

HISTORIC BOWMANVILLE

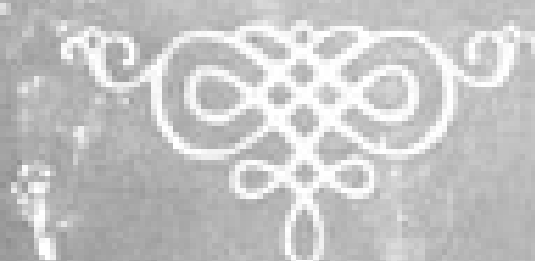
King St. (looking west) Bowmanville, circa 1900

Originally known as Darlington Mills, Bowmanville was founded in 1794 when a U.S. family of Loyalists settled near the site of Vanstone Mill. The first business district was established in the valley to the south of the mill.

When Charles Bowman, a Scottish merchant from Montreal, came to the area in 1824, he purchased, planned & encouraged business development on his land to the east of the valley. Prior to 1830, this area was referred to as "Bowman's Village" until the official name change to Bowmanville in 1853.

Over the years, much of King St. has remained the same & many of the original buildings still stand. Though most of the merchants have come & gone, many local businesses that had their start over a century ago still continue to prosper.

This mural was made possible by the Historic Downtown Bowmanville Business Improvement Area.



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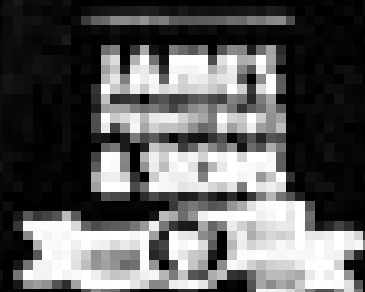
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Formed in 1857 by the Hon. John Simpson, the Ontario Bank was absorbed by the Bank of Montreal in 1908. The upper two floors of this building included bank manager's apartments and a ballroom for entertaining purposes.

Mr. Simpson, who was the adopted son of Charles Bowman, founder of Bowmanville, also opened the very first mail bag to be received at Bowmanville.

The Post Office and Customs Office building also served as our library in its latter years. In 1912, a clock and bell, imported from England, replaced the circular windows in the tower.

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Goodyear Bowmanville, c. 1910

Bowmanville has been making rubber goods for over a century. In 1896 the short lived Bowmanville Rubber Co. was created & then sold to the Durham Rubber Co. The factory made everything from rubber balls & elastic bands to fire hoses & tires.

When the Canadian government imposed a heavy duty on American made tires in 1910, Goodyear from Akron Ohio, bought and expanded the Bowmanville plant to make tires for the fledgling automotive industry.

War turned Bowmanville into a busy factory town. During the First World War, many local homes were built by Goodyear to house some of its 900 employees. Today the Bowmanville plant is the oldest Goodyear plant in the world.

*This mural was made possible by Goodyear.
A friend of Bowmanville.*



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