

In the Steam Age

As you walk along the trail towards Lime Kilns you will notice the railroad tracks that both benefited and harmed Dundas' industrial industries. By the mid-19th century, Dundas was a flourishing port, milling, and manufacturing town. However, the incoming age of steam engines meant that when the initial railway line passed through Dundas without a stop, Dundas became isolated.



Farquhar's Lime Kiln operations became obsolete from the railroads, bringing in larger factories' higher quality materials. Other companies stayed innovative. Gartshore Shops started supplying components for the growing steamship and railroad building industries. The Bertram & Sons Company kept adapting their production to make new machines for the new steam industry.

The Dundas Museum &
Archives Presents:

“ INTO THE WOODS ” INDUSTRIAL WALKING TOURS



A watercolour of Lime Kilns
by Marie H. Holmestead



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 Acknowledgment

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.

4

Dominion Lightning Rod Company

G.H. Cliff – “Always strive for perfection. Produce a good product. Give service...and be honest.”



The Dominion Lightning Rod Company continues to thrive on Mill Street. Founder George H. Cliff successfully produced lightning rods of the highest efficiency. Since 1898 the family-run business has developed and installed certified lightning protection systems for everything from barns to the CN Tower. Generations of Cliffs' continue to work at the Dominion Lightning Rod Company, with the younger family members becoming apprentices

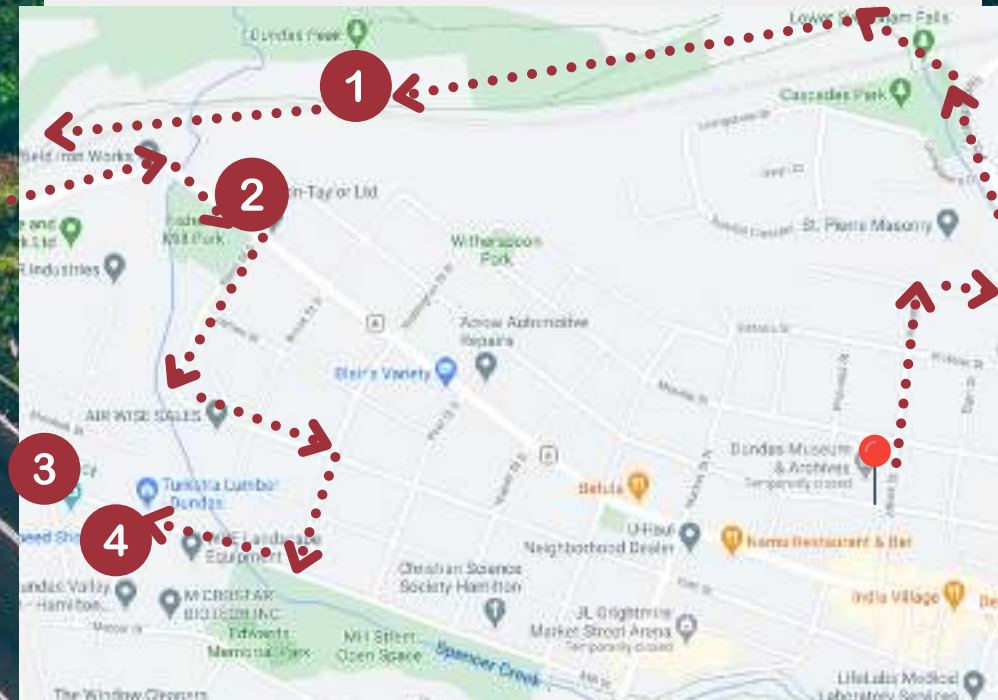


3 Jones Industries

Sidney Jones began Jones Bro. Company Limited in 1887 and sold barber supplies. Jones then decided to also venture into exhibit showcases and office equipment. By 1904 Jones moved the company to Dundas on Head Street to the Woollen and Mattress factory's location. In 1920 Dundas Plate Glass Company formed as part of Jones Bros. organization.

When Sidney died in 1945, the company reorganized in 1946 under the name Jones Industries Limited. Throughout the 1950s, the company manufactured TV cabinets, their own perfume "crown jewels," and beauty products. By May of 1956 the factory was sold at auction.

Map of Tour Area



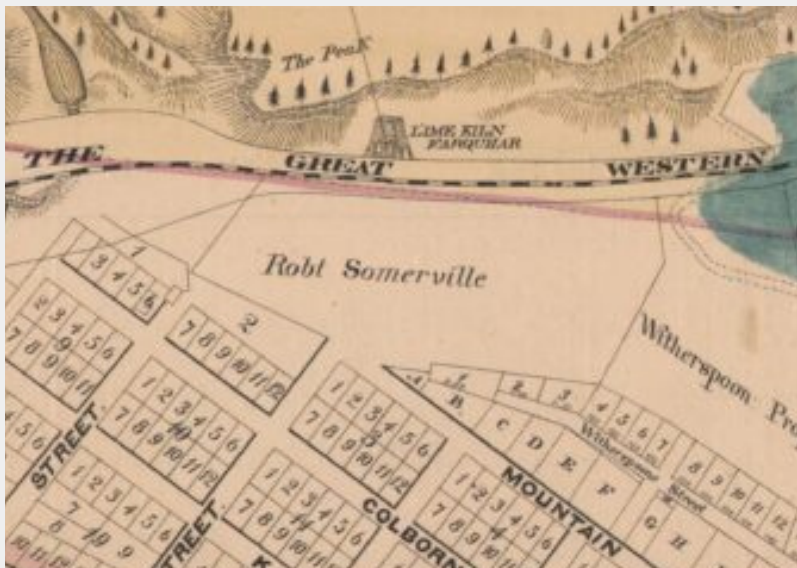
Legend

- 1 Beneath Dundas Peak:
Lime Kilns, Canada
Crushed Stone
Corporation
 - 2 397 King Street West:
Gore Mills
 - 3 Head Street: Thornton
Woollen Mills, Jones
Industries
 - 4 384 Mill Street:
Dominion Lightning
Rod Company
-  Home location: Dundas Museum (139 Park St. West)

1 Beneath the Peak: Lime Kilns

In the late 1840s, Charles Farquhar built kilns under Dundas Peak to produce quicklime (a chemical compound). Farquhar supplied local operations and shipped them out via the Desjardins Canal. The stone structures are below Dundas Peak along the Great Western Railroad.

After Farquhar's operations ceased around the 1880s, the sites lay unused until 1905 when Charles Marshall Doolittle purchased and opened Doolittle and Wilcox Crushed Stone Company.



3 Thornton Woollen Mills

Located on Head Street, the Thornton Woollen Mills was the last wooden mill in Dundas and a descendent of the Clark Blanket Factory.

Before Christmas in 1931, The Dundas Woolstox Company took over the mill, which had already been closed for eight months. The J.S. Granatstwin & Company bought the mill and were accused of polluting Spencer Creek by dumping gallons of dye into the water, turning it to a blush colour. Although J.S. Granatstwin & Company would remain in operation in Toronto, the Thornton Woollen Mills firm was taken over by the town in March 1938.

2 Gore Mills

Joseph Spencer Jr. purchased land along Spencer Creek and, in 1834, built a grist mill on Gore Road (now King Street West) appropriately named; the Gore Grist Mill. Spencer added other mills on the property in 1840, 1848, and in 1851 another grist mill to make newsprint and wrapping paper. That same year, Spencer died when he fell from one of his buildings while making repairs during a thunderstorm.

By 1863 the new owner John Fisher closed the grist mill portion and converted it to just paper manufacturing. By 1929, the Fisher family donated the land for the Dundas District School, which has since been converted to apartments.



1 Canada Crushed Stone Corporation

Charles Marshall Doolittle, with his cousin, Horace Wilcox, purchased the old Farquhar site in 1905 and continued to expand and add to the area under the name Doolittle and Wilcox Crushed Stone Company.

After Wilcox died in 1912, Doolittle reorganized the company to the Canada Crushed Stone Corporation. The quarried products were shipped locally and afar to steel mills for use as a flux in steel-making and furnace linings.

In 1951, Steetley Canada, a division of Steetley Lime and Building Stone Company of Great Britain, bought the quarry operations. In 1992, Redland Quarries Inc. purchased the site and sold it to Lafarge Corporation in 1998.

Evidence of the Kilns remains, although only the bottom few layers of stone are visible.