Bank of Nova Scotia —

First and only in Russell

The Bank of Nova Scotia representation in the Village of Russell commenced with the opening of a Branch of The Bank of Ottawa on January 5, 1904.

At the outset, officials of The Bank of Ottawa felt that while Russell, with a population of about 400 persons, was located in a "very good farming and well cleared area", there was insufficient business available to warrant the opening of a branch bank. However, they felt that such an office could attract business from neighbouring communities where no banking service was available and, accordingly, a Branch was opened in the hope of not only serving Russell but the communities of Embrun, Crysler, Metcalfe, Kenmore and Morewood.

On October 1, 1908, a Sub-Branch of the Bank was opened in Kenmore and that office is still in operation with service being provided from the Russell Branch.

Russell Branch was opened with a personnel numbering three, comprising Mr. J. I.

Rankin, the Manager, R. A. G. Blair and S. A. Carson the last named being a native of the village.

It will be obvious that over the years many persons had the experience of being attached to Russell Branch and some gained prominence, including Mr. Kenneth S. Russell who became Supervisor of the Western operations of the Bank, Thomas A. Boyles who became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. William H. McMillan, currently Vice-President and General Manager of the Eastern Ontario Division of the Bank.

The names of the Managers of the Branch, together with the year in which they assumed duty, are recorded hereunder:

J. I. Rankin — 1904, E.G. Leslie — 1907, A. J. Muckleston — 1908, J. A. Kearns — 1915, C. H. Stewart — 1917, E. G. Rankin — 1944, F. J. McKimm — 1949, E. P. Warneford — 1951, H. H. Hill — 1955, C. A. Hyndman — 1962, J. G. Taylor — 1964, G. A. Saunders — 1969, A. M. Cleroux — 1970, R. H. Morin — 1977.

The first Branch at Russell operated out of a section of a residence but later rented a portion of a building owned at the

time by Mr. William McKeracher, which was sold to two subsequent owners.

The Bank still occupies these

premises, which include quarters for personnel, pending completion of the new building.



This is an architect's sketch of the new Russell Bank of Nova Scotia building now under construction at Concession and Main Streets. When

the staff vacates the old building on Mill Street in October, it will be the third time in 75 years that Russell's only bank has moved quarters.





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