

# 19th century Vaughan factory recalled



**Patterson firm site**

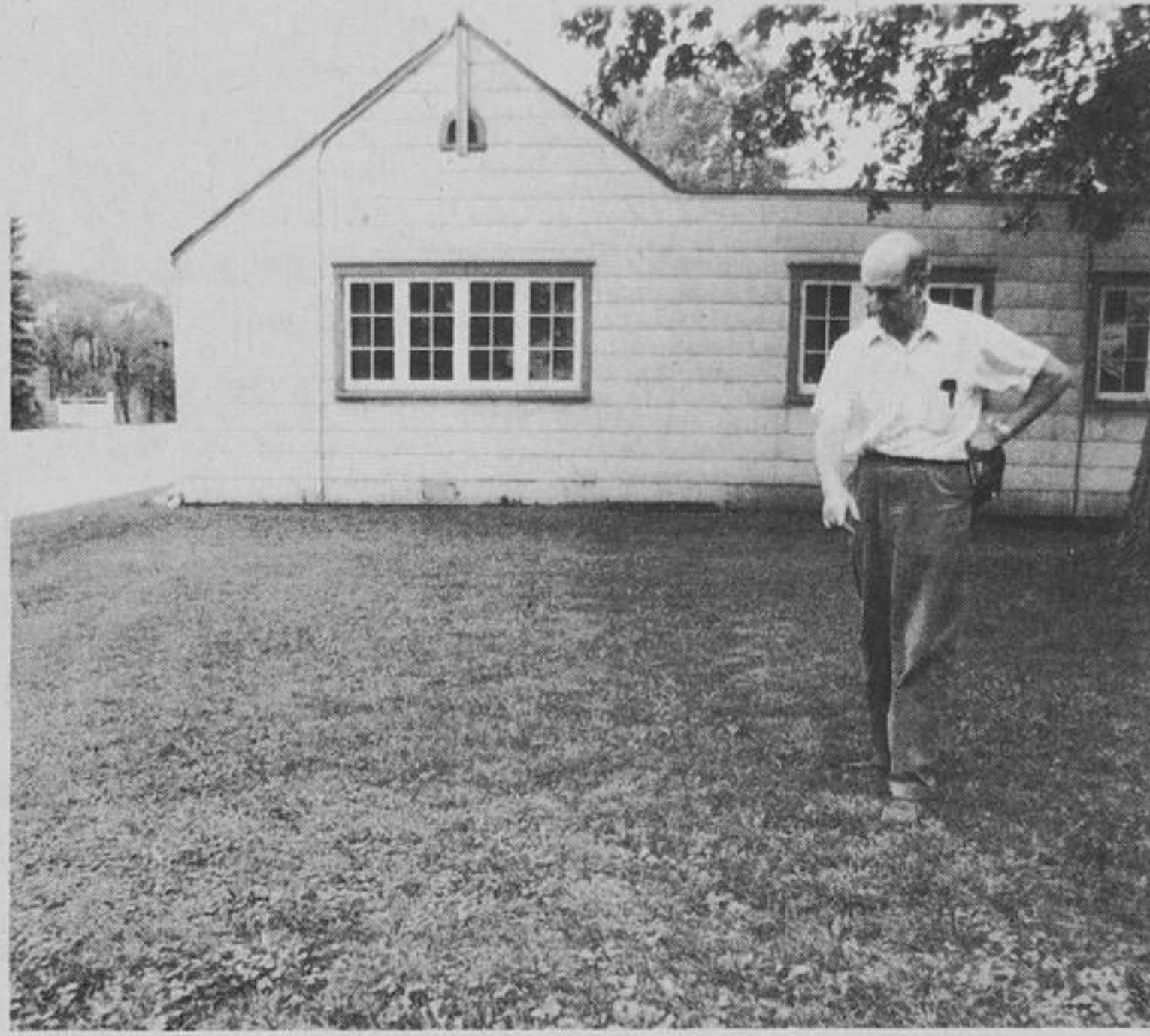
Ernest Redelmeier stands in front of Don Head Farm on Major Mackenzie Drive, the site of what was a thriving farm implement manufacturing industry in the 1800s. The firm, then known as Patterson Brothers, was moved to Woodstock in

1891 and was soon afterward purchased by the Massey company. The local site was bought by the Redelmeier family in 1940. Barn seen on the left was the foundry, and in the centre was the blacksmith shop.



**Original driving shed**

This is the original driving shed, one of the buildings in the Patterson factory along what is now Major Mackenzie Drive. After the firm moved away, the Patterson family turned the land into Don Head Farms and began raising sheep and cattle. Present owner Ernest Redelmeier is seen in the photo.



**Post office was here**

Beside the Don Head farm office building, owner Ernest Redelmeier points out traces of the foundations of what was the Patterson post office in the 19th century. Loss of the Patterson industry was lamented in Richmond Hill and Vaughan, who lost about 200 jobs with the firm's move to Woodstock.

Photos by Bruce Hogg

Concluding his article on Patterson, quoted at some length last week, 19th century Liberal Editor McMahon dropped a bombshell on the community as he reported inducements were being offered the owners of the firm to settle in another community.

"If Patterson & Bros. should remove, we need not think that ever again will we have in our midst men of such enterprise, ability and public mindedness," he commented.

Although the plaque on the Don Head office building (on the site of the old Patterson post office) stated that the factory operated until 1891, The Liberal in February 1887 under the heading "Deserted Village" noted the removal piece by piece of the mechanism to the firm's new workshops in Woodstock, saying soon nothing would remain but the empty buildings.

**Needed railway**

In 1885 The Liberal maintained a spur line from the Northern Railway to the plant would save the industry at a cost of \$17,000.

The editor of that day suggested the cost be shared by Richmond Hill, the railroad and Pattersons. This was the rail line to the west of Patterson, the one to the east had not yet been built.

On Sept. 28 of that year the voters of Woodstock voted 669 to 50 to grant Pattersons \$35,000 as an inducement to move to that municipality.

The die was thus irretrievably cast, and Vaughan area lost a firm which employed up to 200 men at times.

**Bought by Massey**

A year after Patterson Bros. was established in Woodstock, the firm was bought by Massey, another manufacturer of farm implements.

In the same year Massey also purchased the firm of Harris and the new enterprise was named the Massey-Harris Company.



**yesterdays**  
by mary dawson

The second generation of Pattersons, Peter's sons Alfred and John, joined the new firm and remained with it for some years.

**Served as reeve**

Peter Patterson's name has a revered spot in the annals of Vaughan township which he served as reeve for three years.

He also served a term as warden of York county and represented the riding of West York in the Legislature for some years.

He had four children — Elizabeth, Alfred, John and Susan.

When he died in 1904, at the age of 79, he left all his wealth to his son John, disregarding the older son, Alfred, who had fallen out of favor for some reason which was not recorded.

**Daughters' fate**

Daughter Susan died in a hotel fire while on a visit to New York. Elizabeth married a man named Taylor who owned a large brickworks on the Don River in Toronto.

According to one report we have read, Alfred went to Australia to live,

dying while on a visit to Canada. John Patterson's obituary, published in 1940, however, said Alfred was still living at that time in Bermuda and came to Canada when his brother was stricken with a heart attack a month or so before his death.

**Left Massey firm**

On leaving the Massey-Harris Company and after the death of his wife Gertrude in 1890 only a year after their marriage, John Patterson did extensive travelling.

He circled the globe several times before taking up residence in California where he lived for some years.

**Don Head renewed**

Returning to Canada he rehabilitated the old family homestead "Don Head Farms", adding the Graham farm across the road to his holdings, and began raising purebred sheep and Aberdeen Angus cattle.

He was regarded as one of the foremost sheep breeders in North America and was a consistent winner of international awards.

He also maintained his home (built by his father) in Woodstock and passed away in his 78th year.

His generous contributions to all charities are still remembered both in Richmond Hill and in Woodstock.

Following his death in 1940 Don Head Farm was purchased by the late Willy Redelmeier, whose sons Ernest and Francis are actively engaged in its operation.

## Region nurses' pay hike cut

NEWMARKET — It could be back to the bargaining table for York region's public health nurses.

The 33 specialists, who had been granted a total package of 36.97 per cent — salary plus benefits — through an arbitration board ruling in January, found their award reduced to 28.76 per cent by the Anti-Inflation Board.

Both Bob Scullion, personnel co-ordinator for York, and Angela Hamlin, president of Ontario nurses association of York region, agreed that negotiations were likely to decide how the percentage would be split between salary increases and benefits.

However, the nurses will send their proposal to implement the AIB ruling, to the region's board of health, which will decide whether more negotiations are needed.

Mrs. Hamlin said the nurses had

waited a long time for the ruling and could "certainly live by" the board's decision.

In the original award, which the AIB reversed, the nurses were given salary increases plus 100 per cent payment of the Ontario Hospital insurance plan, extra health care benefits and life insurance.

A long-term, fully-paid life insurance plan was also introduced.

The decision was also introduced because the region agreed to implement it in May, also, lecture payments could go up from \$20 to \$25 an hour.

Aurora mayor Evelyn Buck, chairman of the York board of health, said the region's original offer of some 24 per cent was "more than generous." She was sorry the matter had ever had to go to arbitration.

## Roman temporarily in chairman seat

NEWMARKET — While rumors keep putting either Mayors Evelyn Buck of Aurora or Bob Forhan of Newmarket in the head chair at York region, it was Markham Mayor Tony Roman who occupied it when it was vacated for a short spell last week.

The Roman ascension came about midway during a regular meeting of council when Chairman Garfield Wright had to leave to attend a meeting with the minister of highways.

Council was discussing an item in the engineering report when Wright left, and Mayor Buck said that without the

chairman there wasn't a meeting.

Clerk Robert Vernon, however, informed her that it was the chairman's prerogative to leave and council could vote for someone to take his place.

Before you could say "Buck" or "Forhan," Mayor Roman had been elected.

"Do you want the chain?" quipped Newmarket's Ray Twinney, referring to the large chain of office Wright always wears around his neck when in the chair.

Mayor Roman stuck with his tie.

## Woman, 78, found dead

NEWMARKET — York regional police are investigating the death of a 78-year-old woman whose body was found in her senior citizens' apartment here last Saturday.

The woman, who was badly bruised around one eye, was Sara Jane Carlin, a widow, who lived alone.

When she was found by a neighbor,

her apartment had been ransacked and the mattress of her bed torn open.

Police said there were rumors Mrs. Carlin kept money in the apartment.

Deputy Chief Walter Harkness said that, despite the bruise on the woman's head and the attempted robbery, police were still not listing her death as murder.

## AUDITORS' REPORT

The Richmond Hill Arena Association:

We have examined the balance sheet of Richmond Hill Arena Association as at April 30, 1976 and the statements of revenue and expenses for the year ended on that date. Our examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records and other supporting evidence as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Richmond Hill Arena Association as at April 30, 1976 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted for Ontario Municipal Enterprises, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

		Reid & Bradley	
		CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS	
		BALANCE SHEET AS AT APRIL 30, 1976	
		1976	1975
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand	\$ 200.00	\$ 9,776.36	
Short term investments	2,000.00	11,000.00	
Accounts payable	37,180.71	35,724.29	
Inventory	3,166.36	3,282.92	
	42,547.07	59,783.57	
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY TO BE RECOVERED IN FUTURE YEARS</b>			
	657,000.00	561,000.00	
	\$ 699,547.07	\$ 620,783.57	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Bank overdraft	\$ 4,646.75	\$	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,979.21	17,185.21	
Payroll deductions payable	2,611.32	1,402.48	
Accrued debenture interest	21,689.51	18,546.66	
	45,926.79	37,134.35	
<b>LONG TERM</b>			
Debentures	622,000.00	526,000.00	
Other long term liabilities	35,000.00	35,000.00	
	657,000.00	561,000.00	
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>			
Balance at beginning of year		22,649.22	43,553.13
Add:			1,638.05
Adjustment of prior year's income			
Less:			
Excess of expenditure over revenue - Statement 2	26,028.94	22,541.98	
	(13,379.72)	22,649.22	
Balance at end of year	\$ 699,547.07	\$ 620,783.57	

The Richmond Hill Arena Association agreement with the Town of Richmond Hill provides for payment equal to the annual principal and interest on outstanding debentures against the Arena Premises.

The debenture liability shown on the balance sheet is the debenture liability of the Town of Richmond Hill outstanding at the end of the year.

During the current year ending April 30, 1976 the Town of Richmond Hill issued \$115,000 of additional debentures for the new roof on the old Arena.

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