

DUNHAM BLOCK

1892-93

47 - 49 King St. West

1 Storefront



The Robert Wright & Co. (1893 - 1926)
 Canadian Department Stores (1926 - 1949)
 Eaton's (1949 - 1966)
 Walkers (1966 - c1974)
 Marks & Spencer (c1974 - 1978)
 Victoria & Grey Trust (1978-1984)
 VG National Trust (1984-1997)
 vacant ?? (1997-2003)
 Rogers AT & T Wirelless (2003 - c2008)
 Center For Business Excellence (c2008-c2010)
 Rosemary's Optical Shop (c2013-c2016)
 Tina's Golden Comb (c2016-pr.)

The Dunham Block was built in 1892-1893 by the Dunham estate, with George A. Allan as its architect. It was then put up for sale.

With the Dunham Block becoming available, the **Robert Wright Co.** consolidated their two existing locations in to one, in this much larger store. Wright's original manager was H.Y. Farr. It was the biggest store in the area, and many told him it was too big to be successful. He succeeded because he had one price for all and advertised heavily. Wright had joined the Scotch Syndicate in the 1880s, making annual trips overseas on buying sprees. His residence was a large mansion at 17 [Sherwood Street](#).

After founder Robert Wright's death in 1921, the business went to his five sons. Only one of his son's, Alexander Innis Wright, was really dedicated to the business, so the business was sold. After the sale, Alexander continued the business on a smaller scale down the street in the Revere West addition. It continued for another quarter of a century, when his wife took it over after his death. The other four sons went into other fields.

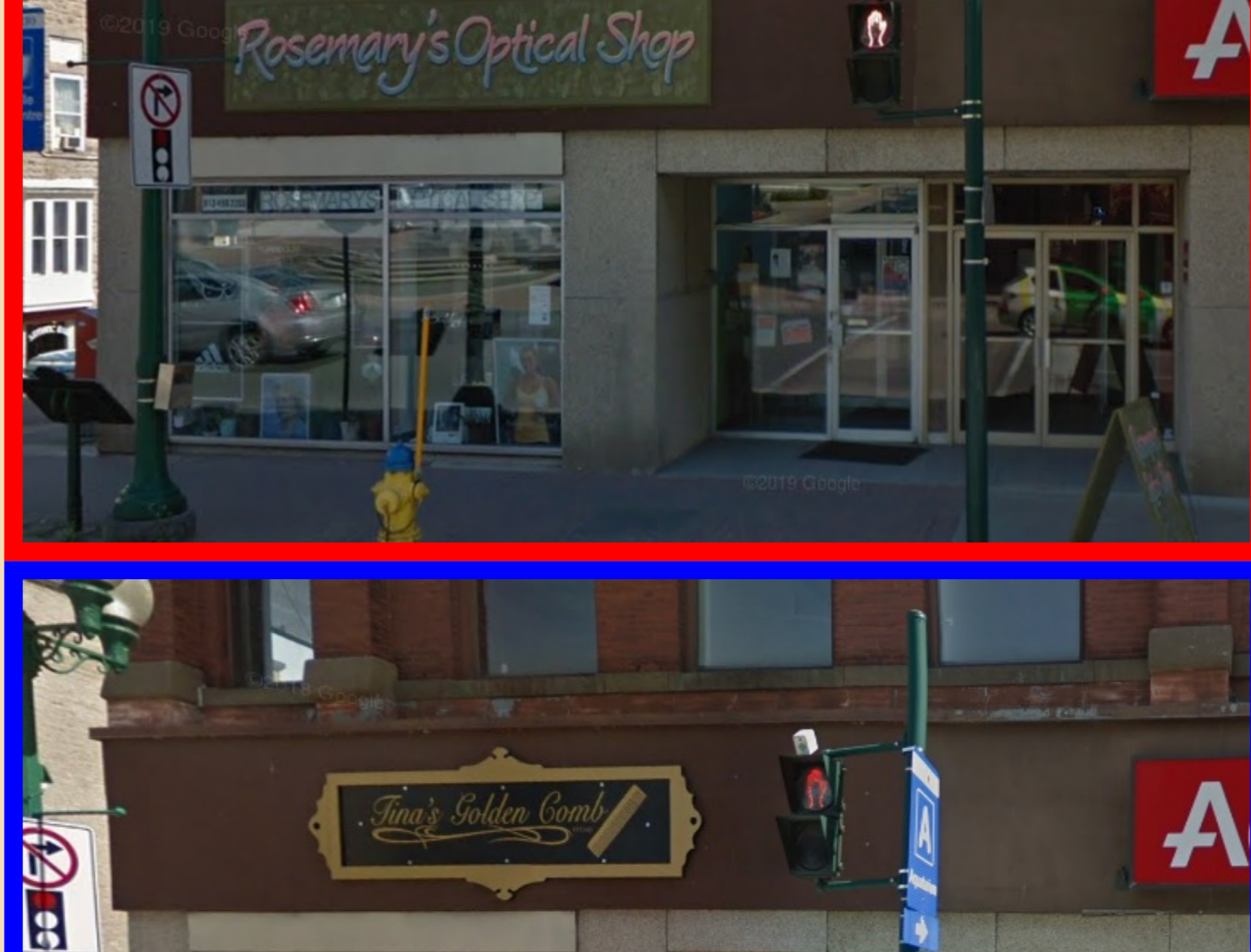
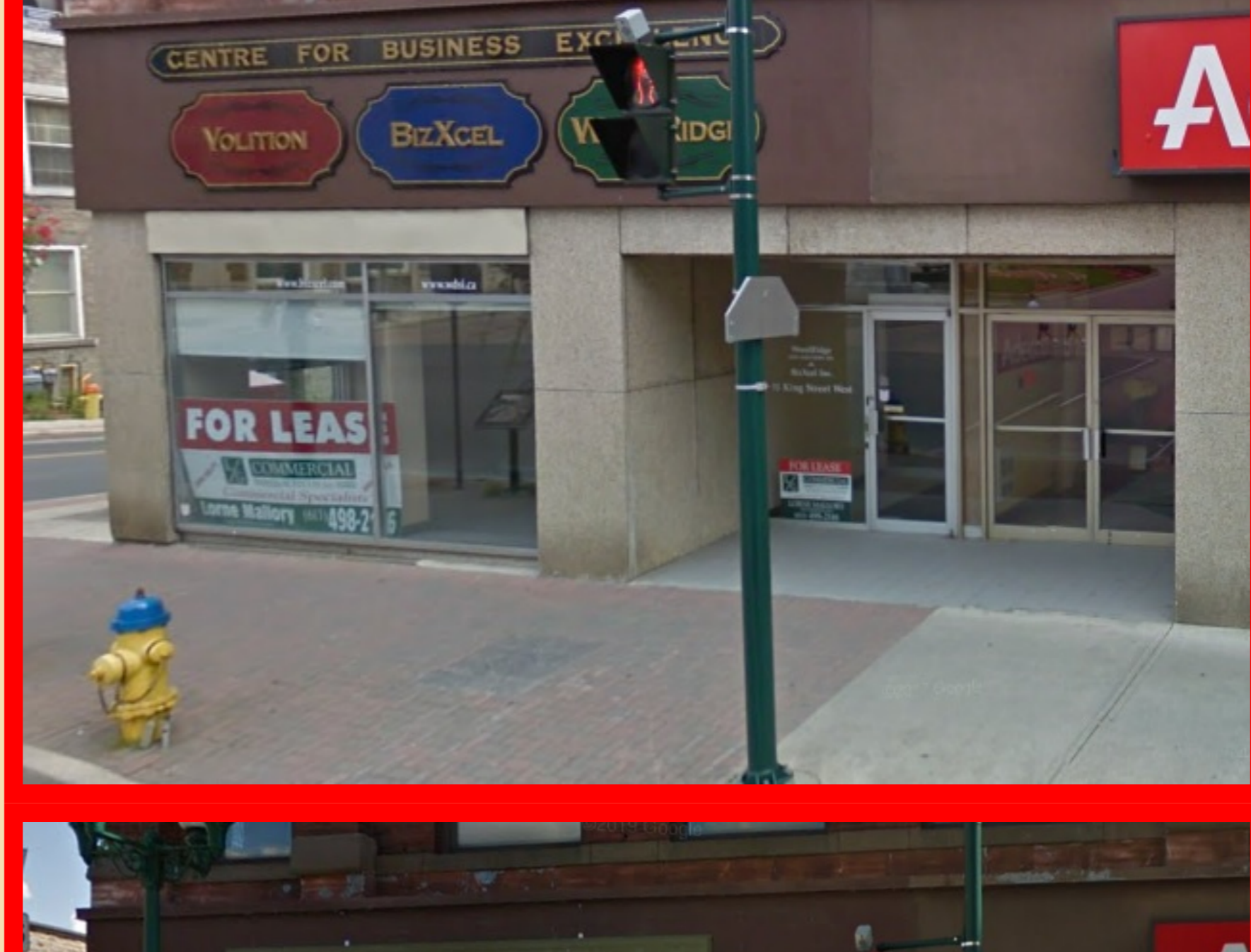
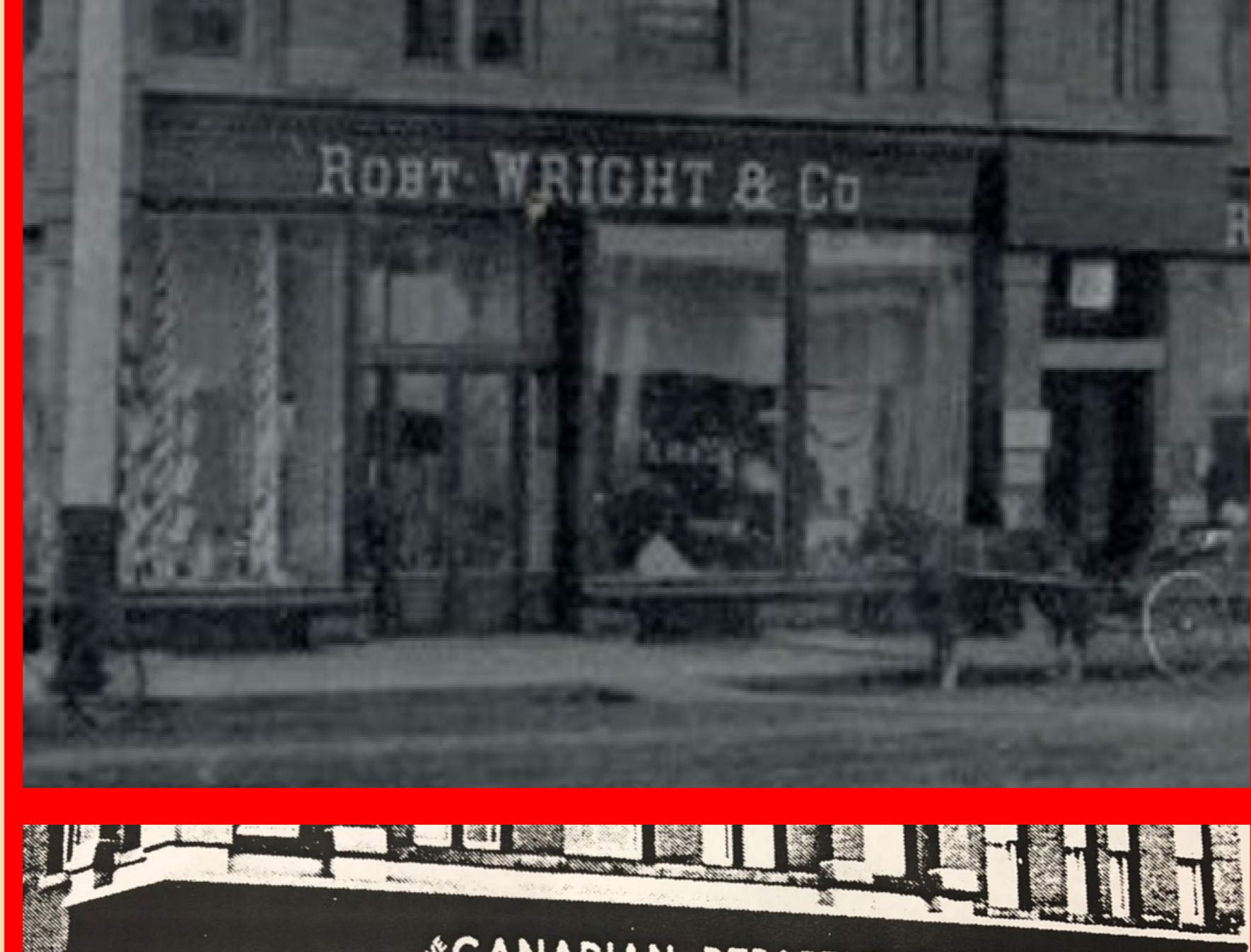
The store was sold by the Wright brothers to an Ontario small town department store chain, **Canadian Department Stores Limited**. Two years after this, 1928, The **T. Eaton Co.** acquired CDS, which had 21 stores. CDS remained an independent chain, but copied Eaton's buying and marketing structure. Around 1930, The T. Eaton Co. opened a mail order location at the CDS store (#51). In 1949, all CDS stores, including the Brockville one, were converted to Eaton's.

Walkers department store, which had been in business down the street in the Metropolitan Block for many years, took over the Eaton's location in 1966.

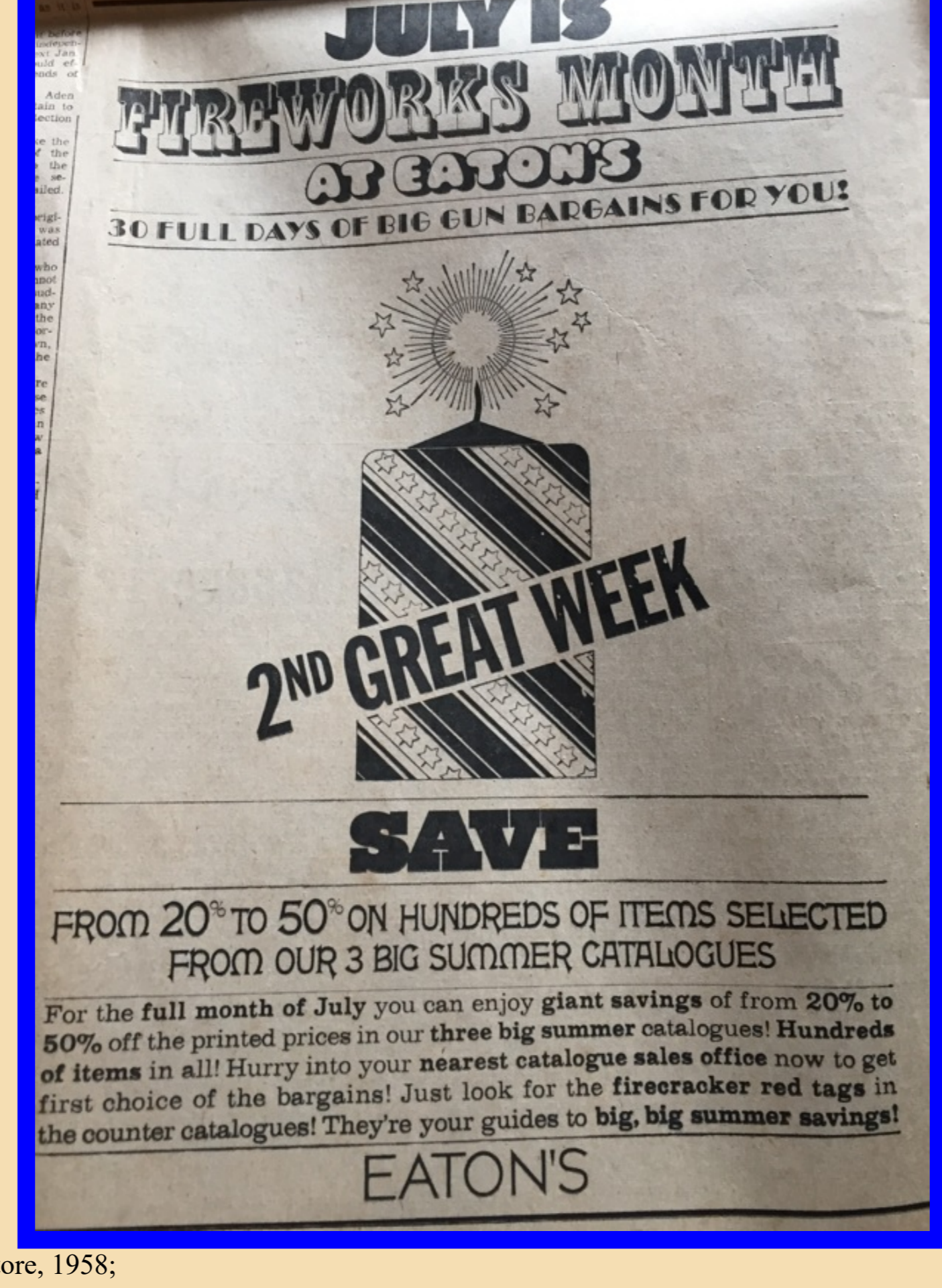
Marks & Spencer took over from Walkers around 1974. They are British multinational retailer and were owned in Canada by People's Department Stores, Ltd. during this time. Like other M&S stores, it performed poorly and was one of 14 Ontario stores that closed in January 1978. This closure ended 85 years of a major department store at this location. M&S exited the Canadian market altogether in 2000.

Moving into the new century, in 1993, had the upper floors occupied by Canada Life Assurance Co., H.A. Stewart, barrister, C.C. Fulford, barrister, **London Life Insurance Co.**, **Bell Telephone Co.** of Canada Ltd., **The Capsuloid Co.**, **Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.**, William Shearer, district manager, **North American Life Assurance Co.**, **Robert Craig**, hats and furs, and Mrs. Eliza Davies (wid. Ransom)

STOREFRONTS



ADVERTISING



Eaton's Department Store, 1958:

PREVIOUS BUILDINGS

