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History A&P Canada Co.

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Founded in 1859 by George Huntington and George Gilman in 1859,

The Great American Tea Company opened its first store in New York City and began selling tea, coffee and spices at value prices.

To commemorate the linking of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, the Company was renamed The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P).

During the 1880's, the business developed to include the manufacturing of products under private label creating a one-stop shopping concept.

By 1920, the chain had grown to 4,500 stores, establishing A&P's position in the top ranks of American business. It was in this decade that the Company first opened its doors in Canada, in Montreal.

The Company continued to flourish in the 1930's reaching a store count of 15,000. Stores offered a wide variety of merchandise and services including the Company's own Eight O'Clock Coffee, self-service meat counters, baked goods, produce and seafood.

In the 1980's, A&P in the United States underwent a massive restructuring and the Tengelmann Group, a large successful supermarket operator in Germany, purchased controlling interest of the Company

Shortly after its entrance into the Canadian marketplace, the Company entered the more competitive Toronto market growing to 30 stores. By 1929, A&P was present in 200 communities in Ontario and Quebec. Two distribution centres in Montreal and Toronto, which also included a coffee roasting facility and a Jane Parker Bakery, serviced these stores. At this point the Company's history it was the second largest grocery chain after the Toronto-based Dominion stores.

In 1935, the Company established its head office in Toronto on Laughton Avenue, which was eventually moved in 1960 to its current location on

Dundas St. W. in Etobicoke, ON.

A&P Canada exited the Quebec market in 1984 and a year later acquired Dominion stores and another distribution centre. The Company continued its acquisitions with the purchase of Miracle Food Mart and Ultra Food Mart in 1989, and The Barn Markets, based in Hamilton, in 1995.

Also in 1995, the Company opened its first discount store, Food Basics. The store appealed to customer seeking greater value and lower prices on their grocery items. A&P Canada Co. was acquired by Metro Inc. in August 2005. Metro is a leading Canadian food retailer and distributor with operations concentrated in Québec and Ontario.

Today, A&P Canada Co. operates 135 fresh stores under the Dominion, A&P,

Ultra Food & Drug and The Barn Markets stores and 101 Food Basics stores and employs over 30,000 employees in Ontario.

Company Milestones [to](#)

1859 -The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company begins as a bulk tea merchandising group in the United States.

1927 - The Company opens its first store in Montreal, Canada.

1977 - The Company opens its first Pharmacy in Etobicoke.

1985 - A&P Canada Co. acquires 93 Dominion stores in Ontario.

1989 - A&P Canada Co. acquires Miracle and Ultra Marts stores.

1995 - First franchised Food Basics store opens in Ontario with the Best Prices Every Day.

1997 - Dominion, A&P, Ultra Food & Drug become sponsors of the AIR MILESTM Reward Program.

1998 - A&P Canada Co. launches its "We're fresh obsessed." positioning for its fresh stores - A&P, Dominion and Ultra Food & Drug.



1999 - A&P Canada Co. acquires The Barn Markets - a nine-store chain in the Niagara region. The Baby Bonus Club, a loyalty program rewarding customers who purchase baby products, launches in fresh stores.

2002 - Eric Claus joins A&P Canada Co. as President and Chief Executive Officer. The Barn Markets becomes a sponsor of the AIR MILESTM Reward Program. A&P Canada launches guarantee - "It's fresh or it's free" - If a customer finds a spoiled item in any A&P, Dominion or Ultra Food & Drug store, they will receive a fresh replacement free of charge.

2004 -A&P Canada Co. launches new charitable program, Growing Great Kids in support of Breakfast for Learning, Hospital for Sick Children and Kids Help Phone. 100th Food Basics store opens in Dunnville, Ontario.

2005 - A&P Canada Co. is acquired by Metro Inc., a leading food retailer based in Montreal, Québec.



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