

Woolen socks, Glen history major facets of Marie's new life

By CHRIS AAGAARD

It doesn't sound terribly romantic, but woolen socks have had a great deal to do with Marie Beaumont's life and the history of Glen Williams, the village she figures is about the finest place on earth to live.

Mrs. Beaumont is one of a lucky group of people who can fondly recall when Glen Williams was a commercial centre of wide renown. Village residents enjoyed a social and sporting rivalry with Georgetown, and a pride in its massive wool milling operations which reined in the Credit River with dams and water wheels.

The big industrial operations have gone now, although some of the buildings remain. There is still a strong sense of community pride, but the clubs and organizations that Marie Beaumont can recall, have largely folded.

'ABNORMAL TIMES'
Marie Beaumont's husband was the late Arthur Beaumont, grandson of Samuel Beaumont, the 1876 purchaser of the Hirst Woolen Mills in Glen Williams, which became the Beaumont Knitting Mills.

The textile business, her husband would often remind her, seemed to thrive on "abnormal times", like war.

"It wasn't something that anybody wanted," Mrs. Beaumont said in a recent interview. "But that's when they were howling for socks."

From her description of him, Arthur Beaumont was a "hands on" businessman. He wasn't averse to peddling in person, the woolen goods his mill produced.

TOUGH THIRTIES
"Things were very tough during the Depression," Mrs. Beaumont recalled. "Selling was particularly hard, but Mr. Beaumont would load up the trunk of the car and peddle his goods door to door."

Mrs. Beaumont's own family, the Grahams, were also active participants in the Glen's milling history, working for the Glen Knitting Company down river, and eventually with the Beaumont firm.

In 1957, Samuel Penrice, Gordon Graham (Mrs. Beaumont's brother) and Frank Grew purchased the Beaumont Knitting Mills from Arthur Beaumont.

"Mr. Beaumont came in one day and said, 'I have a chance to sell the mill,'" Mrs. Beaumont told The Herald. "He joked that he didn't want to inflict the textile business on anyone in his family and that one doesn't have a chance to sell a mill every day."

A couple of years later in 1962, the Beaumonts began their own antique business which Mrs. Beaumont still runs today.

SOCIAL FOCUS
A lot of social activities in Glen Williams of the 1920s and 1930s took place at or around the old Beaumont home-stead, about a kilometer

up Main Street from Mrs. Beaumont's current residence.

It was Samuel Beaumont's home, where he and his wife, Emma, raised six children, including Arthur Beaumont's father, Joseph. Across from the home, fields (which are still used as pasture land) were known as the "lacrosse fields", Mrs. Beaumont said.

Summer socials associated with St. Alban's Anglican Church were often held on the Beaumont lawns, which featured a large water fountain, Mrs. Beaumont said.

"As a village we had baseball teams, lacrosse teams and hockey teams," Mrs. Beaumont added. "There was always great rivalry between Glen Williams and the Georgetown Clothing Mills, just as there is with Georgetown and Acton today."

COMMUTERS
Glen Williams once boasted "a good citizens' band", she said, led by Joseph Beaumont's brother, Lindley. It played at dances in the town hall, church functions and wedding receptions. She also recalls attending a two-room school house when she was a child, as did her daughter Judith for a brief period.

Glen Williams used to have its own commuters, Mrs. Beaumont said, as a horsedrawn wagon would travel to Georgetown and return with a load of workers for the Glen Knitting Company Mills.

Glen residents have always lived with a keen respect for the Credit River flowing outside their doorsteps. They are traditionally wary about what sort of behavior the river will show each spring thaw, even with some recent channel work to control flooding.

"There were some ferocious floods, but nobody would ever move away from the river. They'd just clean up afterwards and get along with their business."

INDUSTRY RISK
Both the Beaumont and the Glen Knitting Mills were at the river's edge, using water-turned wheels to drive the intricate milling machinery inside.

The potential for flood damage to the village's principal industries was a matter of communal concern.

"I remember one time my father and brothers were at the Glen Knitting Company where men were working all night," Mrs. Beaumont said. "They were placing brackets and things to hold back the flood and watching the water level."

There have been industrial and social changes in Glen Williams. The Beaumont Knitting Company when Arthur Beaumont sold the firm in 1957, was recently sold to a Hull business interest. And small subdivisions have grown up around the traditional riverside homes.



A bronze sculpture to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who died during 1915 was being welded together at Georgetown's Artcast Inc. last week. Titled "Revival", the sculpture is the work of Arto Tchakmakchian (far right). Orphans from this genocide were brought to Georgetown in 1923 and taught farming at Cedarvale Park.

(Herald photo)

A deal has to work two ways says Mackenzie family slogan

It's a slogan that still rings proud in the Mackenzie family today. "My father said a deal had to be good for both people," remembers Sam Mackenzie, 75, president of Mackenzie Buildall in Halton Hills.

Mackenzie and Son Ltd. were one of the largest sash makers at the time and because the Toronto Suburban Railroad was close by, sales to the big city to the south-east were profitable.

EXPAND

When one investigates the growth of the 84 year old firm, it can be seen that the company was able to adjust to the times. It was a company that knew when to discontinue a line of their work when that part of the market was slipping.

J.B. Mackenzie and Son Ltd. was chosen as the fifth recipient of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year. The firm will be honored Feb. 22 at a special dinner.

Sam Mackenzie recalls when he finished high school in 1926 a decision had to be made whether to expand their sash business.

A sash is the wood frame around the glass used for windows. Sam Mackenzie preferred the contracting business to the sash business so the family never built a modern sash plant to expand.

The move proved to be a smart one, because the poor economy caused by the Depression would have wasted away the firm's capital, Mr. Mackenzie said.

When Mr. Mackenzie retired (he's actually semi-retired, still putting in hours with the family business) the lucrative contracting business wasn't continued. His son Sandy, who is now the general manager of the George-

town store, decided he wanted to concentrate more on the retail trade.

The decision proved timely, considering the construction boom had burst and there wasn't as much building going on, says Mr. Mackenzie.

J.B. Mackenzie and Son Ltd. had a hand in building dozens and dozens of households, stores and schools in the area. They built three additions to Smith and Stone and built two schools in both Oakville and Malton.

VOLUNTEERED

Mr. Mackenzie volunteered his time to draw original plans for a number of buildings, such as an addition on Knox Presbyterian Church and the French Canadian club hall.

The firm tried only to take on the big projects so the little contractors wouldn't be annoyed and stop buying at the

mill, Mr. Mackenzie said.

A steam engine originally powered the mill in Georgetown at the corner of Draper and James St. The 100 horse-power generator even ran power for the downtown area, Mr. Mackenzie said.

The generator was eventually sent to the wooden mill in Glen Williams where it was converted to be driven by water-power. There wasn't enough local lumber and coal was expensive to use, so the firm was one of the first to switch to hydro electricity when it was made available, he said.

The company records show just how much prices in the lumber industry have risen. In 1913, 6 B.C. singles cost \$5 but today they're worth \$130.

Pine sheeting in 1913 was 2 cents per foot, but the price in 1984 is 24 cents per foot.



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Senior man in field was recently town's junior

Herald Special

Dr. Robert H. Cranfield D.C., graduated with Honours, from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, in May of 1976.

He selected Georgetown as the location of his practice, and officially opened the doors to his office in January of 1977.

At that time, Dr. Roy Evans and Dr. Gerald Corbett, welcomed him into Georgetown as the youngest, and most junior chiropractor in town. With the unfortunate and untimely passings of both those D.C.'s, Dr. Cranfield is now the most

senior chiropractor in Georgetown.

Since he began in practice, Dr. Cranfield has been very active in attending Chiropractic Seminars, both in Canada and the United States, in order to keep abreast of the current research and developments in this rapidly developing profession.

He most recently attended a seminar that dealt with motion palpation of the spine and extremity joints, which introduced a new approach to spinal examination and joint mechanics.