

With the onset of the Second World War, Elwood returned to Castleton to run the Purdy Mill, owned at the time by Mrs. Maude Purdy. At the end of the war, her son, Sam Purdy returned to take over the family business and, after driving a truck for the Purdys for a short while, Elwood moved on and trained as an electrician. He admits now that he never thought it would become a full-time job.

But the electrical distribution lines were beginning to creep out into rural Ontario. Every home in Cramahe had to be wired, and Elwood did many of them. The Jones family farm was one of the jobs he completed.

But before that happened, Elwood met Betty Shred and they married in 1945. Art's wife had just died when the couple married and they moved into his Castleton home with him, raising Alvin and his sister Sharon (Dodds).

For the first few years after he started his electrical business in 1949, much of his work involved wiring farms. Wiring new homes is straight forward but wiring older homes much more difficult. He knows a few tricks when it comes to retrofitting an older home. He says he sweat blood a good many times while working in the electrical trade.

In 1956 tobacco arrived in Cramahe and for years a lot of electrical work was required on the tobacco farms.

The good times continued to roll for the electrician with the advent of electric heating in the 1960's. Local building contractor, Hazard Allen, built 150 houses and Elwood wired most of them.

Answering services were a thing of the future and the enterprising businessman needed to field every phone call. Elwood's solution to that was simple and inexpensive. In Castleton all calls went through a local telephone office where an operator directed each call to its destination. Calls for him during working hours were taken by the operators. They jotted down the messages and passed them on to him when he came home at night. He lost that service in 1962 when Bell took over.

In 1970 the company which bore his name became incorporated as Castleton Electric Ltd. and in 1986 he retired, leaving the business to his son, Alvin, who