

McNeil's Autobody

Locations: 14 Orchard Drive, Brussels, Ontario
199 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario

IN 1946, JIM C. McNEIL PURCHASED the Ament Mill building. The original mill was owned by the Smith Brothers, producing rough lumber for the Toronto market. John and Philip Ament bought the mill on the south side in 1893. In 1903 or 1904, the mill burned, leaving only the south wall (the original bricks are still there). It was immediately replaced in 1904 by a cement building added to the brick wall that remained.

When Jim McNeil bought the property he started a Shell Service Station. Jim had served as an aircraft mechanic for the Royal Canadian Air Force. The McNeils served the community for over 35 years, providing gasoline, oil changes and repairs. From 1947 to 1970, Austin, Rambler and Nash automobiles were sold here.



Jim McNeil retired in the early 1970s and leased the property to the Dominion Chain Company for seven years. The factory employed 10 people manufacturing cables, chain link ends, and control cables and ends shipped to Massey-Ferguson dealers.



Jim's son, Don McNeil, now owns the building where he stores his collectibles. He also operates McNeil's Autobody on Orchard Drive, marked by the 1926 Model T atop the pole. Here he restores antique and classic cars and specializes in collision and refinishing work.
