



HISTORIC GLOUCESTER

Quarterly Newsletter of

*The GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and The GLOUCESTER MUSEUM and ARCHIVES*

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QUARRIES SCHOOL, MONTREAL ROAD, GLOUCESTER

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COVER PHOTO:

The cover photo shows the Quarries School, S.S.No. 9, Gloucester, with some of its pupils and teachers. It is believed the photo was taken about 1885.



Historic Gloucester is published quarterly by The Gloucester Historical Society and The Gloucester Museum and Archives. 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 new acquisitions by the Museum, publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.



Historic Gloucester gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

President's Report

I am pleased to announce that the Gloucester Historical Society will soon receive a cheque for \$3000.00 from the City of Ottawa. This will cover our activities, while our Nevada lottery will continue to provide capital funding for the office, the Grace Johnston Room and equipment to conduct research etc. We are also applying for a smaller grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Thus, we should have adequate funding for 2002. We can expect similar funding to continue in 2003, provided our activities remain constant. More detailed reports are available to members on request.

Further, concerning our Heritage Month project, Parliament has since declared the Canadian Horse to be the National Horse of Canada. Royal assent took place on April 30, 2002. For those who were unable to attend our event on Sunday, February 3, we were fortunate that 40 people braved the slippery roads and falling snow to attend. We were well served by the Bethany United Church with the use of their basement, and their excellent refreshments. The speaker, Brian Henderson of the Canadian Horse Breeders of Ontario, conducted a most interesting slide presentation. Alex Hayward and other members of the Breeders group were also present. The event got significant media attention as the New RO put the event on its 6 P.M. and 11 P.M. local news. The Citizen did a follow up article, and later an editorial recommending historical designation of the Canadian Horse. Our favourite sculptor, David Mackie provided a large exhibit of his works, all of which depicted horses and carriages. He too was featured in the New RO telecasts.

On the May 25-26 weekend the City of Ottawa is conducting "Doors Open Ottawa". This is being extensively advertised in the local media, so I will not go into details. Suffice to mention that our Museum has been chosen as one of the 88 sites throughout the City. What "Doors Open" requires, is that sites not normally open to the public be on display. Hence the Museum's focus will be on the collection area, not the exhibit in the gallery. Members of the Society will be acting as guides during these two days.

As we can see from funding and programs, City Council and staff are encouraging historical societies and other heritage groups in the City. There are still a lot of issues on the table, such as the City's Official Plan, a new Heritage Plan and evolving contacts with the National Capital Commission. These are being addressed for the heritage community by the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO/COPO), and the City's Heritage Advisory Committee. As I am an active member of both, you can obtain information on any of these issues by addressing your concerns to me.

Guy H. Legault
President

THE QUARRIES SCHOOL (S.S. No. 9, Gloucester)

by Joan Scott

In 1837 the first Quarries School was built to accommodate the children of the area along the Montreal Road and was situated near St. Laurent Boulevard and Montreal Road. When Bytown was named as the capital of Canada, the population expanded and a second school was built on a half acre of Lot 23, Concession 2, Ottawa Front, on property owned by George Lang. Records indicate that the school property was sold, in 1858, for \$50.00, to the Trustees of School Section Number Nine in the Township of Gloucester. It was situated in what was then called The Quarries but which was also known as Rockville and is shown as such on the 1879 Belden map. There was a log building on the land and this was used for some years until a stone building was erected. The contractor was Wm. Glassford. In 1859 he was paid two hundred pounds for his work, which was comprised of a school room having floor space of approximately one thousand square feet.

The early settlers of this area were mostly tradesmen and craftsmen who had been involved in the building of the Rideau Canal. They included carpenters, stone dressers, stone masons, wheelrights, engineers, and lumbermen. The monies they had made on the canal were used to purchase property along the Montreal Road. Little farming was done at this time as the men preferred to continue working in their chosen profession. These pioneers originally came from Ireland, England, Scotland and France.

Because of the post-confederation building boom an influx of workers came to

the stone quarries and lime kilns, the largest of which were owned by Antoine Robillard, who had come to Canada from France to work on building the stone locks on the Rideau Canal. His son Henry, who later became a member of Parliament, enlarged the quarry which supplied all kinds of dressed stone as well as burning lime. The lime kilns were fired by slab wood which was purchased from J.R. Booth and Eddy's mills and hauled to the site. With the increased cost of building stone and the introduction of concrete after the First World War, the operation became uneconomical and turned to stone crushing instead. It continued in operation into the 1920's under the management of Bruno Robillard then it was merged with Laurention Stone Co. and the operations were moved to Hull. The Robillard family was well-known in the area and two of its members served as Reeves of Gloucester. The Robillard Quarries was also an attraction to the children of the area. One wintery day two young sisters decided they would play there on the way home from school, but one of them slipped and fell into the water getting thoroughly soaked. Fortunately for them their aunt, Mrs. Lane, lived nearby so they were able to go to her house and get dried off before continuing on home. Mother never knew what had happened and thus they avoided being punished for playing where they should not have been.

As a result of the increased population of the area, a new stone building was erected in front of the old school and connected to it by two doors. The school now employed two teachers instead of one,

and these teachers were boarded in nearby homes. In 1904 the school was divided into three rooms to satisfy a request for a continuation class and a high school teacher was hired. This class continued until 1910. For five year after the 1950 annexation the Quarries School continued under the Ottawa Board, joined by two other schools, Overbrook and Hurdsman Bridge public Schools. This served the district until 1955 when pupils were transferred to Fairfield Public School in the new School District No. 9 of Gloucester, outside the new boundary of Blair/Skead Roads for the City of Ottawa.

Records from 1856 show that the first teacher was James Murphy who was paid 55 pounds. In the same year Walley Eagleson was paid 2/6 for scrubbing and 11/3 for sawing 5 cords of wood. Assets of the school in 1858 were maps in hand, 10 pounds; value maps and furniture 30 pounds and value of school and property 100 pounds.

The early residents seem to have been a tightly-knit community and many remained in the area for some time. They enjoyed the annual Christmas concert held at the school and participated in by all the pupils and teachers. However, with urban sprawl and development and the building of the National Research Council encroaching on their land, few descendents of the original owners now remain in the area. Even the Fairfield Public School has now gone, and is the site of a gas station. So much for progress!

Source: Notes by D.M.Sorley and Mrs. W.E.Hopkins

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are still looking for family histories of people who have been long residents of Gloucester. If you can tell us what you know about your, or your family's roots, we may be able to help fill in some of the gaps. It would be nice to publish a book of pioneer or long-time people of Gloucester, but we do need your input!

Any information on businesses, schools, churches or other establishments of common interest would also be most welcome. We are always looking for items of interest to share with our members so please feel free to contact us to tell your story so that it can be used in a future edition of *Historic Gloucester*.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, provide us with your family history, tell us about long-ago Gloucester, or just discuss something you think may be of interest to our members, please call us. The phone number for the Gloucester Historical Society is 822-2076, or you can call me, Joan Scott, at 830-3827. We would even be happy to hear your comments on the newsletter and any suggestions you may have for improving it.

UPDATE: CITY OF OTTAWA MUSEUMS

by Deborah Scott

The City of Ottawa is moving ahead with building its Museum Services team. In February, Deborah Scott began work as the Acting Manager/Curator of Museum Services. Deborah has returned to Ottawa after five years with the Nova Scotia Museum, where she was a Manager in the History Section and directly involved with the operation of the province's historic sites. Prior to that time, she worked with several Ottawa-area museums (including the Gloucester Museum!) And spent nearly ten years managing collections at Alberta's provincial historic sites.

In addition to the Manager/Curator position, the Museum Services team includes three other full-time positions. Acting Education/Interpretation Officer Stephane Bruneau (filling in for Anik Depres while she is on maternity leave) brings experience from the National Museum of Science and Technology, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and Gatineau Park. Interim Collections Officer, (Olga Pluviati, who just recently joined the Museum Services team, brings related experience from the National Library of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The Research/Exhibition Officer position has not yet been filled.

Two part-time positions complete the team: a Clerical Assistant, Ginette Turner, and a Project Superintendent, Alan McDonald.

This year, Museum Services faces the interesting challenge of integrating its

operations while developing a strategic plan for the future! Key activities include representing the City's four museums in the planning process for the City's Heritage Master Plan, which begins in June. Meanwhile we have a summer season to run, and have hired a number of students to assist with developing and delivering programs and special events at the City's museum.

At the Gloucester Museum, summer student Angela Staple will also undertake a variety of collections management activities. The Museum is open to the public Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10-4, May through August, and at other times by appointment.

Members of the Gloucester Historical Society will want to take special note of two upcoming events at the Gloucester Museum: Klondike Days on July 28, and Old-Fashioned Fire Hall Day on August 11. If you would like to get involved and can lend a hand, please call Angela at 822-2076.

ORANGE LODGE MONUMENT DEDICATED 100 YEARS AGO

by Joan Scott

One hundred years ago, on July 1st, 1902, The Boyne - Loyal Orange Young Briton Lodge No. 48 and Billings Bridge - Loyal Orange Lodge No. 222, held a solemn ceremony to dedicate a monument to one of their members. Wellesley A. Hull was a member of L.O.Y.B. Lodge No. 48 for over 10 years. He was also a member of the first contingent of Canadian Mounted Rifles and a valiant hero who died in the Boer War in South Africa on June 7th, 1900.

The monument was originally erected on a grassy mound in front of the Orange Hall at Billings Bridge. The Grand Master of the Loyal Orange Young Britons Association of British America was the guest speaker and the event was duly recorded in The Ottawa Journal, The Ottawa Citizen and the Orange Sentinel. When the roadway through Billings Bridge was widened the monument had to be removed. For a time it was stored at the Capital Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Nepean, Ontario. A permanent site was finally found for it in St. George's Hawthorne Cemetery on Russell Road, Gloucester, the same cemetery where other members of the Hull family are buried. To commemorate the occasion, a rededication ceremony was held on Sunday, October 19th, 1997. Descendants of Mr. Hull, relatives and friends of the Hull families and all Orange Young Briton Lodges in Eastern Ontario as well as all Loyal Orange and Ladies Orange Lodges in the County of Carleton, were invited to attend the rededication. The program included singing of hymns and songs, a scripture reading, greetings from provincial grand lodges of Eastern Ontario and a

rendering of the Last Post. Following the ceremony refreshments were served in the Bethany United Church.

Today the monument can be seen, resting again on a grassy mound, in St. George's Hawthorne Cemetery, on the Russell Road in Gloucester. It is a fitting tribute of a loyal member of the Orange Lodge who was a hero of a long ago war in far off South Africa and who is still remembered one hundred years later.



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GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR CHEQUE. STILL ONLY \$10.00 PER YEAR OR \$40.00 FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

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Membership Form - Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2002 - \$10.00 for one year... \$40.00 for life membership...

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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