

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

Brampton's History

Settlers began arriving in Ontario by the early 1780s. But even into the early 1800s Brampton was still wilderness, largely untouched by European settlement. To prepare for the eventual influx, lands in Chinguacousy and Gore Townships were surveyed in 1818. Surveyors described the region as low, swampy and covered with dense hardwood forest. Slowly land was cleared, cabins built and fields were ploughed for farming.



In the early 1820s John Elliott settled in the village. He and another settler named William Lawson were from Brampton, Cumberland, England. In 1834 they had the village renamed to Brampton in honour of their English home.

In 1853 Brampton was officially incorporated as a village. The population had grown to over 500 people. Several churches were built, along with a grammar school, distilleries and several stores. Brampton was incorporated as a town in 1873 and John Haggert was elected the first Mayor.

A new industry was emerging in Brampton by the mid Victorian era. In 1860 Edward Dale established a flower nursery. Within a few short years Brampton became known as the "Flowertown of Canada" and soon Dale's Nursery was Brampton's largest employer. By the turn of the century hundreds of acres of land were filled with greenhouses growing prize orchids, hybrid roses and many other quality flowers. Most of these flowers were grown for export around the world.

Brampton's citizens endured two world wars and the Great Depression during the first half of the 20th century. These major world events did take their toll on the local economy. Some factories closed and the flower industry began a slow but steady decline.

The City slowly transformed after World War Two. In the late 1940s and 1950s the automobile began to change the landscape, as did rapid urban growth around Toronto. New subdivisions began to develop. In March 1948 Brampton suffered a devastating flood when the Etobicoke Creek overflowed its banks. The Etobicoke flooded repeatedly but the 1948 flood was considered the worst. The town launched an ambitious civil engineering project to straighten and reroute the Etobicoke Creek. A concrete diversion channel was built and put into operation in November 1951.

In 1974 the Region of Peel was created and Brampton became a City. Large-scale and leading edge industries located in Brampton. In the 1980s and 1990s large subdivisions developed on lands formerly used for farming. The culturally diverse and vibrant City of today was emerging.

Brampton is now among the largest urban centres in Canada with a population of over 400,000 people. The roots of Brampton's success can be traced to its heritage. The foundations were first laid almost 200 hundred years ago when a group of industrious people established a small hamlet at the crossroads of Queen and Main Streets.

Modified from <http://www.brampton.ca/tourism/heritage.tml>

Written Answer

- 7** Summarize this selection. Include a main idea and one point that clearly supports it.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.