



HIGHLY VISIBLE: The Storey Glove Factory on Bower Avenue was the first to feature an electric sign which reflected in the mill pond surface of Henderson's pond. Both the factory and the pond are gone now, replaced by Acton post office and Halton Hills Hydro.

They've been making superior gloves in Acton since 1868

Although Acton has long been recognized as the leather capital of Canada, probably few realize that glove-making has also been a major industry here since 1868. A story in this week's New Tanner about another expansion of the Superior Glove Co. indicates it is still very much part of the employment picture here after 140 years although leather gloves in many cases has substitute materials.

According to Acton's Early Days, the bible for early Acton, the first glove works was started in the building now occupied by Country Reflections by W.H. Storey, Acton's first reeve and founder of the Canada Glove Works. He came to Acton about 1866 and opened a saddlery and harness business which was very successful.

In 1968, Storey had a flourishing business and he decided to start making sheepskin harvest mitts as another enterprise. The mitt business was so successful he disposed of the harness business and gave all his attention to producing gloves and mitts, with a specialty of

Coles' Slaw

with Hartley Coles



buckskin gloves.

The business soon became known as "The Buckskin Academy" by young people out of the village who labeled the public school "Little Tannery."

After a few years, W.H. Storey took in James Moore as a partner and the firm name of W.H. Storey and Co. was registered, Acton's Early Days says. Addition after addition was made to accommodate the growing business which eventually built a three storey building on Bower Avenue, the only business ever to locate there. It was torn down to make way for a new post office which occupies the glove factory's site.

Glove-making also produced a sheepskin tannery in 1860 which was located north of the Acton Scout Hall, near the C.N. railway tracks.

It was built by Dr. McGuir, an early physician in Acton, and Charles Sidney South. They pulled wool and made the pelts into russet leather. The tannery eventually got into the hands of the Canada Glove Works where W.H. Storey felt he could make better gloves if he turned the leather.

Storey hired experts in leather making and soon was sending fine buckskin leather, bid and other lines to the glove factory. The business reached its epoch when the new factory on Bower Ave, was highly visible from the Grand Truck Railway and Storey made it more impressive by erecting an electrically lit 100 foot long sign on the factory's roof. It was also enhanced by the sign. The pond has disappeared, of course, and the Halton Hills Hydro building sits on its site.

The glove factory, under Storey's management, gave employment to hundreds of residents and continued to do so under subsequent management of H.T. Arnold & Sons. Many Acton residents learned the glove trade at that site and went on to found their own business when the big factory closed after World War II. But that's another storey and requires a lot of research.

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Letters



Christmas hamper provided for over 80 families, 100 kids

To the editor,

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee sends sincere and heartfelt thanks to the individuals and groups in Acton and surrounding areas for your generous support of this year's Christmas Hamper Program. We especially appreciate the amount of non-perishable food donated by the six local schools. Your kindness helped us to provide hampers for over 80 families, including more than 100 children. Christmas was much happier for these people because of your thoughtfulness.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who gave their time to sort the donated food and pack the hampers, helping to make this year's program such a success. This year the Knights of Columbus Council 8050 provided great help with the hamper distribution and we welcome them to our group of faithful volunteers. The spirit of caring and sharing is indeed alive and well here in our town.

Thanks again; we wish you God's blessings now and in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Acton Rotary Club,
Lakeside Chapter IODE,

Salvation Army Acton Family Services,
St. Vincent Charities of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada



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