



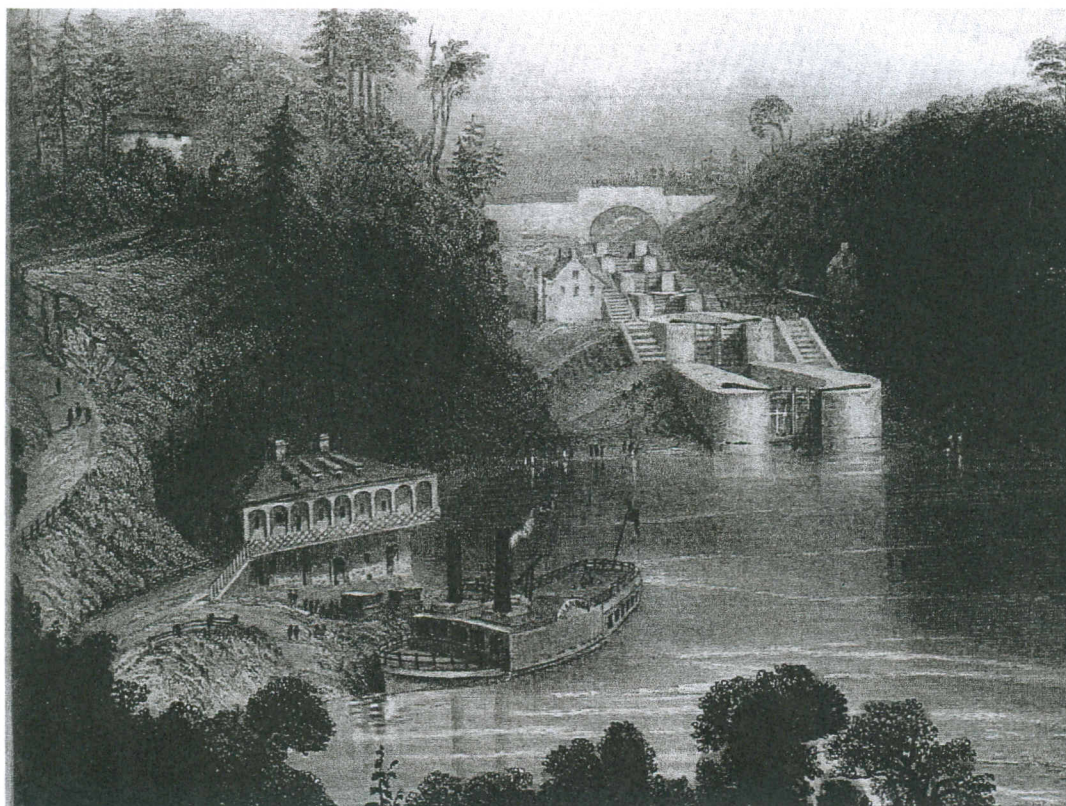
Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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The Rideau Canal World Heritage Site

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Cover Photo:

A few weeks ago, our own Rideau Canal was designated as a World Heritage Site. This is a great honour for the City of Ottawa and should be a boost to tourism in the area. If you have not yet visited the Celtic Cross which was erected near the locks by the Ottawa Historical Museum, now is the time to do so. The cross commemorates the hundreds of workers (mostly Irish immigrants) who lost their lives while working on building the canal. Thousands more were injured as they struggled to complete the 47 locks and 18 dams which are part of the 124 waterway known as the Rideau Canal. To learn more about the canal visit the website: www.rideau-info.com/canal/hist-canal.html.

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 new acquisitions by the Museum, 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.

The Future of the Gloucester Museum

By Joan Scott

Many people who have very kindly donated artifacts to the Gloucester Museum over the years, have been wondering what is going to happen to them now that the museum has been closed by the City of Ottawa. This has been a matter of concern also to your Board of Directors, but do not despair, the collection is being well looked after and soon will be shown again.

Over the past several years the City of Ottawa has allocated staff to spend time each week maintaining the collection to ensure that everything is properly catalogued, is stored in a suitable environment and is maintained in good condition. For this we are grateful.

In May of this year a meeting was held at the GHS office with members of the Board and representatives from the City - Laura Peters, Museum Administrator, Olga Zeale, Curator of Collections, and Fiona Graham, Museum Consultant. The Board members were asked to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the collection and how it might better be presented to reflect the unique flavour of Gloucester.

The City representatives explained that they were striving for a better focus on museums, including more care and a higher profile. Plans were under way to present exhibits at different venues, of items from the collection, but with a specific theme. The help of the Society was requested in providing stories to explain and enliven the artifacts, and suggesting topics that the people of Gloucester might like to learn more about.

After this initial meeting, Fiona Graham and City representatives met with Mary Boyd to view the collection. A follow-up meeting was held on May 25th when a draft document was presented by the Museum Consultant, Fiona Graham. In this draft document Gloucester Township is defined as the geographical area bounded to the north by the Ottawa River, to the west by the Rideau River, to the east by the Cumberland Boundary and to the south by Osgoode Township. The Statement of Purpose reads:

“ The Gloucester Collection, which is owned by the City of Ottawa, tells the story of the Settlement and Development of Gloucester Township from 1792 to the present. The collection exists for the enjoyment and education of the citizens of Gloucester and of the greater Ottawa community, and to promote understanding of a shared historical, natural and cultural environment. By telling the stories of Gloucester Township and its people, the Gloucester Collection creates bridges between past and present, rural and urban, and long-time residents and newcomers. The City of Ottawa will develop, research, document, exhibit, interpret and preserve the Gloucester Collection for this purpose.”

Some of the proposed themes on which the collection will focus are:

- Settlement Patterns in Gloucester Township from 1792 to the present;
- Rivers, Roads and Rails: Transportation Networks in Gloucester Township;

- The Villages of Gloucester;
- The Mineral Springs of Gloucester;
- The History of Dairy Farming in Gloucester;
- The One-Room Schoolhouse;
- Prominent Individuals including Sir William Ogilvie and James Blair.

In order to meet this proposed mandate it is suggested that temporary exhibitions of the Gloucester Collection be displayed in a variety of appropriate locations. The City would ensure that all staff, volunteers, students and consultants involved in the development and implementation of exhibitions have the necessary skills and training to plan, prepare and install such exhibits. A variety of presentation techniques would be used and, whenever possible, interpretation and education programs would be developed to complement exhibitions, with sufficient research being carried out to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of each exhibit.

If the proposed project goes forward, locations of exhibitions will be chosen with regard to accessibility and the capability of being used and enjoyed by visitors of all ages and abilities. They must also meet the needs of the community and the collection. The City will avoid locations that are inaccessible to the intended audience and/or to a significant portion of the community, or that pose risks to the artifacts in the exhibition.

Funds have been promised from the City to support Gloucester Collection

exhibitions as well as staff to support such events. Some exhibits may be held jointly with other museums or community organizations when feasible. Durations of exhibits will vary depending on individual factors for each event. The City of Ottawa will assume responsibility for the planning, preparation, installation, de-installation and evaluation of exhibitions, with the assistance of volunteers, students and consultants as needed. All exhibition-related activities will be coordinated by the Curator of Collections, who will also be responsible for ensuring that all exhibitions are in accordance with the Gloucester Collection's Statement of Purpose.

The draft document issued by the City explains its Interpretation and Education Policy as well as its Collection research Policy.

While this document is still only a draft, which will be amended as required over time, it is certainly something that bodes well for the future of the Gloucester Museum. The collection will not sit and stagnate. It will be shown to the public and Gloucester's history will be told.

Additions to the collection are always welcome and we encourage you to contact Mary Boyd or any member of the Board if you have something to donate. Stories are also very welcome, both those that relate to the artifacts in the collection and those that relate to individuals, events or places that form part of the history of Gloucester. Stories are also needed for inclusion in future Newsletters. If you have something of interest to contribute, please do not hesitate to let us know! You may also contact us through our website: gloucesterhistory.com/index.html.

Green's Creek Conservation Area

Did you know that there is a conservation area of some 400 hectares of hilly land in Gloucester, west of Orleans? It extends from the Ottawa River to Innes Road on both sides of Green's Creek. At one time this creek was, it is said, large enough to float lumber down it and there was a sawmill at the juncture with the Ottawa River.

Because this area is situated in heavy marine clay there are examples of landslides and slumping with deeply cut valleys through which the creek passes. This has deterred development of the area and also helps to maintain relatively natural sections of forest land along the banks of the creek. The conservation area is managed by the National Capital Commission as part of the Greenbelt.

As the clay slopes erode along the creek and at its mouth at the Ottawa River, hard, rock-like nodules of clay are exposed. For over a century scientists have been breaking open these nodules because some contain fossils of plants and animals that date from the Champlain Sea period, about 10,000 years ago. This important geological phenomenon is considered to be of national significance and visitors should not take these geological resources as souvenirs, besides the fact that it is an offense under the National Capital Act to remove any from National Capital Commission lands.

Many of the plants which grow in the area are also considered of national significance. In the Silver Maple swamps there is Ontario's largest stand of rare Cat-tail Sedge (*Carex typhina*). Witch-hazel, a Southern shrub not found elsewhere in the a,

area occurs in large numbers in the rich, well drained hardwood forest above the river mouth. Further upstream Eastern Hemlock forests dominate the ravine vegetation along tributaries. In one of these a stand of the rare Pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*) is found; it is one of the small number of plants that must get nutrients from other plants, being unable to manufacture their own. It grows with an uncommon Rattlesnake-plaintain Orchid, (*Goodyera tessellata*), another of these unusual saprophytic plants. For the most part, however, the Green's Creek Conservation Area exhibits typical flora and fauna of the clay based areas of Gloucester and offers visitors a good opportunity to get to know many of them.

In addition to the unique vegetation there are many bird migrations in the area. Northern finches and owls winter in conifer stands along the creek.

For those who wish to visit the area, access is available along the the recreational pathway by the Eastern Driveway, where the Silver Maple swamps can be reached. From Innes Road a short distance from Blair Road, or from the Pineview Gold Course off Blair Road, entry to the ravine forests is available. Steep slopes make travel along the creek difficult although cross-country skiing makes it easier in winter. Because of the slippery clay and danger of mudslides it is not recommended that the area be visited during a rainy period.

Source: Brunton, Daniel F., *Nature and Natural Areas in Canada's Capital*, The Ottawa Citizen and The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (1988)

Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:

- Blackburn—Glen Ogilvie—Centennial History 1887-1967*** **5.00**
Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott
An informative story history of that area of Gloucester.
- Bowesville: A Place to Remember*** **15.00**
By Grace Johnston
Tells the story of Bowesville and area up until the time
Bowesville disappeared when expropriated to build the airport.
- Families pionieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de
L'Ontario*** **10.00**
By Robert Serre
- Families pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)*** **8.00**
By Robert Serre
- Gloucester Memories*** **5.00**
By Mel Rowat
Some memories of Gloucester Township.
- Gloucester Roots*** **20.00**
Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp
Articles that appeared in the "Roots" column of the
Gloucester Leader.
- Memories of the Lock Stations*** **4.00**
Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston
Stories of Long Island, Black Rapids, Hog's Back and
Hartwell's Locks, by Mel Rowat, Camilla (Balcombe)
Forbes, Aletha (Dale) Davidson and Palmer Slack.
- Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in
Gloucester 1892-1975*** **10.00**
Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston
This book is about the dairy industry in Gloucester

Publications (continued)***Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)* 8.00**

By Robert Serre

About the pioneer families of Cyrville.

***Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)* 8.00**

By Robert Serre

About the early families of Glen Ogilvie

***Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries* 10.00**

By Robert Serre

A history of the Gloucester Quarries and the pioneer families that settled in that area.

***Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870* 10.00**

By Robert Serre

About the history and pioneer families of the New Edinburgh area

***The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township* 40.00**

By Glenn Clark

The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 150 years in God's hands - 1853-2003

***1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township* 5.00**

From 1879 Belden Atlas of Carleton County

The map shows who owned each lot in 1879 as well as the location of roads, churches, schools and interesting features of the township during that early time.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

The only trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off!

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Gloucester Historical Society - Phone/Fax 613 822-2076

Board of Directors:

President:	Mary Boyd	Directors:	Glenn Clark
Vice-President:	Mary Patterson		Bob Kemp
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			Joan Scott

Gloucester Museum & Archives

Collections Officer/Curator:	Olga Zeale
Education Officer:	Anik Despres

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

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Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Societe historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhesion 2006—\$10.00 for one year..... \$40.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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