

Nassau Mills

Lumbering existed in the heavily forested area around Peterborough from the period of its earliest settlement, and the Otonabee River was a principal route for great log drives. After the middle of the nineteenth century sawn lumber became a very important commodity for export. Not far from here Charles Perry's major mill, built about 1854, had 130 large saws. Together with the Irwin mills on the west side of the river, this site was one of Ontario's top lumber producers in the 1860s, a building boom period in Peterborough. Around the site grew the hamlet of Nassau Mills. It thrived until the clearing of the forests led to the decline of the timber trade and the closing of the mills by 1900. Few traces of Nassau Mills had survived when Trent University's Nassau campus opened in the 1960s.