

Ruined Distillery of Calvert Plant After Amherstburg Explosion Last Evening





View of office building, 1944

Greetings from Amherstburg

The Calvert of Canada Ltd. distillery in Amherstburg became a part of our corporate family in 1942. In that year it was called Amherst Distillers. Before that it was called Pioneer Distillers Limited, owned by Border Brewers and Distillers of Vancouver. Whatever its name, the little distillery was floundering, ready to go under. With our acquisition came the strength and foresight to take a small dying company and mould it into the structure of the Seagram organization.

Our plant in Amherstburg abounds in history: it carries the name of a prominent 17th-century statesman of rank and nobility, George Calvert, Lord Baltimore; one of its original warehouses (2-C) was purchased in Kentucky where it was dismantled, shipped to Amherstburg and rebuilt here, piece by piece; a railroad changed its spur line route to accommodate the plant's location; its war effort, from 1942 on, was immense; and it has experienced two fires, one in 1942 and one of holocaust proportions in 1950.

From out of the ruins—to the relief of the municipality and the recently-formed (1946) Union (Local 73 of the Distilling, Rectifying and Wine Workers of America, A.F. of L.)-came another phase in Calvert history, that of unprecedented expansion and production. By 1956, the new plant was complete, operating on a full, year-round capacity basis for the first time since the war. Since then bottling and warehouse facilities have more



than tripled, the fermenter and yeast room facilities have doubled, and a pump house, quality control lab, dump house, electrical substation and new barrel warehouses have been installed.

When our company took over Amherst Distillers the plant had only a handful of employees-45 would be a liberal figure. Today, 300 of us here at our Amherst-

burg plant join with me in wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Martin Breshamer