

CHAPTER IX

MERCHANTS, MONEYHANDLERS & MANUFACTURERS

Upon studying commercial enterprise in Amherstburg's 200-year history and the evolution of the town as it is seen today, it becomes evident that this community has always enjoyed a variety of businesses. The town in 1996 appears much different than in almost any period of the past two centuries. Buildings have been razed, renovated, moved about and new ones erected, displaying somewhat different streetscapes than those familiar to our predecessors.

Streets are now paved, telephone poles and parking meters have disappeared and motor vehicles fill the spaces where a century ago horses were tethered. If one were to historically document each mercantile enterprise in the main 'old core' downtown today it would appear much different than the same area of twenty years ago. The same would likely be true for each twenty-year period before that as far back as 1796.

The volunteers who worked on this volume of Amherstburg's rich history therefore faced a conundrum. What should be included - how to decide what could be omitted - how much should be written about former and present businesses? A decision was made to include advertisements and specific dateline items from the *Amherstburg Echo* of 1896, when the community was one hundred years old; 1946, when the town celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary; and 1967, the year of Canada's Centennial. Next, a letter requesting information was sent to every place of business in Amherstburg in 1995-96. Many of the establishments submitted brief histories - some were more generous in their submissions - some chose not to participate. Following is the result of hundreds of hours' research and writing by local volunteers.

Notes from Yesterday's News

1896: Amherstburg/Fort Malden's 100th Birthday!

JANUARY: John G. Mullen defeated Simon Fraser in the mayor's race.....John Auld was re-elected reeve for the seventh time in succession.....Michigan Central Railway agent Moffat bade farewell to the old Amherstburg station at Gordon and located in the new freight shed on Richmond Street until the new brick station is ready there.

FEBRUARY: Residents are urged to boil their water before drinking it.....Mrs. J.D. Burk's residence on Seymore Street has undergone major alterations including a circular tower and two new porches.

MARCH: The new Masonic hall for Lincoln Lodge No. 8, corner of George and Murray Streets, was dedicated.

APRIL: W.H. McEvoy had the stone foundation in for his boiler, engine and dynamo.

MAY: The new MCR station on Richmond Street was completed and was waiting for

furniture

JUNE Over 3000 people welcomed the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier to Amherstburg.....McEvoy's electric plant was in complete working order and was expected to be the most economical plant in this part of the country.....William H. Gatfield's new boathouse was one of the handsomest on the chain of lakes.

JULY: A 9-foot-wide silex stone was laid on the east side of Dalhousie Street between Richmond and Murray Streets.....Extensive renovations were carried out at Christ Church. Hobb Bros furnished the handsome stained-glass windows.

AUGUST: A 90-mile per hour cyclone hit Amherstburg, tearing a 70-foot strip off the Lake View House roof.....The Hon. William D. Balfour, Provincial Secretary, passed away in Toronto.....The "Bell Farm," house and furniture on Victoria Street were advertised for sale.

SEPTEMBER: Alma Street was stoned from Sandwich Street to the Second Concession, making a splendid road.....The new brick MCR station on Richmond Street was one of the neatest stations in Ontario.

OCTOBER: Colin Wagle presented a large pipe organ to Wesley Methodist Church.

NOVEMBER: Anderdon Township was placed under quarantine for hog cholera.

DECEMBER: Patrick Coyle and Joseph Beneteau are contesting the reeveship in Anderdon.....James D. Gibb, William H. Waldron and Francis Laramie were nominated to run for reeve in Malden.

LIVERY STABLE.

John W. Gibb

desires to announce that his Livery, Sale and Feed Stable is open at all times-day and night, and special attention is given to customers. None but first-class rigs (single and double) on hand.

He is also prepared to deliver all kinds of FREIGHT and BAGGAGE from the M. C. R. depot or from the boats in any part of town at reasonable rates. Drying of all kinds attended to with promptness. Household furniture moved and handled with care. Special attention given to Commercial Men and the Travelling Public.

Telephone connection. Orders can be left at his Livery Stable.

JOHN W. GIBB.

Apsley St., Amherstburg, next to American House.

AMHERSTBURG
STEAM
LAUNDRY
PARK STREET.
Arthur Stockwell
Proprietor.

Laundry work taken in on any day during the week and delivered the following day, if desired.

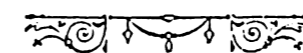
Clothes collected and delivered to all parts of town. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Prices same as other laundries.

TERMS.

AMHERSTBURG

CARRIAGE & WORKS.



WE HAVE A FULL LINE OF

CUTTERS



AND SLEIGHS,

In stock, all made of the best material. If you wish to secure Hand Made work call and inspect as it will pay you. No shoddy work.

Horseshoeing and Repairing a specialty.

A. PULFORD,

PROPRIETOR.

BUILDING STONE AND LIME

The undersigned is prepared at any time to furnish the best quality of

Lime, Building & Lime-Stone.

BLOCK STONE

of the FINEST QUALITY and of all dimensions

WINDOW OR DOOR SILLS,
Dressed or in the Rough,

In any quantity at either his Stone Quarry 1st Con., Anderdon, or Dover, or can deliver the same at any station on the M. C. Railway from Amherstburg to St. Thomas and Petrolia, or by boat at any port between Anderdon and Sarnia.

He has obtained a special rate from the Railway Company, so that Stone or Lime can be delivered at any of the stations at moderate prices.

Orders solicited and promptly filled.

For Lime, Window and Door Sills, Block Stone, a few days' notice is required.

THOMAS B. WHITE,

Anderdon - Near M. C. R. Crossing
Gordon P. O.

1946: The War is Over !

JANUARY: Nick Marra retired after six years as Amherstburg's mayor and F.T. 'Ted' Pickering was elected to the red chair.....More than 32,000 brides of Canadian servicemen were waiting in Britain for transportation to Canada.....Servicemen and women were returning home.....Amherstburg Town Council approved the sale of 28 acres of the Bell farm between Richmond and Alma Streets at \$75 per acre to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

FEBRUARY: John and Ted Gray purchased Stancliffe & French's florist business on Dalhousie Street.....The SW&A Terminal Restaurant on Richmond Street opened under Clarence Giroux' proprietorship.....Calvert Distillers donated \$2000 towards the new Legion hall.....The A J Woods property, northeast corner of Dalhousie and Park Streets, was sold to Supertest..... Walter Boxall, longest-operating garageman in Amherstburg, purchased the northwest corner of Rankin Avenue and Sandwich Street on which to build a garage.....Poppy's Shop opened.

MARCH: Council decided to install a stoplight at the corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets.....Al Boufford opened Seymore Paint & Wallpaper Store.....The Fort Malden Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion bought the old Stancliffe residence on Dalhousie Street.....There were seven senior and four junior softball teams in town.

APRIL: Bill Wagle reported to the Jamestown Falcons, a farm club team of the Detroit Tigers at Hershey, Pennsylvania.....Pete Fitzmaurice's new dance band was a big hit with the high school crowd. Norm Fitzmaurice, Dorothy Godden, Gordon Hutchinson and Bob Deslippe were the other members of the band.....Bastien Welding and F.J. 'Panny' Purdie Taxi opened.

MAY: Sam Armson purchased the Lucier Blacksmith Shop.....Work began on the new Music Box open-air dance floor on south Dalhousie Street.

JUNE: The Tea Garden Restaurant opened on Richmond Street.....The Dominion Government bought the Mullen home (Bellevue) on the riverfront, Malden and converted it into a veterans' hospital.....The New Palms Grill opened at the corner of Murray and Ramsay Streets, operated by three returned soldiers, Harvey, Martin and Norman Bondy.....Capt. J. Earl McQueen gave the 9-ton gun taken from the HMCS *Kamloops* to the Fort Malden Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

JULY: Billie Jupp's 15-piece orchestra, all former RCAF members, played at the opening of the Music Box Dance Floor.....Hazen Bratt sold the Central Garage to Jones Brothers.....The strike at Brunner Mond was in its third week.....War brides began to arrive in Amherstburg.

AUGUST: Construction began on Yakima Brothers' new store at the southeast corner of Richmond and Sandwich Streets.....Alex Traeff succeeded R.E. Martin as manager of Calvert Distillers.....The Rotary Club and Knights of Columbus held a three-day carnival.

SEPTEMBER: The Café on Bob-Lo Island was being razed.

OCTOBER: What was thought to be the decomposed body of a child was brought to Windsor for an autopsy. It was determined to be the remains of a pork roast which had fallen off a barge the previous summer while en route to Bob-Lo Island.....Brunner Mond employees returned to work having been on strike for ninety days.

NOVEMBER: Annual costs for Amherstburg's garbage collection and disposal have risen to \$4000.....Brunner Mond announced a big expansion program.

DECEMBER: Ronald Cooper was chosen as head of the newly organized Amherstburg

Lions Club. SW&A planned to place their new 38-passenger buses on the Amherstburg-Windsor route in the new year.....Shillington Hardware would be known as Kendall Hardware as of January 1st. Del Roy and his band played New Year's Eve at the Brunner Mond Club.....Clarence (Tim) Laframboise took over Laframboise & Son grocery store, corner of Gore and Seymore Streets.

1946 Advertisers in the Amherstburg Echo

Amherst Cleaners	Hough & Hough
Amherst Dry Goods	Imperial Bank
Amherstburg Cold Storage	Ross Ingram
Amherstburg Fruit Market	Jimmie's Flower Gardens
Amherstburg Radio Service	Jimmy's Market
Amherstburg Service Station	Jones Bros.
Sam Armson (blacksmith)	Earl Jones & Sons
Ayerst Drugstore	Kemp Furniture
Bank of Montreal	Knights of Columbus
Bastien Welding Service	Lake View Hotel
Bezeau Home Appliance	C.R. Lalonde (jeweller)
Blue Ribbon Meat Market	Legion Minstrels
J.J. Bondy Plumbing & Heating	Liberty Theatre
Bornais Garage	Lions Club
Walter Boxall	McCurdy Bros. (general carpentry)
Hazen Bratt Taxi	McKenzie Engineering
Robert Burns Watch & Clock Repair	Roy McKim & Son
Calvert Distillers	McQueen Marine Ltd.
Campbell's Café	Menzies Coal Co.
Central Auto Supply	Minute Service
Central Garage	Moffat's Drugstore
Chamber of Commerce	J.R. Morris Real Estate & Insurance
Conklin Planing Mills	Music Box
Dominion Store	New Palms Grill
Harry Duby Refrigeration	Palms Garden
Duffies Fish & Chips	Poppy's Shop
Eugenia Beauty Salon	F.J. 'Panny' Purdie Taxi
Falls & Son Insurance (since 1890)	Reid's Confectionery
Hugh E. Fleming	Ridley's Coffee Bar
Louis J. Fox Men's Wear	The Right Store
Dorothy Gabus (violin teacher)	Rivard's Cleaners
H.C. Grant Plumbing & Heating	Max Rubenstein Department Store
Gray's Greenhouses	Seymore Paint & Wallpaper Store
Hamilton & Steubing	Shillington Hardware
Hamilton Ice	C.H. Smith Co.
Harrow Farmers	A.H. Stevenson (lawyer)
Hi Grade Meat Market	Sutton Funeral Home

SW&A Terminal Restaurant
Tea Garden Restaurant
Veteran Taxi

Wigle Hardware Co.
Zimmerman School of Dance

1967: Canada's Centennial Year !

JANUARY: Reverend M.C. Davies was named chairman of the Amherstburg & Malden Centennial Committee.....George D. McCurdy was nominated by council to receive the Centennial Medal.....Work on the new Reflex Corporation plant on Victoria Street was nearing completion

FEBRUARY: Sharon Kilgallin was chosen Centennial Queen at the Centennial Ball.....The Chamber of Commerce would financially assist the Amherstburg Community Band on its trip to Expo '67.....The sewage treatment plant which would serve the Tri-Community was nearing completion.....Construction was proceeding on the new public school building on Hamilton Drive

MARCH: Allied Chemical requested re-zoning of property in Anderdon to provide for the extension of the stone quarry.....S.K.D. Manufacturing Company began construction of a \$270,000 plant addition.....Calvert of Canada Limited announced plans to build a \$300,000 rack warehouse.....The AA&M First Aid Squad celebrated its fifth anniversary.....Centennial beards were growing all over the district.

APRIL: Discussions were taking place regarding a proposed international bridge between Amherstburg and the United States.....D & C Supermarket prepared to close its doors.....Centennial maple trees were distributed free by the Centennial Planning Committee.....Canadian Naval vessels, the HMCS *Porte St. Louis* and HMCS *Porte St. Jean* spent the weekend in Amherstburg as part of the Centennial celebrations.

MAY: The Minister of Highways was asked to initiate a feasibility study in connection with a proposed international bridge north of Amherstburg.....Amherstburg Public Utilities purchased R.W. Kenyon's property, 65 by 166 feet, on Sandwich Street for \$15,000.

JUNE: Ralph Moore of Amherstburg was ordained as a minister of the United Church.....James Reid was appointed as recreation director for Amherstburg.....Amherstburg Public School on Richmond Street closed for good on June 29th. The old 1877 school bell was moved to the new school on Hamilton Drive.

JULY: One hundred units took part in the Centennial Parade, the longest in Amherstburg's history.....The RLDS Church won first prize for the best float entered in the Centennial contest.....Riverfront lots 80 x 322 feet are selling for \$6000 to \$7000.....Over 2000 attended the ecumenical open-air Centennial church service on the town park.

AUGUST: Ground was broken for an all-purpose museum/hall in connection with the Nazrey AME Church on King Street.....A new watermain from Allied Chemical to the northern limits of Amherstburg went into service.....A downtown mall created by the recently-formed Downtown Business Association was in operation for three days. Five bands and a variety of entertainment enhanced the carnival atmosphere.....The Amherstburg Community Band was a big hit at Expo '67 and was called upon for several encores at each concert.

SEPTEMBER: The Amherstburg District High School Board created a parking area for staff and students for between 80 and 100 cars to the east and north of Maria's Restaurant.....The pre-

1812 William Hutchins house north of the town hall was razed to create parking space.....W.J. Docherty of Riverside Construction acquired 60 acres of the Flynn property which would be developed Amherstburg schools opened with a student population of 2249 of which 588 were in the separate school system, 442 in the public school and 1219 in the newly-enlarged General Amherst High School.....The Amherstburg-Anderdon-Malden Pollution Control plant went into operation.....The Legion's Pee-Wee ball team won the O.B.A. Class B championship.

OCTOBER: The old Burk hardware store (later Wigle's and still later Shaw's second-hand store) was razed.....A disastrous fire destroyed Gray's Greenhouses on Dalhousie Street.....Rev. M.C. Davies was presented with the Rotary Citizen of the Year Award.....Centennial Park officially opened with ceremonies.....Amherstburg transferred property east of the public school to Capital Homes Limited to build fourteen houses.

NOVEMBER: General Amherst High School soccer team won the ECSSA and SWOSSA championships.....The Bank of Montreal, established in Amherstburg as an office of Molson's Bank and amalgamated in 1925, celebrated 150 years' service in Canada.

DECEMBER: Deputy-Clerk Thomas Kilgallin was appointed Justice of the Peace for Essex County, succeeding the late Ray Kenyon.....Koenig's Jewellery opened on Richmond Street opposite the post office.....Over 300 people attended the annual Goodfellows dinner-dance at the Verdi Club.....An evening of spirituals and songs was presented by the Centennial Planning Committee at St. John the Baptist Church, proceeds to aid the building fund of the Nazrey AME Church museum and centre.

1967 Advertisers in the Amherstburg Echo

Allied Chemical of Canada Ltd.
Amherst Cleaners
Amherst Chrysler-Plymouth
Amherst Fuels Limited
Amherst Hotel
Amherst Paint & Wallpaper
Amherst Provision
Amherst Quarries
Amherstburg Body & Paint
Amherstburg Echo
Anderdon Tavern
Pat Bastien Garage
Betty's Ladies' Wear
Big V Pharmacy
Bill's Confectionery
Bob-Lo Tavern
Bondy's Shell Service
Stan Brush Heating
Harry Burke's
Butch's B.A. Service
Cake Appliances

Canadian Cannery
Chick's Furniture
Conklin Lumber Co. Limited
Country Wool Shop
Crowder Bros. Cartage
Custom Cleaners
Custom Heating
D & C Supermarket
Dairy Queen
Dominion Store
Donaldson, Charters & Brockenshire
Drayton Jewellers
Len Duby Electric
Duby's Furniture & Appliances
DeLuca Construction
Duffy's Tavern
Elliot's Amherst Shoe Centre
Falls & Son Insurance
N.A. Faucher Door & Sash Works
Louis J. Fox Men's Wear
Francine Custom Dressmaking

Garnet's Barber Shop
 Gibb's Beauty Salon
 Gray's Greenhouses
 William J. Hall
 Hamilton Furniture & Appliances
 H. Lester Hamilton Insurance
 Harrow Farmers Cooperative
 Heyme's Wood Products
 Horton Electric
 I.G.A. Foodliner
 Imperial Lanes
 Jimmie's Flowers
 Jodi Shoppe
 Joe's Sport Shop
 Jones China Shop
 Earl Jones & Sons Ltd.
 Kendall Hardware
 Murray Kennedy Motors
 Koenig's Jewellery
 E.T. Laframboise Insurance
 Lake View Hotel
 Lenson Motors
 Maria's Restaurant
 Marontate Electric
 Marra's Bread Ltd.
 Grant R. McCready
 McKerlie Automotive
 Roy G. McKim
 Stanley A. McManemy
 McQueen Marine
 Menzies Coal & Oil
 Merle's Soda Bar

Moffat's Pharmacy Ltd.
 John Neda Body & Paint Shop
 Bob Nye Excavating
 Ouellette's Snack Bar
 Ray Pajot Motors
 Parkview Hairstyles
 Ralph the Barber
 Ranta Enterprises
 Reflex Corporation
 The Right Store
 Rocco's Fine Foods
 Max Rubenstein Department Store
 The Sandwich Platter
 Seaway Café
 Seaway Marine & Sports
 The Shoe Tree
 Sinasac Motor Sales
 SKD Manufacturing Co. Limited
 Sorrento Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Speck's Confectionery
 Stedman's
 James H. Sutton Funeral Home
 Swiss Chalet Shop
 Taskey's Red & White
 Steve Temesy Meat Market
 A.J. Tiefenbach Agency
 Michael Tomek Realty Limited
 Towne Shoppe
 Venezia Pizzeria
 Whittal Motors
 Wigle Hardware
 Zin's Market

Commercial Enterprise - 1996¹

The following pages outline brief sketches of various businesses in Amherstburg. There is much more material available about most of these businesses but space constraints allowed for only brief summaries of each to be included in this volume. Businesses are presented in alphabetical order.

2-Way Automotive

Located at 74 Murray Street on the northwest corner of Ramsay Street, this auto parts store

was opened by Bruno Orsi in December, 1985 in a building completed in 1879 for John Leggatt, one-time town clerk of Amherstburg.

67 Richmond Street

Peter Leardi opened his stylish men's wear shop in March, 1986 at 67 Richmond Street. This building, situated on the southwest corner of Richmond and Ramsay Streets, was built in 1885 for C M S. Thomas' 'Richmond Street Drug Store'. Several types of business were operated there throughout the years. One in particular which remained for a long time was Vic & Julia's Snack Bar. In 1991 the building was renovated and returned to the basic exterior appearance of the original structure.

A & P Food Stores Ltd.

This 27,000 square foot supermarket at 400 Sandwich Street South opened in October, 1976. Ken Sallows was its first manager.

A.V.E. Entertainment

Located in Fort Malden Mall at 400 Sandwich Street South, this outlet opened in October, 1993. Jose Melo was the first manager of the Amherstburg store which is one of sixty AVE stores throughout Canada. The present manager is Peggy Dinunzio who has a full-time assistant and three part-time employees.

Al's Heating & Appliance Repair

Located at 66 Murray Street in the Masonic Temple building, owner Al Buhler has expanded since November, 1984 when he started an appliance repair business out of his truck. He later opened a showroom and repair shop at 64 Murray Street, moving to the present location in December, 1992.

All-U-Need Respiratory Services Inc.

Based at 243 Simcoe Street since September, 1991 when it was incorporated, the business was started earlier by Veronica Ryan and Janet Daniels from their Malden homes as 'All U Need Home Care Company'. The site of the present business on the south side of Simcoe Street is the former Ron's Bicycle Shop and some years prior to that was the Hadash Grocery Store.



All-U-Need Respiratory Services, first van with driver Mike McLean.



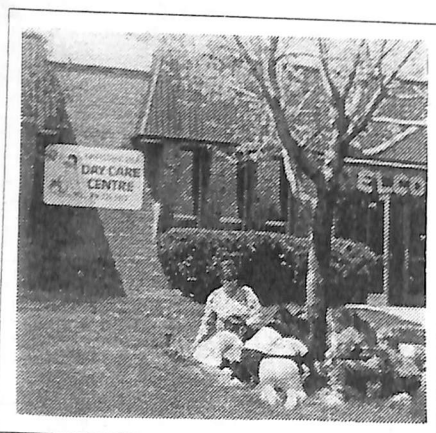
Amherst Hotel, mid-1940s.

Amherst Hotel

This landmark building at 61 Richmond Street, presently owned and operated by Jim and Brenda Williams, has undergone many changes in management since its original construction in 1881. Built for Ellis Brown, the three-storey brick structure was called the Brown House until 1905 when George Holmes bought it from Eugene Jolie, remodelled it and changed the name to the Amherst House. In 1926 Charlie and Bertha Fleming took over the Amherst House and after major renovations changed the name to the Amherst Hotel. The Masney family were long-time owners/operators of the Amherst Hotel in more recent times.

Amherstburg Catering

Amherstburg Catering at 247 Dalhousie Street opened in early November, 1996. Owners Joanne and Richard Krol and their assistant Rita Hand quickly became familiar faces in Amherstburg, especially to the people who work in the old core downtown. They not only offer an all-function catering service and daily special lunches, but an employee may be seen at lunchtime carrying a picnic hamper of sandwiches which are being delivered to downtown businesses. The building out of which they operate has been home to a variety of businesses since 1876 when T.N. Johnson, owner of the Johnson House (now the site of the Bank of Montreal), built the place for his son S.J. to open an ice cream, confectionery and oyster saloon. One of the longest-running businesses there was the Kitka Shoe Repair Shop during the 1950s.



Amherstburg Area Day Care Centre.

Amherstburg Area Day Care Centre

Established in 1972 by the County of Essex, the Amherstburg Area Day Care Centre is located at 236 Cherrylawn Crescent. Enrollment fluctuated from 20 children in 1972 to 120 in 1988-89. Currently the staff of seven certified caregivers supervises fifty children, some of whose parents once attended the centre themselves! There have been many legislative and internal changes over the past twenty-five years. The staff is now unionized and a resource program has been added for children with special needs.

Anderdon Harbour Lite Tavern

This landmark building at 639 Front Road North has a sixty-year history as a hotel and dining establishment. The original part of the building was erected in 1885 for Joseph H. Morgan, a famous breeder of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle and prominent agriculturist who settled on the riverfront around 1860. His first residence on the site was destroyed by fire in June, 1885 and Morgan rebuilt later that same year. Following his death in 1900, Morgan's property changed hands several times. Elliott G. Stevenson, a prominent Detroit lawyer, took over from the Morgan interests and added a frame addition to the rear of the house for his extensive library and study. His brother ran the farm and branched out in a venture called the 'Essex County Seed Farm'. In the 1930s the property passed into the hands of Walter O. Briggs, owner of the Detroit Tigers. In 1936 Mrs. Edith Ross leased the place from Briggs and had the residence "remodelled into a modern hotel." In July of that year 'The

Anderdon' was granted a beer and wine licence. Other well-known managers of The Anderdon in later years were H.W. and Vi Ball, Stan and Betty Gott, Mike Uzelac and Sam Travica, Alex Zin, Mary Travica, Tom Chappus and Walter Ranta. Karl and George Kircos, Kathy (Kircos) and her husband Tom Tzimas have been partners in The Anderdon since 1980.

W.A. Atkinson Plumbing Co. Ltd.

Although today Bill and Nancy Atkinson operate the business from their home on the 5th concession of Anderdon, the firm has been well-established in the Amherstburg district since 1976 when Bill became the first licensed plumbing inspector for the municipality. He started the business in June, 1977 and since that time has brought both of the couple's sons into the firm.

Barat Farlam Millson

Original owners William A. Willson and Arthur M. Barat first opened a law office in Amherstburg in a building at the southwest corner of Gore and Sandwich Street in May, 1973. They later operated from a trailer on the parking lot of Four Seasons Bowling Alley until Fort Malden Mall was built. After a time at the mall the firm purchased their present building at 145 Sandwich Street South. In 1994-95 the office was expanded. The present owners are Arthur M. Barat, Avril A. Farlam and Robert G. Millson. The Amherstburg office employs two full-time and two part-time secretaries.

Bata / Athletes World

Bata / Athletes World was opened in the Fort Malden Mall in November, 1993. The store offers casual, dress and athletic shoes and brand-name athletic clothing. There are currently eight employees.

Beckett's

Beckett's has been a well-established business since 1947 when William A. 'Aut' Beckett and Julian Kopacz rented the former George Girardin store at 615 Sandwich Street North. The Beckett residence was south of Girardin's. Around 1952-53 it was moved around the corner to 96 Alma Street where it remains today as a convenience store, still in the hands of the Beckett family.

The Beer Store

The Amherstburg branch of the Beer Store was opened at 80 Park Street in 1966. A 1000 square foot expansion took place in 1983. The store has moved from selling only beer to including merchandise such as clothing, glassware, lighters and hats. It currently has six employees.

Big V Pharmacy

See Shopper's Drug Mart.

Binder's Heating & Cooling

Binder's Heating & Cooling was opened at 225 Sandwich Street North in 1995 by Dave and Marilyn Binder in the former Brunner Mond lodge building at the northeast corner of Sandwich Street and Brunner Avenue. This historic structure was the former Evariste Ouellette home, built in the last

century. In November, 1995 the Binders added a new line of wrought-iron furniture and accessories. This part of the business is called 'Accents for Your Home'.

Bondy Baker Wolf

This law firm was initially established under the name Bondy & Rossi in 1978 with offices in Windsor and Essex. It expanded with the opening of its Amherstburg office on July 1, 1984 under the name Bondy, Rossi, Belowus & Baker. Jeffrey A. Baker, the firm's Amherstburg lawyer since 1984, was joined by Janice O. Busch in February, 1995.

Over the years the name of the firm has changed to Bondy, Rossi, Belowus, Baker & Murdoch; then Bondy, Rossi, Belowus; then Bondy Belowus; and finally its present name of Bondy Baker Wolf. The name changes have related to changes in personnel or efforts to shorten the name at various times over the years, with the number of lawyers ranging from four to eight. Christopher M. Bondy, one of the founders of the firm, and Jeffrey A. Baker, in charge of the Amherstburg office, have both been with the firm consistently during its 13 years in Amherstburg.

There are presently five lawyers in the firm with two based in Amherstburg. Three support staff are employed full-time in the Amherstburg office at 41 Sandwich Street South.

The Brass Gallery

The Brass Gallery opened in the Fort Malden Mall in November, 1992. Owner Arun Vijan of Toronto originally started the business as a small gift shop, increasing the product lines in 1993 to include furnishings, which necessitated a move to a larger store. The store is operated by manager Shelly White and sales staff Liza Price and Sheila Matte, who have been employed there for several years.

Bulk Food Warehouse

The Bulk Food Warehouse, located at 473 Sandwich Street South, was originally opened by Colleen Fox. Lynn and Rick Sinasac are the present owners of this retail bulk food store which has expanded into herbal and vitamin supplements and special needs food items.

Burger King

Owner Richard Pickering opened a Burger King franchise at 433 Sandwich Street South on February 17, 1987. The business currently has forty-five employees.

Canadian Tire Corporation Associate Store

The Canadian Tire store at 380 Sandwich Street South is the second on that site. The first store, built in 1973 and opened in June of that year, was independently owned and operated by Laddie Hutchinson. It was one of 270 Canadian Tire stores across the country. By the early 1990s it was obvious that the business needed to expand. The former Four Seasons Bowling Alley to the north was purchased and razed to make room for a new 20,000 square foot Canadian Tire store which opened in November, 1995 with Selen Alpay as franchise owner.

Canton House

The Canton House Chinese Restaurant, located at 35 Sandwich Street South, was purchased

by Andy and Connie Wong in 1975. Previous owner Tony Mancini had operated it as an Italian restaurant called 'Uncle Tony's'. During Prohibition days the building was George Girardin's infamous speakeasy, 'Snug Harbour'. Mr. Wong renovated the building in 1979, adding a larger dining room which now seats 70 people. The family-operated business has five additional staff members.

Chalet Fashions

Chalet Fashions, at 65 Sandwich Street North, has been owned and operated by Emily and Dan D'Alimonte since 1972 when they purchased the business and property from Kay and Otto Steininger. The Steiningers bought the former Stan Gott house in 1951 and added a room on the south side, giving the building the appearance of a Swiss chalet. From there they operated a gift/souvenir shop while their living quarters were in the back. The 'Swiss Chalet' owners then began selling classic tweeds and tartans, woolens and silks, as well as imported Swiss clocks.

Two years after the D'Alimontes took over ownership they moved away from the former merchandise and introduced popular lines of ladies' fashions. They renovated the house and a small apartment in the back. In 1980 the store name was changed to Chalet Fashions² and five years later a bridal shoppe, sewing rooms and an office were added. Chalet Fashions currently has three full-time staff members.

Cherish House Ltd.

Cherish House Ltd. was opened on July 8, 1996 at 238A Dalhousie Street. Tom and Barb Lauriault own this unique shop which carries a complete line of Christian gift items. The store also features an indoor café as well as an outdoor patio where customers may enjoy a repast and watch the activity on the Detroit River and the King's Navy Yard Park.

Computer Data Products

Computer Data Products has been in Heritage Square at 80 Richmond Street since around 1990 when it moved from the Teeter building where it had been located for three years. Joel and Anita Ouellette, and Carlo Salvitti and part-time staff offer up-to-date computer and office products for home, business and industrial needs.



Heritage Square, 80 Richmond Street.

Critique Hair Salon

Critique Hair Salon at 248 Ramsay Street was established in January, 1989 and is owned and operated by Elise Thrasher of Amherstburg. Critique is currently in its ninth year and has been involved with St. Clair College's work experience programs for almost all of that time.

Custom Cleaners

Custom Cleaners was opened November 26, 1963 by Walter and Rita Paré at 236 Sandwich Street South (the current location of Chan's Gardens Restaurant) and moved to its present location,

131 Gore Street, in 1985. Current owners Wayne and Nicole Paré employ eight people.

Custom Creations

Custom Creations, a framing, poster and print shop owned and operated by Walt Stewart, opened in September, 1986 in Fort Malden Mall.

Debby's Country & Western Boutique

Debby's Country & Western Boutique at 263 Dalhousie Street was established at the end of May, 1996. Debby Pajot is the proprietor of this Western wear shop for women and men.

DeLuca Construction

Orlando DeLuca started out in 1955 in a 16 x 14 foot building which he moved "from Vic Nedin's old premises"³ and graduated to 6000 square feet of working space at 565 Texas Road. DeLuca first introduced CMH financing to Amherstburg when Central Mortgage & Housing would not guarantee loans here due to inadequate inspection policy.⁴ He persisted in convincing council that standardization would improve the community and make it possible for many to qualify for loans. DeLuca's unique building techniques earned his firm a favourable reputation. The DeLuca firm has not only been a major builder of fine Amherstburg homes but many industrial and commercial buildings as well. Major renovations at St. John the Baptist Church, the Amherstburg Public Utilities building, SKD office complex and several projects at Fort Malden National Historic Site were completed by DeLuca Construction. The company was also retained continuously for many years by Allied Chemical to construct new buildings and maintain others.

DiNardo Medical Pharmacy

Housed in the Hutchinson Clinic at 80 Sandwich Street South, the pharmacy opened in January, 1995. Aldo DiNardo, an Amherstburg native, established himself there shortly after graduating from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree.

Dollars & Cents Investments Inc.

Dollars & Cents Investments was initially opened in August, 1986 by Jim and Linda Langdon at 242 Sandwich Street South in the same building as the Langdons' other business, the H&R Block franchise. On May 1, 1996 the business was purchased by Bev Bondy and Connie McGuire who continued to run it (with a staff of five) solely as an investment business until December 1, 1993. On that date they moved the business to the Heritage Square, 80 Richmond Street, and expanded their services to include income tax preparation and bookkeeping.

Donison's Rivertown Meats & Deli

Donison's Rivertown Meats & Deli (formerly Schwab's) was established in 1983 at 473 Sandwich Street South. Owner Nick Donison began working with Henry Schwab in the early days of his business, settling in Amherstburg in 1983 so that his sons would have a business opportunity in the future. Today nine people are employed at Donison's.

Dress for Less

Dress for Less at 263 Dalhousie Street is owned by Betty O'Keefe. This retail consignment (clothing) shop opened in April, 1996.

Duby's Furniture Inc.

Duby's Furniture Inc. at 269 Ramsay Street has been owned and operated by David and Faustine Deslippe since September, 1975 when they took over from the Duby family. In November, 1950 Harry and Ruth Duby opened Duby Electric next to their home on Ramsay Street where they carried a line of refrigerators and other electrical appliances, televisions, radios and furniture. Shortly thereafter the name changed to Duby's Furniture & Appliances.

Harry Duby started in business when he opened a refrigeration repair shop at the home of his parents when they lived on the former Patton farm south of Amherstburg. A river enthusiast, he built one of his first boats in his spare time while operating the Vernor's ginger ale plant on Bob-Lo Island and working afternoons at the Ford Motor Company.



Harry and Ruth
Duby.



Duby Electric.

Duffy's Tavern & Motor Inn⁵

Zarko Vucinic and his wife Bessie landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia as immigrants on August 16, 1948, arriving from a Displaced Persons camp in Germany as refugees of Yugoslavia which had become a communist country.

Being without funds they were taken from Halifax by train to St. Paul's Hostel in Montreal. After ten days they were placed as domestic farmers to Lyman Root of Oakville, Ontario. Being under contract to the Canadian government, the Vucinics had to work for one year as farm help or wherever placed so that their transportation to Canada would be repaid. They received room and board plus \$1 per day.

After fulfilling their contract to the government the Vucinics went to Langton, Ontario and worked as tobacco pickers, working for thirty-eight days, admittedly some of the hardest work in their lives. They earned enough money there to move to Windsor where the auto industry lured them. They rented an apartment, bought second-hand furniture and Vucinic found several jobs over the next few years at Hiram Walker's warehouse construction, J.C. Teron Sign Co., Ford Motor Co. and McCord Radiator Co.

In 1953, now the father of three children, Zarko Vucinic began working as a truck driver for

Windsor Beverages. In 1959, along with two other partners, he bought Duffy's Tavern, investing everything he owned including his car. With no experience but plenty of will to work hard, the partners kept all of the staff at Duffy's including bartenders Leo Goulin, L. Brush, Ralph Perout and servers Frances Fox, Rena Reimnetz and Helen Ryan. The partners' wives worked with the cook, Florida Purdy, learning Canadian cuisine.

The dining room was expanded in 1961, a bar was installed two years later and the kitchen was moved from the basement to the main floor. Dusan Obradovic left the partnership in 1962 to open his own business in the fishing supplies industry. The other partner, Milos Jojich, bought the Lakeshore Tavern in 1966. The Vucinics then became the sole proprietors of Duffy's Tavern. With the help of Bessie, son Sam and daughters Grace and Regal, the Vucinics were moving ahead.

In 1968 the Vucinics purchased the former C.R. Lalonde residence on the northwest corner of Dalhousie and Gore Streets. This historic building was later purchased for a nominal fee by the Rotary Club and relocated further north on Dalhousie Street where it is now the Park House Museum. In 1970 the Vucinics built a 17-unit motel on the property, Duffy's Motor Inn. Four years later they purchased the adjacent property and apartment building to the immediate north of the motel.

On the south side of Duffy's Tavern stood several cottages on property owned by Alex Duff. Having an agreement with Duff to supply him with living accommodation for the rest of his "natural life," Vucinic set him up in one of the cottages. After Alex Duff's death the cottages were removed and the parking lot extended. In 1980 a part of the McQueen Marine property was purchased and a marina with a 70-boat capacity was built, quite an addition from the previous twelve wells.

Then, after overcoming difficulties with the town over the building north of the motel, that historic structure (now known as the Gordon House) was relocated by the municipality to the northwest corner of Dalhousie and Murray Streets and an addition was built to the motor inn, increasing its size from 17 to 35 units. At that time a swimming pool, fitness and games room and a conference room were added.

Duffy's Tavern & Motor Inn now employs 43 people year-round and twelve additional staff members during the summer, who do their best to maintain their slogan, "The Best Host on the Canadian Coast."

Editors' Note: The original (centre) part of Duffy's Tavern was built in 1885 by D.L. Wigle. In 1890 Wigle sold the property to Simon Fraser who called his new home 'Abernathy' after his birthplace in Scotland. His son John Fraser operated a mill and lumber yard next to the residence which he eventually sold to Conklin Lumber Company. The house remained with the Fraser family for several decades. Alex Duff, who operated the Deerhead Club at a variety of sites in Amherstburg purchased the Fraser residence in 1941 and remodelled it into the new Deerhead Club which he later renamed Duffy's Tavern.

Dynamite Audio & Video

Dynamite Audio & Video first opened in July, 1987 at Fort Malden Mall but the business actually began in 1980 when Gerry Theriault started a small company called Dynamite Disc Jockey Services in his parents' home. From there he opened a record and tape outlet in LaSalle and later moved to Leamington where he expanded the business. He then opened a second store in Fort

Malden Mall and again expanded into repairing and selling electronic goods including televisions. Finding that again more space was required for the growing business, Theriault moved in November, 1990 to his present location at 221 Sandwich Street South, in the former Liberty Theatre building.

Flowers & Silk Creations

Flowers & Silk Creations, owned by Rhonda Charlebois and Laura Bouffard, opened in the spring of 1987 at 67 Murray Street. Two years later the business moved to its present location at 63 Richmond Street. The shop specializes in fresh-cut flowers and arrangements, silk arrangements, planters, balloon bouquets and flowers for weddings and funerals.

Flowers by Anna

Anna Savo opened her florist shop in April, 1996 at 311 Sandwich Street South (northeast corner of Simcoe Street). She had been making silk centrepieces as a hobby out of her home and nine years ago began to operate as a small business. As the demand increased Savo resigned from her longtime position with Amherstburg Dental Associates. She and her husband Gino purchased and after several months of renovations opened the shop in the bright pink building.

Fort Malden Building Centre Ltd.

Fort Malden Building Centre Ltd. at 320 Dalhousie Street was established in December, 1982 when George Rittenhouse, an employee of Conklin Planing Mills since 1950, took over the Amherstburg outlet.

In 1891 John Fraser began operations at his "new planing mill" on the former D.L. Wigle property.⁶ In August, 1920 he sold his interest in the lumber mill to the Conklin interests. Rittenhouse and his partner Lino Milani bought the former Conklin property from CIBC which had placed the 16-outlet chain in receivership.

Fort Malden Mall

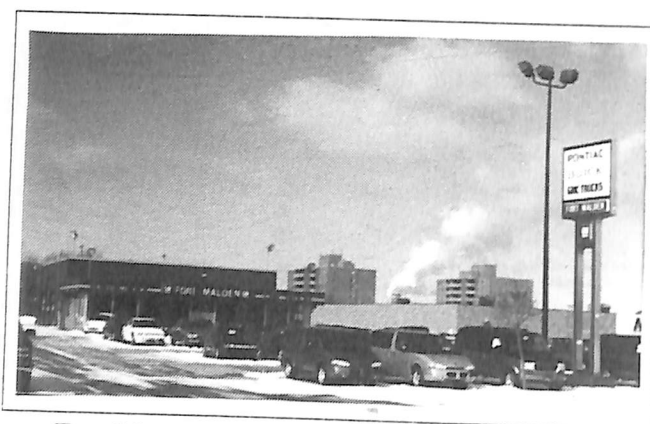
In April, 1970 Riverside Construction announced its plans to build a mall on the west side of Sandwich Street South.⁷ Construction began in 1975 and the mall opened the following November. In June, 1981 a \$3.5 million addition to the west side was officially opened, containing more stores, a cinema and a recreation club with a swimming pool.⁸

Fort Malden Motor Hotel

In late 1970 eight prefab units were moved to the property, 527 Sandwich Street South, and it was expected that nine additional units would be added before the year end. Tony and Rita Dufour



Fort Malden Motor Hotel, 1970s.



Fort Malden Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd., 1995.
Marsh Collection Society, P1273

were the original owners of the motel, which soon added a restaurant and bar. In 1989 the Balbir Maan family purchased the business. They have shown confidence in the community by continuing to make alterations and improve the premises. From three to eight people are employed according to occupancy.

Fort Malden Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.

Fort Malden Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd. was established at 432 Sandwich Street South by owner Drew Clarke in August, 1984. The dealership has created eighteen jobs for local

residents and is a strong supporter of community projects.

Gus~ Pharmacy Plus Drugstore

Gus~ Pharmacy Plus at 258 Sandwich Street South has been at that location since January, 1996 when he moved the business from just a few doors down the street. Born in Windsor, Gus Spanic graduated from the University of Windsor in 1986 with a B.Sc. in Biochemistry. For the next three years he attended Wayne State University where he obtained his B.Sc. in Pharmacy. He then came to Amherstburg and managed the independently-owned Fort Malden Drug Mart until that firm was purchased by the Shopper's chain of drugstores. Spanic then moved to the Emrose Medical Centre on Sandwich Street and four years later purchased the former Smith Funeral Home and incorporated a walk-in medical clinic in the building.

H&R Block Canada, Inc.

H&R Block Canada, Inc. is known worldwide for income tax preparation. The H&R Block franchise at 242 Sandwich Street South was established in January, 1965. In 1995 the interior of the Amherstburg building was remodelled to reflect a more open and comfortable concept.

H.L. Hamilton Insurance Ltd.

H.L. Hamilton Insurance Ltd. at 73 Murray Street was established by H. Lester Hamilton in May, 1939 when he opened his first office on the second floor of the Bank of Montreal after developing the insurance and real estate business for a few years. Hamilton was active in the community for many years. He was the first elected commissioner of the Amherstburg Hydro Commission and served on town council from 1936 to 1940 and two years as reeve, resigning from that position to become town foreman. In 1967 Hamilton's grandson James Brandie joined and now manages the firm where it has remained in the former Kolfage Block on Murray Street for almost fifty years.

Helpers Home Hardware

In May, 1993 two couples - William and Nancy Atkinson and Charles and Ann Bondy - purchased the former Home Hardware dealership at 56 Richmond Street from retiring owner Peter

Frederick. In March, 1995 the partnership was dissolved and today Helpers Home Hardware is owned and operated by the Bondys. This hardware business carried the name Kendall Hardware for many years, dating back to 1947 when J. St. Clair Kendall purchased the 24-year-old Shillington Hardware which was in a three-storey building (razed in 1975) on the southwest corner of Dalhousie and Murray Streets. In 1957 the *Amherstburg Echo* announced that a new store for Kendall Hardware was being built on the north side of Richmond Street "between Hamilton TV and the Amherstburg Cold Storage."⁹ After Kendall's death in 1982 his son-in-law Peter Frederick continued to operate the store until 1993, at which time the Kendall Hardware name was retired.



Helpers Home Hardware.

Heritage Auto Place

Heritage Auto at 247 Sandwich Street South was founded as Heritage Motors in 1977 by Paul Grondin and Paul Lepine. They purchased the building on the southeast corner of Sandwich and Murray Streets from Ray Pajot who for many years operated an automobile dealership on the site. The firm now has a full-service mechanical shop and used car sales.

It's About Face

It's About Face beauty salon was opened by Hilka Brush in the Fort Malden Mall in 1980. Two years later the business moved to 441 Sandwich Street South. Hilka sold the business in 1986 to Clarence McIntyre who relocated to the Sir Isaac Brock Plaza in 1988. Five years later McIntyre purchased the building at 255 Bathurst Street and renovated the interior. It's About Face moved into the newly decorated shop in January, 1994.



It's About Face, 1993.
Marsh Collection Society, P1329

Jerry's Lottery Store

John and Donna Bendeck opened this small variety store in Heritage Square, 80 Richmond Street, with their son Jerry for whom the business is named. In 1987 they introduced a full lottery service. The store is also an agent for Waterbee Pools.

Jewellery By Design

Owner Ria Smith is a native of Belgium who came to Canada with her family as a child. Her father was a diamond cutter and jeweller in Belgium. The family came to Canada in 1952 and settled near Woodstock, Ontario where Ria grew up. She learned the jewellery business from her father and

later came to Anderdon Township where she conducted a business in custom-made and special order jewellery (remounting, designing etc.). Ria moved to Amherstburg in the summer of 1988 when she purchased the former Trotter residence at 223 Dalhousie Street and opened Jewellery By Design there in October of that year.

Jimmie's Flowers

The following recollection of Jimmie's Flowers was written by Virginia (Trimble) Barclay, a longtime employee.

Jim Pouget began his career as a teenager cleaning out the boiler flues at the Stancliffe & French greenhouses on Dalhousie Street. As he watched Mr. French fill bouquet orders he became very interested in designing. At the time Jim was growing and selling gladiolus in season at the Pouget family home on Pike Road, Malden. His mother gave up the living room of her home for Jim to start the business. At one time he had to pay a government fine because he was too young to own a business.

When Jim began taking orders for all occasions, the first person he hired was Calvin Borrowman who took care of deliveries. As time went on I was hired to assist with floral design. His business grew at a steady pace and soon it outgrew the space in the Pouget home.

In 1948 Jim bought property on the north side of Simcoe Street (between Brock and Victoria Streets) in Amherstburg where he built his first shop and greenhouse. Business continued to increase. Jim married Evelyn Malenfant and she also assisted in the shop as time allowed while raising their family. There were always extra people hired to sell and deliver arrangements for special holidays. The staff worked many long hours around holidays, weddings and funerals, at times going in at 4:30 a.m. and working right through until 11 p.m.

Al Horne, a prominent Amherstburg businessman, talked to Jim about building a place downtown or somewhere more accessible and visible to transit trade. After thinking it over for a while Jim forged ahead and bought an old house on Sandwich Street, had it demolished and in 1958 built Jimmie's Flowers where it remains today.

After my husband Bob Barclay was transferred by Allied Chemical to Toronto and Montreal, Jim flew me to Amherstburg for three to five weeks at a time for the next ten years to help out at the shop when preparing for special holidays.

During his years at the Sandwich Street location Jim hired many, many people at different times. Wes Ball was hired right out of school in 1961 to make deliveries and soon became involved in designing.

When Jim Pouget retired around 1977 he sold the business to Marshall Voligny. 'Jimmie' died in November, 1979. He was just 54 years old.

Wes and Toddy Ball bought the shop from Voligny in 1980 and ran it until 1994 when they sold it to Kathy and Neil Summerfield. In the late fall of 1996 Wes and Toddy returned as owners/operators of Jimmie's Flowers.

Kathleen's Ladies' Accessories

Owner Aggie McDonald purchased the business in February, 1995 from John and Kay Howell who had opened the store in the Fort Malden Mall in 1992. In the spring of 1996 Kathleen's Ladies' Accessories moved to 258 Dalhousie Street with a full line of accessories and lingerie.

Kennedy Chev Olds Geo

Kennedy Chev Olds Geo at 251 Simcoe Street is an old established Amherstburg business. Murray Kennedy, a native of Essex, Ontario came to Amherstburg in 1955 where he and Lionel Galipeau opened Kennedy-Galipeau Motors at the corner of Richmond and Bathurst Streets selling Chrysler and Plymouth cars and Fargo trucks. Eighteen months later Murray bought out his partner and in 1962 he purchased the property. The next day the old building was razed and a new modern facility was soon erected. Almost immediately the firm outgrew the building. Kennedy then purchased property on Simcoe Street where he built a new shop and for a time ran a combined operation at the two locations.

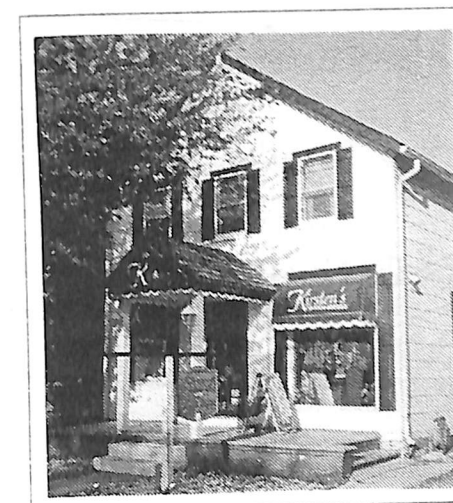


Kennedy Chev Olds Geo.

Les Thrasher began working with Kennedy Motors as sales manager in 1962. The Simcoe Street operation grew steadily over the years and when Murray Kennedy retired in March, 1984 Thrasher took over the business. With the help of family and many loyal employees it has continued to flourish and is a very viable business in Amherstburg today.

Kirsten's Fashion Boutique

Kirsten's Fashion Boutique at 239 Dalhousie Street was established in November, 1992 by owner Kirsten Kurzuk in one of the former W.T. Wilkinson buildings immediately north of the present CIBC. The original windows were changed to a commercial front enabling Kirsten to better display the store's line of women's fashions.



Kirsten's Fashion Boutique.

L.A. Hairstyles

L.A. Hairstyles moved to 53 Richmond Street in April, 1997 after six years in business at 259 Dalhousie Street. An Amherstburg native, owner Lucio Salvati learned his trade in Windsor and worked there for a year before establishing the salon in Amherstburg.

Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)

The LCBO outlet at 495 Sandwich Street South, better known to local residents as 'the Liquor Store' has been at this address since 1989 but in Amherstburg since 1928. It was announced in the *Amherstburg Echo* of May 4, 1928 that "Miss Lovegrove's new brick block on Murray Street" had been selected as the most suitable site for "Amherstburg's first liquor store."

Two years later the Ontario Liquor Board moved into the former George Girardin grocery store building on the southeast corner of Bathurst and Murray Streets. In 1957 a new liquor store was built across the street on Bathurst (today the site of the Re-Lighting store) where it remained until the present outlet was opened in 1989.

Long-time managers Devere Thrasher, Frank Gott and Andy Gibb are well remembered by area residents. Chris Soulliere is the present manager with a staff of five.

Love Always Gift Shop

Love Always Gift Shop, located in the Fort Malden Mall, opened on September 1, 1992. Owners Richard and Maureen Meloche are proud sponsors of an AMA minor baseball team for girls aged 5 to 11. Their unique line of all-occasion gift items was well received, prompting them to open a second store in 1995 in LaSalle, Ontario.

M & M Meats

M & M Meats at 503 Sandwich Street South is the 81st franchise of the company across Canada. The original owners when this shop was established in November, 1990 were Bob and Carolyn Stemmler. Present owners Jim and Vicki McIntyre reported that M & M was recognized by the Canadian Franchise Association as the No. 1 franchise company in Canada in 1995.

Malden Automotive

Malden Automotive has been dispensing automotive parts at their store, 256 Bathurst Street, since July, 1975 in what was familiar to area residents as the Beer Store prior to 1966. Randy Cheadle took over the business from his father John Cheadle around 1987. In 1992 the storefront was given a facelift and the shop refurbished.

Marcella's House of Hair Fashions

Marcella's House of Hair Fashions at 22 Holiday Court is owned and operated by Marcella (Cadarette) Dufour. Marcella is not only an Amherstburg native but lives and works in a subdivision which was once a part of her grandfather Cadarette's farmland. A graduate of Marvel Beauty School in 1973 and many special courses since that time, Marcella credits her faithful clients for the shop's continued growth and success.



Woods Confectionery, 1942 (now Maria's Restaurant).
Left to right: Sonny Nye, Marianne Nattress, Ruth Mayhew.

Maria's Restaurant

Maria's Restaurant at 131 Sandwich Street South has been a thriving business since April, 1958 when Walter and Mary Kudla purchased the former Woods Confectionery there. In 1982 the Kudlas sold to a numbered company who two years later sold the business to Tony Pietrangelo. Several expansions and renovations have taken place since that time. Today Tony and his wife Theresa (Simone) Pietrangelo own and manage this well-known establishment.

Mealtime Express / The Dining Car

Mealtime Express / The Dining Car originally opened in Fort Malden Mall on July 1, 1989 as a 30-seat coffee shop with a soup-and-sandwich menu. In 1993 the business moved to a 3225 square foot location in the mall to accommodate a full menu, coffee shop and full dining room which seats 130 customers. Janet Waters is the present owner of the restaurant which employs seventeen people.

Joe Meloche Ford Sales Ltd.

On July 11, 1986 Joe Meloche opened the doors to Joe Meloche Ford Sales Ltd. at 55 Sandwich Street North in Amherstburg. He started the business with a few faithful employees and the staff soon grew to nine members. In 1993 Bill Whittal, longtime employee and former owner of the company, retired. The dealership sponsors local charities and sports activities as well as being active in co-op education.

Meloche's Valu-Mart

Atkinson's Valu-Mart was established at 181 Sandwich Street South in November, 1985 by Tal and Darlene Atkinson. The building was originally an IGA store but had been empty for several years before the Atkinsons purchased and renovated it. In 1995 the business, which employs thirty-five full- and part-time people, was sold to current owners Chris and Tina Meloche.

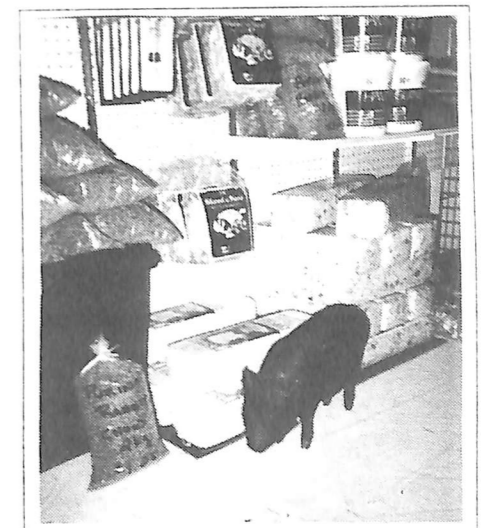
Met Mart

Met Mart at 400 Sandwich Street South in the Fort Malden Mall first opened in May, 1977. A major renovation took place in 1993 and the name was changed from Met to Met Mart.

Editors' Note: In February, 1997 all Met Mart stores were taken over by Saan, which had operated an Amherstburg branch in the Sir Isaac Brock Plaza for several years.

Munk's Pet Food Cupboard

Munk's Pet Food Cupboard was established at 503 Sandwich Street South in September, 1989 by Robert and Nyla Munk. The staff of six handles not only a full line of pet foods and accessories but tropical fish, small animals and some reptiles as well.



Munk's Pet Food Cupboard.

Musicland

Musicland at 59 Richmond Street was opened in 1985 by Trevor Marshall, a musician who has played locally for nearly twenty years and most recently as a solo artist. In addition to selling instruments and sheet music, Musicland is also a music teaching facility.

Naples Pizza & Pasta House

Naples Pizza & Pasta House opened at 174 Sandwich Street South in December, 1986. In October, 1996 the owner/operator, Glen Harvey, moved the business to a new location at 110 Richmond Street, the site of the former Texaco Station (northwest corner of Richmond and Sandwich Streets) and the old gas station was completely renovated into a modern facility.

Olde Brewer's & Winemaker's Supply Shoppe

The Olde Brewer's & Winemaker's Supply Shoppe was first established in Amherstburg by Karl Dirks in 1982 at 247 Dalhousie Street.¹⁰ On June 1, 1987 present owner Helga Kollin opened the business at its current location, 282 Dalhousie Street. The building where Kollin assists and advises her customers with their home beer and winemaking needs is recalled by some local residents as the Leo and Bertha Montgomery residence, as well as the place from which M & R Television operated for a few years.¹¹

Our Place

Our Place at 262 Dalhousie Street was established in October, 1989 by proprietor Shirley Wigle. Wigle and her two employees sell their ladies' fashions in the building known today as the Hall Block, built in 1903 by F.A. Hough.

Pavel's Tailor Shop

On August 1, 1992 Pavel and Natalie Bezzoudkin opened Pavel's Tailor Shop, a custom-made clothing and alterations shop at 247 Dalhousie Street. A year later they relocated to 165 Simcoe Street. Since then, they have added dry cleaning services, including leather and suede, and have opened a second store in Emeryville, Ontario.

Pet Valu

Pet Valu opened at Fort Malden Mall on April 26, 1994. Ralph, Ruth and Dan Dominguez are owners of this pet food and supply store. Always expanding with new products, the store has a staff of four.

Phyllis' Hairstyles

See Vivienne's Salon 235.

Precision Jewellers

The 1970s ushered in a new era for Precision Jewellers with the July, 1970 purchase of Drayton Jewellers at 57 Richmond Street. This newest location was managed by Marie Popp, daughter of Ralph Parrott, the owner of both the Windsor and Amherstburg locations.

In 1976 Precision Jewellers was the second tenant to lease a store at the newly built Fort

Malden Mall. Marie managed both locations until she moved to the West in 1980.

The family tradition continued when Joanne Robitaille became manager of the now consolidated Fort Malden Mall store. Since 1976 Joanne has worked as the company bookkeeper and in the management of the Windsor store. She is also a professional gemologist and a fellow of the Canadian Gemological Association.

The New Printsmith

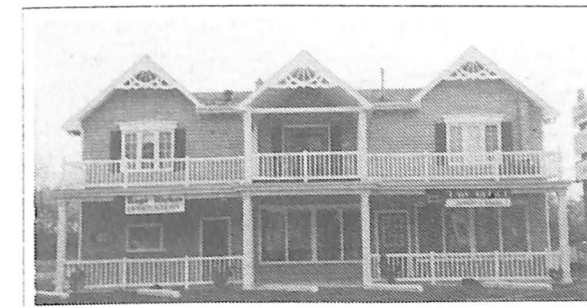
The Printsmith at 79 Richmond Street was established in 1989 by Kathy Lancop and Paul Smith. In 1994 the business was purchased by Helen and Victor Huebert who redecorated and updated the former 1888 Oddfellows hall building and added new products and services. An old Heidelberg letter press displayed in the front window is a reminder of the historical nature of the printing industry and contrasts sharply with the advanced computer technology of the modern printer.

Racicot Chrysler

Leo Racicot entered the car business over thirty years ago when he opened Leo Racicot Motor Sales on Tecumseh Road in Windsor, dealing primarily with used vehicles. In September, 1978 he opened Racicot Chrysler at 13 Sandwich Street South in Amherstburg. Seven years later the business moved to its present location, 462 Sandwich Street South. Racicot Chrysler currently employs eighteen people and plans to expand the business during the next five years.



Racicot Chrysler.



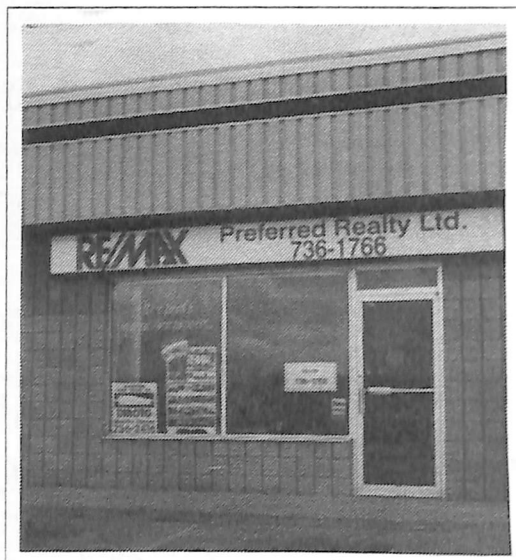
Rags to Riches Upholstery.

Rags to Riches Upholstery

Paul and Eleanor Renaud opened Rags to Riches Upholstery at 41 Sandwich Street South in 1984. The building was originally the Joseph Fox house, built circa 1880 on the west side of Sandwich Street and moved to its present location in the 1960s. When the Renauds purchased the building it had already been expanded and housed a beauty salon and fruit market. In 1994 the building was renovated and covered in vinyl siding. Rags to Riches is a family business involving not only Paul and Eleanor but also their sons Scott and Adam. The funniest task the Renaud family has performed was converting an aluminum garbage can into a gold velvet chair - a joke for a retiring Public Works employee.

Reade's Photo Image Centre

Reade's Photo Image Centre opened in the Fort Malden Mall in 1976 under the name of Reade's Photography Service Ltd. The name was changed to Reade's Photo Image Centre in



Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd.

August, 1994 when the store moved to a new location in the mall. The business celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1996 with Stella Swyntak, an original employee, as manager. When she retired John Cristofannilli became the manager with three staff members.

Relighting

Ross Esposito opened Relighting in February, 1989 at 260 Bathurst Street. The lighting store prides itself on its selection and pricing of residential lighting fixtures

Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd.

Originally owned by Eric Brauss, Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd. first opened in the Fort Malden Mall around 1985. In August, 1995 ownership changed to Glen Muir and the office moved to its present location at 503

Sandwich Street South. Re/Max currently has a staff of seven.

Rocco's Fine Foods Limited

This thriving meat and grocery business has been operating at the corner of Victoria and Fort Streets since 1949. The original proprietor, Antonio Pietrangelo, came here in 1923 from the town of Roccamorice, Italy. He found employment first with Marra's Bread, then Brunner Mond and later with Calvert Distillers. His house was on the northwest corner of Victoria and Fort, next to a vacant lot.¹²

After World War II there was an influx of Europeans into the Tri-Community. Realizing the difficulties many of them faced, particularly with shopping in a foreign tongue, Pietrangelo decided to open a small grocery business. Being resourceful, he obtained and demolished an old building and with the used materials and help from his friends, a small grocery store on the once-vacant lot became a reality.



Antonio & Maria Pietrangelo.

At first Antonio's wife Maria tended the store during the day until her husband arrived from work. He would then take over so that Maria could tend to her family. In 1950 the Pietrangelos' daughter-in-law Susie (Mrs. Frank Pietrangelo) began working at the store, then called the 'Genoa Grocery'.¹³

In 1956 the younger son, Rocco, assumed active management of the business and the following year it was renamed 'Rocco's Fine Foods'.¹⁴ Two years later a modern store, 30 x 60 feet, was built. Drawing trade from all over the district, Rocco's motto, "Fine Foods From Far Off Lands," became well-known and the popularity of the store steadily increased.¹⁵ Winning awards for excellence in advertising, particularly for their cheese and meat products, became a regular occurrence. Early in the summer of 1968 Rocco's was

expanded to double the width of its former size.¹⁶

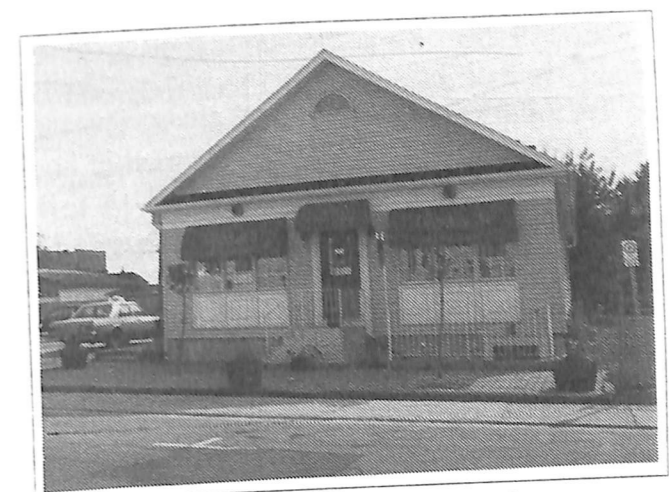
Around 1989, when Rocco and his wife Chris Pietrangelo were considering retirement, Walkerville residents Rene and Anne-Marie Rota were looking for a family business that they could operate themselves. Rene was at that time a manager of one of the Miracle Food Marts in Windsor. The traditions set in place by the Pietrangelo family appealed to the Rota family and in May, 1989 they purchased Rocco's Fine Foods Limited. In early 1996 the Rotas built an addition which doubled the size of the store and joined the Knechtel Associates. Today Rocco's has a staff of 52 people.

Romano's Grocery

Romano's Grocery at 241 Sandwich Street South (northeast corner of Sandwich and Murray Streets) has been in the Mancini family since July, 1970 when Pantaleone Mancini purchased the business which since before the turn of the century had been a grocery store. Steve Kraynovich and Milan Kromlevich came to Amherstburg in 1946 and purchased the Yakima Grocery, changing the name to 'Amherst Provision'. After Mancini took over in 1970 the name was changed to Romano's, now operated by Mancini's son and daughter-in-law, Claudio and Anna Mancini.

Rosa's Restaurant & Pizzeria

Rosa and David White opened Rosa's Pizzeria and Spaghetti House Ltd. on October 1, 1983 as a pick-up and delivery business with two employees. Within a few years the volume of business necessitated the construction of a new sit-down restaurant. In 1993 the Whites added an all-you-can-eat menu. Now called Rosa's Restaurant & Pizzeria, the business is located at 287 Dalhousie Street and employs 25 people.



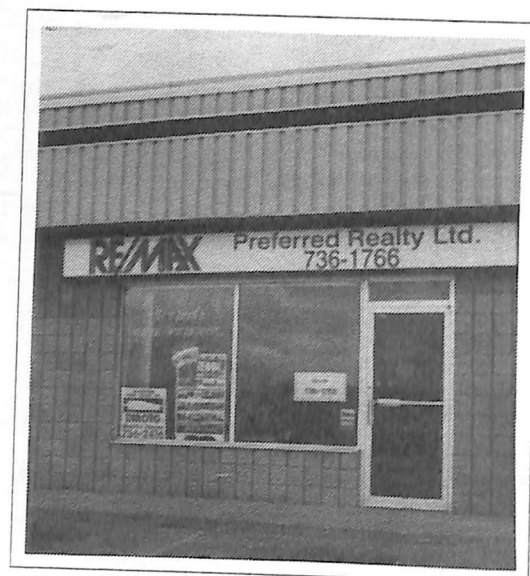
Rosa's Restaurant & Pizzeria.

Salon 2000

Salon 2000 (formerly Hairline Unisex) was established in the Fort Malden Mall by Roger and Sally Harris on October 1, 1976. In 1991 the business moved next door to its former location and opened the new shop with an open concept look and a new name. The clientele has changed since the business opened 20 years ago. Now more than 50 percent of the clients are male and are no longer intimidated to enter a hair salon. Cathy Osborne, a long-time employee of Hairline Unisex, is now the owner/operator of Salon 2000.

Sandpiper Gallery

Sandpiper Gallery at 278 Dalhousie Street opened in 1980. Robbie and Tom Carroll are assisted by two employees in this fine art gallery and unique gift shop. During the past sixteen years Sandpiper Gallery has been visited by such well-known artists and authors as Jim Clary who discussed and signed his book Ladies of the Lake. Famed wildlife artists Robert Bateman and Glen Loates have also exhibited at the Carrolls' shop.



Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd.

August, 1994 when the store moved to a new location in the mall. The business celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1996 with Stella Swyntak, an original employee, as manager. When she retired John Cristofannilli became the manager with three staff members.

Relighting

Ross Esposito opened Relighting in February, 1989 at 260 Bathurst Street. The lighting store prides itself on its selection and pricing of residential lighting fixtures

Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd.

Originally owned by Eric Brauss, Re/Max Preferred Realty Ltd. first opened in the Fort Malden Mall around 1985. In August, 1995 ownership changed to Glen Muir and the office moved to its present location at 503

Sandwich Street South. Re/Max currently has a staff of seven.

Rocco's Fine Foods Limited

This thriving meat and grocery business has been operating at the corner of Victoria and Fort Streets since 1949. The original proprietor, Antonio Pietrangelo, came here in 1923 from the town of Roccamorice, Italy. He found employment first with Marra's Bread, then Brunner Mond and later with Calvert Distillers. His house was on the northwest corner of Victoria and Fort, next to a vacant lot.¹²

After World War II there was an influx of Europeans into the Tri-Community. Realizing the difficulties many of them faced, particularly with shopping in a foreign tongue, Pietrangelo decided to open a small grocery business. Being resourceful, he obtained and demolished an old building and with the used materials and help from his friends, a small grocery store on the once-vacant lot became a reality.



Antonio & Maria Pietrangelo.

At first Antonio's wife Maria tended the store during the day until her husband arrived from work. He would then take over so that Maria could tend to her family. In 1950 the Pietrangelos' daughter-in-law Susie (Mrs. Frank Pietrangelo) began working at the store, then called the 'Genoa Grocery'.¹³

In 1956 the younger son, Rocco, assumed active management of the business and the following year it was renamed 'Rocco's Fine Foods'.¹⁴ Two years later a modern store, 30 x 60 feet, was built. Drawing trade from all over the district, Rocco's motto, "Fine Foods From Far Off Lands," became well-known and the popularity of the store steadily increased.¹⁵ Winning awards for excellence in advertising, particularly for their cheese and meat products, became a regular occurrence. Early in the summer of 1968 Rocco's was

expanded to double the width of its former size.¹⁶

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Sandpiper Gallery.
Left to right: Tom Carroll, artist Glen Loates, unidentified, Roberta Carroll.

Scott's Chicken Villa (Kentucky Fried Chicken)

A Scott's Chicken Villa (Kentucky Fried Chicken) franchise was opened in 1977 at 463 Sandwich Street South. A dining room was later added and the decor updated but the Amherstburg franchise closed its doors on December 21, 1996.

Seaway Marine & Sports

In 1958 brothers John and Simon Gignac were employed as tool-and-die makers at SKD Manufacturing Company when the MacDonald Plumbing & Heating property (southeast corner of Gore and Dalhousie Streets) came up for sale. The building stood on the site of the old Sam McGee store which had been razed in 1931,¹⁷ having been in that family for over 102 years.

The Gignac brothers bought the property and building, where they went into retail sales and service of outboard motors, lawnmowers, chainsaws and carried a line of sporting goods and boats. In May, 1958 Seaway Marine & Sports, named in honour of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway the previous year, opened for business.¹⁸ A few years later, Si left the business to teach at General Amherst High School and John and his wife Eleanor became the sole proprietors. Over the years a number of local youngsters received their first work experience at Seaway Marine.

Randy Gignac, John's eldest son, while still in grade school began to learn the trade from his father. Following high school he attended Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough where he received his certificate as a boat motor mechanic. John's youngest son, Mickey, was also involved in working at the shop during his summer vacations from General Amherst and St. Clair College.

John Gignac passed away November 17, 1991. Seaway Marine remained the family business with Randy as manager and supervisor of the four-member staff. On December 31, 1996 the business closed.



Seaway Marine.

Sew What Fabrics

Sew What Fabrics was first opened by Sharon Jones at 59 Richmond Street, later moved to 249 Dalhousie Street, then 126 Richmond Street and in 1983 to its present location at 128 Richmond Street in the former Liberty Theatre building. Some years ago the business was purchased by Katherine Dyck who with her daughter and part-time help has carried on a successful business.

Shopper's Drug Mart

In 1991 the Shopper's Drug Mart chain bought the Fort Malden Drug Mart at 400 Sandwich Street South. In October, 1995 the chain purchased all Big V drug stores, including the Amherstburg

branch at 199 Sandwich Street South. The former Big V's were converted to Shopper's in 1996.

While the Big V was established in 1964 in Amherstburg, its forerunner, the Rexall Store, began here as early as 1913. A.J. Wilkinson, Phm.B., "Druggist and Optician," opened his drug store in 1912 on Dalhousie Street.¹⁹ In February, 1913 it became known as "the Rexall Store" and continued as such through many years and several owners.

I H. Denike bought the business from Wilkinson in November, 1913²⁰ and operated it until his death in 1921. The business continued under the name 'Denike Drug Co.' until 1931 when it was purchased by Walter E. Roberts, Phm.B., and the name changed to "Roberts' Drug Store". Roberts' first advertisement in the *Amherstburg Echo* indicated that he was "formally opening [his] new store in Amherstburg with a Rexall One Cent Sale."²¹

William E. Ayerst was the next owner of the drug store. A native of Kitchener, Ayerst graduated from the Ontario School of Pharmacy in 1923. He came to Amherstburg from Owen Sound in 1932, purchased the Rexall Store from Walter Roberts and re-opened on May 2nd as 'Ayerst's Drug Store'. Ayerst operated a successful business until 1963 when ill health forced him to retire. He died on September 11th of that year.

The *Amherstburg Echo* of September 12, 1963 announced that the "Ayerst Rexall Pharmacy" at No. 8 Dalhousie Street had been sold to William A. Haslehurst of Oakville, who had graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1951. Haslehurst and his staff of three - Doreen Harris, Carol Kelly and delivery boy Bob Bertrand - operated under the Ayerst name until January 1, 1964 when the name changed to 'Haslehurst Pharmacy'.

September, 1964 marked not only the first anniversary of Haslehurst Pharmacy in Amherstburg but also the entry of the store into the newly-formed Big V group, a buying and merchandising operation owned by several area pharmacists.²² In June, 1965 Haslehurst Big V Pharmacy moved to the front section of the former Liberty Theatre building at the northeast corner of Sandwich and Richmond Streets.²³

In 1968 a new building was erected at 199 Sandwich Street. Bill Haslehurst was appointed general operations manager, Hamilton Division of Big V Pharmacies Co. Ltd. and moved to Dundas, Ontario with his family in March, 1974. Glen Belyea (formerly a pharmacist at Moffat's Pharmacy) was appointed manager of the Amherstburg Big V at that time. Both Belyea and Haslehurst have since retired.

Pharmacist Mary Ann (Schuetter) Wolff, an Amherstburg native, succeeded Glen Belyea as manager of the Amherstburg Big V. She continues to manage Shopper's Drug Mart at 199 Sandwich Street with a staff of fifty-one employees.

Sinasac Jeep/Eagle

Sinasac Jeep/Eagle was founded by Ed and Bruce Sinasac in the winter of 1952-53 on the northeast corner of Sandwich and Alma Streets under the name 'Sinasac's Sunoco Service', a full-service gas station and repair shop. They added used car sales to the business and not long afterwards were



Sinasac Jeep/Eagle.

awarded the American Motors Jeep franchise.

Business was brisk selling new and used cars and trucks, with brother Wayne Sinasac handling the service and repairs. The growing success of the car sales division enabled the brothers to purchase the property across Alma Street at 13 Sandwich Street South, where they built the dealership with a new car showroom and state of the art service facilities in 1968.

Shortly thereafter, the first automatic car wash in town was added to the original Sunoco station. Bruce's failing health necessitated a buy-out by Ed in the late 1970s. Ed's son Rick joined him full-time and the Hertz car rental franchise was opened as well.

AMC/Jeep was bought out by the French automaker Renault in the early 1980s, forming a new franchise called AMC/Jeep/Renault in 1987 and changed the name to Jeep/Eagle. At that time the original Sunoco location at 9 Sandwich Street South was sold to Becker's/Petro-Can.

Forty-three years later, Sinasac Jeep/Eagle is still in sales and service at 13 Sandwich Street South under the direction of Ed and Rick Sinasac, with the assistance of 13 employees.

Smith & Laing Travel Ltd.

Smith & Laing Travel Ltd., located in the Fort Malden Mall, opened for business on April 11, 1988. The company was formed by Brenda Smith and Debra Laing and continues under their direction.

South Shore Transportation

On May 1, 1995 Laurence Joyce opened a shuttle-taxi-courier business from his home at 205 Pacific Avenue. After two months of operation, business hours expanded to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By the fall of 1995 Mr. Joyce had added a third vehicle to keep up with increasing demands for the service.

Sovran & Greenaway

In 1969 John V. Mailloux established a chartered accountancy practice in the Hall block on Dalhousie Street. The practice grew and in 1974 he relocated to a new location on Sandwich Street South. The building housed the Mailloux practice as well as the Pick-Up Pantry, operated by John and Connie Simone, and Jerry Beneteau's insurance brokerage. The building underwent numerous changes over the years, with several different co-tenants sharing the location with Mailloux.

Gid Sovran and Mike Greenaway, partners in a chartered accountancy practice in Windsor since July of 1989, acquired the Amherstburg practice of the late John Mailloux in August, 1992. Sovran operates the Windsor office while Greenaway runs the one in Amherstburg. For Mike Greenaway, a resident of Anderdon Township, the operation of the Amherstburg office has been interesting and enjoyable, especially the ability to work close to home. This aspect is never more appreciated than during the many extra hours of the March and April income tax season.

Speck's Restaurant

Speck's Restaurant at 266 Bathurst Street opened in January, 1972. It is operated by Irene Sprague, her daughters Lennie and Sarah, and Denise Fryer. Everything is homemade, including pies and soups, and customers always get a friendly smile. Someone once said, "Speck's is indeed an oasis for many people. It serves food not only to tummies but also to body and mind and soul."

Tempest Books²⁴

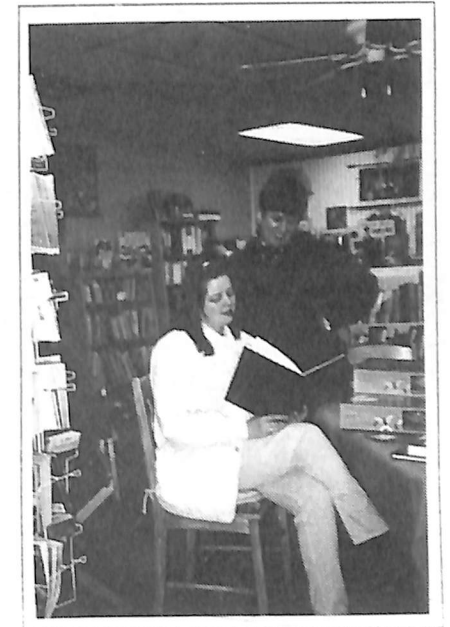
Tempest Books, at 235A Dalhousie Street, is a community bookshop owned and operated by Sarah Jarvis since July, 1992. The name comes from Shakespeare's play, "The Tempest," in which Prospero, stranded with his daughter on an enchanted island, says of his closest friend, "Knowing I lov'd my books, he furnish'd me / From mine own library with volumes that I prize above my dukedom."

The name also celebrated Amherstburg's nautical heritage. The shop overlooks the King's Navy Yard Park, hence its motto, "A Haven for Book Lovers." Since Sarah holds a Master's degree in English Literature, Tempest Books often functions as a drop-in centre for impromptu discussion groups in literature. It is one of those rare independent bookshops that has chairs and sprawling cushions, so that customers can browse in comfort.

Tempest Books has hosted open readings and book launches for many popular and well-known Canadian authors. The store is active in education, taking co-op students from General Amherst High School for work experience in a retail store and receiving Entrepreneurship classes from General Amherst for tutorials.

In response to the special interests of the community, Tempest Books keeps an excellent stock of military and naval history for historians, genealogists and re-enactor groups.

Sarah, her parents Bill and Jo, and the friendly staff at Tempest Books are proud to be a part of Amherstburg's modern history with a knowledge and appreciation of the past.



Tempest Books.

Sarah Jarvis (seated) and Lyn Fraser.

Theresa & Company Unisex Hair Studio

Theresa & Company Unisex Hair Studio, located at 237A Dalhousie Street, opened February 11, 1991. Owner Theresa Echlin, born in England, emigrated to Canada with her parents on Friday, April 13, 1973. This 'unlucky' day was met with a bomb scare on the plane just before departing. This, however, did not mar the good fortune with which Theresa has been blessed. Her life's expectations and dreams have become a reality.

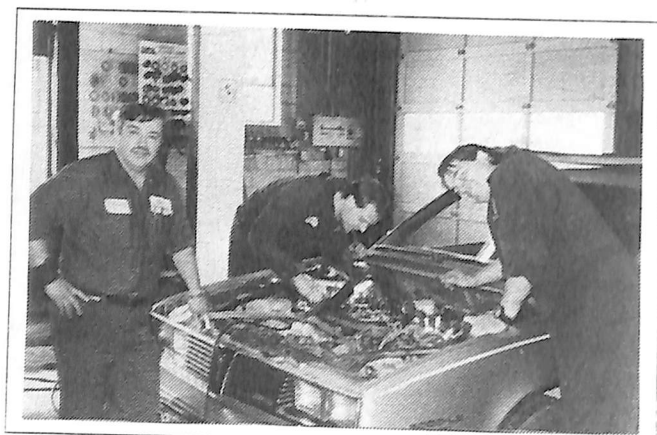
Theresa & Company's opening was a dream come true after hairdressing school for Echlin. Through the years, her family has been her support group. Theresa is grateful for the faithful clientele who have frequented her shop through the past six years.

Tim Horton's

Tim Horton's Amherstburg at 250 Sandwich Street South first opened in the early 1990s. The community has been fortunate to have the franchise in that it employs approximately twenty area residents and is a dedicated sponsor, particularly of organized sports. Guy and Angela Pritchard took over as owners/operators in September, 1995. This popular coffee shop is 'smoke-free'.

Time-Out Sports & More

Time-Out Sports & More at 188 Sandwich Street South was established in March, 1994 by



Tino's Auto Service.

Joe Morello. It began as mainly a sporting goods and accessories shop but in November, 1995 a portion of the store was converted to house a small deli-sandwich counter called 'Abruzzi Deli', operated by Anna Morello.

Tino's Auto Service

Tino's Auto Service was established at 145 St. Arnaud Street in October, 1985. Tino Riccio and three employees like to treat their customers as friends when they come to the auto repair shop.

Top Drawer Casuals

Top Drawer Casuals opened in Amherstburg on October 28, 1991 in the historic (1849) Salmoni building on Dalhousie Street. In September, 1995 the business relocated to 79 Richmond Street, the former Oddfellows hall. Jane Wiley managed the shop for owner Elizabeth Nsakes of Windsor, with two part-time assistants. The fashionable women's wear boutique closed in 1996.

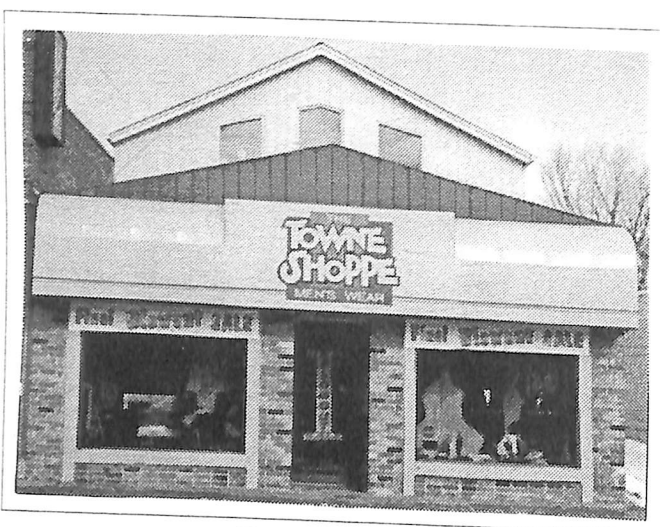
Towne Shoppe

Paul Jones purchased the Towne Shoppe men's wear store in 1970 from John Laframboise. At that time the business was located at 59 Richmond Street. The present building at 52 Richmond Street was purchased in 1975, completely gutted and renovated. Old car parts and stereo parts were found in the attic. Walter Boxall was the owner of the original building and at one time ran a Model T Ford dealership there. The building was also formerly the location of Hamilton TV. A few years ago when digging to parget the outside walls at the back of the store, workers came across a large clay dugout with bottles and a vase just under the floor. There is no noticeable entrance from the outside or from the inside of the store to this mysterious dugout.

In 1984 a large addition to the building was constructed, increasing the 1500 square foot store to 2400 square feet and creating an open staircase and upper level to accommodate the alterations and cruise wear departments. February, 1995 marked twenty-five exciting years in business and another major renovation, making a complete change of fixtures, wall and floor coverings and creating a totally new look for the '90s.

Tri-Graphics

Tri-Graphics at 249 George Street is an independently owned printing business owned and operated by Russell and Elinor Brown since



Towne Shoppe.

1992

Trillium Treasure House

Irene Caba established Trillium Treasure House at 197 Sandwich Street South in September, 1976. Originally a bath boutique, the gift line was expanded in 1991 to include the Bradford Exchange, Ashton Drake dolls, Royal Doulton, Gund stuffed toys, Austrian Crystal miniatures, Country Artists of England and Austen Sculpture. Trillium Treasure House has had visitors from all over the world.

V.P. Boutique

V.P. Boutique at 264 Dalhousie Street in the old core downtown was opened on December 5, 1991 as The Village Plus by co-owners Joan Ross and Judy Giegrich. Joan and Judy strive to keep their women's apparel and accessories interesting and exciting for their customers at the small shop, now called V.P. Boutique.

Remo Valente Real Estate 1990 Limited

Remo Valente Real Estate 1990 Limited at 139 Sandwich Street South is managed by Joe Laframboise. It was established in Amherstburg in 1980 with two people and has now grown to seventeen.

Vivienne's Salon 235

Phyllis' Hairstyles at 235 Sandwich Street was opened in 1981 by Phyllis D'Amore who owned and operated it for fourteen years. Former employee Vivienne Robinson purchased the business in June, 1995 and continues to run it at the same location.

Waterfront Ice Cream Parlour

Without the 'Waterfront' - that is, the Waterfront Ice Cream Parlour - Dalhousie Street would not be the same. Since 1979 local folks and visitors alike have turned a treat into a tradition.

In 1979 Ray and Luisi DeLuca, Tito and Cecilia DeLuca, Marcel and Anne DeLuca and Romeo and Lisa (DeLuca) Cervi purchased the former Seaway Café at 229 Dalhousie Street from Jim White. White had been employed by the previous owners, Otto and Charlotte Nissen,²⁵ who for almost twenty years operated the Seaway Café, famous for German pastries and the homemade lighthouse which stood in front as a beacon. Many people remember with delight Otto's famous rum cake and other tasty goodies.²⁶

Before opening the doors for business, the century building was completely renovated. There was a bake-oven on the north side where



Waterfront Ice Cream Parlour, 1996.

the driveway is today, a closed-in porch where the dining room is located and other small rooms in the rear that were demolished, the space being used for staff parking. The old miniature lighthouse was removed, as was a pond in the picnic area.

The DeLuca family agreed to open as an ice cream parlour with a four-table lunch room. With the opening of the King's Navy Yard Park in 1981, sales increased and extra space was necessary. Ice cream flavours were increased from 16 to 32, the dining room was expanded and more tables provided. The business has grown steadily and now serves over 42 flavours of ice cream and a full breakfast and lunch menu.

Tito and Cecilia now actively manage the Waterfront from early spring until Halloween. During that time the business provides employment for fourteen people, mainly high school students. As for the tradition spoken of in the first paragraph, any summer's evening one may see river watchers and casual strollers in the Navy Yard Park - invariably running their tongues over a delicious ice cream cone.

Wigle Hardware

Wigle Hardware has been doing business at 227 Sandwich Street South since September, 1949 when the hardware store moved from Gore Street to the southeast corner of Sandwich and Richmond Streets. Except for a break of eleven years, there has been a Wigle Hardware in Amherstburg since Daniel Wigle came here from Kingsville in 1876 and opened a store on Dalhousie Street. He moved the business from there to the Kolfage Block on Murray Street for a few years, then in 1881 back to Dalhousie Street when he purchased a 3-storey brick building on the southwest corner of Murray Street. In 1890 after building an addition, he opened as 'D. Wigle Hardware Store'. At the same time he sold his residence (now Duffy's Tavern) and added a "commodious premises over his block...fitted up for a residence."²⁷ In 1894 his cousin Colin Wigle and F.P. Scratch



Wigle Hardware store on Gore Street, undated.

purchased the building. Colin's brother David Wigle ran one half as 'Wigle Hardware'. In 1903 David turned it over to his half-brother Melvin Wigle. Colin Wigle took over in 1908 and changed the name to 'C. Wigle & Co., Hardware Merchants'. Two years later Colin sold the hardware business to W.H. Jones and W.W. Trimble, thus ending for a time the Wigle hardware business.

In 1921 the Wigle family bought out Ryan & Burk's plumbing and tinsmith shop on the south side of Gore Street (between Apsley and Seymore Streets). Colin Wigle's sons Russell and Hugh operated there until the mid-1940s when Russell assumed ownership.

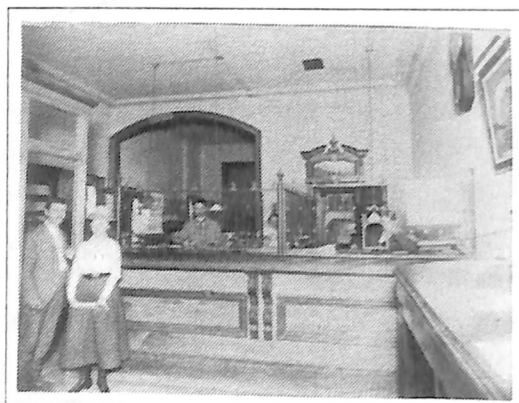
In 1949 Wigle Hardware moved to the northern half of the Yakima building at 227 Sandwich Street South. Russell D. Wigle died in May, 1962. Since that time the Lee Deneau family have owned and operated the business where Deneau had been employed for fifteen years before becoming the proprietor. In 1972 when The Right Store in the southern half of the building closed its doors, Wigle Hardware took over that space and since then has added new services and merchandise for its customers, two storage warehouses in town and a showroom on the opposite side of Richmond Street. Although a family-run business, the operation has been for several years affiliated with the national Pro Hardware chain.

Banking in Amherstburg

Banks have been a part of Amherstburg life for nearly two hundred years. Today the town has six banking institutions - the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canada Trust, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank - as well as the Woodslee Credit Union.

In the late 19th century a number of banks appeared in town. Some were short-lived; some had a history of mergers and changing names; others were in business for a number of years. The following article from the *Amherstburg Echo* of July 6, 1934 describes the early days of banking in Amherstburg:

From about six years after the close of the War of 1812-14 Amherstburg has been a banking institution for the convenience of the citizens. Some time in 1820 the Bank of Upper Canada established a branch in the then little hamlet of Amherstburg and catered to the banking needs of the soldiers and pioneers. Their place of business was in the building on Ramsay Street that was later occupied by The Amherstburg Echo. They continued as the only bankers until 1878 when Loftus Cuddy came here from Strathroy and opened Johnson's Bank that was afterwards changed to the Johnston Banking Co. This move introduced to Amherstburg a man who was closely connected with the history of banking until he retired in December, 1891. Some time after he came here he bought out the Johnston interests and changed the name of the firm to Loftus Cuddy Banker and continued until he went to Cleveland to look after the interests of the Cuddy, Mullen Coal Co. This firm was succeeded by Falls Bros., W.S. and F.M. W.S. Falls was Loftus Cuddy's chief accountant during almost all of the time of the former's banking regime. F.M. Falls had also been with the Cuddy firm for a number of years.



Cuddy-Falls Co., circa 1898, Murray Street.
Department of Canadian Heritage: Fort Malden National Historic Site

The Ontario Bank established a branch here in the Lake View Hotel block for a few years and upon their retirement from the town the Cuddy-Falls Co. was formed about 1895 in the Leggatt Block, which is now occupied by the Kemp Furniture. The Sovereign Bank was also here for some time and carried on their business in the Wilkinson building, which is now owned and occupied by the Bank of Montreal. About 1908 the Imperial Bank of Canada took over the business of the Sovereign Bank. Bruff Garrett was the

first manager of the Sovereign Bank. He was succeeded in turn by M.I. Lane and C.A. Cuddy. The latter was retained as manager of the Imperial Bank [and] was succeeded by the present manager, W.A. Patterson.

In 1905 the Cuddy-Falls Co. sold out to Molson's Bank and W.S. Falls was retained as manager. The office was moved to the Hough Block on Dalhousie Street and later to the Wilkinson Block, which they purchased when the Imperial Bank erected their new building [in 1921].²⁸ The Bank of Montreal took over the Molson's Bank and have maintained their branch here since. The present manager is James A. Bell.

The Bank of Commerce opened a branch in the Hough Block shortly after the Brunner, Mond Canada, Limited came here about 1918 and continued until July 1933.

Amherstburg has always had good banking service despite the many changes that have taken place in the 114 years of banking that has been carried on here. The present branches are fine buildings and are of great service to the town and district.

Although the Marsh Collection Society archives contain a great deal of information about banks in Amherstburg, their locations and managers, only a brief history of each institution present in Amherstburg in 1996 is included in this volume.

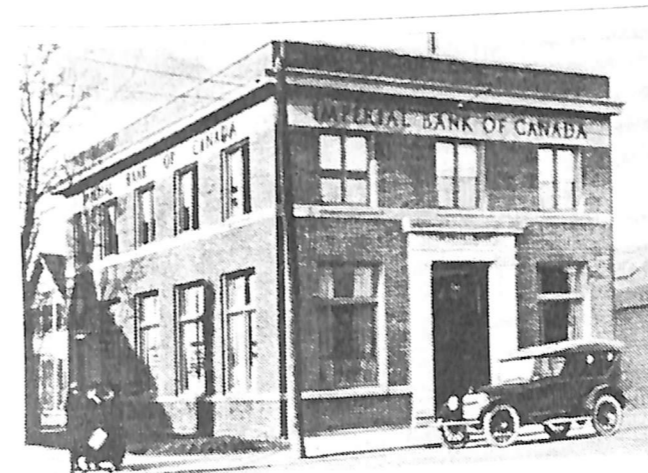
Bank of Montreal

The Bank of Montreal first appeared in Amherstburg around 1924 when it took over the Molson's Bank. The latter had bought out the Cuddy-Falls Company in November, 1904 and moved to the southeast corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets after purchasing that property from the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1921.²⁹

The building first occupied by the Bank of Montreal was built in 1849 by Thomas Paxton for a shop and residence. In October, 1953 the structure was razed to make room for a new building on the same site which opened for business on May 31, 1954.³⁰ The Bank of Montreal was renovated and updated in April, 1980 and is still located at 243 Dalhousie Street, the site it has occupied for 73 years. June (Langlois) McManemy is the present manager.



Molson's Bank, circa 1921.
Bank of Montreal archives



Imperial Bank of Canada, 1921.
"IBC" archives



Bank of Montreal, circa 1970.
Bank of Montreal archives



Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (far left) and Toronto-Dominion Bank, 1995.



Canada Trust, 1996.

Bank of Nova Scotia

The Bank of Nova Scotia, 99 Richmond Street (southeast corner of Bathurst Street), held its official opening in October, 1982. The first manager was Dave Rose. The Scotia Bank currently employs sixteen people and is under the management of Joe Carlini.

Canada Trust

The Amherstburg branch of Canada Trust was established in July, 1994 at 89 Richmond Street at the southwest corner of Bathurst Street. There are fifteen employees including manager



Cuddy-Falls Co., circa 1898, Murray Street.
Department of Canadian Heritage: Fort Malden National Historic Site

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Amherstburg has always had good banking service despite the many changes that have taken place in the 114 years of banking that has been carried on here. The present branches are fine buildings and are of great service to the town and district.

Although the Marsh Collection Society archives contain a great deal of information about banks in Amherstburg, their locations and managers, only a brief history of each institution present in Amherstburg in 1996 is included in this volume.

Bank of Montreal

The Bank of Montreal first appeared in Amherstburg around 1924 when it took over the Molson's Bank. The latter had bought out the Cuddy-Falls Company in November, 1904 and moved to the southeast corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets after purchasing that property from the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1921.²⁹

The building first occupied by the Bank of Montreal was built in 1849 by Thomas Paxton for a shop and residence. In October, 1953 the structure was razed to make room for a new building on the same site which opened for business on May 31, 1954.³⁰ The Bank of Montreal was renovated and updated in April, 1980 and is still located at 243 Dalhousie Street, the site it has occupied for 73 years. June (Langlois) McManemy is the present manager.



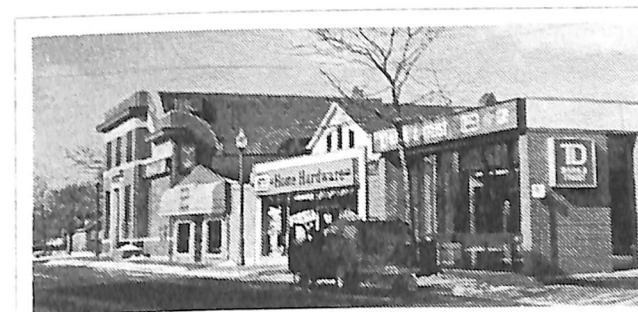
Molson's Bank, circa 1921.
Bank of Montreal archives



Imperial Bank of Canada, 1921.
CIBC archives



Bank of Montreal, circa 1970.
Bank of Montreal archives



Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (far left) and Toronto-Dominion Bank, 1995.



Canada Trust, 1996.

Bank of Nova Scotia

The Bank of Nova Scotia, 99 Richmond Street (southeast corner of Bathurst Street), held its official opening in October, 1982. The first manager was Dave Rose. The Scotia Bank currently employs sixteen people and is under the management of Joe Carlini.

Canada Trust

The Amherstburg branch of Canada Trust was established in July, 1994 at 89 Richmond Street at the southwest corner of Bathurst Street. There are fifteen employees including manager



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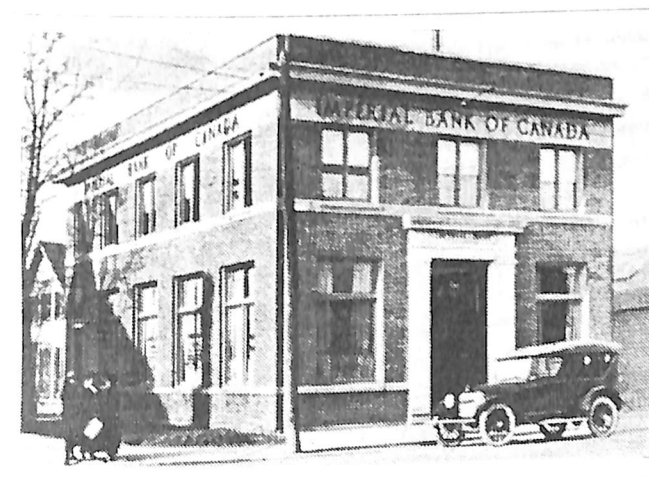
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Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)

In 1908 the Imperial Bank of Canada took over the Amherstburg branch of the Sovereign Bank which had been established in 1902.³¹ In 1921 the Imperial Bank vacated their premises at the southeast corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets³² and relocated to a new two-storey brick building across the street on the northeast corner.³³

On June 1, 1961 the Imperial Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce merged to become the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The Amherstburg branch still operates from the building it has occupied since 1921. The present manager is D. Hinchcliff.

Royal Bank

On September 10, 1975 the Royal Bank established a branch in Amherstburg with six employees. Its first manager was Ross Clark. Initially located in a mobile building in the Four Seasons Bowl parking lot, the bank moved into the Fort Malden Mall upon its completion in 1976. Extensive remodelling was completed in 1982.³⁴ Currently a staff of eleven works under manager Carolyn Renaud.

Toronto-Dominion Bank

In February, 1969 the Toronto-Dominion Bank purchased Stanley Nicholson's property on Richmond Street, the former site of the Amherstburg Cold Storage plant. The bank opened its Amherstburg branch on March 3rd of that year in a portable building located on the grounds of Richmond Terrace Nursing Home. Rudy Penner was the first manager.³⁵ One year later the branch's permanent building was officially opened at its present location, 58 Richmond Street. The current manager is Janet Willoughby.

Woodslee Credit Union

The first credit union in the Town of Amherstburg was formed by a group of employees from Brunner Mond Canada Ltd. Several months of meetings and inquiries into the legalities of forming a financial cooperative led to an application for provincial approval of a credit union. On February 29, 1951 Brond Employees (Amherstburg) Credit Union Ltd. received its charter of operation.

With help from credit union friends in Windsor, the first board of directors and committees were elected. Eventually sufficient capital was on hand to allow for small loans to the members. Word spread quickly about the credit union and the demand for more office hours resulted in evening hours in the kitchen of treasurer Rupert Scott!

Although successful in attracting members to both save and borrow, it was not all smooth sailing during those first few years. The credit union experienced some rough waters until Harold MacIntosh, a stationary engineer at the plant, agreed to take over as treasurer in 1958. Harold's knowledge of math and accounting enabled the organization to get back on an even keel and within a couple of years members were receiving dividends on their investments and rebates of loan interest. Office and credit committee hours were held twice weekly in the back room of the Local 89 UAW office on Richmond Street. At this point the board of directors started a building fund for their own credit union offices.

As more employees joined the credit union and business increased, an assistant treasurer became necessary. This resulted in the team of Harold MacIntosh and Alex Rocheleau. Under the direction of various boards, they guided the credit union operation through many changes, both in government regulations and in the area of member services.

In 1966 the credit union purchased the old Mullen coal office at 254 Dalhousie Street. They reached a milestone in 1974 when the assets of the credit union climbed to one million dollars. After his retirement from the plant, Harold MacIntosh became the first paid employee of Brond Employees (Amherstburg) Credit Union.

As membership increased so did the workload and in November, 1975 the board of directors hired Dorothy Capel-Cure to help with the workload. The next few years saw some drastic changes with Brond moving from manually-kept records to a 'batch system' on the data system of the Credit Union Central of Ontario.

With the exodus of Motorco Savings Credit Union, Amherstburg was left without a credit union that could serve the community. To fill this void Brond began preparations to have their Bond of Association changed. The first step was to move to a more convenient location. This was done in 1987 when the credit union leased the premises it currently occupies in the Heritage Square at 80 Richmond Street. The next step involved a submission to the Ministry of Financial Institutions with a business plan and financial statements to support the request for a community credit union bond. A community bond was granted early in 1988 and resulted in the credit union's name change to Brond Community Credit Union.

On November 30, 1994 Brond Community Credit Union closed its doors, merged with Woodslee Credit Union and re-opened on December 2, 1994 as the Amherstburg branch of the Woodslee Credit Union.

Industry

Amherstburg at the turn of the century was a scene right out of a movie. Even in the middle of summer the reassuring black smoke belching vigorously out of the stacks of steam boats on the river and factories on the land revealed the vitality of workers and owners alike. It is interesting to look back and learn what people did for a living and what kind of industries were active in town. The census of 1901 in Amherstburg identified 171 marine men. Over 21% of the work force of 790 occupations listed were engaged in river work. There were 35 carpenters, 10 blacksmiths and over two dozen ships captains. Some captains had regular runs out of Amherstburg. Ships like the steamer *Lake Breeze* had a Windsor-Amherstburg route while the steamer *Ruby* had a Detroit-Amherstburg route. Their office and dock were located at the foot of Gore Street where Duffy's Marina is today.

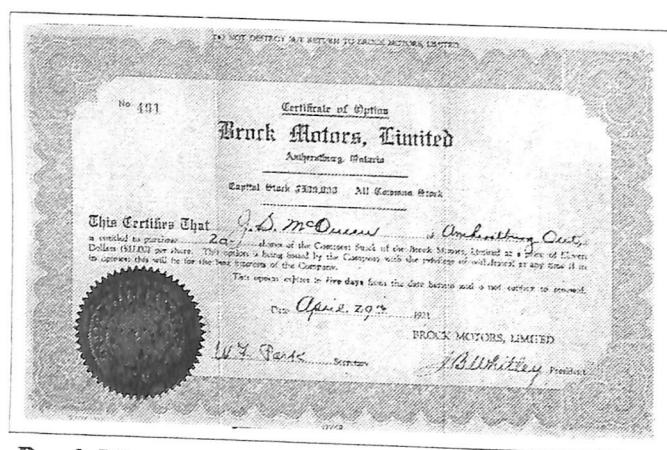
Just like today industries come and go. Times are great when they come and tough when they go. We always seemed to have a good supply of jobs in the area for farming, shopkeeping and banking even to this day. At the turn of the century you could find jobs in industries that don't exist today. We had at least two 'electric generating works', as they were called. They proudly provided power for incandescent illumination. There was the L.W. Lewitt & Son Knitting Mills that later

became the Hamilton & Lewitt Knitting Mill which produced thousands of socks for the soldiers of the First World War before closing its doors. In 1886 after the Barron grist mill was destroyed by fire, a gentleman of excellent reputation known as Colin Wigle took up the challenge and with the encouragement of the town council established the Riverside Flouring Mill, which gained an excellent reputation. The mill was constructed of stone three storeys high with a basement and a very powerful steam engine. Success led to the erection of a second large structure. McQueen Marine purchased the property in 1941 and now John Oram's Bois Blanc sales group is turning that space into an attractively landscaped green area with parking.

The land surrounding and occupied today by the Fort Malden Building Centre was the location of several famous local industries. Thousands of cast iron student desks were manufactured in Amherstburg at the Middleditch Foundry before it moved to St. Thomas. The ironworks of E. Woods & Son Foundry was another important industry located there. Steam engines and giant steel dredging buckets for river work were their mainstay. The Fraser Lumber Mill was operated first by Simon Fraser and later by his son John. Eventually Conklin took over that site.

In 1907 the canning factory came to town on Fort Street. It provided a few year-round jobs and dozens of summer jobs. But it was nearly rejected. The townsfolk were not eager to give them a tax break. Finally convinced that the town had everything to gain, the ratepayers voted for the bylaw which gave the canning factory a free site, free water and free taxes for ten years. By September, 1907 the plant opened, providing over fifty seasonal jobs to area residents. The canning factory remained an important industry in Amherstburg until closing permanently at the end of 1982. At that time sixteen full-time workers and approximately 150 seasonals were on the payroll.

The Two-in-One Auto Company got the town to build a \$10,000 factory just north of the canning factory. Three 'Amherst 40' cars were manufactured before the company withered from insufficient capital. In 1920-21 William Stansell's dream of producing 10,000 cars per year at the Brock Motors plant in the former Two-In-One building also fizzled. One 'Brock Six' touring car was produced. The town was eager to put another industry in that building and selected the Canadian Glass Company Limited which would use silica sand from Callam's Bay. It made at least one perfect sheet of glass before folding.



Brock Motors, Limited share certificate, dated 1921.



Canadian Glass Company, Limited share certificate, dated 1923.

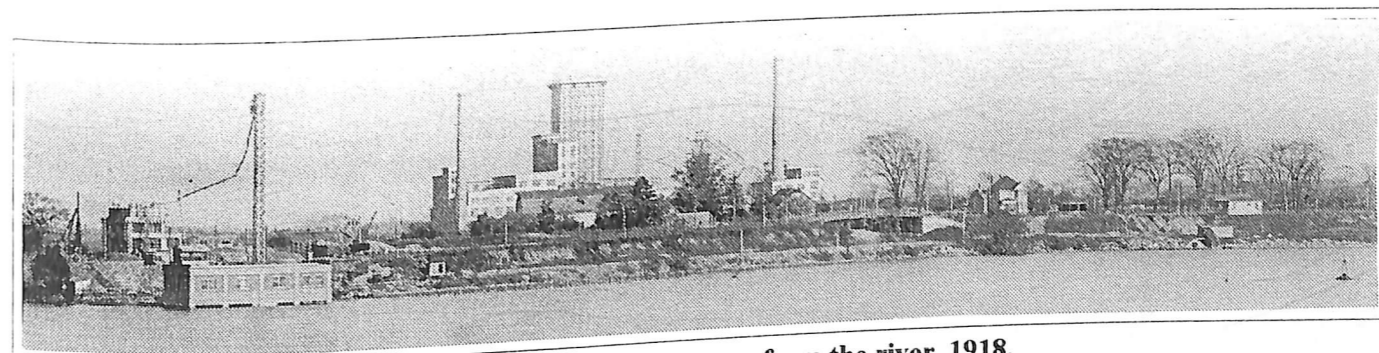
The worst time for the town came around 1912-13. The Livingstone Channel had employed hundreds but was finished in 1912. Work on building the beautiful stone buildings on Bois Blanc Island (Bob-Lo) was finished in 1913. The First World War started in 1914. Things became so slow that many families left town to find work in the bustling auto factories of Detroit or the plants in the Rouge or Dearborn. Hiram Walker's was hiring and the Windsor-Detroit ferry service was booming. One house after the other came empty in Amherstburg, such that when the giant chemical plant known then as the Brunner Mond came to town in 1917 there were eighty empty houses in a town with a population below 2500.

Brunner Mond Canada Limited / General Chemical Canada Limited / Allied Chemical Canada Limited

A giant economic engine on the outskirts of Amherstburg was the first of its kind in Canada and in 1996 was the only one of its kind in North America. In the beginning this giant chemical plant was called Brunner, Mond Canada Ltd. It produced soda ash by the Solvay process. The story of its early years is a fascinating revelation of what is probably a typical European American foundation of a major Canadian enterprise.

Intrigue, suspense, clandestine meetings, major world events and a government determined to protect British interests while at the same time nurturing desirable Canadian industries through the selective use of tariffs and taxes; these things were especially important to the Amherstburg area in the early 1900s. The European American background to one of the most impressive Canadian industrial mega-projects of the beginning of the 20th century is a captivating story in its own right. The elements of the Brunner Mond story that made it into print resemble the tip of an iceberg and suggest that the unreported parts of the story would make fascinating box office hits out of any movie or TV series based on what must have been happening behind the scenes. You will see for yourself as we follow the published events gleaned from the daily and weekly newspapers of those days.³⁶

Nearly a hundred years after the beginning of the story, this industry finds itself in a time of great changes in industrial technology, finance, politics and almost everything else. The globalization of practically every product and service has affected the protections that allowed the firm to become financially stable and vigorous in those early years and has introduced the fact of competition with every other producer anywhere in the world. The computer is still generating wholesale alterations to every aspect of life with no end in sight. All of this places enormous stress on the talent and



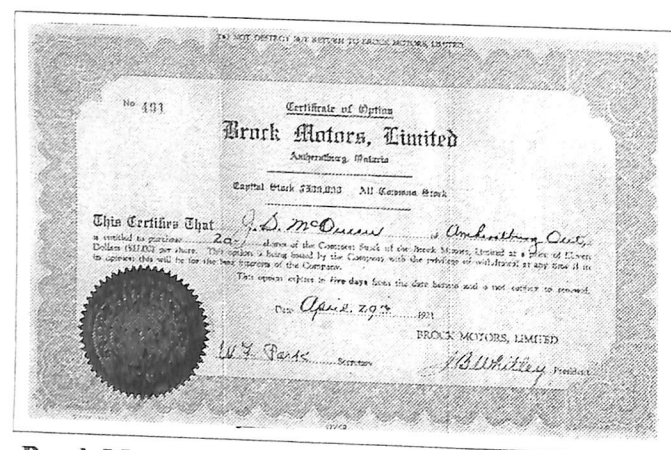
Brunner Mond plant as seen from the river, 1918.

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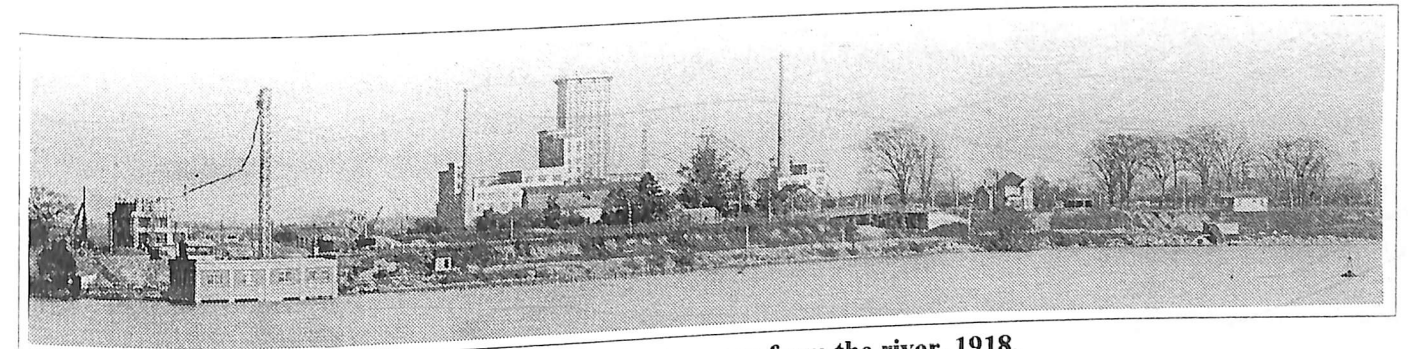
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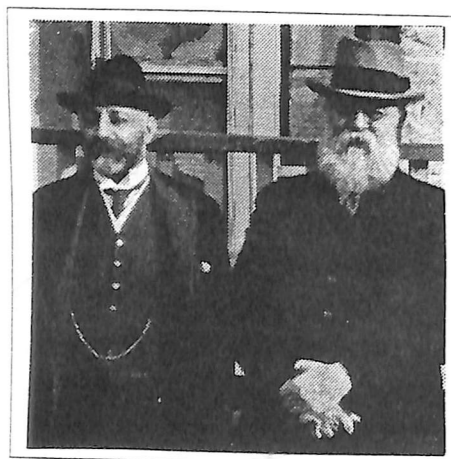
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strategies of management and labour for the present and future of this enterprise and thereby the families of communities that it sustains.

For the beginning of this tale we reach back into Europe around the mid-1800s when the industrial revolution was developing its powerful magic known as the use of chemistry in the production process. Politics and war in particular meant that no country could afford to fall behind in arms and munitions. This gave rise to several attempts to produce a highly useful and most essential product known as soda ash, an important member of what came to be known as the alkali industry.

European Roots

The race was on to find a process for making large quantities of soda ash. The first successful production facility was based on the Leblanc process invented by a French chemist by that name. Several factories, known as 'works', were built but all were plagued with problems of quality and inconsistent product. A talented German chemist, Dr. Ludwig Mond, at the age of 23 went to England from Germany and entered into a partnership with John Hutchinson, a well-known alkali manufacturer. There Dr. Mond perfected his patented method for recovering sulphur from the Leblanc process. He introduced his sulphur recovery method into thirty works in France and England. In 1872 he met Ernest Solvay who had recently turned an 1834 ammonia-soda invention (by Dyar and Hemming) into a promising method of making soda ash. Mond decided to gamble on the ammonia-soda process and purchased the option to work the Solvay patents in England. In 1873 at the age of 34 he entered into partnership with John Tomlinson Brunner, age 31, who was employed in the office of John Hutchinson. They located £20,000 and with fierce hard work and abundant commercial and scientific skills they founded the great chemical manufacturing firm of Brunner, Mond and Company. They began to make alkali by the ammonia-soda process under license from the Belgium chemist Ernest Solvay. This technique of using ammonia as a catalyst became the superior method after Dr. Mond conquered the technical difficulties. This was largely the result of his inventing and employing strictly scientific methods of controlling the reaction involving the recovery of the ammonia and other products. Another of his inventions made possible the extraction of nickel from its ore.



Sir Alfred Mond (left) and Sir John Brunner, circa 1917.

Ludwig Mond considered himself a working man and always insisted that his men address him in an informal manner. His partner became Sir John Brunner, a socially enlightened Liberal member of parliament.³⁷ Together these men introduced in 1884 the unheard of practice of a week's holiday with pay to every man who had lost fewer than ten days or shifts in the previous year except for reasons of illness. Later the week's pay was doubled in order to encourage the workers to travel on their holidays. From 1874 to 1889 the hours of a shiftman were reduced from 84 to 56 per week and rates of pay were increased. In 1892 the old two-shift system was abolished and the three-shift system substituted, ushering in the eight-hour day. Other measures were introduced such as sickness and injury insurance and apprenticeship education. In a time when strikes were bitterly contested and often cruelly broken, Brunner, Mond Company in England had no strikes. In

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American Roots

Meanwhile, in the United States an English family had become wealthy over a few generations. The Hazard family of Rhode Island was operating one of the most successful textile manufacturing enterprises in America. The youngest Roland Hazard III was sent to southern Missouri to decide the fate of the large lead mine the family had acquired four years earlier. Young Roland found the people of the area and the workers were eager to revive the operation. After a few years success looked to be in sight when Roland had to return to the main operation. As his replacement he chose a young engineer by the name of William B. Cogswell. Three years later the job was done and Cogswell took a very well-deserved vacation on his way to head office. One of the planned stops was at a symposium in New York on the alkali industry. It was there that he came to realize the immense importance of alkali and also learned of the competing processes for producing soda ash. He already knew that soda ash was an essential and important chemical in the textile industry. When he met with his friend and employer Roland Hazard, Cogswell sought and received the assignment to travel to Europe and collect all the relevant information on the alkali industry and soda ash production.

Cogswell went to England and Germany to talk to engineers and chemists whom he had met in the United States. It was almost unanimous that the Solvay process was the key to success and Cogswell soon presented his papers and references requesting an interview with the Solvay brothers of Belgium. The Solvays followed the protocols and customs of their day. Cogswell was granted an interview which stretched out over a two-day period but it quickly became evident that something was wrong. Cogswell was turned away with the recommendation that America could buy its supply of soda ash from the British Brunner, Mond Company. He also learned that at least one brash promoter who claimed to be from Texas had soured the Solvay brothers on all Americans by telling them what they had to do in order that this American could make them "bloody rich." In the process he left spur marks on the ornate desk of Ernest Solvay. In turn the brothers had decided they would never let their process go to any American.

Once again Cogswell made the effort to gain an audience with the brothers, this time by receiving help from other well known Europeans. The Solvay brothers responded by requesting key references from the United States. These were provided by return mail and finally three months later in a small note was received saying that the references were in order and if Mr. Cogswell should be in Brussels on business at any time he could call on them. At his next meeting with the Solvay brothers Cogswell received a more encouraging reception. He returned to America with a description of the information and the commitments he would need to determine whether a successful Solvay process operation could be established in America.

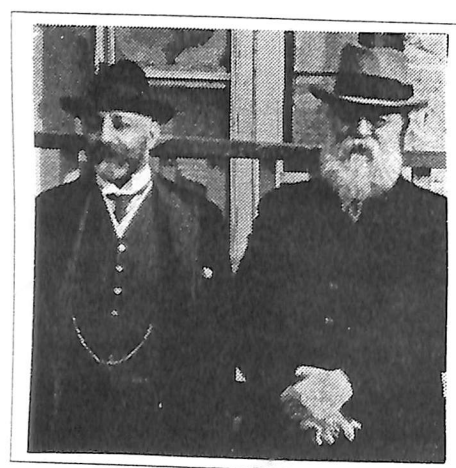
Roland Hazard wasted no time. It was his intention that America should be totally self-reliant in all things including alkali production. He immediately travelled to Belgium with Cogswell and brought a mountain of relevant information. An abundance of all the right resources could be found in New York State near the city of Syracuse. An agreement was concluded and three young American

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American Roots

Meanwhile, in the United States an English family had become wealthy over a few generations. The Hazard family of Rhode Island was operating one of the most successful textile manufacturing enterprises in America. The youngest Roland Hazard III was sent to southern Missouri to decide the fate of the large lead mine the family had acquired four years earlier. Young Roland found the people of the area and the workers were eager to revive the operation. After a few years success looked to be in sight when Roland had to return to the main operation. As his replacement he chose a young engineer by the name of William B. Cogswell. Three years later the job was done and Cogswell took a very well-deserved vacation on his way to head office. One of the planned stops was at a symposium in New York on the alkali industry. It was there that he came to realize the immense importance of alkali and also learned of the competing processes for producing soda ash. He already knew that soda ash was an essential and important chemical in the textile industry. When he met with his friend and employer Roland Hazard, Cogswell sought and received the assignment to travel to Europe and collect all the relevant information on the alkali industry and soda ash production.

Cogswell went to England and Germany to talk to engineers and chemists whom he had met in the United States. It was almost unanimous that the Solvay process was the key to success and Cogswell soon presented his papers and references requesting an interview with the Solvay brothers of Belgium. The Solvays followed the protocols and customs of their day. Cogswell was granted an interview which stretched out over a two-day period but it quickly became evident that something was wrong. Cogswell was turned away with the recommendation that America could buy its supply of soda ash from the British Brunner, Mond Company. He also learned that at least one brash promoter who claimed to be from Texas had soured the Solvay brothers on all Americans by telling them what they had to do in order that this American could make them "bloody rich." In the process he left spur marks on the ornate desk of Ernest Solvay. In turn the brothers had decided they would never let their process go to any American.

Once again Cogswell made the effort to gain an audience with the brothers, this time by receiving help from other well known Europeans. The Solvay brothers responded by requesting key references from the United States. These were provided by return mail and finally three months later a small note was received saying that the references were in order and if Mr. Cogswell should be in Brussels on business at any time he could call on them. At his next meeting with the Solvay brothers Cogswell received a more encouraging reception. He returned to America with a description of the information and the commitments he would need to determine whether a successful Solvay process operation could be established in America.

Roland Hazard wasted no time. It was his intention that America should be totally self-reliant in all things including alkali production. He immediately travelled to Belgium with Cogswell and brought a mountain of relevant information. An abundance of all the right resources could be found in New York State near the city of Syracuse. An agreement was concluded and three young American



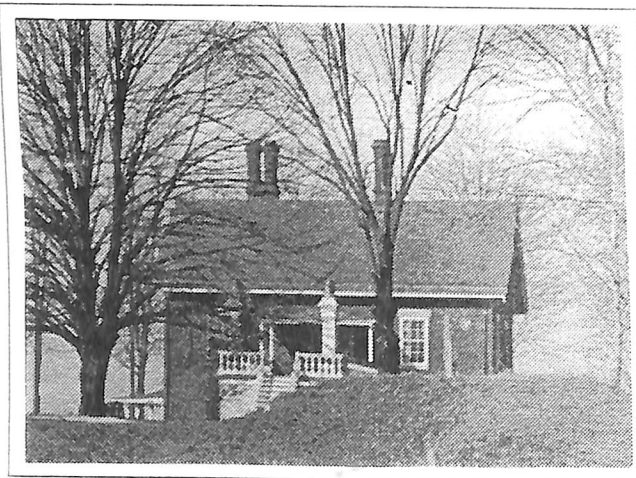
Andrew H. Green, circa 1917.

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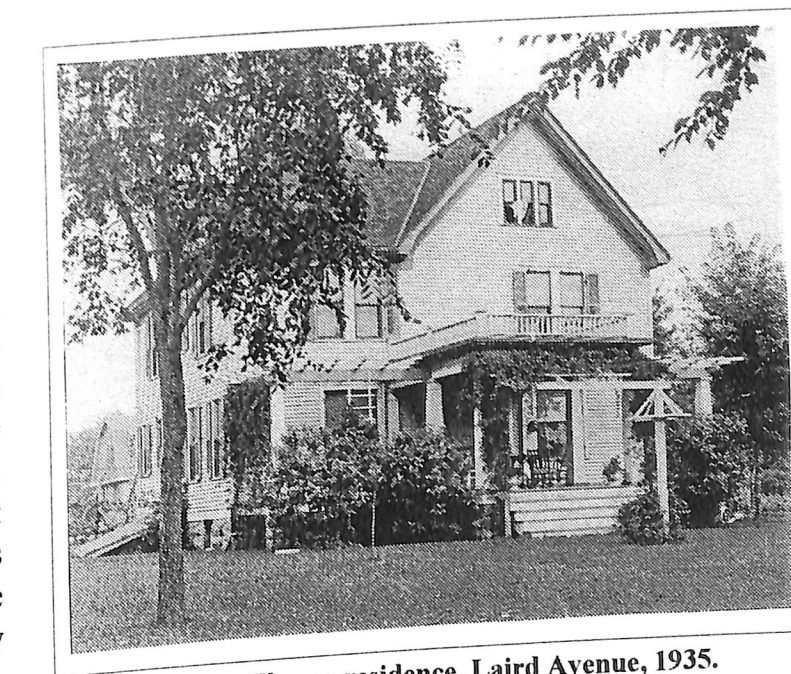
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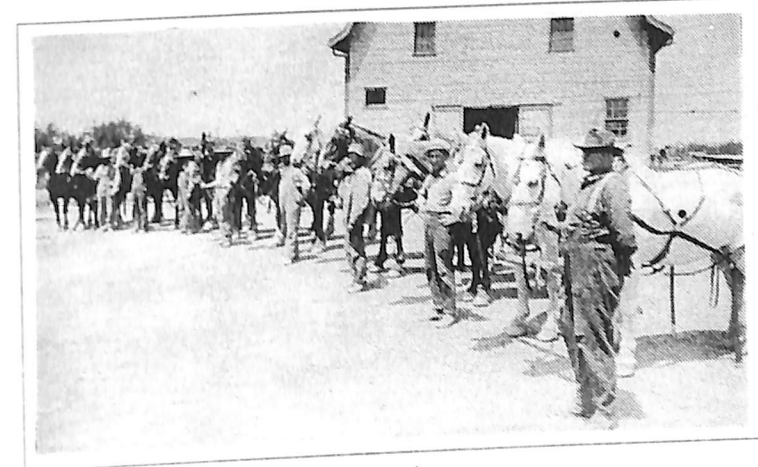
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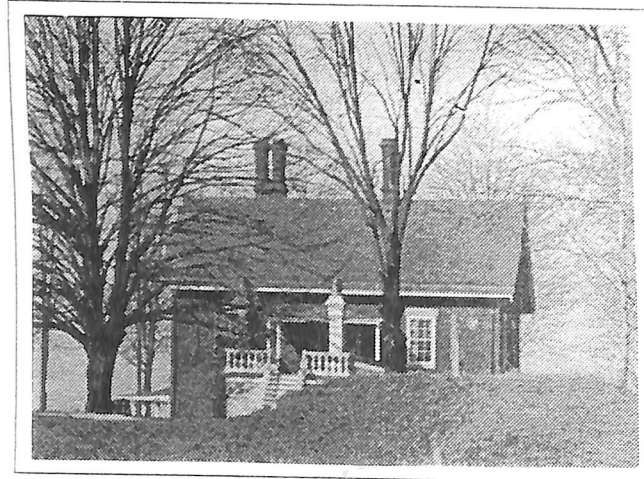
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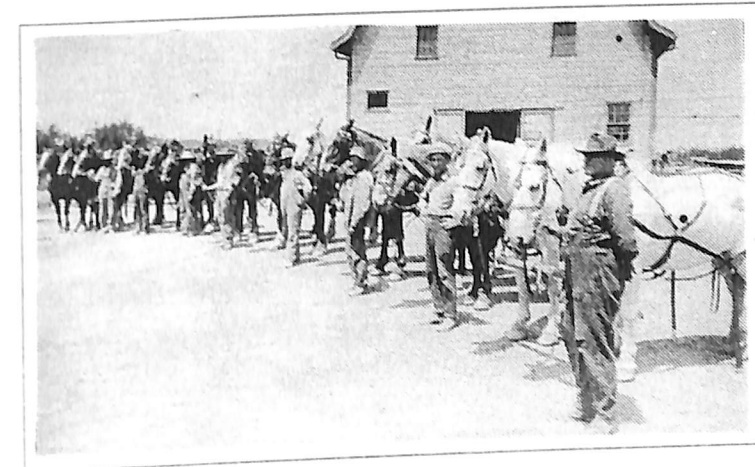
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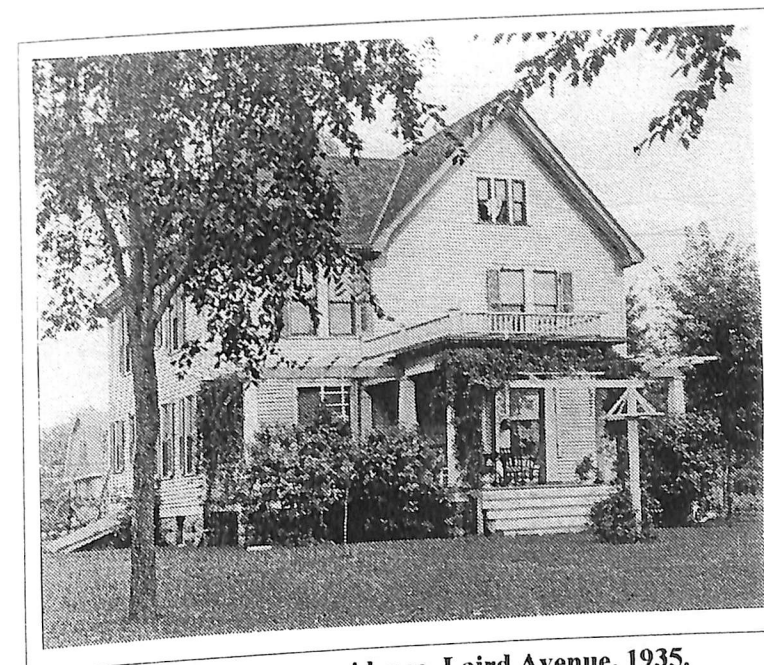
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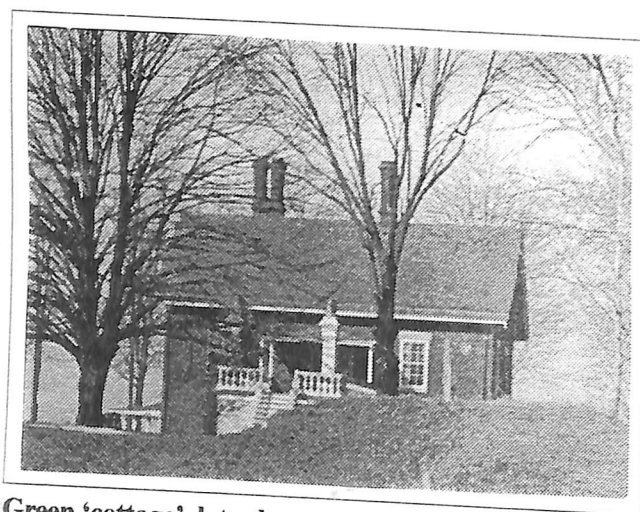
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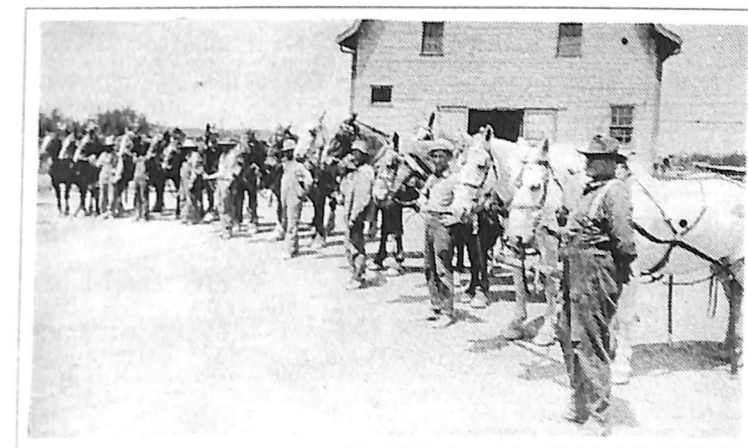
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TWB was not one to lose an argument. He strode into the *Amherstburg Echo* office one fine day to prove that a certain kind of snake had not disappeared from the area. In a flash there was no one to talk to because as soon as he held up the snake for all to see there was no one left to talk about it.

Amherstburg Seeks a Better Future

Amherstburg experienced a series of good and bad times over the years. In 1854 the Great Western Railway established the Windsor-Detroit connection and Amherstburg began to decline. Good times returned when the Canada Southern Railway established its Lime Kiln Crossing ferry service at Gordon in 1873 at the foot of Texas Road over to the Michigan mainland via Stony Island and Grosse Île. But in 1883, when the Essex 'cutoff' was opened between Essex Centre and Windsor, the Gordon crossing was abandoned. Growth in Amherstburg was cut in half and continued to decrease. Many skilled people and services went to Windsor or Detroit. Later in 1897 the Detroit, Windsor & Belle Isle Ferry Company leased Bois Blanc Island and established a very popular summer playground that provided work for many in construction of the various buildings as well as in operating the park. There was dining and dancing, family and church picnics, music, swimming and golf. Around 1900 the quarries began year-round operation. Amherstburg attracted a cannery in 1906, and later a knitting mill and two efforts at establishing an automobile manufacturing facility. There was even a short-lived effort to use the beautiful silica sand that stretched from the foot of Bois Blanc to Elliott's Point. The failed car factory was converted to glass production but turned out beautiful big chunks of useless glass that were dumped in small mounds on the property. It closed down, leaving behind dozens of piles of solidified glass that had a distinctive green hue stretching from deep sea green to frothy milk green and even frosted white bubble-filled glass. Today one can see that silica sand at the south end of Bois Blanc Island on a man-made stretch of beach known locally as White Sands.

Confidence in the future began to return to Amherstburg. TWB opened the north end of Laird Avenue and in 1905 built a large state-of-the-art frame home for himself and future managers on the riverbank. In 1911 the Amherstburg business community organized to attract desirable new enterprises to town. If the Solvay Process Company could be persuaded to locate a major production facility somewhere near their quarries, then prosperity and a secure family life could become a dependable expectation. They must have been somewhat successful because Solvay Company engineers began a thorough assessment of the area drilling holes and taking options on various properties all the way from Petrimoulx Corners south to the quarries. By 1914 it seemed certain that Andrew H. Green was about to confirm a mammoth soda ash plant for the area. He even obtained permission from the Anderdon Township Council to lay pipe for the transmission of brine from River Canard to the Bray farm near Gordon. But fate intervened.

At this point there are three related stories that influenced the course of events for this area: namely, a new plant in Kansas; the conversion of the Brunner, Mond Company works in England to war production; and the untold 'made in Canada' story. First, in 1913 Gordon S. Rutherford, a talented former manager of the Sarnia salt mine, was selected by the Solvay Process Company to go to Hutchinson, Kansas and turn the operation there into a producer of 165,000 tons of high quality soda ash per year. It is probable that the Hutchinson operation diverted capital away from the Canadian option at Amherstburg just before Green was ready to promote his pet project in

Amherstburg. In one article in the *Amherstburg Echo*, it was mentioned that Andrew Green might travel to England on business. He might have been looking for more expertise but it is more probable that he needed more capital. Second, war clouds were looming on the horizon, introducing the possibility of a shortage of soda ash in Canada if (as did happen) the Brunner Mond complex in England was diverted to war production. Since about 60% of Canadian soda ash consumption came from England, there would be a giant shortage. One answer to the shortage could be to lower tariffs on alkali imports from the U.S. Eventually this was considered but not until after the plant was built. The Green team put everything on hold until the tariff decision was made because in the short run the American plants could meet the Canadian requirements. However, the tariff remained, so the Green team went back to work. Back in 1914-15 it looked like they had everything they needed with the possible exception of sufficient capital. The third story is about an all-Canadian attempt to entice mountains of British money into Canadian mining.

An Inside Story

For this third story we reach back into the memories of Amherstburg's 'Rhododendron' Bob Sutherland. Bob made a chance remark over lunch one day at Duffy's Tavern about his mother's opinion of Lord and Lady Mond when they were visiting his parents' home in Toronto. Mrs. Sutherland was delighted with Lady (Violet Goetze) Mond and greatly enjoyed her company. The unusual part of the story is how this visit came to be. It started back on a farm in Nova Scotia during hard times. Bob's dad and uncle, who was known as HH, left the farm at the tender ages of 12 and 13. They soon discovered that to survive and prosper they had to hustle as a cooperative pair. In Northern Ontario it was the age of fortunes being made from mining and gold was king. The brothers learned first-hand all the tricks from high grading to 'salting'.³⁹ They became especially knowledgeable about mining in the Cobalt area and eventually opened a very successful brokerage in Toronto. They were part of the scene when whole train loads of investors were recruited from major cities such as Detroit and Chicago. These investors were taken on carefully choreographed tours of well-salted mines. As good fortune would have it, at least half of these dollars were actually invested in the mines and some investors actually made money. But by 1912 it was becoming very difficult to attract large sums of money from anywhere in North America and the brothers came up with their all-Canadian scheme to tap into the mother lode of investment money. They planned to go to London, England and have the wealthy scions of the British Empire invite the Sutherland brothers into their inner circle. The whole plan rested on being invited in.

HH drew the short straw and headed for London by first class travel on the first available luxury liner. Immediately he booked into the one hotel that was used daily for casual business meetings by the inner circle of British investment houses. Then HH went to the right shops to buy the right kinds of gentlemen's haberdashery and ordered the right number of suits. From there he went directly to the Rolls Royce Salon and paid in full by cheque for the Silver Cloud that was at that moment being manicured on the showroom floor. HH stipulated that it should be delivered to his hotel at precisely noon the next day. On returning to the hotel HH made arrangements with the doorman to have the Silver Cloud kept at the ready near the front entrance in case it was needed and to prevent it from receiving any scratches in the parking lot. The Sutherland brothers' plan depended on the chauffeurs of the wealthy investors asking the doorman about the Silver Cloud. In that way all chauffeurs and their wealthy employers would know that the car belonged to that wealthy mining

bloke from Canada over in England on business. And soon the phone would ring and...

Sometimes good plans aren't. On the fifth day HH wired home, "Not one phone call or any other reaction. The plan is a failure." The reply from Toronto said, "It must work. We've got fifty-eight thousand invested already. Hold the course." Finally someone must have asked his chauffeur about the Silver Cloud because the phone did begin to ring. Within the next ten days HH was making great headway and building his list of contacts. Among the investors who took a great interest was the second son of Dr. Ludwig Mond. In the forty plus years since his father and Sir John Brunner opened the first Solvay process plant in England in 1873, the young Alfred Mond had taken his place in government and in the family business with such success that he was created a baronet in 1910, sworn into the Privy Council in 1913 and raised to the peerage in 1928 as Baron Melchett of Landford, County Southampton. It was this contact in particular that led to a number of interesting visits with the Sutherlands. Dr. Ludwig Mond had begun to buy up nickel mines around Sudbury in the 1890s because he was determined to prove the value of his chemical process for extracting nickel from the ore. Of the many significant British investments in Canada at least two are very familiar to us. One is the nickel mine in Sudbury commonly known as the 'Big Nickel' and owned by the International Nickel Company whose original name was Brond Nickel. The second is known to us today as General Chemical whose original name was Brunner, Mond Canada Limited. But it wasn't smooth sailing.

The Power of Positive Thinking

Rumours were rampant right from 1907 onward and major newspapers in Detroit and Toronto joined the local *Amherstburg Echo* with stories about a mammoth soda ash plant being built near Amherstburg. Faithful employees of the Solvay Process Company in Detroit and at the local quarry repeated that they knew of no plans, even in January of 1917. A small article in a Detroit newspaper that month reported that J.D. Sandbers, the assistant manager to Mr. Green in their Delray operation, said he had heard nothing of a deal of this kind. The report concluded with statements about a real estate boom in Amherstburg and went on to conclude, "The options have been taken secretly, it is said, and that agents in the town are very reticent. It is said the company has had English experts looking the land over and making tests in the vicinity and along the river." Amherstburg businessmen who had cut back or shut down their operations were announcing their intentions to make future plans. Local banks, lawyers and entrepreneurs became very busy. By January of 1914 most of the essential land acquisitions had been completed at Gordon and River Canard. The experts brought in by the British investors were pleased and satisfied that a sustainable Solvay production facility would succeed. In addition, because of the war, the Brunner Mond Company of England were under pressure from the British government to immediately develop soda ash production outside the British Isles. The final decision was made and agreement was reached in 1916. Engineers and planners went into high gear. But it wasn't until February 10, 1917 that the public was informed of the decision to build the modern soda ash plant. Construction began on March 15, 1917.

Another problem took centre stage. The provincial authorities refused to accept the company's plan for waste disposal, specifically because the waste would be dumped into the river upstream from the Amherstburg water intake. This meant that to get approval the company would have to pipe its effluent past Amherstburg to an acceptable location downriver from the town intake. Another solution was for the Amherstburg intake to be moved a mile or so upstream to be above the

soda ash plant's proposed effluent outlet, or some combination of the two.

At that time Amherstburg piped raw water from the river at the foot of Rankin Avenue. A water tower had been built in 1891 about fifty yards back from Dalhousie Street. There were two main problems with Amherstburg water. First, the water piping system underground leaked so much that less than half of the water pumped ever reached the Amherstburg households. Second the water was sometimes deadly, always dirty and caused untold sickness and misery. For this reason the provincial government was insisting that Amherstburg clean up its dirty water. Early estimates said it would be very expensive.

A mutually beneficial solution was proposed. The Brunner Mond Company would increase the size of its water system to include enough for Amherstburg consumption. Thus, the intake for the town would be above the effluent outlet, the plant could proceed and the town would have complied with the provincial requirement at a significant savings compared to any other realistic choice. The townspeople would enjoy better health or at least less illness and everyone could benefit. Because of the leaky condition of the Amherstburg water distribution system the town would have to buy more than twice as much water as it actually used until it could replace its leaky pipes. It was discovered that a large part of the water loss occurred because of open outlets in the households. Solving that problem eventually led to metered water.

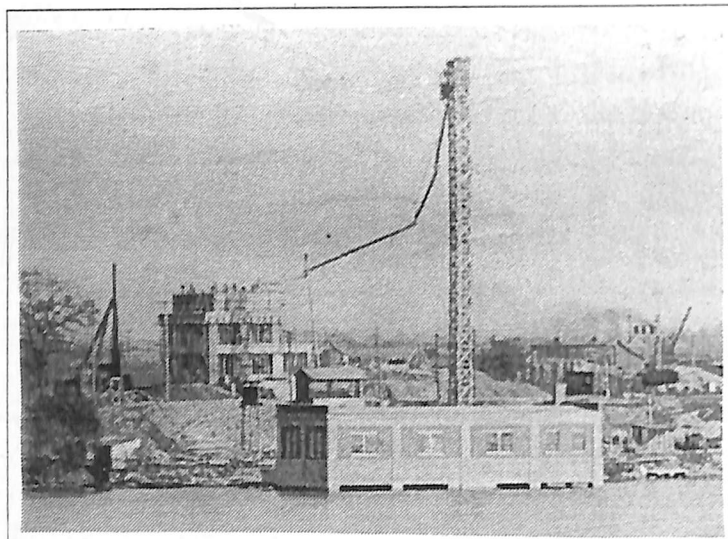
Big things were beginning to happen in 1917 but were still mostly invisible. The new man behind the new fast pace was Gordon S. Rutherford. He was about to do for the Amherstburg area what he had done for Hutchinson, Kansas. That town had been improved in a dozen different ways. "He bought up all the land, built bridges and a ditch, had a street car run to the office door and the east end now has a school house, a paved street two and one half miles long, a church and many new homes..."⁴⁰

Happy Days are Here Again

By March of 1917 three car loads of steel rails had arrived at the Amherstburg site. These were for tracks to run from the quarry to the site of the new plant. Over one hundred men were expected to be working on the site by the month end. By the end of April over 150 men were at work and a housing shortage was being predicted, even though there were 80 empty houses in Amherstburg at the time due to the depression brought on by the war and the drastic cutbacks in river work that had happened earlier. In April, 1917 the public and high school boards, faced with growing enrollments, concluded that "the town was getting back to normal and likely to increase appreciably within the next year" and therefore the high school should move out of the public school and look for a permanent home. Meanwhile, Captain Sloan's impressive stone house was being converted to an office complex (and it is still there today). Two former Ouellette houses were converted for company use, one as a hospital and the other as a lodge for the young single men (now Binder's Heating & Cooling).⁴¹ By June the enormous underground drain made of reinforced cement was progressing and many men were being hired. In August of 1917 a 30 x 60 foot dining tent was erected where the men could purchase a meal at a small cost.⁴²

Clean Water

At a friendly but sometimes intense public meeting in the council chambers in December, 1917 there was a very thorough review of the proposed clean water system that included a number of



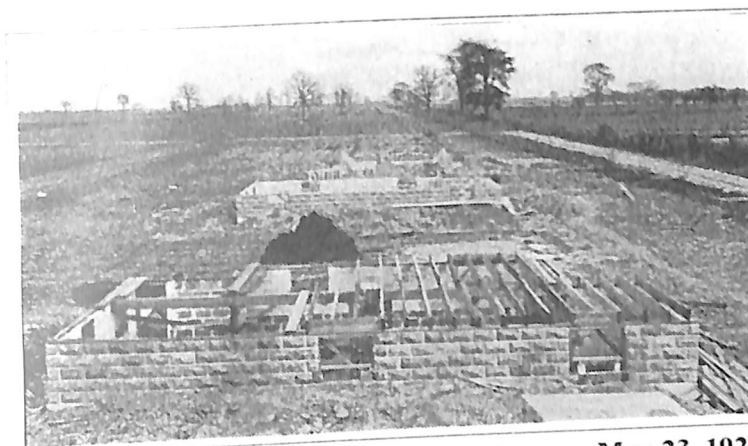
Waterworks under construction, 1918.

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\$10,000 annually for the existing system that was condemned by the provincial authorities. The difference was a big expense for the 2500 residents. It was pointed out that the local population had been more or less stationary since 1881 but communities that acquired new industries had grown vigorously. As growth occurs, these kind of expenses decrease on a per household basis. The waterworks subsidiary would sell water under three separate contracts, one to the Brunner Mond, another to Anderdon and the third to Amherstburg. The latter in turn would provide water to Malden.

At one point John Auld, a co-owner of the community newspaper, pointed out that Amherstburg water was so bad he just did not drink it. He also noted that the other industries that chose Amherstburg had asked for costly favours such as the loan to the Two-In-One Auto Company, the street railway and the knitting mill, while the Brunner Mond has asked for no bonus and "has done so much for the town's up-building."⁴³ He declared himself in favour of the proposition. O. E. Dunbar was also in hearty accord with any proposition to get good water. He caused hearty laughter when he said, "Mr. Auld says of Amherstburg water that he doesn't use it. I get mine from Buffalo, some get it from Walkerville, but I say get it from the Brunner Mond."⁴⁴ It was decided by a nearly unanimous vote to approve the proposition and submit it to the rate payers as soon as the 1917 voters list was completed. The plan was accepted.

A number of problems arose in those early days before production could be achieved. In January, 1918 it was reported that the influenza epidemic and the lack of material had delayed the plant's completion and the water plant could not be put in operation on the first of January as planned. All outside construction of the main production facility was to be completed by January 15th but the quarry crushing plant was closed down for the winter and only soda stone was being quarried. On January 10th it was reported that an assessment bylaw was approved 170 to 115 by Anderdon residents but this was twenty votes short of the required two thirds of 190 votes. The result would be that Brunner Mond would form its own municipality unless some other agreement could be reached, which eventually did happen and Brunner Mond remained in Anderdon. Labour trouble loomed large in August of 1919 when the engineers unionized at Brunner Mond as they had been doing all over mid-America. Finally on September 13, 1919 the first shipment of soda ash left the brand new Brunner Mond plant on its way to Montreal.



Construction of homes along Brunner Avenue, May 23, 1920.



Recently completed homes, Brunner Avenue.

Brunner Avenue

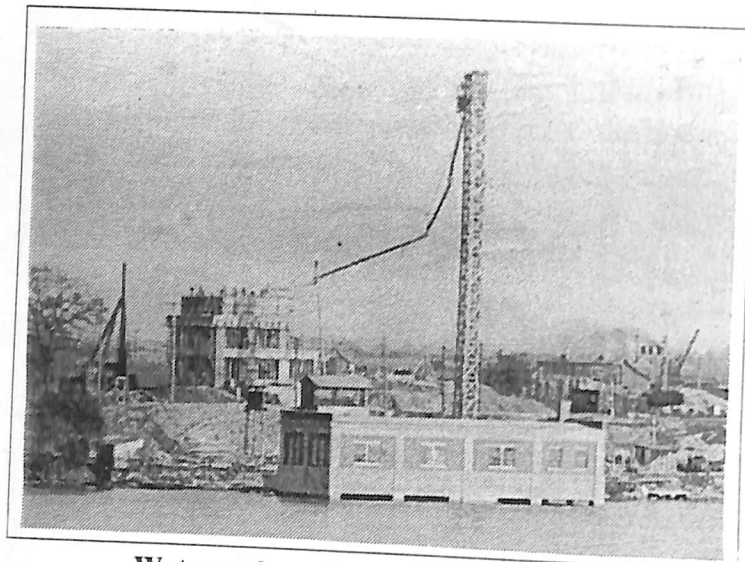
There were many milestones over the next eighty years. In 1920, because there was such a drastic housing shortage in the area, the Brunner Mond Company under Gordon Rutherford set about to solve the problem. First, they bought up many of the empty houses in the town and on the north edge of town built a number of company homes on a street called Brunner Avenue.⁴⁵ Also in 1920 the 'Brunner Mond Club' on the north side of Richmond Street was opened for employees and their families. The building was expanded to include a large dance floor over a four-lane bowling alley in addition to the several rooms for meetings and snooker or card playing. In the late 1930s two tennis courts were added north of the building.

Chronicle

Since its earliest days the Brunner Mond Company of Canada Limited has been the single most financially beneficial enterprise in Amherstburg outside of farming. In 1924 there were nineteen salaried employees receiving a total of just under \$60,000 in wages. By 1932 the holdings at Gordon amounted to one hundred acres. In 1934 the Solvay Process Company bought all the remaining shares of BMC Ltd., and two years later production began in their new calcium chloride plant. There was a major labour dispute in 1946, the year after the end of the Second World War. This three-month strike revealed how important these locally produced products were throughout the entire economy. One of the often-reported results was the shortage of glass which caused some companies to shut down completely and even resulted in some shortages of popular beverages in government liquor stores across Canada. In 1947 there was a \$3,000,000 expansion of the soda ash plant and employment soon passed the 1000 mark at the plant in 1948.⁴⁶

Progress at this chemical facility proceeded at a vigorous pace.

- 1955 - A multi-million dollar expansion at the plant was announced. An open house was held for the families of employees.
- 1956 - Two new brine wells, a purification plant, two kilns, four new steam dryers and three new carbon dioxide compressors were added to the facility.
- 1957 - The soda ash capacity increased by 50%.
- 1958 - \$400,000 of waste treatment equipment was installed. Production reached 300,000 tons of



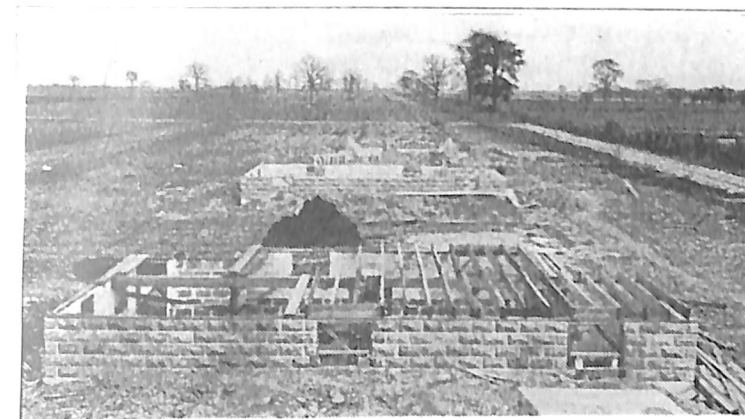
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soda ash per annum. The transfer of the plant from Brunner Mond Canada Limited to Allied Chemical Canada, Ltd. took place.

- 1960 - The plant had increased to eight times its original size. Holdings had increased from the original 100 acres to 1500 acres. \$700,000 was expended for new loading facilities. Construction of small boat harbour for employee use was begun. A pilot project of an anhydrous aluminum chloride plant was closed. Estimates showed that the company paid over \$3,000,000 in wages.
- 1963 - The imminent construction of a \$2,500,000 addition to the soda ash, calcium chloride plants, office and maintenance building was announced.
- 1964 - A \$7,500,000 expansion (the first of two phases) began for an increase of 25% soda ash and 35% calcium chloride. Construction of a \$2,500,000 genetron plant was announced. A labour dispute resulted in a strike and, as usual, freeze-up of equipment was avoided to assure a quick return to full employment once a settlement was reached.
- 1965 - The genetron and fluorinated hydrocarbon plants were ready for the production of 14,000 tons of genetron per annum. An additional expansion to the soda ash and calcium chloride plants was begun.
- 1966 - The McGregor Quarry opened eight miles from the plant.⁴⁷ A pilot project of a chromic acid plant was closed.
- 1969 - For the first time in fifty years the Board of Directors of Allied Chemical Canada, Ltd. met in Windsor. Construction began on a large-scale calcium chloride plant.
- 1970 - The boiler house was converted from coal to oil. A 40,000-ton production facility for hydrogen fluoride was constructed. Open-pit mining at the 700-acre McGregor Quarry, eight miles northwest of the plant, yields 1.2 million tons annually of 90% calcium carbonate.
- 1973 - Estimates show that the company paid over \$7,500,000 in wages.
- 1974 - A \$13,000,000 expansion of the soda ash and calcium chloride operations began.
- 1977 - A new \$350,000 docking facility was built. A \$3,000,000 calcium chloride flake expansion took place. The figure for hourly and salaried employees stood at well over \$10 million.
- 1979 - The plant had \$3.8 million in local expenditures, including taxes, equipment rentals, medical supplies, payments to contractors and incidental hardware.
- circa 1980 - Natural gas was piped in to augment and replace the oil which had replaced coal.
- 1982 - An industrial dispute gave rise to a strike that started in November, 1982 and ended in February, 1983.
- circa 1986 - The pay out of annual salaries and wages stood at nearly \$13,500,000.
- 1986 May 27 - Allied Chemical Canada, Ltd. became General Chemical.
- 1989 - Overall, these operations encompassed more than 1800 acres and employed 490 people. The General Chemical Plant operated continuously and produced 475,000 tons of soda ash and 400,000 tons of calcium chloride annually. A million tons of salt were obtained from the brine fields each year and open-pit mining methods at the quarry produced about 650,000 tons of limestone that was at least 90% calcium carbonate.

There have been and continue to be many changes. The Brunner Mond plant in Amherstburg was barely seventeen years old in 1934 when all of the shares not already owned by them were bought by the Solvay Process Company which had giant production facilities in Syracuse, Detroit and

Hutchinson. Thirty-nine years ago it joined with five other companies and changed its name from Brunner Mond to Allied Chemical Canada, Ltd.⁴⁸ In May, 1986 it became part of the Henley Group and through a local competition took the name 'General Chemical'. (General Chemical was one of the founding companies of the Henley Group in 1899.) The major shifts in control have moved it from being a Canadian company with typical British American foundations to a major member of a North American chemical giant. Today it is still an important chemical production facility of a world-class conglomerate.

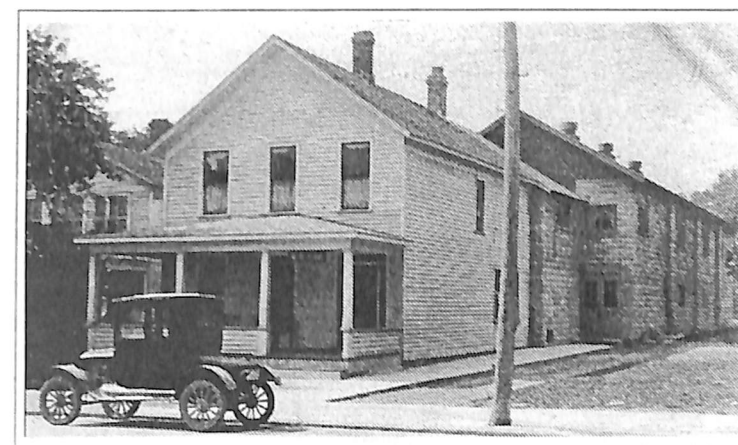
In reading the abundant materials provided by General Chemical (aka Allied Chemical or Brunner Mond) and by conversations with several retired employees, it is obvious that this company through all its changes has been an important and major benefit to this area. There have been millions of dollars of investment by the company and hundreds of millions of dollars in wages and benefits have entered the local economy.

Is the past a harbinger of the future? Twenty-five years ago the company reassured the local community that there was enough raw material to last another twenty-five years and beyond, and that the McGregor Quarry should last until early in the 21st century. Today we see mountains of crushed stone off-loaded at the dock while the enlarged quarry has its big trucks diverted to move to the processors the boatloads of raw calcium stone arriving from other lakeside sources. The other major resource called brine remains super-abundant. In the meantime, other chemical producers dependent on by-products have operated in the shadow of Allied to become well-established and successful, turning out environmentally superior products.

Almost eighty years ago when this giant facility shipped its first products, the union and management team members became heavily involved in municipal affairs. The local communities were provided with enormous assistance from the many men and women of talent and experience who energized a large variety of community institutions from banking and real estate to schools and churches, from medical services to firefighting, from sports to little theatre. Today that kind of involvement is less evident, perhaps because some think the need is less.

Unions in Amherstburg⁴⁹

In 1941 workers at Brunner Mond began to discuss amongst themselves the possibility of organizing a union. A committee was appointed to make the necessary inquiries about the procedures to be followed. All of this was done secretly for fear of reprisals from the company. At that time the media was rife with propaganda that all organized labour unions were Communist-dominated. Socialism was equated with Communism.



Brunner Mond Club, Richmond Street, circa 1920.

Because of the quarry at Brunner Mond, the United Mine Workers (District Fifty) were interested in organizing the workers. After careful consideration by the committee, it was decided that the UAW, CIO was a democratic union best suited to handle the problems of the workers. At a meeting held above Chan's Restaurant (corner of Ramsay and Murray Streets) early in 1942, the workers accepted their committee's recommendation and Local 89 UAW (now CAW) came into being with Harvey 'Chubb' Hamilton as its first president.

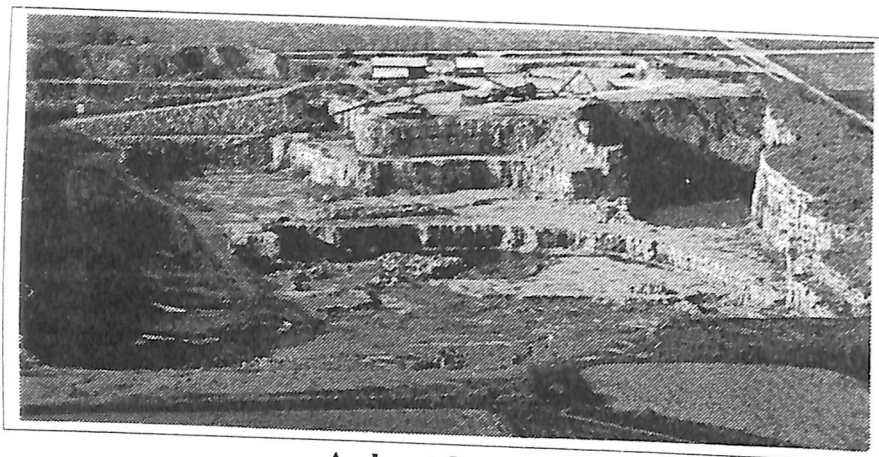
Over the years many Amherstburg workers have chosen the CAW to represent them: Amherst Quarries (1962), Allied Chemical office (1967), SKD Manufacturing Company plant (1969), Reflex (1967), SKD Manufacturing Company office (1972), Precision Plastics (1978) and Seagram's (Local 2098, 1979). Amherstburg workers represented by other unions include school teachers, municipal department workers and the Amherstburg Police Service.

Contrary to the anti-union propaganda of the 1930s, the union has proven beneficial to the workers and the community as a whole.

Amherst Quarries (1969) Ltd.

Amherst Quarries began in 1959 at 667 Simcoe Street as the partnership of H. Murray Smith, Eugene Labadie and Henry Marentette. "The quarry was initially used by the Dean Construction Company when King's Highway 18 between Amherstburg and Harrow was built. After the road was completed, operations ceased until...Mr. Smith and his associates acquired the property...When asked about the beginnings of the business, H. Murray Smith immediately replied, 'On July 1st, 1959 I sold my first load of stone to the turkey farmer, Cecil Deslippe.'"⁵⁰

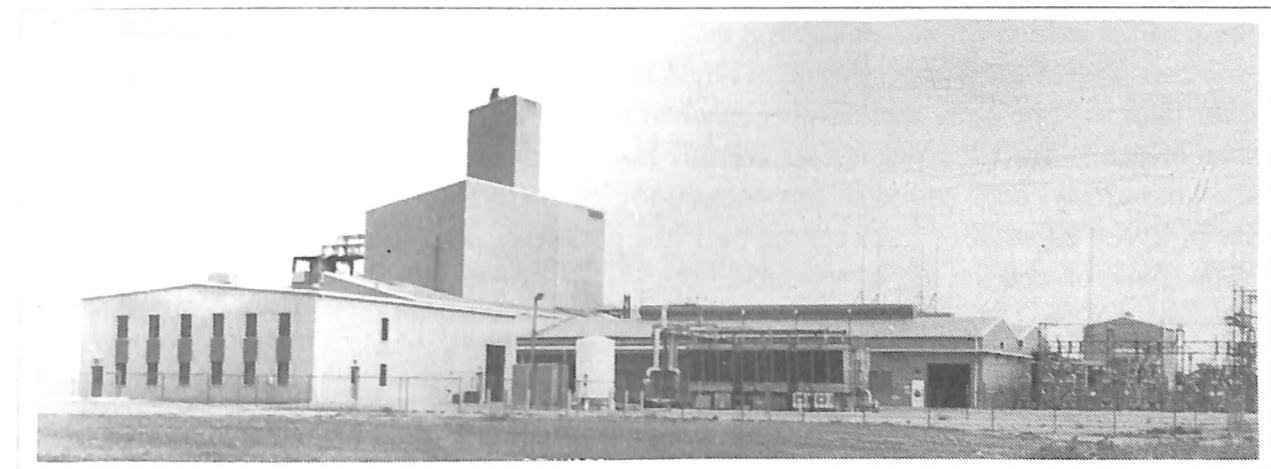
In 1961 Smith became the sole owner and his sons Jim, Bill and Alex joined him in the business. In 1969 the three brothers purchased the major share of the company from their father who was mayor of Amherstburg from 1965 to 1978. Today the firm is well-represented by the third generation of Smiths. Amherst Quarries currently employs 18 people, some of whom have been with the company since its beginnings.



Amherst Quarries.
Adrian Harte photo

CXY Chemicals Limited

In 1983 BCM Technologies built an Amherstburg plant on Thomas Road which would produce 20,000 tons of sodium chlorate per year. Expansions during the next two years allowed an additional 30,000 tons to be produced annually. In 1988 Canadian Oxy Chemicals (a division of



CXY Chemicals Limited.

Canadian Occidental Petroleum) bought the plant. The company's name was changed to CXY Chemicals Limited in 1995.

The plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, producing a single product sodium chlorate which is primarily used in the bleaching process of the pulp and paper industry as an alternative to chlorine bleaching. It employs 26 full-time and 2 to 3 part-time people. The plant was certified in 1994 to the ISO:9002/1987 standard and as a member of the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA) operates based on Responsible Care principles. It is now the second largest producer of sodium chlorate in North America.⁵¹

Church & Dwight

Dr. Austin Church and John Dwight formed John Dwight & Company in 1846, a firm that would produce and distribute baking soda on a commercial scale. In 1867 Church's two sons opened an independent plant under the name Church & Co. The two businesses merged in 1896 to form Church & Dwight Co., Inc. The first Canadian plant was located in Montreal, but moved to Amherstburg in 1937. New offices and a warehouse were added in 1975 with an additional warehouse being constructed in 1987. The Amherstburg plant at one time packaged four sizes of bicarb, and manufactured and packaged super washing soda, carpet deodorizer and cat litter deodorizer. However, since August of 1994 it has been strictly a distribution centre, employing four people. The plant is located at 255 Sandwich Street North. 'Arm & Hammer' and 'Cow Brand', the marks under which their baking soda is sold, are familiar household words across North America.⁵²

Crowder Bros. Inc.

Crowder Bros. Inc. at 448 Simcoe Street began its 46th year in business during Amherstburg's Bicentennial year. On September 1, 1950 Bob Crowder began by hauling coal from the Amherst Coal dock and Kingsville's coal dock, supplying fuel to the greenhouses there. Then

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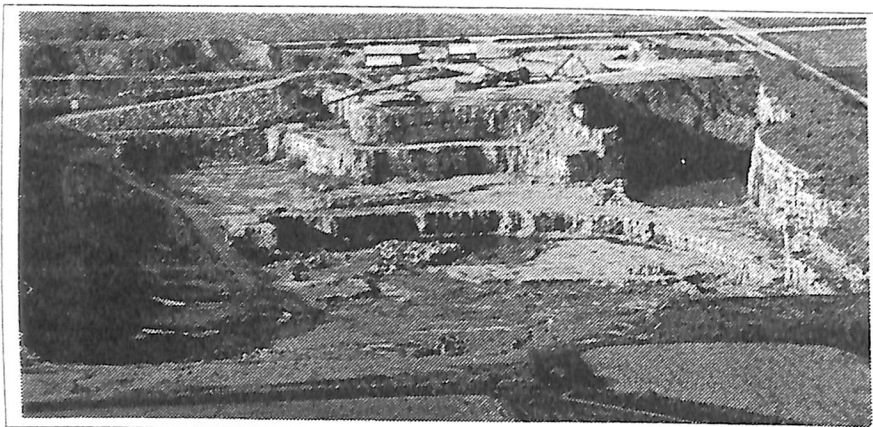
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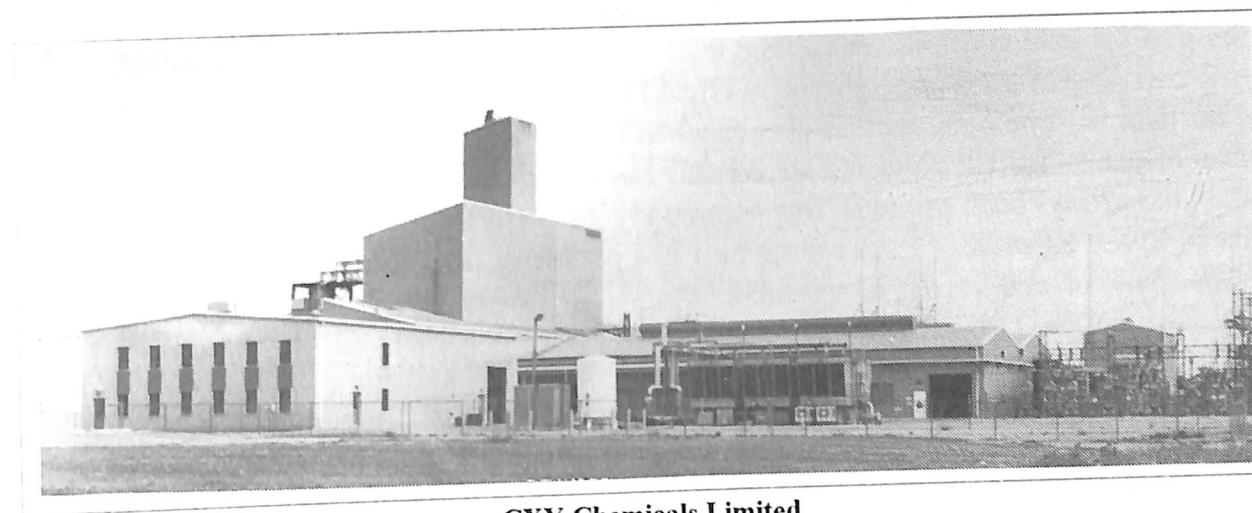
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came the popular switch to oil so Crowder switched to hauling sand, gravel, topsoil and crushed stone, the mainstay of the business today. When he started the business Crowder had nine trucks hauling for him. At one point that number reached twenty-three. Bob's wife Fern and sons Harry and Robert helped to make the business successful. Harry and Debbie Crowder now run the business. The family has always been proud of this community and offers its assistance where possible. It is not unusual to see a Crowder truck taking part in a parade or other community service projects to which they have donated the use of a vehicle.

Enviro-Tech Plastics

Enviro-Tech Plastics entered the Amherstburg industrial scene in 1996. In February of that year the new owners of the former Faucher Lumber site at 130 Fort Street - Wayne LeBranch, Bruce Cook and Sal Olivito - moved their plastics recycling operation from Windsor to Amherstburg. Enviro-Tech is a two-fold company, acting as broker for plastics as well as recyclers. Most of the plastic recycled is from Canada with about 80 percent of their sales of the recycled material going into the U.S. market.⁵³ The company currently employs 50 people with the plant in operation 24 hours a day, five days per week.⁵⁴

Precision Plastics - Division of Windsor Mold Inc.

Precision Plastics has been operating their plastics injection mold facility at 95 Victoria Street North since 1988. The original facility was built in 1966-67 for Reflex Corporation of Canada Limited, a subsidiary of International Tools Limited. On March 1, 1967 Reflex went into production. One of its products was the 'Palm-n-Turn' child-resistant top for pharmaceuticals. Several major expansions took place in 1968 and 1969. In the *Amherstburg Echo* of January 3, 1979 it was announced that the "former Reflex Corporation plant" had been leased by Precision Spring Company of Kingsville and it would house the plastics operations of that company. By 1979 the company employed 62 people on a three-shift basis. However, by September of 1988 ownership had changed. Since that time Precision Plastics has been in operation at the Victoria Street address. Keith Henry is manager of that plant and three others in the Windsor-Essex County area. He is proud of the fact that for two years in a row, 1995 and 1996, Precision Plastics has won the General Motors Quality, Service & Price award, one of 14 Canadian companies to be selected. The company also boasts QS9000 and ISO9001 certification. Precision produces custom injection molds for the automotive industry on a three-shift basis with 125 employees at the Amherstburg plant.

The Seagram Company Ltd.⁵⁵

In May, 1928 the Vancouver-based Border Brewers and Distillers decided to build a large, modern distillery in Amherstburg. Amherstburg was a logical choice for this industry, having the grain of Essex, Kent and Lambton Counties readily available, river water easily accessible and the

American market right on its doorstep. The following month the company took up the option on 16½ acres of land bounded by William, Balaclava, St. Arnaud and Sandwich Streets. The company at the same time acquired 299 feet of river frontage, purchased for a total close to \$64,000. (The remaining riverfront footage was acquired in 1942.) Construction began immediately with plans to open in November, 1928.

One hundred and twenty-five men worked on the distillery, the dry house and boiler house, the closed receiver and grain storage areas, the bottling room, case bond warehouse and barrel storage area. The company spent close to \$300,000, a tenth of which purchased a 12,432 barrel warehouse in Kentucky, dismantled it, shipped it to Amherstburg and rebuilt it here along with the distillery equipment and dryer. The 3-inch cypress fermenters were obtained from the Atlas Distillery in Peoria, Illinois. The 50,000 gallon water tank rose, the cooling system was installed and the spur line of the Michigan Central Railway was cut through the southwest corner of the property.

By the summer of 1929 shipments from British Columbia were being received for bottling. A tunnel was built from the basement of the front office to the other side of the road (Hwy. 18). However, during construction a cave-in took the life of one worker and after some time the furthest section was sealed off. In 1929 the shoreline did not run exactly as it does now; at the foot of William Street the riverbank has been extended some ten to fifteen feet with fill from later construction projects. The tunnel was meant to connect to a portable steel dock.

When the plant went into full operation in 1929 it employed about fifty people, some thirty of them women. Its name was changed to Pioneer Distillers to commemorate the early history of the area and the water metre at the corner of William Street was covered with a stone structure to complement the name. That year witnessed a shift in export volume of alcohol from the port of Windsor to Amherstburg: 32,174 gallons of wine and 217,160 gallons of liquor left the export docks in 1929, compared to 10,110 and 92,453 gallons respectively the year before.

While it might seem that the distillery was built specifically to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by Prohibition, the plan was never realized. Prohibition in the United States was repealed in 1930. It was rather ironic that Prohibition seems not only to have built Pioneer Distillers, but also in being repealed nearly closed it down.

The Depression years at the distillery were years of atrophy. Stocks in the company split one for ten at one point and the full complement of employees worked only four to six months of the year. The company changed its name to Amherst Distillers but this failed to stimulate any significant growth and it continued to stagnate, as both the money and the foresight were lacking to make the plant the central manufacturing, marketing and distributing centre that its unique border position made possible.

In the spring of 1942 the British Columbia Distillery - and thus Amherst Distillers - was purchased by Samuel Bronfman, president of Distillers Corporation Ltd. in Montreal. The manager of Amherst Distillers at that time was W.H. Timmis who had joined the company in 1928 as an office clerk earning \$17.50 a week. Mr. Timmis was transferred the following year.

By December, 1942 the production of industrial alcohol took on added urgency when Japan's Asian conquests cut off the supply of natural rubber from Malaya. Synthetic rubber was to be manufactured from a basic combination of styrene (extracted from coal) and 190-proof alcohol. The destination of the alcohol produced in Amherstburg was Kobuta, Pennsylvania, the location and purpose of the plant there being at the time strictly confidential. Fifty gallons of such alcohol could

produce enough rubber to outfit a jeep; forty gallons powered a torpedo; and fifty-five gallons produced enough powder for one 16-inch shell. The labour force stretched thinly over essential jobs. In the distillery, women for the first time operated the still and cookers for men's wages on both day and evening shifts.

In the spring of 1943 a committee composed of Fred Lukes, Jim McBride, Ralph McManemy and Joe Taylor called a charter meeting in the local Oddfellows hall and in May of that year Local 73 of the Distilling, Rectifying and Wine Workers of America (AF of L) was founded. Thomas Hunter was elected first president and by January, 1946 a closed shop had been achieved. The formation of the union marked a significant development in employee relations and indicated the growing stability and number of jobs. The old Amherst Distillers had by now given way to Calvert Distillers (Canada) Limited and was the only distillery in Canada to install an anhydrous alcohol unit based on the ethylene extraction process.

Disaster struck the plant not long after the war years. On August 15, 1950 four rectifiers exploded and the resulting fire caused a million dollars in damages. After the debris had been cleared, forty-two men were laid off indefinitely. With only warehousing, limited bottling and some distribution in operation, all manager Alex Traeff could assure the union was that if the plant were rebuilt, it would be bigger than ever.

The decision to rebuild the distillery in 1953 marked a phase of unprecedented expansion and modernization. The new distillery rose on the site of the old by 1955 and with the installation of an automatic bottling line the following year the entire plant operated on a full, year-round capacity basis for the first time since World War II. In 1967 a new 50,000 barrel warehouse was built.

Employee activities included annual company picnics in Kingsville, the ball team, union banquets, bowling leagues and golf tournaments between the Amherstburg and Waterloo plants. In the early '50s organizers Jim McBride, Les McKenzie and Leo Deslippe obtained the charter for a credit union.

In 1969 construction began on a new bottling building and office facilities. The bottling room went into operation on April 15, 1970 and was considered to be one of the most modern bottling operations in North America. Upon the completion of the new offices, the old office building on the corner of Sandwich and William Streets was demolished.

The 1970s brought many changes to Calvert's. The Amherstburg plant began production of Crown Royal in Amherstburg in January, 1971 and the huge water tower on the property was demolished in June of that year. In 1975 the north end of Balaclava Street was closed and the company purchased the property in order to integrate the old warehouses with the main plant. The distillery was shut down for six months in 1978 as a result of reduced sales but by the following year six new warehouses to age whiskey were built to the east of Balaclava Street. At this time the union changed its affiliation from the Distillery Wineworkers Union Local 73 to the United Auto Workers Local 2098. Joe Beneteau was president of the union with Tom Marshall as vice-president. The workers went out on strike from June to September of 1979. In August, 1981 the company name changed to The Seagram Company, Ltd., Amherstburg plant.

The distillery was shut down on June 28, 1982 and never ran again. In 1986 the Seagram Park at the north entrance to town was created and a gym facility was set up for Seagram employees. In 1993 the distillery building, which had not run for thirteen years, was demolished to make room for more parking spaces. The two large red brick warehouses visible from Highway 18 were

demolished in the fall of 1996.

Gone But Not Forgotten

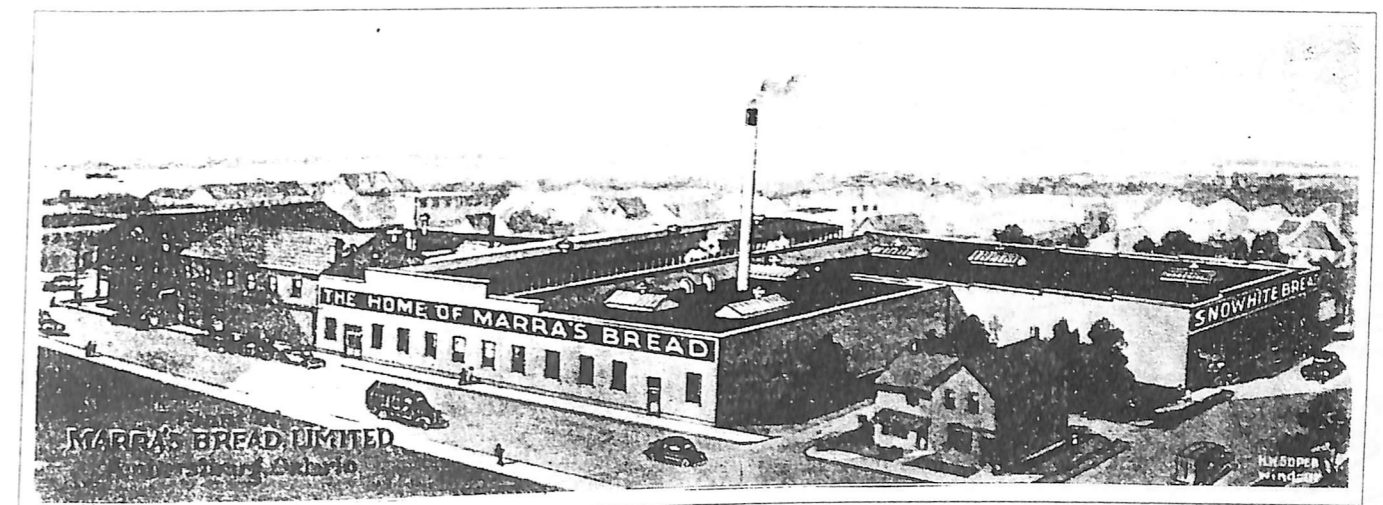
The following brief histories of past industries were written by Edward A. 'Pat' Warren.

Success Needs an Entrepreneur with Vision and Energy

The importance of the individual entrepreneur is clearly seen from the impressive accomplishments described below. Each of these men had a dream. The businesses they built were nurtured from small beginnings to impressive success only to disappear when the entrepreneur became separated from his dream. Nick Marra envisioned the perfect loaf of bread and built a hugely successful bakery. Walter Ranta took his father's dream a giant step further and turned a small machine shop into one of the largest specialty crane operations in North America. H. Murray Smith, Douglas Kirkaldy and Eric Dennison started in a three-car garage in a residential area making automotive fixtures and tools. They eventually employed more than 100 tool-and-die makers in a company that grew to over 500 employees and gained international recognition. Norman Faucher loved wood and especially golden oak. Even more, he loved to shape wood into handsome objects of beauty. Following is a brief sketch of how each dream played out.

Marra's Bread

Nick Marra started his business life in this area in 1917 as the Brunner Mond storekeeper. In 1919 he purchased the T.S. Asmar grocery store in the Bruce Block at the northeast corner of Murray and Ramsay Streets and moved his family into the upstairs apartment. The first visible step in the pursuit of his dream came on October 11, 1924 when he opened the 'Model Bakery' in his expanded grocery store. It was a modest beginning with a super-clean, highly visible bakery. In 1930 he sold the bakery to Frank Brown of Brown's Bakery but bought it back just three years later. In



Marra's Bread, Limited plant.

Printed in the Amherstburg Echo, December 9, 1938

1935 he swung all production into bread and 99% was sold wholesale. By 1938 the Marra's Bread factory was the talk of the industry. The trade magazine *Canadian Baker* did a feature story on this highly advanced bakery with super-high quality standards. Nick Marra was described as "quiet, mild, but very definite and clear spoken. He takes more pride in the quality of his bread than in the amazing growth of his business."

In 1938 Marra's Bread could produce from 1200 to 2446 loaves of bread per hour. There were twenty-five trucks to make deliveries throughout all of Essex County and most of Kent County, as well as to the communities of London, St. Thomas and Aylmer. Ninety percent of the bread was sliced but all bread was wrapped; the leading 'Snow White' and 'Jumbo' loaves were in a wax wrapping while a cellophane wrap was used for the 'Starlight' and other loaves.

Permission was obtained in 1946 to build a 64 x 66 foot addition at the corner of Bathurst and Murray Streets (where Mr. Kemp used to fix bikes in a house converted to an automotive and bicycle parts store). This addition was for wrapping bread.

Following Marra's death in 1949, his wife Antoinette became company head and carried on with his son Paul as general manager. The Marra interests remained until the business was purchased by General Bakeries in 1959. Manufacturing was phased out in Amherstburg in March, 1971 when the operations were moved to London with warehousing and distribution temporarily remaining in Amherstburg. And so Marra's dream and one hundred good jobs left the community.

Ranta Enterprises

The movie "Heidi," starring Shirley Temple, was one of the first movies I ever saw. Heidi lived with her grandfather in a mountain cottage with an earthen floor and friendly animals. Immediately I thought of Heidi's grandpa when I first saw Karl Ranta making cement blocks. He was in front of his collection of rusty machines that littered the lawn between the back of his house and the side of his clapboard workshop with its big store windows on either side of a windowed front door. The house was at the southwest corner of Richmond and King Streets. The shop looked like most places that had not seen a coat of paint for many years. There was metal, wood and cement dust everywhere. It looked more like an abandoned candy store than a machine shop full of moving gears and wheels and leather belts that could be heard softly slapping against shiny steel pulleys. Mr. Ranta looked strong and kind but was always silent. His giant mustache was bushy and clean. His eyes twinkled but he never stopped work. His shirt would become soaked and his wife would appear in her colourful apron requiring him to drink and eat before she would step out of his way, but I never heard him speak. This immigrant couple from Finland had a daughter Liisa and a son Walter.

Walter expressed the dream of most teenagers of the Depression years. As much for the sake of his parents as for himself, he wanted to become a millionaire. After high school Walter studied engineering technology in Detroit (since it was unavailable in Windsor). He became a foreman in the Brunner Mond Quarry and at the same time began building his father's workshop into a thriving business. By this time the shop had been moved into a small cement block building on the north side of Richmond Street directly opposite his original place. Walter developed the look and manner of a tough competitor. He was hugely successful and reached his goal when he devoted most of his energies into the specialized crane business. Behind the scenes those few people who were 'in the know' discovered a different Walter Ranta. Quietly and avoiding publicity of any kind, he devoted his wealth and influence to a number of worthy causes. Some of those whom he helped spoke up

after his death but most kept silent as requested. Only one memento remains, the Anderdon marina near River Canard which bears his name, the K. Walter Ranta Marina.

Norman A. Faucher Limited

The first time I saw Norman Faucher at work he was beaming from ear to ear as he and his two brothers were manufacturing beautiful wooden sashes and doors. They were in an enlarged workshop behind their father's house on Highway 18 between River Canard and Edgewater. Even then, Norman had the uncanny ability to produce thin steel knives that in a shaper would turn a plain piece of wood into a precisely shaped moulding. Bring him a piece of moulding out of a house you were renovating and he would produce a perfect match. Those boys produced mountains of sawdust and eventually the marshy shoreline across the street at the mouth of River Canard was dotted with mounds of sawdust being used as fill by the property owner.

Faucher's love for shaping wood with steel took on a new look at St. Arnaud Street where Faucher Manufacturing shaped thousands of linear feet of moulding profiles, styles and wood types. At peak production he made thousands of beautiful wooden frames each day. When the popularity of wood frames decreased, Norman diversified. He purchased the canning factory property on Fort Street and with keen ambition planned to transform the 50,000 square foot facility into a friendly, turn-of-the-century lumberyard with old-fashioned country service amid handsome Victorian decor. Before he could complete the job his energies were diverted to family and health. Faucher closed the company in 1995. He gave his dream a good run.

Peace River Almost Was

On the east side of Anderdon's Second Concession opposite the Brunner Mond Quarry was a modest, struggling golf course developed by H. Grant Duff. The Depression killed it and soon corn covered most of those acres. In February, 1968 the residents of Anderdon Township approved the re-zoning of those 140 acres from farming to manufacturing at the request of the Great Lakes Forgings Limited, a subsidiary of Peace River Mining & Smelting Company. This company proposed to erect an \$11 million chemical plant to convert scrap steel into iron powder. In January, 1969 it was announced that the head office of Peace River Mining & Smelting would be moved from Edmonton to Anderdon. In February, members of the engineering and research departments moved into their new quarters in the office building on the Second Concession. Late in 1969 equipment trials and pre-production testing led the company to predict that "commercial quantities of chemically refined iron powder will be available in early 1970." In December, 1969 there was a major conflict with the construction workers: emotions ran high, threats were serious, OPP explosive experts had to remove smoke bombs from a foreman's car. The experts at Polymer Corporation examined the production problems and declared that the process could be made to work profitably, but a specialized accounting firm recommended closure on the basis of an insurmountable debt load. In 1971 the facility faded into oblivion after an expenditure estimated at \$16 million.

SKD

Near the south end of Chilver Road in the area known as South Walkerville lived a gentleman by the name of Smith who in 1937 built an oversized three-car garage on his residential property. Before long it became obvious that his dream had something to do with machines and precision tools.

Eric Dennison, a like-minded neighbour and fellow toolmaker at the Ford Motor Company, joined his friend H. Murray Smith and the garage saw some activity. Douglas Kirkaldy, also a neighbouring toolmaker from Ford's, joined the team and soon they were looking for a good building in an area zoned for manufacturing, hopefully with a railway siding and easy trucking access.

By the mid-1940s Amherstburg was eagerly looking to attract solid, dependable industries to town. Not only did Amherstburg need the tax base to make the many needed repairs and improvements to the town but, even more important, new industry was needed to provide jobs for the returning veterans after the Second World War. It is uncertain what tipped the scales in Amherstburg's favour but the SKD team came to believe that their dream could be realized here. On January 21, 1947 it was announced in the *Amherstburg Echo* that the SKD Tool Company had purchased property on St. Arnaud Street. That very week they were expected to break ground for their 90 x 120 foot factory. The *Echo* reported in the August 26, 1947 issue that "55 men [were] on the payroll at the new SKD plant at 50 St. Arnaud St." About that time I accompanied Jim Smith and Al Dennison (sons of the founders) on a visit to the plant to borrow some tools. On our walk through the showroom I saw a variety of lawn mowers; the kind you push were all I had ever used but here were push mowers, power mowers with Briggs & Stratton engines and riding mowers with tons of power. I was told that SKD got into the mower business back in the early forties when Doug Kirkaldy came up with a special gear design that could be produced on a punch press.

Demands of the automotive industry on tooling increased in the post-war years. Automotive parts and assemblies became the main products manufactured at SKD. Apprentice classes were set up to train skilled tool-and-die makers. Over the years several major expansions took place.

In 1956 the company was sold to Masters, Smith & Company of Toronto, who floated shares through investment brokers. All three founders continued with the company and it prospered. The first to leave was Murray Smith in 1958 to pursue other interests, but with a dream Gordon J. Knight took over and the company continued to prosper. One by one the founders left. The SKD Company with about 550 employees was bought in 1975 by Continental Can. Moving into the '90s the initials SKD came to mean 'Service, Knowledge and Dependability' under the expert direction of its powerful owners, Tang Industries of Chicago and Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc. of Omaha.

The rough markets of the 1980s had caused a major work force reduction and in the '90s there were about 200 people on the payroll. A major effort was made to convert this stamping plant into a full-service operation. Union and management were headed for a showdown in 1996 as a stream of reported operational losses showed the local SKD operation to be unprofitable. In January, 1997 the union received instruction from the existing employees to call a strike and the company responded in February with the decision to close the operation. Since then, SKD has been in mothballs awaiting another entrepreneur with a dream.

Endnotes to Chapter IX

1. Information was compiled from the archives of the Marsh Collection Society and/or submissions contributed by the businesses themselves, unless otherwise stated.
2. The name 'Chalet Fashions' is used for advertising purposes. Officially, the store still bears the name 'Swiss Chalet'.
3. This was the former bus station on Richmond Street between 67 Richmond Street and the Amherst Hotel.
4. Information from Orlando DeLuca.
5. Submitted by Zarko S. Vucinic.
6. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 26, 1891.
7. The *Amherstburg Echo*, April 11, 1990, 'Upsetting the Hour Glass - 1970.'
8. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 24, 1981.
9. The *Amherstburg Echo*, September 19, 1957.
10. This is now the location of Amherstburg Catering.
11. Paul Montgomery and George Roberts were "certified television technicians" who had learned their trade in Detroit. With their friend Peter Tillson, also an Amherstburg resident, they built a television set which was on display for some time in the window of Bezeau's Appliance Store on Richmond Street, in the building known today as Heritage Square. In February, 1950 Montgomery and Roberts opened their first store and were appointed dealers for Admiral and a little later for Westinghouse. The business started out in the building which today houses Sandpiper Gallery and later moved into the front of the Montgomery home next door which Leo Montgomery bought in 1945, the former McCarron house.
12. Biography of Antonio Pietrangelo, compiled and translated by Domenic Donofrio, 1984 (a family publication).
13. Christmas ad in the *Amherstburg Echo*, December 22, 1952, "Genoa Grocery...Antonio Pietrangelo and Sons."
14. Christmas ad in the *Amherstburg Echo*, December 25, 1957.
15. The *Amherstburg Echo*, January 9, 1964, 'Merchant of the Week'.
16. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 13, 1968.
17. The *Amherstburg Echo*, January 16, 1931.
18. The first advertisement for Seaway Marine & Sports appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on May 15, 1958.
19. The *Amherstburg Echo*, September 27, 1912.
20. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 28, 1923.
21. The *Amherstburg Echo*, July 31, 1931.
22. The *Amherstburg Echo*, September 17, 1964.

23. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 3, 1965.
24. Submitted by Sarah Jarvis.
25. Otto and Charlotte Nissen purchased the former Wilkinson house in 1958.
26. See Margaret Gregg's recollection of the Seaway Café in Chapter X, 'Random Recollections'.
27. The *Amherstburg Echo*, September 19, 1890.
28. Although the new Imperial Bank building was erected in 1921, the bank had purchased the property as early as 1917 (CIBC Archives.)
29. The *Amherstburg Echo*, July 22, 1921.
30. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 27, 1954.
31. CIBC Archives. Although the *Amherstburg Echo* of March 16, 1950 states that the Imperial Bank had an Amherstburg branch in 1875, no evidence of this has been found at the time of writing.
32. The *Amherstburg Echo* of July 22, 1921 describes the Molson's Bank's renovation of "the old Imperial Bank corner," southeast corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets.
33. The Imperial Bank had purchased the northeast corner of Richmond and Dalhousie Streets in 1917 from W. I. Wilkinson. (The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 6, 1997, 'Yesterday's News - 1917'.)
34. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 24, 1982.
35. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 12, 1968; and February 27, 1969.
36. Information was obtained from the archives of the Marsh Collection Society files "Hi-58" and "A-64" and scrapbooks: and "Spanning the Years and the Miles," a history of Allied Chemical by Sue Venney.
37. Nicholls, C.S. (ed.) *Dictionary of National Biography - Missing Persons*. London: Oxford University Press, 1993.
38. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 7, 1918.
39. 'Salting' is "[introducing] rich ore or the like into a mineral deposit in order to give a false idea of its value." (The *Random House College Dictionary* (rev. ed.). New York: Random House, Inc., 1984.)
40. The *Amherstburg Echo*, February 23, 1917.
41. The Brunner Mond hospital was torn down in 1961. (The *Amherstburg Echo*, July 6, 1961.) The lodge is now the location of Binder's Heating & Cooling, 225 Sandwich Street North.
42. The *Amherstburg Echo*, August 10, 1917.
43. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 14, 1917.
44. Ibid.

45. The archives of the Marsh Collection Society includes an album which includes photographs and other information about many of these houses.
46. "The Growth of the Future" (booklet published by Allied Chemical on the occasion of its 60th anniversary), p. 8.
47. A 1982 twelve-panel brochure states, "ACCL plans to turn its current limestone quarry, in MacGregor [*sic*], into a recreational area when the [limestone] deposits run out early in the 21st Century. Millions of dollars even now are being set aside and held in trust by the Ontario Government, for this project which will include a lake, a marina, an 18-hole golf course and fine homes."
48. The *Amherstburg Echo*, February 19, 1986.
49. Written by Mike White.
50. The *Amherstburg Echo* 'Industry & Tourism' supplement, 1982.
51. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 25, 1997, 'Business & Industry '97'.
52. Submitted by Church & Dwight. Pre-1945 information from an excerpt of a history of Church & Dwight published in 1946 for the company's 100th anniversary.
53. The *Amherstburg Echo*, February 14, 1996; and March 25, 1997.
54. Ibid.
55. Extracts of submission from the Seagram Company. Much of the text was taken from the document, "Forty Years to Fruition," a history of the Seagram Company written by Frances Lacey in 1967.