



Historic Gloucester

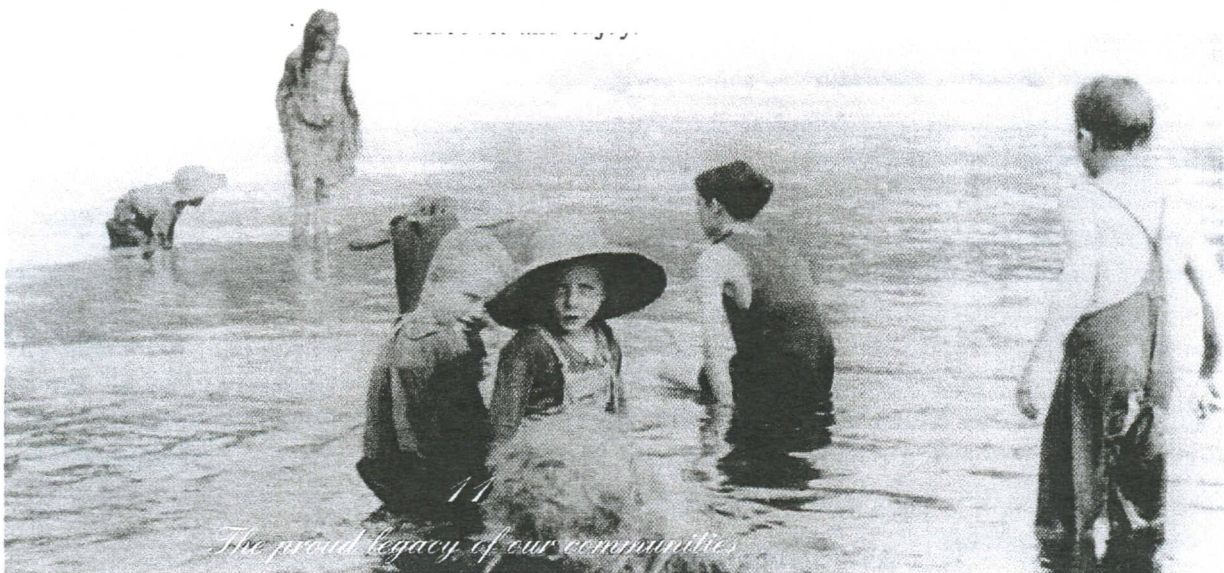
Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

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Early 1900's Children at Play

Editor's Comments.....	Joan Scott	2
GHS Annual Meeting Guest Speaker.....		3
Summer Resorts.....		5
Hurdman's Bridge, Paying Tolls		6
Publications Available From the Society.....		7
Fascinating Facts.....		9
Membership Form.....		10

Cover Photo:

This photo, depicting children at play in the water, is representative of one of the activities that people of early Gloucester Township indulged in. To learn more about some of the summer resorts that were popular back then, turn to page 4.

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.

Editor's Comments

The Gloucester Historical Society is endeavouring to become more active so that it can better serve the needs of its members. There have been a number of new books produced in the past years. In particular, Robert Serré, the society's secretary, has been very busy writing brief histories of some of our local areas and former villages as well as the pioneers who settled there. He now has five English books and two in French. Robert has spoken on a few occasions about the content of some of these books and he will be the guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting, talking about the area of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park. This will be a very interesting talk and you are all invited to attend. There is more information about this on the next page.

Glenn Clark has been very busy keeping up our beautiful website. He is constantly adding more interesting and informative items about Gloucester's colourful past. If you have not visited the site yet I would urge you to do so, you will not be disappointed! The address is: www.gloucesterhistory.com.

Representatives from the GHS Board of Directors attend the City of Ottawa Heritage Day celebrations and various historical and genealogical society shows such as Gene-O-Rama and BIFSCO. At these events we have a table where we show examples of our books, sell books and discuss Gloucester with those who are interested, either because they live in Gloucester or had relatives here at one time. This is a wonderful venue to promote the memory of the Township of Gloucester.

For the first time in many years the GHS membership fees have been raised. This has been done so that we will be able to bring you more events, interesting speakers and generally improve our services. This past year a new computer was purchased which will make it easier to keep in touch with members and will also facilitate record keeping and help with our research activities.

If you have any suggestions or comments on how the Gloucester Historical Society can better serve its members, we would be happy to hear from you. If you wish more information on any of the GHS activities, research or genealogical studies, please contact Mary Boyd or phone the Gloucester Historical Society Office at 613-822-2076 and your call will be returned as there is not someone in the office at all times. Also, if you are interested in volunteering with the Society or making a donation, we would love to hear from you!

Joan Scott

Gloucester Historical Society Annual General Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER

Manor Park Village, in the northwest corner of Gloucester Township, was the first subdivision of any consequence to be built in the Ottawa area **after the Second World War**. Beginning in 1948, hundreds of homes were built. That was sixty years ago, and nowadays few people realize that a close-knit community had already been established on **both sides** of St. Laurent Boulevard, **well before the Second World War**. Although our guest speaker for this year's AGM has lived in Manor Park with his wife for almost thirty years, he himself has only recently become aware of this "prehistory" of his own neighbourhood. As a result, he has prepared a book entitled **Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township**. His talk will focus on the fascinating past of this part of the township.

Our speaker, Robert Serré, has been a member of our Society since March 2004. He has since published several booklets, all of them dealing with pioneer families of Gloucester Township communities.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Society's AGM. The business proceedings, including the election of officers, will be kept short. Robert's talk will be followed by a question period and a leisurely get-together around a light snack.

COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND!

WHEN? Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE? Gloucester Seniors Centre, Bank St. at Leirtrim Rd.

Summer Resorts
An excerpt from an article published
Saturday, June 13, 1903
Ottawa Evening Journal

By the Rideau

**Summer Resorts That Are not so Populated
but Are Ideal Ones.**

Along the Rideau River and the canal are many ideal camping places. While many go there each summer, owing to the resorts being off electric lines, they are not quite so well patronized.

Billings' Bridge

Comparatively few Ottawans know anything about Rideau Park and Billings' Bridge. A few short weeks ago the Field Naturalists visited there and great were the expressions of surprise at the "beautiful place with its bracing air." Prof. Macoun found some twenty-five different species of trees within as many yards. In the spring the bush is a perfect fairyland of wild flowers that well repays a visit.

Go southwards out Bank Street, over the swing bridge, passing through Rideauville where in the hollow is Wyoming Park, with its vast common, is a splendid place to pitch your tent, within five minutes of the cars (streetcars) on to Billing's Bridge. Instead of at the tollhouse turning to your right, which leads to Hog's Back, turn to your left between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, pass Harry Letch's bungalow, a very substantial summer residence, which "when summer comes again" will be a veritable rose garden, as he has put in some seventy-five rose-bushes. A little further on, take the road leading up the hill, cross the railroad track, and five hundred yards more you are in the center of Rideau Park. There stretching beneath your feet with the Laurentians as a background, is a panorama of the city and surrounding country that cannot be excelled from any other point of

vantage, you get the benefit of the clear, bracing air so conducive to good health to those living in the city, and for which many citizens go hundreds of miles away.

There are quite a few live in the park all the year round. Some as market gardeners, for which the soil is well adapted, and others who work in the city, but there is plenty room for more, although lots are increasing in price as the years go on.

Among those already there, may be mentioned Messrs. T. Woodruff, T. St. Bernhards, A. Benson, Dans R. Gaysford, C. Billings, Brad Billings, R. McCorkill, H. Crouch, J. Gervan, Mrs. A. Robb, Mrs. H. Timbers and Mrs. D. Bennett. — R. Slack, who was burned out in Rideauville a few weeks ago, has bought the property next to "Craigillen", the residence of Harry Allan, which is considered the finest location in the park. Messrs. T. Richardson, R. Kennedy, W.E. Fairbairn and Campbell live at the extreme end of the Park, which is only a couple of miles from the cars (streetcars) at Bank Street. To those wanting country air and yet to be near the city, Rideau Park can be well recommended. Around the immediate vicinity of the Bridge, there are only a few houses that are not filled the year round, and these are seldom taken before July. The majority of fresh air seekers either go to Hog's Back, or else to the part known as Rideau Park.

For those who prefer being by the river, there are many ideal camping places from Billings' Bridge, going east, or to Hog's Back, going west, either road being good wheeling.

Hog's Back

A family or party of any kind in search of a summer camping place could do little better than locate at Hog's Back.

From the white railroad bridge over the Rideau river above Billing's Bridge right up to the locks at Hog's Back, there are any number of

perfect spots for camping, with shade trees and plenty of spring water. The springs that are found in the ridge between the canal and the river are the sweetest, purest water for miles around. Many of them contain sulphur and iron also. The ground itself is comparatively smooth, quite level in places and again sloping gently to the water's edge.

For a place that is so very near the city, the scenery is as wild and interesting as any on the Ottawa or Gatineau, but being only the Rideau, and that, too, off the track of the steamers playing between Ottawa and Kingston, the beauties of the spot are altogether too little known and almost entirely unappreciated, except by the few who, year after year, return for the warm weather to the ideal summer camp of Ottawa.

The beauty of the Rideau Lakes has often been described, but the little ravine through which the overflow of the Hog's Back dam runs down over the jumbled mass of rocks of all shapes and formations, presents as many engaging effects as any mountain stream within a day's journey.

Below the rapids at the by-wash, the river gets a little calmer and there are numerous places where it is quite safe to go in bathing, where the bottom is slatey and the gradual slope just right. If a swim is wished for, the beautiful expanse of Mooney's Bay above the locks, affords ample room for exercise of that kind and the shore at almost any point is approachable and fit to land upon.

The bay is the delight of the boatmen, especially sailing, and there are few cottages within reach of the river that have not a boathouse.

One of the most potent attractions of the Rideau in the vicinity of Hog's Back is the splendid fishing. Maskinonge, pickerel, pike, bass, perch and other kinds abound. Last Thursday Mr. Wm. Mooney of Bank street after

only a short troll near the locks landed a beauty of a pike, 18 inches in length.

Mr. F. Hayter of the auditor-general's office, has a white cottage below the white bridge, where the most lavish hospitality is exercised throughout the season. All sorts of parties are formed and small excursions undertaken, winding up with music, dancing and refreshments on the return to the cottage.

On the east side of the by-wash is situated the former home of the "All Saints Club" and excepting in Fowler's orchard close by, that is about the only place on the east side of that part of the river, where summer camping resort, as it is so high above the river and hard to reach. Families with small children prefer the orchard as a camping ground, and the first of the season is Mr. C. S. Taggart, who established himself there on Wednesday.

Summer Residents.

There are cottages in plenty on the west side of the bay, where the Sutherlands lived, and Messrs. F. Colson, W.H. Sodd, and E. Bennett go every summer without fail. But the favourite location is on the flat just below the locks. Mr. John Martin, Ald. Flemng, Mr. Wm. Mooney, Mr. Wm. Sanders, Mr. E. Bull, Mr. P. McEvoy, Mr. Arthur Gamble, Mr. Wm. Cairns, and several others pitched their tents there every summer for the last few years and with their families formed a most sociable camp, of which Mr. John Martin, Lisgar street, was considered the "father" and to him was due a large share of the comforts enjoyed by the little community. During July, August and the better part of September, the campers of the locality receive regular calls from bakers, butchers, grocers, and milkmen, so that they have no difficulty whatever in getting their supplies.

Aside from the fishing, boating and swimming, the amusements indulged include quoits and euchre parties, while an elegant pavilion erected by Mr. Martin was last year the scene of many an enjoyable dance.

This year again the same crowd will be found in the camp as all of them have signified their intention of taking up their summer quarters in the same spot. Mr. Wm. Mooney has already pitched his tent in a most delightful spot and expects to occupy it in about a week. By the first of July there will be quite a colony on the ground, but there are any number of suitable places along the river, right down to the white bridge where the picturesque Camp Connolen was located last year.

There is another and most important feature of this ideal camp, namely its accessibility. From the Bank Street Bridge along the canal, past St. Louis dam, up by Harwell's locks, and especially the last mile and a half before coming to the Hog's Back locks, there is one of the best roads in the country for walking, driving or wheeling. It is a hard gravel road and in places so smooth as the best pavement ever laid. A very strong point in its favor is the fact that after rain, no matter how heavy, it is as dry and hard as ever within an hour.

Computer Problems?

A customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

Tech Support: *"Are you running it under Windows?"*

Customer: *"No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine".*

Customer: *"Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it..."*

Tech Support: *"What kind of computer do you have?"*

Customer: *"A white one..."*

Hurdman's Bridge

Paying Tolls

Russell Road and the New Rideau Bridge

Ottawa Citizen, December 16, 1875

Our readers will remember that last winter Messrs. Hurdman, Trembley, Brown, Stewart and a few other enterprising gentlemen started a scheme to build a new bridge across the Rideau River, near the end of the Russell road, by public subscription, so as to shorten the distance to the city. The project was a good one and the farmers and others interested willingly promised to subscribe liberally; the Township of Gloucester subscribed \$700 and the Messrs. Hurdman and others who were interested also came down handsomely. Relying on the assistance of those who promised subscriptions, the committee gave out the contract and the bridge was built. Mr. Stewart gave the right of way for a road through his property and every thing looked promising until it came to collecting the money. A few of the subscribers paid up promptly but four-fifths of them backed down. The committee became so disgusted at the apathy of the ratepayers that they have agreed to hand over the bridge to the Russell Road Company if they will assume the debt – a balance of some \$1,300 only. The Road Company, it is said, have decided to finish the road through the Stewart property, and then put up a tollgate at the bridge. The subscribers to the bridge fund, who have paid up the amount of their subscription, are objecting strongly; they consider it a fraud as they paid their money on condition that the road and bridge should be open to the public, and it is possible that a lawsuit will be entered to recover damages. The farmers of Gloucester show very little public spirit in allowing the bridge and road to pass into the hands of the Road Company to whom they will have to pay toll for the next twenty years.

Al Capone's business card said that he was a used furniture dealer.

**Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:
(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)**

- Blackburn—Glen Ogilvie—Centennial History 1887-1967*** **5.00**
Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott (3.00)
An informative story history of that area of Gloucester.
- Bowesville: A Place to Remember*** **20.00**
By Grace Johnston (12.00)
Tells the story of Bowesville and area up until the time
Bowesville disappeared when expropriated to build the airport.
- Famillies pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de
l'Ontario*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
- Famillies pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)*** **8.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
- Gloucester Memories*** **5.00**
By Mel Rowat (3.00)
Some memories of Gloucester Township.
- Gloucester Roots*** **20.00**
Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp (5.00)
Articles that appeared in the "Roots" column of the
Gloucester Leader.
- Memories of the Lock Stations*** **5.00**
Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston (3.00)
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*** **15.00**
Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston (5.00)
This book is about the dairy industry in Gloucester

Publications (continued)

- Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
About the pioneer families of Cyrville.
- Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
About the early families of Glen Ogilvie.
- Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
A history of the Gloucester Quarries and the pioneer families that settled in that area.
- Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
A brief history of the area and the pioneer families that settled there.
- Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
About the history and pioneer families of the New Edinburgh area.
- Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré (3.00)
A brief history of the area and the pioneer families that settled there.
- The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township*** **50.00**
By Glenn Clark (20.00)
The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 150 years in God's hands - 1853-2003.

Publications (continued)

1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township

10.00

(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.

Note: Copies of publications may be ordered through: Robert Serré, Secretary of the GHS, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa K1K 0N7, e-mail: belser@gamma.ca. A shipping charge as shown for each publication will be added to mail orders.

Fascinating Facts

- Smyth Road was named after Captain William Smyth, a neighbour of Braddish Billings, who settled in Gloucester Township in 1821.
- In addition to the popular spa community in Carlsbad Springs, the Victoria Sulphur Springs Hotel was owned by the Lafleur family near Green's Creek. In 1887, guests paid \$10.00 for ten days of bathing, 50 cents per bath, or bought a dozen tickets for \$5.00.
- Heron Road was named after Gilbert Heron who settled with his family in Gloucester's Junction Gore in 1834. He purchased his first 100 acres of land from Braddish Billings.
- Ramsayville has had several names. Originally named Ramsay's Corners after pioneer settler Alexander Ramsay, it became Taylorville when Charley Taylor arrived and built a stopping place. When Taylor moved to Janeville, it was known as Ramsay. It was finally designated Ramsayville when the post office was established. Ramsayville's one-room schoolhouse, built in 1894, still stands, and was designated an Ontario Heritage Site in 1997.
- Women have long been an integral part of Gloucester's heritage. Women's Institutes were involved in many charitable activities and social events throughout the nineteenth century. These influential groups were founded in many communities including Blackburn, Bowesville, Glen Ogilvie, Gloucester Glen, Hawthorne, Hurdman's Bridge, Leitrim, Ramsayville and Carlsbad Springs.
- Prohibition was supported in Gloucester when residents voted by a slim majority to ban the sales of liquor in taverns, inns, and places of public entertainment.
- Since the 1960's, scientists have discovered fossils of sea-dwelling plants and animals in Green's Creek, making it an excellent site for the study of pre-historic marine life.
- The village of New Edinburgh was in Gloucester's Junction Gore until January 1, 1867, when it was incorporated as a village. Many early industries flourished here including a distillery, a flour mill, a woolen mill, a sawmill, and a sash and door factory.

The above interesting items were published in *Gloucester, the proud legacy of our communities*, which was printed in 2000.

Gloucester Historical Society - Phone/Fax 613 822-2076

Board of Directors:

President:	Mary Boyd	Directors:	Glenn Clark
Vice-President:	Mary Patterson		Bob Kemp
Treasurer	Graham Ritchie		Jean-Marc Jossinet
Recording Secretary:	Robert Serré		Ed Kirk
			Aline Mageau
			Shirley McCooeye
			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 MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR CHEQUE. THE COST IS ONLY \$15.00 PER YEAR OR \$100.00 FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

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Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2008—\$15.00 for one year..... \$100.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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