

# EAST WARD FIRE ENGINE HOUSE 1862

## 44 King St. East 1 Storefront



### DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

**1862/1910::** No 2 Engine House (44);  
**1911/1913::** (no entry) (44);  
**1915::** Brockville Garage (44);  
**1917/1919::** Price's Garage (44);  
**1924::** Price's Garage / Brockville Machine Shop (44);  
**1927::** Price's Garage / vacant shop (44);  
**1929/1954::** Quong Sing Laundry (42, 44);  
**1956::** (no return) (44);  
**1961/1971::** W.A. Horton, Ltd., electric appliances, refrigeration (44);  
**1973/1976::** Citizen's Finance Co. (44);  
**1978::** Cobblestone Realty (44);  
**1980/1986::** Century 21 Cobblestone Realty (44);  
**1988/2001::** DeZeeuw Piet Photography (44);  
**2002/2007::** (no return) (44);  
**2009::** Edward Jones, investments (44);  
**2012::** vacant (44);  
**2013/2018::** Studio 44, yoga (44);  
**2021::** Luv21Apparel (44);  
**2022/2023+::** Engine House Yoga & Fitness (44);

The **East Ward Fire Engine House** was the home of Defiance Fire Co. #2, the other one being at the east end of town in the Town Hall. A by-law had been passed authorizing its building and was not to cost more than \$1,000. It was s designed by Samuel Hazlewood, who was a surveyor and civil engineer. Both fire stations were closed in 1910 when a new larger one, more central to the town, was built on Perth St.

After the closing of the fire station, the building was ideal for a car repair shop. Opening up was **Brockville Garage** about 1914, followed by **Price's Garage** by 1916. George W Price was the proprietor. Price had a bicycle shop across the street at 29 King St. E. and lived at 31 King St. E. The garage in this spot closed about 1927. His bicycle shop across the street continued to run until around 1939.

It would have been after the car repair shop closed that this building was completely renovated, with a totally new front brick facade and the large vehicle opening replaced by a "normal" storefront at the street level.

**Quong Sing** opened a laundry business at 26 King St. E. sometime around 1905, also living in that building. When the car dealership expanded and took over that entire building, about 1922, the laundry business moved to this building. Their motto was "We Call For and Deliver". Quong also moved his home here. By 19xx, this establishment was acquired by Lor Ark, who also took over the living quarters. It continued under its original name. The laundromat closed about 1955 after a half a century in business.

**W.A. Horton, Ltd.,** sold electric appliances and refrigeration. Early on, Wilfred A. Horton started out inspecting boats c1930. He began this business c1940 at 66/68 Wall St. (demolished in 2009), in a building where Rexall drug store is, selling only electric refrigerators. In the late 1950s, he moved to this building, expanding to a full slate of appliances. Horton retired about 1972 after over three decades in the home appliance business.

**Citizen's Finance Co.** was here c1972 to c1987, and was managed by Charles MacKay, later David Shannon. About 1987, it became **Cobblestone Realty**. About 1989, the establishment became **Century 21 Cobblestone Realty** after joining the Century 21 chain. While here, its President was James Leeder with Vice President Gord Gerrie. It offered "Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Sales & Leasing Specialist, Condominium Sales." Its MLM real estate side was in a different location at 62 King St. E. From here, they moved to King's new building at 50 King St. E. about 1987. At that point, it became **Century 21 Moerhouse Realty**. Today, **Century 21 Rivers Edge** is located at 51 King St. W.

**Studio 44** yoga opened around 2013. It closed in May 2020. This was the beginning of the pandemic, with businesses shutting down their actual stores and finding other ways to survive. This would have been harder for a business like this and probably was a reason it closed. A successor business would return, in this same address.

The **Luv21Apparel** women's wear store opened in July 2021. The chain is a Canadian company founded July 24, 2015 by Melissa Morton in Kingston, Ont. Morton is its current President. The Brockville store closed in Nov. 2021. The chain added Stylists in the Brockville area to work from home and have product shipped from the Kingston store. They would sell "through home parties, craft shows, social media, etc and earn large commissions." The store did not have a long life, but it continues nevertheless.

The **Engine House Yoga and Fitness** offers group fitness, yoga classes and personal training. It was opened in April 2022 by Lesley LeClair, who previously was a teacher and a student at the former Studio 44. Tamara and Melissa F. also returned from the former business. They state, "Our highly qualified team of instructors are happy to support you in your wellness journey and assist you in reaching your goals."

## STOREFRONTS



## ADVERTISING



W.A. Horton, Appliances, 1958; Luv21Apparel, 2021;

## Out of Town BACKGROUND

## CENTURY 21 Orange County, California, USA. 4,364.6 km from Brockville



Two real estate agents, Art Bartlett and Marsh Fisher, opened the first Century 21 in Orange County, California, USA, in 1971. Bartlett's Vice President at the time suggested the name 20th Century Realty, but it was figured it couldn't be registered (remember 20th Century Fox?). After looking at 21st Realty and Green Valley, they finally settled on Century 21. It seemed futuristic. It was acquired several times through the years by Trans World Corporation (1979), MetLife (1985), Hospitality Franchise Systems, later Candant (1995) and Realego, now Anywhere Real Estate (2006). Century 21 has an estimated 400+ offices across the country. Globally, the company has 14,000 offices in 85 countries, making it one of the world's largest real estate companies.

Century 21 first came to Canada in North Vancouver, British Columbia, opening in February 1976. The Canadian business was founded by Peter H. Thomas. He sold his rights in 1987 when they were doing \$9 billion in annual sales and were the #1 Real Estate network at that time. Today, they are in 6th place in a more crowded market and it is fully Canadian owned.

(Information acquired from the various directories, Kimball's, Foster's, Vernon's, Wikipedia, Heritage Brockville and Century 21 Canada)