



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 18, No. 2

Summer 2017



Bobby Gimby leading a parade of school children

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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HISTORY ROOM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Cover Photo:

Bobby Gimby is shown leading a group of school children to the tune of "Ca-na-da" the popular theme song of the 1967 Centennial Celebrations.

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester's past and to keep them informed of new acquisitions by the Museum, publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.



Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

Writing Contest Winners Announced

By Glenn Clark

The Gloucester Historical Society is pleased to announce the prize winners for its Sesquicentennial Writing Contest for Grade 8 students.

On June 19th at École secondaire Franco-Cité on Smyth Road, GHS board member Aline Mageau presented first prize to Elisa Antunes for her essay titled “L’expansion du village Billings Bridge”. Second prize was awarded to Jennifer Salibi for her essay titled “La vie à Gloucester de 1867 à 2017”. The presentations were made as part of the school Grade 8 graduation ceremonies.

On June 22nd at Steve MacLean Public School on Spratt Road in Riverside South, GHS President Glenn Clark presented first prize to Sophie Dewar for her essay titled “The Ghost of Watson’s Mill”. Second prize was awarded to Hailey O’Donnell for her essay titled “Rosetta’s Letter”. Prior to the presentations, all three Grade 8 classes at the school participated in a lively quiz on local history. Several Canada 150 prizes were given out. President Glenn Clark thanked all the students for their enthusiasm.

Each first prize winner received \$150 and each second prize was \$100.



Elisa Antunes -First Prize Winner in the French Section



Jennifer Salibi—2nd place prize winner in the French Section



Sophie Dewar—First Prize Winner in the English Section



Hailey O’Donnell—2nd place prize winner in the English Section

Centennial Year in Gloucester, Eastview and Rockcliffe (continued from last issue)

Manotick Annexation

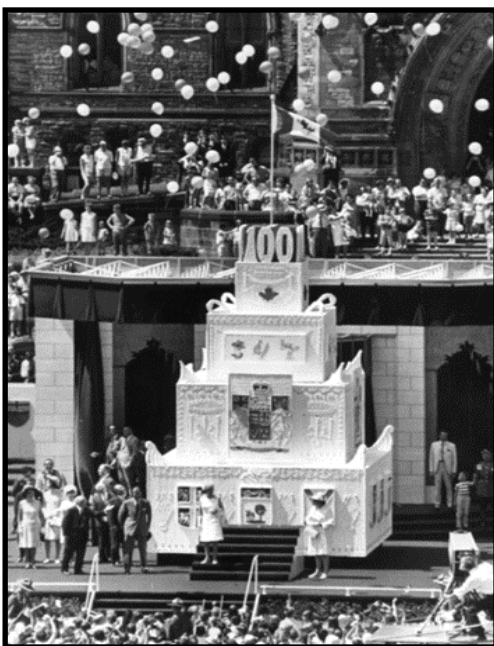
An unusual delegation came to Gloucester Council in June asking for annexation of the Manotick Police Village into Gloucester Township [Ottawa Journal, June 13, 1967 p.21]. At the time, Manotick was split amongst three municipalities. Long Island was split between Gloucester and Osgoode Townships and older village on the west side of the Rideau River was in North Gower Township. The ratepayers of the village believed that Gloucester would offer lower taxes and better police and fire service. The matter needed approval of the Ontario Municipal Board but before this took place, Gloucester Council approved the annexation at an August 28th meeting [Ottawa Journal, August 29, 1967 p.3]. Unfortunately, it was reported on November 6th (Page 4) that the Ontario Municipal Board ruled against the annexation. On January 1, 1974, Gloucester and Osgoode Townships ceded Long Island to the newly created Rideau Township.

A more sombre event took place on June 14th when there was an evening memorial parade and service at the Eastview Cenotaph [Ottawa Journal June 14, 1967 p.47].

The Centennial celebrations climaxed as July 1st approached.

The Rockcliffe Centennial Singers performed on Parliament Hill during the week before Dominion Day [Ottawa Journal, June 24, 1967 p.22]. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II arrived at Uplands Airport on June 29th. The eighteen kilometre motorcade route had an unbroken line of spectators. The route followed Riverside Drive, Hog's Back Bridge, Colonel By Drive, Pretoria Bridge, Queen Elizabeth Driveway to Confederation Square then Sussex Drive to Rideau Hall. The motorcade was greatly delayed by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd [Ottawa Journal, June 30, 1967 p.20].

The Queen began Dominion Day by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial. The celebrations on Parliament Hill featured a folk arts festival and climaxed with Her Majesty cutting a giant birthday cake that was cut into 40,000 pieces for the attending children to enjoy. She then joined 20,000 young people at the new Lansdowne Park football stadium for an event referred to as a 'Royal Hullabaloo' which included performances by the Stacattos and Les Cailloux. This was followed by garden parties at Ottawa City Hall and Rideau Hall where many guests were introduced to the Queen. The evening featured a sound and light show at Nepean Point and Her Majesty witnessed the midnight fireworks extravaganza along with 50,000 Canadians [Ottawa Journal, July 3, 1967 p.1, 5 and 6].



Dominion Day 1967

The Royal tour moved onto Expo 67 on July 2nd and the motorcade route followed Highway 31 on its trip to Cornwall where the Queen and Prince Phillip were to board the Royal Yacht Britannia for the final overnight leg to Montreal. My own memories are clear. Our family had planned a picnic that day along the St. Lawrence River. The weather had turned rainy so we returned home to watch the motorcade from our front lawn. The trip back north on Highway 31 was an eye opener because every cross-road, every bridge and every culvert was manned by RCMP officers. I had never seen so many police before or since. The motorcade passed our Blossom Park home at about 3:40 p.m. with many police cars, motorcycles and limousines.

Gloucester also was the location for other special Dominion Day events. Rideau-Carleton Raceway hosted the Centennial Trot Invitational [*Ottawa Journal*, June 30, 1967 p.19] and the Confederation Train, which had originally departed from Ottawa Station on January 1st for a cross country tour had returned to receive local visitors on Terminal Avenue. This special train consisting of six cars contained exhibits explaining the history of Canada. It brought this special Centennial exhibit to towns and cities, big and small, all across the country [*Ottawa Journal*, June 30, 1967 p.13].

The Nepean Point Sound and Light show continued all summer as well as daily carillon performances and other musical productions from across the country. There were many state visits to Ottawa including Queen Juliana of the Netherlands who

opened the Canadian Tulip Festival in May. There were also a number of performances of the RCMP Musical Ride at the Rockcliffe Barracks [*Ottawa Journal*, August 14, 1967 p.3 and September 6, 1967 p.3].



RCMP Stables Rockcliffe and the
RCMP Musical Ride horses



Confederation Train - 1967

Eastview Explores a New Name

Eastview Council had been exploring a new name for the bilingual city for some time. Mayor Gerard Grandmaitre had suggested '**Ville Wilfrid Laurier**' but it had not resonated. In September, Joffe Belanger of the Eastview St. Jean Baptiste Society approached council with the name '**Cité Vanier**', which honoured the late Governor General Georges Vanier who had died on March 5, 1967. Mr. Belanger had already asked for Madame Vanier's approval, which she graciously gave. Council accepted the suggested and referred it for further consideration [*Ottawa Journal*, September 21, 1967 p.3]. As we all now know, the Vanier name was accepted and became the City's new name on January 1, 1969.

A New Shopping Experience for Ottawa

An 18.5 hectare vacant site on St. Laurent Boulevard just north of the Queensway was selected for a new shopping centre in December 1965. During the summer of 1967, the concept of the shopping centre was unveiled to the public. It would be Ottawa's first indoor shopping centre! Following a brief dispute between the City of Ottawa and Gloucester Township concerning an overpass access from St. Laurent Boulevard that would use Gloucester land, the mall opened on October 4th. It featured 55 stores, 4,000 parking spaces, and a 160 metre long mall that was 16 metres wide. The mall connected the two main tenants, a Simpson Sears and A.J. Freiman's Department stores. A smaller side mall connected to a Dominion Store supermarket. Most stores were local retailers. The most dramatic design feature was the sloping roof and every store had uniform but colourful signage. Construction for two other major tenants was not completed by opening day. This included twin Odeon Cinemas and the circular Carousel Restaurant on the south side of the shopping centre. These were opened in early 1968 [*Ottawa Journal*, October 2, 1967 p.36].

Hunt Club – The Community of the Future

Before the year ended on December 6th, plans for a massive new community in Ottawa's south end were unveiled. This included a wide strip of land east of the Rideau River and the plans included an extended Hunt Club Road [*Ottawa Journal*, December 7, 1967 p.3]. This has become the Hunt Club-Greenboro community that we know today.

Eastview Ends Year on a High Note

In addition to the 8 hectare park to be devel-

oped along the Rideau River, 124 low rental units were announced by the Ontario Housing Corporation, as well a six storey \$1,300,000 Home for the Aged and twin 14 storey towers costing \$6,000,000 for the corner of Riverside Drive (now North River Road) and McArthur Avenue [*Ottawa Journal*, December 27, 1967 p.24].

Gloucester Tragedy

Within plain view of airport visitors who were awaiting the arrival of passengers on an inbound flight, a DC-8F air freighter crashed in a ball of flames in an empty field near the intersection of Pine Road (now Leitrim Road) and Bowesville Road. The plane was making practice runs and had successfully touched down previously but according to witnesses, on a successive landing attempt, the plane veered to the right and tipped sideways and cartwheeled into the ground. The same plane had skidded off the runway in London England in 1963. On that occasion, 97 passengers were on board but there were no casualties. The plane was subsequently refitted for freight service. Captain William A. Robinson of Pointe Claire, Quebec, Captain Donald J. Orr of Brampton, Ontario and Captain Clark Henning of Oakville, Ontario were killed [*Ottawa Journal*, May 23, 1967 p.3].

Centennial Year Ends with Parliament Hill Celebration

Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester headlined the New Year's Eve party on Parliament Hill, which began at 6:30 p.m. with a carillon performance by Dominion carillonneur Robert Donnell. Governor General Roland Michener arrived by horse drawn sleigh. Other performances included the Centennial Choir directed by Nicholas Goldschmidt, the CBC Studio Orchestra and of course, Bobby Gimby leading the Vincent Massey Public School choir with "Ca-na-da". The evening ended with the singing of "O Canada" and "Auld Lang Syne" and spectacular fireworks display. The Centennial Flame, which had originally been planned to be extinguished at the year end, was maintained as a remembrance of a magical year [*Ottawa Journal*, December 30, 1967 p.37, January 2, 1968 p.1 and 5].

Billings Bridge - 1948

Compiled by Glenn Clark (continued from Vol 17, No. 4)

Elm Avenue – North Side (now Rockingham Avenue)*Bank Street*

- 1 Rear of Lot 38 and 39, Plan 149
Henri Gideon
- 3 East half Lot 37, Plan 149
Hyman Soloway
- 5 West half Lot 37, Plan 149
Mrs. Rose Mulligan
- 7 Lot 36, Plan 149
Russell Mason
- 9 Lot 35, Plan 149
John Campbell
- 11 Lot 34, Plan 149
William McFarlane
- 13 East part Lot 33, Plan 149
Charles Martin
- 15 South half Lot 33, Plan 149
Mrs. F.G. Garlough
- 17 Lot 32, Plan 149
Lloyd Martin
- 19, 21, 23 Lot 31, 30, 29, Plan 149
Department of Highways
- 25 South half Lot 28, Plan 149
Simeon Mathurin
- 27 Lot 18, Plan 442
Alfred Bourdeault
- 29 Lot 17, Plan 442
Marie-Ruth Enright
- 31 Lot 16, Plan 442
- 32 Garfield Shipman

*Hill Street***Elm Avenue – South Side***Bank Street*

- 2 Lot 27, Plan 149
John Stewart
- 4 Lot 26, Plan 149
Eugene Phillip
- 6 Lot 25, Plan 149
William Louiseize

- 8 Lot 24, Plan 149
Township of Gloucester
- 10 Lot 23, Plan 149
Bertram C. McCargar
- 12 Lot 22, Plan 149
Joseph Lefebvre
- 14, 16 Lot 21, Plan 149
Edward Lemire
- 18 Lot 20, Plan 149
Richard Morin
- 20 Lot 19, Plan 149
Albert Villemaire
- 22 Lot 18, Plan 149
H.F. Armstrong
- 24 Lot 17, Plan 149
Emile Louiseize
- 26 Lot 16, Plan 149
Mrs. Mary Smith
- 28, 30 Lot 15, 14, Plan 149
John Sinclair
- 32 Lot 9, Plan 442
Mrs. Mary Morrison
- 34 Lot 10, Plan 442
Harold Gale
- 36 Lot 11, Plan 442
George E. Quinney
- 38 Lot 12, Plan 442
Mrs. Lillian Richards
- 40 Lot 13, Plan 442
Joseph Coughlan
- 42 Lot 14, Plan 442
Wilfred Durocher
- 44 Lot 15, Plan 442
Edouard Backs

*Hill Street***Hill Street – East Side (now Clementine Boulevard)**

- 27 Lot 28, Plan 149
W.R. Lennox

Hill Street – West Side*Creek Street*

- 2 Lot 12, Plan 46
Mrs. Sarah Scharf

4, 6 Lot 13, 14, Plan 46

Mrs. Joseph Manton

8 Lot 15, Plan 46

David Logan

10, 12 Lot 16, Plan 46

John McCallum

14 Lot 13, Plan 46

Brule Estate

16 Lot 12, Plan 46

Percy Bergeron

18, 20 Lot 11, 10, Plan 46

Conrad Lurges

22 Lot 9, Plan 46

Mrs. Helena Sabourin

24 Lot 8, Plan 46

Hector Gregoire

26 North half Lot 7, Plan 46

Michael J.P. Reardon

28 South half Lot 7, Plan 46

Mrs. Greta Birtch

30 Lot E, 6, Plan 46

Archibald McIntosh

32 Lot 5, Plan 46

John B. Brule

Street (now Rockingham Avenue)

34 Lot 3, Plan 46

Mrs. Doris Steele

36 Lot 2, Plan 46

Mrs. Adele Robillard

38 Lot 1, Plan 46

Mrs. Sadie Corrigan

Brule Avenue – East Side

1 Lot 1, Plan 442

Edgar Brule

3 Lot 2, Plan 442

Gerard V. Brule

5 Lot 3, Plan 442

Oliver Birtch

7 Lot 4, Plan 442

Theodore Clark

9 Lot 5, Plan 442

Mrs. Margaret Curry

11 Lot 6, Plan 442

Theodore Louiseize

13 Lot 7, Plan 442

Emery Louiseize

15 Lot 8, Plan 442

John B. Brule

Brule Avenue – West Side

4 Lot 19 Junction Gore

Jodoin

14 Lot 19, Plan 442

Henry Gerrard

Gloria Avenue – East Side

20 Lot 20, Plan 442

George Belair

Gloria Avenue – West Side

23 Lot 19, Junction Gore

Caverly

Plan 46 was the Gateville Subdivision, Plan 149 was the Smith's Crossing Subdivision and Plan 442 was the Brule Subdivision.



The Gloucester Historical Society

Fall Presentations

Sunday, October 15, 2017 2 PM

Gloucester South Seniors Centre

4550 Bank Street

“Blood on the Rapids”

The Violent History of the Ottawa River in the Early Days

by Terence Currie, Author

Free parking and admission, Bus Route 93

Sunday, November 5, 2017 2 PM

Gloucester Adult Senior Centre

Earl Armstrong Arena, 2020 Ogilvie Road

“Getting Started on Searching Your Ancestry”

By Mike More

Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Free parking and admission Bus Routes 12, 24

www.gloucesterhistory.com



The Gloucester Historical Society acknowledges financial assistance of the City of Ottawa

President's Report

By Glenn Clark

The days of early September have been gloriously sunny and warm following a cool wet summer. Better late than never!

I am pleased to report the winners of the Sesquicentennial Writing Contest. First prize winners were Elisa Antunes of École secondaire Franco-Cité and Sophie Dewar of Steve MacLean Public School. Second prize winners were Jennifer Salibi of École secondaire Franco-Cité and Hailey O'Donnell of Steve MacLean Public School. Presentations were made by Aline Mageau at École secondaire Franco-Cité on June 19th as part of Grade 8 graduation ceremonies. I made the presentations at Steve MacLean Public School on June 22nd preceded by a Canada 150 quiz on local history. All three Grade 8 classes participated in the lively quiz. \$500 in prize money was given out.

The society also participated at Canada Day ceremonies in Ridgebrook Park sponsored by the Pineview Community Association and at the 50th anniversary celebrations of Brookfield Confectionary on Saturday, July 8th. We were pleased to meet many visitors and answer several questions.

This fall will feature not one but two presentations. On October 15th, we will detail the violent early history of the Ottawa River titled "Blood on the Rapids". Our presenter will be Terence Currie.

On November 5th, we will have a presentation on "Getting Started on Searching Your Ancestry". Mike More of the Ottawa Branch of the Ottawa Genealogical Society will be our speaker.

For more information about books for sale by Gloucester Historical Society and for a complete list of all our publications, please visit our website at:

www.gloucesterhistory.com

This website also contains a wealth of information about Gloucester and its people.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT WITH YOUR CHEQUE. (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31.)

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion - \$20.00 for one year..... \$150.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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