

Morris, Stone & Wellington, Fonthill Nurseries of Canada: Illustrated and descriptive catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, plants, etc., etc.. (1895) Archives & Special Collections 10th Floor Stacks; FC 3159 F5 Z638 1895

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This book contains details of the many plant products that the Fonthill Nurseries grew and sold. This catalogue is estimated to be from 1895 when Stone and Wellington owned over 700 acres of land.¹

This back cover features a colourful map of the nurseries in Welland County, Ontario.² A variety of greenhouses, sheds, and garden beds can be seen scattered across the property connected by rectangular, dirt roads. Horse-drawn carriages pass by and enter the estate as people stand by. The back cover also features oleander flowers and information about Stone and Wellington's company branches and wholesale department in Welland.

The Fonthill Nurseries began in Pelham as a 100-acre nursery business in 1837 by Samuel Taylor.³ The business was bought out one more time before Edward Morris, George Stone, and the Wellington Family began directing the business.⁴

The nurseries grew a variety of ornamental trees, fruit trees, shrubs, and shipped their products from coast to coast across Canada.⁵ At the Fonthill Nurseries' peak, the business owned or rented more than 1,000 acres of land in Pelham and employed 250 locals.⁶

While not their primary product, Wellington was confident in the profits of fruit growing despite the stigma surrounding "fruit peddlers" at the time and began growing 70 acres of peaches in Essex, Ontario.⁷ By taking financial risk to experiment with the market for fruit and fruit trees, The Fonthill Nurseries helped fuel the value in Niagara's Fruit Belt that we see today.⁸

Notes

¹ "STONE & WELLINGTON: Proprietors of the Fonthill Nurseries—A Chat With Them About Fruit—Some Interesting Facts Elicited—Wonderful Development of Fruit Culture." [*The Globe \(1844-1936\)*, July 06, 1895](#).

² Morris, Stone & Wellington. *Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Etc., Etc.* Toronto, Ontario: The Brough Printing Company Limited, 1895.

³ Don Rickers, "Pieces of Our Past: A Tale of Two Nurseries." *PelhamToday* (September 23, 2022):

<https://www.pelhamtoday.ca/local-news/pieces-of-our-past-a-tale-of-two-nurseries-6348677>.

⁴ Rickers.

⁵ ["Order Now for Spring Planting" \(advertisement\) The Globe \(1844-1936\), Mar 29, 1924.](#)

⁶. Rickers.

⁷ "STONE & WELLINGTON"

⁸ "STONE & WELLINGTON"

Further Reading

[Fonthill Nurseries. General Catalogue with Prices by Fonthill Nurseries, 1910.](#)

[Rickers . Don. "Pieces of Our Past: A Tale of Two Nurseries." Pelham Today. September 23, 2022.](#)

["THE TOWN OF WELLAND AND FONTHILL NURSERIES." The Globe \(1844-1936\), Jul 23, 1892.](#)