

# Memory Lane

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## 17 King St. E.

17 King Street East was originally constructed as part of a three-unit four-storey stone-faced commercial row in the mid-19th century known as White's Block, consisting of 17 to 21 King Street East. 19 and 21 King Street East were demolished in the mid-20th century, along with the four units to the east, 25 to 31 King Street East, following a fire in the Woolworth's store (27-31 King Street East) in 1947. In 1949, a new three-storey commercial building was constructed with brick, steel tile and concrete block and 17 King Street East was incorporated into the new development by removing the fourth storey, facing the rear wall with concrete block and refacing the front to create a uniform Art Deco-inspired façade from 17 to 31 King Street East.

17 King Street East has housed a variety of businesses including a number of druggists such as George Cartwright (1850s), Richard Brierley (1874-1896), and Tamblyn's (1925-1966). 17 King Street East has also housed Loblaw's Groceteria (1940s), SAM the Record Man (1970s-80s) and Royal Super Mart (2012).

Gordon Tamblyn was born in Belwood, ON in 1878,. Gordon's father, Dr. T.J. Tamblyn, was a country physician, with a practice that ranged over a large farming district. Gord Tamblyn took great pride in maintaining clean stores, he and his staff kept the fountain pristine and white display shelves were dusted twice daily with merchandise arranged in orderly. In 1911, Tamblyn incorporated his business, and began a systematic expansion program that added new locations almost every year. This King St. E. location opened in 1925.



In the 1970s-80s SAM the Record Man was located in 17 King St. E. with the Majestic Warehouse next door occupying the former Herbert S. Mills Gift Shop.



An image of Tamblyn Drugs in the far left beside the Woolworth department store in 1966.