



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

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Spring 2019



“Canada’s Sweetheart” Barbara Ann Scott won the North American Skating Championship 4 times. In 1947 she won the European and World Championships and won the Olympic Gold Medal in 1948. She came home to Ottawa in triumph!

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President's Report

By Glenn Clark

During another long, cold and snowy winter, we look for those first signs that spring is coming. In the last week, the sun's warmth promises a new season will be here eventually.

I am pleased to announce our upcoming Annual General Meeting. It will take place on Sunday, April 14th at 2:00 p.m. at the Gloucester South Senior's Centre at 4550 Bank Street, just south of Leitrim Road. Admission is free and is open to the general public. This will be a special event this year. Our speaker is David McGee who many of you know from the Lost Ottawa Facebook page, and he has produced two books about people's reactions to the hundreds of historic photographs posted on the Facebook page. I am sure he will entertain us with some interesting anecdotes. In addition, this will be your opportunity to see the Gloucester Chain of Office. It is our plan to present the Chain of Office to His Worship, Mayor Jim Watson at the start of the meeting. It is fitting that this presentation will take place in the building that was once the Gloucester City Hall.

We are also adding more information to our website. We have included brief histories of Gloucester schools and churches, again, any that were east of the Rideau River. This is an ongoing project and more information will be added as it is found. In addition, we have added a link to access land records, which provides information formerly only accessible at the Land Registry Office. This is invaluable for those researching the history of a particular property or building. Enjoy the growing amount of information accessible on the Internet.

If you need help in your research, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We hope to see you at our Annual General Meeting in April.

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 CONTACT Mary Boyd at 613-521-2082 or boydmary172@gmail.com

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 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.

Esther Carlisle & Encore, The Nearly-New Shop

By Sally (Carlisle) Doherty

Esther Carlisle (née Laing) was born in 1917 in Outremont, Quebec, the youngest of six and the only one of her Scottish family to be born in Canada after their arrival in 1914. Raised mainly in Westmount, she attended King's Hall College, Compton, QC.

At age 22, Esther married a dashing young lawyer, Thomas Carlisle, who had set aside his law practice to answer King George VI's call-to-arms to become an army officer. Esther and Thomas's wedding took place on December 13, 1939, at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, officiated by Arthur Carlisle (Thomas's uncle), the 6th Anglican Bishop of Montreal. Thomas was sent overseas as the Canadian Grenadier Guards' liaison officer. A short week or two after their wedding, Esther followed her husband to London, UK, and remained in the United Kingdom, mainly in London, for the duration of World War II, volunteering with various organizations such as the Red Cross. At some point, she was offered a gift from Mrs. Massey, the wife of Canada's wartime high commissioner in London, for her volunteer efforts, a brooch with a thistle emblem.

Both Esther and Thomas survived the war and, upon their return to Canada in 1945, settled in turn in Montreal and then Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa.

Major Carlisle served in a variety of administrative and legal positions with the Canadian Army HQ. He was subsequently promoted to Lt. Col and served in the Korean Theatre.

In 1951, he returned to Canada to continue his service until he was medically released in 1959. He died in Switzerland in 1963.

Once settled in Ottawa, Esther went about raising their family and immersing herself in volunteer work.

One community activity in particular changed the direction of Esther's life. A fund-raiser to rebuild the Minto Skating Club, which had burned



Esther Carlisle

down in 1949, was under way when the Carlisle family arrived in Rockcliffe Park in the Fall of 1951. Esther quickly joined a few of the "Rockcliffe ladies" who had set up a clothing exchange enterprise. When the goal for the fund-raising was reached, the clothes kept coming in. Esther, now a mother of five children aged between two and ten, saw a business opportunity. And so, in 1953, "Encore, The Nearly-New Shop" was born.

Encore was known as the first of its kind of second-hand clothing stores in Ottawa. It not only sold clothes on consignment for the whole family, but also skates and sporting equipment. What didn't sell after three months was either returned to the owner or offered to a number of charities in the region on a weekly basis. Encore was located in the Manor Park Shopping Centre, now renamed the Rockcliffe Crossing Plaza, next to a barbershop, from 1957 to 1989, then relocated to newer premises in the Karen Way Mall, a block away.

In 1959, the Carlisle family moved to far-away Switzerland but Encore remained operational with the help of a number of well-chosen staff, some of whom have since launched their own ventures in the Ottawa region.

In 1974, Esther opened a second Encore shop in Montreaux, Switzerland, on the shores of Lake Geneva, where she lived at the time. The new store, too, was a thriving enterprise for several years

until Esther returned to Canada in 1989. Once back in Ottawa, she took over the reins of the local shop again. After forty successful years, Encore was closed in 1993 when Esther retired at the age of 76.

This story highlights my mother's keen business acumen in a niche that was way ahead of its time. But she was also committed to her family and community, a kind woman known for her quiet grace and impeccable manners. Mum was very much a people-person who, with my father, loved to entertain. She had a soft spot for animals and was very artistic. In fact, she took up painting on porcelain soon after arriving in Switzerland, with many of her pieces featuring hummingbirds. This was the loving - and entrepreneurial - mother I knew.

Background on the Minto Skating Club

By Glenn Clark

Founded in 1904, and named for their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess of Minto, the first qualifying members met by invitation on February 12th at Government House (Rideau Hall) where their excellencies were judges. The original committee was Colonel Irwin, president, Colonel Cotton, Mr. R.H. Haycock, Mr. Alwyn Creighton, Mr. Nicholson, secretary-treasurer [Ottawa Citizen, February 13, 1904 p.9] and the several young ladies who participated as skaters. The members later met on March 2, 1904 at the Rideau Rink located on Theodore Street (Laurier Avenue East) at Waller Street [Ottawa Journal, March 3, 1904 p.7].

The Rideau Rink, also used for hockey and with an attached curling rink, was built in 1888 and originally named The Rideau Skating and Curling Club building [Ottawa Journal, October 13, 1888 p.1]. It opened on January 15, 1889 [Ottawa Citizen, January 16, 1889 p.4]. Following less than three years of use by the Minto Skating Club, the building was destroyed by fire on January 25, 1907 leaving several residents homeless [Ottawa Citizen, January 25, 1907 p.3]. This also left the skating club and several hockey teams scrambling for alternate locations. Plans for a new arena appeared in the Ottawa Journal on March 2, 1907 [p.1] and was well on the way to completion in November [Ottawa Citizen, November 15, 1907 p.8]. The first hockey practices took place in the new building on December 13th [Ottawa Citizen, December 13, 1907. [8].



The new Rideau Rink was located around the corner, on Waller Street south of Laurier Avenue and backed onto King Edward Avenue.

The Minto Skating Club returned to the new Rideau Rink for the 1908 season but moved to the "Arena" the following year [Ottawa Citizen, December 1, 1909 p.20]. The "Arena" was also known as Dey's Arena and was located on the west side of the Rideau Canal along Laurier Avenue in today's Confederation Park. The club continued to use the "Arena" until World War I. With many young men and women volunteering for service overseas, membership had declined but the club decided to continue in operation [Ottawa Citizen, December 16, 1916 p.11]. For the 1917 skating season, the club returned to the Rideau Rink [Ottawa Citizen, December 6, 1916 p.7] but again used Dey's Arena for the 1918 through 1920 seasons [Ottawa Citizen, December 10, 1918 p.8].

As of July 1, 1918, Walter N. Deisher moved his International Motor Company, an Overland and Hudson dealership and service station into Rideau Rink [Ottawa Journal, June 29, 1918 p.19]. During the winter of 1918-19, he offered the rink for winter automobile storage [Ottawa Citizen, December 10, 1918 p.6] and all skating and hockey activities were suspended.

When the war ended, interest in hockey rebounded and plans were initiated for the resumption of hockey in the Rideau Rink [Ottawa Citizen, November 15, 1919 p.9]. The first game was played on

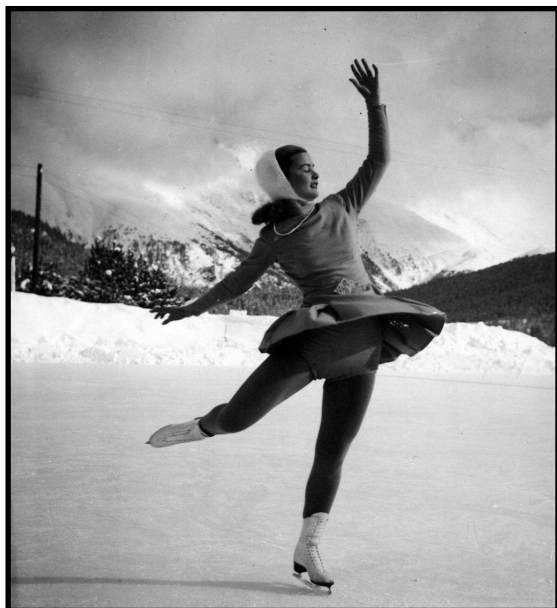
December 22, 1919 [Ottawa Journal, December 20, 1919 p.30].

The Rideau and Minto Skating Clubs merged on November 6, 1920 and decided to lease Rideau Rink with the option of purchasing the building [Ottawa Citizen, November 8, 1920 p.12]. In 1922, the Minto Skating Club purchased the Rideau Rink for \$40,000 [Ottawa Citizen, June 13, 1922 p.10].

Minto Follies

The Minto Follies were a skating extravaganza featuring the clubs emerging talent and well-established skating stars. It was held annually starting on March 6, 1926. The first production took place at the Ottawa Auditorium [Ottawa Citizen, March 4, 1926 p. 8]. The follies were held each year until 1967. After an absence of three years, it returned as the "Mini Follies" [Ottawa Journal, March 27, 1971 p.28] and continued until 1979 when it became apparent that it was no longer financially viable due to rising production costs [Ottawa Citizen, April 18, 1979 p.2]. With the sponsorship of radio station CKOY, the follies returned in 1982 to spur a fund-raising campaign for a new club arena [Ottawa Citizen, January 4, 1982 p.4].

The show was again revived in 1995 when it was held on March 24th and 25th at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre on Walkley Road [Ottawa Citizen, April 1, 1995 p.B7]. It then returned two years later at the same venue on February 27th and March 1st [Ottawa Citizen, February 27, 1997 p.C3]. For



the club's 100th anniversary in 2004, the follies were held on May 14th and featured Barbara Ann Scott herself [Ottawa Citizen, March 5, 2004]. The Minto Folliette Reunion took place on May 7, 2011 [Ottawa Citizen, May 4, 2011, p.86].

Barbara Ann Scott

Barbara Ann Scott was the most famous member of the Minto Skating Club. She was the youngest of three children of Clyde Rutherford Scott and Mary Purves and born on May 9, 1928. Clyde was a veteran of the First World War when he was left for dead following a mortar, machine gun and mustard gas attack at Ypres. He was left piled with other corpses as the Germans advanced but a dog drew the German soldiers to him and he was taken to a field hospital where his wounds were treated. Following the war, he returned to his family in Perth who had been told that he was dead.

The Scott family later lived in Sandy Hill where young Barbara Ann practiced the Piano while dreaming of Figure Skating. At age 3, she requested single blade skates for Christmas [Ottawa Citizen, February 5, 1944 p.5] and by age 9, she had given up regular school to figure skate 8 hours a day and joined the Minto Skating Club. She first appeared in the Minto Follies in 1936 as a solo skater [Ottawa Journal, March 30, 1936 p.2]. Her first triumph was noted in the Ottawa Citizen on March 30, 1937 [p.10] when she won the Devonshire Cup for girls under age 12. Her family hired Otto Gold as her coach who emphasized the importance of skating figures, something that she excelled at. The following year, she became the youngest person to ever pass the gold medal test of the Canadian Figure Skating Association. At age 11, she was crowned the Canadian junior figure skating champion [Ottawa Journal, January 20, 1940 p.27] and the following year she placed second at the senior level and qualified for the North American championships [Ottawa Citizen, February. 11, 1941 p.10].

In September 1941, Barbara's father died suddenly at age 49. He had attained the rank of Colonel in the Canadian Army at the time. In 1944, she won the first of four Canadian Championships [Ottawa Journal, February 3, 1944 p.10]. The following year she became North American Champion [Ottawa Citizen, March 6, 1945 p.8] and in 1947 she won the European and World Championships [Ottawa Journal, February 17, 1947 p 1, Ottawa Citi-

zen, March 7, 1947 p.25], the first ever by a Canadian skater. She was welcomed home with a parade and was given the keys to a brand-new canary coloured 1947 Buick convertible with license plate "47 U 1" by Mayor Stanley Lewis. With it being "Kid's Day", the crowd of adoring fans grew to as many as 70,000 [Ottawa Citizen, March 8, 1947 p.4]. In order to retain amateur status and compete in the 1948 Olympics, she was forced to give the car back to the city following some debate between various figure skating associations, the International Olympic Committee and particularly Avery Brundage, an advocate for amateurism at the Olympics. [Ottawa Citizen, May 13, 1947 p.3]

On February 6, she won it all by scoring higher than the other 24 competitors at the Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland [Ottawa Citizen, February 7, 1948 p.7]. She returned home to a triumphant crowd exceeding 75,000 on March 9th and received the Lou Marsh trophy on March 12th in Toronto as woman athlete of the year [Ottawa Journal, March 10, 1948 p.13]

After deciding to give-up her amateur status, the same car was repainted Calvert blue and returned to Barbara Ann on May 13, 1948 on Sparks Street at Lyon Street, the exact same location where she had given up the car a year earlier [Ottawa Journal, May 12, 1948 p.1, Ottawa Citizen, May 12, 1948 p.16].

Named "Canada's Sweetheart" Barbara Ann Scott turned professional and joined the Ice Capades.

In 1955, Barbara retired from figure skating To marry Tom King, her publicist and former pro-



fessional basketball player on September 17th. They lived in Chicago for many years. [Ottawa Citizen, September 19, 1955 p.16, Ottawa Citizen, October 2, 2012 p.A4, A5]. In 1996, the couple retired to Amelia Island, Florida.

In preparation for the Vancouver Winter Olympics, Barbara Ann Scott had the honour of bringing the Olympic torch into the House of Commons on December 9, 2009 [Ottawa Citizen, December 10, 2009 p A1]. This was followed up with the thrill of carrying the Olympic Flag into the opening ceremonies along with hockey star Bobby Orr, singer Anne Murray, race track driver Gilles Villeneuve, Terry Fox's mother, Betty, actor Donald Sutherland, astronaut Julie Payette and Senator Romeo Dallaire [Ottawa Citizen, February 13, 2010 p F5].

Barbara Ann Scott passed away on September 30, 2012 in San Fernandina, Florida, just weeks after visiting Ottawa to open a gallery featuring artifacts and photographs that she had donated of her memorable career at City Hall [Ottawa Citizen, October 1, 2012, p A1]

Fire Destroys the Rideau Rink a Second Time

The Rideau Rink, by then known as the Minto Skating Club building was again destroyed by fire on November 3, 1949. The fire, first detected at about 4:30 a.m. by a family of 6 who lived on premises, was left with only the front and back wall intact. Thirty trophies, innumeral costumes, pairs of



Skates and the records of the Canadian Figure Skating Association were all lost in the fire [Ottawa Citizen November 3, 1949 p.1]. Following the fire, the University of Ottawa acquired the property as part of a land swap with the club. The club acquired property on Henderson Avenue, which would become the site of the new "Minto Arena." The plans for the \$200,000 arena were unveiled on May 10, 1950 with the intention of raising the funds through the public sale of bonds [Ottawa Citizen, May 11, 1950 p.19].

By September 1951, \$50,000 of the \$200,000 cost had still not been raised. Construction was halted, and the contractor threatened to put a lien on the incomplete building. The club was arranging a variety of revenue generating rental contracts, but this required that the arena be completed [Ottawa Journal, September 25, 1951 p.14]. At a well attended meeting on October 22nd, the club planned to canvas the membership and their friends for the sale of further debentures starting at \$25. The goal was to raise an additional \$20,000 [Ottawa Citizen, October 23, 1951 p.12]. Other fundraising took place in the following months to bring the arena to completion. The Minto Rink opened on January 21, 1952 with official opening taking place on January 29th [Ottawa Citizen, January 15, 1952 p.4 and January 30, 1952 p.19].

In 1959, the Minto Arena was sold to the University of Ottawa, which became the home of the Ottawa Gee-Gees hockey team [Ottawa Citizen, September 2, 1959 p.13]. For the following years, the Minto Skating Club rented various skating venues across the city.

After the conclusion of another fundraising campaign, the club opened its new facility on Lancaster Road on May 20, 1987 [Ottawa Citizen, May 8, 1987 p.B1], which they continue to use to this day.

The Minto Arena on Henderson Avenue was demolished in January 2001 [Ottawa Citizen, January 9, 2001 p.D3] with a new University of Ottawa Sports Complex built on adjacent property on King Edward Avenue at the corner of Mann Avenue. The first rink in the new facility opened on October 6, 2000 [Ottawa Citizen, November 27, 2000 p.C6]. The building was renamed the Minto Sports Complex on November 10, 2011. The naming was not related to the Minto Skating Club but instead the Minto Group, the well-known Ottawa real estate de-

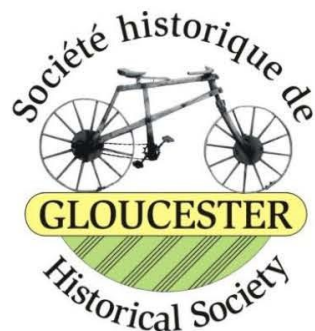
velopment company founded in 1955 and which had contributed towards the construction of the new building [Ottawa Citizen, November 15, 2011 p.B2].



Barbara Ann Scott and the Barbara Ann Scott doll.

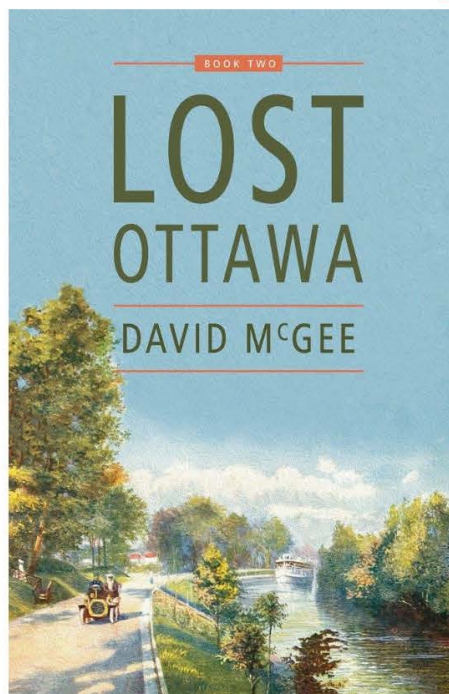
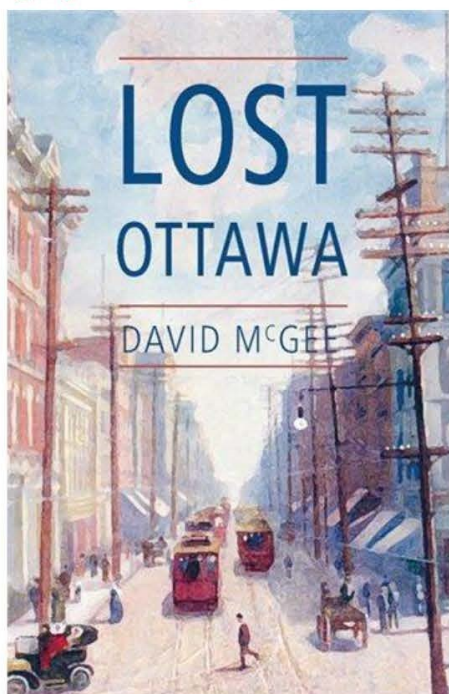


See additional related pictures on pages 9 and 10.



**The Gloucester Historical Society
Presents
The Story behind the
“Lost Ottawa Facebook Page”
with author and host David McGee**

(Autographed copies of the Lost Ottawa Books will be available for purchase)



**NOTE: There will be a Special Presentation of the Gloucester Chain of Office to
Mayor Jim Watson**

Come and see this historic artifact

**Sunday, April 14, 2019 2:00 p.m.
Gloucester South Seniors' Centre
4550 Bank Street, Gloucester**

Free parking and admission, Bus Route 93

The afternoon will include a brief Gloucester Historical Society Annual Meeting

www.gloucesterhistory.com



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

How you can you help the Gloucester Historical Society?

Donations

We welcome contributions big and small.

First, our interest is anything related to the former Gloucester Township, including everywhere east of the Rideau River including Vanier and Rockcliffe.

We maintain family files. We are looking for family trees and histories. We welcome copies of photos of family members. We are interested in any family who currently or formerly lived in Gloucester territory.

We maintain Gloucester community files. We are looking for neighbourhood histories or stories of community events, organizations and businesses. We welcome copies of historic photos of streets and buildings, things under construction or demolition, or community events.

We maintain files on Gloucester schools and churches. We are looking for school and church histories and year books. We welcome copies of photos of schools, classes or school events. Also, photos of churches and church events.

We welcome historical documents, family scrapbooks that relate to Gloucester in some way.

We are looking for contributions to our Newsletter. It can be about a person, a family, a business, an event, a neighbourhood, a park, a building, a school or a church.

We are looking for financial donations to help us fund our projects.

Anything that you donate will enrich the resources that we can offer to researchers in the future.

As we are a charitable organization, receipts for income tax purposes can be given for financial donations received.

Volunteers

We welcome donations of your time. The Gloucester Historical Society is made up entirely of volunteers. There are no qualifications. If you are interested in learning about local history, you are welcomed to join in. This can be done at any of our meetings. Join us for one our Board meetings to see what we are all about.

If you have something to donate, please contact us at:

english@gloucesterhistory.com



The Earl and Countess of Minto
skating on the Ottawa River



Above is Dey's Arena which was used by the Minto Skating Club at one time .

Right are the ruins of the Minto Skating Club building which was destroyed by fire on November 3, 1949.



To renew or become a new member, please complete this form and return it to the address below with your cheque. Memberships may also be purchased on our website.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester
(Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31.)

Please note that we are adding a new category of long term (10 year) membership and discontinuing life memberships. Current life members will continue to be honoured. Details are below.

Annual Membership/ - \$20.00 for one year.....

10 year Membership \$150.00

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Telephone # _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Donations are always welcome. We are a registered charitable organization and provide tax receipts.

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
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