

THE HOWARD SAND AND GRAVEL CO. LTD.

Hiram Henry Howard came from Lynden in 1912, with his wife, Sarah Jane Killens from Caistor Center, and their four children. They bought a farm on Lot 7, Concession 1, of East Flamboro.

Later the farm was found to contain sand and gravel, part of a ridge formed on the shoreling of prehistoric Lake Croquois. The Howard Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. began business in a small way by hand labour in 1919. As the demand for building material increased, various improvements in processing were introduced, until the present, washing and crushing now has a capacity of 1000 tons per day.

About two million tons have been disposed of, including all the gravel on the Howard farm and that of the former Smiley Farm to the west, and the Lemon Brothers Farm to the east. Excavations have sometimes yielded geological interest as the glacial action of the past centuries have been revealed, and tusks of mastodon have been uncovered in the sand.

The Howard Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. was established in 1931 by Mr. Nirman Howard, and farming gradually gave way to gravel operations, although it was continued until his death in 1936. Mrs. Howard lived until 1939. Their oldest son, Henry, is now mining engineer and professor of radiology in the University of Vancouver. Their daughter Adelyn Mary is Mrs. Charles Phelps of Sarnia. Their youngest son Edward lost his life in an accident in Montreal

1934. Their son, John Wilfred, the President of the company has managed the business since 1935, and resides in Aldershot with his wife, the former Claire Cummings of Millgrove, and three daughters, Isabel, Helen and Karen. John is a graduate of McMaster University, a member of Hamilton Rotary Club and Vice-President of the Hamilton Construction Association.

In the fall of 1939 the company went into the business of Reddy Mixed Concrete, which has expanded into an industry, with two plants, one in Aldershot and one in Hamilton, utilizing fifteen Mixer trucks. As the gravel deposits available in Aldershot are now practically depleted, the industry has taken on an entirely new aspect by hauling gravel from other pits, as far as 18 miles away for processing in the Aldershot plant. These operations can continue as long as warranted by the demand for building materials.