



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 24 No. 4

Winter 2023



*1913 Tennis Court – Riverdale and Sunnyside Avenue
Intersection*



The Gloucester Historical Society acknowledges financial assistance of the City of Ottawa

Contents

President’s Message.....Glenn Clark.....2

Shedding Light on a Mysterious Tennis Court Photograph -
 Trinity Anglican Church Glenn Clark.....4

Membership Form.....14

President’s Report

By Glenn Clark

Winter is upon us, but I step outside, and I wonder, is this Ottawa? It has been surprisingly mild and even the long-term forecast looking into February does not include bone chilling cold typical of this city in the dead of winter. At least the Rideau Canal has not been a total bust after being opened for a few days last week.

The Board of Directors have been looking into our options as a result of the planned closure of the old Gloucester Township Hall building at 4550 Bank Street, where our current office is located. To date, we have visited the City of Ottawa Archives and we have consulted with the Public Library. No firm decision has been made but it will be necessary to relocate by the end of 2024. Regardless of what happens, our public meetings will continue to take place within former Gloucester boundaries usually based on the topic of the presentation and our board meetings (open to the public as well) will also be held somewhere in Gloucester.

I am pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the Gloucester South Seniors’ Centre, 4550 Bank Street at 2 p.m. and our speaker will be Claudette Cain Coulas, the last mayor of Gloucester. We thought this would be the last opportunity to meet there, the former township hall, and how appropriate that our speaker started her career in that very same building. Please join us and invite your friends. This is a public meeting, not restricted to members only. The flyer including details appears later in this Newsletter. Please also note the proposed amendments to our by-laws, which appear at the end of this report, which will be voted on at our April 7th AGM

Volunteers Needed

I hope that you enjoy the stories that we bring to you through our newsletters, the public presentations and other events organized by the GHS. We will be opening for Doors Open on June 1st and 2nd

(perhaps for the last time) and I expect to lead another Jane’s Walk on May 4th. Please also consider visiting us on Heritage Day, February 20th at Ottawa City Hall. We also have two or three publications in the works and there will be public book launches for each of those books when publication is completed.

However, our volunteer group is aging, and we need more community support if we are to continue in our mission to tell the stories of our local communities and Gloucester. I hope a few of you will consider stepping forward and become a volunteer. It is a great opportunity to learn about our neighbourhoods, without a great demand on your time. You may also learn about a few tales that will never reach publication. Please consider helping the Gloucester Historical Society out.

In This Newsletter

You know the old saying, that a picture is worth a thousand words. The story in this newsletter features a photograph of a tennis court. In this case, it is the story hidden behind this simple photograph that is worth a thousand words. It was taken over 110 years ago on Riverdale Avenue, and it connects to a church, a long defunct tennis club, a prominent community activist from 100 years ago and a well-known park. Enjoy!

Future Newsletters

A recently rediscovered scroll from the Billings Bridge Orange Lodge will be topic of discussion in upcoming newsletters. The scroll lists World War I veterans who were also members of the lodge. We will tell the stories of those young men who served King and Country over 100 years ago. We have been remarkably successful in getting some understanding of their lives and these short biographies will include some surprising details. A few were home children from Scotland. A few went to Alberta as pioneers before volunteering. A few were gassed during the war. A few went on to found well known Ottawa businesses. One sadly went to jail. Several had sons who served in World War II. We also have photos of some of them. I look forward to telling you those stories.



*The Gloucester Historical Society hosted a tour of the RCMP Stables on November 5, 2023
30 people joined our guide, Sergeant-Major Scott Williamson (on the left)*

Proposed By-Law Amendments Requiring AGM Ratification

The following amendments will be voted on by GHS members at our April 7, 2024 AGM. We will vote on the two amendments separately. These are important amendments relating to our expected relocation and to modernize our by-laws in the event of dissolution of the society.

Moved by Lindsay Whillans, seconded by Laurel Sherrer that we make the following amendments to our by-laws.

1 Article 5.1 currently reads:

“Head Office – The head office of the Society shall be located within the boundaries of the former Township of Gloucester.”

be amended to read:

“Head Office – The head office of the Society shall be located within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa.”

Rationale: Given the current situation regarding the building at 4550 Bank Street (closure and probable demolition), we need flexibility in relocating to a new location. At the present time, the only offer is the City of Ottawa Archives building, which is not within the former Gloucester Township.

2 Article 5.6 currently reads:

“Dissolution – In the case that the Society should cease to exist, all historical collections will be held

in trust by the Ontario Historical Society until such time as an appropriate local organization is capable of the safekeeping and preservation of such a collection. After the payment of all debts and liabilities, any remaining property shall be distributed to or among such charitable institutions and organizations as the Board of Directors may determine. At the time of dissolution, all papers and documents generated during the operation of the Society shall become the property of the Ontario Historical Society, to be kept in an approved archival state.”

be amended to read:

“Dissolution – In the case that the Society should cease to exist, all historical collections shall become the property of the City of Ottawa Archives. After the payment of all debts and liabilities, any remaining property shall be distributed to or among such charitable institutions and organizations as the Board of Directors may determine. At the time of dissolution, all papers and documents generated during the operation of the Society shall become the property of the City of Ottawa Archives, to be kept in an approved archival state.”

Rationale: The original wording predates the 2001 City Amalgamation. Since Gloucester is now part of the City of Ottawa, we believe that the City of Ottawa Archives is a suitable location for GHS records in the event of the dissolution of the society. We are also concerned that our records would be located in Toronto which would create a barrier for local researchers.

Shedding Light on a Mysterious Tennis Court Photograph – Trinity Anglican Church

By Glenn Clark

A photo has hung in the halls of Trinity Anglican Church for decades. Hundreds or thousands of people have passed by it over the years without giving it a second thought. It's just another old photograph. What does it have to do with the church? All the people have long passed on. There is no remaining connection, and nobody can possibly understand its history.

But GHS membership secretary, Lindsay Whillans, a member of Trinity church, had a second look, and started wondering. What is the significance of this photo? Why is it hanging here?

Fortunately, the photo offers some clues. The location is noted at the intersection of Sunnyside and Riverdale Avenues and is dated as the summer of 1913. But this poses further questions. How did it survive the replacement of the church in 1926 and even more importantly, the 1947 fire that gutted the building?

Trinity Anglican Church, 1230 Bank Street, was founded in 1876³⁷ with the original church opening on August 24, 1879³⁶. During its early years, it was the lead church of the Gloucester Mission and served both Ottawa South and Billings Bridge. The outlier churches in the mission were St. James Leitrim and St. George's Hawthorne.

The Photo Caption

When the photo was taken off the wall for closer examination, the reverse side offered much more information. This was the Trinity Church Tennis Club. Many names are also provided as follows:

On the stepladder is the umpire, Mr. C.G. Wintle.

Charles George Wintle was born in early 1888 in Olveston, Gloucestershire, England, the only son of Percy George Wintle and Esther (Hester) Chapman. They immigrated to Canada, arriving on March 30, 1907 after embarking from Liverpool England and travelling on the Empress of Britain, a Canadian Pacific Railway ship. They resided at



Billings Bridge. Charles later became an Anglican deacon on May 30, 1915⁸ serving at the Parish of Galetta and Antrim. He passed away on September 23, 1915 at the young age of 27 years and 7 months⁵⁶ from pulmonary tuberculosis. He had only married Millie Fanny Ethelyn Frerichs (also appearing in the photo) on August 11, 1915 at Trinity Church, Ottawa South⁷. Mrs. Millie Wintle went on to play for the Trinity Church Tennis Club when it relocated to its second location³⁸.

Caption Part 2

In the photo, we are witnessing a mixed doubles match. On the far side of the court, unfortunately the male participant has been lost to time, but the lady is Miss Kate Loper. On the closer side is Miss Evelyn Loper and Fred Whitehead is about to serve.

The spectators on the veranda include Mrs. Frerichs (Mary Frayzer Frerichs), Mrs. Hellyer, Mr. & Mrs. T. Brewer Sr., Mr. W. Barnes, Miss Jean Belot, Mr. Robert Brewer, and one unknown person.

Robert Brewer, younger son of Thomas, served in World War I with the Railway Construction Depot M.D.2. His rank was Sapper and he enlisted on April 19, 1918. While still in Canada, he was stationed in Hamilton, Ontario. He departed for England on June 20th and arrived on July 7th travelling on the S.S. Waimana. He was stationed in Purfleet, Essex. While there, he was hospitalized with influenza from August 31st to September 17th, a possible sufferer from the Spanish flu. Following the end of the war, he returned to Halifax on the 'Olympic', one of the great ocean liners of the era, departing on December 7th and arriving on December 14th. He was discharged on January 8, 1919 in Ottawa. He was single during the war, marrying Kathleen Hamilton Good on September 25, 1924 at Trinity Church³².

Caption Part 3

On the left side of the tree 4 unknown people are included as well as Mrs. William Loper, Miss K. McCann, Miss N. Frerichs (Natalie), Miss G. Fitzpatrick, Miss Rose McCann, and another unknown person.

The right side of the tree includes Mrs. T. Brewer, Mrs. C.G. Wintle (Millie Fanny Ethelyn,

Frerichs in 1913). Mr. & Mrs. Frank Barnes. Mr. & Mrs. Giles Brewer and Mr. William Loper.

Giles Brewer was Thomas Brewer's elder son. He was a businessman, serving as the chief accountant of the Ottawa Electric Company and then the Puerto Rico Power Company from 1918³⁵ until 1932. He was the manager of the Minto Skating Club from 1942 to 1947 during the rise to fame of Barbara Ann Scott. He passed away in Ottawa on September 18, 1948³³. He married Fannie Maude Loper (in the photo) on November 19, 1913 at Trinity Church³⁴.

Fred Whitehead was a War Casualty

Frederick Glover Whitehead of 166 Sunnyside Avenue was reported in the newspaper as a new recruit of the reserve companies of the Governor General's Foot Guards in September 1914¹. On October 15, 1915, he enlisted and joined 73rd Battalion of the Canadian Infantry, the Royal Highlanders of Canada. He was transported from Halifax on the 'Adriatic' departing on March 31, 1916, arriving in Liverpool, England on April 9th, and was subsequently transported to Le Havre France on August 13, 1916 for overseas service. He was reported missing on March 1, 1917, and was later deemed killed in action. He was 37 years of age. His burial location is at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Private Whitehead had previously been a law clerk at the Ottawa firm Hogg and Hogg. He was engaged to Miss Natalie Frerichs at the time of his death and his next of kin were his parents, Henry & Alice Whitehead of Hillcrest, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire, England.

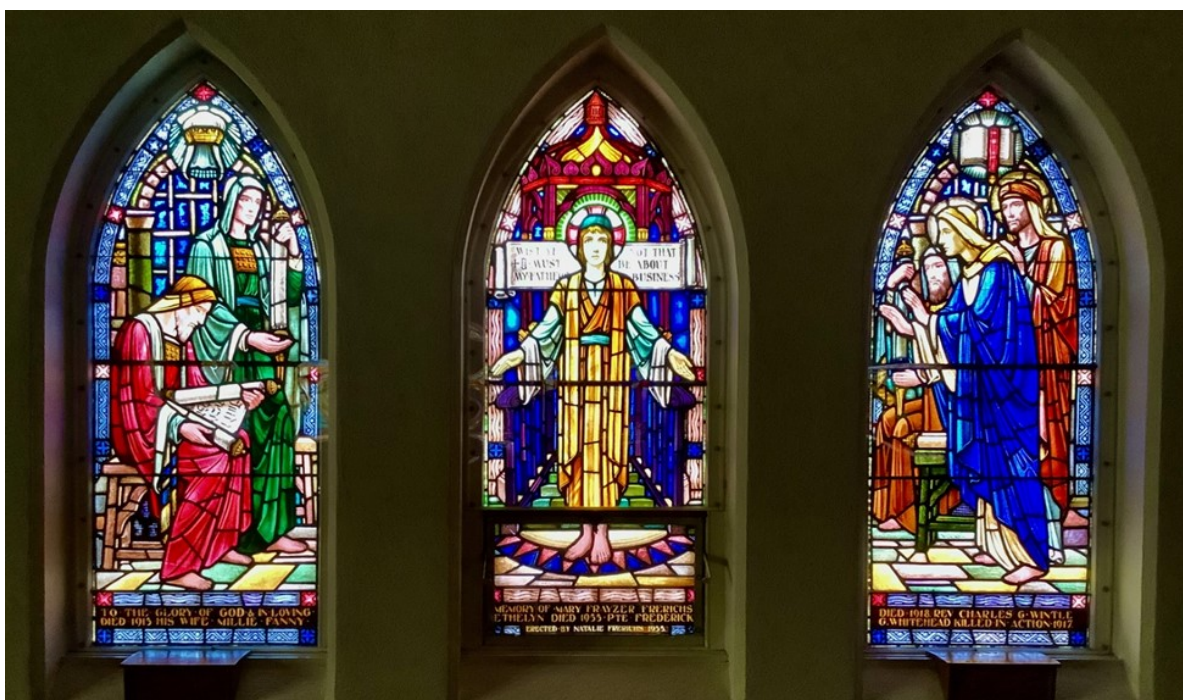
A triptych (three panel) window depicting 'Christ in the Temple' was dedicated on March 25, 1934 in Trinity Anglican Church, to the memory of Private Whitehead, Mrs. Mary Frayzer Frerichs (née Mockett), and Reverend Charles George Wintle. The donors were Mrs. Millie Ethelyn Wintle, wife of the late Charles George Wintle and Miss Natalie Frerichs. Both donors were also daughters of Mrs. Frerichs². Miss Natalie Frerichs was the organist and choir director at Trinity Church from February 1903 until her retirement in October 1949²⁷. Trinity Anglican Church was gutted by a major fire on March 19, 1947, destroying all the stained-glass windows including this 1934 window³¹.



*Private Frederick Glover Whitehead and his fiancé Miss Natalie Frerichs
(Photographs courtesy of Library and Archives Canada Virtual War Memorial and Lindsay Whillans)*

On July 10, 1955, the 1934 window was replaced and dedicated with a new window depicting “The Boy Christ in the Temple”. It was designed by Leonard Pike of Ottawa and donated by Miss Natalie Frerichs (1887-1969) in memory of her mother,

Mary Frayzer Frerichs, Reverend Charles George Wintle (Natalie’s brother-in-law), Millie Ethelyn Wintle (Natalie’s sister) and Private Frederick Glover Whitehead (her late fiancé) ³⁴.



The windows at Trinity Church donated by Miss Natalie Frerichs in 1955

(Photograph courtesy of Lindsay Whillans)

What Else Appears in the Photo?

We can see many things in the photograph. To the left is Riverdale Avenue. On the right, you can see a very rough Sunnyside Avenue. This was not long after the area east of Riverdale Avenue was first opened for development. To the far right is another house south of Sunnyside Avenue at 335 Riverdale Avenue. In 1913, this was the residence of Miss Effie Fairbairn. This house is still present. A larger more detailed version of this photograph also shows another house in the distance, possibly the Williams family homestead in Rideau Gardens.

Beside the tennis court itself, there is a clapboard house to the right with a veranda, a second-floor balcony, and ornamental woodwork. In the rear of the tennis court is a two-storey brick house.

This property was first subdivided on May 18, 1910, by James P. Gilpin and Octavius Pommerville under Plan 96962,

The Brick House

The house in the background still exists at 309 Riverdale Avenue. It is on Lot 129 of Plan 96962. The lot was purchased by Edmund J. Marion from James P. Gilpin and Octavius Pommerville for \$1,200 and the transfer was registered on June 7, 1910. Mr. Marion built the house shown in the photo and was the resident in 1913.

The Clapboard House and the Site of the Tennis Court

The clapboard house and tennis court were located on lots 126, 127 and 128 of Plan 96962 and the lots were sold to Thomas Henry Brewer on March 29, 1912 for \$3,600 by the same James P. Gilpin and Octavius Pommerville. Mr. Brewer built the clapboard house shortly thereafter. The tennis court was likely added in 1913. A 1912 fire insurance map shows both this house and the above-mentioned brick house but no tennis court. The 1913 Ottawa City Directory provides the original address of 313 Riverdale Avenue.

Does this house still exist? That is a more difficult question than the brick house mentioned above. In the 1913 photo, we see the house facing Riverdale Avenue but set considerably further back

than the brick house. This location has changed considerably over the years. In 1925, the site of the tennis court was divided into three building lots by Mr. Brewer. The first house clad with stucco was completed in 1926 with the address of 173 Sunnyside Avenue. Construction on the remaining two lots commenced in 1931 and the houses are shown completed in a 1933 air photograph. These are at 175 and 177 Sunnyside Avenue

The construction of these houses meant that the Brewer house no longer had access to Riverdale Avenue. As a result, the main entrance to the house had to be reoriented towards Sunnyside Avenue. By 1926, the address had changed to 171 Sunnyside Avenue. At this time, the elaborate front veranda and balcony were likely removed.

The current house at this address retains the same footprint except for an extension facing Sunnyside Avenue. Based on air photographs, this was likely added in the 1980s. The odd orientation shows that this house originally faced Riverdale Avenue. There have also been other substantial renovations. Nevertheless, this is likely the same house that appeared in the 1913 photograph.

It continued to be owned by Mr. Brewer until 1937 following his October 20, 1936 death. His executor sold it to Percy J. and Annie Seary. The house had been rented for a time before Mr. Brewer's death, after he had moved in with his son, Giles on Arlington Avenue³⁰. Both of Mr. Brewer's parents had passed away here, father Robert on January 19, 1913 at age 77²⁸ and mother, the former Elizabeth Livesey on October 21, 1912 at age 75²⁹. Both are buried in unmarked graves in Wood's Cemetery on Bank Street south.

The photo caption indicates that this was the Trinity Church Tennis Club, but the church had no ownership stake of the location. However, many of those pictured were members of the church. The Brewer family itself were parishioners for decades including the next generation.

What Became of the Tennis Club and Court?

With the coming of the Great War in 1914, the world changed substantially. Many young men volunteered, and young women had a changed role

in society. Sports clubs were especially impacted by the war. Most of those athletically inclined went off to war, so many sports clubs suspended operations for the duration

Did the Brewer family tennis court survive the war years? The answer is yes. The personals column in the Ottawa Citizen, on June 23, 1919 reported a June 19th social event:

*“An enjoyable lawn social was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Brewer, 313 Riverdale Avenue, Saturday afternoon and evening. Mr. Brewer is president of the Ottawa South Municipal Association. Quite a number of the members of that organization and their relatives were present, and all had a pleasant time. **The guests played tennis and participated in other games.** Refreshments were served, tea being poured by Mrs. Frank Barnes, who was assisted by Miss Viola Mockett.”*

Amongst those present were: Mr. and Mrs. T.H.G. Clunn, Mr. and Mrs. McGregor Easson, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Thoms, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. MacIlquhan, Controller and Mrs. F.H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barnes, Alderman W.Y. Denison, Mr. T.B. Sharpe and Mr. E.G. Wilson, Mrs. A.M. Hewitt, Miss Jean Ford and Miss Viola Mockett.”

As you will read later, a new Trinity Church tennis club was founded in 1921 at a different location and as previously mentioned, the pictured tennis court was converted into building lots in 1925.

Thomas Henry Brewer’s Important Role in Old Ottawa South

Mr. Brewer’s obituary tells of his many contributions to the community. The following was published in the Ottawa Journal on October 21, 1936.

Thomas H. Brewer Dies Here in 78th Year

Former Member of City Council, Active Community Worker

Ex-Alderman Thomas Henry Brewer, credited with being the father of municipal associations in Ottawa, and the first president of the Central Council of Municipal Associations, died at the Ottawa



Thomas Henry Brewer, Ottawa Citizen, October 21, 1936, Page 15

Civic Hospital on Tuesday, after an illness of one month. He was in his 78th year.

Few men had done more for his community than “Tom” Brewer, for whom the playground in Ottawa South was named, and who was prominent in sporting, municipal and construction circles for many years.

His death will be a loss particularly to the community of Ottawa South, which he formerly represented in City Council, and in whose interests, as president of the Ottawa South Municipal Association for a number of years, he worked unceasingly.

Born in England

Mr. Brewer was a son of the late Robert Brewer and his wife, the former Elizabeth Livesey, and was born in 1859 at Preston, Lancashire, England.

Obtaining his first insight into construction in his native Lancashire, notably in connection with the famous Manchester ship canal, Mr. Brewer was for some years associated with the Imperial Government on public works in Southern Nigeria, on the west coast of Africa. He became an expert on dock and harbor works and when, in 1905, he came to Canada, he was engaged by the Department of Marine and Fisheries as superintendent of construction, having charge mainly of work on lighthouses. He held this appointment for 14 years.

During the construction of the present Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings, swept by fire during the Great War, he had an appointment as one of the superintendents.

Becoming associated with the Ottawa Public School Board, he supervised work on the York Street School, and was also an inspector of works at the time of the construction of the Public School's Administration Building at O'Connor and Gilmour Streets.

He had retired from active work about 15 years ago, but had continued to devote the major part of his energies to public and community service, which had always claimed his interest and active co-operation.

On City Council

For many years a resident in Ottawa South, he was prominent in the upbuilding of that section of the city. In 1922 and 1923 he represented the south side of Ottawa in City Council as an alderman for Capital Ward. He ran for Board of Control in 1924 but was unsuccessful. At that time, he made the suggestion the annual indemnity for aldermen should be dispensed with.

The first municipal association in Ottawa, and one of the first in Canada, came into being following a meeting of citizens at Mr. Brewer's residence here. Later, out of the Ottawa South Municipal Association, grew the sectional organizations which united in the Central Council of Municipal Associations. Honored by his own group, Mr. Brewer was chosen the first president of the city-wide organi-

zation and headed it for a number of years.

He was also active in the athletic life of the city and was a great believer in community playgrounds. It was largely due to his effort that a tract of waste land in Ottawa South beside the river was set aside as a playground, and it was named Brewer Park, in his honor.

Mr. Brewer was at one time president of the Brighton Beach Aquatic Club.

In recent years he had made his home with his elder son (Giles). Although in failing health he continued to take an active interest in the affairs of the city.

He was a member of Dalhousie Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and was widely known and respected.

Surviving Relatives

Mr. Brewer was married in England to the former Margaret Howarth, also of Preston (England). She died in 1929. Surviving are two sons, Giles Brewer and Robert Brewer, and two granddaughters, Misses Verna and Dorothy Brewer, all of Ottawa.

The funeral will be held at the parlors of George B. Burney and Son, 338 Somerset Street West, at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Internment will be in Merivale Cemetery.

The Evolution of Brewer Park, a Legacy of Thomas Brewer

Ottawa Board of Control originally recommended the purchase of 7 acres of land for playgrounds in July 1920 for a price of \$17,900 plus a lease of an adjacent island for \$1 per year ⁹. Over the next two years, the park was developed including picnic grounds, and a baseball field. A beach was developed on the island that became known as Bathing Island starting in 1921. A diving tower was added in late July 1922 and there was a field day held on August 19, 1922 in the playgrounds ¹⁰

Brewer Park was named on October 8, 1929 by Ottawa Board of Control honouring Ex Alderman Thomas Brewer, who was instrumental in establishing what was originally known as the Ottawa South Playgrounds at the same location ¹¹. Brewer Park was officially opened on August 30, 1930, by Ottawa Mayor Frank H. Plant with a children's field day and model airplane flying contest ^{12 13}.

Bathing Island was an integral part of Brewer Park and was operated by the City of Ottawa for many years. It was connected to Cameron Avenue by a pathway that ran just to the west of the Ottawa Lawn Tennis Club and a seasonal bridge. The island was serviced with a canteen and picnic tables⁴⁰. In 1950, the city's recreation and parks department recommended that the beach be relocated off the island to save the cost of installing the seasonal bridge each year⁴¹. The new Brewer Park Beach opened on June 28, 1952^{39 42} and was located between Bathing Island and the Ottawa Lawn Tennis Club on the main river shoreline. A new field house including change rooms was not completed for the 1952 season due to sanitation connection problems. Perhaps, a blessing of the beach relocation was the shocking discovery of dynamite sticks on Bathing Island on the 21 April 1952, likely the result of mishandling explosives during ice breaking operations earlier that spring⁴⁵. The last newspaper reference to Bathing Island was on August 8, 1955⁴⁴.

This was followed by an ill-conceived reconfiguration of the Rideau River shoreline at Brewer Park, that created an artificial pond and beach. The bulk of the construction took place in 1964. A May

19, 1965 Ottawa Journal news story (Page 4) was prophetic: "Mr. Kay (Alderman Don Kay) told *The Journal* a large swimming pool built in Brewer Park last year at a cost of more than \$100,000 'looks like a sewage lagoon.' He said the park is poorly located in a swampy area and work there is a waste of city funds."

The new pond which featured a beach pavilion opened to the public on June 17, 1966⁴⁸ and despite being chlorinated, it became a breeding ground for bacteria and pollution. After my own brother experienced a beach borne illness after visiting Brewer Park, our family never returned. Subsequent to changes in provincial rules concerning the definition of swimming pools, the Brewer Park pond was permanently closed as a beach on July 8, 1971⁴⁶. A swimming pool filled with river water in New Edinburgh was also closed around the same time. Over the many years since then, the former beach gradually deteriorated into a swampy eyesore that was unsuitable fish habitat. The pond was restored, deepened, and reconnected to the Rideau River by culvert in the fall of 2014⁴⁷. The old beach pavilion was finally demolished around 2018.



*Brewer Park Beach in the 1950s
City of Ottawa Archives CA039881*

The Founding of the Ottawa South Municipal Association, Another Legacy

The founding meeting of the “South and East Ottawa Municipal Association” was called on January 25, 1916 in the basement of Trinity Anglican Church. Mr. Thomas H. Brewer was instrumental in calling the meeting “*to discuss civic improvement and other important matters*”.

Alderman Muir spoke at the meeting on various municipal concerns including amusement: “*There was, however, another problem that was bound to show itself. In fact, it was looming up now and that was the question of amusement. Saloon keepers were the only people who studied to provide a place of amusement.*”

But I believe we are on the eve of prohibition, and I think I am right in making that statement, for it is my business to study public opinion, and it seems to me that public opinion is moving in the direction of prohibition.

Therefore, something has to be done to provide other places. This is a matter for a civic league. Reading rooms, swimming baths, a gymnasium – are all very necessary.”

Hence one of the purposes of a municipal association was improving “amusement”. At this meeting, temporary officers were appointed including Messrs. T.H. Brewer, F.W. Ross and Frank Barnes representing Ottawa South and Mr. G.L. Prowse representing Ottawa East ²⁵.

But by January 1917, it became the “Ottawa South Municipal Association” when a meeting was called for January 9th at 1122 Bank Street ²⁶.

Trinity Church Lawn Tennis Club – Version 2.0

Following the end of hostilities from the Great War on November 11, 1918, our young servicemen gradually returned home over the next year and the world gradually returned to normal life. With Prohibition now in force, recreation became especially important for the returning soldiers, some of whom were suffering from PTSD, then known as ‘Shell Shock’.

The Trinity Church Lawn Tennis Club was established in 1921 and the 1922 season opened on May 6th. For its second year of operations, it was hoped to enter a team in the city and district league. The club already had full membership and there was a waiting list ¹⁴. There were two or three gravel courts located on empty church property along Harvard Avenue ¹⁵. At the time, the church was located near the Bank Street and Cameron Avenue intersection, with the rectory house located just to the west of the church on Cameron Avenue.

The final tournament for 1922 was held on October 28th ¹⁶ and the year end dance and card party was held on November 23rd. Over 70 members attended, and engraved cups were awarded to several members ¹⁷ ..



***T.C.T.C. (Trinity Church Tennis Club)
Men's Doubles Handicap
Won by H.S. Jones 1922***

***The Trophy award winners were listed in the
Ottawa Citizen, November 23, 1922 p.11***

(photograph courtesy of Lindsay Whillans)

For the 1923 season, the first league tournament involving the Trinity Church club was held at the Glebe Lawn Tennis Club on Fourth Avenue on June 11th₁₈. The final tournament was held on September 30th₁₉.

1924 was the beginning of the end for the tennis club when the Men's Club of Trinity Church embarked on the first step towards building a new larger building with a canvass of the parish as part of a 'Go to Church' campaign²⁰. This project moved forward quickly when the parish Annual Vestry Meeting held on January 14th confirmed the need of a new church seating 700 people at a yet to be determined location²¹. A special building committee was established which met on January 28th confirming that the new church would be built on the existing property²². This would place a squeeze on the tennis club.

Nevertheless, the 1924 season proceeded as normal with the opening taking place on May 17th. This followed a very successful 1923 season when the Trinity club took the runner up position in Section B of the district league, only losing out to the Highland Park club by one point²³.

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the club was held on November 30th with plans to build three additional courts to accommodate increased membership and the existing waiting list. The expected \$1,000 cost was to be covered with the sale of \$50 shares to be repaid over 5 years²⁴.

However, these were unrealistic expectations, with construction proceeding on the new church building and with the planned relocation of the rectory house to Harvard Avenue, the site of the existing tennis courts. The Ottawa Journal reported on April 21, 1925, that the Trinity Church tennis club was suspending operations 'owing to building operations on the church property'.

Was this the end for tennis players in Old Ottawa South? No. As discussed in the Summer 2023 edition of Historic Gloucester, Calvin Presbyterian Church opened 6 new tennis courts on Sunnyside Avenue in May 1924. Perhaps this was a cooperative plan knowing that the Trinity Church courts would soon disappear.

References

- 1 Ottawa Journal, September 30, 1914, Page 15
- 2 Ottawa Journal, March 26, 1934, Page 3
- 3 Ottawa Citizen, July 11, 1955, Page 3
- 4 Ottawa Citizen, July 8, 1955, Page 3
- 5 Ottawa Journal, September 27, 1915, Page 10
- 6 Ottawa Citizen, September 28, 1915, Page 3
- 7 Ottawa Citizen, August 11, 1915, Page 4
- 8 Ottawa Citizen, May 31, 1915, Page 9
- 9 Ottawa Citizen, July 14, 1920, Page 5
- 10 Ottawa Citizen, July 24, 1922, Page 1
- 11 Ottawa Citizen, October 9, 1929, Page 4
- 12 Ottawa Citizen, August 29, 1929, Page 19
- 13 Ottawa Citizen, August 28, 1930, Page 11
- 14 Ottawa Journal, May 5, 1922, Page 15
- 15 Ottawa Citizen, June 5, 1922, Page 10
- 16 Ottawa Journal, October 28, 1922, Page 15
- 17 Ottawa Citizen, November 24, 1922, Page 11
- 18 Ottawa Citizen, June 11, 1923, Page 12
- 19 Ottawa Citizen, September 29, 1923, Page 12
- 20 Ottawa Journal, January 3, 1924, Page 1
- 21 Ottawa Citizen, January 15, 1924, Page 13
- 22 Ottawa Journal, January 29, 1924, Page 2
- 23 Ottawa Journal, May 13, 1924, Page 15
- 24 Ottawa Journal, December 1, 1924, Page 27
- 25 Ottawa Journal, January 26, 1916, Page 12
- 26 Ottawa Citizen, January 8, 1917, Page 2
- 27 Ottawa Citizen, September 26, 1949, Page 23
- 28 Ottawa Citizen, January 20, 1913, Page 2
- 29 Ottawa Citizen, October 22, 1912, Page 5
- 30 Ottawa Citizen, October 21, 1936, Page 15
- 31 Ottawa Journal, March 19, 1947, Page 1
- 32 Ottawa Citizen, September 25, 1924, Page 15
- 33 Ottawa Citizen, September 20, 1948, Page 12
- 34 Ottawa Journal, November 19, 1913, Page 10
- 35 Ottawa Citizen, October 21, 1918, Page 8
- 36 Ottawa Citizen, August 23, 1879, Page 3
- 37 Ottawa Citizen, December 16, 1876, Page 4
- 38 Ottawa Citizen, June 26, 1922, Page 12
- 39 Ottawa Journal, June 28, 1952, Page 33
- 40 Ottawa Journal, June 11, 1949, Page 27
- 41 Ottawa Journal, August 30, 1950, Page 12
- 42 Ottawa Citizen, March 25, 1952, Page 20
- 43 Ottawa Citizen, August 22, 1952, Page 14
- 44 Ottawa Citizen, August 8, 1955, Page 24
- 45 Ottawa Journal, April 22, 1952, Page 3
- 46 Ottawa Citizen, July 8, 1971, Page 1
- 47 Ottawa Citizen, May 23, 2015, Page E2
- 48 Ottawa Journal, June 18, 1966, Page 5



**The Gloucester Historical Society
Presents
“Thanks for the Memories”
by Claudette Cain Coulas
(last mayor of Gloucester)**



**Sunday, April 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Location: Gloucester South Seniors' Centre
4550 Bank Street, Gloucester**

**Open to the Public, Free parking and admission, Bus Route 93 nearby
A brief Annual General Meeting will precede the presentation.**

**THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY ROOM WILL
 BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR NOW.
 LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET
 (ENTER FROM LEITRIM ROAD, NEXT TO THE FIRE STATION)
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 Glenn Clark at english@gloucesterhistory.com or
 Call 613-822-2076 and leave a message.**

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society quarterly. 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 publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments, suggestions and potential articles are always welcome.



*Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges
 the financial support of the City of Ottawa.*

To renew or become a new member, please complete this form and return it to the address below with your cheque. Memberships may also be purchased on our website.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester
 (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31.)

Annual Membership - \$20.00 for one year _____ 10 year Membership \$150.00 _____

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Telephone # _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Check here if you wish to receive your Newsletters by e-mail only. (E-Mail address required above)

Donations are always welcome. We are a registered charitable organization and provide tax receipts.

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
 4550B Bank Street.
 Gloucester, Ontario
 K1T 3W6
 Tel: 613-822-2076