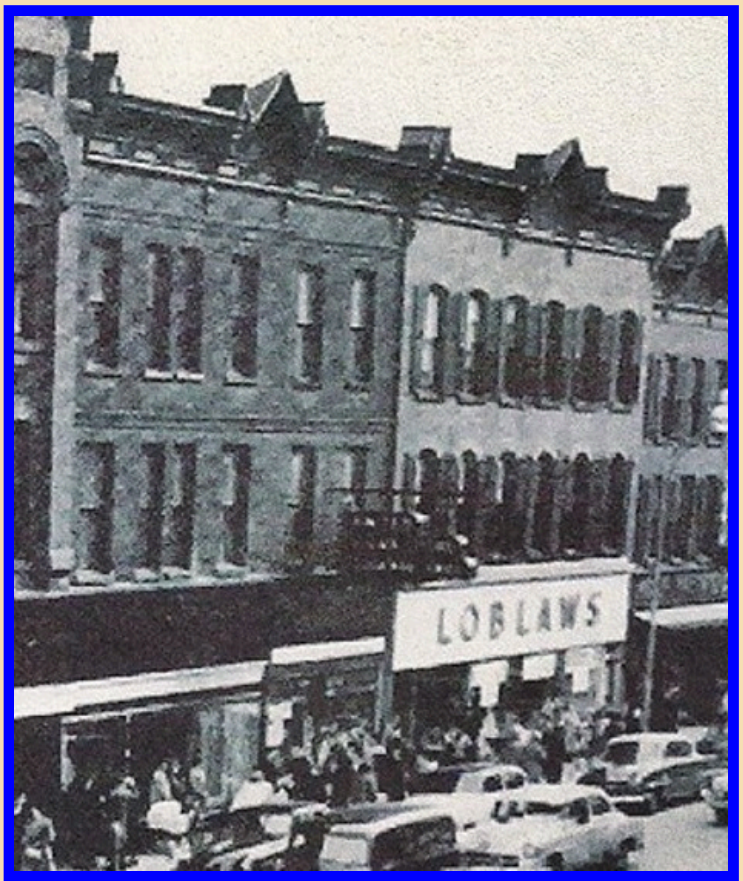
"DOWNEY" BLOCK
1887-88

51 - 59 King St. W.
4 Storefronts



DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

1890: Miss J. Beach, milliner (51*), Theos Mills & Co. hat store (53*), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55*-59*)
1895: Wright department store (right side) (51*), Craig's furriers(53*), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55*-59*)
1911/1919: Wright department store (right side) (51), Kelly's Shoe Store (53), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55-59)
1921: Wright department store (right side) (51), J.V. Markey, boots (53), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55-59)
1924: Wright department store (right side) (51), A.J. Abernethy Shoe Store (53), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55-59)
1926: Wright department store (right side) (51), H.W. Gilhooly shoe's; George Joyner (53), D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings (55-59)
1929: part of The Canadian Department Stores, Ltd (51), H.W. Gilhooly Shoe Store (53), Leverette's, dry goods (55), Loblaws Grocery (57); Gospel Hall (59u)
1931: part of Canadian Dept. Stores / T Eaton Co, mail order office (51), H.W. Gilhooly Shoe Store (53), Royal Cafe (55); Loblaw Groceteria (57)
1933/1935: part of Canadian Dept. Stores / T Eaton Co, mail order office (51), United Cigar Stores (53), Neighborhood Shoe Store (55); Loblaw Groceteria (57)
1939/1943: part of Canadian Dept. Stores / T Eaton Co, mail order office (51), United Cigar Stores (53), Laura Secord Candies (57); Loblaws Grocery (59)
1946: part of The Canadian Department Stores, Ltd (51), United Cigar Stores (53), Laura Secord Candies (57), Loblaws Grocery (59)
1949/1966: part of T. Eaton Co, Ltd department store (51), United Cigar Stores (53), Loblaws Grocery (55-59)
1969: Walkers department store (right side) (51), United Cigar Stores (53), vacant (55), vacant (59)
1970: Walkers department store (right side) (51), Herringay Enterprises (53), vacant (55), vacant (59)
1972: Walkers department store (right side) (51), Herringay Enterprises (53), Dave Jones Sports Shop (57), vacant (59)
1975: Walkers department store (right side) (51), Beneficial Financial System (53), Dave Jones Sports Shop (57), vacant (59)
1978: Marks & Spencer department store (right side) (51), Beneficial Financial System (53), Dave Jones Sports Shop (57), vacant (59)
1980: Family Prescription Service (51), Beneficial Realty/Finance (53), Flowers-N-Such By Mills Ltd (55), === (59)
1982: Family Prescription Service (51), Beneficial Realty/Finance (53), Flowers-N-Such By Mills Ltd (55), Oliver Twist pub (59)
1984/1986: Family Prescription Service (51), Beneficial Realty/Finance (53), Flowers-N-Such By Mills Ltd (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
1988/1990: Family Prescription Service (51), Beneficial Realty/Finance (53), vacant (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
1995: Family Prescription Service (51), Beneficial Realty/Finance (53), King West Family Footwear (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
1997: Family Big V Drug Store (51), Beneficial Canada, Inc. (53), King West Family Footwear (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
2000: Shoppers Drug Mart (51), Creative Goldsmith & Diamond (53), Dollar Bazaar Plus (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
2006: Shoppers Drug Mart (51), Fitness Edge (53), Dollar Bazaar Plus (55), The Isaac Brock pub (59)
2009: Adecco manpower services (51), Donald Stewart Real Estate Brokerage (53), vacant (55) The Brock Pub (59)
2012: Adecco manpower services (51), Park Avenue Expressions (53), vacant (55) The Brock Pub (59)
2013: Adecco manpower services (51), Park Avenue Expressions (53), Rosemary's Optical Shop (55) The Brock Pub (59)
2014/2019: Adecco manpower services (51), The River Lily Boutique (53), O'Mally Kourt Fudgery (55) The Union Jack pub (59)
2021: Century 21 real estate (51), Bentley & Keegrams Toy Box (53), O'Mally Kourt Fudgery (55) vacant (59)
2022: Century 21 real estate (51), Bentley & Keegrams Toy Box (53), O'Mally Kourt Fudgery (55) Texas Tavern (59)
2024+: Century 21 real estate (51), (53), O'Mally Kourt Fudgery (55) Fat Les's On King (59)

According to the dates in the cornice, 55-59 was built in 1887 and 51-53 was built the following year in 1888.

The **D.W. Downey** store dealt with clothing, shoes, boots, hats and men's furnishings. It was listed in the 1889-90 business directory and thus would have been a first occupant here. It was owned by Daniel W. Downey. A large store from the beginning, it spread across two retail facades. It closed c1927-28 after around a half century in business. His home was at 102 Pine St. E. Dalton D. Leverette, who had his store at 82 King St. W. acquired Downey's, and it briefly became a second location of **Leverette's** Dry Goods. With the stock market crash, ignighting the Great Depression, the two stores consolidated at the other location.

The most easterly store (#51) had been taken over by the expanding **Robert Wright Co.** dry goods store that occupied the Dunham block. It was succeeded in the same way by **The Canadian Deptartment Stores** (later with an **Eaton's** mail order), then **Eaton's** department store, **Walkers** department store and finally **Marks & Spencer** department store. See Dunham Block for more information.

#51 was a shoe store for just under three decades, c.1905 to c.1931. It was started by Edward J. Kelly as **Kelly's Shoe Store**. Kelly lived in the building. It was replaced by **J.V. Markey**, boots about 1920. Next was **Abernethy's Shoe Store** (A.J. Abernethy), taking over around 1922 and was managed by George Joyner, who also lived in the building. This business sold boots and shoes, with their slogan "A Fit for Every Foot" and "Footwear of Merit". **H.W. Gilhooly Shoe Store** became the fourth and final shoe store in this location. Opened c.1924. by Herbert W. Gilhooly. Along with boots and shoes, they also sold trunks and valises. Gilhooly had a second location down the street at #99 for as many years as this one. With the coming of the Great Deprssion, this store closed c.1931 and the other store sold to Reward Shoes.

Loblaw Groceteria was opened by its first manager, Robert J. Coyle, who lived at 57 Bartholomew St. , later 37 Wall St. It was the company's first store in Brockville here at #57, opening about 1927. Loblaw's were the second national grocery chain in the city, after Dominion. Coyle left the company c.1947 to open his own smaller grocery at 62 Pearl St. W. He was replaced as manager by J McLeod, who lived out of town. Next was Kenneth McQuaide, who lived over a store at 110 King St. W. Loblaws opened a second location in the new Brockville Shopping Centre in 1963, closing this one within a couple of years. Since then, the company has had several locations in the city under several of its brands, such as No Frills, Your Independant Grocer, Real Canadian Superstore and No Name Store. It continues to have a prescence in the city.

With the closing of Gilhooly's, another store, **Neighborhood Shoe Store** (#55) opened next door, around 1931, but they only lasted a couple of years.

Royal Cafe, managed by Charlie Murphy had a brief run between ca.1929 to ca.1931. It's motto was "Everything of the Best and Carefully Prepared Food". It hardly got open when the Great Depression hit, which probably factored into its closing. Murphy lived in the building.

#51 was a drug store for around 30 years, c1978 to c2008. First as **Family Prescription Service**, then **Family Big V Drug Store** and finally **Shoppers Drug Mart**. Big V had been acquired by Shoppers Drug Mart in 1995, but stayed independent for a time. The two locations on King St. were converted to Shoppers by the turn of the century. By c.2008, both locations were closed when a new larger store took over the old Dominion store location.

United Cigar Stores were an American tobacco wholesale chain founded in 1901 by Charles A. Whelan and George J. Whelan, in Syracuse, NY. It then transformed into retail and expanded into Canada. The Brockville store was in this location from the early 1930s to 1970. Managers through the years were H. Donnelly, D. Clissold and by Bernice Oxbro from the early 1950s to the end.

Dave Jones Sports Shop moved to #57 about 1970, expanding next door and finally moving totally to #65 by 1977. See Williams Block for more information.

Flowers-N-Such by Mills, Ltd. was opened around 1978 by Don Mills, who was President. They advertised "Flowers for all occasions, Plants, Gifts". About 1986, the business moved off of King St. to 24 St. Andrews St. About 1990, the business was acquired by Brian Davis and became Flowers-N-Such by Mills, Ltd. It closed by 2000.

Oliver Twist pup was opened about 1980 by Colin P. Sturla. By 1983, the Lamb brothers, Tony, Perry & Julian, along with partner, Fred Smithwick purchased the business, renaming it **The Issac Brock**, in later years simply known as **The Brock**. In it's third iteration, it was renamed the **Union Jack**. Their business release stated "Union Jack Pub is a cozy establishment in Brockville, ON, known for its casual atmosphere and British-inspired menu. ... With a selection of traditional pub fare and a variety of drinks, it offers a relaxed setting for locals and visitors to enjoy a meal or unwind with friends."

Rosemary's Optical Shop opened here, it's first location about 2012. It had a brief stay here, moving next door to the #47 a year or so later. See Dunham Block.

Park Avenue Expressions was opened by Sue Reid around 2009. She had moved here from Montreal. It closed by 2014.

O'Mally Kourt Fudgery , was started by Rachael Gallacher-Orr in Mallorytown, but moved to Brockville around 2014. In January, 2024 the store got new owners. They advertise "our selection of made in store fudge, nut brittle, flavoured popcorn, other candy and hot and cold snacks and drinks".

The River Lily Boutique was opened by Nicole Holmyard on May 1, 2015. It contained "home decor and natural gifts, plus bath and body products for well-being." The store closed around 2020.

Century 21, owned by Chris Wiltshire, has been at this location since around 2020. See E.W. Fire Engine Block for more.

Bentley & Keegrams Toy Box was opened June, 2021 by the Rachael Gallacher-Orr, owner of the O'Mally Kourt Fudgery next door. You actually entered it from an opening through that store. It closed December, 2023.

Texas Tavern (#59) was opened in December, 2021 by Dale Donnelly, also owner of Finnigan's Tavern, down the street. It didn't have a long life as it closed March, 2024, just after some renovations.

Fat Les's On King was opened by Les Winter in November, 2024. Winter began his business back in 2007, starting with a chip truck. In the years since, he opened operations in Barhavven, Osgoode, Winchester, Kemptville, Chesterville, Hallville, Finch, Bonville and finally on Brockville's Waterfront Patio on Blockhouse Island. They state "our passion for freshness, quality, taste, and service to produce the best poutine, the best burgers, and the best pizza in Eastern Ontario.".

STOREFRONTS

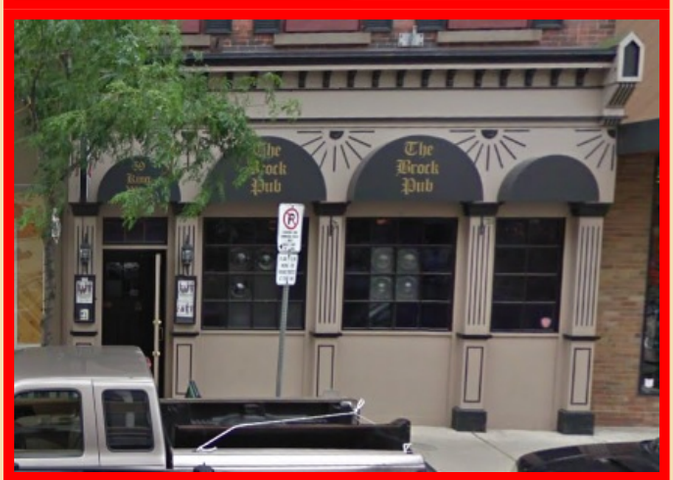
ROBT WRIGHT & Co

UCS

LOBLAWS

SPALDING CCM
BROWNING adidas
Dave Jack
sport shop

MOVING
SALE
15 OFF


The
Brock
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DCONALD STEWART
REAAL ESTATE BROKERAGE
AUGUST
6-9
FREE
Brockville
RIBFEST
FUN
FAMILY
FOOD
FESTIVAL

Park Avenue
Expressions
Bling it on!

The River Lily Boutique

Rosemary's Optical

fitness

Adecco
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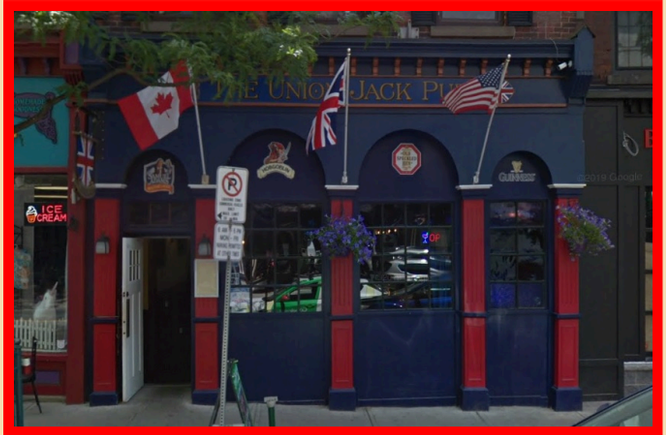
Great People


ICE CREAM

Bentley & Keegan's
TOY BOX
PARKING IN THE BACK

EXAS TAVERN
ICE CREAM

O'Mally Kourt
FUDGERY

ADVERTISING

SPECIALS FOR SATURDAY AND MONDAY

For $1.00

We will sell Ladies' Chocolate Kid Oxford Shoes, hand turn soles, regular price $1.25.

For 75c.

Ladies' Golden Brown Buff Oxford Shoes, McKay sewed soles, pointed Opera toe; regular price $1.00.

For $2.25

Ladies' Chocolate Kid Oxford Shoes, fancy vesting top, hand turn soles, Newport tee, C and D widths, very stylish, cool and good to wear; regular price $2.50.

For $3.00

Gentlemen's White Linen Dusk Lace Boots, new toe, Goodyear welts, J. & T. Bell's make; regular price $3.50.

For 95c.

Girl's Tan Pebble Lace Boots, McKay sewed soles, heel and tip; regular price $1.25.

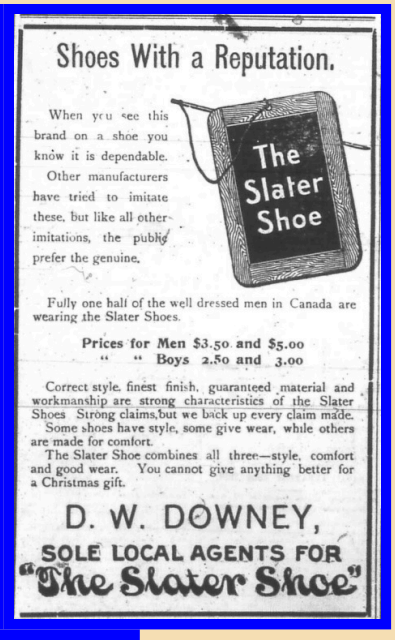
"It's very warm,"

So I hear you say. If you dress cool you can make yourself much more comfortable. Your little boys need to dress cool as well as yourself. We can supply your wants in these lines, at a big saving to you, with ready-to-wear garments.

Boys' Blouses and Blouse Suits. New patterns, new styles, new braid trimming. Prices for Blouses, 40c to 75c prices for Blouse Suits, $1.00 to $1.65.

Gentlemen's Linen Coats—All sizes, from 36 to 42, for 75c. Black and Grey Lustre Coats, nicely made, well finished, for $1.25.

DOWNEY, the Shoe and Clothing Merchant



Shoes With a Reputation.

When you see this brand on a shoe you know it is dependable.

Other manufacturers have tried to imitate these, but like all other imitations, the public prefer the genuine.

The Slater Shoe

Fully one half of the well dressed men in Canada are wearing the Slater Shoes.

Prices for Men $3.50 and $5.00
" " Boys 2.50 and 3.00

Correct style, finest finish, guaranteed material and workmanship are strong characteristics of the Slater Shoes. Strong claims, but we back up every claim made.

Some shoes have style, some give wear, while others are made for comfort.

The Slater Shoe combines all three—style, comfort and good wear. You cannot give anything better for a Christmas gift.

D. W. DOWNEY,
SOLE LOCAL AGENTS FOR
"The Slater Shoe"

We wish you and your feet

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A FIT FOR EVERY FOOT

IT'S up to you whether your feet have a Happy New Year or not. We have done our part. We have purchased the shoes you need and they are waiting for you at this store. The style niceties that you crave and the last that your feet need are combined in a pleasing footwear creation that should be yours.

Special for week-end—50 pair Men's All Felt Slippers $1.49

Regular $2.00 Slippers.

ABERNETHY'S SHOE STORE
FOOTWEAR of MERIT
BROCKVILLE · · · ONT.

D.W. Downey, clothing, shoes, furnishings, 1899 & 1903; Abernethy's Shoe Store, 1922; Texas Tavern, 2023;

STREET SCENE

A postcard showing central King W, around 1920.

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