



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 23 No. 2

Summer 2022



Overbrook Police Village sign (Sparks House in background)

(Photo supplied by Bob Presland)



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

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President's Report

By Glenn Clark

In celebration of Overbrook's centennial as Police Village, I am very pleased to publish a Time-Line History of that community. This was first distributed at our Annual General Meeting at the Overbrook Community Centre on May 1st but has now been considerably updated as a result of feedback received since the meeting. Because of the size of the document, it is being published in two parts, beginning in this newsletter, and continuing in the fall newsletter, which will be mailed together. Enjoy!

This summer has had its ups and downs. May 21st brought us a derecho storm, equivalent to an EF2 tornado. Parts of our community were devastated. My home took a direct hit and at least 25 trees were severely damaged. A corridor from the Ottawa Hunt Club through to Carlsbad Springs was particularly affected, and the devastation extended further to the west and east beyond old Gloucester. In my own neighbourhood, I was so sad to see the effects at the Conroy Pit dog park. Large sections of forest were leveled. I have not heard reports of those who might have been there at the time, but one wonders having been a warm Saturday afternoon when the storm struck. It must have been unbelievable. I personally drove through the storm at South Keys Shopping Centre, and it is an experience I will never forget. Clean-up continues to this day.

We have been trying to bring back in-person events. Our AGM was held with a live audience, and we welcomed a presentation by Dave Scanlon, and we premiered a video interview of Gladys Wicker's memories of growing up in Overbrook, which is now posted on our website. I also hosted a Jane's Walk on May 7th titled 'Between the Bridges' in Old Ottawa South. We then hosted Doors Open during the first weekend of June for the first time since the pandemic began. The Grace Johnston History Room was opened for June and part of July each Wednesday, and we helped a number of researchers.

The historical society has been pleased to receive two significant donations over the summer. One donation consisted of documents and photographs from the Boyd Hotel of Carlsbad Springs that had been stored in a collapsed building formerly attached to the hotel. The second donation was received from the Meyerhof estate. This included a manuscript on the History of Honey Gables as well as photographs and substantial genealogical and community history research documents. The extent of this material is overwhelming. Some documents will benefit all researchers who have an interest in early Gloucester. It will take a considerable time to sort through all this new material. Eventually, it is our hope to publish Dorothy Meyerhof's manuscript.

I write this as the trees are beginning to show their fall glory. I wish everybody a beautiful autumn.

Overbrook Timeline History

Glenn Clark, President, Gloucester Historical Society

1826 (April 1) – **George Sparks** (1801-1867) acquires 200 acres at Lot 8 Junction Gore. Lot 8 is centred on today's Donald Street (Stevens Avenue on the north and the midpoint between Glynn Avenue and King George Street on the south) and runs from the Rideau River to St. Laurent Boulevard. George Sparks was a first cousin of Nicholas Sparks, for whom Sparks Street is named. George Sparks immigrated from County Wexford, Ireland in 1824, first working for Philemon Wright.

1836 (March 31) – A letter is signed by many property owners including **Donald McArthur** (for whom McArthur Avenue is named) requesting that the old '**Colonization Road**' be improved and re-routed. This road followed the Rideau River from New Edinburgh to Billings Bridge and beyond before running cross-country to South Gloucester. South of Billings Bridge, this was later known as Bowesville Road. In Overbrook, the original road followed the Rideau River shoreline very closely. The improvements resulted in the current right of way of **North River Road**, formerly Russell Road and Riverside Drive.

1837 (Spring) – **The second George Sparks house** located at 947 North River Road (but more specifically at the corner of Ontario Street and Marguerite Avenue) was built. It was constructed of stone taken from the Sparks farm fields and the Rideau River shoreline and was stuccoed in the 1920s. The **first Sparks house** was located just south of Donald Street on the east side of the original '**Colonization Road**'. A barn was located on the west side of the road next to the shoreline. Both may have been destroyed or swept away by floods. The second house passed to his widow following George Sparks' death in 1867 and then to his daughter Esther and son Samuel. By 1904, Samuel lost his part ownership to Esther following a court foreclosure. Between 1912 and 1921, the farm passed to Esther's son **James Clandeboye "Clan" Sparks Wolff** (1877-1959) who operated **Elmhurst Dairy**. Following his death, the house passed on October 10, 1973 to son **Eric 'Pat' Wolff** (1913-1976) and to Pat's widow, **Phyllis May (née Follows)** (1920-2016). Finally, it was sold on August 1, 1984 to their daughter and son-in-law, **Shirley and Peter Serafini**. The house was demolished in 2008. The entrance way along North River Road featured stone pillars and a long driveway. After Clan's death in 1959, the front lawn was subdivided, and the house was accessed from Ontario Street.

1839 (October 28) – **John Whillans** (1809-1847) acquires 200 acres at Lot 10 Junction Gore. Lot 10 is bounded on the south by the original Tremblay Road and Hurdman's Bridge and on the north by Wright Street.

1842 (March 21) – **Alexander Anderson** (1808-1886) acquires 75 acres in the north half of Lot 10 Junction Gore from John Whillans. Alexander's wife was Margaret Whillans (1811-1882) and they were married in Southdean, Roxburgh, Scotland on October 30, 1835. Coventry Road now runs through this farm. It remained in Anderson family ownership until January 16, 1942. The farm was known as **Elmdale Dairy Farm**.

1846 (June 26) – **John Sharp** (1791-1887) acquires 100 acres for the north half of Lot 9 Junction Gore. This later became the main site of the Overbrook subdivision.

1854 (December 14) – The **Bytown and Prescott Railway** (later the CPR) opens through the future Overbrook area. The first train ran as far as Montreal Road with the first train into Bytown on December 25, 1854. Daily trains to Prescott began on January 1, 1855.

1867 (November 6) – **George Sparks dies**.

1868 – The **stone Sparks House** was built by Robert and Nicholas Sparks, sons of George Sparks at 936 – 940 North River Road.



The 1830s Sparks House formerly located at the corner of Ontario Street and Marguerite Avenue



George Sparks



John Sharp

1868 November 10) – The land distribution of the George Sparks' estate is registered. Sons Robert, Nicholas, Abraham, George, and Frederick each receive a 2-acre lot on the riverside (west side) of North River Road (then called Rideau Road and later Russell Road) in Lot 8 Junction Gore. The remaining 180 acres on the east side of North River Road is transferred to Esther and Frederick Sparks, executors of the estate. The will specified that this land was bequeathed to George's **Wife, Sarah Colley Sparks née Walsh** (1805-1887) and a right of way (later Donald Street) was referenced. The 180 acres was first leased in 1873 and then transferred in 1875 to son Frederick Sparks (1846-1882).

1870 (August 17) – The **Great Fire of Carleton County** originated near Pakenham and almost encircles the City of Ottawa. In Gloucester, it was known as the **10-mile Fire** with the epicentre in the Cyrville-Overbrook area.

1870 (November 3) – **Patrick Henry Cassidy** (1848-1921) purchases a lot on the Russell Road just south of the CPR crossing and opposite the Beauchamp business (see 1891). Cassidy operated a store and hotel known as Cassidy's Hotel (He was noted as a merchant and hotel keeper in various early tax assessment records) and in 1879, he opened the **Hurdman's Bridge Post Office**, saving the walk to Cummings Bridge. He served on Gloucester Township Council for many years and was the



The third Sparks house on North River Road, which is still standing

Reeve in 1895-1896. He retired to a federal job around 1900 and the post office relocated in 1902 after his wife Julia died (1848-1900). After Patrick's death the property was transferred to Joseph F. Dubois and after his death in 1942, to Idola (Mrs. Hector) Pigeon (1912-1983). The three-story frame former hotel was seriously damaged in a fire on May 11, 1950, leaving 8 families and 24 people homeless. The building was sold to His Majesty the King on June 13, 1950 and was demolished.



Esther Wolff (nee Sparks)



Augustus Keefer

1872 (September 30) – **Grace Ann Keefer (née Fraser)** (1827-1918) and her husband **Augustus Keefer** (1819-1885) acquired 5 ½ acres of the south half of Lot 9 Junction Gore. Keefer Street (later Presland Road) was named for this family. Thomas Coltrin Keefer (son-in-law of Thomas McKay) was a brother of Augustus.

1872 (December 21) – **Esther Sparks** marries **Charles Everard Wolff**, a Dominion Land Surveyor.

1875 – The first wooden **Hurdman's Bridge** opens. It was a toll bridge.

1882 (September 14) – Brothers **Robert and Frederick Sparks**, both provincial land surveyors and sons of George Sparks are lost in the sinking of the 'Asia' in Georgian Bay. Only Robert Sparks' body was recovered. 123 lives were lost with only 2 survivors.

1885 – Esther Wolff (nee Sparks) (1834-1923) begins purchasing additional portions of Lot 8 Junction Gore, something that she would continue until 1904.

1891 (September 3) – **Joseph V. Beauchamp** (1861-1937) purchases a lot at the intersection of Russell Road and River Road, just south of the CPR crossing at Hurdman's Bridge and establishes a **Blacksmith** shop. Over the years, it transforms into a **carriage maker** business and then an **Auto Body shop** operated by his son, **Wilfrid Beauchamp** (1891-1961). The business was sold on June 8, 1961 to the National Capital Commission and the buildings were demolished.

1892 (April 21) – **Samuel Bouchard** (1861-1931) acquires property at the east end of Lees Avenue (now Robinson Avenue) along the shores of the Rideau River at Hurdman's Bridge where he establishes a residence and butcher shop. Following his death on January 12, 1931, his property is divided



S.S. Asia



*Early version of Hurdman Bridge—no date—Insert shows a collapse .
Note the wagon wheel and the little boy with his dog on the bridge.*

amongst three of his children, sons Henri (1903-1980) and Elie (1906-1982), and daughter Willima Chateauvert (1901-1989). Henri sells his share on March 4, 1937. Around this time, the business becomes known as **Bouchard and Chateauvert** and expands into a **slaughterhouse**. The business is sold in late 1949 to **Max & Percy Weinstein** which is then transferred to **Ottawa Beef Company Limited** on March 25, 1956. **Capital Beef Corporation** acquires the property on May 29, 1981, and the abattoir ceases operation in 1996 with a dispersal auction taking place on October 19, 1996. The building is demolished shortly afterwards and replaced by a housing development. Over the years, the operation expanded several times, sometimes eliminating some of the original nearby houses. At times, animal body parts were found floating downstream past Dutchy's Hole (a beach) and there were a number of incidents of escaped livestock.

1895 – **Hurdman's Bridge** was replaced with a wooden and iron girder structure.

1902 (July 30) – A span of **Hurdman's Bridge** collapses.

1904 – Construction begins on a **large tannery** known as the **John A. Lang Leather Company Limited** on land sold by Esther Wolff, south of what became Donald Street and east of Russell Road. A CPR siding (spur) is built, which appears on early topographical maps and the rail spur right of way can be seen on early air photographs of the Overbrook area. Construction was abandoned in July 1904 due to the ill health of the owner. It was never completed but the ruins of the incomplete building remained for years. The land was split in 1909, the north half to William Sylvester, and the south half to company officer George S. May, who sold it to Francis Xavier Laderoute for subdivision Plan 291. See 1909/1910 for more details.

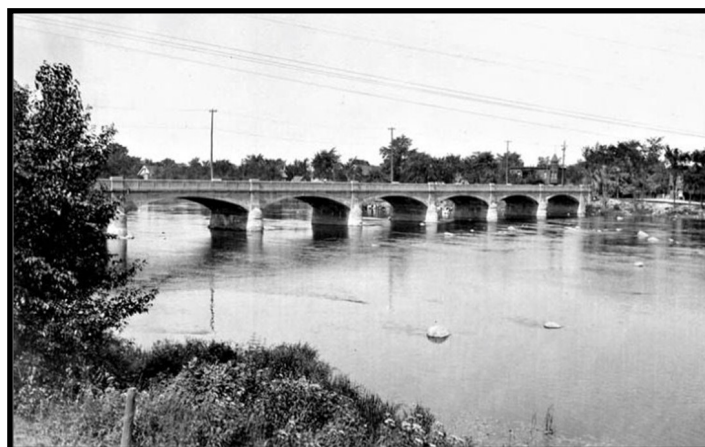
1905 (October 13) – Camille Ladouceur (1867-1949) purchases ½ acres at the northeast corner of Hurdman's Bridge on the Russell Road where he operated a grocery store known as **Ladouceur's Store**. The store continued until about 1946 and the property is sold to His

Majesty the King on September 14, 1949, to make way for construction of the Queensway. The entire village of Hurdman's Bridge is demolished between 1948 and 1955.

1906 – The concrete **Hurdman's Bridge** is built

1906 (April 18) – Adolph Guilbault's **Rideau Hotel** on Russell Road is completely destroyed by fire at Hurdman's Bridge between the CPR crossing and the bridge. Constructed in about 1888, it was the largest building and only hotel at Hurdman's Bridge. It was vacant and being renovated at the time of the fire pending the receipt of a new liquor license from Gloucester Township. There had been a liquor violation in 1905. In the years leading up to the fire, the hotel had been operated by Camille Ladouceur, Fred Tasse, and Alphonse Cusson.

1906 (August 15) – **Fredville subdivision Plan 239** registered by Esther Wolff in memory of her brother



Concrete Hurdman's Bridge opened in 1906

Frederick Sparks who died in the sinking of the 'Asia' in 1882. The subdivision was south of McArthur Avenue and east of North River Road in Lot 7 Junction Gore, and therefore just north of the area denoted as part of Overbrook.

1909 – **William Frederick Sylvester** (1875-1950) starts a florist business on Russell Road (North River Road) in Overbrook. (Land Records)

1909 (May 6) – **The earliest subdivision in the Overbrook area**, between Wright Street and Hurdman's Bridge covering school, church, and a portion of the RCMP properties. It is registered under **Plan 264** by Victoria Whillans, Isabella W. Little, and Jennie W. Robertson and named **Elmhurst Park**.

1909 (December 5) – **Canadian Northern Railway opens** through the Overbrook area (just north of Coventry Road) and is connected into Ottawa via the **Black Bridge** over the Rideau River.

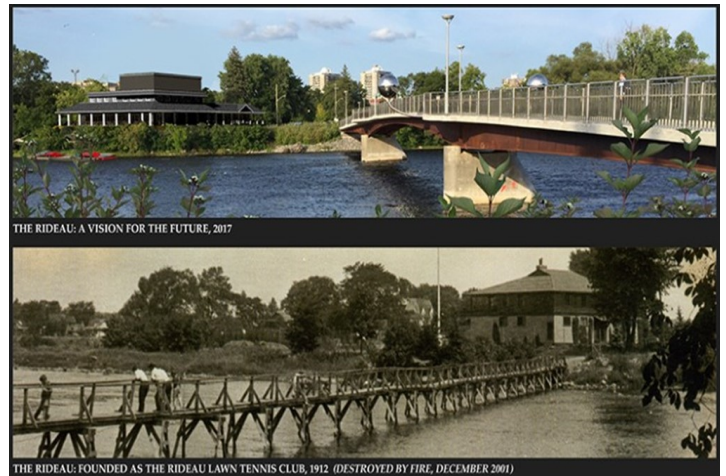
1910 (May 3) – The first **Overbrook** subdivision covering Glynn and Columbus Avenues and west of the railway is registered under **Plan 291** by Francis Xavier Laderoute.

1911 (July 19) – A summer **Footbridge** opens to provide access from emerging Overbrook subdivisions to streetcars on Laurier Avenue East. Maintenance of the bridge was later taken over by the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club.

1911 (August 2) – The second **Overbrook** subdivision plan (between North River Road and the railway tracks/Vanier Parkway covering King George, Queen Mary and Prince Albert) is registered under **Plan 318** by Francis Xavier Laderoute.

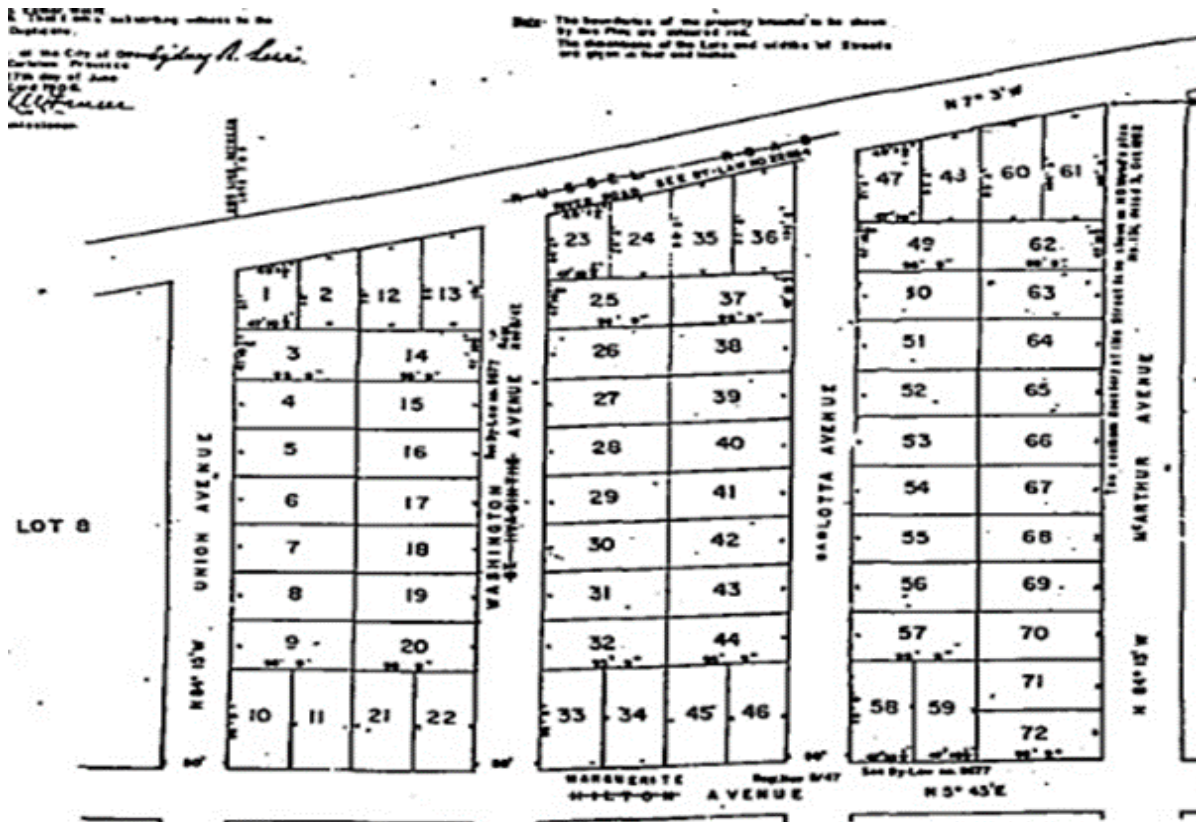
1911 (September 18) – Nicholas J. Tremblay registers the **Bannermount** subdivision under **Plan 320** and is located along Tremblay Road with alphabet street names. The subdivision is named for A.E. Bannerman Realty Company Limited. In 1952, Avenues A to D were expropriated for construction of the Alta Vista (Vanier Parkway) Queensway interchange. Avenues D to H were later expropriated for the new Ottawa Railway Station, and Avenues H to M were converted to industrial use. In 1958, the remaining lots from Avenue N to U were developed as single-family homes by Bill Teron under the name **Eastway Gardens**.

1912 (May 1) – The third **Overbrook** subdivision plan is registered under **Plan 333** by Charles A. Seguin and W.A. Pinard. This is the area closest to St. Laurent Boulevard and was known as **Eastview Heights**.

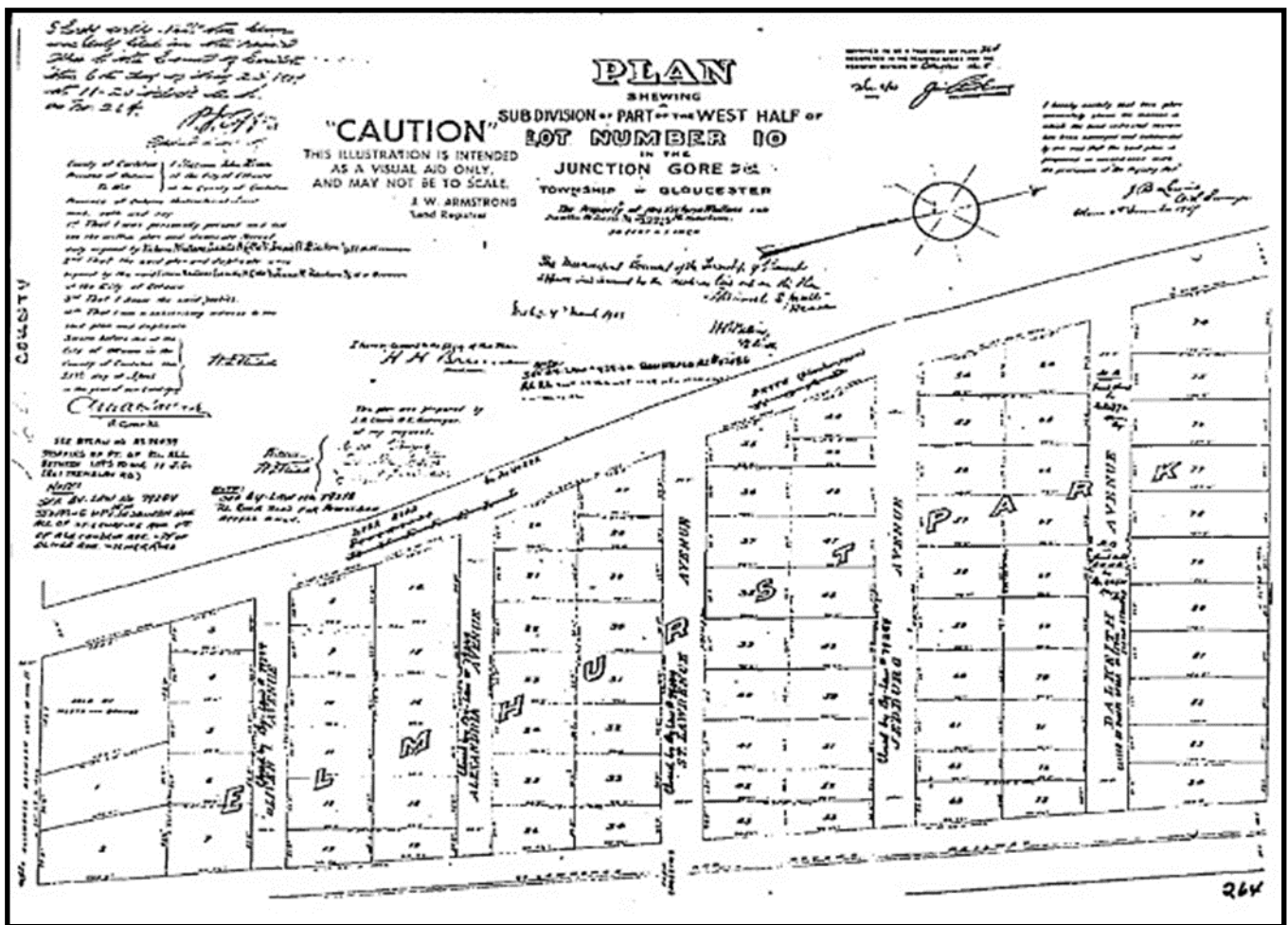


Top—Proposed Rideau Sports Centre and Adawe Pedestrian Bridge.

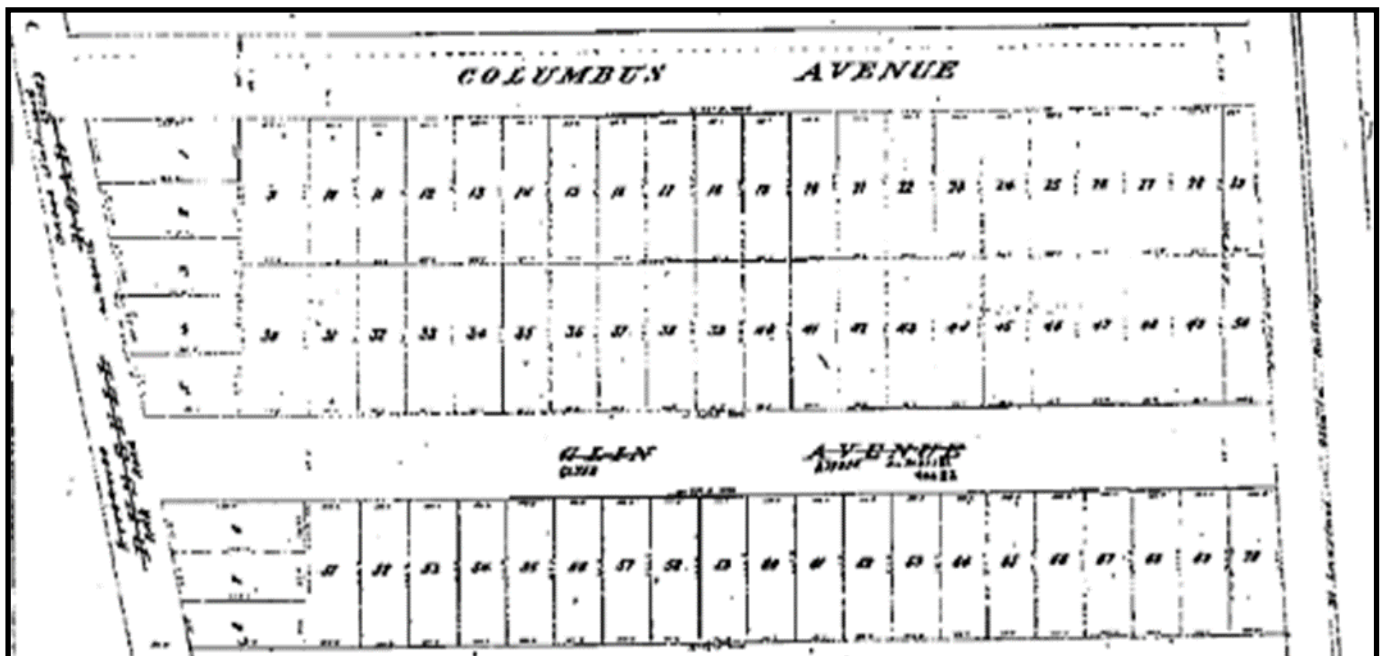
Bottom—Original Rideau Lawn Tennis Clubhouse and Footbridge



Fredville (Plan 239), Russell Road (North River Road) runs left to right (north) at the top.



Elmhurst Park (Plan 264 later abandoned), Russell Road runs left to right at the top



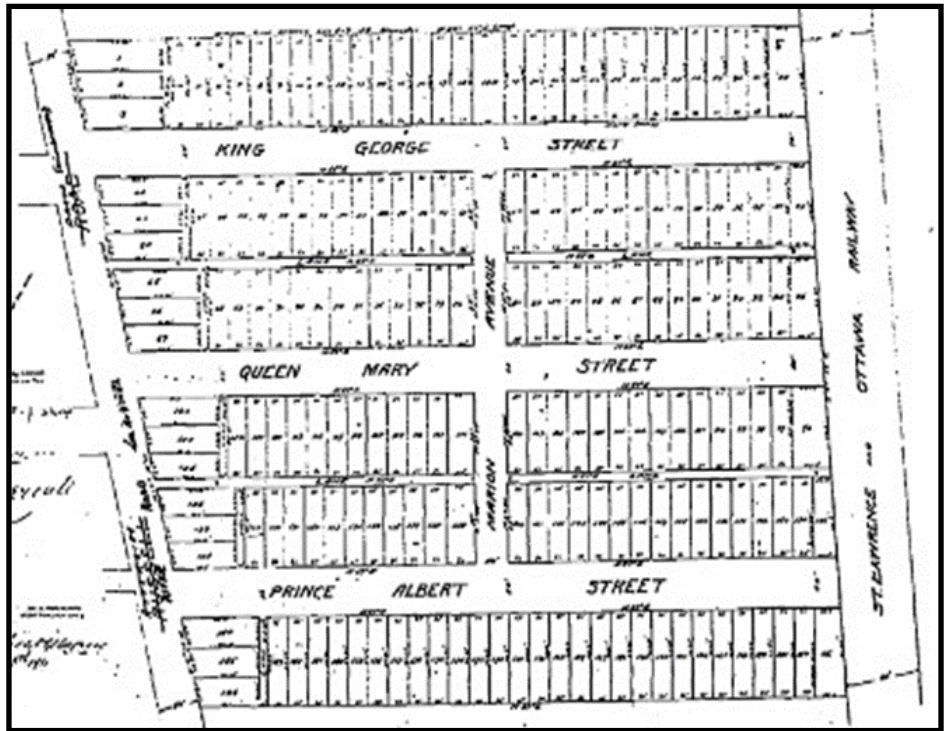
First Overbrook Plan 291

1912 (May 2) – The fourth and fifth **Overbrook subdivision plans 341 and 342** are registered for the area east of the railway tracks to just beyond Isadore Street by Francis Xavier Laderoute

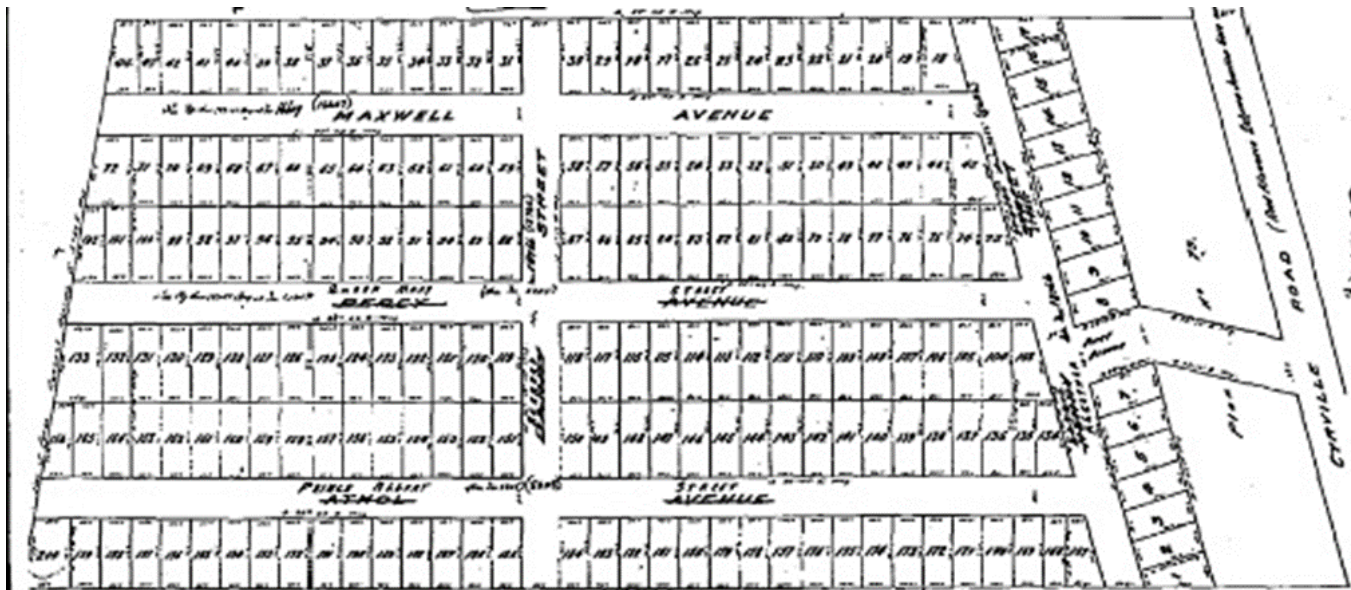
1912 (September 1) – The **Rideau Lawn Tennis Club** is established by former members of the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club. A 40-year lease is given by Esther Wolff to the founding members of the club for 3 acres, which was transferred to the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club Ltd. on November 30, 1912.

1916 (May) – The **Footbridge** between Strathcona Park and the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club was **swept away** by high water.

1916 – **Overbrook Public School** opens (Gloucester School Section 25) at **149 King George Street**.



Second Overbrook Plan 318



Third Overbrook Plan 333 (Eastview Heights)

1916 (July 5) – **Elizabeth Parker**, second wife of **Charles Weatherall** dies following a July 4th kitchen fire accident at their Russell Road and Prince Albert Street home. A three year old son, Arthur also dies.

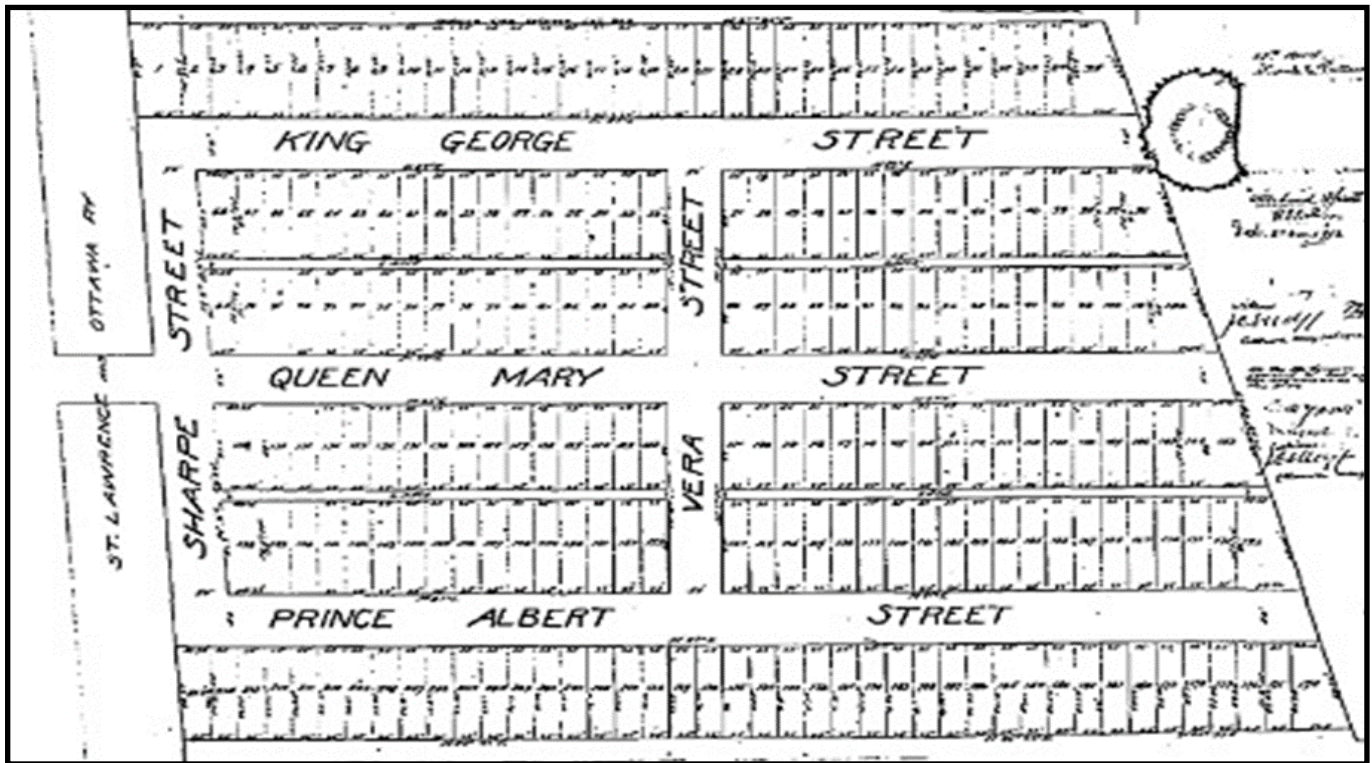
1918 – **McCrae's Grocery Store** at **76 Queen Mary Street** is operated by Laura Rosetta McCrae (1885-1958) (née Bourne) until November 1957 when Laura retired. The business continued in

operation as **Queen Mary Confectionary** at least until 1981.

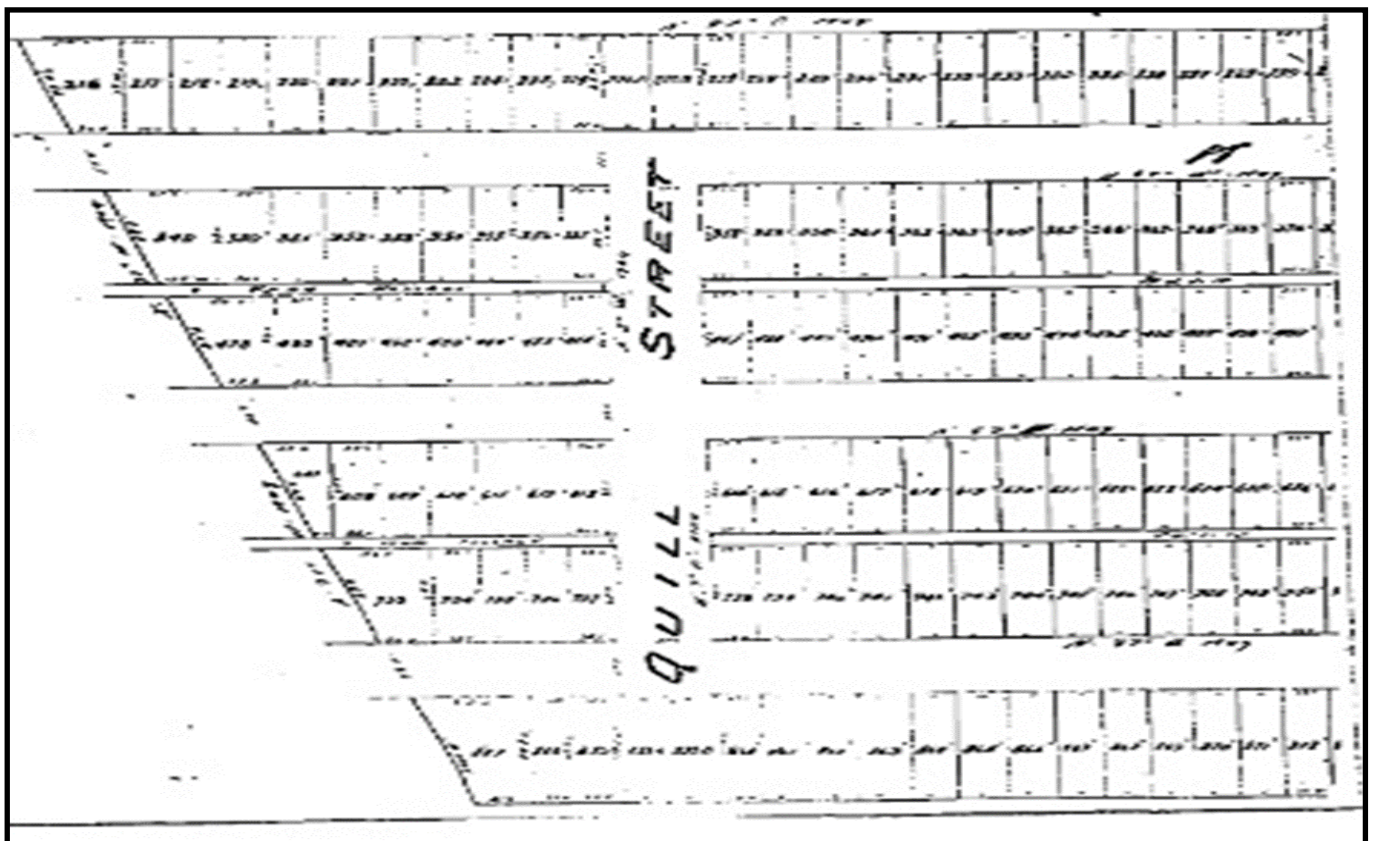
1919 – **James F. Leonard** (1888-1974), a native of Cyrville, takes up residence on the south side of Tremblay Road, just east of the CPR tracks where he establishes an **ice-house** that operated from 1924 until 1949, when the property was sold for the construction of the Queensway and railway relocation.

1919 (April 14) – The **Overbrook Post Office** opens at 20 Russell Road (1066 North River Road at Queen Mary Street). The first postmaster

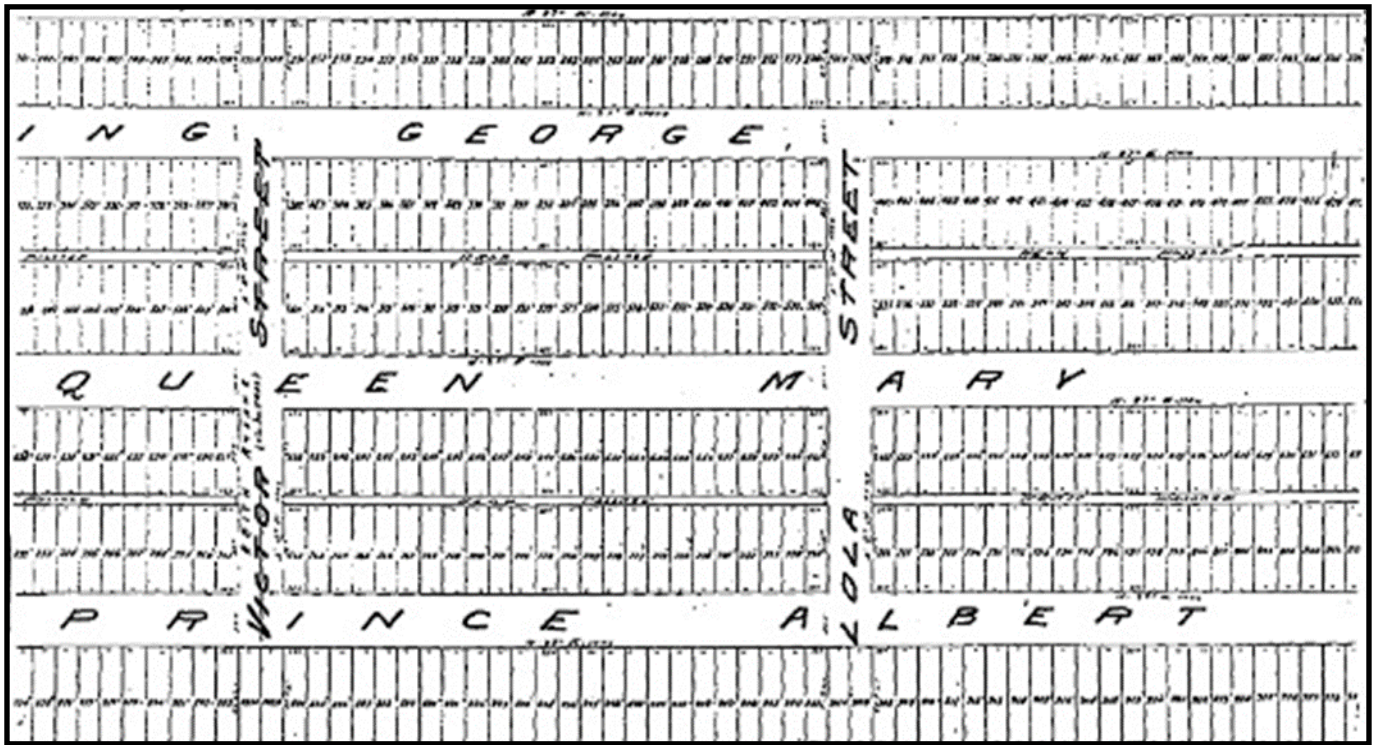
was J. Sedvall. The post office closed on July 31, 1950.



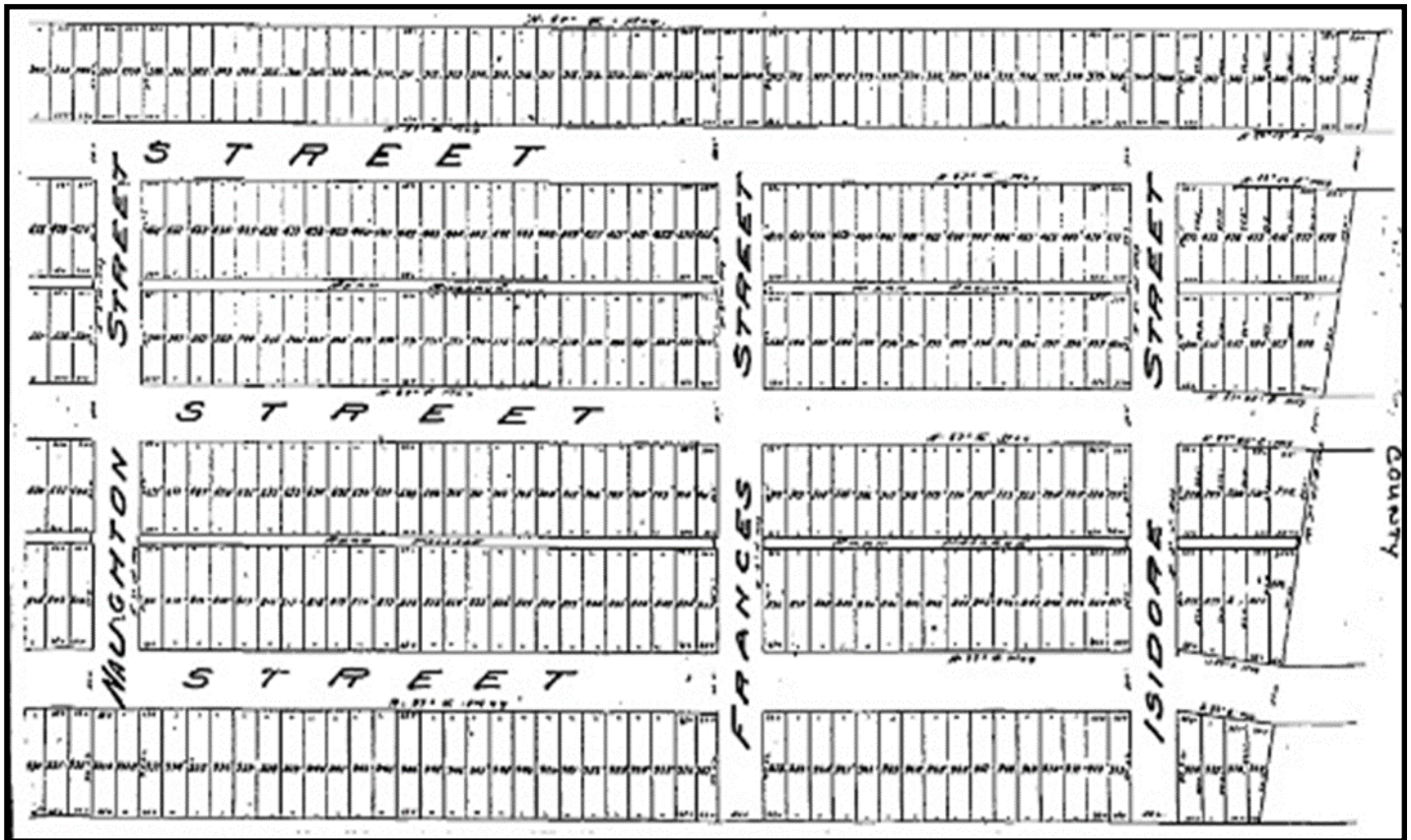
Fourth Overbrook Plan 341



Fifth Overbrook Plan 342 Part 1



Fifth Overbrook Plan 342 Part 2



Fifth Overbrook Plan 342 Part 3



First Phase of Overbrook Public School built in 1916



1066 North River Road was the Post Office from the 1920s to the 1940s and later a Barber shop



This building at 1125 North River Road was the final location of the Hurdman's Bridge Post Office operated by Mrs. Idola Pigeon from 1954 until April 18, 1959. She had previously operated the office at the southeast corner of Tremblay Road and Russell Road until it was demolished for construction of the new Hurdman's Bridge in 1954-55

1919 (June 8) – The **Rideau Lawn Tennis Clubhouse** is destroyed by fire.

1919 (September) – Three and a half miles of **concrete sidewalk** is installed by Hiram Osborne Wood.



The steps of Joan of Arc School. Grade 1 class, early 1940s. Miss Proulx, teacher, Joe Bones in military uniform

1920 (March 5) – The **Overbrook Rate-payers' Association** is founded.

1922 (August 15) – The **Overbrook Police Village** is founded when Carleton County Council approves a by-law

1923 (February 15) – The **First Overbrook Community Hall** officially opens at 194 Russell Road (1036 North River Road). The property was acquired by John S. Nicholson, William Lafleur and Andrew Kirkwood in trust for the Police Village on August 17, 1922, at which time the hall was built. John Nicholson had been a member of Gloucester Township Council and William Lafleur served on the Board of Trustees of the Overbrook Police Village. **Michael Lackner** purchased the hall on February 1, 1947. He operated an Auction business known as 'Lackner Enterprises'. The building was sold to His Majesty the King on March 16, 1948, but the auction business continued until the end of 1960. The building was demolished in 1961.

1923 (June 25) – **Esther Wolff (née Sparks)** dies.

1924 (January 7) – **Joan of Arc Separate School** (Overbrook Separate School) opens at 1151 North River Road. (Gloucester Roman Catholic School Section 10)

1924 (May 5) – Gloucester Township approves the installation of **streetlights at intersections** in Overbrook

1924 (May 17) – **Riverdale Tennis Club** opens west of the North River Road/King George Street intersection

1924 (June) – **St. Lucy's Hall** opens at 114 King George Street, which was an offshoot of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Vanier

1924 (July 31) – **Herbert Brockington** (1896-1973) purchases a lot at 26 Stevens Avenue (originally Union Street). He serves on the Overbrook Police Village Board of Trustees from 1930 to 1947. The house passes to wife Alice Celine (née Bonenfant) on September 23, 1935, and to son and daughter in law Russell and Blanche Brockington on April 6, 1961. It remains in Brockington ownership until November 20, 1986. Herbert was great-grandfather to current Ottawa City Councillor (River Ward), **Riley Brockington**. Herbert's father, Frederick George had been the gardener for Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden.

1925 (June 15) – **Harry Hayley** (1880-1959) acquires 5 ½ acres immediately west of the old concrete Hurdman's Bridge to expand his **concrete product business** (manufacturer of cinder blocks), which was established in 1904. On June 1,

1949, the property was transferred to Harry Hayley and Sons Limited. The business went into bankruptcy in February 1966 and the property was sold on January 7, 1969. Today, it is the **Hurdman Yard Office Garage**.



Sunday School Class at St. Lucy's Hall

1926 – **Overbrook Gospel Tabernacle** opens at 2 Prince Albert Street.

1928 (October 18) – The **footbridge** at the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club is washed away.

1929 – **Charles Weatherall** establishes an auto salvage business on Russell Road (North River Road) (Land Records) named **Russell Road Auto Salvage**.

1930 – The **Overbrook Volunteer Fire Brigade** is established

1936 – **Tel-Aviv Tennis Club** replaces the Riverdale Tennis Club on North River Road.

1936 (March 30)– The **Robert Sparks House** was severely damaged by a fire on Russell Road (North River Road) near the Overbrook/Vanier boundary. Described as a landmark, the two-storey brick house had a tower and was vacant at the time of the fire. It was in the process of conversion into four apartments. The house was owned by Marion H.W. Cameron.

1937 – Charles Weatherall establishes the **Riverside Campsite**, a tourist cabin resort located west of Russell Road (North River Road) along the Rideau River at the Presland Road (Keefer Street) intersection.

1939 (July 28) The CNR abandons the former **Canadian Northern Railway** eastward from Hurdman's Bridge

1940 (February 18) A spectacular crash involving a dairy truck and a CPR passenger train travelling from Montreal to Ottawa occurred at the Base Line Road level crossing (now St. Laurent Boulevard). This resulted in the death of **John Howard Anderson**, age 55 and his son John Howard Jr., age 11 of Elmdale Dairy Farm, Hurdman's Bridge. They were the grandson and great grandson of pioneer Alexander Anderson. Following this tragedy, the farm was sold on January 16, 1942, to James Edward Margetts.



Steam Shovel breaching old Canadian Northern Railway right of way to open up a creek south of Presland Road, circa 1939.

1941 – Overbrook becomes part of the **East District ARP (Air Raid Precautions)**

1941 (March 12) – Georges Henri Joseph Prest (1888-1951) purchases a lot on the west side of Russell Road (230 Russell Road now 1080 North River Road), south of Queen Mary where he operated a business known as **Prest Meat Market/Overbrook Meat Market/Overbrook Market and Grocery Store**. Due to planned expropriation of the Rideau River shoreline, he sold his lot and business to His Majesty the King on May 10, 1949. The business continued until George Prest's death on May 20, 1951. By August 1952, the building is rented out and becomes H. & L. Sales Appliances and in 1953, Leo L. Labrie Appliances. By July 1956, it became **Riverside Meat Market**, which remained in business until at least 1970. The building was demolished by 1976. George Prest previously lived at 89 King George Street (1939) and in 1921 at 227 Marier in Eastview. 'Prest' was sometimes spelt as 'Press' and was originally the Italian name 'Presta'.



Tel-Aviv Tennis Club circa 1940

1941 (June 17) – Gloucester Township begins selling Overbrook lots previously lost to tax arrears for **wartime housing**

1941 (December 2) – **Train derailment** at Hurdman's Bridge results in the death of the train engineer and the injury of twenty-four passengers. The engine, an express car, a day-coach and two sleeping cars left the tracks.

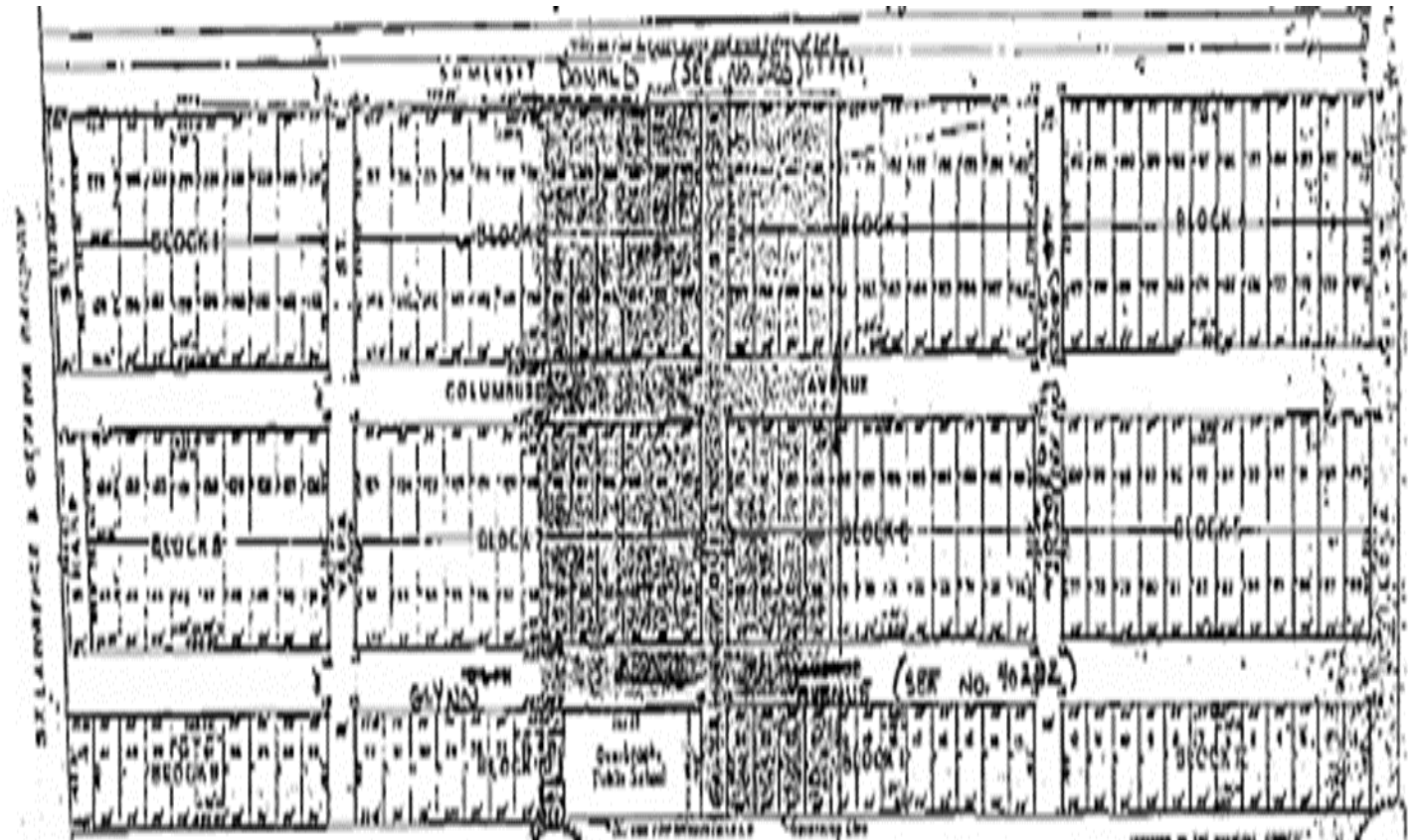
1942 – **Notre Dame de la Présentation/Our Lady of the Presentation Roman Catholic Church** opens as a bilingual parish at 1161 North River Road. This was built on the railway right of way that was abandoned in 1939.

1942 (October 20) – Canadian Northern Ontario Railway sells abandoned right of way to the Hydro Electric Power Corporation of Ontario for a **hydro corridor**.

1944 (April 28) – **Subdivision Plan 441** registered by Mary E. Wolff eastward from the railway to Lola Street and including Glynn and Columbus Avenues and Donald Street.



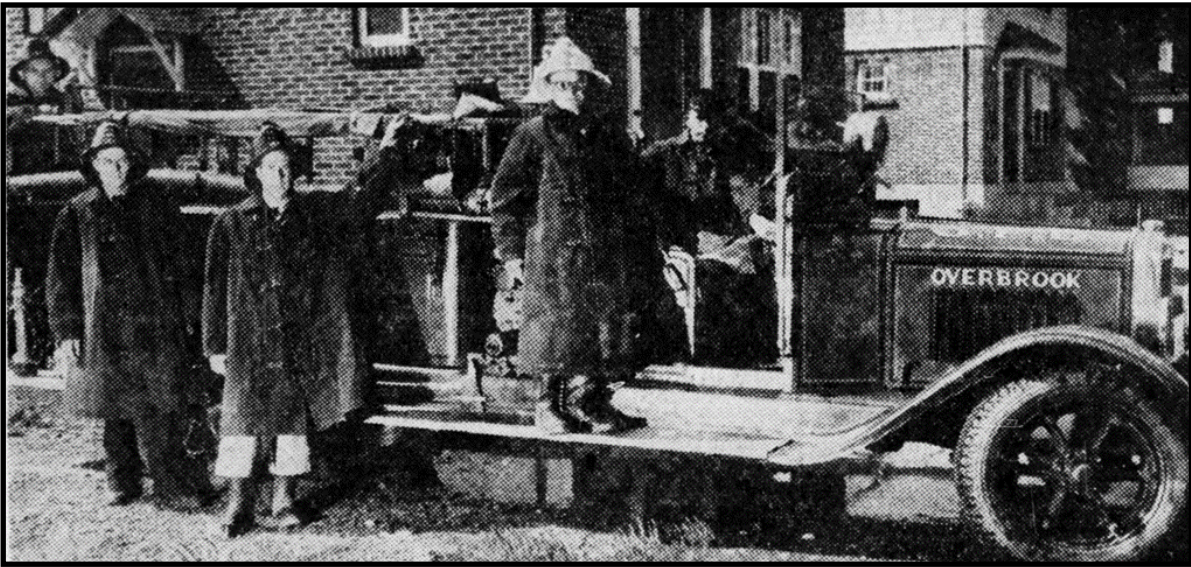
Charles Weatheral House, 1123 North Road built in the mid 1930s and demolished in 2011.



Overbrook Plan 441

1944 – **Overbrook Volunteer Fire Brigade** leases property on the south side of King George Street for a **fire hall** to store the recently acquired fire truck. It was immediately west of the railway tracks and adjacent to the

home of volunteer firefighter Herb Mentzel. The second house in the background of the following photo is still present at 54 King George Street. The fire brigade ceased to exist when Overbrook was annexed in 1950.



Overbrook Volunteer Fire Department - When Overbrook ratepayers have a fire, they telephone 2-8764 and within minutes this truck appears with members of the volunteer fire brigade to cope with the blaze. Left to right above they are: Firemen Herb Mentzel, Louis Deslauriers, Dick Kean, Chief J.J. White and Lieut. Jim Percival.

1944 - James Clandeboye “Clan” Sparks Wolff retires from farming and begins subdividing the Wolff farm consisting of the remaining portion of Lot 8, Junction Gore in Wolff ownership.

1945 (October 29) **Detective Thomas Stoneman**, of 164 Prince Albert Street, is the first Ottawa police officer to lose his life in the line of duty. He was shot on October 24th near the south entrance of the Bytown Inn on O’Connor Street. The gun used had been stolen from the Canadian War Museum.



The dedication of Notre Dame de la Presentation Church by Archbishop Alexandre Vachon (left), assisted by Reverend Father Leon Dubeau (right). English presentation by Joe Bones (left—facing the other way) and French presentation by Yvon Brind d’Amour (right—facing the other way)



The attic of Notre Dame de la Presentation Roman Catholic Church.

Father Leon Dubeau, Parish Priest on the right near the end of the table.

Joe Bones, ninth from left in back row.

1945 (December 12) – The house and stable at **Margetts' Riding Academy** on Tremblay Road is destroyed by fire. The academy and the Whillans farm were both accessed by a laneway running north from Tremblay Road and were located near the current RCMP headquarters and Vanier Parkway right of way. The academy was owned by James Edward Margetts (1880-1969), a veteran of the Boer War and World War I and pioneer instructor with the RCMP Musical Ride who had retired from the RCMP in 1937. Two of his grandchildren died in the fire as well as eight horses. The Academy continued to operate until 1949 when 100 horses were put up for sale. Between 1946 and 1949, the farm was sold off in parts and as lots and the remainder was expropriated to make way for the Queensway and today's Vanier Parkway interchange and roadway.

1946 – **René Sundries**, 212 Russell Road (1058 North River Road) (named for original owner René Charles Desautels) is sold to Arthur Dugal. As part of the expropriation plan for Rideau River properties, the lot is sold to Her Majesty the Queen on May 29, 1952. The business remained at this location until 1959. The building was subsequently demolished. In 1955, Arthur Dugal, obtained two lots at 351 Donald Street, where he relocates the business. It remained there until 1983. Today, the business is known as **Dumouchel Meat and Deli**.

1946 (January 23) **Sixteen left homeless**, when a fire destroys a three flat single storey house (formerly a garage) at the **Riverside Campsite** on Russell Road, which had been owned by Charles Weatherall.

1947 (February 15) – Horace G. Whillans and wife sell land north of Coventry Road to the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Corporation of Ontario for a **Hydro substation**.

1947 (March 21) – The **Overbrook Home and School Association** is founded. The first president is **Mrs. Alice Low (née Litchfield)**. Her husband, **Solon Earl Low** (1900-1962) was the Leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada from April 6, 1944, until July 6, 1961, and Member of Parliament for Peace River

(Alberta) from June 11, 1945, to March 31, 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Low were residents of 20 King George Street which they purchased on February 5, 1947 and resold on June 20, 1958.



Solon Earl Low, Leader of Social Credit Party of Canada, and resident at 20 King George Street.

1947 (April) – The worst **Rideau River flood** in memory.

1947 (October 1) – Overbrook riverside **properties begin to be expropriated by the Federal District Commission**

1948 – **William Frederick Sylvester** (1875-1950) retires from his Greenhouse business at **153 Russell Road** (North River Road south of Donald Street).

1948 (May 18)– **Valiquette Brothers Grease Factory** along the shores of the Rideau River was destroyed by fire. This had been originally **Valiquette's Tannery**. The property was purchased by Alphonse B. Valiquette on April 28, 1880 and transferred to Valiquette Brothers on May 16, 1921.



Valiquette Brothers Grease Factory, commonly known as 'The Tannery,' was destroyed by fire on May 18, 1948.

1948 (August 31) – The **Overbrook Recreation Commission** is established.

1948 (December 3) – **Riverside Campsite** tourist cabins are being sold off by Federal District Commission and the cabins are removed over the next year.

1949 (February 19) – The First annual **Overbrook Ice (Winter) Carnival**.

1949 (March 19) – The **Overbrook Gospel Tabernacle**, 2 Prince Albert Street is destroyed by fire.

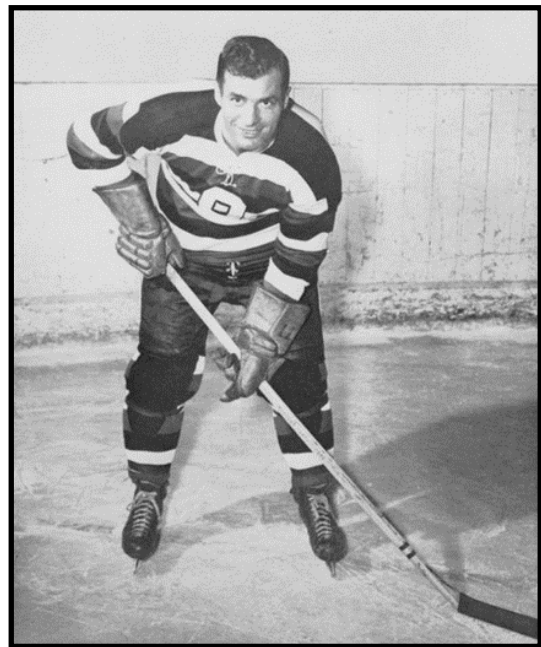
1949 (May 7) – Overbrook native **Connie Tudin** (1917-1988) wins the Allan Cup with the Ottawa Senators Senior Hockey Team

1949 (June) – **Stone Sparks House** at 936-940 North River Road (previously 108-110 Russell Road) was sold to the Federal District Commission by Gwendolyn Ermina Armstrong (née Wolff) (1911-1953) and Fred S. and Vera M. Horler (née Wolff) (1902-1953). They had acquired the house from C.E.S. Wolff, administrator of the Estate of Mary E. Wolff in June 1945.

1949 (July 29) – The **Footbridge** is **overturned** in a storm

1949 (September 20) – **Overbrook Chiefs** win Gloucester Township softball championship.

1950 – A **convent** was built by the **Francis-**



Connie Tudin

can Missionary Sisters of Mary at 145 Presland Road and included a Francophone Women's Closed Retreat House. In 1962, a Day Care Centre named **Le Centre des Petits** was added. The Convent buildings were sold in 2011 and demolished in 2012. It was replaced by Les Terrasses Francesca apartment buildings completed in 2018.

1950 (January 1) – **Overbrook** annexed into the City of Ottawa

1950 (February 7) Sergeant **Jimmy Varaleau** of the RCAF, and who grew up in Overbrook, won the title in weightlifting in light-heavyweight division at the British Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand. He also represented Canada at the 1948 and 1952 Olympics and was inducted into the Greater Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

1950 (May 1) – **Joan of Arc Separate School** is renamed **Notre Dame de la Présentation Separate School**

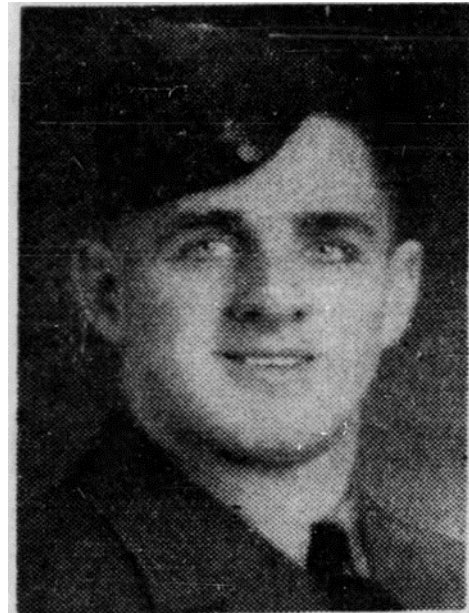
1950 (November 24) – **Overbrook Community Centre** opens at Overbrook Public School. It was officially opened by Solon Low, Leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada and Overbrook resident.

1950 (December 29) – **Ottawa Transportation Commission buses replace Eastview Bus Company buses** in Overbrook. Service had begun in 1927 or earlier via Russell Road and Cummings Bridge. A short-lived service operated by Mrs. Gorman from Hurdman's Bridge into Ottawa via Nicholas Street ran from 1928 to 1930.

1951 – **Thomas Flanagan** (1928-2002), who spent his teenage years at his parent's home at 128 Prince Albert and later lived at 184 Prince Albert, joins the Ottawa Police Force. He became **Ottawa Chief of Police** from 1989 until his retirement in 1993.

1951 (January 27) – **Horace Gilmore Whillans** (1899-1988) and wife Thelma Belle Pope (1898-1994) sell the remainder of the Whillans farm at Lot

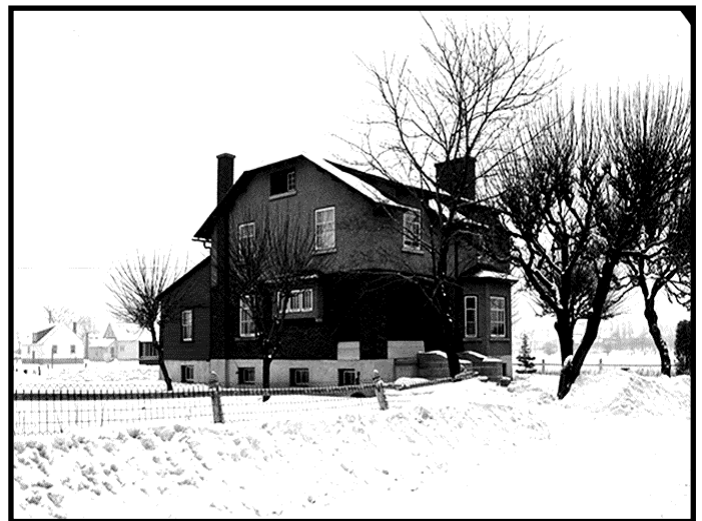
10 Junction Gore to the Federal District Commission for the construction of the Queensway



Title Winner — Jimmy Varaleau, 29, of Overbrook who won the light-heavyweight weightlifting title today at the British Empire Games. Varaleau is an RCAF sergeant and in charge of physical training at Rockcliffe. He is the son of Mrs. Margaret Varaleau, Prince Albert Street, Overbrook.



*Ottawa Police Chief Tom Flanagan,
A long time resident of Overbrook*



House on Presland Road just east of the railway that was used by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary. Their convent was just to the east. Up to 1948, this was the residence of Walter C. Sylvester, a well-known Ottawa architect

This article will continue in the Fall issue of Historic Gloucester , coming soon!

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