

Heimbecker, who operate several grist and flour mills under a subsidiary, New-Life Mills. During this period, the business activity gradually changed. There was less business to be done with individual farmers, and the mill was equipped with pneumatic conveying systems, to load bulk feed products directly into tanker trucks. Harold was retained as manager of the facility until he retired in 1983. Thus ended the 80 year association of the Birrell family with the mill.

The grist mill continued to be operated by New-Life and was one of the last water powered mills left in Ontario. However all things come to an end, and the mill was taken out of service in 1999. At this time much of the equipment was disposed of, and the premises offered for sale. However the story of the mill was not yet finished. Recent changes in the status of Ontario electrical power distribution, and a growing concern for the safety of our environment, have led to the recognition that there is great virtue in generating electricity by non-polluting, renewable sources. As such, the Pinkerton dam and mill offer an economically viable opportunity. Harold Birrell's turbine of 1963 still has plenty of life left and the flow of the Teeswater River can generate a significant amount of electricity to be added to the Ontario grid. The mill property was acquired in 2000 by Mr. John deVries of R.R.4, Harriston Ontario and at time of writing, he is preparing the mill for this new role. So, while two of the original mills are gone, the grist mill promises to continue as a Pinkerton landmark, performing a useful service.

The preparation of this article was facilitated by old photos and recollections preserved by the late Gordon Pinkerton, and by assistance and advice freely given by Mabel, wife of the late Harold Birrell of Pinkerton.

Note to readers: This article relates to the Pinkertons in Bruce County, Ontario, Canada. This article was first published in the 2000 Yearbook of the Bruce County Historical Society. The Bruce County Historical Society can be contacted c/o Mrs. Donelda MacKinnon, Box 202, Tiverton Ontario, Canada, N0G 2T0.

Note to readers: The original manuscript as kindly provided by Jim Connell, who gave permission to publish this manuscript on the Pinkerton Resource Page.

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