

*Ontario Intelligencer
of March 13th. 1961*

Fire Destroys Shannonville Flour, Grist Mill, Oldest Landmark in the County

March 11th 1961

One of the oldest landmarks in the Belleville district, the former Shannonville flour and grist mill on the banks of the Salmon River, was destroyed by fire Saturday night when flames roared through the four storey stone structure.

Only the walls of the old mill remain standing, thus ending a link with the historic past dating back close to 150 years.

Owned by the Shannonville Cannery the old grist mill was rented by J. A. Fair, R.R. 2, Belleville, as a storage. Approximately 100 tons of cabbage stored in the building for the winter, was lost in the fire.

Origin of the fire which started some time before midnight Saturday is unknown but Mrs. Fair said her husband did not believe the big wood stove used to keep frost out of the stored cabbage was to blame.

Wooden crates and electric motor circulating fans used to distribute heated air, were also lost in the blaze.

CANNERS SET AFIRE

Two pumpers from the Belleville Fire Department and one truck from Point Anne fought the blaze which at one time set fire to the nearby Shannonville Cannery. Firemen were able to put out the fire at the Cannery before it spread.

The heavy stone walls of the old grist mill served to confine the fire, however, and lessened the danger to other nearby buildings.

Flames leaping high into the air through the roof of the building were visible for miles.

The old Shannonville flour and grist mill is said to have been built 142 years ago and was possibly the oldest building in Tyendinaga township.