



Historic Gloucester

Quarterly Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and THE GLOUCESTER MUSEUM AND
ARCHIVES**

VOLUME 6 NO. 1

WINTER 2005



The Lobby of the Carlsbad Springs Spa, circa 1909

President's Report

This will be my last report to you as I am turning over the presidency at our AGM. Our nominations committee has the transition in hand, and I am sure you will be well served by your new team. Please come to participate in the election of our Board and of a new president. The AGM will be held at the Gloucester Museum at 2 P.M. on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

Our AGM promises to be another grand Gloucester event, the sixth in our Rideau Series. Our speaker this time is Larry Ellis, who will talk about the Manotick area. This includes the Island, which until 1974 was part of Gloucester when it was taken over by the new amalgamated Township of Rideau. Mr. Ellis also knows very well the area between Long Island Locks and the Osgoode line. We hope that others from this area will come to share their memories with us. Our refreshments team will be ready once again to renew us at the end, when we can all meet the speaker.

The Gloucester Historical Society is still active in a number of fields. We have a growing interest and participation in genealogy. We continue to preserve and promote the memory of Gloucester in all its sizes and shapes through the years. We continue to help members and the public in gathering histories of families and events in Gloucester, and to help anyone researching Gloucester history. We continue to renew our list of active members and ask that all of you continue to promote the Society and help in signing up new members.

I leave the executive of our organization proud of these years of success. I am indebted to the excellence of our board members, past and present. Of the past I praise especially Lillian Kitchen, who provided encouragement and advice as president and past-president. Although I am reluctant to single out individuals, I must acknowledge the lion's share of work accomplished by Mary Boyd in her many activities, our long-serving treasurer Graham Ritchie, and our vital newsletter editor, Joan Scott. It has been an honour to serve you. Many thanks to you all...

Respectfully yours,

Guy H. Legault

The Carlsbad Springs Spa

By Mary Boyd

My first real memories of the Boyd Spa at Carlsbad Springs start when I was around four. One summer while visiting her parent's farm, my mother took me along with her to the "Springs" to see her sister Eva who was Mrs. Russell Boyd.

As the adults visited I grew restless, and decided to do a little investigating. I slipped away and wandered into the next room, which was the huge dining room. Long tables covered with what seemed like miles of white linen, were set with heavy china wear. Next was the front lobby, which contained among other things a large pool table, with an impressive snowy owl that presided over it with staring glassy eyes. The huge, oak front desk was covered with interesting looking items I could not reach.

I remember noting the strange looking ceilings in both rooms, which of course I later would learn were tin with decorative impressions. *As a side note: A decorator flew all the way from British Columbia when the Hotel's contents were sold in 1980, just to buy these tin ceilings.*

Next I looked out at the front verandah with its many chairs, but opted to climb the front stairs from the lobby. These were manageable for little legs as the mahogany steps were extra wide, and

offered lots of room for sitting and resting. Soon I was on the first floor and wandering down what seemed like an endless corridor. The few open bedroom doors offered glimpses of large water jugs set on dressers, with piles of clean white towels stacked neatly nearby. The floors shone like glass, and the smell of floor polish permeated the air. To a child the place seemed huge, and oh so quiet. In fact, the building was large, with four floors. The hotel could accommodate some 100 summer guests.

My travels ended when rounding a corner I was confronted by a tall lady in white, who smiled, and said "hello little girl". Unnerved by her sudden appearance I let out a yell, and turned, running straight into my mother, who had come looking for me. Mother apologized to the startled lady, a medical masseuse from Sweden who was working that summer at the Spa. I do not remember seeing other people on my little adventure that day. Most likely it was at a time when the guests were taking their afternoon rest.

Many years have passed, and the Boyd Spa hotel was demolished in the early 1980's, but sometimes the smell of floor polish still evokes pleasant memories of a summer's day long ago, and those long shining corridors.



At left is shown the historic guest house at Carlsbad Springs.

(photo from "The Carleton Saga")

*Gloucester Historical Society/
Société Historique de Gloucester*

Presents

“Looking Back: Reflections on the Manotick Area”

by

Larry Ellis

Place: Gloucester Museum – 4550 Bank Street, at Leitrim Road.

Date and Time: – 2 P.M., Sunday, April 17, 2005

Larry Ellis has been a resident of Manotick for the past 60 years and a member of the Rideau Township Historical Society since 1990. He has published one book on the history of the Manotick area and a second book will be launched on Dickinson Day weekend in Manotick, June 4th. For many years Manotick was comprised of parts of the Townships of Gloucester, Osgoode, North Gower and Nepean; now of course all are within the City of Ottawa. Manotick will be celebrating its' 150th birthday in 2009 and part of his talk will be related to this anniversary. He will also speak on Manotick's founders Moss Kent Dickinson and Joseph Merrill Currier and perhaps the “ghost of the mill!”

**All Welcome
Admission Free: Light Refreshments**

Contact: Guy Legault, 837-7334.

March 1, 2005

City of Ottawa
 Josee Helie
 Program Manager
 Parks and Recreation Development

Re: Fred G. Barrett Arena Hall

The Gloucester Lions Club was the first Service Club to be formed in Gloucester. The club was chartered in the fall of 1968 and our charter President was Fred G. Barrett, the former Mayor of the City of Gloucester. Our present membership stands at thirty-six (36) members.

When the Fred G. Barrett Arena was built the Gloucester Lions Club assisted in the planning and equipping of the canteen and for many years were the sole operators of that canteen. Some of the profits from the operation of the canteen went to construct, fence and equip the first baseball diamond that was located on the west side of the old arena. This project was completed over a three-year period.

The Gloucester Lions Club rented the upstairs hall three times a month for our two dinner meetings and one executive meeting, plus on numerous other occasions to hold fund raising dances (New Years Eve, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, etc). The Gloucester Lions Club used the hall for approximately eighteen years before the rent increases became too excessive.

The Gloucester Lions Club made use of the arena complex and grounds to hold special events, which were sponsored by the Lions Club, such as Carnivals, Sports Tournaments, Bike Safety and Snowmobile shows, Band Concerts and a benefit for an individual that was paralyzed in a swimming accident.

The Gloucester Lions Club partnered with the City of Ottawa in 2002 to help in the renovation of the canteen during the construction of the new arena. The Gloucester Lions Club was pleased to donate twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00) towards this upgrade.

Some of our ongoing and current projects include:

- Adopt a Highway—cleanup three times per year from Leitrim to Albion Rd.
- Yearly Fun Days at Leitrim
- Community Pancake Breakfasts
- Police Mentoring Project
- Operation Go-Home
- Annual Participation in the Fire Fighters "Parade of Lights"
- Annual Christmas Tree Sale—all proceeds to charity
- Assistance for the Visually and Hearing Impaired
- Participation in the Blind Angler Derby
- CHEO, Heart & Stroke, Cancer and Kidney Foundations—donations
- Donations of two complete Beef to the Food Bank and one to the Shepherds of Good Hope
- Sponsors of Local Para-olympic Athletes

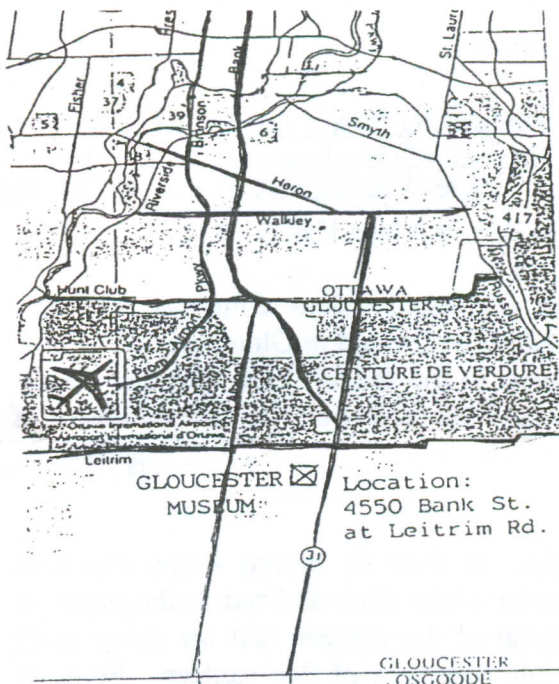
The Gloucester Lions Club is very pleased with our accomplishments to date and we hope that we can continue to assist our growing community of Leitrim by working with the City of Ottawa to improve the facilities that are already here. One area of concern that we feel must be addressed, is renovation to the main hall. It must be brought up to today's standards with a high level of comfort and brightness to meet the needs of our growing population. This would enhance the use of the hall and help increase the utilization. This would then place the Fred G. Barrett arena complex, along with the two baseball diamonds, ten soccer fields and the two football fields as one of the top notch gathering places for a number of different types of recreation activities serving both south end and citywide residences.

The Gloucester Lions may be prepared to commit substantial funds to further enhance this upgrade. We hope that a concept plan could be developed for the total renovation and a possible plan developed to see this enhancement occur.

Sincerely Yours
 Lion Bruce Lillico
 Project Chair

**BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE
GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

- A History of Gloucester Historical Society*
by Grace Johnson.....\$2.00
- Belden Map of Gloucester, 1879*.....\$5.00
- Billings Bridge: My Village, My Life*
by Gerard and Bernard Pelot.....\$20.00
- Blackburn-Glen Ogilvie: Centennial History*
by Anna Elliott.....\$ 2.00
- Bowesville: A Place to Remember*
by Grace Johnston.....\$15.00
- Carlsbad Springs/Ramsayville Branch East
Carleton Women's Institute 1934-1994*..\$ 4.00
- Gloucester Roots*
by Lois Kemp.....\$20.00
- Memories of the Lockstations*.....\$ 4.00
- Milk/Cream Produce-Distributors in
Gloucester 1892-1975*
by Grace Johnson.....\$10.00
- Pioneer Families of the Gloucester
Quarries in Eastern Ontario*
by Robert Serre.....\$10.00
- Valley Views*.....\$10.00



*If you have memories of life in
Gloucester or stories of schools or
families from early days, and
would like to share them, please
give us a call. Artifacts and
photographs of yesteryear are
always welcome additions to
the Museum.*

Call us at 822-2076 to talk about it!

About the wooden bicycle (see front cover) -

In 1898 James Blair, a 17-year old who lived in Gloucester on the present site of Ritchie Feed & Seed store off Innes Road, built himself a wooden bicycle which he rode all over the farm and to the Byward Market in Ottawa. This amazing bicycle can be seen in the Gloucester Museum.

GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Phone/Fax 822-2076

Board of Directors

President	Guy Legault	Directors:	Denise Amyot
Vice-President	Mary Patterson		Ed Kirk
Recording Secretary	Mary Boyd		Florence Ladds
Correspondence	Jean-Marc Jossinet		Aline Mageau
Treasurer	Graham Ritchie		Jacqueline Rawes
			Joan Scott
			Robert Serré

GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Collections Officer	Olga Pluviati
Education Officer	Anik Despres
Chair, Advisory Board	Guy Legault

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 2004 - \$10.00 for one year..... \$40.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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