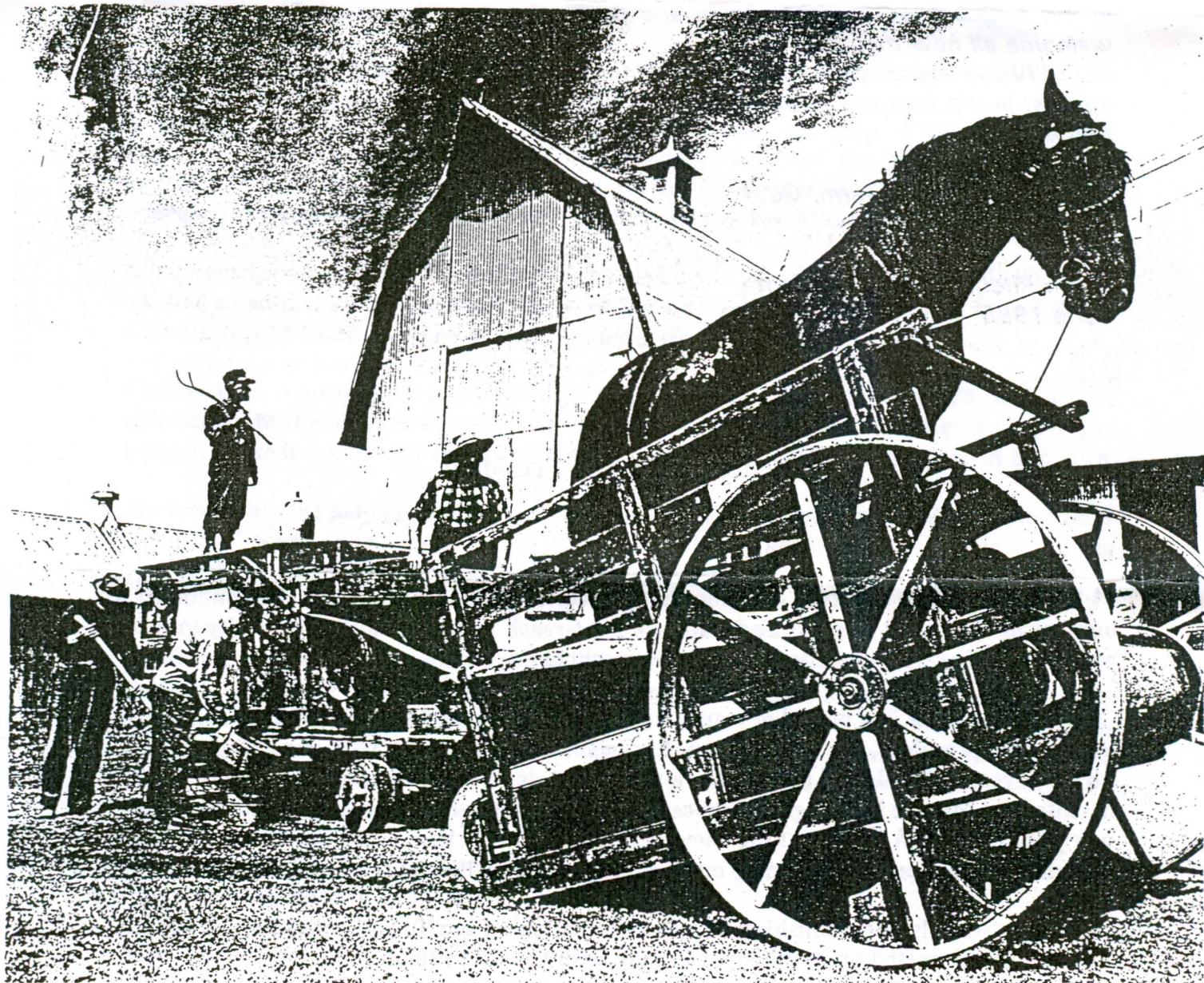


# NEWSLETTER

June/August 1995

## Gloucester Historical Society and Museum

4550B BANK ST., GLOUCESTER ONT., K1G 3N4



A HORSE POWERED THRESHING MACHINE

## **Looking Ahead**

*Much has happened since our February newsletter. We have a very dedicated museum committee - (plus our GHS Board), a new President and a part - time Office Co-ordinator!*

*Our new President, Guy Legault, who revived the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, (LACAC), took over as President of the GHS at our Annual Meeting.*

*Mary Boyd, (the Grace Johnston History Room), will now also be in the office Wednesday to Friday from 10 - 5 p.m.*

*New members Wendy Stewart, Suzanne deAbreu and Flo Ladds have joined us in our ongoing work of collecting and preserving the history of Gloucester. We welcome all new members.*

*I have enjoyed my time as President of the GHS and will continue to take an interest in it's fortunes and in meeting those who visit us at the History Room and Museum.*

*Have a good term, Guy!*

*Lillian Kitchen, Past President  
June 1995*

## **Letter From The President**

1994 was an eventful year for the Gloucester Historical Society. We conducted a number of successful displays and conducted out-reach to schools and community groups, projecting views of Gloucester ranging from school days to life on the farm.

We are now in a period of transition, in which our new Museum Committee, headed by our vice-president, Mary Patterson, has begun to organize its activities and prepare to hire a curator. The LACAC, which we sponsored, is now running, and is conducting an inventory of historic buildings in Gloucester. The Society is in the process of publishing two new publications: A history of the Gloucester Historical Society; and transcripts of William Ogilvie diaries. You will be seeing more about these activities in separate correspondence.

We will also be publishing lists of information on our future activities and events. Please keep us posted on any items you may wish to add to these bulletins.

Guy H Legault  
President

## MUSEUM NEWS

The Gloucester Museum has been in a 'holding pattern' since early April. We have, in the museum at present, 3 exhibits;

"How Now Brown Cow",

"Women's Work is Never Done", and

"One Room for Learning".

These have been most popular with the public, and they will remain on view until the fall.

A business plan for 1995/96 has been formulated with the help of the Culture and Recreation representative from the City, Peter Brown, and the Museum Committee members. The plan was been presented to the Gloucester Arts Board. They have approved the grant of \$26,585.00 which is on its way to the Museum Committee.

A job description outlining the duties for the position of Museum Curator has been drawn up, and advertisements have been placed in the Citizen and Le Droit. It is hoped that a Curator will be hired for the Museum by mid-July.

The museum is open to the public Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 to 5, (please come down to the office if nobody is in the museum and someone will be glad to give you a tour). Also it can be viewed by appointment, just give the GHS office a call at 822-2076.

We appreciate the help given the Committee by the Gloucester Arts Board, the Gloucester Historical Society and Gloucester City's Dept. of Culture and Recreation. Their assistance and direction in the past six months has been most helpful.

The Museum Committee would like to incorporate ideas and suggestions from area members, and to hear from anyone who would be interested in working with us at the museum. Give us a call, if you have some free time and would like to help your community and your city attain the energy, vision and co-operation that can only lead to an exciting and vibrant future for the museum in this city. The committee is working hard to develop an appropriate programme for the museum that will continue to engender pride in the hearts of the citizens of Gloucester.

An orientation day for volunteers will be held in Sept. (further notice regarding the exact time will be given at a later date).

Mary Patterson  
Museum Committee, Chairperson



## GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT ON GLOUCESTER'S LACAC

On August 9th, 1994, Gloucester Council passed By - Law No. 154 approving the institution of a new advisory committee, the Gloucester LACAC. Members were then recruited: their appointments were approved by the newly elected council on January 24th, 1995. The Gloucester LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) has nine members, one being a City councillor (currently George Barrett) and one representing the Gloucester Historical Society (currently Mary Boyd). The other seven members are appointed at large from citizens of Gloucester. The LACAC also accepts additional members as associates. We have nine members, plus five associate.

The LACAC has been busy getting organized discussing plans with the City Staff and dividing up details among members. We have completed our organization and have prepared a master plan which will then go to Council for approval in June. This plan starts with our Vision Statement which reads as follows:

Vision: To enhance the quality of life and civic pride in Gloucester through protection and conservation of heritage structures and areas.

We have organized the LACAC as follows:

Executive : Chair, Vice Chair, Director of Operations & Director of Conservation.

Sub - Committees: Planning, Communications, & Ad - Hoc Inventory.

Having a LACAC does not mean that it is ready to function. A major requirement to start operation is to complete an inventory of the heritage properties in Gloucester. This may seem easy, many people are familiar with well known properties such as the Barrett house on Bank St. and other older homes and properties in Gloucester. But precise information is required by the City employees who

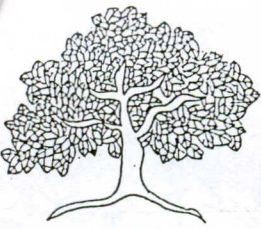
approve demolition requests. As the City does not have this information, we are near completion of a list of properties (likely to exceed 200) to be examined by LACAC before demolition approval. The list which we are updating was originally prepared by Grace Johnston in 1979.

Once the Heritage Properties List has been completed we still have much work to do before we can begin to protect properties. Working with City Staff, we need to set up procedures to handle the bureaucratic and legal measures involved in protecting heritage buildings. On completion this plan will need the approval of Council. And subsequently, for each property to be protected by those procedures, Council will need to approve action on a case to case basis. We will attempt to complete the plans needed to implement this process by the end of next year.

When proceeding with any protective measure, we will be in contact with the owner before any protective action is taken. I want to emphasize here, that we want to cooperate with property owners, and not to act arbitrarily. The most important factor in saving these heritage homes is to have interested property owners who appreciate their historic value. We will be ready to assist owners in various ways, including assistance in obtaining maintenance grants. Also if the property should become threatened by development projects or other causes, we will be available to assist in presenting solutions other than demolition. We will deal with all governments involved, including the City, Province and the National Capital Commission.

This report will be followed by others, which you will see in our newsletter and in local papers. We still need your help. So if you have experience in research, writing or administration, we would be pleased to have you. If you wish to help out from time to time, we also need a photographer, secretarial help and drivers. You may contact the LACAC at the following numbers.

Marlene McCracken, co-ordinator - 748 - 4149  
Guy H. Legeault, Chair - 830 - 4243  
Bob Porteous, Dir. of Operations - 745 - 7615



## Memories

*We didn't have many toys or luxuries - but few children to-day have the wonderful opportunity to explore, invent, and dream that we had convenient for our use. The fortunate experience of my childhood was that I had a Grampa and Grandma who had a very large house with a huge attic.*

*A grating squeak welcomed us as we tugged open the door and advanced up the narrow, steep stairs, through the unpainted plaster canyon to the dusty landing. A mellow, eerie smell pervaded this mysterious and challenging world just under the roof. No family rooms or rumpus room can offer the adventure or the enchantment of the attic of an old farm house.*

*We could run across the long dark empty space to East, West, North and South, peeking into small rooms brightened by a dormer window. The floors were thick enough to muffle the racket but the echoes of our shouts sounded through the hollow space.*

*The West room was the repository of letters and newspapers saved for reference or sentiment. We read the letters shamelessly and discovered personalities in our Uncles and Aunts we hardly would have recognized. The newspapers generated questions to ask Grandpa or our parents and stories of fires, tragedies, weddings or celebrations were related in vivid colour, more exciting than we could have imagined.*

*The South room had few treasures, except in the late summer when green tomatoes were laid there for rapid ripening. It was dry and warm and we feasted on juicy fruit transformed in childish imagination to exotic jungle coconuts and mangoes. We were not able to pierce one butternut in the "hoard" piled there in that tiny room. We tried !*

*The North room was dark, forbidding and mysterious. The doorway was partly blocked by the immense stone chimney of the house. Girls avoided that scary place, but our brave brothers gathered there to plot schemes and skirmishes against the enemy. Secrecy and subterfuge reigned!*

*The East room was where we loved to be. Souvenirs and artifacts of World War I were cast there. Uniforms, tin hats, guns, spurs and bayonets brought from France by uncles who were happy to forget. We dressed ourselves in these badges of violence and defeated vast armies of "bad guys" whose only goal was to separate us from our hold on Grandma's attic. Aggression in our young psyches was diffused and we returned to reality happy and fulfilled.*

*Our attic was not like any other attic or place where children play to-day. We were very lucky to have such a space to explore. Every house that really means home should have an attic on top!*

*Mary Patterson  
June 5, 1995*

Notes:

Green's Creek and Mud Creek with their smaller tributaries drain a good portion of Glen Ogilvie. The creeks must have been much deeper in earlier days. The older people of the community tell of hearing stories of logs coming down the creek to the saw mill operated by Mr. Green. It was a common thing to see pine logs of 60 feet or more floating down the creek.

It is difficult to estimate the length of Green's Creek as it is quite crooked. If it could be straightened out it would probably be eight miles long.  
The Stream received its name from Robert Green, who was one of the first to send square timber down the creek.



*Gloucester Historical Society  
societe historique de Gloucester  
Membership/Adhesion Application  
1995*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YEARLY - \$10.00    LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$40.00    MAIL TO: Gloucester Historical Society  
societe historique de Gloucester  
4550B Bank Street  
Gloucester, Ont.  
K1G 3N4

Phone: 822 - 2076    Wed. - Fri. (10a.m. - 5 p.m.)

## REUNION OF OVERBROOK VILLAGERS

NOTICE TO ALL PRE 1950 OVERBROOK RESIDENTS

PLACE : OVERBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE  
33 QUILL STREET

DATE : JUNE 28, 1995  
TIME : 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

COME MEET FRIENDS FROM THE PAST

FOR A PLEASANT AFTERNOON OF NOSTALGIA AND REFRESHMENTS

JUNE 17	STRAW-FEST	RIDEAU CARLETON RACEWAY
JUNE 17	LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST	" " "
JUNE 17 - 18	NEPEAN DAYS	ANDREW HAYDON PARK
JUNE 17 - 18 & 24 - 25	"Art of the Garden"	ORLEANS, 1078 Lucia Place
JUNE 24	NEPEAN MUSEUM "FUND RUN"	BEHIND NEPEAN SPORTSPLEX
JUNE 25	HERITAGE GARDEN PARTY & HOUSE TOUR	416 Alymer Rd. - RSVP
JUNE 25	VINTAGE CAR SHOW	BILLINGS ESTATE MUSEUM
JULY 16	BLACKSMITH'S FAIR	BILLINGS ESTATE MUSEUM

By IAN HAMMOND (ArtEast)  
A photographic show entitled "The Village Inside"  
At  
Blackburn Library - October 1995  
Gloucester (Main) Library - November 1995  
Ten photographs of Cyrville Rd. near Ogilvie Rd.  
evoking the memory of the old community  
through it's buildings.

GLUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
1995 - 1996

Officers		
Guy Legeault	President	830 - 4243
Mary Patterson	Vice - President	822 - 2864
Ruth Lafortune	Secretary	822 - 2648
Graham Ritchie	Treasurer	521 - 5805
Board Members		
Lillian Kilchen	Chair, Historical Committee & Post President	521 - 1399
Jacqueline Rowes	Educational Outreach	837 - 7532
Albert Lafortune	Property & Building	822 - 2648
David Mackie	Property & Building	822 - 2471
Florence Ladds	Representative at Large	521 - 4905

Grace Johnston History Room Coordinator

Mary Boyd 822 - 2076