

# H I S T O R Y



## A Colourful History

On April 1, 1892, two Toronto real estate brokers who had purchased a farm from James Thomson, entered into a agreement with the Grand Trunk Railway Company, to cede to the railway a strip of land fronting on the railway in return for which the railway company undertook to furnish rail service to the station. The station was to be called Thomson Point. The name was changed to Beaurepaire in 1894 for reviving the use of the original name of Farm 7 – Beaurepaire – seen in the concession to Jean Guenet on May 18, 1678.

Sidney Cunningham who was the first president of the Beaconsfield Citizen's Association, started the commercial development in Beaurepaire village in 1929. He opened a general store at the southeast corner of St.Louis and Beaconsfield Boulevard. This building was later destroyed by fire. The house diagonally across the intersection, was built in 1925 by Arthur Carruthers then converted to a grocery store in 1934 by Miss Hazel Taylor. The following year, Wm. Kenny took over the operation and called it Passchendale, recalling a famous World War 1 battle site.

By 1925, Beaurepaire had double the population of the Beaconsfield area. In 1910, James Morgan received a contract to improve the road leading from the Beaurepaire station down to the Lakeshore Road. This gravel road was initially called "Montée Beaurepaire", the "Station Road", and later "Woodland Avenue".

Mel Carter was largely responsible for leading the postwar development of the shopping area in Beaurepaire Village. In 1948, Carter and his associate Bill Boxell, who were both employed by the British Overseas Airways Corporation, bought a land and built themselves a general store (449-453 Boul. Beaconsfield).

In 1954, Roy Pelletier, a young pharmaceutical graduate from Université of Montréal, operated Roy's Rexall Drugs ( 450 Beaconsfield) there for the following three decades. In 1961, Pelletier built the modern building



# H I S T O R Y

containing stores and offices to the east of his drugstore. *The Imperial Bank of Commerce* opened a branch there in July 1961.

In 1982, developer Cliff Thacker extended the Beaufort commercial area when he built a mini-shopping center on the south side of Beaconsfield Boulevard between Fieldfare and Woodland.

In 1985, the grocery store Dominion closed and Roy Pelletier relocated his pharmacy there (485 Boul. Beaconsfield).

*(extract from Beaconsfield and Beaufort, A chronicle of the development of the City of Beaconsfield and the district of Beaufort by Robert L. Baird and Gisèle Hall, 1998)*

