

Industries Which Create Work and Wealth in Georgetown

An Essay Written for Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Contest By Martin Wheeler, Glen Williams

A prize-winning essay submitted by Martin Wheeler, of Glen Williams, in a contest sponsored by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce in connection with industrial week.

Georgetown, one of Canada's most beautiful and progressive towns, is situated on the Credit River in Esquewenau Township, in the County of Halton, on No. 7 highway at most midway between Toronto and Guelph. It was founded by a young Scotsman named George Kennedy in the year 1823, and was first called Hungry Hollow. In 1837 it was named Georgetown after its founder.

Always a thriving community, Georgetown has grown from its first log cabin along the Credit River into a busy industrial centre and now covers some twenty-seven hundred acres and has a population of about ten thousand people. Its greatest growth has been within the past five years when it has more than doubled its population, largely due to the Delrex development.

With its growth, Georgetown's industries have developed from its first Saw Mill into many flourishing industries of great variety, the largest of which is Smith and Stone. Established about thirty-five years ago, this firm originally produced porcelain products such as electrical devices.

In 1945 the Company was sold to Duplate Industries Limited, but retained the name of Smith and Stone Limited. It then expanded from one large building to five, which covers an area of several thousand square feet. This firm now employs some six hundred people. Due to its expansion, Smith and Stone now produce wiring devices, bathroom fixtures, parts for electric stoves, plastic molds and plastic household products such as pails, clothes baskets, wash basins, etcetera, and bakelite products such as switch plates, etcetera. The Company has a nurse in attendance at all times, a weekly visit from a local doctor, sick benefit insurance, surgical and doctor benefits, and the very close relationship that exists between fellow employees and management makes this organization an ideal place to work.

In Georgetown, proudly standing side by side, close to the C.N.R. Station, are two of Canada's Alliance Paper coating mills, the Alliance Paper Mill and the Provincial Paper Mill. Together these two mills produce more than three-quarters of the coated paper in Canada.

The Alliance Paper Mill covers an area of about two hundred and fifty thousand square feet and employs some two hundred and thirty people. The Company produces fine quality paper used for printing the better magazines, illustrated catalogues such as Eaton's and Simpson's Annual Reports, also the better can and bottle labels. In addition to their Canadian trade which is their largest, they export to Europe, South Africa and the West Indies.

It is really an education to watch raw paper stock being treated with a mixture of china-clay, casein and latex, going through a series of different machines, dried by steam power, inspected, cut and sorted, and finally reaching its beautiful coated commercial state.

The Provincial Paper Mill covers an area of approximately five acres and employs about two hundred and fifty people. It produces about forty-five tons per day of the better quality coated paper used in magazines, such as Reader's Digest, the National Geographic and for the better can and bottle labels. Ninety-five per cent of their production is used in Canada, being shipped by truck from Coast to Coast.

The Company exports their products also to Cuba, South America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Greenland. Both the Alliance and the Provincial Mills used steam driven machines for drying

an invention of Dr. Russell Varian in 1930, is used for microwave relay, television transmitters, etcetera and it has made possible the radar systems which played such a large part in the second World War.

The twelve thousand square foot plant of Varian Associates is located on a ten acre site at the corner of Mountview Road and River Road. The one-storey building of brick and steel frame with flat roofs, was planned so that extensions could be made with a minimum of rearrangement. Already detailed plans are completed for two such extensions. About forty people are employed by Varian Associates, and with the expansion plan progressing, Varian may easily become one of Georgetown's largest industries in the near future.

A very promising industry in Georgetown is the recently formed Avian Industry Limited, located on No. 7 highway in the eastern part of Georgetown. This firm, financed by business men of the Town, is producing a new vehicle called the Avian 2180 gyroplane, a personal two-seater aircraft capable of taking off and landing vertically. This plane is designed to use the better, more dependable features of existing fixed wing and rotary winged aircrafts, rather than to feature any untried innovations.

At present Avian Industry Limited employs about twenty-four people, including six specialized designing engineers who previously worked on the Arrow project before its cancellation. The Avian 2180 gyroplane is designed to minimize air travel costs and requirements, and to bring the convenience and pleasure of air travel within the reach of the average man. Requiring no air field, the Avian 2180 handles like a conventional fixed wing aircraft, requires no special rotary wing training. Flight characteristics differ in that it cannot be stalled and that gust response is around 1/10th that of a fixed wing aircraft, making for unequalled smoothness of flight at low altitudes. More easily entered than most automobiles, the gyroplane features a vision free Plexiglas canopy, body contoured fiberglass seats in a smartly designed cabin heating facilities and fresh air vents. Vibration and noise is eliminated by the position of the four cylinder motor, mounted on dynofuels and a specially designed exhaust muffler.

Capable of a speed of one hundred and fifty miles per hour, the operating costs of the gyroplane are expected to be less than that of an automobile. If the gyroplane is successful in its test flight planned for the end of October, Georgetown will become the Vertical Take Off and Landing centre of Canada. On John Street is located the Gilmore Company hat industry. Although the Company does not maintain a large staff, it produces some fine

fiberglass boats ranging from a six foot 10 inch pram or dingy to a sixteen foot rough water boat. This firm also makes plastic chairs, bath tubs and trays and does all kinds of custom work of reinforced plastic. Canadian trade is their main interest. On King Street at Georgetown is located the firm of P. Graham Bell, makers of architectural porcelain enamel panels used chiefly for service stations and hotels. They employ about eighteen people. On No. 7 highway in the new Delrex development is a striking new building which houses the firm of Sykes Tools. This building covers about an acre of land. The firm employs about fifty people and makes gears which they export to several countries of the world, besides their Canadian trade. The mother firm is located in England with branches in Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A., Montreal, Canada and Georgetown. Standard Products Limited is another new industry to Georgetown, located on No. 7 highway in the Delrex division. Their factory covers about an acre of land, employing some fifty people. This industry produces window vents and drop window assemblies chiefly for the Ford plant at Oakville, Ontario. On River Road, on the banks of the Credit River, is the building which once housed one of Canada's oldest paper mills. Now it is the home of Delta-Craft - makers of furniture. Here one can find an assortment of coffee tables, step tables, book cases, etcetera, to please any taste.

In Glen Williams, a village close to the town of Georgetown, is The Beaumont Knitting Company Limited. Established in 1878, three generations of the Beaumont family have operated this mill. In 1958 this firm was sold, but retained the Beaumont name. Employing about forty people, this firm produces the well known "Glennon" brand of work sport and jeans socks.

Operated by electrical power obtained from the Georgetown Hydro-Electric Commission, and with modern knitting machines, this mill has greatly increased its production over the former water wheel driven machine days. From the picker machine where raw materials are blended, to the carding machines where it is further mixed and made into yarn, to the spinning frame or mule where it is twisted and made into required weights, it goes to the winder and is put onto bobbins ready for use on the knitting machines. With the new knitting machines, one person looking after sixteen machines can produce one hundred dozen of socks per day, in comparison with the old machine where one person or one machine produced five to eight dozen socks per day. On through the process of looping or sewing of the toe of the sock, through the process of washing, drying and inspection, labelling and packing in polyethylene bags, all of which is

done in the Beaumont Knitting Mills, the socks are now ready for their market from coast to coast in Canada. Also in Glen Williams is the home of the Glen Knitting Company, who produce a fine grade of work sock. The production of this mill is about four hundred dozen socks per week, and they employ about seven people. Their products are also shipped from coast to coast in Canada.

In this Town is also located Apple Products Limited, a firm known throughout Canada for its fine quality canned, and frozen apple slices. The production season of this Company is from October to April, during which period they employ about sixty people, and process some one hundred thousand bushels of Ontario grown apples into three hundred thousand cans of apple slices and two hundred thousand polyethylene packages of frozen apple slices per season. These products are sold all over Canada, with distribution points in Winnipeg and Montreal. Their largest outlets are restaurants and hotels, but many a "home-made" apple pie has the produce of Apple Products Limited tucked between its pastry.

Glen Williams is also the home of the Oriole Block Company, makers of cement blocks, chimney blocks and corner blocks for building purposes. The Company also makes cinder blocks used for partitions in homes, which are particularly useful because one can nail into them. Production averages one hundred thousand blocks per month, and their employees average about fifteen people. Their main output is for the Greater Toronto and vicinity trade. In the village of Norval, just east of Georgetown, is a firm called Plastonics Limited, which employs about ten people. Their business consists of making different articles of plastic such as mixing spoons, name plates for cars and fittings for plastic water pipes. There are several other in-

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Industries in Georgetown, such as McNally Wood Products, makers of custom furniture and other wood products, Beaver Ready-Mix who produce ready-mix cement, the Credit Valley Bottling Works, makers of a large variety of soft drinks, Meadowglen Growers who produce a wonderful grade of mushrooms, together with many others.

The fine shipping facilities of the town, the Canadian National Railway and several fine trucking firms, its short distance from Malton Airport makes Georgetown an ideal industrial centre.

It has been a real experience for me to have visited many of these industries, and to have learned in a small way some of their methods of production.

As a descendant of George Kennedy, who was my great, great, grandfather, I am proud to be of the opinion that Georgetown can offer the best Why settle for second best!

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