

# MEMORIES

*Back in the early 1950s many Canadian tanneries went out of business when synthetic substitutes came on the scene. Then about four or five years ago the industry got a severe fright over the threat of a plastic "leather" developed at enormous expense.*

*This product is now almost abandoned and leather once again is riding high.*

~ Quote from Fred Glasser on his appointment as President of Robson-Lang in 1975



EVEL KНИЕVEL

The next purchaser was the Robson Leather Company which, in 1963, purchased tanneries in Kitchener, London and Barrie as well as the one in Cobourg. Under the new business name of Robson-Lang Leathers Limited it became part of Canada's largest tanning company.



LARGE TANNING DRUM ON SITE IN COBOURG.

At the Cobourg plant, raw hides, chiefly from the United States, went through many processes including cleaning, colouring and embossing. They were then shipped to Toronto and elsewhere to be converted into the finished product, mainly shoes and other articles of clothing.

Former tannery employee and current Cobourg resident, Maurice Fraser, worked in the tannery in the late 1960s and remembers the interesting people with whom he had contact there. These included daredevil **Evel Knievel who ordered a leather jacket**, a shoemaker who ordered leather for actor Christopher Plummer's boots in a production at Stratford (size 13) and Ed Mirvish - cousin of Lou Enchin of Enchin Leather Supplies of Toronto.