

FEBRUARY - MARCH

NEWSLETTER

The GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and GLOUCESTER MUSEUM

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Despite the winter doldrums, the Board has been busy making plans for the new season.

February 19th, there will be a number of our members at the Orléans Mall, from 1-4, with a display of artifacts of a one-room school. Desks, the bell used to summon students to class, old text books, etc., and interested young people will have a chance to find out how different education was in the "good old days". Come and have a look and give us any memories you may have about your school days in Orléans.

Heritage day is officially on Monday, the 20th, but we feel that there will be a larger audience on the Sunday. Also, that leaves Heritage day free for investigating other programs.

Our Annual Meeting is to be held on the first Sunday of April, the 2nd, at 2 p.m. We are pleased to announce that the speaker will be Nicol Mackie, author and Humorist.

A Nominating Committee will be contacting members, to fill positions on the Board, prior to this annual meeting.

The Smith Falls "Heritage House" has a visitor from our museum. Queen Bess, our Ayrshire cow, is spending two months there as the star in their Dairy Exhibit. Drop in and say "MOOOO"!

Lillian Kitchen

BACK TO THE PAST

An accident of an exciting character happened to Mrs. Billings not long after she was married. She had been on a visit to Merrickville with her husband, and they were returning home in their canoe. She was carrying her baby in her arms--Sabra, now living at Billings' Bridge, who was the first child born in the Township--and when approaching the Hog's Back Rapids, Philemon Wright, who was accompanying them in another canoe, by some mismanagement ran into theirs, threw Mr. Billings off balance, and sent their canoe over the rapids. This was a most dangerous rapid, and had never been attempted to be run by even the most expert Indians or raftsmen. Mr. Wright paddled ashore and ran down to the foot of the rapids, aghast at what he had done, and fully expecting to witness their mangled corpses dashed among the rocks midway. Mrs. Billings, however, firmly kept her seat, and bravely assisted her husband in balancing the frail bark; and by the best of good management, assisted by the best of good luck, and not forgotten by a kind over-ruling Providence, the little craft shot through the foaming waters and between and over rugged rocks, till on arriving in still water it was almost full of water and in a sinking condition; and in this exciting situation Mrs. Billings baled out the water while her husband paddled for dear life and they reached the shore again, to their own untold joy and Mr. Wright's supreme delight, just in time to save themselves for a watery grave. This is the only occasion on which a canoe ever ran the Hog's Back Rapids.

From the Belden Atlas of Carleton Co., 1879

S.S. #5 GLOUCESTER

THE SCHOOL has been mentioned by all former residents from young "39ers" to several over ninety years of age. TOLERANCE was at its beginning and ending.

The First School

Built of logs, the first school was situated on Lot 9 Concession 2, north of the core on the west side of the main road.

The earliest mention of it is in an old ledger dated 1851, which gives its designation as School Section #5 Gloucester. John Shanley was the first teacher named. The school may have been erected previously, as its closest neighbour, School Section #4 at "Hard Scrabble" was opened in 1838, and the two settlements were at the same stage of development. In the old ledger up to 1858, the financial transactions are in pounds, shillings and pence.

The 1861 census states that the log school was capable of holding 60, was in good condition, and that it was worth \$110.00! John Bowes, a former student, told in a newspaper interview in 1933 when he was aged 79 years, that there was a loft in the structure through which the stovepipe from the central wood-stove passed. Adventuresome older boys enjoyed climbing up there. This caused great merriment for some pupils, and absolute terror for others as to the inevitable price to be paid on their descent. John Bowes named some of his fellow students: Sarah and Kate Kealey, David O'Meara, Tom McEvoy, James, Patrick and Mary McEvoy, Kate and Jack McBride, Martin Quinn, Jerry and John Shane, William, Thomas and Elizabeth Nolan, and James and Michael Finley.

The log Glengarry schoolhouse at Upper Canada Village typifies those of the era.

On a raised platform at the front of the room, was the teacher's desk and chair. Invariably in full view, if not in the hands of the teacher, was a birch rod or leather strap, for use on mischievous pupils. Planks attached to the walls, as a long extended desk, and narrow wooden benches, sufficed for the children. Slates and slate pencils were used carefully because they cost money which was scarce, and they were hard to replace. Wood and water were brought into the school usually by the students. The toilet facilities were outside.

The three R's were the main subjects with a smattering of history and geography added according to the knowledge of the teacher. The few books available were handled with great care. Lessons were learned by the repetition of facts over and over until memorized and repeated at exam time. These included arithmetic tables, names of the townships in the county, and counties in the province. The prolonged monotone of children repeating their lessons was evidence of busy obedient pupils.

The superintendent of schools in the County of Carleton was the Reverend William Lochead in 1863. He was also the Presbyterian minister in "Hard Scrabble" and Long Island. His report about School Section #5 said that it had been open for twelve months with an attendance of 29 pupils, and that the teacher's name was John Kealey.

By 1872 when a change of the site was made, James O'Meara was the teacher.

Fr. Bowesville: A Place to Remember
by Grace Johnston

*GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE GLOUCESTER*

Musée Gloucester Museum

Museum Notes:

Significant changes occurred during the last week of January, Lynne Terroux has not been at the Museum since February 3. There are no longer any students from Algonquin College working at the Museum. These people have been contributing appropriate services to the collection, while serving the field placement related to their course. We appreciate the work they have done and are sorry we cannot provide suitable accommodation for them to continue this programme.

We are unhappy to report the L.E.T.E. exhibit has been dismantled earlier than expected. Visitors are disappointed but it was unavoidable as some loaned articles had to be returned to their owners.

Our darling cow "Bessie" is on loan for two months to the Heritage Museum in Smith Falls. We miss her and look forward to her return.

The Gloucester Historical Society has appointed me, (Mary Patterson), Chairman of the Museum Committee. There will be an exciting update on Museum plans at the annual meeting April 12. Be there!

Mary Patterson
Feb./95

Come Celebrate Your Local History

HERITAGE DAY 1995

Monday, February 20, 1995

From 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Overbrook Community Centre
33 Quill Street

FROM 1-3 p.m. FACES AND PLACES
OF OVERBROOK PAST!

Join us in a

Heritage Celebration!

- Heritage Day Proclamation
- Historical Exhibits

- Great Ottawa History Challenge #5 (Media vs Councillors)

Information: 564-1272

JOURNÉE DU PATRIMOINE 1995

Le lundi, 20 février 1995
de 19 h à 22 h

Au centre communautaire Overbrook
33, rue Quill

en participant à une

Célébration pour le patrimoine!

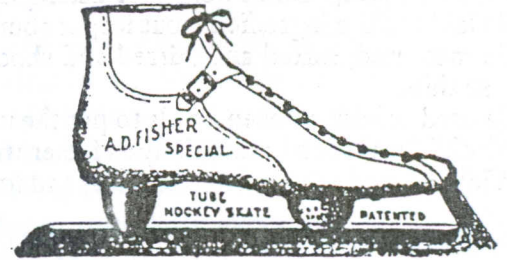
- Proclamation de la Journée du patrimoine
- expositions historiques

- Grand défi historique d'Ottawa no 4 (médius contre conseillers)

Renseignements : 564-1353

The Fisher Tube Skate.

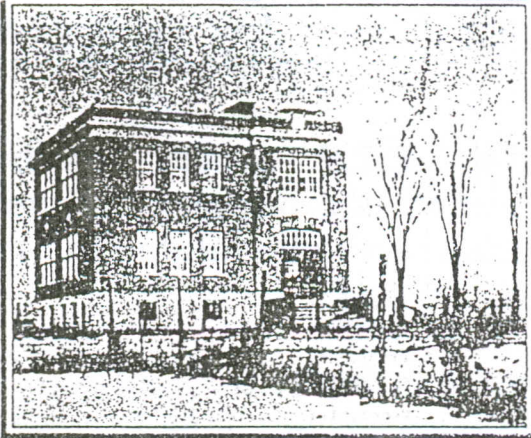
Made of the finest quality of crucible cast steel, hardened and tempered, highly polished and nickel plated, making a very handsome and strong skate. Suitable for either pleasure or racing.



The Fisher tube hockey skate, sizes 10½, 11, 11½, 12, \$5.00.

The Fisher racing skate, 14 or 16-inch blade, sizes 10½, 11, 11½, nickel plated, \$5.00.

NOTE.—The above price is for the Skates only and does not include the boots.



Overbrook School - C 1930

This programme is presented by the Heritage Programmes Unit of the City of Ottawa, The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa, and the Overbrook Community Council!



École d'Overbrook - Circa 1930

Ce programme est présenté par l'Unité des programmes du patrimoine de la Ville d'Ottawa avec l'aide du Conseil des organismes du patrimoine d'Ottawa et de le Conseil communautaire du Overbrook.

***** GLOUCESTER INPUT WANTED:

THE NEWSLETTER IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY AND NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET. DO YOU HAVE ANY ANECDOTES, STORIES ETC. ABOUT LIFE AND HISTORY IN GLOUCESTER? WE NEED TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS. (DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS MAY 1ST 1995.



LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS

Our new Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee will advise the Mayor and Council on the preservation of heritage properties in Gloucester.

More members are required. If you have administrative or research aptitudes or experience please contact Marlene McCracken at 748-4149 or Guy Legault at 830-4243.

Auxiliary help as photographers, secretaries or drivers would also be most welcome.

LE COMITÉ CONSULTATIF DE CONSERVATION DE L'ARCHITECTURE LOCALE

Notre nouveau comité pour la conservation de l'architecture locale doit aviser le maire et le conseil de Gloucester sur la préservation des propriétés ayant une importance patrimoniale.

Nous recherchons de nouveaux membres. Si vous avez des aptitudes ou de l'expérience en administration ou en recherche vous pouvez appeler Marlene McCracken à 748-4149 ou Guy Legault à 830-4243.

De l'aide auxiliaire, comme photographes, secrétaires ou chauffeurs ferait aussi notre grand bonheur.

Father's Biscuits

We needed fancy biscuits for a Sunday noon affair.
We kids were in a dither, 'cause mother wasn't there.
But father said, "Don't worry, for baking isn't hard."
He laid out the ingredients but forgot about the lard.
He measured, mixed and stirred and shook and rolled the dough
so thin,
He used at least a dozen bowls to put the mixture in.
We children stood back quietly as father worked so hard
While he made those fancy biscuits, and forgot to use the lard.

Father smiled contentedly as he made each cookie's form,
And slipped them in the oven and turned it much too warm.
He sat back quite important-like and waited for the bell,
Before it had a chance to ring, we kids began to yell.
The smoke was round the oven door, and to the ceiling rose
Father grabbed the basin and Sis ran for the hose.
While they dampened down the biscuits, we kids ran to the yard
For Pop had made the biscuits but forgot to use the lard.

When Father pried the cookies loose, and set them for a treat,
There wasn't even one of us that was inclined to eat.
We wouldn't insult father, so we each did take a few
And quickly took them to our room 'til we figured what to do.
When Father asked us how they were, we lied and said, "just fine",
But we didn't care for any more, at the present time.
Those biscuits were quite different — so tasteless and so hard
For Father, when he made them, had forgotten 'bout the lard.

The biscuits all lay hidden for about a week or so,
Until one morning we arose to face a foot of snow.
We sneaked the cookies out the door beneath our winter togs,
And once we got them safely out, we fed them to the dogs.
Father never realized what happened to old Shep,
For several days thereafter he sure lost all his pep,
He moped around the kitchen, and he lay around the yard
From eating all the biscuits, that were made without the lard.

Fr. "Valley Views" by Nicol Mackie



R. Clarke Cummings store & home was on Cummings Island at Cummings Bridge, until the new bridge was built. The old bridge was in two parts - from west bank to island and from island to east bank of Rideau River.
Photo fr. Mrs. Anna Elliot 1980

Gloucester E. D. Jones Library (Blossom Park)

ADULT PROGRAMS - Feb. - Apr/95

GARDENING - Wed. Feb. 1/95 - 7 P.M. ☆

Start your annuals from seeds and other gardening information. Also tips for those using community lots. Presentation by a member of the Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners.

ORGANIC GARDENING I - Sunday, Feb. 12/95 - 1:30 P.M.
For the environment minded gardener. A series of five classes on organic gardening will be given by Mr. Norbert Weiler. These classes cover all aspects of organic gardening. You may register for all or any one of these classes.

Lesson I - What is organic gardening; Why organic gardening; Where to garden; How much land you need or how little; What books are available.

ORGANIC GARDENING II - Sun, March 5/95 - 1:30 P.M.
Prepare and improve the soil; Compost; Soil test

ORGANIC GARDENING III - Sun, March 19/95 - 1:30 P.M.
Vegetables; Where to buy your seeds; How to store your seeds; What kind of seeds to buy; Fertilizers

ORGANIC GARDENING IV - Sun, Apr. 12/95
How to start seeds indoors; How to build a stand for growing plants; Growing medium; Grow lights.

ORGANIC GARDENING V - Apr. 23/95 - 1:30 PM. - Weeds, disease & bugs; Home remedy; Mulching.

Admission free to all classes.
Registration in person or 731-9807.
Everyone is welcome.

Our Heritage Display at Orléans featured a one-room school, with furnishings and some of the books used.

We would like to collect some stories of how it was, when YOU went to school.

Please write out a happening, a disaster, something that you remember from one-room school days. Who was your favourite teacher, your favourite Christmas celebration at the school, something you remember with glee, or otherwise - we want to know about it.

If you prefer to tell your story at the meeting, that is great, or, if you want someone else to read it, that is good too.

Please share these memories with us, at our Annual Meeting on April 2, at 2:00 p.m., our address is 4550 Bank Street.

See you there!

GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1994 - 1995

GHS OFFICE: 822 - 2076

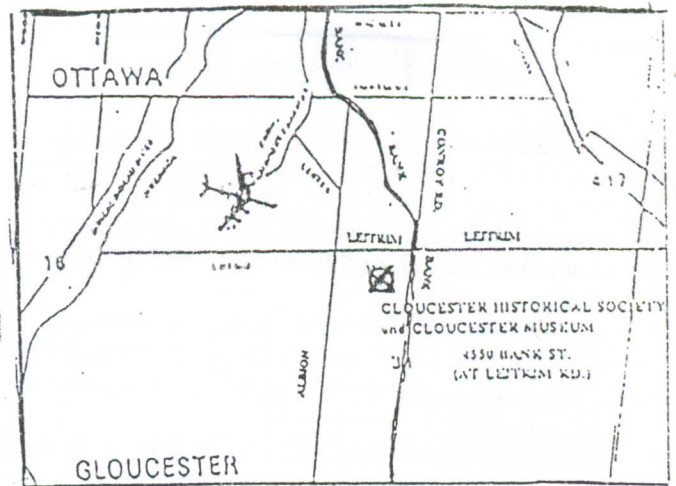
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GRAHAM RITCHIE	Treasurer	521 - 5805
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DAVID MACKIE	Property & Building Co-Chair	822 - 2471
GUY LEGAULT	LACAC & Heritage Advisor	830 - 4243

MARY BOYD Gloucester Historical Society Rep. to LACAC



We wish to thank
the
Gloucester Arts Board
and
the City of Gloucester
for their support.

The Gloucester Historical Society
and Museum
4550B Bank Street
Gloucester, Ontario
K1G 3N4

IT'S 1995
TIME TO RENEW YOU GHS MEMBERSHIP
IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR FOLKS
WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU
\$10.00 INDIVIDUAL
OR
\$40.00 FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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Gloucester Historical Society societe historique de Gloucester Membership/Adhesion 1995	
NAME: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
Year - \$10.00 Life - \$40.00	Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society 4550B Bank Street Gloucester, Ontario K1G 3N4 Tel: 822 - 2076