



Historic Gloucester

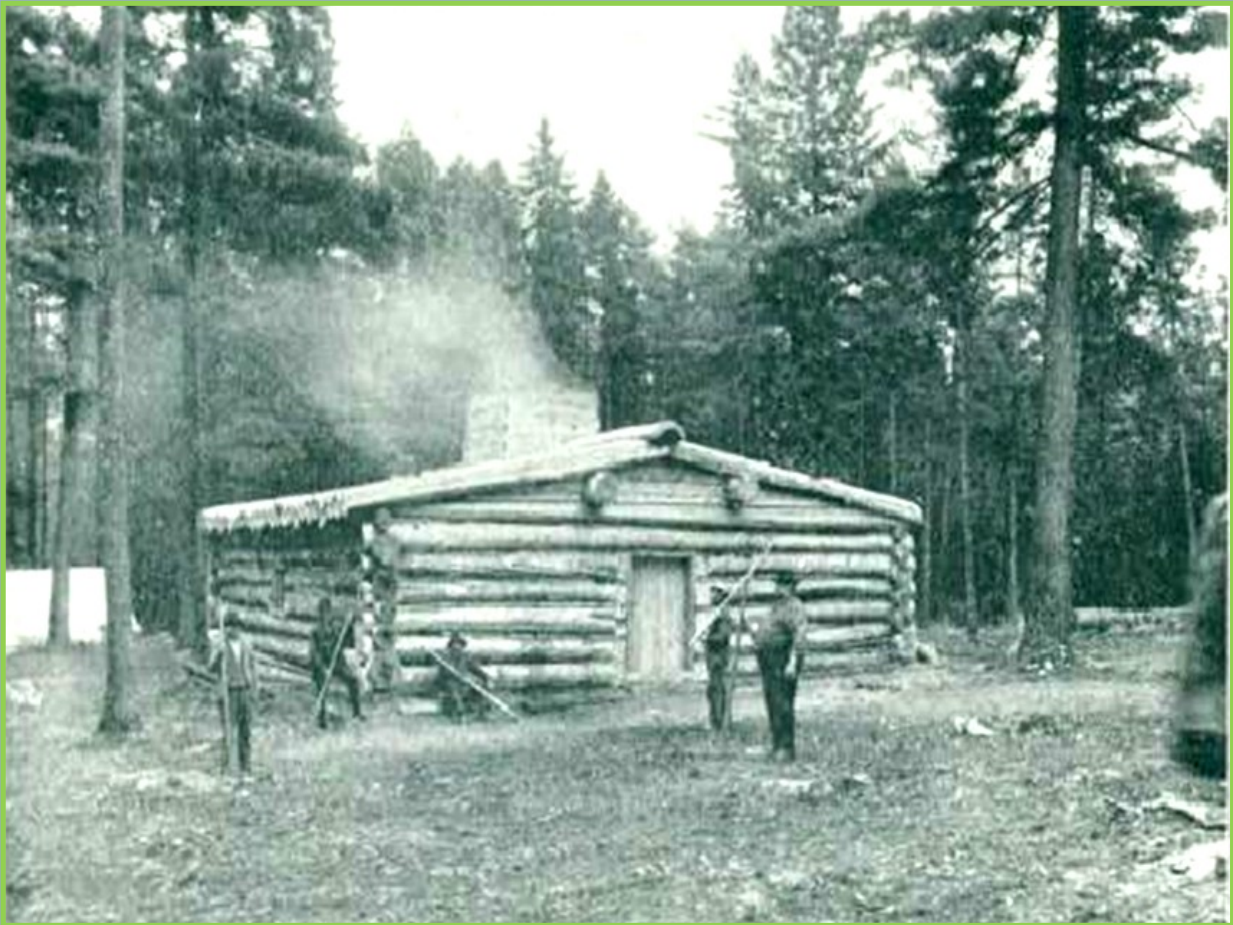
Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 21, No. 2

Summer 2020



In 1901 when the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York later visited Canada, a traditional lumberman's shanty was built to show the royal visitors a part of our history.

Note: See details of Annual General Meeting in President's Report on page 2.

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President's Report

By Glenn Clark

We are all experiencing an extraordinary event that has carried on far longer than we all hoped. It looks like a vaccine for Covid-19 will be the only way to bring this to a conclusion. In the meantime, we are all experiencing history in the making and let us hope that further impacts are minimized and especially to all those who we love.

The current situation has challenged all organizations including the Gloucester Historical Society. We have not been able to participate in the usual events, however, we plan to publish the usual four newsletters this year.

Our by-laws obligate us to have an Annual General Meeting within 120 days of the end of the calendar year. Normally, this takes place in April, but it was all but impossible to meet this obligation within the prescribed timetable.

I am pleased to announce that we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., subject to all the current Covid limitations, at the Pat Clark Community Centre, 4355 Halmont Dr, Gloucester, ON K1J 8W6. This is east of the Aviation Parkway and south of Ogilvie Road. Our meeting will take place in the gymnasium and public access will be via the gymnasium entrance. Our sign will denote the correct entrance. Our speaker will be Pauline McNally, who will share her personal memories of 'Cyrville Yesteryear'. This will be from the days when Cyrville was still a market garden community. I have seen a preview of Pauline's presentation, which was very good. Come and enjoy!

Our by-laws require 10 members to achieve quorum. Current Covid regulations cap attendance at 35. To guarantee your place, please e-mail us at english@gloucesterhistory.com by September 19th and arrive 15 minutes early. We hope to accommodate as many as possible who arrive without a reservation as well. All Covid safety distancing requirements will apply. Masks are mandatory.

The following individuals are not permitted to participate:

- a. Anyone who is sick or has any of the following symptoms: fever/chills, cough, sore throat/difficulty swallowing, runny nose, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell, not feeling well, unexplained tiredness/muscle aches, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.
- b. Anyone who has recently returned from traveling outside of Canada, in the past 14 days.
- c. Anyone who has knowingly been exposed to or been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, in the past 14 days.

THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY ROOM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY DURING THE PANDEMIC
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.

The Royal Shanty and the 1901 Royal Visit

By Glenn Clark

Ottawa has welcomed many Royal visits over the years, the first involving a reigning monarch took place in May 1939 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen mother dedicated the National War Memorial at Confederation Square. But there were three previous important Royal visits to Ottawa, all involving future kings. The future King Edward VII visited Ottawa in 1860 to lay the foundation stone for the Parliament buildings. In 1919, the future King Edward VIII laid the foundation stone for the current Peace tower.

Our story is about the Royal visit of 1901, a lengthy tour of the British empire by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, that took place during the court mourning period following Queen Victoria's death. This forbid elaborate balls, banquets and levees. The tour included visits to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand as well as across Canada. The Duke and Duchess later became King George V and Queen Mary.

The tour lasting several months was gruelling for the Duke and Duchess and featured endless and repetitive speeches. They arrived in Quebec City on September 16th to cool rainy weather and the Duke had contracted a cold to add to the misery. A pall hung over everything not just because of the weather but because of the assassination of American President William McKinley just two days earlier in Buffalo New York. The bleak conditions continued through Montreal but their arrival in Ottawa on September 20th brought brighter weather and the splendour of Canadian fall colour.

Ottawa of 1901 was undergoing an unprecedented modernization. The city was growing at a faster pace than ever before. The federal government had established the Ottawa Improvement Commission on December 21, 1899 with the purpose of beautifying Ottawa. It was Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier's desire to make Ottawa the "Washington of the North". Quickly Ottawa's first parkways were built along the Rideau Canal and to Rockcliffe. A new railway and road bridge was built across the Ottawa River, popularly known as the Interprovincial Bridge. It opened gradually, with pedestrians beginning to use it as early as October 9 1900 (despite that planking had not been finished) [*Ottawa Citizen*, October 10, 1900, p.1]. It was officially opened to railway and other traffic on

April 8, 1901 [*Ottawa Journal*, April 1, 1901 p.6] and finally Hull Electric Railway streetcar service commenced on July 25, 1901 with an Ottawa platform located between Sapper's and Dufferin bridges and accessed by stairs [*Ottawa Journal*, July 26, 1901 p.3].

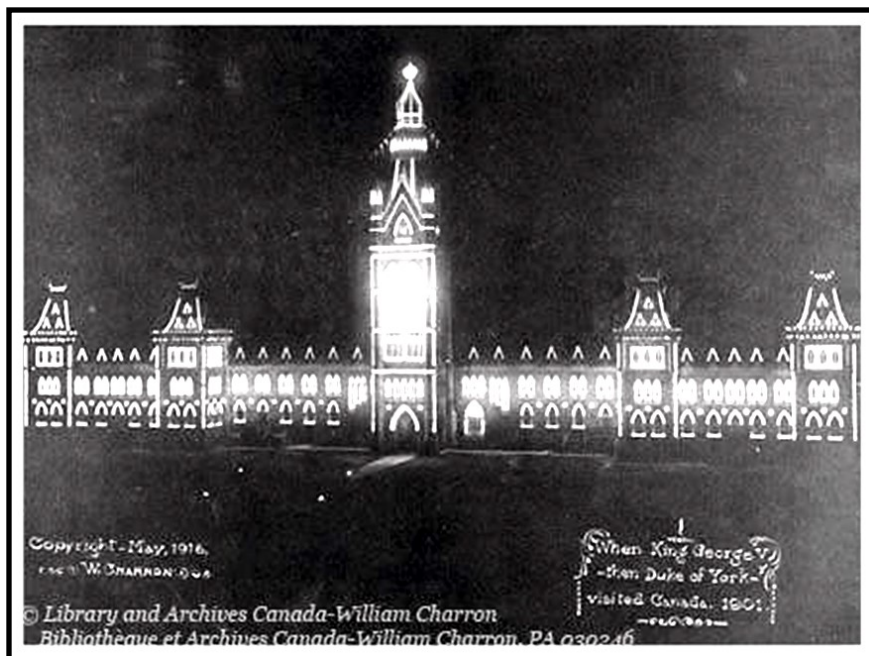
Ottawa suffered a setback when the Great Ottawa fire swept across parts of Hull and west-end Ottawa below Nanny Goat Hill and effectively destroying most of the lumber industry at the Chaudiere and Lebreton Flats. This took place on April 26, 1900. In a way, this also aided the modernization of the city through this forced renewal and encouraged the use of non-inflammatory materials such as brick and stone as everything was rebuilt.

The Ottawa portion of the Royal tour would last until September 24th when the royal couple left for Winnipeg by train. In preparation for this big event, downtown Ottawa streets and businesses were decorated with banners, flags and other decoration. More importantly, this event made the first extensive use of outdoor electric lighting. The centre block of the Parliament Buildings was decorated with lights end to end and top to bottom, as were the arches of the new Laurier Avenue Bridge. 'God Save the King' was spelt with lights on Sapper's Bridge. The Interprovincial bridge was officially renamed the 'Royal Alexandra Bridge' and this was spelt out with a lighting display 12 feet high and 200 feet long. These light displays were designed to be turned on with the push of a button. Newspaper accounts of the day do not elaborate whether the lights were turned on by the Duke or Duchess unfortunately. The schedule of lighting was announced as 9:30 p.m. to midnight on September 20th, and 8 p.m. to midnight on September 21st and 23rd. The lights were not illuminated on the 22nd, being the Lord's Day. It was not long after this event that more extensive lighting of the city was being considered.

The itinerary for September 21st included the official unveiling of Queen Victoria's statue on Parliament Hill at Noon and a Lacrosse match between the Ottawa Capitals and the Cornwalls at the Varisity Oval, which was located on Nicholas Street near the current light rail station. The Ottawa Capitals won 3 to 2 and were the first winners of the Minto Cup, which was donated by Earl of Minto then Governor-General of Canada. The Minto Cup has been awarded annually to the national Lacrosse champions ever since. This first match for the cup was not without controversy as the Montreal Shamrocks claimed that

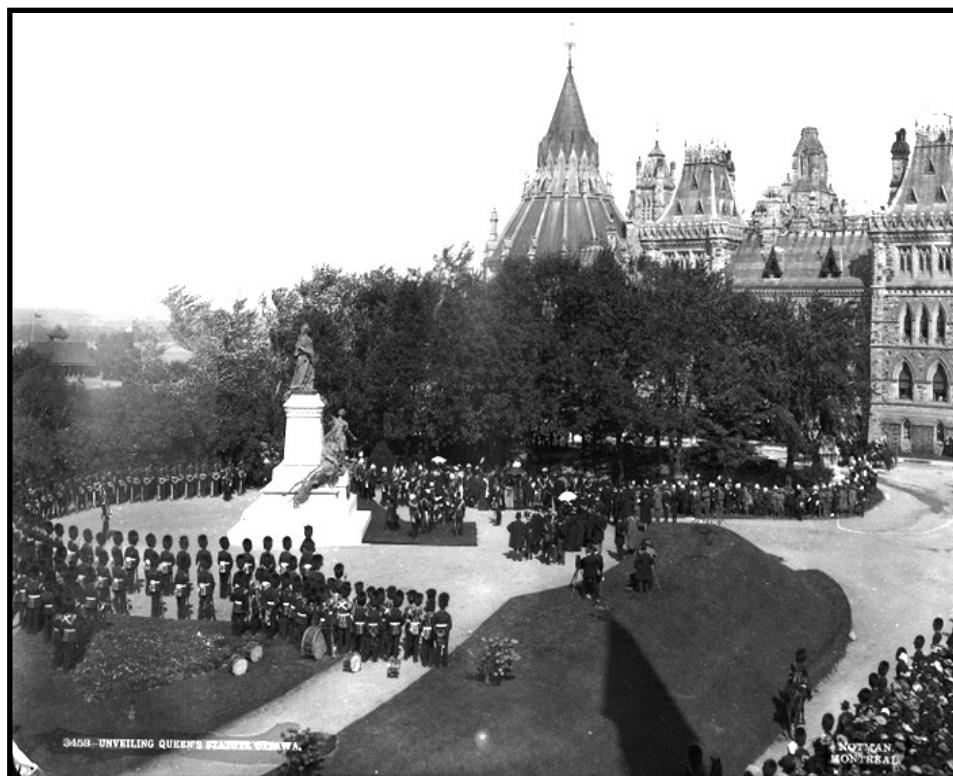
they deserved to be one of the teams in this match. The Shamrocks subsequently defeated the Ottawa

Capitals later the same year as a cup challenge, the only year the Minto Cup was awarded twice.



The illumination of
the Centre Block
during the 1901
Royal Visit

The unveiling of
Queen Victoria's
Statue





The Duke and
Duchess of
Cornwall and York
at the Varsity Oval

In addition, the modern convenience of electric streetcars was to be used as part of the tour and the newly acquired streetcar 204 intended for the Britannia line had a luxuriously rebuilt interior including plush olive green chairs and blue carpeting. The exterior was painted Pullman standard dark green, with the Royal coat of arms at each end and

with “Duchess of Cornwall and York” on each side. The chairs were subsequently distributed to the directors of the Ottawa Electric Railway and one survives to this day in the Nepean Museum. The streetcar itself was put back into regular service for several years but was destroyed by fire at the Rockcliffe Streetcar Barn on June 23, 1937.



The Duchess of
Cornwall and
York streetcar
at the intersection
Of Bank and
Wellington Streets

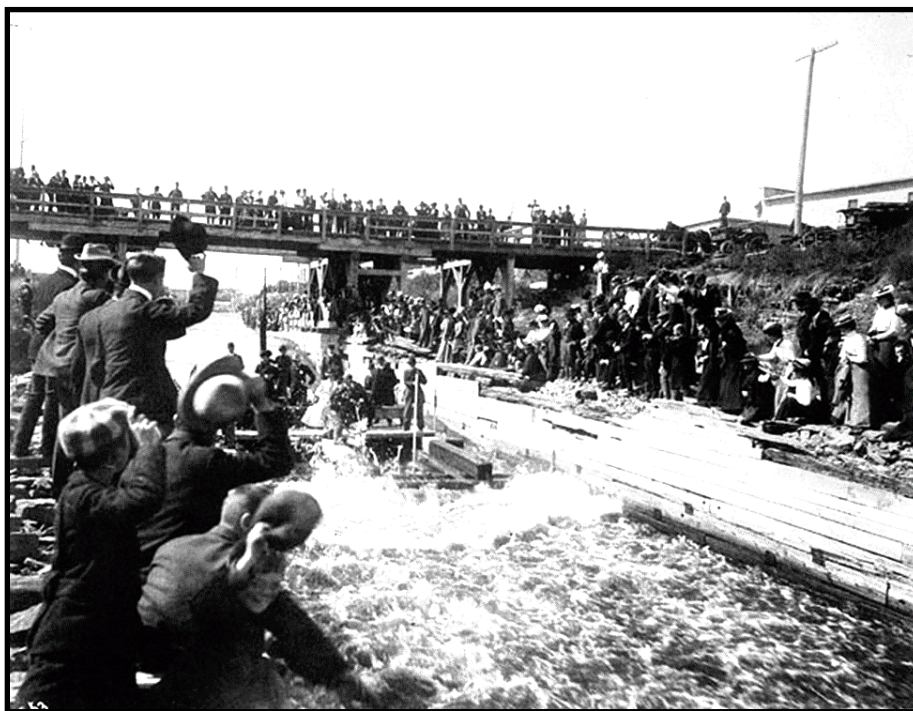


Duchess of Cornwall
and York streetcar
interior

The streetcar was used to transport the Duke and Duchess and other members of the royal party from Government House (Rideau Hall) to the Chaudiere on Oregon Street on September 23, 1901 for a raft ride down the timber slide. The Duke's own father had done the same thing in 1860 so one has to wonder whether this was so memorable that his son wanted to repeat the experience 41 years later

The events that took place during their Ottawa visit were very Canadian and the Duke very

much enjoyed the experience. They focused on Canadian sport, and lumbermen's and indigenous culture. The ride down the timber slide had a bit of excitement as a wave washed over the raft. However, the royal party were on a platform so they were able to escape being soaked. As part of the same event many indigenous people were brought in with their birch bark canoes from north of Mattawa. At the end of the raft ride, the royal party were transferred to the "Royal Canoe" and paddled downstream to the Ottawa Canoe Club. Here, the royal party were entertained with war canoe races and log rolling.



The Royal Party
on the Chaudiere
Timber Slide



The
Royal Canoe

From there they were taken by streetcar to the Rockcliffe highlands known as Pine Hill, just east of today's Rideau Hall. At the base of the hill was the Rockcliffe Streetcar Barn. Uphill and specifically built for this event by W.C. Edwards & Company, was a traditional lumberman's shanty. It was built of logs and featured an open fire pit in the centre with a large open "camboose" chimney above. This was named the "Royal Shanty." Here a traditional shantyman's lunch was served to the many lumbermen present including pork and beans, prunes, doughnuts and apple sauce. Many of the royal party tasted the shanty fare with pleasure.

After a tour of the shanty, a "dainty" lunch was then served to the royal party and guests as follows:

Chicken Consommé Royale, Salted almonds, olives, caviar on toast
Sherry - McKenzie's Amontilado

Fish

Restigouche Salmon a la Rovigot
Sliced cucumbers, Hock-Schraberg

Meats

Game Pie (Duck and Partridge), Tongue, Ham
Prime Ribs of Beef, Roast Spring Chicken, Black Duck, Partridge
Chicken Salad, Lettuce, Tomatoes
Claret - (Batailley)
Champagne - (Pommery and Mumm's)

Sweets

Frozen Pudding, Pie Apple Water Ice, Ice Cream, Wine Jelly, Wine Trifle
Fruits, Nuts, Raisins, Cheese, Crackers, Tea, Coffee
'Tosh Scotch, Seagram's Rye, Dow's Ale, Apollinaris.

The Royal Party
at the
Royal Shanty,
September 23, 1901

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York are at the centre, the Duchess holding an umbrella and the Duke wearing a bowler hat and holding a walking stick



Following lunch, 130 lumbermen attired in red shirts, blue overalls, black ties, blue canvas shoes and black hats danced to traditional music as two large trees were cut down with axes and saws, branches lopped off, and the wood sawn and piled on a sleigh.

At the end of the afternoon, William Whistle, foreman for W.C. Edwards & Company spoke of his life and career, first in French and then in broken English to the great pleasure of the Duke, who spoke to him at fair length afterwards. The day had been enormous success.

The Royal Shanty had been specifically built for the royal visit during the summer of 1901. However, it was soon announced that it would not be torn down. Instead, it was to be made available as a destination for winter snowshoers the following winter and on special occasions, a cook would be available to prepare traditional shanty fare to visitors.

As explained earlier, Ottawa was undergoing a boom, a modernization and beautification. During the early years of the 20th century prior to the Great War, tourism was expanding, and Ottawa was becoming a destination for both national and American conventions. Examples of conventions that visited the Royal Shanty included the National Editorial Association of the United States, Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, New York State Bankers Association, New Haven Guards, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, Travelling Passenger Agents of the United States and Canada, Prescott Board of Trade, New York Grocers, Pennsylvania Editorial Association, and Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

Ottawa had many assets, and typical tourists and conventioners would travel by modern streetcar to Britannia, Aylmer, the Experimental Farm and Rockcliffe, to the Parliament buildings, to the Rockcliffe Rifle Ranges for demonstrations, on boat cruises down the Rideau Canal or out on Lac Deschenes. They also enjoyed dinners at the Russell House Hotel, Hotel Victoria in Aylmer and later the Chateau Laurier. For those interested, tours were often arranged to Ottawa's various industrial facilities. Ottawa lumbermills were some of the largest in the world. The Royal Shanty was frequently included in visits because it was so unique to the Ottawa Valley culture and most considered lumbermen's food both hearty and delicious. City officials and lumbermen were proud to speak of the history of the 'Royal Shanty' and its tie with the 1901 Royal visit.

In 1908, Lieutenant General (later Lord) Robert Baden-Powell wrote a book titled 'Scouting for Boys' which described the many games and contests used to train calvary troops in scouting. This became very popular reading for boys. Before publication, Baden-Powell held an experimental camp on the 'scouting' concept and within 2 years of publication, scouting had already spread to European countries, the United States and across the British Empire including Canada. As early as February 10, 1912, scouting competitions and a lunch was served at the Royal Shanty and it was the destination on a trek from Parliament Hill on Empire Day (May 24th) 1913. In 1921, it was described as having been used by the boy scouts for many years.

However, the Great War changed everything. The tourism and conventions that had become so popular during the early years of the century dried up. After 1914, service to the Empire was all encompassing. And when the war drew to a close, society had changed forever. The war had broken families through casualties and broken a whole generation of men in mind and body. And what followed immediately was the Spanish flu epidemic and prohibition. Unlike the end of World War II, there was no reason or opportunity to celebrate. For many, it was time to forget the past, both the misery of war and the happier pre-war years. It was a new way forward, an era of automobiles, radio, the movies and new electrical conveniences..

As I write this, I have a new view of this time period and wonder of those who lived through it. In my case, my grandparent's generation. But they are all gone now, and most of us did not have the sense to have asked of that transition between the pre and post war years. It must have been a massive change for most everybody.

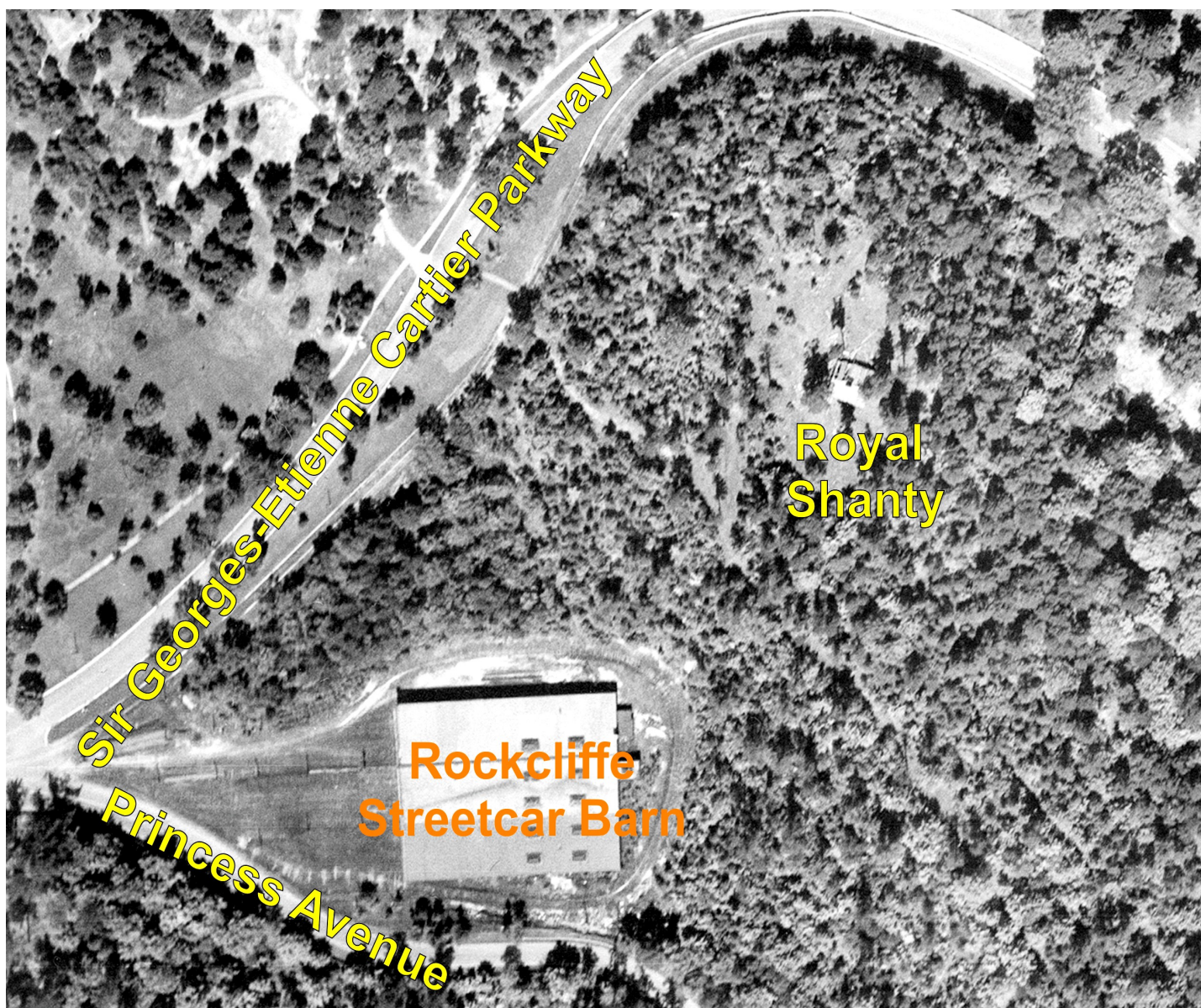
The Royal Shanty survived the war years put would never again be used for tourism, another quickly forgotten relic of the past.

On November 22, 1920, the Royal Shanty was repurposed. During a Chateau Laurier banquet, Mr. Gilbert E. Fauquier, President of the Ottawa District Boy Scouts announced that the shanty had been secured as a Boy Scout clubhouse. This brought about a renovation in 1923 enabling the shanty to continue to be used by Scouts for years to come. On June 23, 1927, the Rockcliffe Streetcar barn at the foot of Pine Hill caught fire. This threatened the shanty when the fire began to escape to the

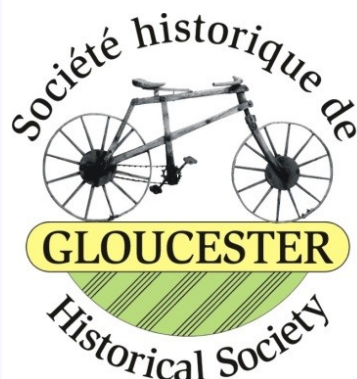
surrounding forest, but the fire department was able to contain and extinguish it. The threats continued when Pine Hill was suggested as the location of the new residence of the American Ambassador in 1928.

But a mostly vacant wooden building is always at risk. On July 29, 1931, it is believed that a

lit cigarette butt was errantly disposed of at the shanty by a group of youths. The building, being some distance away from the street could not be saved despite the heroic efforts of the fire department. The Royal Shanty burned to the ground



The Royal Shanty Location - Air Photo 1931



**The Gloucester Historical Society
Presents
“Cyrville Yesteryear”
From Pauline McNally’s
personal memories**

**Sunday, September 20, 2020
3:00 p.m.**

**Pat Clark Community Centre
4355 Halmont Drive, Gloucester (Gymnasium)
Masks are Mandatory**

**Open to the Public, Free parking and admission, Bus Route 25, 39 nearby
Attendance is limited. Reservations encouraged by e-mail
english@gloucesterhistory.com**

See President’s Report for further details

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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