

Map of Tour Area



Legend

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| 1 King and John Street: Lennard and Sons Limited | 4 21 Ogilvie: Canada Screw Company, Pratt & Whitney Small Tools |
| 2 115 Hatt Street: Forsyth & Company and Agricultural Works, Canada Screw Company | 5 50 Hatt Street: John Bertram & Sons Company Ltd. |
| 3 64 Hatt Street: The John Gartshore Foundry, The Valley City Manufacturing Company Limited, New Dundas Foundry | 6 5 King West: The Webster Grafton Shops |

 Home location: Dundas Museum (139 Park St. West)

The Dundas Museum & Archives
Presents:

The Hatt Street Industrial Walking Tour



Hatt Street circa. 1860



For an audio version
check out -->



Brief History of Dundas

Dundas, formerly known as Cootes Paradise, continues to be a small picturesque town. In the early 1800s, Richard Hatt began buying up land and financed Spencer Creek's clearing to build mill sites. The Creek's water power and the growing number of mills became the nucleus of Dundas, securing it as a regional industrial revolution model.

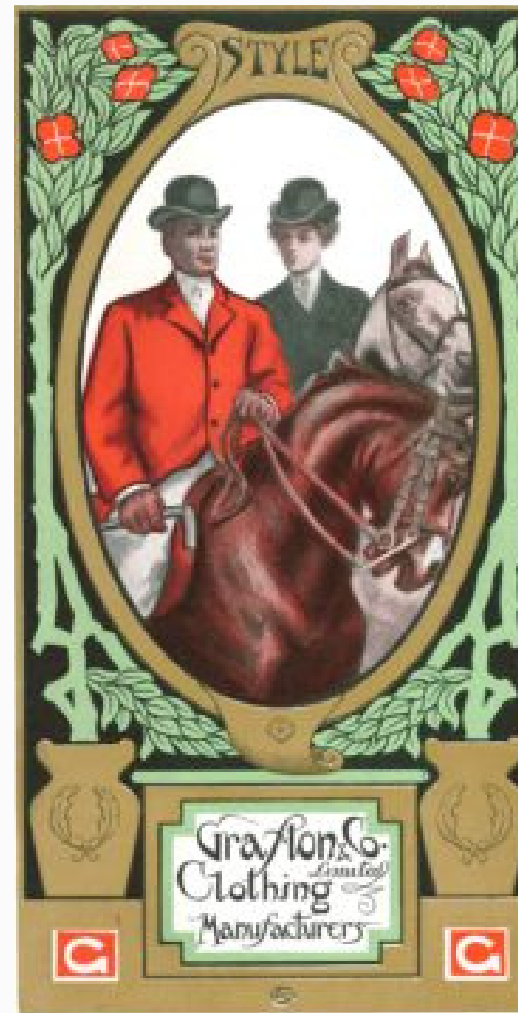


Territorial Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the community of Dundas is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga People. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant and the Between the Lakes Purchase of 1792. We recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

6

5 King West Street The Webster Grafton Building



James Beatty Grafton (J.B.) and his brother John Stewart Grafton (J.S.) opened the J.B. and J.S. Grafton Company in the late 1850s to manufacture blankets and cloths.

Throughout the late 1800s, the Grafton's successfully opened up several stores throughout Ontario and formed one of the earliest Canadian retail chains.

After passing through the family in the 1900s, in 1964, the chain was finally taken over by an outside group..



5 50 Hatt Street

John Bertram & Sons Company Ltd.

John Bertram and the Bertram family are infamous members of the Dundas Community. John began operating a small pattern and machine shop for Robert McKechnie and William McDonald in 1852. By 1886, John had taken full ownership and changed the company name to John Bertram & Sons Company Ltd. as his three sons joined the business.

The company first manufactured equipment for the woodworking industry, then switched to manufacturing metalworking machine tools, large-scale machinery for civil engineering projects, and specialized machinery for mines.

By the 1950s, the company could not compete with foreign manufacturers. After switching names and switching owners, the company finally closed in the late 1980s.



1 King and John Street

Lennard and Sons Limited



After learning the stocking and knitting trade from his father back in England, Samuel Lennard (1829–1892) came to Canada and founded the Dundas Knitting Mills in 1878. Samuel's three sons, Samuel Jr., Henry, and Frank and Samuel's son-in-law, Henry Bickford, worked and later joined as partners.

The mill first specialized in manufacturing hosiery, but by 1900 the firm began specializing in underwear for their brand, Lennard and Encore, and other large companies.

In 1969 the business was bought by Shelway Holdings Ltd, and production ceased in 1973.

2 115 Hatt Street

Forsyth & Company Agricultural Works

In 1846, Julius P. Billington founded the Wentworth Agricultural Works, with John Forsyth becoming a partner in 1855. The company first produced agricultural implements and stoves until they expanded in the 1860s to produce other machinery and screws.

As the company developed into the Canada Screw Company in 1866, Forsyth continued making agricultural implements under Forsyth & Company. He won best-combined mower and reaper at a Provincial Exhibition in 1871.

In the late 1870s, Forsyth sold out to E. and C. Gurney and Co., a Hamilton stove manufacturing firm. Forsyth then moved to Hamilton in 1878 to open an implement store.



4 21 Ogilvie Street

Pratt & Whitney Co.

The Pratt & Whitney Co. began in the USA in 1860. Niles-Bement-Pond Co. acquired the company and merged with John Bertram & Sons in 1905. By the following year, Pratt & Whitney Co. moved to Dundas to the old Canada Screw Company building, which Bertram used for storage. In 1974 the building was taken over by the Do-Tan Tool and Gauge Co., which manufactured jigs, fixtures and special-purpose machinery. The building is currently condominiums.



4

21 Ogilvie Street

Canada Screw Company

In 1866 Julius P. Billington formed the Canada Screw Company with Hugh Moore as President and Billington as Manager. Prior to this in 1864 Billington designed and built machinery which made the first wood screws in Canada. The company leased the old Westlayan Girls school building on Hatt and Ogilvie Streets' northeast corner.

Throughout the 1870s to 1880s, the business expanded to include iron and brass screws, bolts and rivets under new management.

The Canada Screw Company continued to operate until 1910 when it became one of five metalworking companies that formed the Steel Company of Canada.



2

115 Hatt Street

Dundas Edge Tool Works/Dundas Axe Works



Jeremiah Hourigan purchased the remainder of the burnt axe-making equipment from George Levitt & Co. in 1859. Hourigan began the Dundas Edge Tool Works on Hatt Street at the old planning mill. The factory manufactured axes, as well as other edge tools like machine knives. Tool manufacturing was noisy and dangerous: people living near the factory woke up six days a week from the pounding of hammers.

Operation ceased in 1910, and a fire destroyed the building in 1922. By then, the factory's downstairs portion was Calowell Feed Company, and a roller rink and dance hall were upstairs.

3

64 Hatt Street

Dundas Foundry Mill

In 1804 the Hatt brothers and Manuel Overfield built a large mill and named it the New Dundas Mill. This area became the hub for other businesses in Dundas.



Over the years, the buildings switched hands :

The John Gartshore Foundry

In 1838, James Bell Ewart teamed up with John Gartshore to build the Ewart Grist Mill and then a foundry on Hatt Street.

The foundry specialized in machinery for saw and grist mills. At the same time, it became an unofficial trade school for mechanics and other workers. In 1846, the foundry burned down but was rebuilt to a larger scale and, this time, constructed of stone.

The company remained innovative by manufacturing supply components for the growing steamship and railroad building industries. In 1859, John's foundry built the steam engine and machinery for the Hamilton Waterworks. However, this project created a lot of debt that the business was struggling with by the late 1880s.

3

64 Hatt Street

The Valley City Manufacturing Company Limited

In 1884, John D. Pennington and Edgar Baker began manufacturing wooden boxes for telephones and student desks. When they moved to the old Dundas Foundry buildings six years later, they began building church pews and wooden furniture.

The company diversified their production throughout the 20th century after suffering significant losses during the Great Depression, bankruptcy, and decline in the 1970s. In the 21st century, the company switched to making laboratory furniture. Sadly, competition, a high dollar, and three years of the recession forced the company to close its doors in 2012.

