



## *Historic Gloucester*

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

[www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)

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Tracey Clark - Miss Ottawa Rough Rider, 1977

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Our cover photo is of Tracey Clark wearing the tiara of Miss Ottawa Rough Rider, 1977 as shown on the cover of the *TV Journal*. Her interesting story of how a shy twenty-year-old went on to win the much sought after title has been written by Tracey herself and begins on page 3 of this issue. Enjoy.

THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HISTORY ROOM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM EVERY WEDNESDAY AND  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS  
DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST  
LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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*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.*

## Gloucester's Own Miss Ottawa Rough Rider – Tracey Clark

By Tracey Murray (nee Clark)

It was half time at an Ottawa Rough Riders football game in October of 1977. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip sat front and centre in the north stands where they witnessed the crowning of that year's Miss Ottawa Rough Rider. The young woman who won was me.

It was a hard-fought battle, especially for a shy twenty-year-old. I had no previous pageant experience and no prior involvement with the football club to help me through the competition process, so I had to figure things out as I went along. This wasn't the type of pageant that most of us are familiar with, where contestants showcase their talent, and are marked on bathing suit and evening gown comportment. Instead, each evening over the course of a week, all of the contestants converged on the Skyline Hotel in downtown Ottawa where we were sequestered and interviewed, one by one, in front of a rotating panel of judges. During those conversations, our thoughts and opinions were solicited on various topics ranging from the news of the day to our views on social and women's issues. The judges would use those interviews to determine who they thought would best represent Ottawa at the Miss Grey Cup Pageant and the football club for the next twelve months. I recall nervously waiting in a central area for my allotted meetings with the judges while surrounded by young women - my rivals - who were there to compete for the same crown. It was intimidating and exhilarating all at once.

On the last evening of interviews, we were notified that the judges were ready to make their selections, narrowing the field from a group of approximately forty contestants to the top ten finalists. I soon received notice that I made the cut - I had been selected as one of the top contestants!

The final ten were instructed to report to officials at Lansdowne Park on October 15, 1977 in advance of a football game between the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The winner of the Miss Ottawa Rough Rider contest would be announced during half time in front of thousands of fans. When the second quarter ended, I was escorted onto the field with the other finalists. This was an experience in itself: being on the field at Lansdowne Park, soaking in the sounds and observ-

ing a virtual sea of people in the stands. After formal introductions, the proceedings quickly started with the announcement of the second runner-up. When the first runner-up's name was called, I vividly recall taking a step backward in an effort to separate myself from the group, preparing to make a graceful exit and to make way for the person who would become the next Miss Ottawa Rough Rider. I never truly believed that it would be me. Then I heard my name announced over the speaker system. I had won! After the immediate shock, I regained my composure and made my way forward to receive hugs, good wishes and a lovely tiara and sash. My parents were in the stadium to witness that event. I later learned that my father had jumped for joy and announced to everyone within listening distance that I was his daughter. They were so proud of me.

That day was the first in my year-long journey as a representative of the Ottawa Rough Riders football club. The first order of business was Grey Cup week in Montreal, including the Miss Grey Cup Pageant, and I had only a few weeks to prepare. It required an immediate update to my wardrobe. I needed to be fitted for an official outfit (a black velvet mini dress), new clothing for daytime events, evening wear and gowns for the official pageant.





Grey Cup festivities were planned for the entire week leading up to the big game. I arrived in Montreal the weekend before with my chaperone (I believe her name was Claire Atkinson), a woman I had only just met. All of the contestants were closely protected, with our chaperones by our side 24 hours a day.

Grey Cup week was a fast-paced, exciting time. My "work day" started at 7:00 with a call to CFRA radio station in Ottawa. Ken "The General" Grant and I had a live phone interview each morning. I described events and happenings from the previous day to listeners and Ken would interject with his trademark humour. It was a light-hearted beginning to the day.

Our schedule was filled from morning to night, with no leisure or free time. We were on the go constantly. A motor coach that had been retrofitted with sofas and easy chairs was used to transport the contestants and chaperones around Montreal. The security measures utilized by officials seemed over the top for a girl from Blossom Park. A police motorcade escorted our coach everywhere. We did not stop for red lights, and if traffic wasn't able to move over to let us through, we would bounce up on the sidewalk and pass the gridlocked vehicles. We

travelled the streets of Montreal with complete impunity.

That week, I was able to experience things and meet people that wouldn't have been possible in my day-to-day life. I spent an evening with hockey legend Jean Beliveau in a box at a Montreal Canadiens game. I remember him as an animated and enthusiastic host. I met another hockey great, Guy Lafleur, at a Grey Cup party, as well as our Prime Minister of the time, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Another person that I recall meeting was René Lévesque, leader of the Parti Québécois. I was never enamoured with this man even though he had a reputation as a very charismatic leader. Meeting him did not change my opinion.

I modelled in a fashion show, dined with dignitaries, acted in commercials, operated a vehicle on a track at high speed to test my winter defensive driving skills, attended parties and galas and a variety of other special events. During that week, we also had to prepare for the Miss Grey Cup Gala Pageant to be held on Friday, November 25, 1977. As part of this process, each contestant met with a panel of judges for a rigorous interview session, which factored into our overall marks. The balance of the judging would take place during the pageant.



The Miss Grey Cup Gala Pageant was a true pageant in every sense. We presented ourselves on stage in evening wear and lavish gowns to showcase our poise and confidence. One by one, each young woman was asked a question by the event's host, Pierre Lalonde (singer and television host), to which we were to respond thoughtfully. It was terrifying. I remember feeling compassion for Miss B.C. Lion who froze on stage in front of the judges and audience. She didn't utter a single word, just stood there silently until the host gently excused her from the stage. Later on, while Juno award-winner Patsy Gallant entertained the audience, the judges compiled their overall scores and named Miss Montreal Alouette the winner of that year's Miss Grey Cup title.

Many of my family members were in the audience at the Gala that evening. Because the contestants were kept segregated, I wasn't able to see or interact with them. Knowing they were so close and not being allowed to share the experience with them was a desolate moment for me. I had been isolated for the entire week and was craving some family contact. The only outside communication that made its way to me was a heart-warming telegram from my aunt and uncle (Ron and Beverly Clark). That telegram was like a life line to home.

The rest of my year as Miss Ottawa Rough Rider was filled with many incredible experiences. I had the time of my life! Until then, I had never operated a snowmobile, yet I climbed aboard one and completed a 100-mile race on the Ottawa River

in record time. (It wasn't bravery or skill. The truth is, I was just trying to keep up with the rest of my team.) Because everything in front of me was white, I couldn't see variances in the landscape. I careened over several moguls on the frozen river at high speed and came very close to bouncing off that machine. What a rush! I participated in live radio and TV broadcasts, made guest appearances at country fairs throughout the Ottawa Valley, judged contestants at pageants, appeared in parades and donated my time at charity events with players from the Ottawa Rough Riders. I met some incredible people from all walks of life and from every corner of our community and beyond.

Those were the good old days of Tony Gabriel, Jeff Avery, and Tom Clements (just to name a few), when our football club and its players were a big part of the city's culture. We knew them all. I don't know why I originally entered the contest. It wasn't anything I had ever aspired to do, but I am so grateful that it happened. It was truly an adventure. I was placed in situations that were definitely outside of my comfort zone and, to my surprise, I didn't just survive them, I excelled. I had to. I became self-reliant, gained confidence and a firm conviction in my ability to accomplish whatever I set my mind to. Those experiences helped to shape my personal foundation.

This story is over 40 years old and yet somehow, while reminiscing about that time, it feels like a very recent chapter in my life. Oh, what memories!



*Remember the Ice Storms of 1942 and 1998?*

*If you want to learn more about Ottawa's weird and wild weather be sure to attend the talk by John D. Reid titled "A Blast from the Past."*

*For time and place see page 6 of this issue of Historic Gloucester. It will be an event worth attending.*

*See you there!*



**The Gloucester Historical Society  
Presents  
A talk by John D. Reid titled  
“A Blast from the Past”  
Ottawa’s Weather at its Worst**



***Frozen in the Tracks - Ice Storm of December 1942***

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 2:00 p.m.**

**Greenboro Community Centre**

**363 Lorry Greenberg Drive, Ottawa**

**Free parking and admission, Bus Route 98**

**The afternoon will begin with the Gloucester Historical Society Annual Meeting**

**[www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)**



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



## Blessed Education - Holy Rosary Scholasticate, Orléans : A Brief History of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate were founded in France on January 25, 1816 by Saint (Charles Joseph) Eugene de Mazenod, who was born in Aix-en-Provence. At the invitation of Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal, Canada became their first foreign outpost in 1841. The Oblates arrived in Bytown in June 1844 and founded St. Joseph's College of Bytown in 1848. This was renamed as the College of Ottawa in 1861 and by papal charter the University of Ottawa in 1889.

On August 17, 1856, Bishop Guigues and Bishop de Mazenod signed a contract giving the College of Bytown to the Oblates as well as a seminary and St. Joseph's church then under construction in Sandy Hill. The parish name honours the founder of the Oblates. An excellent history of St. Joseph's parish and the early Oblates titled "*Where the Spirit Lives*" by Terry V. Byrne can be found on the parish website.

Land was acquired in 1863 on Main Street in Ottawa East from Richard Fitzsimmons for the College. A seminary was opened on September 8, 1885, which became known as St. Joseph Scholasticate. The building was expanded in 1926 and substantially remodelled in 1950. Today, it is known as the edifice Deschâtelets and is now becoming the centrepiece of the new Greystone Village development.

### Language Tensions found Anglophone Oblate Province.

Because of increasing linguistic tensions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century amongst the Oblates, a review commission was appointed in 1925 by the General Administration of the Oblate Order in Rome. St. Peter's Province was founded in 1926 for English-speaking Oblates.

Following this development, St. Patrick's College was established in September 1929 to educate English Catholic students at the secondary and post secondary level. The first wing of the school opened in September 1930 on Echo Drive and a second wing was added the following year. This was on property known as Patterson's Field originally owned by George Patterson.

A new seminary was then constructed at 249

Main Street [*Ottawa Journal*, June 22, 1936 p.4] and on May 23, 1937, it was opened and dedicated to Saint Paul. Because of growing deficits and to access public funding, the Oblates founded the Université St-Paul in 1965 while reconstituting the University of Ottawa as a secular university.

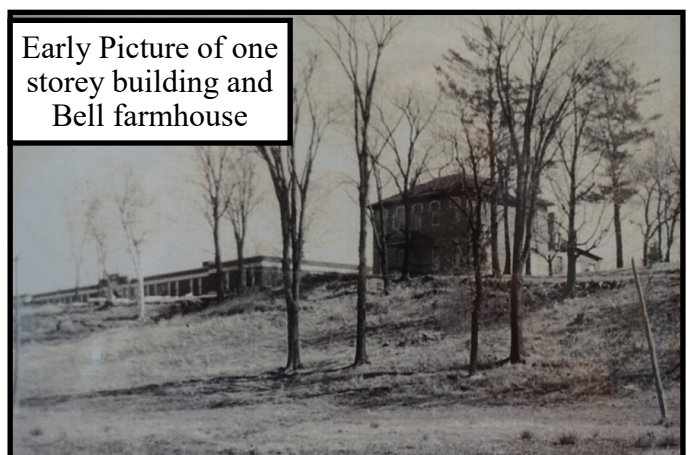
An additional site was purchased on Main Street in October 1923 for \$40,000 from Mrs. Alex Graham [*Ottawa Journal*, October 2, 1923 p.2]. The brick house on site was renovated and became De Mazenod School. The house was replaced by a modern school in 1933.

### Anglophone Seminary Needed

The English Oblates also needed a location to train its clergy. On December 3, 1929, 60 acres were purchased at Lot 10, Concession I Ottawa Front, Gloucester Township, now 1510 St. Joseph Boulevard from Robert J. Snaith and wife. It is believed that Robert was already deceased, and the property was sold by his widow, Bridget.

According to property records and a history posted in the lobby of the current retirement home, the property was originally owned by Archibald McLean, who sold it to Daniel O'Brien in 1851. The property then passed to Richard W. Scott in 1856, Hugh L. Wilson in 1858, Doctor William Ralph Bell in 1877, John Snaith in 1884 and following his death in 1894 to son Robert. Doctor Bell built a stone farm house, which remained on the property until 2007.

In 1930, a one-story seminary named Holy Rosary Scholasticate was built. The sod was turned by Reverend Denis Finnigan and three months later, the completed building was blessed by Archbishop Forbes [*Ottawa Journal*, December 5, 1955 p.2]. The former farm house was used as a laundry. The seminary housed students, priests and lay brothers. They also farmed the land, raised livestock and supplied



Early Picture of one storey building and Bell farmhouse

food to other nearby religious institutions. There was an apple orchard, barns and students kept active by participating in sports.

On July 29, 1949, during the midst of a fund-raising campaign to expand the building, a strong gale and thunderstorm struck the area, tearing the roof off the scholasticate, while six brothers were inside. Two nearby barns also collapsed while two brothers worked inside, narrowly escaping death. The same storm damaged water craft and boat houses along the Ottawa River, overturned the foot bridge crossing the Rideau River at the Rideau Tennis Club, blew over a large wooden barrier at the Britannia Drive-In and uprooted many trees. Meanwhile, little wind was observed at Uplands Airport [*Ottawa Journal*, July 30, 1949 p. 1 and 3]. By November, over \$9,000 had been received in special collections to repair the building [*Ottawa Journal*, November 21, 1949 p.23].

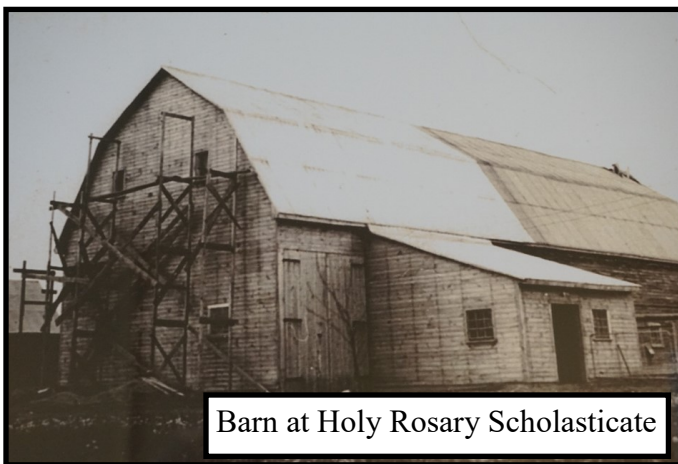


Chapel added in 1955

May 15, 1956 brought tragedy to Orléans when a RCAF North Star jet crashed into Villa St. Louis on the shores of the Ottawa River. Villa St. Louis was a convalescent home for the Grey Nuns of the Cross. Fifteen were killed in the resulting inferno including their chaplain, Reverend Richard Ward, who by fate had just returned from a visit to Holy Rosary Scholasticate and entered the building as the jet crashed [*Ottawa Journal*, May 16, 1956 p.1, 2, 3] [*Ottawa Citizen*, October 31, 1999 p.A13].

Across the road, also on Oblate property, the Villa Madonna Retreat House was officially opened and blessed by Archbishop Lemieux on June 28, 1959. The new building accommodating up to 37 people, replaced a previous building on Carling Avenue opened in 1946. It was built in a period of growing interest for weekend retreats and was intended to serve English-speaking Catholics. The first director was Reverend Anthony Hall O.M.I. The interest in retreats did not last.

1970 brought major changes to Roman Catholic institutions in the Ottawa area. The Villa Madonna Retreat House was sold and became the Madonna Nursing Home and operated by Dignicare Inc. [*Ottawa Citizen*, June 24, 1997 p.B1]. This was replaced by a new building in 2007, which is now the Madonna Care Community [*Ottawa Citizen*, March 6, 2009 p.A6]. The Minor seminary on Carson's Road was sold to the federal government and would soon become a language school and later La Cité Collégiale. The Rideau Street Convent was sold and would soon be demolished. The convent chapel was saved and was restored in the National Art Gallery. Lasalle Academy on Sussex Drive was sold, and St. Patrick's College was transferred to Carleton Uni-



Barn at Holy Rosary Scholasticate

In January 1950, it was announced that the construction of a planned chapel had been postponed, while two storeys were already being added to the previously damaged building [*Ottawa Journal*, January 30, 1950 p.3]. The new addition was expected to be completed by the fall of 1950. During his visit to Ottawa in early October 1951, the superior general of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate from the Vatican, the Most Reverend Leo Deschâtelets, O.M.I. blessed the building expansion [*Ottawa Citizen*, October 2, 1951 p.25]. The new addition was built by Doran Construction Company Limited [*Ottawa Citizen*, April 28, 1953 p.12, Section F].

The previously delayed chapel, was built in 1955 and blessed by Archbishop Lemieux on December 8, 1955 as part of the scholasticate's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations [*Ottawa Journal*, December 9, 1955 p.2].



vrsty. St. Louis Marie de Montfort Hospital was renamed Montfort Hospital and was turned over to a lay board. The 1,000-acre Youville Farm in Orléans and operated by the Grey Nuns of the Cross was sold to Costain Estates Limited for development [Ottawa Journal, June 5, 1970 p.3].

The end to Holy Rosary Scholasticate was also coming. On November 13, 1963, the Oblates sold part of the property to the National Capital Commission for \$171,000 to be part of the Greenbelt. They continued to operate through until the early 1970s. In 1970, the remainder was sold to Roger Seguin who later sold the land to the Interprofessional Service Corporation in 1974. From then until 1995, the facility was leased by Dignicare Inc. as a chronic care residential facility. Since 1996, it has served as a retirement home, originally named Manoir St. Joseph specializing in dementia care and currently Moments Manor.

### Holy Rosary Scholasticate Cemetery

During its period of consecration, Holy Rosary Scholasticate had a cemetery on site for anglophone Oblate priests and lay brothers. Burials continued until at least 1980. At some point later, remains were exhumed and relocated to St. Theresa's Oblate Cemetery in Arnprior, Ontario where they can be found today. The small cemetery was located on the west boundary of the scholasticate property and in approximate line with the main building and the former Bell farmhouse. A walkway to the cemetery extended behind the farmhouse and formed a cross within its boundaries.



### Superiors of Holy Rosary Scholasticate

1931 – Aug. 1935	Reverend Father Michael Murphy O.M.I.
Aug. 1935 – June 1941	Reverend Doctor Anthony William Hall O.M.I.
June 1941 – Aug. 1945	Reverend Anthony Jordan O.M.I.
Aug. 1945 – July 1953	Reverend George Cousineau O.M.I.
July 1953 – July 1962	Very Reverend Allan MacInnes O.M.I.
July 1962 – 1969	Very Reverend Robert McGrath O.M.I.
1969 – 1971	Father J. Harold Conway O.M.I.

O.M.I. stands for Oblates of Mary Immaculate



A recent picture of the building as Moments Manor

## President's Report – April 4, 2018

By Glenn Clark

Welcome to spring. Well, we can be hopeful on a day that is sloppy with both rain and snow.

As I continue to serve with the society, I realize how many stories that are out there that have still not been told. Just in the last two weeks, we did a video interview with John Saunderson, who shares his family's memories of Limebank Road, Mooney's Bay and Elmvale Acres. We hope to share an edited version of this interview with you soon. Do you know somebody who would be willing to share their memories of any part of Gloucester or eastern Ottawa, Vanier or Rockcliffe? Please let us know.

In this edition of Historic Gloucester, we cover ground that perhaps has never been covered before. First, former Blossom Park resident Tracey Murray (nee Clark) tells a delightful story of her memories of being Miss Ottawa Rough Rider. Second, we just start scratching the surface of the importance of Roman Catholic institutions in our history. So many of our care and education facilities have their roots with Roman Catholic orders. Today, we begin covering the history of Holy Rosary Scholasticate, an English language seminary operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It was located on St.

Joseph Boulevard in Orléans and today the same building serves as a retirement home.

I will again lead a Jane's Walk on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 10 a.m. with the topic being Uplands. We will meet on Hunt Club Road at the entrance to the golf club to discuss the rich history of this area. Please refer to the media announcements for Jane's Walk to confirm the route and details.

Also, we will be available for your questions at Doors Open on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come and see us and discover the Gloucester artifacts on the only days of the year that the public can view them.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention our Annual General Meeting. It will take place on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Greenboro Community Centre. The meeting room is right behind the public library entrance off the main lobby. This year, our speaker is John D. Reid who will discuss everybody's favourite subject, the weather. Do you know what followed the hanging of Thomas Darcy McGee's assassin in 1869? Find out about memorable snowstorms, ice storms and cyclones and the havoc that they caused. I hope to see all of you there.

Happy spring when it finally gets here.

**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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