

Vincent Farm Equipment

Location: 1 mile north of Seaforth, Ontario

Year begun: 1923

VINCENT FARM EQUIPMENT was founded by Leslie C. Vincent in 1923. It is now operated by the third generation of the Vincent family. Les Vincent got started by buying parts from his employer, the local blacksmith in Ayr, Ontario, who didn't see a future in the farm equipment business. Les transported them by wheelbarrow, right up the Main Street of the village, to his business location. Marlin Vincent started the Seaforth branch of the business.



"After We Sell, We Serve" is the motto on which Vincent Farm Equipment Ltd. has built its reputation.

Vincent Farm Equipment is one of the oldest and largest Case International Harvester dealers with five locations in south-western Ontario. In addition to offering a wide selection of quality farm, lawn

and garden equipment, Vincent's are rated as top consumer product dealers for Bombardier SeaDoo, SkiDoo, Traxter ATV and Jet Boats. Their international export/import business has grown through a network of foreign customers developed over the years. Used tractors, equipment and spare parts are sold and shipped to the US and overseas. Vincent's provide pickup and delivery service or mobile on-site repairs when required. With five times the normal parts inventory, managed and linked by computer technology, fast parts availability and technical information is assured.



The farmer starting out in the early days of settlement had to acquire basic implements like hoes, hay forks, scythes and cutting hooks, scoop shovels, spades and flails. Some things he may have made himself or had made at the local blacksmith.

The McCormick reaper came into use in the county after 1840. The arrival of the railway gave farmers access to various markets both domestic and export. By the 1870s, every settlement had one or more carriage-making shops where all types of farm vehicles were manufactured, many black-smith shops and many harness makers. Early farm machinery, and the new mobility offered by the railway, lightened some of the burden and isolation of farmers. Small farm machinery factories were started by Daniel and Hart Massey at Newcastle in 1847 and Allanson and John Harris at Beamsville in 1857.



Robert Bell and John Finlayson bought Coleman's Foundry in 1899. *The Robert Bell Engine & Thresher Co.* was formed in 1903 and, in 1905, the first threshing separator was made. A threshing outfit and the foundry buildings are pictured in the photographs.

In Seaforth, as early as 1863, Robert Watson and Peter Bawtenhimer (or Brohakawan) had a foundry and, in 1866, Zapfe & McCallum were making agricultural implements here in addition to regular foundry work. Coleman's Foundry and Machine Shop

was built in the early 1870s, a short distance east of the Coleman & Gouinlock Salt Works. Andrew Whitelaw had the Huron Foundry built in 1876. By 1878, James S. Runciman of Goderich was manufacturing plows, reapers and mowers. The Robert Bell Engine & Threshing Company specialized in portable and traction threshing machines.

