THE GUMMER BUILDING

5 Douglas Street ◆ Downtown Guelph

Downtown Guelph's Gummer building is comprised of the landmark buildings, all circa 1870-75. First established by woodworker William Brownlow, the buildings were once collectively known as the "Brownlow Block".

Mr. Henry Gummer was one of the original owners of 1-7 Douglas Street, the original Gummer building. In 1916, M Gummer moved his newspaper company, the *Guelph Her* (which later became the *Guelph Mercury*) from its origina Quebec Street location to this property. The building feat one of the two oldest manually operated elevators in Ontano.

The Victoria Hotel, originally owned by businessman J. Hesson, was one of the oldest and best-known hostelries in Guelph.

65 Wyndham Street, now known as the Stewart Building, was occupied in 1890 by prominent pharmacist Alex Stewart.



Henry Gummer, circa 1906



Skyline's founding partners at the property during reconstruction. Left to right: Roy Jason Ashdown, Jason Castellan, Martin Castellan

Following the project's completion, the City of Guelph has declared the Gummer Building a heritage site. Its architectural features, including distinct façades, have been restored, and give a unique identity to this modernized, fully-accessible and eco-sensitive property.

On April 6, 2007, the Gummer, Victoria and Stewart buildings were badly damaged by fire. After realizing the outcry from the Guelph community, the Skyline partners felt an obligation to execute a collective restoration and redevelopment of the site.

Several challenges were faced during the building's reconstruction, including the reparation of water damage, bracing the Victoria Building's façade to restore the masonry, and underpinning and grouting each stone wall to support the building's new structure.

Thousands of tons of cement and steel were needed to accomplish these tasks.







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