

McArthur Woolen Mill

150 Mill Street

Part of Lot 15, Concession 12

By-law 45-85



This five-story stone mill was built on a man-made island in 1871 by Archibald McArthur. The McArthur Woolen Mill produced fine worsteds and tweeds. It was powered by a turbine water wheel with teak wooden teeth built outside on free standing timbers, rather than internally to prevent the end of the mill from being shaken to pieces. The building originally had an open basement allowing the river to run underneath and enabling raw wool to be washed clean in the current.

Purchased and expanded to include a brick wing by Bates and Innes Mills in 1907, the company played a key role in supplying wool to the military for WWI and WWII uniforms. In 1918, at their peak, they supplied one million dollars' worth of underwear and blankets to the armed forces. Their OV "Ottawa Valley" label produced underwear, blankets and knitted suits, but by 1959 were devoted entirely to blankets. The mill closed in the early 1960s.