

By mid-1983 the automobile industry, most notably Chrysler, was showing strong signs of recovery, and contract negotiations were centred on the sharing of prosperity rather than the avoidance of disaster.

Kingston

Kingston is the home of the Royal Military College, the National Defence College, the Canadian Land Forces Command and the Canadian Land Forces Staff College.

Its military traditions go back 300 years. The first fort, squared timbers on solid rock, was built in 1673 by Frontenac.

John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, practiced law in Kingston before becoming its Member of Parliament in 1849, and he is buried in the Cataraqui Cemetery. His fine old house is now open to visitors.

Queen's University—founded in 1842 by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada—spreads around the handsome home of Archdeacon George O'Kill Stuart, built for him in the early nineteenth century. In 1858 the mansion became the university, housing the administration offices, classrooms, laboratories and library and the sleeping quarters of some students. Between 1867 and 1877 it was the residence of Principal Snodgrass.

Today Queen's is one of the finest universities in Canada, with medical and law schools, 12,896 undergraduates and 1,877 graduate students.



Kingston home of Sir John A. Macdonald.

What Happened to Haileybury

Some Ontario towns started small and made it big. Some made it to middle-sized stability. Some almost died of childhood diseases.

Fire was to nineteenth-century towns what diphtheria was to nineteenth-century children.

In July, 1911, the town of Porcupine was destroyed and seventy persons were killed. Cochrane burned down the same month.

In 1916 the Matheson fire ravaged 500 square miles and killed 280.

In the fall of 1922 it was Haileybury's turn. The farmers had a good harvest that year, and afterwards they began burning the brush. It was an annual event, authorized by the government anytime after September 15, and designed to clear the fields and enrich the soil. Each farmer did his own burning.

Many small fires got out of hand that October day and became one with a thirty-mile front, moving east.

The winds shifted and the fire roared past Englehart and New Liskeard and on to Charlton, Heaslip and Thornloe. It wiped them out and advanced to Haileybury.

Haileybury was the metropolis of the region. It had silver mines and a busy port on Lake Huron and three prosperous hotels. The fires destroyed the business district and 700 homes and then paused by the railway station. All the able-bodied men in town stood facing it. It looked like it might be contained. At 4 p.m. a north-bound train severed the hose lines and a short time later the roof of the station caught fire. The winds swept the burning embers on and the fire fighters ran for their lives to the lakeshore. Fifty people had died, eleven of them Haileyburgians.

After the embers had cooled the townspeople tried to recapture prosperity. The new Hotel Haileybury opened in 1927, but the commercial travelers that had once filled three hotels now had automobiles and they no longer spent their weekends there.



Haileybury after the fire.