 1956

THE PERFECT PLACE!

At the time Hawkesbury was an ideal place to thrive despite the Long-Sault rapids. In fact, due to the rapids, Hawkesbury was a key area to control riparian traffic and the trade business. The first sawmills were created by the combination of the current and the rapids, thus a hamlet was formed close to the islands.



Hamilton Sawmill - 1821

ORIGIN OF "CHENAIL"

The French language has transformed the word Snye which means "a side channel of a river" and "a channel joining two rivers". At the time, the sawmill functioned with a hydraulic system propelled by the current at the "chenail-écarté" which was in between the islands and the shore of Hawkesbury. With time, the French residents of Hawkesbury transformed the word Snye to Chenail.



Ancient channel of the Ottawa River - 1957

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

From the Right Honourable Charles Jenkinson, Baron of Hawkesbury, 1786 and later Earl of Liverpool. He was Minister of the colonies in the British Cabinet. It is a combination of Hawks, a family name, and bury, a transformation of berry (castle).

1858

1800

The Hawkesbury Township was created in 1800. It was one of four townships in Prescott County.

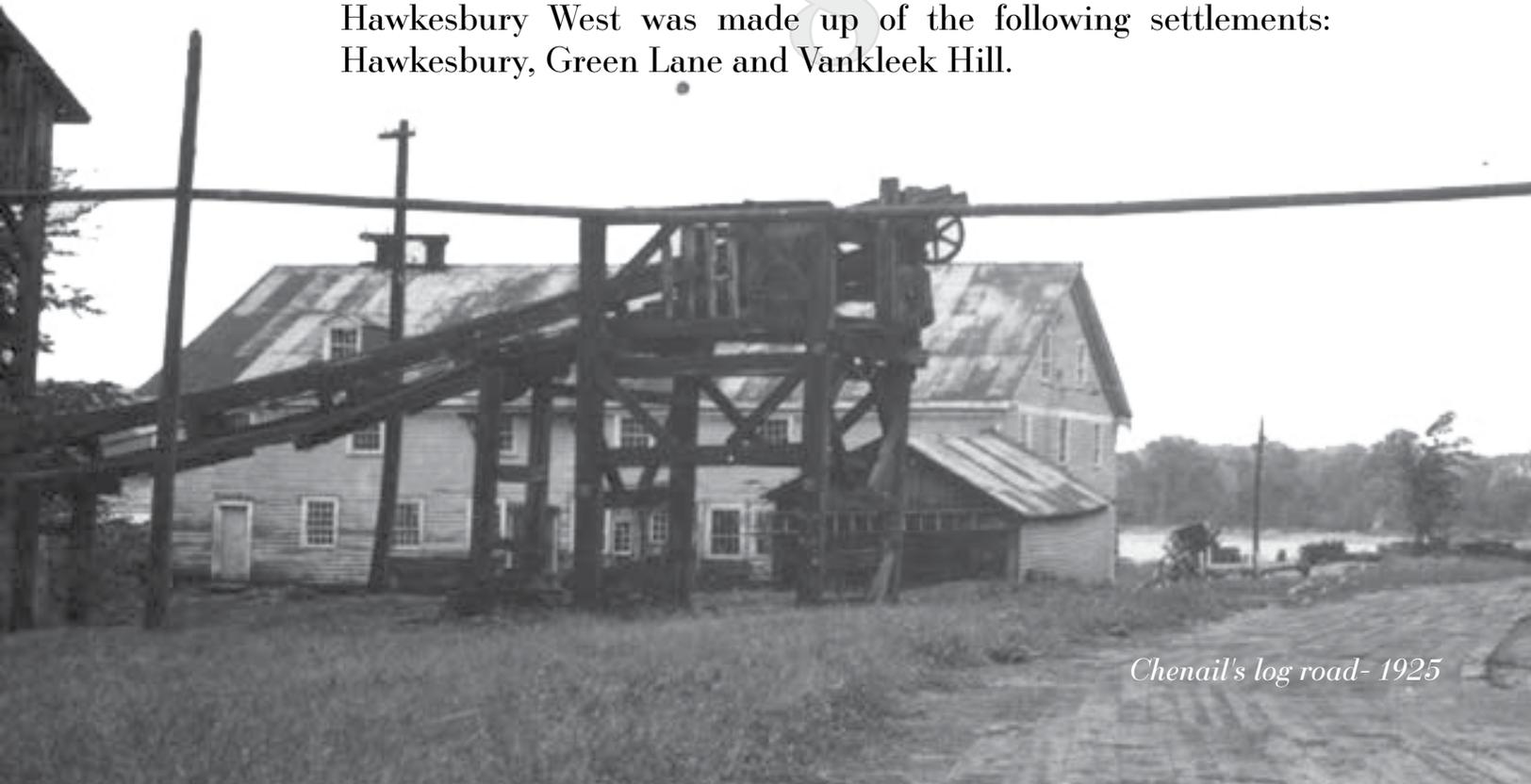
The hamlet of Hawkesbury was incorporated into a village on November 27, 1858. Five churches, four schools, one hotel and several businesses could be found. Three years later, in 1861, the Census stated that there were 1259 persons and 181 buildings in Hawkesbury.



Built in 1860, the Town Hall, Police Station and Fire Hall - 1957

1844

The township was split in two in 1844 and the townships of Hawkesbury East and Hawkesbury West were born. At that time Hawkesbury West was made up of the following settlements: Hawkesbury, Green Lane and Vankleek Hill.



Chenail's log road- 1925

1896

Hawkesbury was incorporated as a Town in 1896.

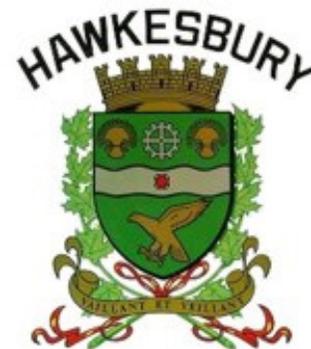
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2009

The 150th anniversary celebrations of the Town of Hawkesbury were an excellent opportunity to modernize its corporate image. The two colours of the logo, the colour blue and the colour green, represent water and land. The "H" as multiple significations such as illustrating growth and the future. The reflection represents the water of the Ottawa River as well as the town's radiance.



1959



The municipal council adopted the new coat of arms of the municipality in 1959. The coat of arms represents Hawkesbury's past by including a wheel that stands for industry and labor. The wood industry which brought prosperity to the Town is represented by the colour green, making reference to the woodland. In memory of the first Baron of Hawkesbury, the Saltire Cross in the horizontal bar is taken from the Jenkinson family's coat of arms. The hawk is used to identify the Town at first glance of the Hawkesbury coat of arms. The motto "Valiant and Vigilant" has two meanings. Firstly, recalling that through work Hawkesbury grew and secondly, referring to the hawk, a brave bird which was formerly used for hunting and never missing its prey: Its vigilance was no less than its valour.

THE BEGINNINGS

In its beginning, Hawkesbury had two central points. The first was created by the gathering of sawmills near the islands and the second was the McGill estates.

NATHANIEL HAZARD TREADWELL

Treadwell undertook the construction of the sawmill as well as the foundation of certain buildings before questions were raised regarding property rights.

The original leases were invalid despite the steps taken. The owners were the Algonquin and Nipissing tribes who lived on Lac des Deux-Montagnes. Although the Iroquois tried to lease the islands to Treadwell and Whitlock, neither had any rights to the islands.

Thomas Mears, an American living in St-André since 1794 with the financial backing of John Shutter, a Montreal businessman, signed a contract with the Algonquins and the Nipissings. By signing this lease agreement the tribes lost their rights to the islands on the Ottawa River for a 99 year period.

Still in 1805, Mears and Shutter purchased approximately 1,000 acres of land in the Township of West-Hawkesbury.

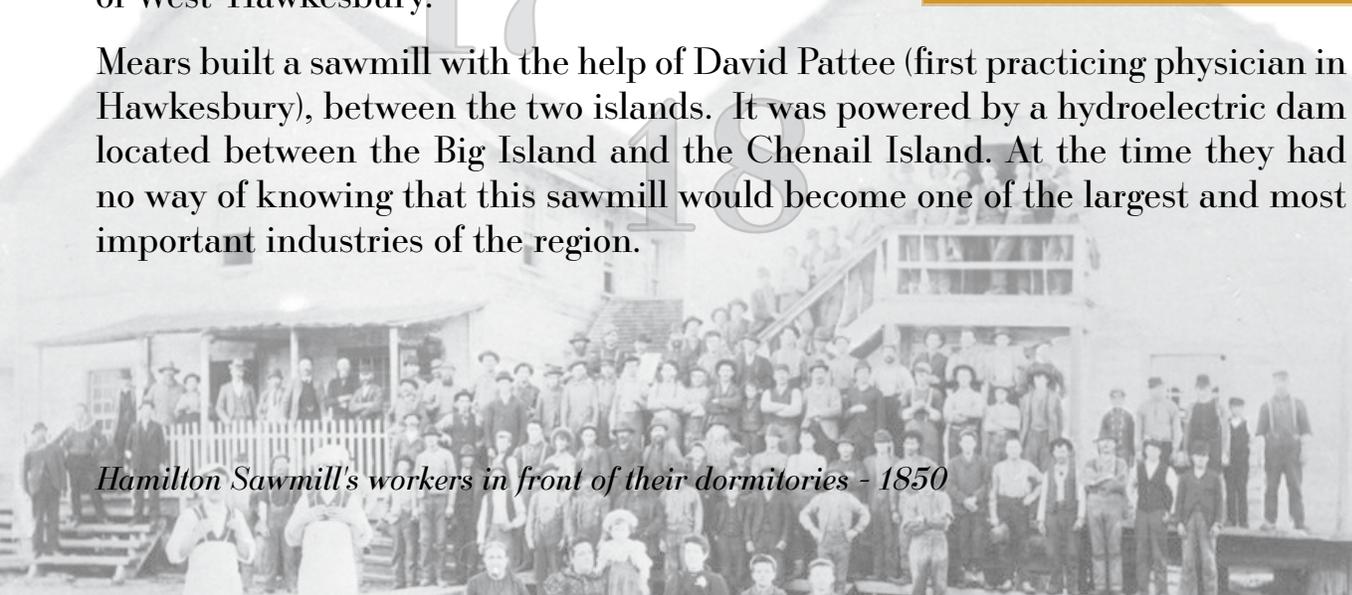
Mears built a sawmill with the help of David Pattee (first practicing physician in Hawkesbury), between the two islands. It was powered by a hydroelectric dam located between the Big Island and the Chenail Island. At the time they had no way of knowing that this sawmill would become one of the largest and most important industries of the region.

JOHN WHITLOCK

In 1802, a contract was signed between John Whitlock of the Argenteuil Seigneurie and the chiefs of the Iroquois tribes of Deux-Montagnes. This contract stipulated that the Big Island would be leased to Whitlock for 900 years in exchange for 300 boards measuring ten feet in length, payable every year to the Iroquois chiefs.

During the same year, Whitlock sold his rights to the land to Nathaniel Hazard Treadwell of the l'Original Seigneurie. Although the reasons for the sale are still unknown, the events suggest that Whitlock was not in a position to undertake the construction of a sawmill.

Hamilton Sawmill's workers in front of their dormitories - 1850



THE MILLS

Following the purchase of the Chenail Island, the mill was completed in 1808. A second sawmill was added. The mill now has two sawmills, including the first one built in 1805.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Mears had financial difficulties in October of 1810. Therefore, he decided to mortgage half of the islands on contract with the Algonquins to the Hamilton brothers, William, George and Robert Hamilton of Ireland.

HAMILTON MILL

In 1811, no longer being able to meet his loan agreement with the Hamilton brothers, Mears had his property seized for resale purposes. Mears also surrendered half of his rights to the contract signed with the Algonquins. It was at this time that the Hamilton Mill was built.

SALE OF SHARES

In 1815 the Hamilton brothers bought Shutter's shares of the company.

FEVER OUTBREAK

An epidemic of typhoid fever swept through Hawkesbury in 1819. With the help of Dr. J.J. Bixby, British army physician, the outbreak was well controlled.

WORKING IN THE SAWMILL

The Hamilton sawmills employed over 250 workers in July of 1859, including 118 Anglophones and 132 Francophones. The average salary was \$1.07 per day, varying between \$2.00 and \$0.15. Anglophones earned approximately \$1.07 per day and Francophones approximately \$0.82.

FERRY

Captain William Lawlor Jr. opens the first ferry service between Hawkesbury and Calumet in 1876. Because this allowed wider access to the neighbouring areas in a timely fashion, the ferry service became very popular very quickly. Goods arrived in Calumet only a few hours after leaving Montreal then to Hawkesbury by boat.

ISLANDS IN HAWKESBURY

Before the Carillon dam, there were 7 existing islands:

- Big Island (Hamilton Island)
- Union Island
- Shannon Island
- Cobb Island
- Mears Island
- Treadwell Island
- Perriwig Island

Today only Hamilton Island and Chenail Island remain.

THE BEGINNINGS (CONT.)

McGILL ESTATE

Mears established McGill Estates as soon as the Hawkesbury mills were launched. The estate was located between Main, McGill, Regent and Hampden Streets, names known today. The estate welcomed many Anglophones, traders, financiers and industries alike.

In 1807, Mears diverted the course of the creek to create the "Mill Pond", an artificial lake. The pond served to run his wheat mill.

It was on McGill Street (today's Mill Entrance Street) that Mears built his home and a wheat mill near the creek around 1815. He setup shop near Vankleek Hill Road and the post office.

Peter McGill bought some lots from Mears, he then upgraded the wheat mill to a distillery, which served well during the years of prohibition.

In 1819, Mears built a steamboat the *Union of the Ottawa*, for Philemon Wright, Hull's founder, which was used for towing his rafts on the Ottawa River.

Thomas Mears was Hawkesbury's first postmaster.

In the late 1830s, McGill sold the mill and the distillery to Z.S.M. Hersey.

In the year 1850 we find in Hawkesbury:

Z.M. Hersey's flour and oat sawmill, a hatter, a furrier, a woolen mill, a tanner, a saddler, a forge, a carpentry workshop, a planner, three box makers, a cooper and several other merchants.

In 1881, in Hawkesbury were 320 facilities and 1,920 inhabitants.

OTTAWA RIVER

The river was an important resource that triggered the beginning of Hawkesbury. It was the key to most industries of Hawkesbury. It facilitated the proper operation of the mills by bringing the logs to and fro and by propelling the mills. The river also served as a highway of sorts. Trade was also pushed by the use of the river and it made it possible for anyone to stop between Ville-Marie (Montreal) and By-Town (Ottawa).



THE FIRST INHABITANTS

A large majority of Hawkesbury's first inhabitants were loyalists who fled the United States during the War of Independence. British immigrants were encouraged to settle on British land for free. A lot of English, Scottish and Irish immigrants settled in the Outaouais around 1802. Near the mid/end-19th century is when the French Canadians settled in the area to live of agriculture.

CARTS & BUGGIES

In 1840, a cart and buggy factory was located on Main Street.

FACILITIES & INHABITANTS

In 1861, 181 facilities and 1,259 inhabitants were found in Hawkesbury.

FIRST GENERAL STORE

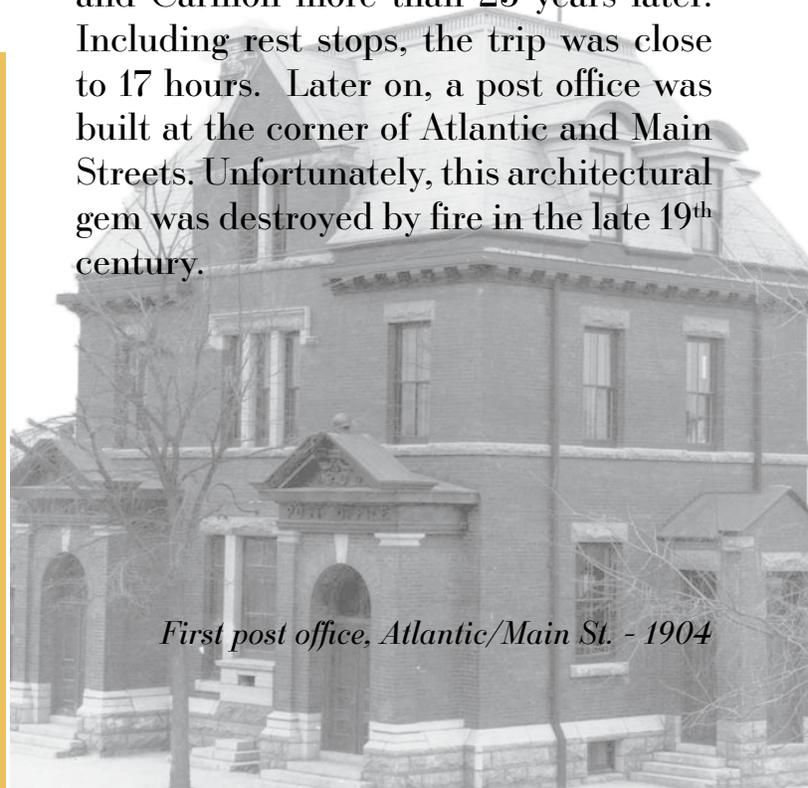
Hawkesbury's first General Store located on Main Street was opened in 1820 by John W. Higginson. Main Street brought together the farmers and the sawmill workers. At that time, there was an industrial area located on the Chenail Islands along with the Hamilton brothers' sawmill and on the mainland there was a commercial area with flourmills, a distillery and a few houses, commonly referred to as McGill Estate. The opening of this general store greatly facilitated supplying goods to everyone.

FIRST POST OFFICE

In 1832, in one of the residences on McGill Street, the first Hawkesbury post office was established. In the summer, the mail was moved by boat and by horseback, during the winter months it was moved by sleigh. A regular mail service was established between Ottawa and Carillon more than 25 years later. Including rest stops, the trip was close to 17 hours. Later on, a post office was built at the corner of Atlantic and Main Streets. Unfortunately, this architectural gem was destroyed by fire in the late 19th century.

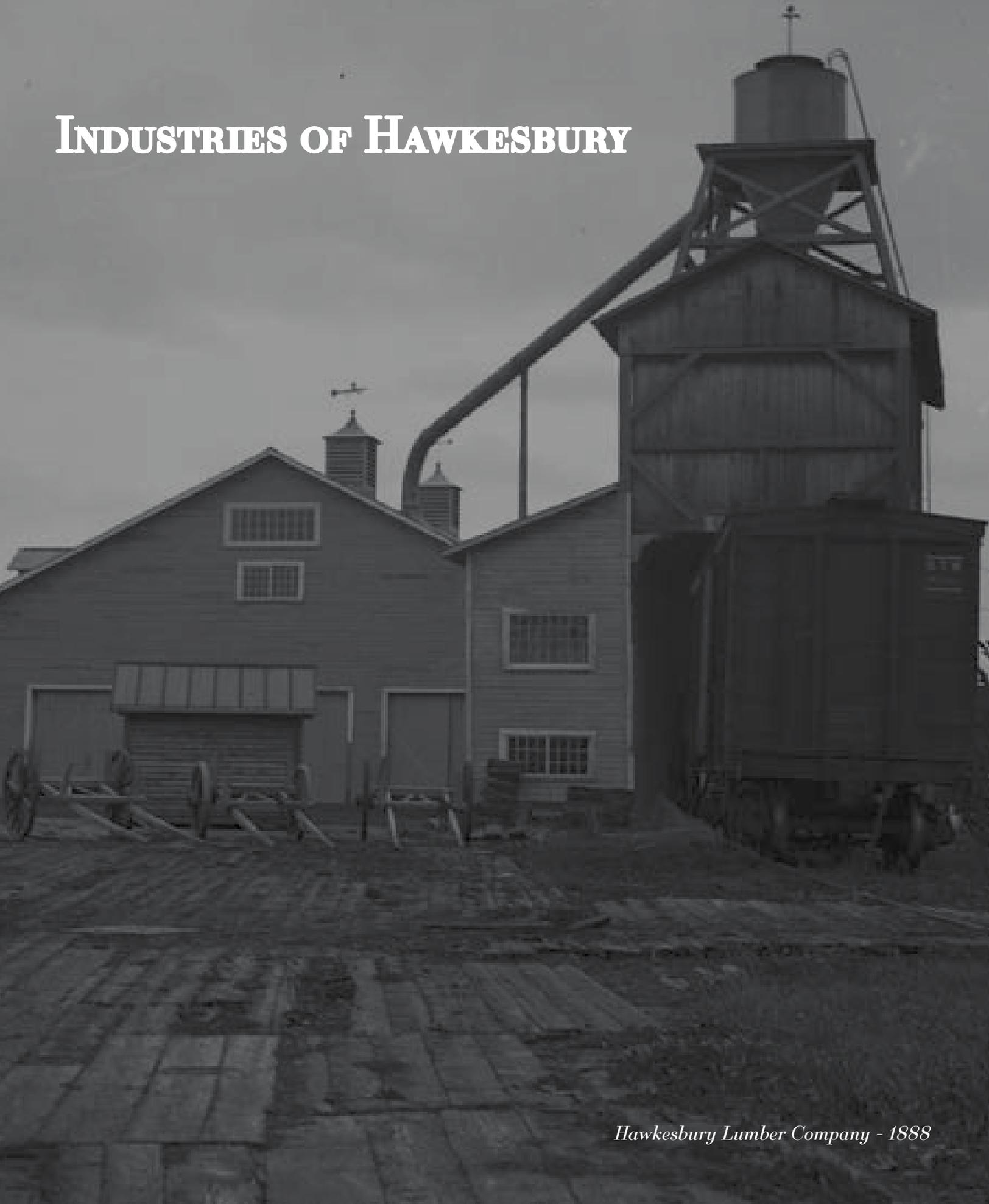
FIRST CENSUS

The first Canadian census held in 1871 indicated that 46% of all its lumber exports came from the Hamilton sawmills located in Hawkesbury on the Chenail Islands. Back then, 900 people were employed, the majority being Francophone. These figures clearly show that the local economy of that time was mostly connected to the timber industry.



First post office, Atlantic/Main St. - 1904

INDUSTRIES OF HAWKESBURY



Hawkesbury Lumber Company - 1888

THE HAMILTON FAMILY SUFFERED HARD TIMES IN 1822!

ROBERT'S DEATH

After Robert's passing in 1822 the bank requested immediate repayment on his loan.

TRAGEDY AFTER TRAGEDY

To add to the misfortune, George's house burned to the ground without insurance! He decided to move his wife and 3 children to Montreal to join his parents, unfortunately the canoe capsized. His wife and children perished.

FLOOD

Due to a flood, all of the reserve logs were washed away and lost.

BOYCOTT IS LIFTED

The French Emperor (Napoleon Bonaparte) lifted his boycott blocking all Scandinavian ports from trade with the British. This didn't fare too well due to the fact that the Hamiltons provided Great Britain for the construction of their ship fleet.

REMINDER

Due to non-payment of an outstanding mortgage debt, the Hamilton brothers bought out the mill in 1811.

EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

In England, the Hamilton brothers had a very good system for wood transportation. At first, in Hawkesbury, William would oversee the facilities and operation of the mill. After a few years, George took William's place. In Quebec City, William received the merchandise and sent it on to Robert in Liverpool, where he would take care of the wood sales.

WINTER IN THE FIELD

During the winter months, the workers would leave the mill to work in the field cutting timber, usually near the Rouge River. In the spring, the logs would be transported to the mill via the Ottawa River.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the first years of the sawmill, the workers and their families were housed in two huge communes. Not long after, the Hamiltons built and rented small houses to the workers.

SAWMILL IN HAWKESBURY (CONT.)

1840

In the 1840s, on the islands, there were 3 buildings that included 75 vertical saws and 11 circular saws. The sawmill hired 300 men, 6 months of the year.



C.I.P. employee meeting. - 1918

1895

Interesting facts, in 1895, we found:

5 sawmills.

The mill cuts 700,000 feet of timber per day.

The company had 950 employees.

1888

John Hamilton passed away in 1888, the last Hamilton to own the sawmill.

1889

Following John's death, an industrial group out of Ottawa (Blackburn, Thistle, Egan and Robinson) bought the sawmill in 1889. The mill was then renamed the "Hawkesbury Lumber Company".

1839

In 1839, George passed away and the sawmills were bequeathed to his sons. John is able to give an economic boost to the company with various sources of capital mostly coming from the Higginson family.

These were productive and profitable times for the Hawkesbury Lumber Company. This financial boost went hand in hand with the post-World-War 1 economy.

1920

The sawmills were renovated and remained the main employer in Hawkesbury. They were the main industry until the early 1920s.



Fire at the Chenail SawMill - 1925

1928

The mill burned down in 1928.

1941

In 1941, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Bruneau purchased the facilities to create a smaller sawmill for hardwood. Following Mr. Campbell's death, Bruneau becomes associated with Mr. Holtby.

1925

The lumberyard and John Hamilton's "Evandale" house burned in 1925.

1929

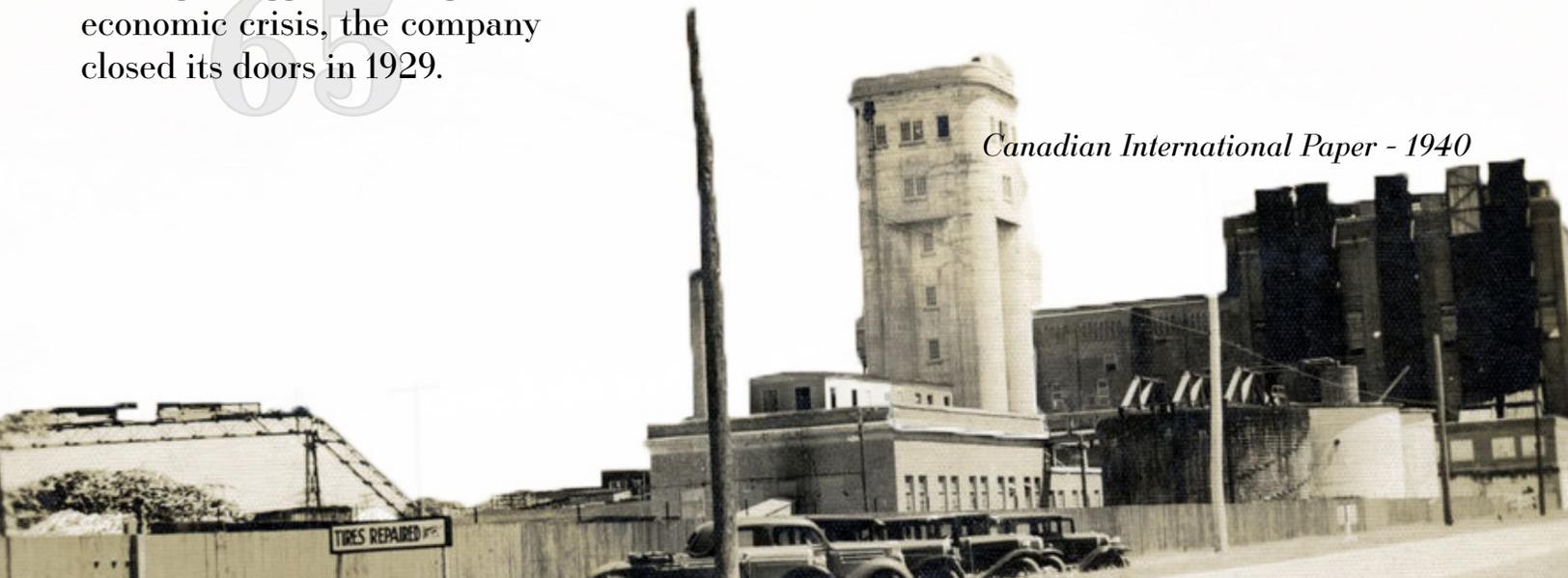
Having struggled through the economic crisis, the company closed its doors in 1929.

1934

After a partial rebuild in 1934-35, the facilities were once again engulfed in flames.

1956

Ontario Hydro purchased the properties in 1956 and leased the sawmill's infrastructure to Sinclair Supply until 1961, the year of expropriation.



Canadian International Paper - 1940

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL PAPER

The Riordon brothers, John and Charles, were the founders of one of the most significant companies in Hawkesbury, the Canadian International Paper Company (CIP).

1898

Charles and John erected the Riordon Paper Mills Ltd plant in Hawkesbury in 1898, which manufactured sulphite pulp. The production capacity of the plant was 75 tons per day.

1937

In 1937, there was a change in the type of production. The factory began producing rayon, a synthetic silk, cellophane and fabric fibers that was derived from dissolved soft wood pulp.

1915

1915 marks the beginning of research on the use of wood pulp in the production of rayon and cellophane.

1923

In 1923, to continue with scientific research on pulp dissolution, a laboratory was built.

1925

In 1925, finding itself in financial difficulties, Riordon Paper Mills is taken over by Canadian International Paper.

1948

In 1948, the research laboratory became an incorporated entity. It became Industrial Cellulose Research Limited, based in Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury plant was one of the first sulphite wood pulp factories built in Canada, thanks to the C.I.P.

Between the years of 1925 to 1965, the laboratory established a world-wide reputation for its research in pulping, bleaching and the technology of viscose rayon textile fibres, tire cord and cellophane film, as well as cellulose acetate fibre, film and plastic.

Before the fire, the factories produced only paper. When they were rebuilt, a bleaching stage was added, which was when the company stopped producing paper. This change limited only the exclusive manufacturing of pulp sulphite.

1975

In 1975, three CIP employees, Robert Denis, Joseph Piché and Rhéal Parent lost their lives in a work accident when they were doing some repair work.

1973

In 1973, the 404 employees of the CIP union went on strike for 3 months in order to claim their pension plan, job security, salary increase and more.

1991

Following the merger of the CIP with Great Lakes Paper, it was decided that an in-house research lab was no longer needed and the laboratory was closed in 1991.

1960

10 years later, the CIP started the formulation of cardboard producing sulphite paper. It produced approximately 165 tons of dissolving paper and 55 tons of sulphite paper. In order to produce this, the mill consumed 550 cords of wood.

1950

During the 1950s, the mill converted to produce about 260 metric tons per day of dissolving and specialty pulps.

1982

On September 8, 1982, the management announced that the CIP would be closing on December 1, 1982, after 84 years in Hawkesbury.

1971

Due to a major ammonia leak in 1971, 3,000 people were evacuated from their homes, 215 were treated for poisoning

DEVELOPMENT IN HAWKESBURY!



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Town Council passed a regulation prohibiting the sale of alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco to young people in 1916.

MONUMENT OF THE FRANCOPHONIE

The monument depicts both a man's and a woman's hand cupping a lily, the symbol of Francophonie, in order to protect it. Today, the Franco-Ontarian Flag flies proudly above the monument and is visible from a distance. This monument demonstrates and celebrates the pride Hawkesbury's French-Canadians have for the French language.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Students and their families have been able to cross streets in Hawkesbury safely for many decades, thanks to then, Municipal Chief of Police, Mr. Remi Lecot. In 1956, he started recruiting 8th grade students from Christ-Roi School to serve as crossing-guards. We still find this service at street corners near the schools in Hawkesbury.

MAISON DE L'ÎLE

Built in 1832, the Maison de l'Île is the only vestige of the early days of the town of Hawkesbury. It used to serve as an administrative office for the Hamilton sawmills. It was in 1995, that the Maison de l'Île was designated a heritage building, and today we find the Chenail Cultural Center.



Administrative employees of Hamilton Sawmill in front of the Maison de l'Île - 1895

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION OF HAWKESBURY

The Royal Canadian Legion of Hawkesbury, branch 472 received its official colors on September 4, 1950 from then Governor General of Canada, Lord Alexander. The Hawkesbury branch is the first of the Royal Canadian Legion to receive their colors from a governor general.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CON.)

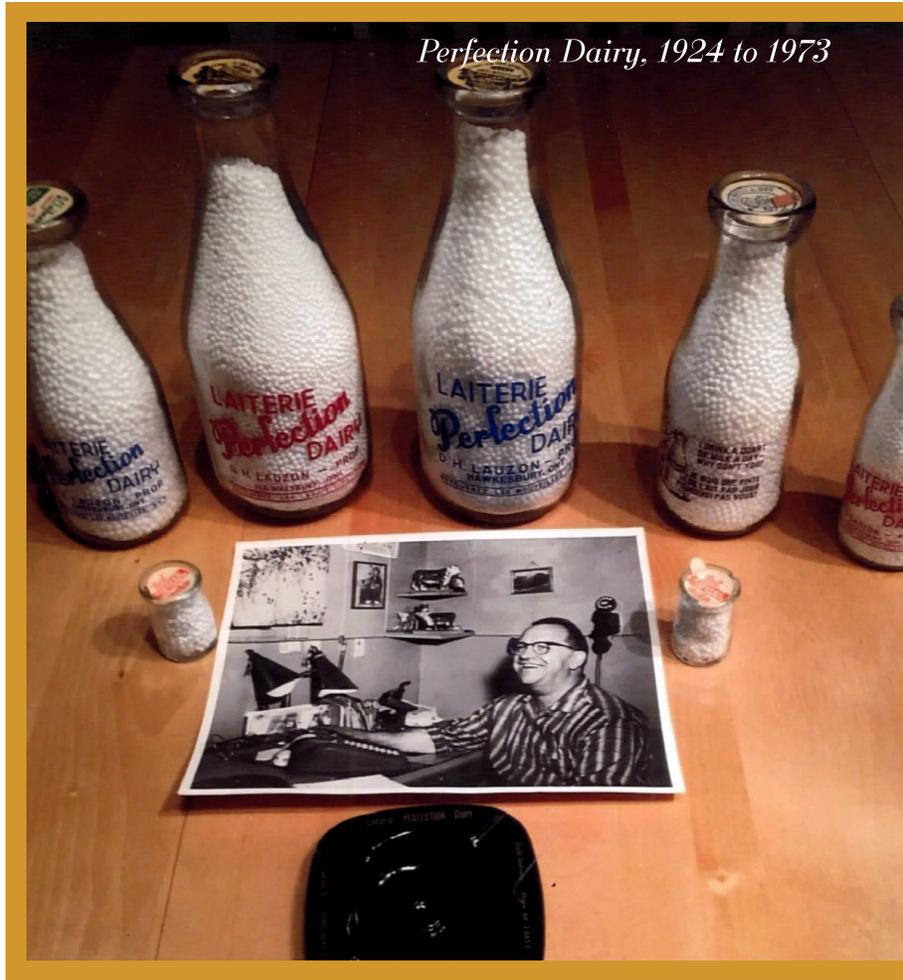
PERFECTION DAIRY

Perfection Dairy was part of the Hawkesbury scenery for several years, specifically from 1924 to 1973. Owned by Mr. Donat H. Lauzon and located on Sinclair Street, it was known for its variety of bottled milk. The dairy evolved over the years by offering diverse milk varieties. The dairy was the first to sell 2% milk in Hawkesbury. At first, the milk was delivered to homes on horseback, subsequently the dairy obtained delivery trucks. Many Hawkesbury residents used the service that has disappeared over the years.

FIRE TRUCK

The town bought its first fire truck in 1924.

In 1985, the town bought a new truck from the former Vanier municipality in Ottawa, which was repainted red over the original yellow colour. The day the truck was delivered, before it was properly equipped, there was a fire alarm at the C.I.P., The truck went to work still wearing its yellow colour. The truck proudly served until 2010 when it was retired due to its age.

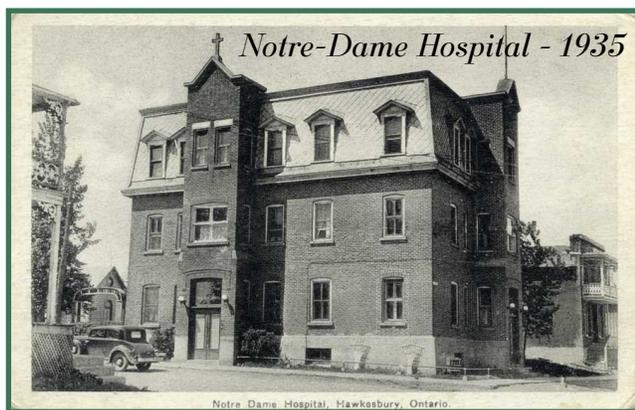


HEALTH CARE SERVICES

In 1820, Dr. Frank G. Pattee bought an old hotel in order to convert it into a medical clinic.

SMITH CLINIC

In 1876, Dr. T.W. Smith opened a 10-bed clinic, which was the beginning of minor surgeries in Hawkesbury. In 1915, he bought his hospital, which was converted to the Smith Clinic after the Second World War. In 1961, there were 50 beds in the clinic and a very good medical team. It then merged with the Hawkesbury General Hospital.



NOTRE-DAME HOSPITAL

In 1925, father Gascon bought the old Lion d'Or hotel on William Street and transformed it into a hospital. The Grey Nuns of the Ottawa Cross took possession of the building to create the Notre-Dame Hospital in 1927. The former hospital is still visible at the corner of William and Regent Streets.

MOIRA & BON PASTEUR

It was in 1940 that father Guindon welcomed the nuns of the Bon Pasteur community in order to manage the new hospital and maternity ward. In 1956, a new hospital for women, St-Coeur-de-Marie hospital was created. Gradually, the two hospitals merged to create the two annexes of the Hawkesbury General Hospital. The old hospital was transformed into a nursing home for the elderly.

KELLY HOSPITAL

Located at the corner of Main and McGill. In 1927, Dr. E.P. Kelly bought the former Pattee Family Hospital under Dr. Frank Pattee. It remained open until his death in 1956.

HAWKESBURY GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Hawkesbury General Hospital currently holds 69 beds and was initiated in 1984 at 1111 Ghislain Street. Since its opening, the hospital has been steadily expanding its services to patients and their families. It is with the various physician offices added over the years that Hawkesbury is becoming recognized for its quality health care. In 2014, the hospital announced that it was undertaking a major expansion and redevelopment project to provide more beds, better access to health care, with new state-of-the-art equipment.



INDUSTRIAL PERIOD

Between the years 1959 and 1964, the Mont-Roc district stepped up to welcome residents of Le Chenail and the Old Mill pond was transformed into a residential community.

In 1967, one of Hawkesbury's most devastating fire destroyed Dalfen's, Bond Clothes and Dumont Pharmacy. More than 56 people lost their homes.

In June 1967, Hawkesbury was declared an "under privileged area". This declaration allowed industries to receive several government grants such as municipal tax breaks to industries settling in the municipality.

After this announcement, the town Council decided to purchase the Cameron Farm at a cost of \$70,000, creating the Hawkesbury Industrial Park. The creation of this area changed the future of Hawkesbury.

Several companies settled in Hawkesbury during the following years, such as Duplate Canada Ltd., Workman Bag Co Ltd, Tul Safety Equipment, Wonderbra plant and others.

More than 1,000 jobs were created between June 1967 and January 1970.

In 1968, the Canadian Tire Corporation, which at the time was situated on Main Street, succumbed to fire. The damages were estimated at more than half a million.

April 24, 1980, Amoco's 540 employees went on a 134-day strike, beginning one of the most significant strikes in Hawkesbury's history. One of the most important events of the strike was when the Town Hall was attacked by strikers and civilians.

The Amoco plant closed its doors in 1999.

DUPLATE CANADA LTD.

Duplate Canada Ltd. was the first major company to settle after the announcement in January 1968. At that time, Duplate created 1,500 windshields per day giving an average of 500,000 per year. Some of Duplate's customers were Volvo and General Motors. As well, Duplate created all the windows for the Montreal Forum and the Metro in honor of Expo 67. Duplate changed its name to Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) in the late twentieth century and it closed its doors in 2009.



Administrative employees of Duplate Canada ltd. - 1940

ROAD, RAIL AND INLAND WATERWAY NETWORKS

FIRST STREET IN HAWKESBURY

The Chemin du Roy was the first street in Hawkesbury (currently McGill Street).

CAMERON STREET

John Cameron came from Scotland in 1815. He bought 200 acres of land for agricultural purposes in the eastern part of the city.

MCGILL STREET

A wealthy Montrealer by the name of Peter McGill came to the financial rescue of Mears by buying his facilities. He converted the wheat mill to a distillery.

BON PASTEUR STREET

The nuns from the community of Bon Pasteur managed Maternity Hospital on McGill Street.

FIRST SIDEWALKS

The year 1902 was important in the development of Hawkesbury. It was during that year that the first sidewalks, streets and sewer systems were built.

STREET LIGHTNING

In 1903, the first light bulbs on the streets of Hawkesbury were installed.

LONG SAULT BRIDGE

At the time, the Long Sault rapids spanned 14 miles. They started in Hawkesbury and went as far as Pointe-Fortune and Carillon. The rapids created many headaches for the areas newest inhabitants, but also for the First Nations who used the river regularly, as the fast moving water was the cause of many accidents. However, the rapids were eventually eliminated due to the rise in water level for the Carillon dam.

GRENVILLE CANAL

The Grenville Canal was built by the Royal Staff Corps between 1819 and 1832 between Carillon and Grenville in order to avoid the Long-Sault rapids. The canal had a positive impact on the development of the city and navigation. We can still see some sections of the Canal that was flooded during the construction of the Carillon dam.

A RAILWAY IN HAWKESBURY

It was in 1900 that Hawkesbury welcomed the first train from Quebec. A railway bridge then united the towns of Grenville and Hawkesbury over the Ottawa River. The Grand Trunk railway station was located at Place des Pionniers in the heart of Main Street.



C.N.R. station - 1930

RELIGIOUS LIFE IN HAWKESBURY

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St-Paul's Presbyterian Church was established in 1829, and was associated with the congregations of L'Original, and of Grenville. However, it was only in 1888 that the church had its first reverend. In 1970, due to financial difficulties, St-Pauls merged with the Knox Church of Vankleek Hill. The current church located on John Street was built in 1870.



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

It is on August 16, 1846, that the first celebration took place at the Holy Trinity Church on McGill Street. The Hamiltons helped financially and Peter McGill donated the land. The presbytery was built in 1873. The church is still part of the Hawkesbury scenery and accommodates many faithfuls.



THE UNITED CHURCH

It is on September 27, 1925, in the former Baptist temple on McGill Street that the first United Church religious service took place. The members of the congregation were very involved in their church and in the neighboring communities. On October 5, 2014, the church closed after nearly 90 years of service. This decision was not an easy one to take for the members who worked so hard to keep it open.

CONSTRUCTION OF A CHURCH

In the beginning, the religious activities were held in a newly built chapel. However, due to a sharp increase in Hawkesbury's population, the chapel no longer met the needs of its followers. Thus in 1881, a church was built out of wood.

A PARISH IS ERECTED

On August 1, 1873, the church was canonically erected into a parish. As August 1st is the anniversary of Saint-Alphonse-de-Liguori, the church took his name.

STONE CHURCH

Since the population was still growing there was a ground-breaking ceremony on June 14, 1896 for the construction of a new stone church that was blessed on September 5, 1897.

A NEW CHURCH

On October 25, 1924, a fire destroyed the church. Two years after the tragic accident, a new church was built.

A NEW PARISH

In 1957, the Archbishop authorized the founding of a new parish, the Ascension-de-Notre-Seigneur-Jésus-Christ.

SAINT-JUDE PARISH

In 1959, Saint-Jude parish was created to serve English-speaking Catholics.

SAINT-DOMINIQUE PARISH

On July 1, 1964, in the west section of town, the parish of Saint-Dominique was created.

DECLINE OF PARISHIONERS

Between 2004 and 2011, the parishes of Saint-Dominique and the Ascension-de-Notre-Seigneur-Jésus-Christ closed their doors due to a lack of followers. It was then that all religious activities started to take place at the Saint Alphonse de Liguori parish, which was renamed to Saint-Pierre-Apôtre.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

In 1942, the St-Alphonse parish of Hawkesbury became the host for a Eucharistic Congress that attracted thousands of faithful citizens from all over the region. The entire city was beautifully decorated for this grand event. A wind of piety blew through the region onto Ottawa, where the clergy participated. For several days, this eucharistic congress was an activity full of life, enthusiasm, joy and recruitment.



Parish of Saint-Dominique - 1980

RECREATION & CULTURE

HAWKESBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Hawkesbury Public Library was located in the basement of St-Alphonse de Liguori Church for seven months before moving in 1965 to a new location at 158 Main Street on the upper floor of the former Post Office. In 1965, in the Centennial Year, the Library Commission acquired the Rutherford Residence on the corner of Main and James Street as the new library site. From 1965 to 1971, the annual circulation of books rose from 19,980 to 38,449, the number of subscribers from 1,564 to 3,095 and the number of books from 8,000 to 19,980. Faced with the demands of the population of the town and the surrounding villages, it became necessary to build a new stand alone library, erected exclusively to meet the populations present and future needs. The new space was built by the Town of Hawkesbury and was opened to the public on October 15, 1972. The Hawkesbury Public Library is still located at 550 Higginson Street. The library continues to increase the efficiency of its services for the benefit of the community. The library now has more than 63,251

documents including books, magazines, DVDs, audio books and more. They also offer numerous programs, workshops and conferences.

GOLD MEDAL IN CURLING!

In 1989, the Hawkesbury woman's curling team of the Regional Catholic High School won the gold medal at the Ontario high school championship. This was a first for our region. In 1990, at the same competition, the teens won the bronze medal. That same year, the team ranked first at the Eastern Ontario Junior Championship. They went to Sudbury and won the gold medal for the best junior team in Ontario. At the Canadian championship, they represented the province, the team finished in 4th place. In the photograph: Nathalie Hoffman (skip),

Nathalie Lascelles, Marie-Josée Carrier, Christine Timber and Claude Hoffman (coach). For four years, they honored their school and the town of Hawkesbury by winning several championships.



SILVER STARS

During the 60s and 70s, the Silver Stars bugle and drums corps was well known in Hawkesbury. The Silver Stars were ambassadors of Hawkesbury, winning several trophies and gold medals. They participated in competitions and parades throughout Canada and the United States, including Expo 67, the Carnaval de Québec and to Niagara Falls. Ranging in age from 5 to 21, the Corps included a drumline, bugles, color guards, rifles and majorettes. In 1971, the Corps hosted several provincial championships in Hawkesbury where more than 20 drums and bugle corps marched down Main Street, followed by competitions at the Memorial Center. This attracted more than 1,500 participants in Hawkesbury! In March 1974, the Corps hosted the International Color Guard Competitions in Hawkesbury and won 1st Place. The Silver Stars dissolved in 1975 due to a fire that destroyed the family home of the Gray's, the creators of the Corps.



FIRST ARENA

Hawkesbury's first arena was built in 1958 with an ice rink and a bowling alley.

WINNERS OF THE CUP

The Hawks (Jr A) won the Fred Page Cup in 2005; this cup was awarded to the team that won the eastern Canada tournament division.

FIRST GOLF CLUB

Hawkesbury's first golf club opened its doors in 1947. It was called the Abénakis Golf Club and was located near the CIP.

SPORTS COMPLEX

The Sports Complex opened its doors in 1979. When the complex was under construction, the pool was to be located at the current ice rink location. The plans were changed to accommodate the blasting difficulties due to the hard soil. Thus, the pool and rink locations were interchanged.

MEMORIAL PARK

The grounds of the Memorial Park were donated to the Town of Hawkesbury by Mr. Samuel Derwin Stevens Sr. and Mr. James H. Ross on June 18, 1845.

HORSE RACING ON THE RIVER

Towards the end of the 19th century, hoteliers Patrick Quigley of the Canada Hotel and Émile Rochon of the Hawkesbury Hotel, later the King Edward, organized horse races on the river when the ice was thick enough.

1900

The Trestle bridge linking Hawkesbury and Grenville was built by Canadian Northern in 1900. This bridge allowed merchandise and people to cross both shores. The bridge was dismantled when the Carillon dam was opened.

FUN FACTS

1930

After several years of demands, the construction of the Perley Bridge in honor of the Member of Parliament for Argenteuil Mr. George Perley began in 1930. In 1931, motorists started using the bridge between Hawkesbury and Grenville. This two-lane bridge made it easier for people to cross the river. Over the years, the bridge was repaired a few times. In 1999, the bridge was destroyed and replaced by the Long Sault Bridge.

1890

It was in 1890 that the telephone made its beginnings in Hawkesbury. A shopkeeper by the name of Costello was the first local manager of the Canada Telephone Company. A year later, Bell opened a call center in Hawkesbury. In 1920, there were 251 subscribers.

1940

During the Second World War, the Quebec manufacturers were in urgent need of electricity. Hydro-Québec dropped anchor on the Long Sault to create a hydroelectric dam. By creating this dam, the water level had to rise considerably and flood several fields along the river, specifically the Chenail.

The Chenail was important for the development of Hawkesbury as it was one of Hawkesbury's first residential and working-class neighborhoods. At first, the mill workers lived in communes, later in small homes. There were also some stores and businesses.

1980

The famous Canadian walker Terry Fox arrived in Hawkesbury on the last Sunday of June 1980. Several citizens gathered to welcome and encourage him! Since that day, several local schools walk in his memory.

1998

Built in 1998, the Long-Sault Bridge spans a length of 640 metres and has four lanes. It was built to replace the Perley Bridge that was in deteriorating condition, and is located 24 metres to the West of the original location of the Perley Bridge.

1943

When expropriation began in 1943, residents of the Chenail and other streets along the river joined together in order to avoid expropriation. Unfortunately, after many meetings, petitions and plan changes, flooding could not be avoided and the Chenail population had to relocate.

Before expropriation, there were approximately 200 families living on the Chenail Island.

1984

At the time, people had to pay long distance charges when they called to L'Original!

It was in 1984 that the 613 area code was created for the region.

2017

In July 2017, the "2017 Bellefeuille Reunion" a gathering of offspring from Aurore Larrivière and Roméo Bellefeuille took place. This large family is now scattered from Toronto to Quebec City and Costa Rica via the United States. Roméo Bellefeuille, was born in Hawkesbury in 1899, worked in various historical industries such as the Canadian International Paper Company, the Chenail sawmill and the Tupper Lake Lumber Camp. He married Aurore Larrivière in 1929, a teacher from Ste-Anne. From this happy union seven children were born, three of which still live in Hawkesbury. Roméo, an active member of the community and school board trustee, was strongly committed to the Franco-Ontarian rights and the preservation of the French language in a bilingual community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT:

NANCY GRAY
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CIP - CHRONOLOGY
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CANADA 150

All information found in the magazine-souvenir is from references listed above.
If any information is incorrect or erroneous, please accept our sincere apologies.

"Let us all take the opportunity to read the stories of our people and our town. This souvenir magazine will captivate the interest of the people from our community and our region."

-JEANNE CHARLEBOIS, MAYOR OF HAWKESBURY



HAWKESBURY REC
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