



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Prince Albert Street, Overbrook, May 1955



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President's Report

By Glenn Clark

With two newsletters being sent out together, my report will be brief for this edition. The second part of the Overbrook Time-Line history follows.

I am pleased to announce that I will be leading an Overbrook Community Walk on Saturday, October 22, 2022 starting at 10 a.m. Details can be found on our website www.gloucesterhistory.com.

Our winter newsletter will include my research notes from my May 7th Jane's Walk in Old Ottawa South, as well as a submitted story on the Bristow family.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Overbrook Timeline History

- Continued from last Issue

Glenn Clark, President, Gloucester Historical Society

1951 (February 24) – **Riverview Community Church** dedicated on the former site of the Overbrook Gospel Tabernacle at 2 Prince Albert Street.

1952 (May 26) – Rideau River **Footbridge** is **swept downstream** by strong currents. It was not rebuilt.

1952 (September 2) – William and Martha Lewis sell a 4-acre plot to Ottawa Lowren Housing Company Limited for a **58-unit low rent housing project** on the north side of Presland Road with occupancy to begin on May 1, 1953. This was Ottawa's first low rent project. The streets were named for Mayor Charlotte Whitton. This replaced temporary

housing units in converted war barracks at Rockcliffe and Uplands that the federal government was gradually reclaiming. During 1953 to 1955, many additional low rent units were built by the same company on King George, Queen Mary and Prince Albert. The French speaking counterpart, Le Bon Logis d'Ottawa, decided on a different concept, building inexpensive single-family homes with the potential of rent to own.

1953 (January) – **RCMP Headquarters opens** at Hurdman's Bridge at a site originally built to be a Roman Catholic Seminary

1953 (June 8) – Halim 'Al' Ferris Saikali, known for **Al's Steakhouse** on Elgin Street acquires a house at 115 Glynn Avenue where he lived until the house was sold on July 7, 1969. In 1952, he opened his first restaurant, the **Riverside Tea Room** at 1082 Riverside Drive, in the same building that formerly housed Prest Meat Market.



RCMP Headquarters near Hurdman's Bridge, originally planned as a Roman Catholic Seminary



Halim 'Al' Saikali (Centre) of Al's Steak-house, Elgin Street

1953 (September) – Our Lady of Presentation Separate School opens at 1151 North River Road. It was renamed St. Ignatius School in 1961. Closed in June 1972. It is now Shiloh Holiness Church.

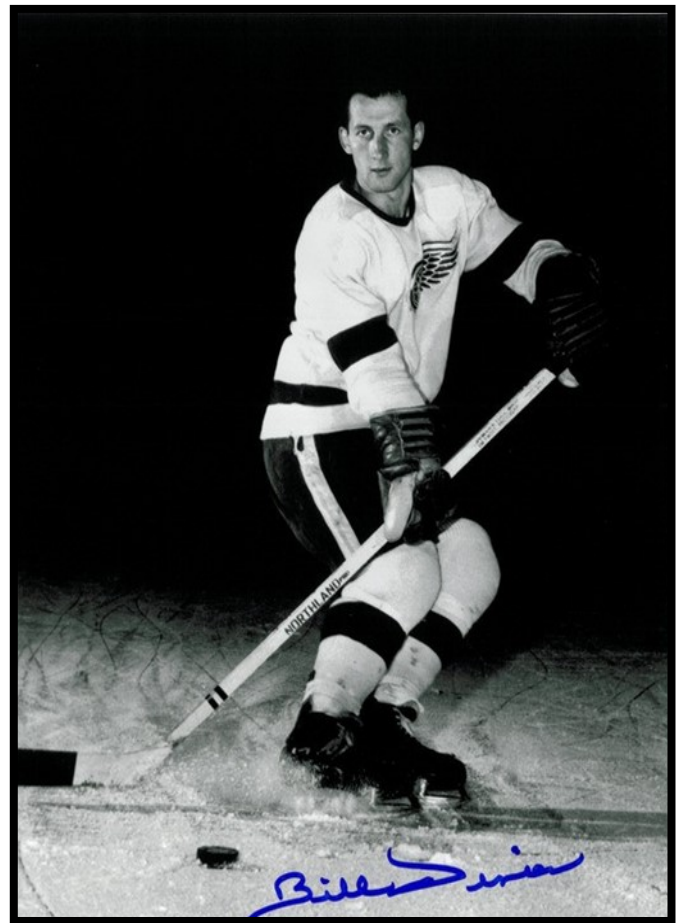
1953 (September) Bill Dineen (1932-2016) who grew up at 16 Queen Mary Street, signs with the Detroit Red Wings, where he played from 1953 to 1958 and played on two Stanley Cup winning teams in 1954 and 1955. He retired from playing hockey in 1971. From 1972 to 1978, he was head coach of the Houston Aeros of the World Hockey Association, and after coaching in the minors for several years, he finished his coaching career as head coach of the Philadelphia Flyers in 1992 and 1993. In 1973, he convinced former teammate Gordie Howe to come out of retirement, to play with his sons Mark and Marty Howe with the Houston Aeros. His son, Kevin has had a lengthy NHL and coaching career including one season with the Ottawa Senators in 1999-2000.

1953 (October 14) – **Bon Logis subdivision** is registered under **Plan 588** by Bon Logis d'Ottawa Limited. This was a single-family home project that was Ottawa's second low rental project.

1954 (June 14) – **Castle Heights** subdivision is registered under **Plan 613** by Alesther Marion H. Cameron with the contractor being Castle Heights Construction Company Ltd.

1955 (September) – **Queen Mary Public School opens** at 557 Queen Mary Street

1955 (October 16) – **St. David's Presbyterian Church opens** at 473 Donald Street. It closed on September 15, 1968, when it merged with St. Martin's Church on St. Laurent Boulevard.



1955 (December 12) – **St. Paul's Separate School** opens at 437 Donald Street. It was renamed St. Michael's Catholic School in 2001.

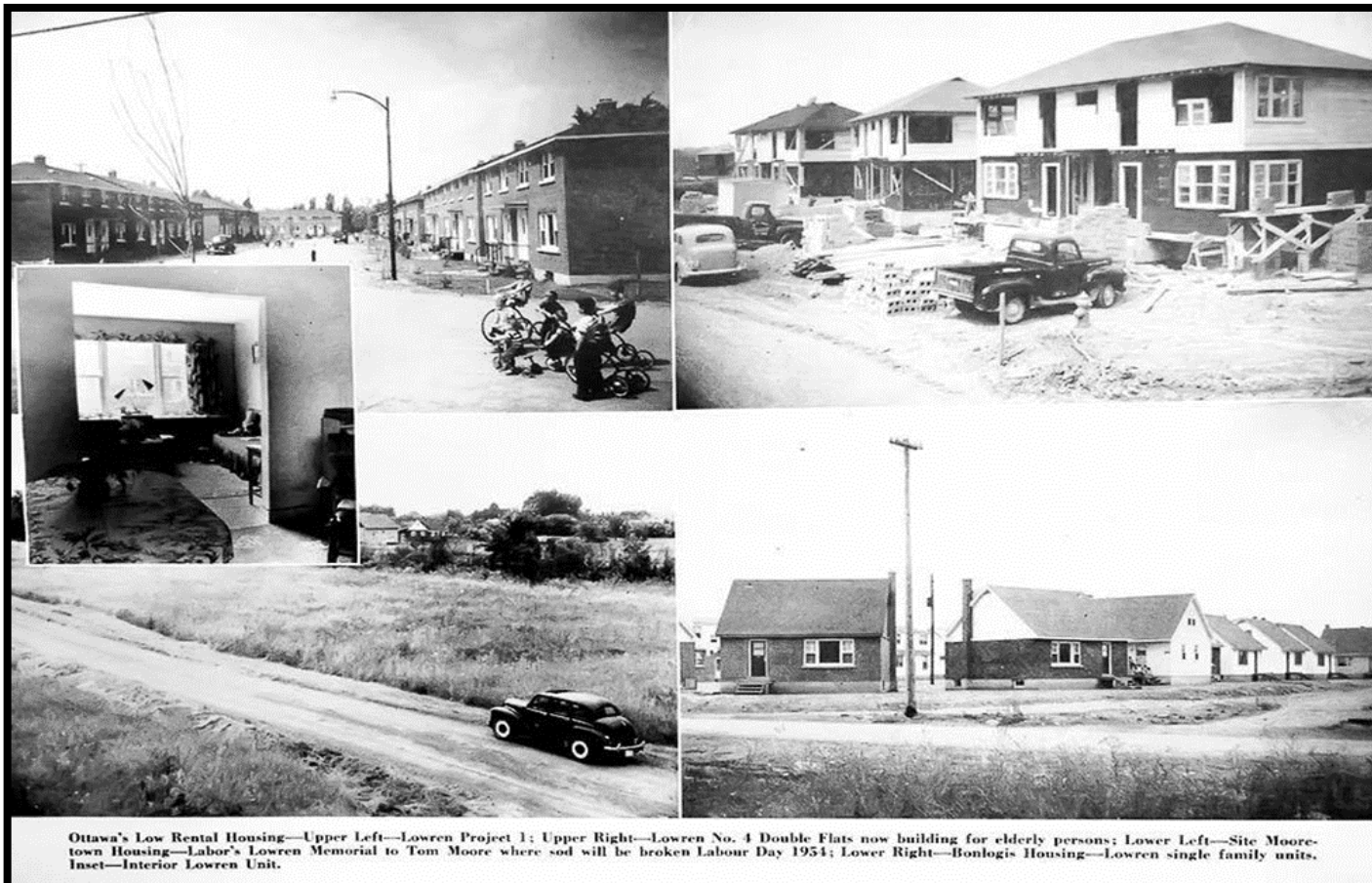
1955 (December 19) – **The New Hurdman's Bridge opens**, which eventually is used by the Queensway

1957 – **Tel Aviv Tennis Club closes**. The clubhouse was demolished in late 1958. The club property was sold to the Federal District Commission on January 18, 1954.

1957 – **St. Michael Separate School** opens at 741 Bernard Street. It was merged with **St. Paul Separate School** in 2001 under the name St. Michael Catholic School. The Bernard Street school was **demolished by 2003**.

1957 (October 15) – Queen Elizabeth launches **Queensway** construction at Hurdman's Bridge.

1958 (March 6) – **Dominion Store opens** at 995 **Riverside Drive** (North River Road) and the corner of Donald Street. The Dominion Store was sold on September 28, 1971. **BouClair's House of Fabric** opened on March 30, 1972 and closed in 1988. The property was **sold to Waterbrooke Development Ltd.** on October 31, 1988. A condominium and Freehold Townhouse development replaced the store in 1990-1991.



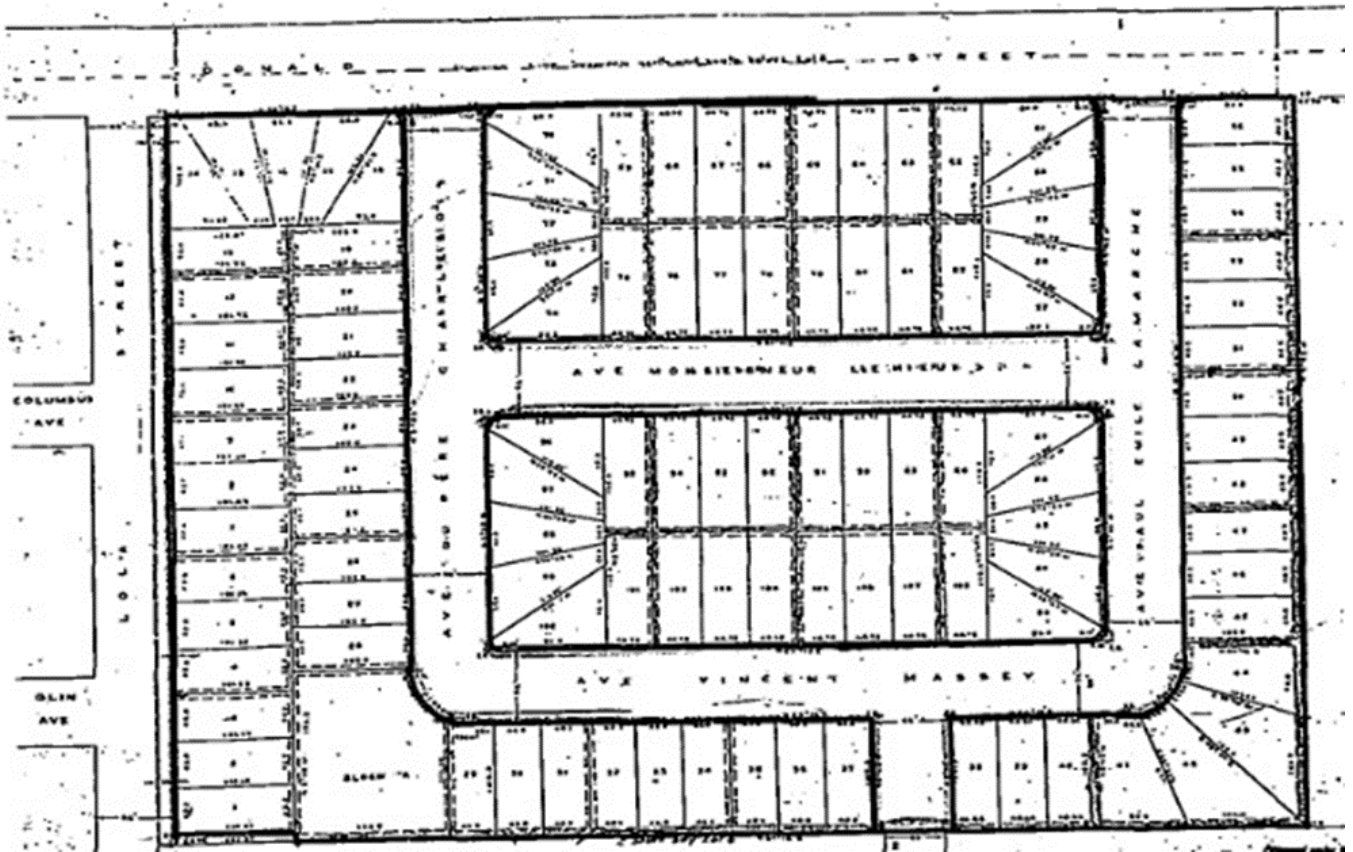
Note: Mooretown was on Merivale Road



Softball Victors—The Overbrook Chiefs took the Gloucester Township softball championship, winning the final game from Uplands 3-2 on the Eastview diamond and thus taking the series in three straight games. The winners included,

front row, left to right: D. Scharfe, G. Pranschke, Jr., mascot; W. Wings; middle row: J. Sullivan, A. Charrette, L. Barclay, G. Valois; back row: G. Pranschke, coach; R. Murphy, R. Garrard, A. McAndrews, R. MacDonald, M. Ryan, manager.

—Photo by Vlau



Bon Logis subdivision Plan 588



Castle Heights Plan 613

1959 – Riverside Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses opens at 150 Donald Street.

1959 (September) – **St. Laurent Separate School opens** at 1161 St. Laurent Blvd. It closed in June 1984 and was demolished by 2005.

1959 (December 16) – **Francis Xavier Laderoute Jr.**, the founder of Overbrook dies.

1959 (December 24) – The **Alta Vista Queensway interchange** (now Vanier Parkway) opens to traffic. At this point, southbound Russell Road was closed at Hurdman’s Bridge and the old 1906 Hurdman’s Bridge is closed to motorized traffic.

1960 - (November 25) – The **Queensway opens** from Hurdman’s Bridge to Green’s Creek.

1961 – St. Ignatius the Martyr Roman Catholic Church at **518 Donald Street** opens as an Anglophone parish.

1961 – Notre Dame de la Présentation Catholic Church relocates to 245 Donald Street as a Francophone parish. **Saints Peter and Paul Melkite Catholic Church** takes over the North River Road site.

1961 – St. Sebastien Roman Catholic Church at 1000 Frances Street opens. The parish was established in 1959 to serve the Francophone community in Overbrook.

1961 (July 14) – An improved **Strathcona Beach** opens with a sandy shoreline, lifeguards, and portable change rooms. Officially, it had this name for many years but it was popularly known as **Dutchy’s (Dutchie’s) Hole**, a favourite swimming spot opposite from Overbrook and north of the ‘Black Bridge’, the most northerly of the railway bridges at Hurdman’s Bridge. In 1968, a permanent beach building was constructed. Pollution became a major issue for all City of Ottawa beaches in 1970. With the city using the Strathcona location as a winter snow dump, a slaughterhouse being a short distance upstream, and cross contaminated storm sewers releasing affluent particularly after rainstorms, the pollution readings were particularly high at Strathcona. The following year, Strathcona Beach was closed permanently. Other popular Overbrook swimming spots included the ‘Sparks Rapids’ just south of the footbridge where the water was very shallow in the summer, ‘First Rock’, ‘Second Rock’, ‘Third Rock’ and the ‘Black Bridge’.

1961 (September 22) – **Aladdin Bowling Lanes** opens at **435 Donald Street**. It closed in 2000.

1965 (July) – **St. Lucy’s Hall** closes and was replaced with a house not long after.

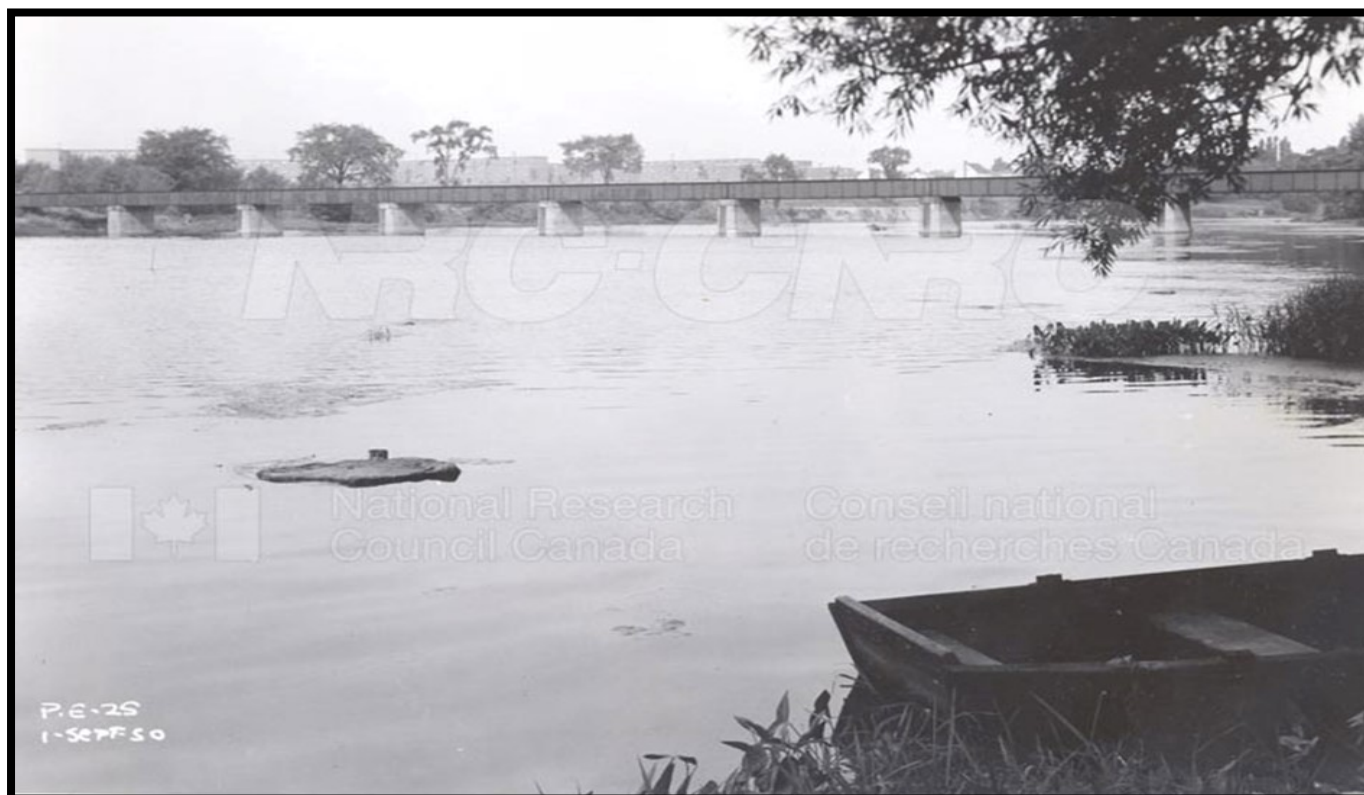
1966 (June 15) – **CPR abandons tracks** through Overbrook (Sussex Street subdivision).



Dutchy’s/Dutchie’s Hole in the 1920s, likely a little north of the 1960s Strathcona Beach



'Sparks Rapids' facing west with the old Strathcona Isolation Hospital in the background



The 'Black Bridge' originally built for the Canadian Northern Railway



The last CPR train crossing the Queensway at Hurdman's Bridge on June 14, 1966



Hurdman Interlocking Tower with the RCMP buildings in the background circa 1966

1965 (October 8) – **St. Paul's Anglican Church** is dedicated at **194 Prince Albert Street**. It closed at the end of 1996.

1966 (June 15) – **CPR abandons tracks** through Overbrook (Sussex Street subdivision).

1966 (July 31) – The **New Ottawa railway station** opens on **Tremblay Road** replacing the downtown Union Station.

1966 (September 6) – **Vanier Composite Separate School** opens as a Francophone boy's vocational school at **225 Donald Street** which became **Centre Polyvalent J.M** and **Centre Polyvalent Vanier**. They became girl's and boy's vocational schools respectively and were operated by the Ottawa Separate School Board. In September 1971, it became **École secondaire Cartier** (Sir Georges Etienne Cartier High School) operated by the Ottawa Board of Education.

1966 (November 8) – The **Hurdman Interlocking Tower** is demolished.

1966 (November 18) – The **Overbrook Community Centre** opens at **33 Quill Street**.

1967 (April) – **Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy School** for the intellectually disabled opens at **181 Donald Street**. The school was officially opened by American Ambassador Walter Butterworth on September 27, 1967 and honours the mother of American President John F. Kennedy.

1967 (June 7) – The **Ottawa and District Adult Training Centre** is officially opened at **161 Donald Street**. It was renamed the **Loeb Centre** in 1983. The project had been funded in 1966 by Bertram Loeb on condition that the donation remain anonymous for 15 years.

1967 (October 4) – **St. Laurent Shopping Centre** opens.

1968 (Fall) – **Demolition of the two CNR bridges** near Hurdman's Bridge including the 'Black' bridge closest to Overbrook.

1969 – **Removal of the concrete piers of the two CNR bridges** near Hurdman's Bridge.

1971 (September) – **McArthur High School** opens at **485 Donald Street**, an Anglophone vocational school. Originally, this was to be the site of the bilingual Sir Georges Etienne Cartier High School but when 225 Donald Street became available, the school was split by language, with Cartier going to 225 Donald Street. Renamed **Ottawa Technical Secondary School** in 2001.

1977 (March) – Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy School at **181 Donald Street** is renamed **École Jeanne-Lajoie** to better reflect the Francophone student base. The school honoured Jeanne Lajoie who was a 1920's pioneer Francophone educator from Pembroke. The school closed in June 1996. It became an adult school named **Éducation sans frontières** in September 1997 and **Éducation Per-**

manente by 2007.

1980 (October 31) – **Vanier Parkway** opens between McArthur Avenue and Presland Road. The ramps at the Presland/North River Road intersection that predated the opening of the Vanier Parkway were removed in 2007.

1980 (March 30) – The new **Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church** at **1161 North River Road** opens. Demolition of the 1942 church and rectory is completed on July 15, 1980.

1983 (September 7) – The **old concrete Hurdman's Bridge** is closed to cyclists and pedestrians because of safety concerns.

1985 – **Riverside Kingdom Hall** at **150 Donald Street** is sold. It becomes **Eglise Baptiste Evangelique du Bon Berger** and in 1995 **Eglise Baptiste Evangelique Ebenezer**.

1986 – The 1906 **Hurdman's Bridge** is demolished.



Emile Houle sending a telegraph inside the Hurdman Interlocking Tower circa 1952

1987 (April 2) – Official opening of **Fire Station # 13 (now # 56)** at 275 Coventry Road.

1988 – **Alta Vista/Vanier Parkway Queensway interchange** is redesigned. Tremblay Road is fully re-routed south of the interchange and the Tremblay Road bridge over the Queensway is demolished.

1993 (April 17) – **The Ottawa Lynx Baseball Park (now known as RGCT Park – Raymond Chabot Grant Thorton Park)** opens.

1993 (July 23) – **St. Charbel Maronite Catholic Church** purchases Notre Dame de la Présentation Catholic Church at **245 Donald Street**. The parish was established in 1985 at 87 Mann Avenue (261 Russell Avenue).

1997 – **Ottawa East Seventh Day Adventist**

Church opens in the former St. Paul's Anglican Church building at 194 Prince Albert Street.

1997 (September) – **École Jeanne-Lajoie** at 181 Donald Street becomes the Francophone adult education school **Éducation sans frontières**. It later became **Éducation permanente**.

2000 – **Hampton Inn** at **100 Coventry Road** opens

2001 (August 31) – **Overbrook Public School** closes.

2001 (September) - **Ottawa Technical Secondary School** opens at 485 Donald Street

2001 (December 12) - The **Rideau Lawn Tennis Clubhouse** is destroyed by fire.



CNR Bridge near Hurdman's Bridge south of the Queensway during the March 1946 flood

2002 - **Le Centre Franco** opens at **345 Donald Street**, formerly the site of the Aladdin Bowling Lanes.

2003 - **St. Michael's Catholic School** at **741 Bernard Street** is demolished.

2005 - The **Ottawa Conference and Event Centre** opens at **200 Coventry Road**.

2008 - The **Second Sparks House** at the corner of Ontario Street and Marguerite Avenue is **demolished**. It is replaced the following year by **River Court Lofts**.

2012 (March) - **Courtyard by Marriott Hotel** opens at **200 Coventry Road**.

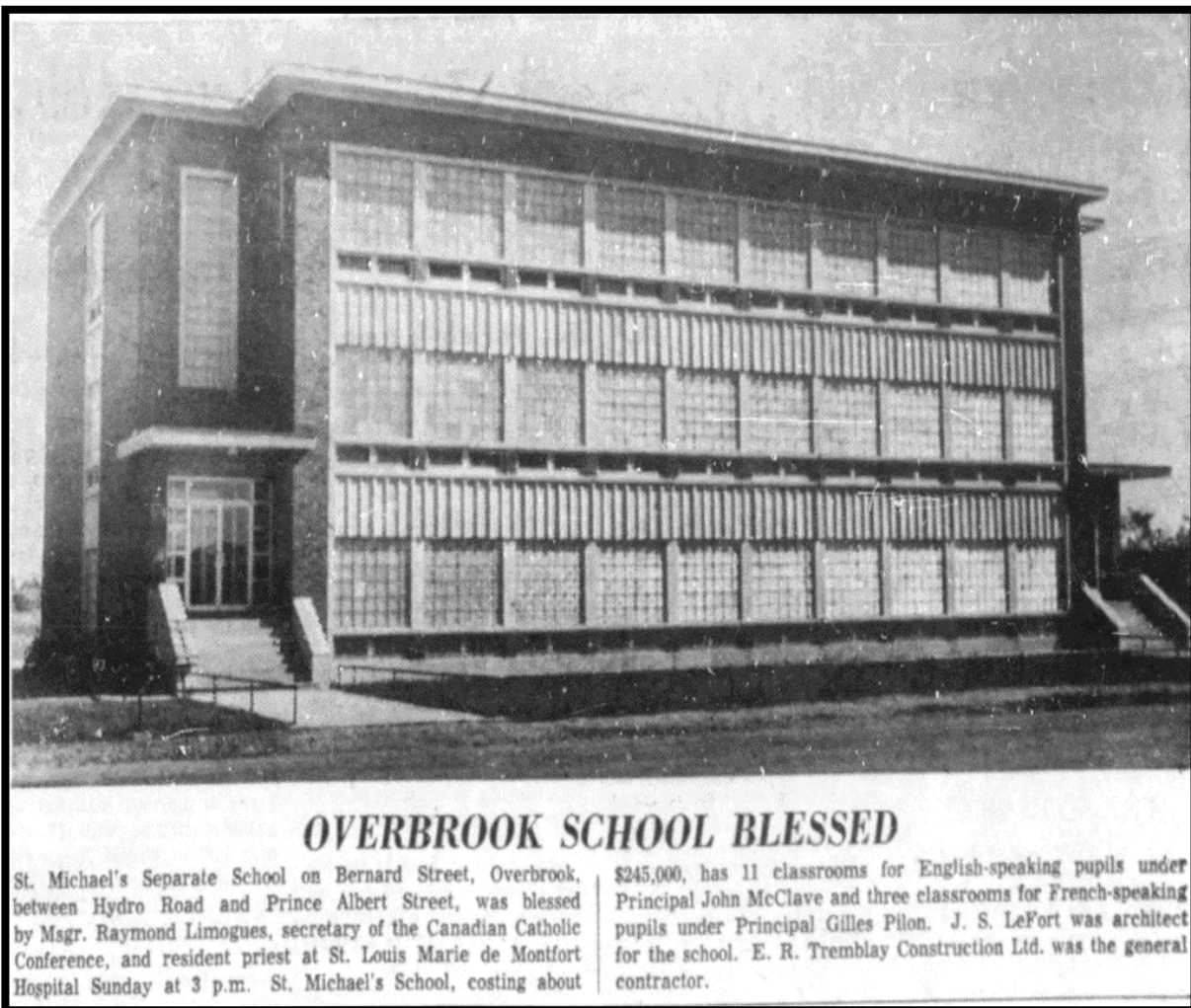
2013 - **Overbrook Community Association** is incorporated.

2015 (February 9) - The **Coventry Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge** opens over the Queensway connecting the RGCT Baseball Park to the Eastern Transitway land (and subsequently the Confederation Line). It was later renamed the **Max Keeping Bridge** on May 11, 2016, to honour the late CTV Ottawa News Anchor and community activist.

2015 (December 4) - The **Adawe Pedestrian Bridge** opens.

2017 (August 21) – The **Rideau Lawn Tennis Club** closes and is sold to the current owner, the **Rideau Sports Centre**.

2019 (September 14) - The **Confederation Line** (LRT) opens for service. The closest station serving Overbrook is Tremblay Station adjacent to the VIA Rail Station.



St. Michael's Separate School on Bernard Street

Overbrook Streets Named for Fallen World War II Airmen



Donald Street

Pilot Officer

John 'Donald' MacLeod



Presland Road

Flying Officer

Gordon Richard Presland



Stevens Avenue

Flying Officer

Maurice Frederick Stevens

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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 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.*

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 added 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

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