

# Boat Building Industry Part Of Town History

From the launching of the Oakville-built schooner Trafalgar, 50 tons, in 1828, at Col. William Chisholm's shipyard on the south bank of The Sixteen, Oakville's sailing fleet has always required maintenance and repair to keep it in peak sailing trim.

Today, even more than in the cargo-carrying days of yore Oakville's yachts are cared for with pride of ownership far beyond even that of the sports car buffs and much of their sailing efficiency and sleek appearance is due to Elle Van der Molen, manager of Metro Marine Ltd.

## SERVICE OPERATION

Here at the Metro yard at Bronte, the Dutch boat expert maintains an all-season repair and maintenance service for all types of marine craft, but he finds that most of the craft he services are the wooden hull variety, as they were years ago. Fibreglass vessels also need servicing and these also emerge from the Metro yard as showpieces.

Metro Marine has discontinued its former contract yacht building business, says Mr. Van der Molen, who expects that his yard and the staff will continue to have their time fully occupied in the service end of the business.

And that includes yacht painting, storage, engine and fuel services, marine hardware fittings, and stepping new masts when they are needed, among other things.

## Our Yachts To East Coast

This will probably send shudders through the spine of former Bluenose schooner Captain Angus Walters.

Nova Scotia now gets its sailing yachts from Oakville! Lunenburg, shrine of Canada's most famous racing vessel, will survive seasonally in its traditional shipbuilding role but while the axes and the adzes send the wooden chips flying in the Lunenburg shipyards, Grampian Marine Ltd. of Oakville has already sent six of its molded fibreglass sailing yachts to Halifax in recent months, and expects to send a lot more.

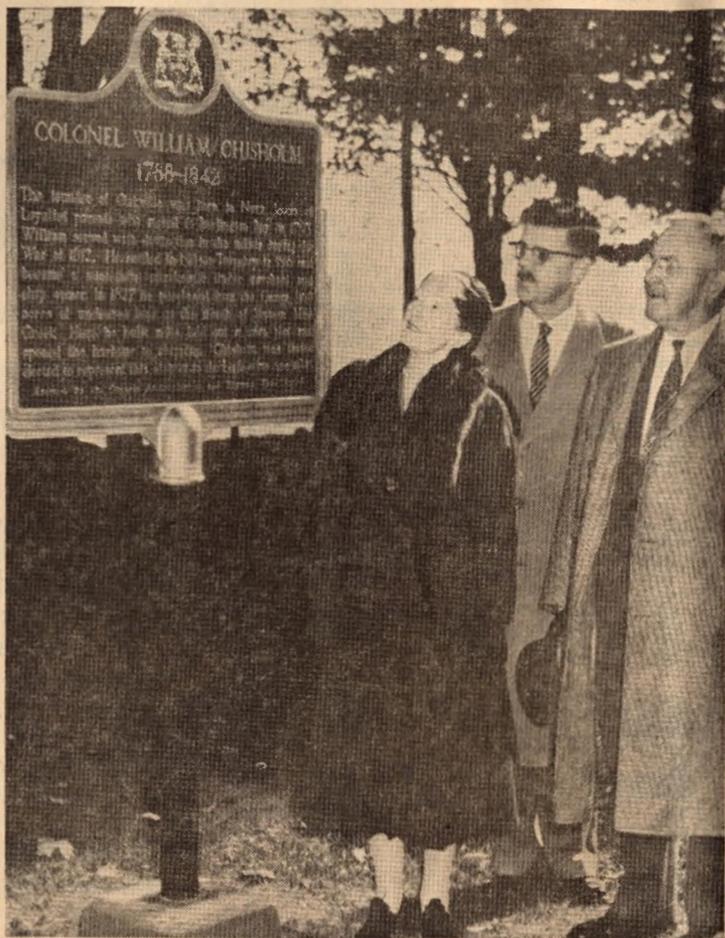
In the oldest of old Oakville traditions as a shipbuilding centre, Grampian Marine on Woody Road, is a beehive of activity as sloops, cutters, ketches and yawls roll from the plant to all parts of Canada and the U.S. It was not always like that because in 1959 the marine venture started largely as a winter make-work program of Grampian Construction Co. to keep their men employed. Now the marine operations employ about 80 men, 20 or so more than a year ago.

## STEADY PROGRESS

Growth since 1959 has been steady. Producing fibreglass sailboats exclusively, the range of boats goes from a small eight foot dinghy to a 42-foot yacht, one of the largest ever molded in Canada.

Almost completed is the company's new plant extension of 8,000 square feet, adjoining the existing factory on Woody Rd., needed to cope with steadily rising production demands. Steel is in place, and siding is under way for the unit which will house the "plastic shop" where the yacht hulls are molded. The Grampian firm incidentally has grown into eminence largely through contract yacht building, but is now adding its own pre-sold line of "Classic" boats and orders ensure a steady production-line flow of these beauties. They are the Classic 31-foot sloops, cutters and ketches, and the larger Classic 37-foot sloops and yawls.

Production schedules call for current output of about three



**OAKVILLE FOUNDER** — Historic site in Lakeside Park honors Oakville founder and ship-builder Col. William Chisholm. The first Oakville-built schooner was launched by Col.

Chisholm in 1828 and since then the boat building industry here has enjoyed steady success and growth. Shown at memorial to Col. Chisholm are

Mrs. Hazel Mathews, a descendant of the town founder; Ralph Wakely, local historian and former mayor William Anderson.

Classic every two weeks but with plant expansion this rate could be increased.

## U.S. BUYERS

The Oakville yachts from Grampian have already found eager buyers as far away as San Francisco and 15 boats have gone to Annapolis, Maryland, a yachtsmen's paradise. The firm is currently exhibiting a Classic 31 at the New England Boat Show in Boston and more orders are expected to follow from that area.

After all, Boston and Halifax aren't far apart in the yachting world and when the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron likes the Classics well enough to acquire six of them, Boston probably won't be long in following the Halifax lead.

## Trimaran Built By Bronte Firm

Yacht construction can be a highly specialized business and it is just that for Canadian Trimaran Co. on the Bronte lakeshore where a steady production of the specialized three-hulled craft continues into another busy season.

Gene Buccel, who with his partner, Reg. Jaworski, started the operation less than two years ago, now employs six men to keep pace with the demands for the custom-built craft which have earned high praise at international boat shows.

## BUILT OF DYNEL

Canadian Trimaran is now building boats of dynel, the newest and apparently the best of

the fibreglass materials yet developed. Three trimarans molded of this material are in production at the moment; the largest a 35-footer. Others, 30 feet and 24 feet, are also nearing completion.

Most recent triumph of the Oakville builders is the showing at the Toronto Boat Show and later at Washington (where the boat was sold); of Pi-24 racing type trimaran, a sleek 24-footer, that aroused wide admiration among Toronto yachting enthusiasts when it was shown there a few weeks ago.

## FIRST BUILT HERE

When the firm first started operations it had the unusual experience of finding it couldn't ship an 18-foot wide, 30-foot long trimaran on the highway to Toronto and it was only after special permission was given by the minister of transport that the boat reached the city. There it met wide acclaim and orders for the craft have come in steadily ever since.

This boat was the first Canadian-built craft of its type and shape. The builders say it's unsinkable, can navigate in any water, is stable and feather light.

## Racing Craft For Export

Ontario Yachts on Speers Rd. will start immediately on construction of another 5.5 metre yacht, according to R. S. Kneulman, owner of the small but highly efficient boat works locat-

ed about two miles from the lake.

This enterprise is now in its third year in Oakville and is the result of hard work and experience in which Mr. Kneulman continues his original business of boat building in Holland. The company operates in a 3,000-square foot building and has turned out racing yachts ranging up to 30 feet in length. Export sales of the firm's boats are made to the U.S. and it also operates an active boat repair and maintenance service department.

## Nickel Company Plans Locating In Sheridan Pk

Although a firm date is still to be fixed, the giant world-wide International Nickel Co. of Canada Ltd. will definitely become a part of the Sheridan industrial research complex this year.

It will be an integral part of the Sheridan Park research community of which the Ontario Research Foundation forms the core. At the same time Nickel will carry on product research at a new lab. in Sterling Forest, N.Y., and in an enlarged research lab. in Birmingham, England.

Nickel's annual spending budget for 1965 has hit an astronomical \$100,000,000, in a stepped-up program announced by Henry S. Wingate, chairman of the board and J. Roy Gordon, president.

# Wide Selection Of Chemicals Comes Out Of Pennsalt Plant

If anyone wants a case history of an industry and a town prospering together there is a perfect example in the experience of Pennsalt Chemicals of Canada Ltd., which started business in Oakville in 1958.

For the usual reason, we'll known locally but not so well known perhaps to U.S. business executives, Oakville was elected by Pennsalt Chemicals Corp. Philadelphia, as the site of its first Canadian plant. Central location in Canada's major population area and what the company terms "excellent" low-ere among those reasons.

At the start Pennsalt operated in a plant of 29,000 square feet with 14 people. And then things began to happen, and the company has never looked back.

## SPACE DOUBLED

Within five years the company's office space had to be doubled and only last year there was a 50 per cent expansion in plant facilities. Today, operations are going on in 40,000 square feet of space, and the firm employs 57 people.

To the layman, Pennsalt is just another chemical company but the fact is it produces here in Oakville a wide range of specialty chemicals sold to other industries across Canada and contributes to the Canadian economy by using raw materials in which the Canadian content has risen from 70 per cent in 1958 to more than 90 per cent this year.

## IMPORTS AS WELL

The company also sells a full range of imported organic chemicals to such industries as waxes, plastics and scores of others.

Closer to the man on the street perhaps is the news that the specialty chemicals produced by Pennsalt in Oakville find their way into the food, beverage and milk industries, and into such diverse other industries and protective coating, as well as the laundry and dry cleaning industry.

One of the company's most widely used summer products is chemicals for swimming pool water treatment. This and its other products are warehoused in the principal cities across Canada for quick delivery to customers. Two years ago Pennsalt opened a sales office and warehouse facilities in Montreal as part of its all-Canada expansion.

Best criterion of Pennsalt's progress and its economic contribution to Oakville perhaps is the fact that, using local labor and transportation facilities, the company's shipping tonnage in 1964 was five times greater than in 1958.

As a company spokesman told The Journal-Record: "Pennsalt plans to continue using its resources of people, funds and plant capacity, and to maintain its own and Oakville's successful growth."

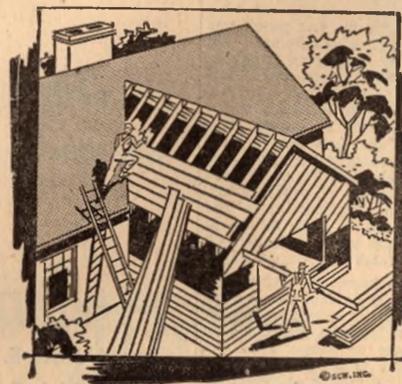
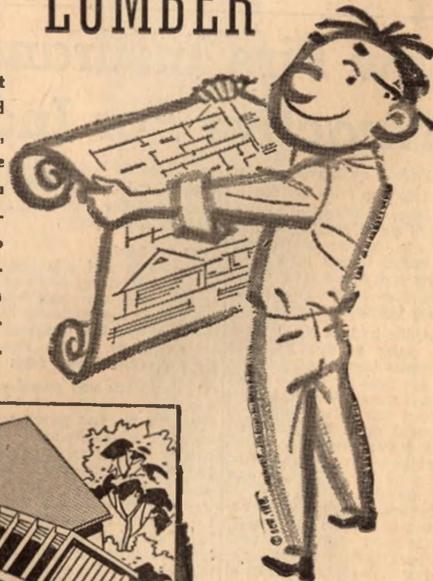
The company reduces its cost

a high local standard of living as local merchants and manufacturers benefit from higher sales.

At the same time, the community benefits since more money is made available within itself to support local services, projects, and welfare. Since the establishment of Pennsalt here, Oakville has grown considerably, and has become even more attractive as a location for other industries because of the availability of a large and increasing markets.

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