



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THAT ITS HISTORY ROOM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
BETWEEN MAY 7 AND OCTOBER 29, 2009

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATON
Contact Robert Serré at 613-749-0607 // bob.rosealine@gmail.com

Cover Photo:

The photo on the cover is the Martin Avenue Farmhouse in Manor Park East. It was taken in 2008 and is part of the author's collection.

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Friday, May 29, 2009, Graham Ritchie, Bob Kemp and I, as well as many invited guests and benefactors, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Ottawa Rotary Home, located at 4637 Bank Street, just south of Leitrim Road. Established on Rochester Street in 1982, the Ottawa Rotary Home provides a break to families who have a child with a physical disability. It was decided to locate the new Rotary Home in Leitrim, in the very heart of the former Township of Gloucester. After the ceremony and a visit of the new state-of-the-art facility, a group of Gloucester Lions, including Graham and Bob, gathered for a photo showing their \$25,000 donation to the ORH.

On Monday, August 3, 2009, Ed Kirk and I attended the Colonel By Day festivities organized by CHOO/COPO on the grounds of the Bytown Museum. It was a beautiful day, and many contacts were made with visitors as well as other members of the heritage community. Harriet Fried of the City of Ottawa Archives paid us a visit, and reported that she had begun the process of transferring the boxes of Gloucester archives stored in the Leitrim facility to the main vault on Sussex Drive.

Robert Serré

**Gloucester Historical Society
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Phone/Fax 613-822-2076**

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The Early History of Manor Park in Gloucester Township

by Robert Serré

The present urban community of Manor Park is comprised of Manor Park proper and Manor Park East. Manor Park proper is located on what used to be lots 1 and 2 of the Junction Gore in Gloucester Township; its western limit is Birch Avenue, its eastern limit St. Laurent Boulevard, its northern limit Sandridge Road, and its southern limit Hemlock Road. Manor Park East is located on what used to be lot 26 of the Ottawa Front in Gloucester Township; its western limit is St. Laurent Boulevard, its eastern limit the portion of Blasdell Avenue facing the Aviation Parkway, its northern limit the RCMP Training Centre, and its southern limit London Terrace.

A plan of subdivision was filed around 1910 for much of what is now Manor Park. Most of the lots were sold, and subsequently all lots reverted to Gloucester Township for tax arrears [Rhodes 1979]. The name "Manor Park" was used as early as the 1910s. The name "Rockcliffe Annex" was used as early as 1920 [Carter 1984]. The 1941 Ottawa City directory listed Rockcliffe Annex as a suburb of Ottawa situated south of the Rockcliffe Rifle Range, and identified its eight thoroughfares as Bladel [sic] Road, Champlain Boulevard, Finter Street, Laurentian Boulevard, Mafeking Avenue, Malakoff Road, Martin Street and Sandridge Road [Might 1941]. Until the 1940s, Manor Park and Rockcliffe Annex were two designations used to describe the same community, which nowadays is known only as Manor Park/Manor Park East.

A post office named Rockcliffe Annex was established on 1 October 1920, and the first postmaster was Adrien Aubin. The office was closed on 30 June 1925 [Carter 1984].

Close Neighbours

The village of Rockcliffe Park, located immediately west of Manor Park, was originally planned by T.C. Keefer, son-in-law of Thomas McKay, founder of the community of New Edinburgh. Lindenlea is an urban community located southwest of Manor Park, and directly south of the village of Rockcliffe Park.

Established in 1898 by the Department of Militia and Defence, the Rockcliffe Rifle Range was located a short distance northeast of the present community of Manor Park. The former Rockcliffe Rifle Range became the site of the new National Aviation Museum, which opened in 1988 [Payne 1999].

Established in the years that followed the First World War, the Rockcliffe Air Base was expanded over the years, so that by 1935 it covered 376 hectares (930 acres). Between 1935 and 1964, the year in which the RCAF ceased flying operations there, the site became one of the most important bases in the history of Canadian aviation [Payne 1999].

The former Rockcliffe aerodrome is now operated by the Rockcliffe Flying Club, and is restricted to club use [McGrath 1992]. Incorporated in 1961, and opened to civilians, the Rockcliffe Flying Club was organized by servicemen returning after the Second World War [Csoka 1981].

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived in the area in the early 1920s [Voller 1981]. The Department of National Defence later gave the RCMP some 30 hectares (75 acres) of land, north of Sandridge Road, for training facilities and a crime laboratory [Payne 1999]. The Musical Ride of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police dates back to 1887 [Anon. 2007].

The First Settlers

It is conjectured that the Bédard family may have been the first permanent residents, in a house on Sandridge, which is now the road leading to the Curling Club. Eugène Bédard arrived in the area to work on the construction of the rifle range near the present RCMP site [Graham 2005]. The area first settled was the farmland east of the Baseline road, now St. Laurent Boulevard. Several market gardeners could be found there. The next big influx of residents came with the arrival of the RCMP in the early 1920s. By the 1930s, a close-knit community had been formed, with a lovely “village” feeling [Voller 1981].

Schools

In the 1930s, residents of Rockcliffe Annex had a choice of schools. Families residing west of the Baseline road sent their children to the Rockcliffe Park Public School, whereas most of the families living east of the Baseline road sent their children to the old Quarries School on the Montreal road [Voller 1981].

Street Cars

In 1870, the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company opened a streetcar line to connect New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe with Ottawa’s city centre. Later, the streetcar line

was extended from Rideau Street in Ottawa to the Chaudiere [Serré 2007]. Later still, the line was extended into Rockcliffe, and the Ottawa Electric Company took over its operation. In 1900, a double-track spur or “jigger” line was added along Hillsdale Road in Rockcliffe. It ran by McKay Lake over a trestle bridge, and continued just north of Sandridge Road as far as the eastern limit of the RCMP grounds, at the intersection of the Baseline road. The jigger line was discontinued in 1924, but the tracks and the trestle bridge remained for years [Edmond 2005, Voller 1981].

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Thompson, Penny, "Step back in time to the Martin Avenue farmhouse," *Manor Park Chronicle*, November 2006, page 29.

Voller, Joan Amy (née Thompson), "Recollections of the thirties in Rockcliffe Annex," *Manor Park Newsletter*, February 1981, pages 10-11.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

Grandma

*In the dim and distant past,
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, tat and baby sit.
When the kids were in a jam,
They could always count on Gram.
In an age of gracious living,
Grandma was the gal for giving.*

*Grandma now is in the gym,
Exercising to keep slim.
She's off touring with the bunch,
Taking clients out to lunch.
Driving north to ski or curl,
All her days are in a whirl.
Nothing seems to stop or block her,*

If you are trying to IDENTIFY the OWNERS of
LOTS in the township of GLOUCESTER,
our MOST RECENT publication can HELP!

Title	Gloucester Township Ratepayers Listed by Family Name and by Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872
Based on	Collector's rolls (1855, 1864, 1872)
Contains	Alphabetical listings by family name for each year Listings by concession and lot number for the: OTTAWA FRONT (OF) JUNCTION GORE (JG) RIDEAU FRONT (RF)
Also	School Section Numbers are included for the years 1864 and 1872
Details	55 pages, bibliography, price \$10.00 (mail orders please add \$3.00); please make cheques payable to GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY; please send orders to R. Serré, GHS Pubs, 1057 Riviera Dr., Ottawa ON K1K 0N7.

Remembering Bowesville

by Joan Scott

In 1950 the residents of the small farming area east of Black Rapids, were notified that their land was being expropriated by the Department of Transport for the expansion of the small airport. The expropriated area covered over 3,900 acres. Today the MacDonald-Cartier International Airport stands on the site of the former Bowesville.

Though a relatively small area, it was an important one. The first Town Meeting for Gloucester was held in John Cunningham's inn in 1932. Three Reeves of the municipality lived in Bowesville. Residents were a tight knit group, very friendly and neighbourly. They were of diverse cultures, faiths and languages, but shared in pride of place. The Belden Atlas of 1879 shows who lived in this area at that time, and many of their descendents were still residing on the family property until the expropriation.

Apparently the first settler of the area was Duncan McKenzie from Ross-shire, Scotland who settled on Gore Lot 11 in 1821. Later he purchased Gore Lot 10 as well. Richard Bowes arrived in 1830 from County Monaghan, Ireland. He settled on part of Lot 10, Concession 2. His property, cut by the forced road, became the centre of activity.

In 1834-35 the Bytown and Prescott stage coach passed through Bowesville and in 1854 train service was instituted. There was a station where people could board a train for Ottawa, Kemptville or Prescott with a number of stops along the way. It was noted that a few times the train was stopped by snowstorms.

S.S. #5 Gloucester was a log school which was erected some time before 1851.

Over the years a number of churches of different faiths were erected in the area, including a Roman Catholic chapel in 1864 which became Our Lady of the Visitation (St. Mary's) Church on Bank Street and Zion Method Church, built in 1873, and changed to Bowesville United Church in 1925.

Over the years a few stores, blacksmith shops and other businesses set up in the vicinity. In 1882 James Gamble's store on Lot 10 core, had the first post office which had "Bowesville" as the name of the place. In 1905 the McEvoy family took over the post office but sold it to Norman Redmond in 1919. Louis Potvin bought Redmond's store in 1923 and ran the post office until 1928 when rural mail delivery started.

Residents of Bowesville took part in many social activities and sporting events such as baseball, hockey, and sled-dog racing. In the 1940's many women were members of the Bowesville Women's Institute.

On July 19, 1919, a Curtis JN4 landed in the field just past the Hunt Club property on the Bowesville Road and this heralded a new era. In 1927 Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh was the first celebrity to land at Bowesville landing field, but he was by no means the last. While Lindy's "Spirit of St. Louis" landed safely, one of the escort planes did not. It crashed near a hay wagon. This visit did much to publicize flying and in 1928 the Ottawa Flying Club was established and Laurentian Air Services started using the airfield as commercial operators. The official opening of the Uplands Airport by the Department of Transport took place on 20 August 1938. Trans Canada Airlines (TCA) scheduled its first operations in 1939 and the RCAF established No. 2 Flying Training School. Uplands was chosen as the site of

one of the British Commonwealth Air Training Schools (BCATPS). At the same time the airport was given the name of Ottawa Airport. Throughout the war years training planes, particularly Harvards, were continually taking off and landing at the air field. It really came into its own, however, after the war when air travel became so very popular and today it is a very busy international airport with many flights arriving and departing daily. Passengers frequently include dignitaries such as Prime Ministers, Presidents and royalty.

The original Bowesville Road began at Billings Bridge by the Rideau, ran west along the river, then south and east to Bowesville, and east again over a railway bridge to Johnston's Corners. Today part of it is Riverside Drive, Bowesville Road, Royal Route, Ottawa International Airport, Alert Road, and the High Road over the bridge to Rideau Carleton Raceway.

Source: "Bowesville: A Place to Remember," by Grace Johnston, Gloucester Historical Society, 1988.

Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:

**For further details regarding publications visit our website: www.gloucesterhistory.com
(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)**

Blackburn—Glen Ogilvie—Centennial History 1887-1967 5.00 (3.00)
Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott

Bowesville: A Place to Remember 20.00 (12.00)
By Grace Johnston

Famillies pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de l'Ontario 10.00 (3.00)
By Robert Serré

Famillies pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester) 10.00 (3.00)
By Robert Serré

Gloucester Memories 5.00 (3.00)
By Mel Rowat

Gloucester Roots 20.00 (5.00)
Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp

Gloucester Township Ratepaters Listed by Family Name and By Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872 10.00 (3.00)
Compiled by Robert Serré

Memories of the Lock Stations 5.00 (3.00)
Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston

Publications (continued):

<i>Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in Gloucester 1892-1975</i> Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston	15.00	(5.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
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<i>Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)</i> By Mary Boyd and Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township</i> The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 1853-2003 By Glenn Clark	50.00	(20.00)
<i>1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township</i> 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.	10.00	(5.00)

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

Members Wanted:

The Gloucester Historical Society is always looking for new members. Regardless of age, anyone who is interested in the history of Gloucester, as a Township, City, or part of the City of Ottawa, can benefit from membership in the Society. There is a well-stocked history room at our Leitrim Road office. Every Thursday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from early May to the end of October, there are knowledgeable people there to help you in all aspects of research about your family, friends or neighbours in Gloucester.

Your membership entitles you to receive the *Historic Gloucester* newsletter four times a year so that you can keep up with what is going on with the GHS and read interesting articles of times and places of long ago. For more information on the Gloucester Historical Society be sure to check out our wonderful website at www.gloucesterhistory.com.

Family Histories Wanted:

If you have information on any family who resided in Gloucester, we would be happy to add this to our records. There may be others who would like to share this information but have been unable to find it. And, you may find that the family of someone you know was once a neighbour of your ancestors!

Volunteers Wanted:

The GHS is always looking for volunteers to assist others with research, to assist at society functions or to help the Board of Directors in many other ways.

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.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

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

NAME: _____

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