



112 Years of Blossom Park History

Glenn Clark



Contribute to Blossom Park History

- Share a story, share a picture
- Contact us at english@gloucesterhistory.com

2021 Map

- Greater Blossom Park area in Blue
- Bounded by Hunt Club Road in the north, Conroy Road in the east, Davidson Side Road/Lester Road in the south, Trillium Line in the west
- 1911 Blossom Park subdivision in Rose
- Sawmill Creek Pool – Red Star



Sub-Neighbourhoods

- 1 – Upper Hunt Club
- 2 – Athans Park
- 3 – Bernard Court
- 4 – Victoria Heights
- 5 – Quail Ridge
- 6 – Deerfield Village
- 7 – Queensdale Village
- 8 – Gates of Albion
- 9 – Rebner Subdivision/Albion Heights



Sub-neighbourhoods

- 10 – Colgate Subdivision
- 11 – Emerald Woods
- 12 – Timbermill
- 13 – Wedgewood Court
- 14 – Hunt Club Ridge/Pimlico Place/Surrey Place
- 15 – Hunter's Point/Bridle Path Estates
- 16 – Blossom Park Garden Homes
- 17 – Raven's Meadow
- 18 – Sawmill Creek Housing Co-op
- 19 – Coopérative d'Habitation Lafontaine Inc.



Sub-neighbourhoods



20 – Woodglen Chase

21 – Wyngate

22 – Sawmill Creek Estates

23 – Birch Meadows

24 – The Atriums

25 – Grandview Heights

26 – Athans Court

27 – Aladdin Village/Aladdin Villas

28 – Blossom Court

29 – The Clusters

30 – Gothwood Place

31 – McLean Co-op

Bytown & Prescott Railway



- Western boundary of Blossom Park
- Ottawa's first railway, which opened on December 25, 1854
- Ran from Prescott to Lower Town, Bytown via New Edinburgh
- Renamed Ottawa & Prescott Railway in 1855
- Went bankrupt in 1866
- Taken over by Canadian Pacific Railway in 1884
- Blossom Park is mid way between former Ellwood Station (south of Walkley Road) and Gloucester Station (High Road)
- CPR abandoned the line at Leitrim Road and points south in 1998
- Trillium Line extension under construction in 2023

1863 Walling Map

- Blossom Park area in blue
- Concession 4, Lots 6 to 10 Rideau Front
- East Half, Concession 3, Lots 6 to 10 Rideau Front



1879 Belden Map – Blossom Park Area

Concession 3 Rideau Front

Lot 6 – Albert B. Wood, P
Kinmond, Nathaniel
Henderson

Lot 7 – John Tomkins

Lot 8 – Michael Brady

Lot 9 – Samuel Boyd

Lot 10 – Thomas Reynolds

Concession 4 Rideau
Front

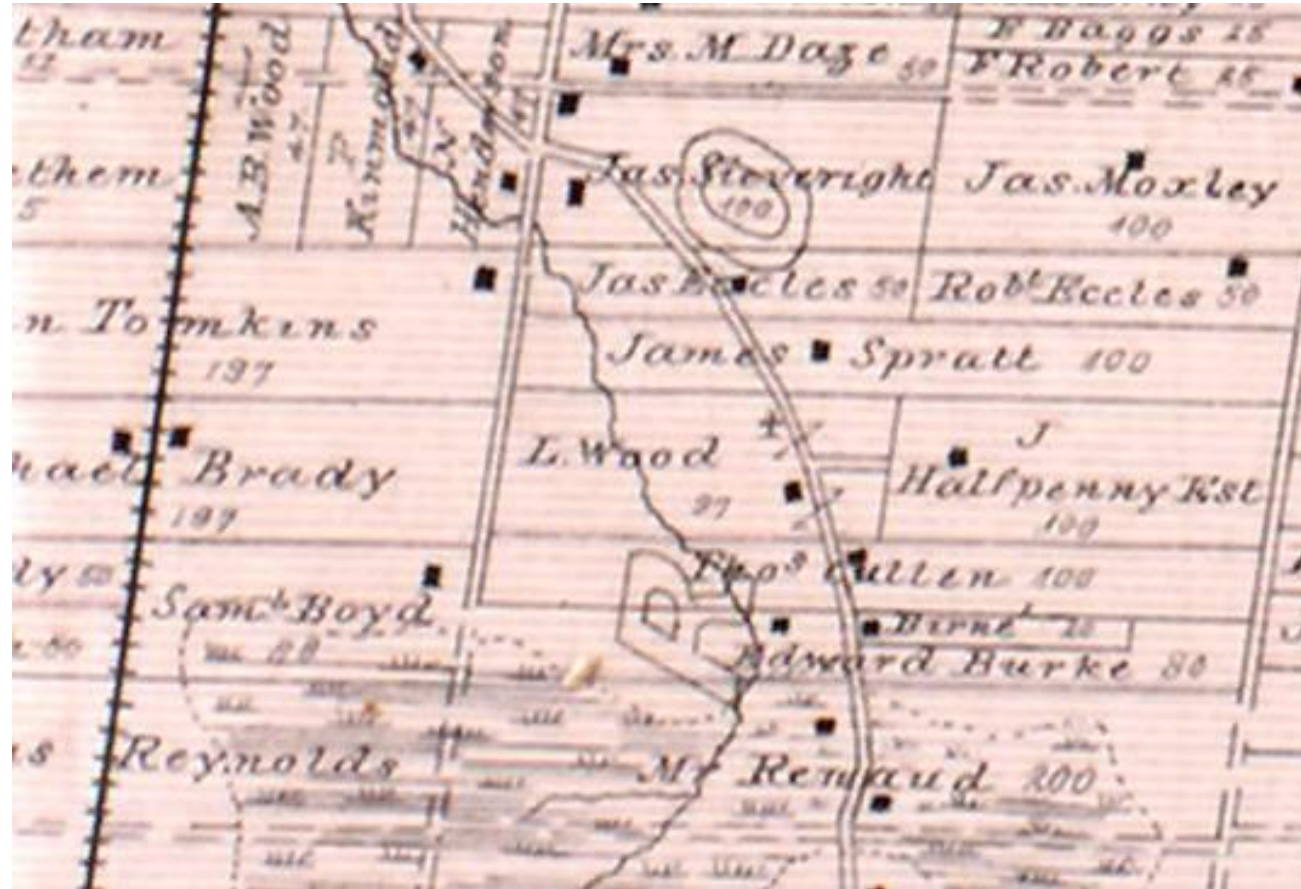
Lot 6 – James Sieveright,
James Moxley

Lot 7 – James and Robert
Eccles, James Spratt

Lot 8 – Leonard Wood,
John Halfpenny
(Halfpenny) Estate

Lot 9 – Thomas Cullen
(Blossom Park
subdivision), Birne,
Edward Burke

Lot 10 – Mr. Renaud



James Sieveright (1812-1890)

- Emigrated from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1834 with his parents and all his siblings except his eldest brother.
- Gloucester's first Reeve in 1850 and township clerk prior to that.
- He was a captain in the militia and a justice of the peace.
- His residence, 'Mountain View' was located just west of the street that honours his memory, Sieveright Road. The name is derived from views of the Eardley Escarpment from this location.
- He left no heirs and as a result, his property was subdivided into 5 acre park lots, with the name Iberville Townsite on March 1, 1893, Plan 141

MOUNTAIN VIEW, RES. OF JAS. SIEVRIGHT, CON 4, LOT 6, GLOUCESTER

Bank Street “The Highway”

- Previous names include Bytown & Prescott Carriage Road, Prescott Road, Ottawa & Gloucester Road, Metcalfe Road, Metcalfe Highway, King’s Highway 31, Regional Road 85, Regional Road 31.
- Originally was not the main road southward from Billings Bridge. This was the former Bowesville Road (now partly Riverside Drive)
- There was swampland south of Billings Bridge, and both north and south of Blossom Park
- Current route established on August 16, 1844, By-Law 19, Dalhousie District Council.
- Road macadamized by Ottawa and Gloucester Road Company between 1874 and 1876.
- Toll Road from 1876 until 1920. Toll Gates at Billings Bridge, Conroy Road and Greely. Paved in 1923.
- King’s Highway 31 from 1936 until 1997
- Old Corduroy Road unearthed during 1950s and 1960s improvements
- Bank Street was widened to 4 lanes in 1957 and curves were banked at that time. Heavy equipment sank into muck at the Celery Farm. School children highway crossing immediately became a concern.
- Street lighting, sidewalks and left turn lanes were added in 1992.
- Was not named Bank Street until after 2001 amalgamation



Bank Street during Different Eras

- 1992 Reconstruction looking north near St. Bernard Street (right)
- 1957 just prior to Highway widening, looking north from near Rosebella Avenue (left)
- 1957 Photo – Rear - Beverley Clark pushing carriage carrying baby Tracey Clark, Michael Clark, Eleanor Creighton (Tracey's godmother), Front – Lindsay Clark, Jean Blackburn (Michael's godmother), Julie Clark





Other Major Roads

(Street signs in old Gloucester colours)

- **Conroy Road**
 - Named for the family of John Conroy who owned land south of Hunt Club Road
 - This was the 5th Concession, Rideau Front
- **Albion Road**
 - Named in 1951 when the airport was being expanded
 - The road was improved to make it passable through the wetlands south of Lester Road to replace Bowesville Road which was being cut by the airport expansion
 - Previous names included Research Road, Long Swamp Road, 4th Concession (Rideau Front)
 - Was a subject to a major controversy between 2004 and 2007 when the Lester Road intersection was closed to through traffic. This pitted neighbours, communities and even city councillors against each other. See the end of this presentation for just a few of the many news stories on this issue including a letter to the editor from my own sister-in-law.
 - 'Albion' is an archaic and now seldomly used alternate name for Great Britain that may have been derived from the 'White' Cliffs of Dover.



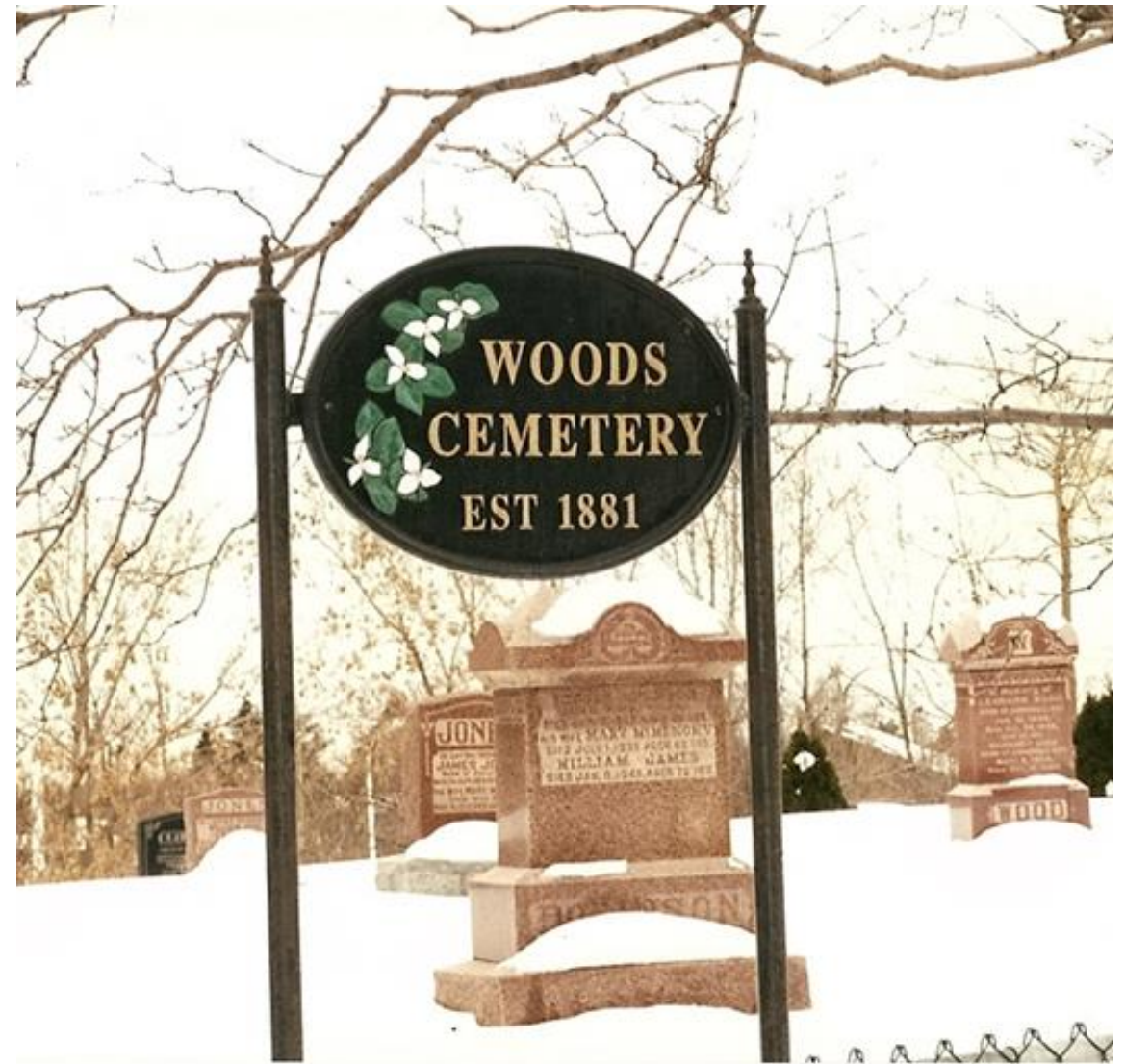
Other Major Roads

- **Davidson Side Road**
- Named for former landowner Andrew Edgar Davidson.
- **Lester Road**
- Named for the family of Edgar & Viola Lester who owned land immediately south of Lester Road
- The road did not exist until after World War II when it was built in order to facilitate the subdivision of the Lester farm.
- Airport extension opened on November 8, 1993
- **Hunt Club Road**
- Was a dead end street east of Albion Road until 1986.
- There was an impassible right of way that was likely used by buggies in the old days that had fallen into disuse.
- Named for the Hunt Club and Golf Course.



Wood's Cemetery

- Wood's Cemetery started as a family cemetery with the oldest tombstone, Charles Kinmond dating to 1859.
- Served mainly the Anglican and Presbyterian communities
- Deeded to the Anglican Church in 1881 by Leonard Wood.
- Some burials were moved here from St. James Anglican Church Leitrim around World War I
- The cemetery was full in the 1920s. In 1946, the John Goth farm east of Bank Street was considered for a cemetery expansion named Elmdale Cemetery. An option was then taken out in early 1948 for the east half of the Blossom Park subdivision but the option lapsed.
- Severely damaged in 2022 Derecho storm



St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery

- Located on Albion Road at D'Aoust Avenue
- The cemetery originally served St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Billings Bridge
- The cemetery was purchased on July 14, 1897 from James Spratt and wife.
- The cemetery was in a state of neglect in 1957.
- Since the founding of St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church on St. Bernard Street, this church is now responsible for this cemetery.



Jewish Memorial Gardens

- Jewish Memorial Gardens has served Ottawa's Jewish community since 1907
- The families of many of Ottawa's historic retailers and Jewish community leaders can be found here.
- For example, A.J. Frieman, founder of Frieman's Department Store, Caspar Caplan, founder of Caplan's Department Store, David Mirsky of Pure Spring soft drink fame.
- Portions of the cemetery were acquired from John Howard Spratt on June 13, 1907 by the Hebrew Brethren of Ottawa and on June 7, 1913 by the Murray Street Synagogue.
- Further property was acquired from Myer Stein and David Henderson in 1942 and 1943, likely at the north end of the cemetery, which was last section of the cemetery opened for burials.
- Major improvements were made in 2015-2016 including new security fences, tree removal, a new parking lot (parking used to along the highway) and areas for reflection.
- Holocaust Memorial pictured at right



Henderson House, 3560 Albion Road

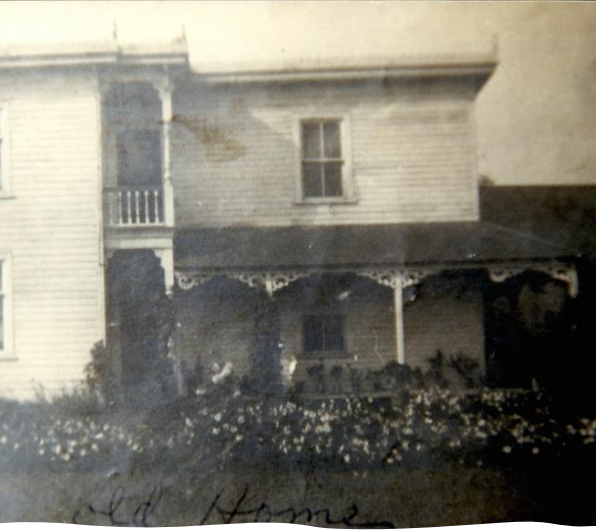
- Nathaniel Henderson acquired property at Bank Street and Albion Road in 1898. He rented the property for many years before this from the Kinmond family.
 - Picture of the older Henderson house is from 1944
 - The house is still present
 - The newer Henderson house dates to 1946-47 is also on the west side of Albion Road.
-



Leonard Wood/John Goth House

- Pioneer brick house dated to before 1861
 - Was an Inn during the horse and buggy era
 - Barn destroyed by fire on June 30, 1958
 - The house was gutted by fire caused by arsonists around 1970 and then demolished
 - Now the site of Quail Ridge
 - Upper Photo – Art Clark, Lower Photo – Warren Clark
-





Boyd House and Family, 3960 Albion Road

- Samuel Boyd purchased the property in 1883 and had previously been owned by Thomas McKay of New Edinburgh.
- The original house (upper left) was destroyed by fire.
- Last parts of farm were sold by the Boyd family to the National Capital Commission in 1958-1959 and became the Greenbelt Riding School.
- Samuel Boyd family (Back – Potter, Kate, Maud, Bower; Front – Ethyl, Edna, Russell, Ella)



DO YOU WISH TO BUY A LOT AT
Blossom Park for \$60.00 each, \$5.00
cash, and balance to suit purchaser.

First July 28, 1911 Ad

BLOSSOM PARK
Only a few more lots for sale, \$60, \$70, \$80, \$90, \$100.
Payments Easy.
\$10 Cash and \$5.00 per month without interest and no
taxes for 2 years.
LAPIERRE & LAPIERRE
REAL ESTATE AGENTS.
Phone 1437. 52 RIDEAU ST., OTTAWA.

1912 Ad

Blossom Park Subdivision



Hormidas Racine

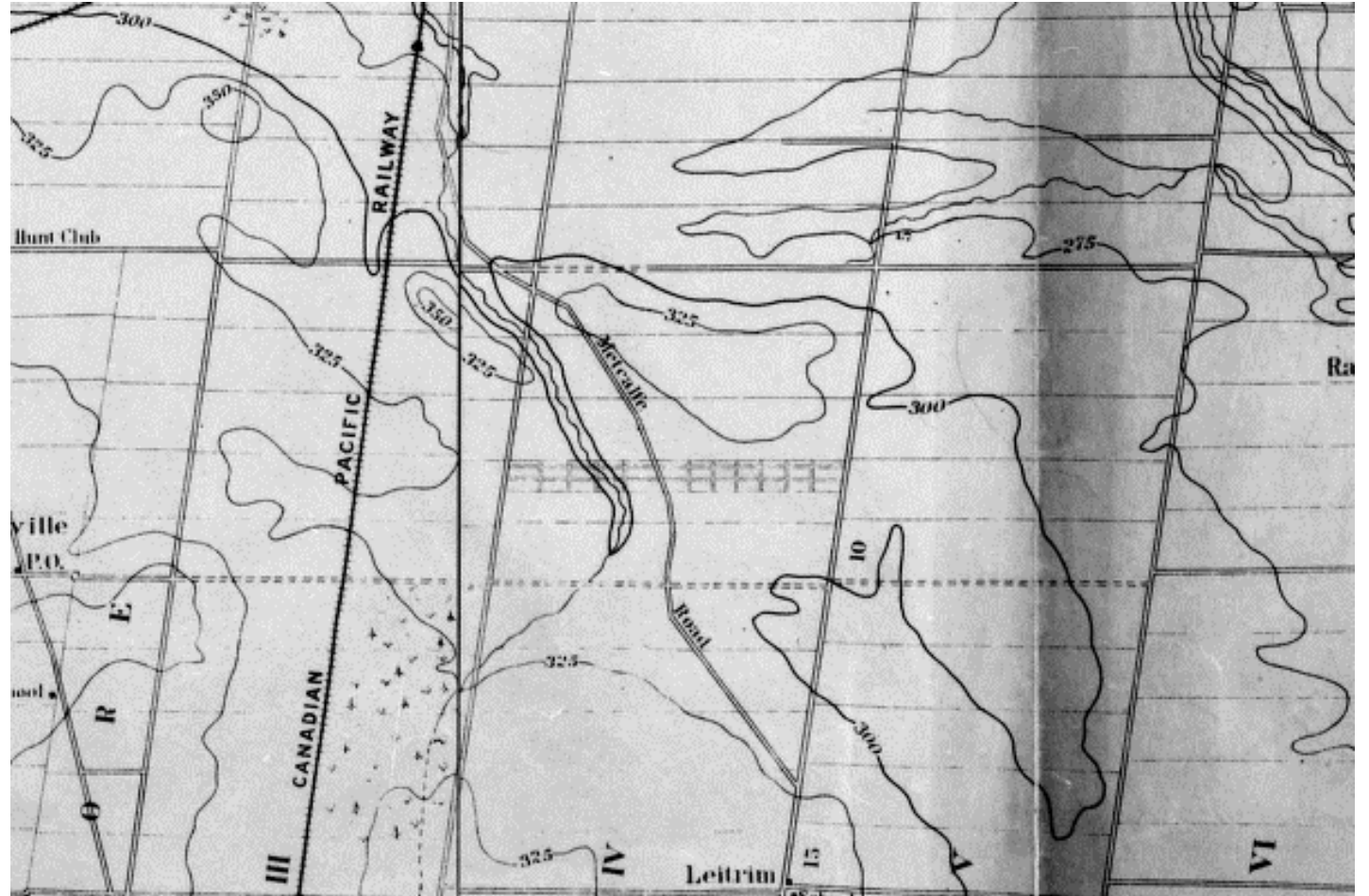
- Anne Cullen (widow of Thomas Cullen 1835-1889) sold the property to Rudolphe Chevrier in 1910. Helen Cullen (mother of Thomas) and her father, William Kavanagh were the original owners of the property.
- Rudolphe founded the Bytown & Suburb Land Company Ltd., which subdivided Blossom Park
- Subdivision Plan 326 was registered on November 6, 1911.
- Named for a 19th century apple orchard, a few old apple trees were still on site in the 1960s (KFC property).
- Blossom Park had little to offer in 1911. Remote rural location. Narrow gravel road to the city was not improved until 1923. Hydro was not extended to the area until 1929. Telephone service had arrived in 1907.
- Unsold portions of subdivision were sold for auction in 1921, which the Township of Gloucester purchased. Further lots lost for tax arrears were also purchased by the township in 1923
- Only one tar paper house was built in the early days, on Kingsdale just east of Bank Street and was owned by Hormidas & Cordelia Racine, whose son was a co-owner of Racine, Robert and Gauthier Funeral Directors. The house was sold to John (Jack) and Leara Parker in 1956, who are buried in Wood's Cemetery.

Blossom Park Roads

- Original subdivision street names were Rosebella, Central, and Lawrence. The cross streets were all numbered.
- Central was renamed Kingsdale in 1956 and Lawrence was renamed Queensdale in 1957
- Cross-streets built include 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th streets. An allowance has existed for 10th Street for many years but the street was never built.
- Third Street was renamed Mavis on November 15, 1976.

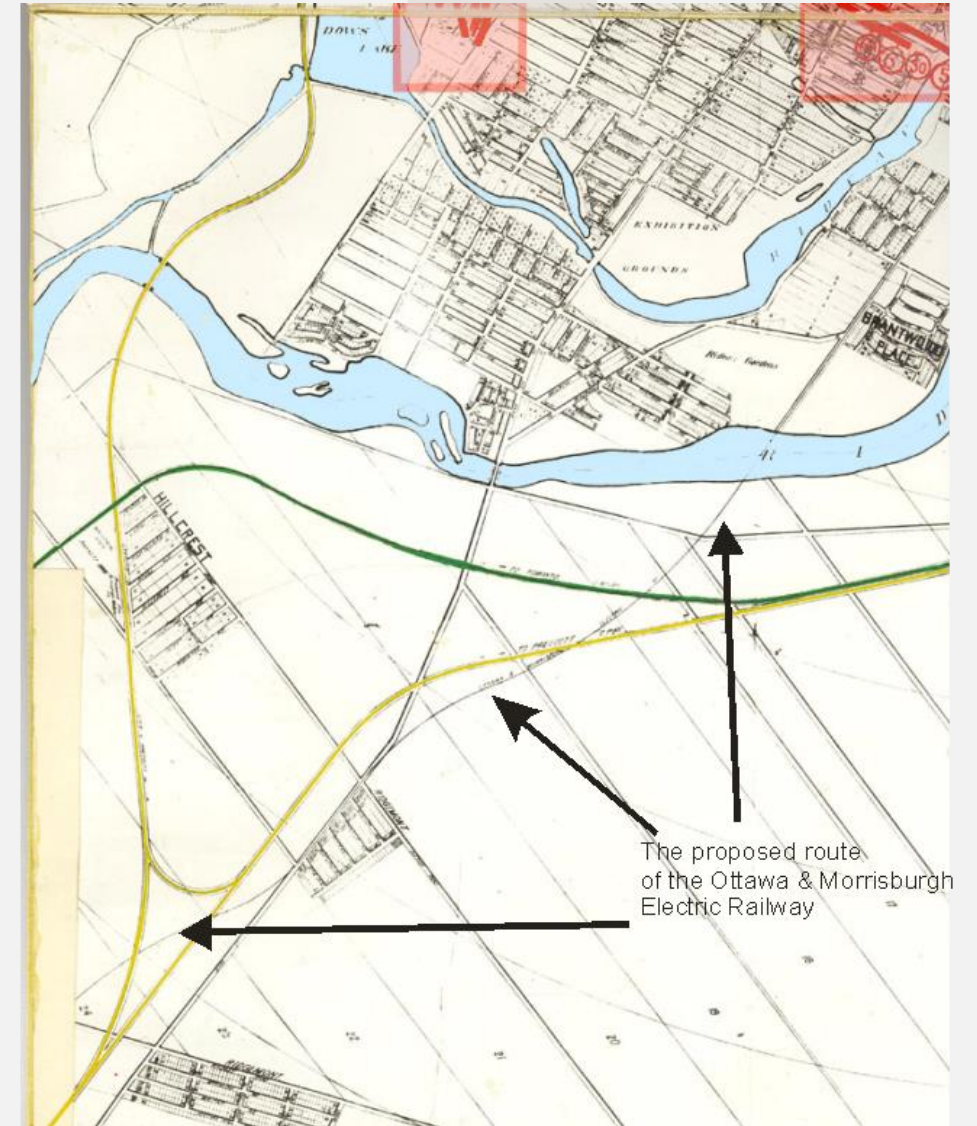


1913 Map



Ottawa & Morrisburg Electric Railway

- The first survey occurred in 1881
- Proposals had varied routes over the years
- It became a proposed electric railway in 1908
- A direct route between Ottawa and Morrisburg was proposed in 1910. Parts of the rail line were to be adjacent to Bank Street
- Ground breaking on August 21, 1913 at the Potvin farm near the old Sieveright farm.
- Several kilometres of rail bed were built south to Leitrim and beyond.
- The project fizzled out during World War I, and rail was never laid. Rail bed was reclaimed by farmers.



Spratt's Sand Pit

- The depression in front of Adam's Airport Inn was an early sand pit.
 - The current site of Upper Hunt Club was a sandpit known locally as Spratt's Sand Pit.
 - The Greater Ottawa Stone & Concrete Limited acquired the property in 1914-1915.
 - The pit remained in operation until the 1960s when sand was exhausted
 - The entrance into the pit was located off of Sieveright Road just east of Bank Street, where there was a little office and a weigh scale used by trucks leaving the pit.
 - Two similar views. The upper photo from April 1976 shows Spratt's Pit. The lower photo shows Upper Hunt Club. Both show Strathmore Towers in the distance, with only the first tower completed in 1976.
-



Conroy (Barrett's) Pit

- George W. Barrett received the property in 1902 as a result of a legal dispute within the Moxley family, the previous owners.
- Another sand pit to the east of Spratt's pit was mined by Mr. Barrett, related to the family from Leitrim at the start of the 1960s, until it became part of the Greenbelt in 1965. It was known as the 'Sand Farm' within the Barrett family.
- The existing road became the access road after the original road caused problems for Fraser's dog kennel business. This is the one remaining house just south of the Conroy Dog Park on Conroy Road.
- Once the pit was abandoned, a large spring fed pond developed in the base of the pit, which was eventually drained away to the north towards the future Hunt Club Road.
- The hill on the west side of the pit has been used for tobogganing since the 1960s. There had been a parking lot in the pit near the toboggan hill until it became a popular dog park.
- In 1979, it was the proposed new site for the Central Canada Exhibition
- It gradually became a popular off-leash dog park starting in the 1990s.
- Devastated by May 21, 2022 storm, but now re-opened
- The trails and roads through the sandpits were a delight for the Clark cousins using Mike Clark's dune-buggy built at Gloucester High School during the early 1970s.
- The sand pits were also a favourite location for summer 'pit' parties for the local youth.



May 21, 2022 Derecho Arrival in Blossom Park

- Film clip courtesy of Kevin Glassford
- Shows the arrival of the storm
- Bridle Path Drive is the street in the clip
- [Clip link](#)



Conroy Pit
Derecho
Devastation –
May 21, 2022



Spratt/Conroy Pit Drain

- Both pits were spring fed and a deep ditch was used to drain water northward towards present day Hunt Club Road, which was then a wetland. Hunt Club was a dead end east of Albion Road until it was extended to Conroy Road in 1986.
- Note that a ridge existed on the north side of the Spratt pit that was eliminated when the Upper Hunt Club subdivision was built starting in the summer of 1993.
- The drain pictured here was located approximately where Sable Ridge Drive runs north towards Hunt Club Road.





Sand Pits in the 1977

- The north side of the Spratt pit featured a ridge and a fabulous hardwood forest with thousands of Trilliums in the spring. (centre and right photos) This was replaced by the Upper Hunt Club subdivision.
- The left photo shows the south slope of the toboggan slide, still present. The toboggan slide was to the right of this picture.

Heafey's Sand Pit



- Heafey's Pit was located in the area now traversed by Bridle Path.
- The pit was started by Bertrad Dowler & Hewson Kellam in 1956 when they purchased land from Robert & Annie Colgate. Robert was a cousin of John McMahon.
- The property was sold to Heafey Construction Limited at the end of 1957.
- The Heafey house and barn was located on the hill above Bridle Path, now Massicotte Lane.
- This had been part of the McMahon Brothers Dairy from 1891 to 1949.
- The McMahon farm suffered a major fire on August 29, 1935, destroying the house, three barns and all other buildings.
- John Martin McMahon, last of the McMahon brothers, died on October 4, 1948.
- The photo on the left shows the McMahon house post the 1935 fire, which later was owned by the Heafey family.

Blossom Park in 1945

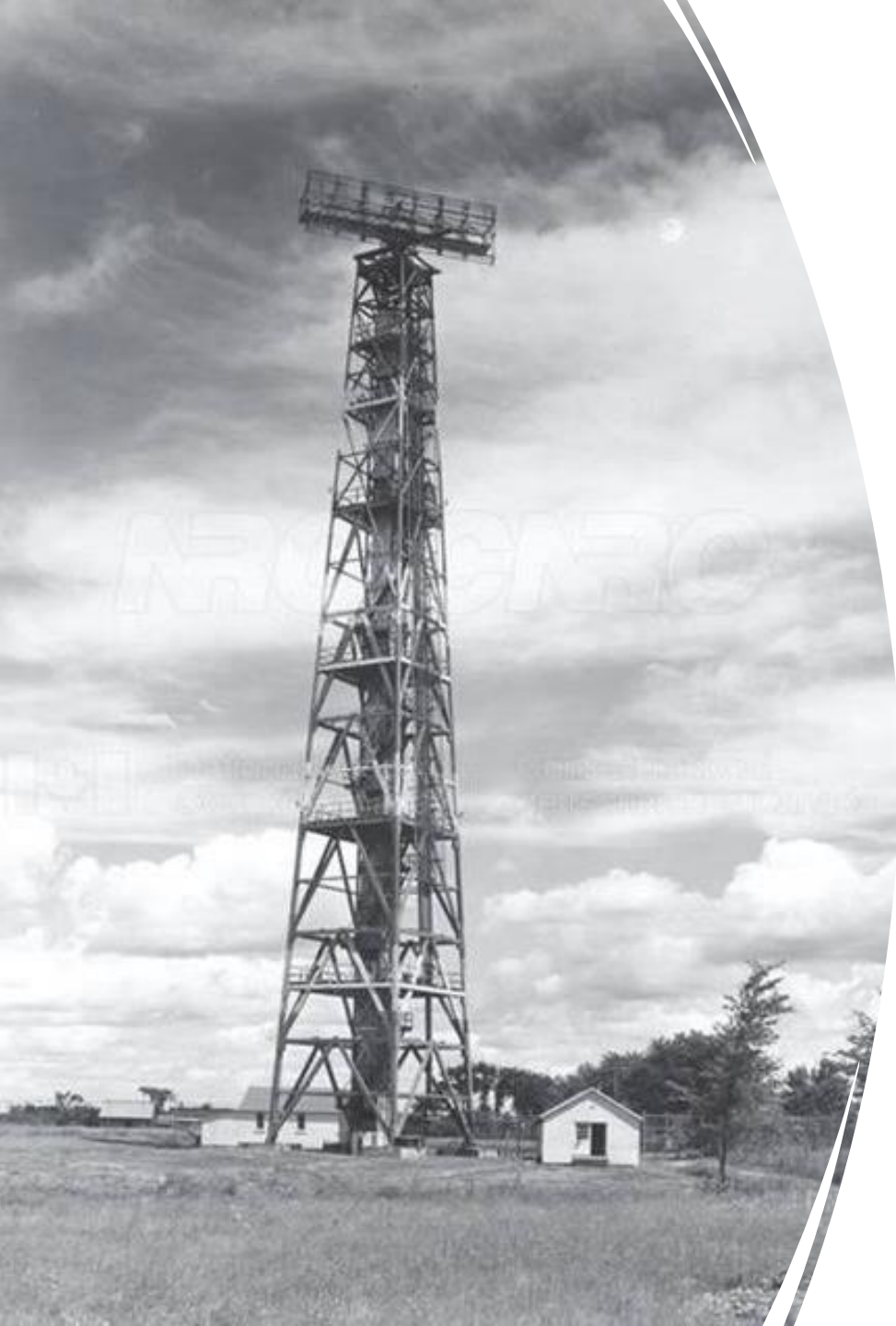
- Blossom Park had not been used for agriculture since at least 1910 and had returned to forest
 - Only development is the Metcalfe Road Research Station (bottom left)
 - Some Neighbouring farmland was also abandoned and re-forested. Most of the local farmland was poor quality, either infertile sand or poorly drained swampland.
-



Celery Hearts

- Bank Street and Davidson Side Road on the northeast side of the intersection. See Green area
- A Celery farm, black muck soil surrounded with drainage ditches
- Land severed in 1927 by Carl (Charles) P. Stewart. Previously owned by the Backes family since 1888
- Sold to Saul Torontow in 1941-1942 who died under mysterious circumstances (later confirmed as suicide) on June 17, 1948 at the Rockcliffe Speedway (Mile Circle).
- The property then passed to Edward Duford
- Sold to the National Capital Commission in 1963 and the farm was abandoned.



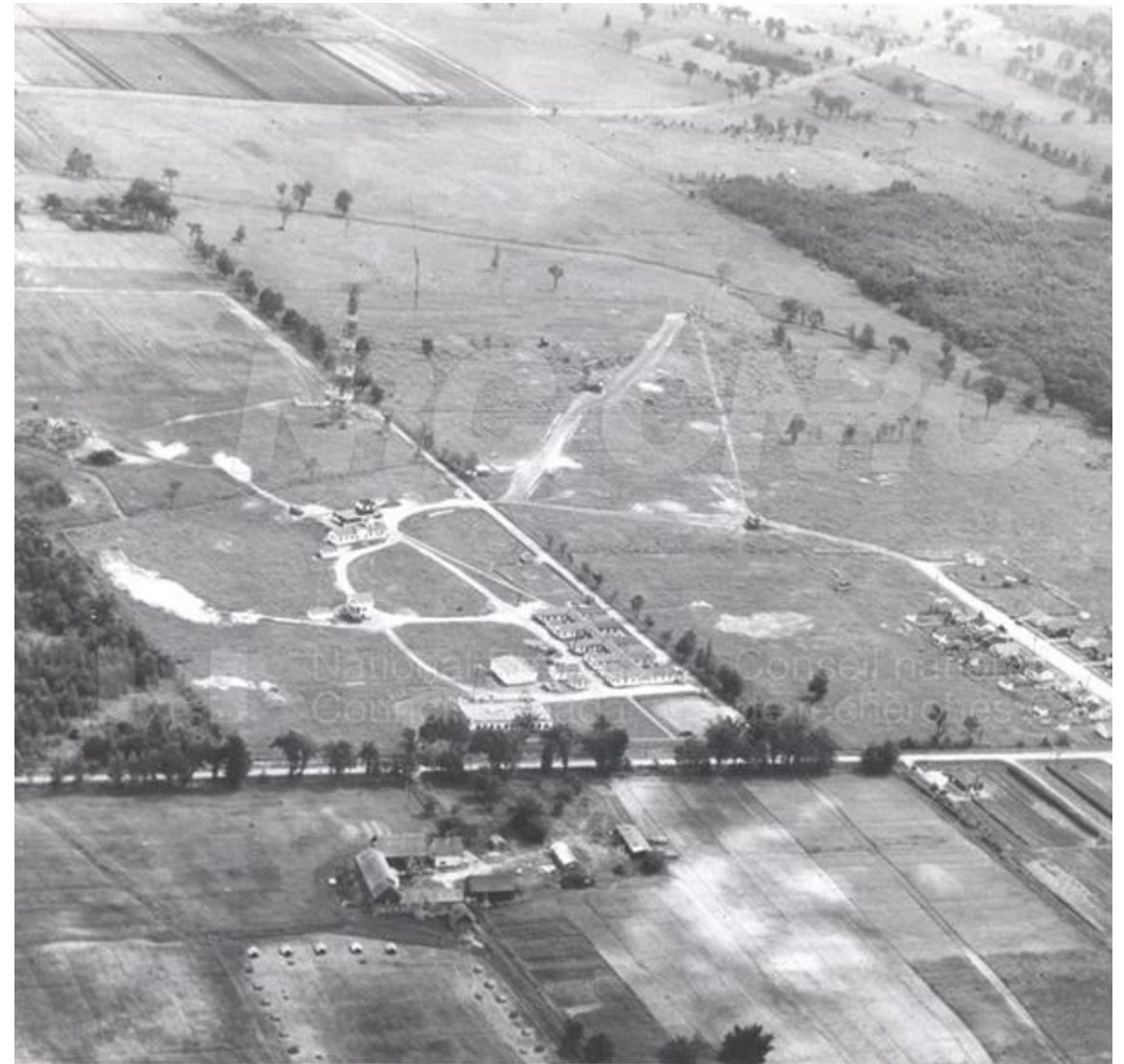


Metcalfe Road Research Station (Albion and Queensdale)

- National Research Council purchased land from James Bower Boyd in 1941 for vital early radar research for the war effort
- Featured a wooden red radar tower, the biggest Blossom Park landmark, as well as several smaller buildings and later a radar dish.
- A small subdivision of prefabricated homes known as Snow Village offered houses to NRC workers during the war. McNaughton Road named after Andrew McNaughton, President of the NRC from 1935 to 1944 was the single street. It was renamed Aladdin Lane in 1957. The homes were demolished in 1976 and replaced by the Aladdin Villas in 1977.

Metcalfe Road Research Station 1949 Photo

- The radar tower was an attraction to young boys of the neighbourhood who wanted to climb it.
- The red radar tower was removed sometime in the 1960s
- The last building on Albion Road was gutted by fire on October 12, 1990 and demolished.
- It was a storage site for radioactive material originally from the opposite side of Albion Road for a number of years
- Now the site of Queensdale Village subdivision
- Photo shows Albion Road in the foreground and facing south-east. Wooded Blossom Park is on the left. Lester Road is still not present. The Celery Hearts farm can be seen in the upper left.



Sutherland's Greenhouses 2875 Bank Street

- The McCann family purchased the property from John Goth in 1945 and built a commercial hen house, which was later converted into a stable.
- Annie Sutherland purchased the building in 1956 and built a commercial greenhouse operation.
- Kathleen 'Kay' McCann maintained a small stable at the back of the property adjacent to the back of the Blossom Park Public School property.
- A \$50,000 Fire October 28, 1958 destroyed the 'warehouse and living quarters' and two large greenhouses, leaving Annie and son Earl homeless. The cedar block and mortar building glowed like a honeycomb when it was on fire. They rebuilt and later expanded to include a nursery operation.
- Sold to Roger Laporte on July 26, 1974, who opened a Nursery, and sold tropical plants from the greenhouses.
- Ambitious plans to build 'Mother Nature's Market' starting in 1980 did not pan out and the operation was up for sale in 1981.
- Roger Laporte filed for bankruptcy on June 16, 1983.
- Became the Victoria Heights subdivision



FIRE RAVAGES BLOSSOM PARK GREENHOUSES.



Aladdin Drive-In

- Opened on July 13, 1951
- Built by George Bryson.
- Sold to the National Capital Commission in 1966, but leased back.
- Closed at the end of the 1993 season
- Located on the west side of Albion Road just north of Lester Road
- The entrance and exit roadways are still visible although quickly fading.



D'Aoust Lumber, 2784 Bank Street

- William D'Aoust purchased property from Guy Wood beginning in 1951 when he opened his lumber business
- Because of pronunciation difficulties, the business was widely known as 'Doe Lumber' amongst the dominant Anglo community
- Note: Air Raid Siren
- At least one major fire, on February 3, 1968

Daoust Lumber overhead view in 1961

- There was a long entrance driveway to the site from Bank Street and across Sawmill Creek. The entrance is in the upper left of the photo.
- The customer showroom is the building near the top centre with 'DAOUST' written on the roof.



D'Aoust's 'baby' slips into history

D'Aoust Lumber

- William D'Aoust sold business to Campeau Corporation in 1974
- Business was sold again in 1982 to Douglas MacDonald Development Corporation
- Closed on June 22, 1991
- Following the 1974 sale, the William D'Aoust house originally located on Bank Street at the D'Aoust laneway entrance was moved to 3675 Albion Road, now abandoned, which will be redeveloped soon.
- Now the site of Sawmill Creek Elementary School and École élémentaire publique Gabrielle-Roy

The Subdivision that Never Happened

Proposed Sawmill Creek
subdivision on the former
D'Aoust Lumber site in 1993

Now Open

MacDonald Homes
introduces the
NEW Highland Series
of Sawmill Creek.

The most popular and fastest selling homes in
all of Ottawa, just minutes from downtown.

Single family homes 941sq. ft. to 1902 sq. ft. starting from

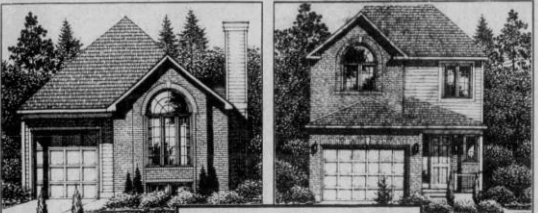
\$137,990 NET GST INCLUDED

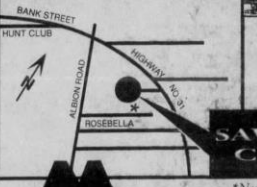
7 NEW DESIGNS

HIGHLAND
SERIES IN

3 & 4 BEDROOM LAYOUTS

SAWMILL CREEK


the Skye B *the Dundee B*

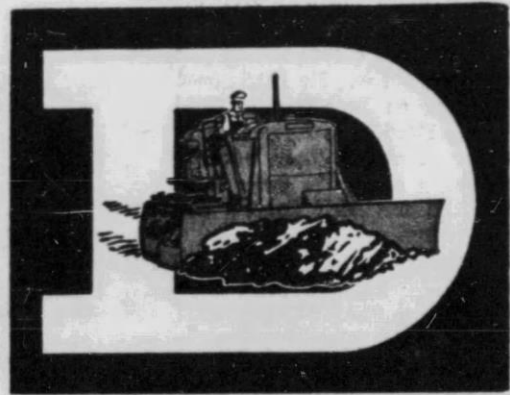

BANK STREET
HUNT CLUB
ROSEBELLA
SAWMILL CREEK

 **SAWMILL CREEK**

MACDONALD HOMES
Building Quality Homes in Ottawa for more than 30 years

Sales Centre Hours
Mon. to Thurs.
1-8 pm
Sat. and Sun.
12-5 pm
521-4774

Dibblee/Adam's Airport Inn



DIBBLEE
CONSTRUCTION

384 Bank St., Ottawa, Ont. — Telephone 236-7201

- Dibblee Construction Company Ltd. had a maintenance yard at 2697 Bank Street. Built in 1953. Dibblee left around 1991, the building was demolished in 1997 and became part of the Upper Hunt Club subdivision
- Dibblee also built an office building in 1966 at 2721 Bank Street, which was later the public library and now Adam's Airport Inn since 1992. The building was extended southward when it became a hotel.

Blossom Park subdivision Finally Gets Going

- Lots along Bank Street, Albion Road and Goth Avenue are sold to build individual homes starting in 1947. The first houses were completed in 1950.
- Lots were sold in Blossom Park between Bank Street and 6th Street in 1953 for individual homes.
- Houses built towards Conroy Road in 1954-1955
- Remaining lots west of Bank Street were built in 1956.
- Six lots per house, 150 feet by 100 feet to accommodate wells and septic systems.
- Construction by J.P Chenier Company Limited.
- Sales Agent was Jack Aaron Company Limited.
- There was a temporary sawmill at Kingsdale and Sixth street to deal with tree removal during subdivision construction.
- Road beds were built with leftover tree branches and covered with gravel.
- There were ditches at the back of each lot.
- Roads were improved with a gravel and tar surface in the 1960s.
- Blossom Park residents are known as 'Blossom Parkers'
[Reference](#)

BUILDING LOTS FOR SALE

IN BLOSSOM PARK

in the
Township of Gloucester

Area: 15,000 sq. ft.; depth, 100'; frontage, 150'

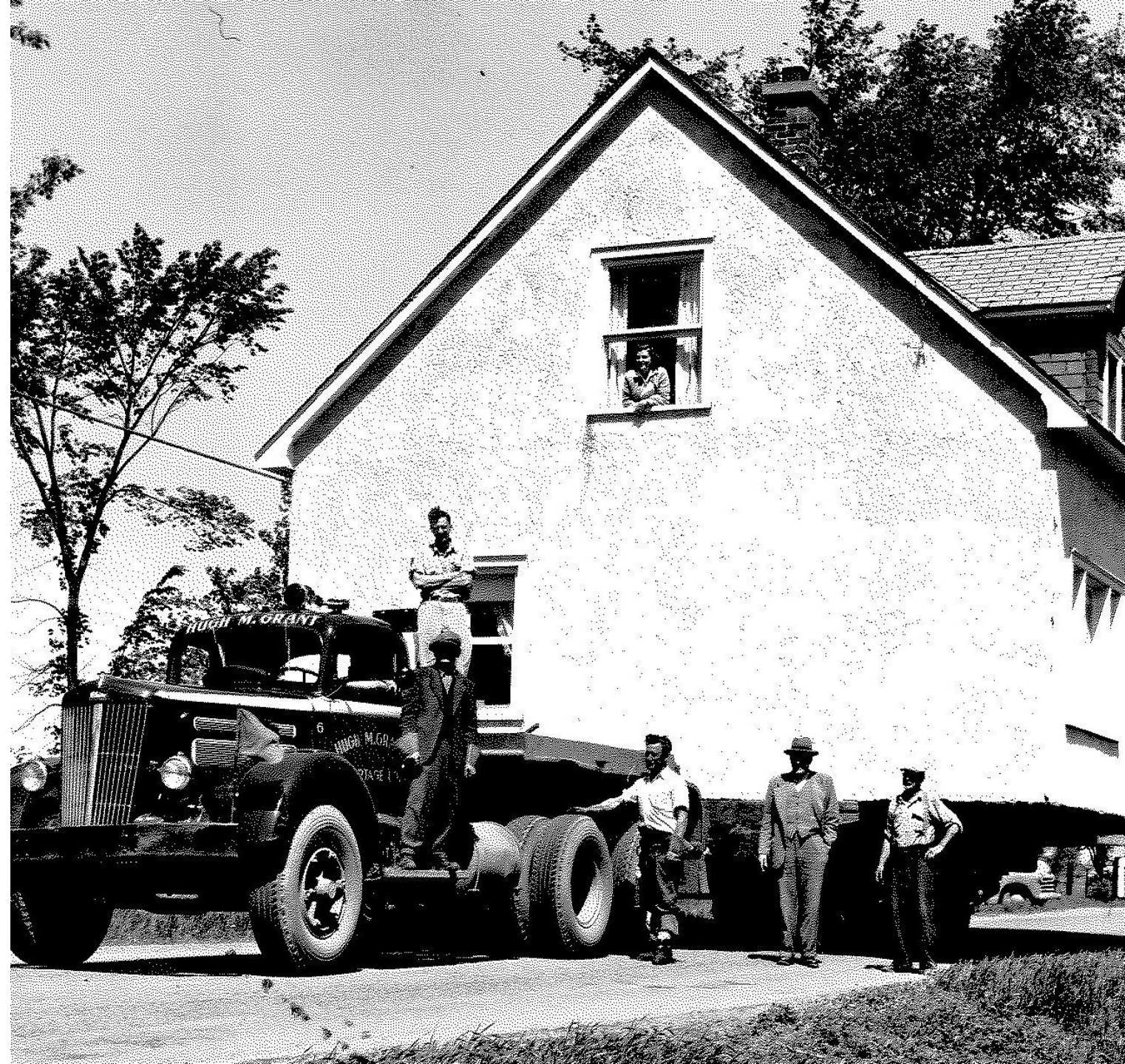
Price: \$460 surveyed

The Township of Gloucester has for sale a limited number of good building lots approximately ½ mile beyond the City Boundary and on the East side of the Metcalfe Road. The above price is conditional on the purchaser building a dwelling thereon of not less than 750 sq. ft. in area and completing the outside within one year of date of purchase.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Township Hall, 1349 Bank Street, Billings Bridge, Tel. 5-1869.

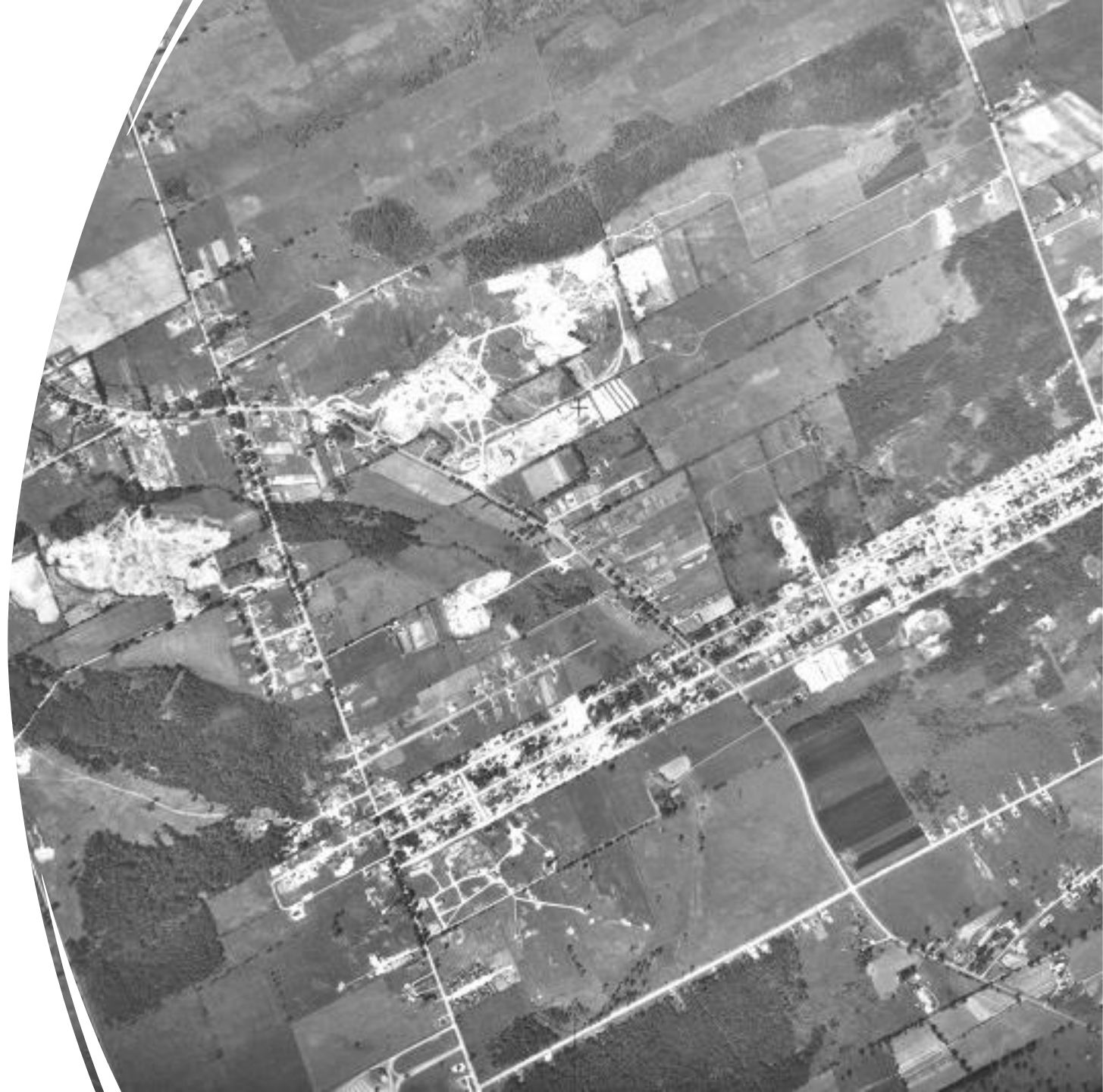
Houses Trucked to Blossom Park

- Sherwood House, 3565 Albion Road moved from Ellwood (Bank Street at the Railway overpass near Ledbury Avenue) in 1950 (house still present) - pictured
- Gadbois House, Bank Street (replaced by Victoria Heights subdivision), also moved from Ellwood in 1950..
- Bernard House, 2901 Bank Street, moved from Hog's Back in 1952, still present
- Armstrong House, 1701 Kingsdale Avenue, moved from Colonel By Drive just south of Carleton University in 1956 (house still present)
- Any others?



Blossom Park in 1956

- Blossom Park subdivision fully built out
- Some neighbouring subdivisions are being built including the Rebner and Colgate subdivisions, Goth Avenue and the beginnings of Athans Park.



Where did kids go to school prior to 1956?

- The dividing line was at Rosebella Avenue.
- Those living on this street and to the south, attended Leitrim School, Gloucester School Section 2, Bank and Leitrim Road, now the site of the Ottawa Police Station (upper picture)
- Those living north of Rosebella Avenue attended Ellwood School, Gloucester School Section 3, now replaced by a grey apartment building opposite to Home Depot (lower picture).
- The planned closure of Ellwood School in June 1956, forced action to build new schools in Blossom Park.
- High School students attended city schools, Tech, Commerce, Lisgar. Later Ridgemont until Gloucester High School opened in 1963.



St. Bernard Catholic School

- Property acquired from Isaac Halpenny and wife in 1955
- First two classrooms opened in February 1956
- Four more rooms opened in September 1956
- Officially blessed on June 9, 1957
- Gloucester Roman Catholic School Section 2
- Mrs. Georgia Morissette, mother of singer Alanis, taught here for a number of years.



BLESSING NEW SCHOOL

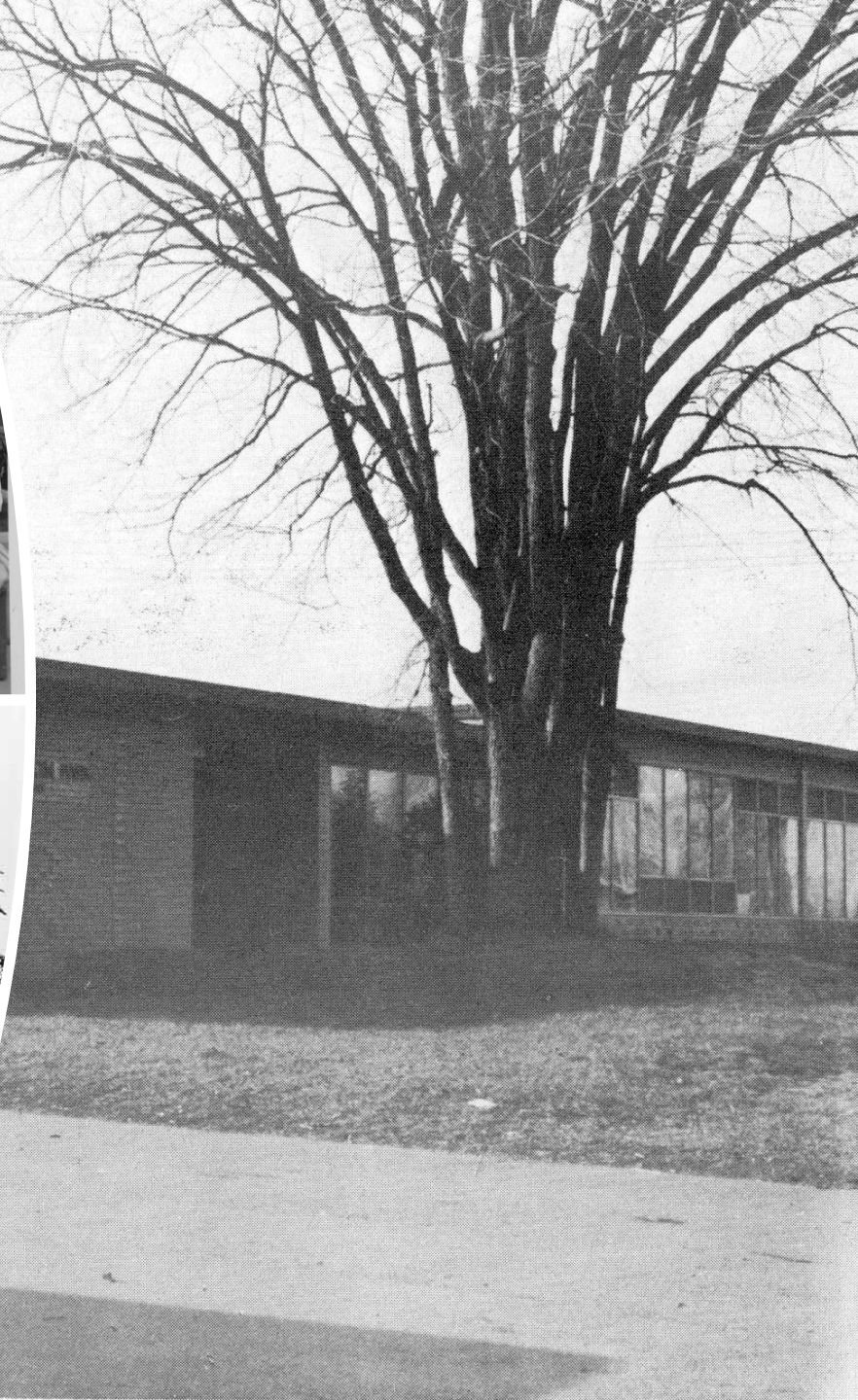
Favored with fine weather, this ceremony—the blessing of the new St. Bernard's School in Blossoms Park — drew a large crowd Sunday

afternoon. Picture shows the priest and assistants as he walks around the building sprinkling it with Holy Water.

—Photo by Nev

Blossom Park Public School

- Property acquired from Isaac Halpenny & wife in 1955.
- Originally designated as an annex to Gloucester School Section 2
- When Ellwood School was slated for closure, this school was designated as its replacement and was renumbered as School Section 3.
- Opened in January 1957
- Significant fire damage to staff room near front entrance on October 9, 1959. My father took me to see the fire damage.
- The school was featured in the January 1992 edition of 'The World of Archie' comics
- Pictured – Graduating Class of about 1960, School in 1969, School construction in 1956.



École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Bernardette

- Property acquired from the National Capital Commission (part of the Greenbelt) on July 31, 1962
- School built in 1964
- The French annex to St. Bernard School
- Gloucester Roman Catholic School Section 2





Sawmill Creek Elementary School

- Built as a replacement for Ramsayville Public School
- Opened on February 10, 1996

École élémentaire publique Gabrielle-Roy

- Opened on November 29, 2001
- Gabrielle Roy (1909-1983) was a French-Canadian novelist praised for her skill in depicting the hopes and frustrations of the poor.



Post Offices

- 'Gloucester' Post Office (lower photo) opened on August 1, 1952 at 1435 Goth Avenue. Postmasters included Lafrance, Jahn, and Rochon.
- 'Blossom Park' Post Office (upper photo) opened on March 26, 1956 at 1716 Kingsdale Avenue. Postmasters included Leroux, Monette, Besharah and Beard.
- Both Post Offices closed on May 31, 1973. The day after, door to door mail delivery began.
- Bank Street had mailbox delivery, first as R.R.1 Billings Bridge up until 1958 and then R.R.4 Ottawa.
- Conroy Road was R.R.5 Ottawa.



K-Mart Plaza Opens August 19, 1970 (2950 Bank Street)

Land sold by James Bower Boyd in October 1969.

Overflow parking on opening day extended down Bank Street.

Grocery store was K-Mart brand until it converted to Loblaws in early November 1973.

Loblaws was converted to Grenon's Your Independent Grocer in the Summer of 1993 and closed in the fall of 1996.

IN THE K mart PLAZA
BANK ST. ON HIGHWAY 31, OTTAWA, ONT.

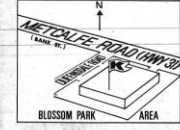
Another **NEW!**

Kmart
A Division of The K.S. Wilson Company Limited

THE ONE STOP SHOPPING DEPT. STORE

OPENS WEDS. AUGUST 19th

AT 10AM



- A COMPLETE DEPARTMENT STORE
- DISCOUNT FOOD DEPARTMENT
- HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE
- RUG DEPARTMENT
- AUTO CENTRE

Kmart

OPEN 10 A.M. TO 10 P.M. MON. TO FRI. • SAT. 9 A.M. TO 10 P.M.



Blossom Park Kmart gets axe

Money-losing store
one of 10 countrywide
to close in new year



K-Mart Closes in 1998

- The Opening of South Keys Shopping Centre in 1996 caused a massive retail disruption in South Ottawa
- Loblaws moved from Bank and Alta Vista to South Keys (opening on April 27, 1996)
- The Independent Grocer moved from Blossom Park to Bank and Alta Vista
- Zellers moved from Herongate to Billings Bridge
- Walmart at South Keys (opening on April 27, 1996) made K-Mart unprofitable.

Post K-Mart

- White Rose Nursery – Opened on November 4, 1999 and closed on September 8, 2002 when the company experienced financial difficulties and eventually closed entirely.
- Giant Tiger – Opened in 1999
- Farm Boy – Opened July 16, 2003



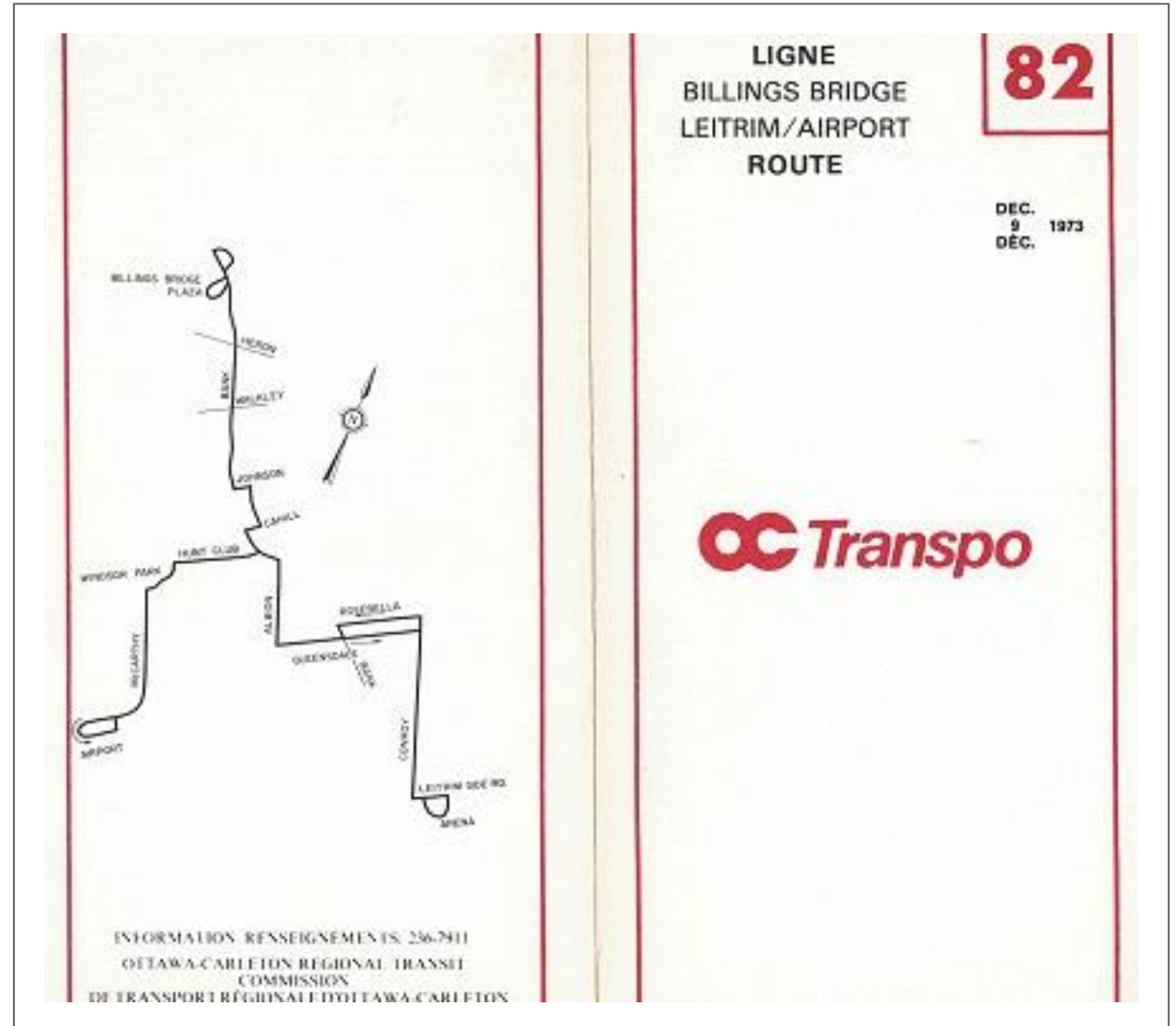
Greenbelt Riding School

- 3960 Albion Road
- Founded in 1958. Run by Walter Kahrer.
- Closed on May 4, 2019
- New owners are currently renovating the buildings and property and will re-open in the summer of 2023
- The house pictured was originally owned by Potter Boyd



Public Transit

- Uplands Bus Lines offered bus service on Albion Road to the Metcalfe Road Research Station in the late 1940s but the service was truncated to Bank Street and Hunt Club Road on July 1, 1950 when the service was taken over by the Ottawa Transportation Commission.
- There were failed bus service trials in 1957 and 1962
- Colonial Coach Lines (later Voyageur) operated a Winchester commuter bus that ran through Blossom Park on Bank Street in the 1950s to 1970s.
- OC Transpo bus service was extended to Blossom Park on November 6, 1972 with a further extension east of Bank Street on December 11, 1972 with Route 82



Alta Vista Animal Hospital



- Started by Dr. J.A. Hutchison at 1818 Bank Street (near Alta Vista) in 1960.
- Moved to a larger facility at 1814 Bank Street in 1969.
- Relocated to 2616 Bank Street (current location) on January 4, 1986
- Former site of two storey Spratt house.

Peter Knippel Nursery

- Now located at 4590 Bank Street
 - Previous location was opposite from Blossom Park shopping centre on the site of the current self storage
 - Land was purchased from James Bower Boyd in 1965. The nursery opened in 1969.
 - Closing Auction Sale was on November 3, 1973. Property sold in 1974 and the nursery building was demolished.
 - Prior to 1969, Peter Knippel nursery was at 2490 Bank Street, behind Mary's Drive-In, which later became Imperial Nursery. It was originally Hahn's Nursery.
-



Potted Roses

well budded and
ready for
planting

- HYBRID TEAS
- Floribundas
- Grandifloras

WHILE THEY LAST
ONLY **2.49** each

PETER KNIPPEL NURSERY

LTD.
GARDEN CENTRE
Bank St. South, Blossom Park
Opposite K-mart Plaza
822-2093



Banks

- Guaranty Trust was in K-Mart Shopping Centre at the south end of the mall.
- TD Bank at 2525 Bank Street opened in 1981 and moved to 2546 Bank Street starting in 1985, previously Triangle Sales Ltd. (campers and trailers), Furnol Rental Equipment Ltd., which went bankrupt in 1982
- Canada Trust was at 2470 Bank Street starting in 1991. In 2000, TD Bank purchased Canada Trust and in September 2000, the TD Bank at 2546 Bank Street branch was merged with Canada Trust at 2470 Bank Street to become TD Canada Trust.
- A new TD Branch opened in 2007 at Bank Street and Queensdale Avenue. Upper photo shows construction in the early spring 2007.





Car Dealer Row

At Ottawa Ford... We've Closed Our Doors! *It's a* **No Longer at Bank Street and Walkley Road!**

Giant Grand Opening Sell-a-thon

Get Celebration Prices. Like Over 100 Mustangs!

at 2496 Bank Street at Albion Road!

New Mustangs from as low as **\$8995**

New Rangers from just **\$119** a month

New Escorts from just **\$119** a month

NO PAYMENTS 'TIL MARCH '87!

See You Today! at **DONNELLY'S** Ottawa **FORD**

Now at 2496 Bank Street! CALL 733-6931

Car Dealer Row

- Donnelly Ford, previous Ottawa Motor Sales Limited opened in October 1986 at 2496 Bank Street, previously located at Bank & Walkley (1850 Bank Street) since October 29, 1959. Earlier location was 423 Richmond Road. The Walkley location became Beaver Lincoln-Mercury in January 1987 and is now a Shoppers Drug Mart.
- Hunt Club Honda opened at 2555 Bank Street in August 1987.
- Bank Street Kia operated at 2818 Bank from 2000 until 2004, then moved to its current location at 2559 Bank Street.
- Bank Street Mitsubishi operated at 2565 Bank Street since 2007. Automax in 2006.



Car Dealer Row

- Bank Street Mazda, 2565 Bank Street from 1988 to 2005, then 2575 Bank Street since 2006. Previously at 2575 Bank, was Aladdin Motor Sales (Peugeot) starting in 1970, then Volkswagen from March 1976 to 1980, which became a Honda dealer from 1981 to 1987. It then became an American Motors/Jeep/Renault dealer in August 1987 until 1990 when Aladdin closed. Sunrise Pontiac/Buick/GMC from 1991 until 2005.
- Hunt Club Volkswagen at 2655 Bank Street opened in 1991. Originally Carl Elliot Toyota from 1973 to 1978, Carl Elliot Chevrolet/Oldsmobile from 1978 to 1985 and Hunt Club Hyundai from 1986 to 1991.



Car Dealer Row

- Bank Street Hyundai operated at 2818 Bank from 1993 until 1999 then moved to 2559 Bank Street from 2000 to 2004 then moved again to 2788 Bank Street starting in December 2004.
- Bank Street Chrysler Jeep opened the new building at 2788 Bank Street on July 16, 1999 and moved to West Hunt Club Road at Merivale in July 2004. Bank Street Jeep Eagle had been previously located at 2559 Bank Street since late 1989.
- Genesis West Ottawa at 2818 Bank Street since 2019, originally the Carswell Building built around 1960. Suzuki on Bank was located here from 1990 until 1992. Previous Suzuki locations were at 2559 Bank Street in 1989 and earlier at 1724 Bank Street. Bentley Auto Sales in 2007 to 2012. Dilawri Used Cars in 2014 to 2017, Bank Street Hyundai in 2018.

Restaurants

- Mary's Drive-In (approximately where the Wendy's is located at Bank & Hunt Club-2466 Bank Street) (1950-1986). Originally owned by Wilfred & 'Mary' Elias. Sold to George & Frank Kanellakos in 1958. (pictured upper right). Brown's Barber Shop in the 1940s.
- KS Restaurant opened at 2525 Bank Street at Albion Road in 1971, originally owned by Khalil 'Kelly' Georges Swaita (1937-2006).. Moved to 1029 Dazé Street in 2010 where it is named 'KS on the Keys'.





Restaurants

- Green Meadows Restaurant, 2679 Bank Street (1966-1974), Gerry's Dining Lounge (1975-1999), Kam Fung Chinese Buffet moved here in 2001 from the K-Mart plaza and closed in 2012. Dunn's Famous Smoked Meat opened in 2013 and continued until 2019 when another Dunn's franchise was opened on Bank Street and Rideau Road at which time, this restaurant changed to Stacked Smoke Meat & Grill. There were various country and dance bars in the lower level during the 1990s and the Paddock Room dated back to 1975.

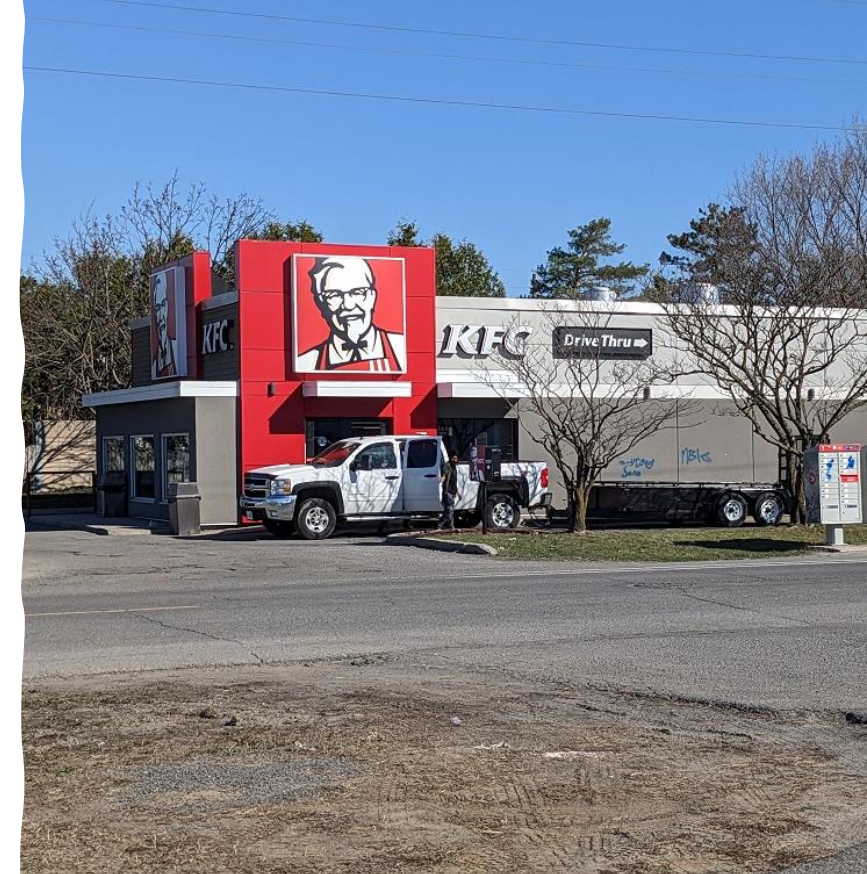
Restaurants at 2810 Bank Street

- Originally an Esso Gas Station
- Steer Burger opened in the old service station building in 1975 and the new building was added later. Steer Burger Dining Lounge closed in 1982
- Chow's Restaurant was open from 1983 until 1993. There was a murder by gun shot in the restaurant parking lot on May 18, 1985, in broad daylight. I heard the gunfire, and my aunt and uncle watched the get-away and were later interviewed on television.
- Replaced by car dealerships
- The restaurant building was demolished in 1999 when the new dealership building at 2788 Bank Street was constructed.



Restaurants

- KFC opened in 1980 at 2919 Bank Street at Kingsdale Avenue.
- Dairy King (2925 Bank at Kingsdale) – opened as a seasonal ice cream shop in the early 1960s. Now a used car lot with the original building.
- Chips and Dairy – Originally located in the Dairy King building before they moved across the street to a renovated house originally owned by the Faubert family. They opened the new restaurant at 2920 Bank Street around 2005.
- Tim Horton's opened at 2951 Bank Street sometime between 2000 and 2002.



Restaurants at K-Mart Plaza

- Paesano Restaurant in 1974-1976.
- Don Pasquale Restaurant Tavern in 1979-1980.
- Pietro's Dining Lounge in 1983-1986.
- Kam Fung Chinese Buffet started here in 1988 and moved to 2679 Bank Street in 2001. (former Gerry's Dining Lounge)
- A & W opened on December 20, 2022.
- Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen and Domino's Pizza opened in the spring of 2023. Fat Bastard Burrito is preparing to open in November 2023.

DAILY SPECIALS
Don Pasquale
Restaurant Tavern

- Ample free parking
- Credit cards accepted

MUSIC every Thurs.,
Friday and Saturday
Reserve for Parties
4 to 5 CHEF SPECIALS
OF YOUR CHOICE
521-1976
Kmart Shopping Centre
2956 Bank Street
Open Sun. & Holidays 4 to 10 p.m.



Gas Stations

- Shell, 2498 Bank Street (Bank & Albion)(pictured). Stanford Henderson established the gas station in 1959. Andy's Service Station in 1971. A car wash was added in 1985.
- Petro-Canada, 2536 Bank Street (Bank & Albion), was originally Sunoco starting in 1967, Amheds Sunoco in 1979, Daley's Sunoco in 1992.
- Safeway Gas & Fuels Ltd., 3515 Albion Road, (Bank & Albion) starting in 1988. Suny's Petroleum starting in 1990 and continuing through until 2006.
- Leroux's Supertest, 2701 Bank Street (starting in 1953), Keith James Ltd. (car sales) in 1975-1976. Al Heron Sales & Service since at least 1979.

Gas Stations

- Jennings' Esso, 2785 Bank Street (1952 to 1957), also Jennings Confectionery until the early 1960s. Mounded area north of the house was the location of the gas pumps. (pictured)
- Don Cable's Esso, (1960 to 1972) 2810 Bank Street, later Bytown Motor Sport (Kawasaki Motorcycles) (1973-1974) Steer Burger (1975-1982), then Chow's Restaurant (1983-1993). Imperial Oil Ltd. sold the property in 1986.
- Pioneer, 2931 Bank Street (Bank & Queensdale). Gas Station built in 1970, originally as a Top Valu Gasmart. A used car lot adjacent to the gas station was known as Ottawa Car Sales.
- Shell Gas Station built in 1970 at 2951 Bank (Bank & Queensdale), sold in 1979, but continued as a Shell Station until at least 1982, Bytown Motor Sports (motorcycles) was here in 1974-1975, South Ottawa Suzuki Ltd. in 1976-1977, later Becker's Convenience Store and Global Auto Sales since 2012.



Bytown Lumber

- Bytown Lumber opened at 1740 Queensdale Avenue in 1982.
- They eventually got out of the retail lumber business at the Queensdale store and became a fencing specialty store in 2001.
- Bytown Lumber closed in 2009
- It then became Total Fence focusing on commercial clients.
- The property is For Lease in 2023.
- Previously, there had been a variety of automotive businesses.
- There was a \$100,000 fire on June 29, 1957 when it was the Ottawa Motor Sales Limited Body and Paint Shop.





Frisby Tire

- Frisby Tire has been located at 1780 Queensdale Avenue since 1974.
- It transitioned to KAL Tire in the fall of 2023. KAL Tire had acquired the Frisby Tire business on May 27, 2023.
- Frisby Tire was founded in Ottawa in 1920 by James Frisby and was owned by third generation, Don Frisby at the time of the 2023 sale of the business.

Public Library

- South Branch of Gloucester Public Library opened in February 1974 in the K-Mart plaza (2958 Bank Street)
- Named the Edward D. Jones branch on October 29, 1977 in memory of long-time Blossom Park resident and trustee of the library branch.
- Relocated to 2721 Bank Street (now Adam's Airport Inn) in 1982
- Purpose built library opened in May 1992 at 2950 Bank Street
- Closed in 2006, when the south branch moved to the Greenboro Community Centre

Final Location of Blossom Park Library

A wide-angle photograph of an indoor swimming pool. The pool is rectangular with blue lane lines and red lane dividers. In the foreground, there are white and metal handrails leading into the water. The pool deck is covered in yellow and blue mosaic tiles. The background shows a blue wall with a slide and various decorations.

Sawmill Creek Swimming Pool

- Officially opened on May 8, 1976
- 3380 D'Aoust Avenue



Gloucester Presbyterian Church

- Following church union in 1925, not all local Presbyterians wanted to join the United Church
- Church opened in 1927
- Opposite to Bank Street and Sieveright Road intersection
- Relocated to 91 Pike Street, Greenboro in 1989
- Site became a Hertz car rental and sales office for several years



St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church

- Church located on St. Bernard Street next to St. Bernard School
- Parish founded in September 1957
- Part of St. Bernard school property was sold for the church on October 14, 1958
- First mass in the new church took place on March 29, 1959
- Photo on the right is from 1979 shows a remnant of Halpenny Lane
- The lane led to the ruins of the Halpenny Farm behind Sainte-Bernadette school, some of which were still standing when the first Blossom Park residents were moving in 1955

Jubilee United Pentecostal Church

- 3662 Albion Road
 - Land was purchased in late 1970 for a Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall who sold the property on November 23, 1983 and relocated to 2803 Quinn Road just west of Albion.
 - On 14 December 1984, it was purchased by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Ottawa, which opened St. Clement's Chapel, that offered traditional Latin mass.
 - The Roman Catholic Church sold the building in 1994 and then it became St. Stefan Serbian Orthodox Church, which moved to 1993 Prince of Wales Drive in 2015.
 - Since then, it has been Jubilee United Pentecostal Church
-





Tù Ân Pagoda

- Vietnamese-Canadian Buddhist
- Pagoda was under construction in 1993
- The first resident monk was the Venerable Thich Bon Dat
- The pagoda is a renovated version of the original McLeish house

Masjid ar-Rahmah (Mosque of Mercy)

- 1216 Hunt Club Road
- Community dates back to December 23, 1992
- Their first place of prayer was in the strip mall opposite from McDonald's at South Keys.
- Construction began in 2007
- Opening day was April 13, 2012 while construction continued in the upper level.
- The grand opening of the mosque was May 21, 2016.
- Part of this property was a market garden in the 1960s.

Faith Baptist Church

- Opened in 1981 at Blossom Park Public School.
- The pastor was Steven White
- Services moved to the Gloucester Public Library at 2721 Bank Street in 1984.
- A new auditorium opened on April 7, 1985 at 2727 Bank Street, which was behind Adam's Airport Inn.
- The building was on leased land and was demolished by the end of 1987 to make way for a small subdivision at the west end of St. Barbara Street.
- The pastor was involved in a controversy about the time the church was closing.

Parks

- There were no official parks until the 1980s
- Lots were large, traffic was mostly light and there were natural areas to explore.
- There were a few outdoor skating rinks at Blossom Park and St. Bernard schools, and another maintained by the community at the end of St. Barbara Street
- A ball diamond was located on the edge of the pine forest east of Sixth Street on the former Bornemisza property, who sold to the National Capital Commission in 1966.





Athans Park

Athans Park for years featured a community operated outdoor skating rink.

The lower photo shows the water connection that formerly serviced the skating rink.





More Parks

- Jim Halden was the President of the Timbermill Recreation Association
- Halden Park opened on May 30, 1980 behind Timbermill Street. It was on leased land and was built by the neighbourhood featuring a basketball court, playground equipment, swings, picnic tables and benches. It later became the school yard for École élémentaire publique Gabrielle-Roy. The park was moved to current location, adjacent to Sawmill Creek Swimming Pool.



Russell Boyd Park

- 1735 St. Bernard Street
- Park opened in the early 1980s.
- Honours Russell Boyd (1897-1977)
- He was a School Crossing Guard on Bank Street at Rosebella Avenue from 1964 until traffic signals were finally installed in 1973.
- Played Santa at K-Mart Blossom Park in the early 1970s
- Received a police escort for his burial at Johnston's Corners Cemetery





The Old Ball Diamond/Soccer Field

- East of Sixth Street, accessed by a laneway to the former Bornemisza house (originally a Halpenny house).
- The house had been burned down by the NCC in 1966 after the Bornemisza family left.
- The sports field was in use during the 1970s
- It was replaced by Russell Boyd Park in the early 1980s
- Planted with pine trees following abandonment.
- The laneway from Sixth Street no longer exists.

Interesting Events

- In 1950, the Quebec Metallurgical Industries Ltd. purchased land and built a plant (a small smelting operation) on the current site of the Gates of Albion subdivision. This later became known as Indusmin Limited by the time the property was sold to M. Holtizner Limited in 1971 for housing. In 1976, low level radioactive slag was found and moved to the NRC property on Queensdale Avenue, for years covered with tarps. It was eventually removed before the Queensdale Village was built.
- There was a major fire in the lower level of Gerry's Dining Lounge on January 15, 1991. The fire was suspicious and it was found that one of the owners had arranged the fire so that insurance would pay to build a new restaurant rather than paying for needed renovations.

Interesting Events

- Two Royal motorcades passed through Blossom Park. The first involved the Queen Mother on June 13, 1962. On this occasion, the children from both Blossom Park Public School, and St. Bernard School were brought to Bank Street to watch the procession. The second happened on July 2, 1967, when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip were in transit following July 1st Centennial celebrations and on their way for a visit to Expo 67.
- In the early 1970s, local teenagers decided to rename the village sign 'Turkey Point'. The sign was located just north of Rosebella Avenue and has since been removed.
- In the mid 1990s, the community air raid siren, located just north of St. Bernard Street on Bank Street malfunctioned early one morning and blared for hours. The siren was dismantled shortly afterwards.

Interesting Events

- 13 year old Larry Halliday disappeared from his home at 2 Rosebella in October 1957 for 55 hours. He had left because he didn't want to do an assigned household chore. The scheme involved a secret fort near Bank and Albion, and a group of buddies who kept him well supplied with food. In the end, the supply line and secret fort were discovered. Another 'run away' involved Dwaine Kinkade in April 1965, produced a massive community search and had a less happy outcome.
- On the evening of December 21, 2000, three boxes fell off of a Purolator truck near Bank Street and Lester Road. A lady picked them up and put them in her car, and realized that they had 'radioactive' markings on the parcels and planned to call the airport. The Gloucester Fire Department quickly blocked the Bank Street and Queensdale Avenue intersection, and the lady returned the parcels to the fire department. The parcels were still intact and as a result the risk was minimal. If the parcels had been run over, it may have been necessary to evacuate the neighbourhood.
- Not long after city amalgamation on July 18, 2003, a cougar sighting was reported in 'Ottawa South'. This was peculiar given how urban Ottawa South was. But this was the new 'Ottawa South', which residents always knew as 'Gloucester South'. In fact, the cougar had been spotted on Davidson Side Road, a very short distance from Blossom Park.



National Politicians Who Lived Here

- **Stockwell Day**
- Former Leader of the Canadian Alliance Party (2000-2001)
- Former Cabinet Minister in the Harper Conservative Government (2006-2011)
- **Sheila Copps**
- Liberal Member of Parliament from 1984 to 2004
- Cabinet Minister from 1993 to 2003
- Deputy Prime Minister from 1993 to 1997





Claudette Cain (now Coulas)

Last Gloucester Mayor from 1991 to 2001
Was a resident of Blossom Park while mayor



Horst Bulau

- Raised in Blossom Park
- Ski jumper who made four Olympic appearances between 1980 and 1992
- Won 13 World Cup events and placed on the podium 29 times
- Inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1993, the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame in 1994, the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2014



Gabriela Dabrowski

- Raised in Blossom Park
- World class Tennis Star
- Specializes in doubles
- Reached Number 4 world ranking on July 11, 2022
- Won the 2018 Australian Open title in mixed doubles.
- Learned to play tennis at Russell Boyd Park
- Tennis courts in that park are named in her honour.



Angelo Tsarouchas

- Parents Peter and Debbie lived on Southgate Road in South Keys
- Family operated Steer Burger at 2810 Bank Street, a former Esso Service Station, from 1975 until 1982
- Angelo dreamed of being a standup comedian while working in his parent's restaurant as a teenager.
- His dream became a reality.
- [Video Link](#) (Mother's Guilt Day)
- [Video Link](#) (Comedy and Magic Club 2016 – Warning - Adult Themes)
- [Video Link](#) (Just for Laughs – Warning -Adult Themes)
- [Video Link](#) (Its All Greek – Warning – Adult Themes)



Happy Greek Mother's (Guilt) Day

youtube.com/angelotsarouchas

Further Reading - Blossom Park in the News

- The origins of the Blossom Park name.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123853103/blossom-park-naming/>
- The Ottawa & Gloucester macadamized Road (Bank Street) was to be extended beyond Billings Bridge to Sieveright's Farm (Albion Road) in 1873. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/115294534/road-extensions-beyond-billings-bridge/>
- The Ottawa & Gloucester macadamized Road was to be extended from Sieveright's Farm to the Osgoode Townline in 1875.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/115232877/gloucester-road-to-be-extended-to-osgood/>
- Morrisburg and Ottawa Electric Railway construction begins in Blossom Park area in 1913
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123525575/morrisburg-and-ottawa-electric-railway-c/>
- Thomas Clifford's tragic death in 1915 (buried in Wood's Cemetery)
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123419700/thomas-clifford-death/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Blossom Park auction sale for tax arrears in 1921
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123420186/blossom-park-auction-sale/>
- Blossom Park auction sale for tax arrears in 1923
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122521944/blossom-park-tax-arrears/>
- Bank Street (Metcalf Road) paved from Billings Bridge to Leitrim in 1923
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123524907/metcalf-road-paved/>
- Bank Street (Metcalf Road) bicycle race from Heron Road to the 'end of pavement' (Leitrim) in 1924
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123525286/metcalf-road-bicycle-race/>
- Gloucester Presbyterian Church dedicated on October 9, 1927 (formerly at Bank Street and Sieveright Road intersection)
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123524591/gloucester-presbyterian-church-dedicated/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123524761/gloucester-presbyterian-cornerstone/>

Blossom Park in the News

- McMahon Brothers Dairy Farm fire on Albion Road in 1935 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-mcmahon-brothers-fire/123303993/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-mcmahon-brothers-fire/123304156/>
- Metcalfe Road becomes part of Highway 31 on April 1, 1936 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-metcalfe-road-to-beco/123928529/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-metcalfe-road-becomes/123928327/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-metcalfe-road-becomes/123927293/>
- Consideration for sale of part of Blossom Park for a cemetery in 1947 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122490004/blossom-park-potential-cemetery-sale/>
- Saul Torontow, owner of the Bank Street Celery Farm, found dead in 1948 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123424231/saul-torontow-owner-of-bank-street-cele/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123424446/saul-torontow-found-dead-part-2/>
- Aladdin Drive-In opens in 1951 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123486162/blossom-park-bus-service-requested/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123487370/aladdin-drive-in-opens/>
- Lightning destroys a barn owned by Bower Boyd in 1952 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-bower-boyd-barn-fire/124886144/>
- Tragic Albion Road fire (Dmytro & Mary Manger) in 1955 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123492112/albion-road-fire/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123492270/albion-road-fire/>
- Ellwood School to be dissolved (closed) in June 1955. Note: Wayne Hutchings mentioned grew up in the current derelict house across from Hunt Club Hyundai (2785 Bank Street). <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123429589/ellwood-school-to-be-dissolved/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123429315/ellwood-school-to-be-dissolved/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123429667/ellwood-school-closed/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Blossom Park homes for sale in 1955
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123421539/blossom-park-homes/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123421249/blossom-park-homes/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123422325/blossom-park-development/>
- Blossom Park road improvements and road construction to serve schools in 1955
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123421787/blossom-park-road-improvements/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123422584/blossom-park-road-problems/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123422923/blossom-park-road-and-drainage-problems/>
- Blossom Park feature from 1956
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122489829/blossom-park/>
- Blossom Park school plans in 1956
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123425353/blossom-park-school-plans/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123489490/blossom-park-school/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123427328/blossom-park-school/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123427190/blossom-park-school/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123427452/blossom-park-school-to-open/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Traffic Safety and 'Citizen Arrests' in Blossom Park in 1956
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123489870/blossom-park-traffic-safety/>
- Blossom Park Police Village and Post Office plans in 1956. The Police Village did not happen
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123427740/blossom-park-police-village-and-post-off/>
- Gloucester cemeteries neglected in 1957. The three cemeteries are in better condition today. The pictured cemetery (formerly Methodist) is at the Bank and Analdea intersection in Leitrim, the Roman Catholic cemetery on Albion Road at D'Aoust Avenue and the Johnston's Corners cemetery (formerly Presbyterian) on Albion Road at High Road in front of Rideau-Carleton Raceway
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123543420/gloucester-cemeteries-neglected/>
- Blossom Park Garbage Collection starts in 1957 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123484212/garbage-collection-for-blossom-park/>
- Boy missing for 55 hours in 1957 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-blossom-park-13-year/122904350/>
- Bank Street (Highway 31) improvements (4 lanes from Albion Road to Leitrim) in 1956-1957
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123913162/highway-improvements/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123912995/highway-improvements/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-highway-31-widening/42763456/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123914573/highway-31-grading/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123914398/highway-31-paving/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123913070/highway-31-improvements/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123912753/bank-street-improvements/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Blessing of St. Bernard School in 1957 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122932582/st-bernard-school-official-blessing/>
- Ottawa Motor Sales Limited \$100,000 fire on Queensdale Avenue in 1957 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123306462/blossom-park-fire/>
- Blossom Park trial bus service and school children safety in 1957 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/42762219/blossom-park-bus-service/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123916813/blossom-park-children-safety-and-trial-b/>
- Three teenagers lost in Albion Road woods in subzero weather in February 1958 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-teenagers-lost-in-woo/135780068/>
- John Goth Barn fire on Bank Street in 1958. One of my earliest memories when my mother had my brother and I ready to flee if our house caught fire from blowing burning hay. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-goth-fire/73390282/>
- Sutherland Greenhouse fire on Bank Street in 1958 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123481273/sutherland-greenhouse-fire/>
- Talbot 2 Telephone Exchange for 'Metcalfe Highway' commences operation on December 7, 1958 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123490936/talbot-2-telephone-exchange/>
- St. Bernard Catholic Church opens in 1959 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-st-bernard-catholic/99287003/>
- Blossom Park School fire in 1959. My father took me inside the school to see the fire damage. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123428247/blossom-park-school-fire/>
- St. Bernard Catholic Church blessed in 1959 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-st-bernard-blessed/124881934/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Highway 31 Traffic Problems in 1961 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123487609/highway-31-traffic-problems/>
- The Ottawa Journal visits Blossom Park in 1962 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123485438/blossom-park/>
- Highway 31 hazards in Blossom Park in 1962 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-blossom-park-highway/123486445/>
- Blossom Park School compared to one-room schoolhouses in 1962 (interior and exterior pictures) <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123486009/blossom-park-school/>
- Recreation in Blossom Park/Miss Blossom Park Named in 1962 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123485438/blossom-park/>
- Bus Service requested for Blossom Park in 1962 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123486162/blossom-park-bus-service-requested/>
- Highway 31 School Crossing in 1964-65 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495504/blossom-park-hazardous-crossing/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495036/highway-31-school-crossing/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495105/highway-31-school-crossing/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495345/blossom-park-safety-officer/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Dwaine Kinkade missing in 1965 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494823/dwaine-kinkade/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495713/dwaine-kinkade/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495665/dwaine-kinkade/>
- Watermain installation begins in 1965 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-blossom-park-water-ma/122941741/>
- Blossom Park wins Centennial Public School Meet in 1967 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494567/blossom-park-win-centennial-meet/>
- D'Aoust Lumber Fire on February 3, 1968. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-daoust-lumber-fire/122866473/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122866276/daoust-warehouse-fire/>
- K-Mart proposal in 1969 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123488980/k-mart-blossom-park-proposal/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495571/k-mart-proposal/>
- Blossom Park Speed Limit Reduction in 1969 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494931/blossom-park-speed-limit-reduction/>
- K-Mart opens in 1970 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494673/k-mart-blossom-park-opens/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495242/k-mart-opening/> (pictures)
- Controversy concerning Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall construction in 1971 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123516381/jehovah-witness-controversy-on-albion-ro/>
- Traffic Problems on Highway 31 in 1972 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123488500/traffic-problems-on-highway-31/>
- Traffic Signals for Highway 31 in 1972 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123488786/traffic-lights-for-highway-31/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Russell Boyd honoured for service as School Crossing Guard/Traffic Officer in 1972 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122934390/russell-boyd/>
- Bus Service extended to Blossom Park on November 6, 1972
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123517742/new-bus-service-in-nepean-and-gloucester/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123517958/route-82-original-route-map/> (1972 route map)
- Expenditure increase allows house connections to Sawmill Creek Collector Sewer in 1973 (previously all houses required septic systems)
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123539760/sawmill-creek-sewer-connections/>
- Head-on Collision on Highway 31 in front of my house in 1973. I heard the collision and looked at the wreckage afterwards
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496747/head-on-collision-on-highway-31/>
- Albion Road traffic problems in 1975
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123520631/albion-road-traffic-problems/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Sawmill Creek Pool Opening in 1976 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-sawmill-pool-opening/4025709/>
- Nuclear waste found on Albion Road in 1976 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123517001/nuclear-waste-found-on-albion-road/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-nuclear-waste-stored/19744935/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-queensdale-radio-acti/135674242/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-journal-queensdale-radio-acti/135674298/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-nuclear-dump-queensda/135782397/> (clean-up begins)
- Gloucester South Branch of the Public Library renamed Edward D. Jones branch in 1977 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496086/edward-d-jones-public-library/>
- Tracey Clark of Highway 31, Blossom Park, was named Miss Ottawa Rough Rider on October 15, 1977 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-tracey-clark-named-mi/135780793/>
- Development on Bridle Path Drive in old Heafey's Pit begins in late 1977. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/5556781/bridle-path-mastercraft-beginnings/> (proposed Bridle Path development) <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123852708/bridle-path-drive/> (road improvements) <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123808780/bridle-path/> (Phase 1 development approved)
- Horst Bulau wins major ski-jumping tournament in 1979 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-horst-bulau-wins-majo/124069970/>
- St. Bernard Street extension proposal in 1979 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123487854/st-bernard-street-extension/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Conroy Pit proposed as new site for Central Canada Exhibition in 1979
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123902211/conroy-pit-proposed-for-ex/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123902280/conroy-pit-proposed-for-ex-part-2/>
- Halden Park was created by the neighbourhood in 1980 on leased property
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123901073/halden-park-opens-may-30-1980/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123900837/halden-park-property-sold/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123900921/halden-park-lease-renewed/>
- Plans for Russell Boyd Park in 1980 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-athans-park/122934209/>
- Edward D. Jones Public Library relocates in 1981
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496145/edward-d-jones-library/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496216/edward-d-jones-library/>
- History Room opened at Edward D. Jones Public Library in 1982
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496266/edward-d-jones-library-opens-history-ro/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496368/edward-d-jones-public-library-history-r/>
- Murder outside Chow's Restaurant on Bank Street in 1985
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123480597/murder-outside-chows-restaurant-bank-s/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-chows-restaurant-mur/123370028/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Faith Baptist Church, 2727 Bank Street to be demolished in 1987 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-faith-baptist-church/123209695/>
- Controversy surrounding Reverend Steven White of Faith Baptist Church in 1987
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496901/rev-steven-white/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496945/reverend-steven-white-part-2/>
- Lonnie Shaw murder just off of Bridle Path in 1990 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123492936/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493028/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493525/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493216/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493283/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493415/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493628/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493813/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494003/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123493894/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494123/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494211/lonnie-shaw-murder/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123494324/lonnie-shaw-murder/>

Blossom Park in the News

- National Research Building on Albion Road (just south of Queensdale) was gutted by a fire on October 12, 1990 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/99516246/sunday-october-14-1990/>
- Gerry's Steakhouse fire on January 15, 1991
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123518837/gerrys-steakhouse-fire/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123518436/gerrys-steakhouse-fire/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123518739/gerrys-steakhouse-fire/>
- William D'Aoust memories as Daoust Building Centre on Bank Street closes in 1991
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/122823961/daoust-building-centre-closes/>
- The World of Archie comics featured Blossom Park Public School in January 1992
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-archie-comics-and-blo/125146540/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-archie-comics-and-blo/125147128/>
- Highway 31 construction in 1992 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-highway-31-constructi/124337422/>
- Loblaws Blossom Park transitions to Your Independent Grocer in 1993
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-blossom-park-loblaws/123180831/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Provincial Government downloads Highway 31 to Regional Municipality in 1997.
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-highway-download/123929358/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-highway-download-part/123929443/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-highway-31-downloaded/123929038/>
- K-Mart closes in 1998 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-k-mart-blossom-park-c/122821322/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123495818/k-mart-blossom-park-closes-part-2/>
- Conroy Pit as an off-leash dog park in 1999 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123519708/conroy-pit-as-an-off-leash-dog-park/>
- Purolator truck drops Radioactive parcels onto Bank Street in 2000
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123296688/blossom-park-radioactive-parcels/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123517455/radioactive-parcels-fell-off-truck-in-bl/>
- Angelo Tsarouchas becomes a stand-up comedian in 2000 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen/124029448/> Angelo had dabbled in stand-up in the late 1980s before owning a travel agency in the 1990s.
- Cougar sighting on Davidson Side Road on July 18, 2003 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123519110/cougar-sighting-on-davidson-side-road/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Albion Road closed to through traffic at Lester Road intersection causing controversy both within Blossom Park and out and at City Hall between June 2004 and late 2007 when the intersection was re-opened.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123512900/albion-road-to-be-closed-at-lester-road/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123515122/albion-road-to-close-in-june-2004/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123514215/albion-road-closure-problems/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123514010/albion-road-closure/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123513269/albion-road-closure/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123515326/albion-road-to-remain-closed/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123515487/albion-road-to-remain-closed-part-2/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123513795/albion-road-vote-to-re-open/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123513488/albion-road-re-opens/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123513645/albion-road-re-opening/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123515797/albion-road-keep-it-closed/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123515637/albion-road-re-opening-confirmed/>
- Greenboro District Public Library opens June 7, 2006 replacing the Edward D Jones Branch in Blossom Park
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123496548/greenboro-district-library-opens/>
- Kingsdale Home Invasion in 2006 (Harold Hyde). <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123429905/kingsdale-home-invasion/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123429959/kingsdale-home-invasion-part-2/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123430600/harold-hyde/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123430728/harold-hyde/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123430160/harold-hyde/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123430339/harold-hyde/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Gabriela Dabrowski, a rising junior tennis star in 2010. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski/124070963/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski-pa/124071071/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski-pa/124071148/>
- Car hits house at Rosebella and Bank in 2010 <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123480255/car-hits-house-in-blossom-park/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123480353/car-hits-house-in-blossom-park-part-2/>
- Interval House Women's Shelter Controversy (Goth Avenue) 2010-2012
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123525802/interval-house/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123526339/interval-house/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123526437/interval-house-part-2/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123526204/interval-house/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123525802/interval-house/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123526559/interval-house-building-permit/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123525945/interval-house-opens/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123526039/interval-house-opens-part-2/>
- Horst Bulau inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-horst-bulau-and-eliza/124069117/>
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-horst-bulau-and-eliza/124069266/>

Blossom Park in the News

- Gabriela Dabrowski, tennis star, in 2018. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski/124071370/>
- Larga Baffin residence proposed in 2021 between Sieveright Road and Hunt Club Road. This is a residence for Inuit visiting Ottawa seeking medical care. (not yet built) <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-larga-baffin-proposal/123527091/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123527470/larga-baffin-proposal/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123527189/larga-baffin-proposal/> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/123527331/larga-baffin-proposal/>
- Gabriela Dabrowski wins doubles tennis title in 2022 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski-wi/124071679/>
- Homicide on Carousel Crescent on May 9, 2023. William Bryant is the victim. <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/police-investigate-suspicious-death-in-ottawa-s-south-end-1.6391979#:~:text=Ottawa%20police%20arrested%20a%20man,old%20man%20was%20found%20dead.https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-stabbing-victim-on-ca/135783655/> <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-william-bryant-stabbe/135783820/>
- Gabriela Dabrowski wins Grand Slam title in women's doubles at the U.S. Open on September 10, 2023 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-ottawa-citizen-gabriela-dabrowski-wi/135783203/>



Questions

Thank You!

