



WILLIAM GAMBLE

1805 – 1881

William Gamble was a very successful and civic-minded 19th century Etobicoke businessman. He was born in Kingston in what was then Upper Canada. With a keen sense for industry, Gamble built his empire after purchasing King's Mill in 1835, which had been the Thomas Fisher property, and expanded the milling business. Gamble later renamed the property Milton Mill, acquired other adjacent mills and expanded his business interests to include a distillery

and a hotel. To facilitate the shipping of his own flour, Gamble built a wharf-warehouse at the mouth of the Humber River, built and planked area roads, and built bridges in Mimico, which had a significant impact on the physical development of the Township of Etobicoke.

Gamble's original mill was destroyed by fire in 1849 but a new mill was constructed. The stone, lumber, and heavy beams for this new mill came from the Humber Valley. Despite a number of setbacks in the 1850s, he maintained his reputation as a business leader and soon became active in the foundation of the Bank of Toronto in 1855. Gamble also continued his work on new developments, including drawing up plans for the development of Woodbridge and Vaughan Townships.

In addition to being a noted businessman, Gamble contributed to the spiritual wellbeing of his community. He donated land for the creation of St. George's-on-the-Hill, a new Anglican church in Islington. Gamble shared in the cost of building the church and also served as warden for a number of years. In the late 1820s and through the 1830s, he served as a director of the York Board of Health, the Bank of Upper Canada and the British America Fire and Life Assurance Company. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1842. In 1850, Gamble was elected the first Reeve of the Township of Etobicoke. Gamble was inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in its inaugural year.

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1974