

Dominion Seed House was a town landmark

After 65 years in business, Dominion Seed House was sold to Perron of Montreal in 1993, thus virtually putting an end to what had been one of the most successful and largest mail-order businesses in Canada.

Dominion Seed House, situated on a portion of the old Bradley farm in central Georgetown, was established in 1928 by William Bradley while his company Bradley-Edwards Electric Company was experiencing a slow period.

Bradley started the small mail-order seed operation mainly to occupy his employees.

Doug Peck, who began working at Dominion Seed House in 1945, started in the company's seed department.

He said each November the company sent out 185,000 to 200,000 of its catalogues right across Canada. Peck said the catalogue was a black and white digest-size with inserted color until 1981 when a full color 8 1/2" by 11" version was introduced.

"We had records of customers at every post office in Canada," said Peck, who spent his last seven years with the company as general manager. He retired in 1991.

He said after soldiers had arrived



Dominion Seed House general manager Doug Peck, front left, employees and local dignitaries turned out in full force for this groundbreaking to mark the expansion of the operation in the late 1980s.

back home after the Second World War, vegetable seeds were popular and by the late 1980s impatiens seeds were the most popular. The company also sold

bulbs and roots from peonies, irises, rhubarb and horseradish.

Dominion Seed House propagated very few of its own seeds. Contracts

were made with growers all over the world for seeds that were sold to Canadian gardeners.

Peck said during the busiest times of the year Dominion Seed House had between 110 and 120 permanent and temporary employees. The number dwindled to 28 during the slower periods. Many of the part-timers came back to work there for 25 and 30 years.

Georgetown resident Norma Thompson worked at the company for 40 years. She started as the bookkeeper in 1942 and later worked as secretary-treasurer. She enjoyed working there.

"It was just like a family," she said. Long-time Dominion Seed House farm supervisor Duncan McFarlane echoed Thompson's sentiment.

Bradley, who was active in the community and served on the Board of Trade and on Georgetown Council in the 1920s, died in 1952 and his wife ran the company until her daughter Margaret Harding took over the business.

Today the property, which abuts Guelph Street, Maple Avenue and Mountainview Road, is being developed for housing, a high school and various businesses.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Terra Cotta Woodworks

Makers of fine custom furniture & kitchen cabinetry

Erin, Ontario

(519) 833-0016



Karen Timms

Decorating Den INTERIORS

The Colourful Store That Comes To Your Door

**FURNITURE, CARPET, BLINDS & SHUTTERS
WALLPAPER, WINDOW TREATMENTS, ACCESSORIES**

Start thinking about decorating for Christmas!

Call today for your complimentary consultation.

519-941-8639 1-888-632-9529

VISA, MASTERCARD OR 3 MTHS NO INTEREST DECORATING CARD

Each franchise independently owned & operated. *Discounts off regular retail pricing

Internet - <http://www.decoratingden.com>

Doorn Garden Centre

<http://doorngardencentre.cjb.net>

*Come to the Country Garden Centre
for all your garden needs*

•Patio Stones •Gifts •Sell & Install Large Trees

**OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK - 9 a.m. - 7 pm**

14177 Trafalgar Rd. (North of Hwy. 7)

BALLINAFAD

905-877-4915

