



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 27 No.1

Spring 2026



The lost motels of Leitrim



The Peter Pan Motel (top photo) just before its demolition in November 1986. The 4 Lane Motel (above, originally Gay's Motel), April 7, 1995. Photo supplied by the National Capital Commission.



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

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President's report

By Glenn Clark

As I write this, the sun is bright and spring weather is about to arrive. It was a more normal Ottawa winter and the Rideau Canal skateway had a lengthy successful season, something that has been lacking during the last few years.

The Gloucester Historical Society has been busy working in the background over the winter. We had a display at Heritage Day at City Hall on February 17th. This event takes place every year on the day following Family Day. If you are interested in local history, and heritage, this is the best event to attend. Dozens of heritage groups have display tables and there are opportunities to talk to many interesting people. This year's event was very well attended.

2026 Annual General Meeting and Speaker

We are now planning our Annual General Meeting, which will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at MacKay United Church in New Edinburgh. We are excited to announce that our speaker is Janet Uren, who recently published the book titled "The Villagers – History of the People and Life of New Edinburgh". We welcome all our members and the general public to attend. A flyer on this event appears elsewhere in this newsletter and provides further details. Please spread the word.

Jane's Walk

I am pleased to announce that I will again be leading a Jane's Walk on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The title is "The Lost Village of Billings Bridge". Our starting point is the Billings Estate National Historic Site at 2100 Cabot Street. Details can be found at <https://www.janeswalk-ottawa.ca/en/walks/janes-walk-ottawa-gatineau-2026/22071>. Walk registration is necessary to limit the number of walkers to a reasonable level.

This Newsletter

Included is a story of two now lost motels formerly located on Bank Street South near Leitrim. This story features the families that founded both motels and explains the naming of those motels and why one of them had to change its name, not once, but twice. We also share information on other businesses lost to Greenbelt expropriation in the same vicinity. I am so pleased to have located vintage photographs of both motels, shown on Page 1.

Grace Johnston History Room at Leitrim

The GHS has continued to work to preserve records at our former office located at 4550 Bank Street. The city has now announced that the building must be fully vacated by August 1, 2026.

On March 9th, board members met with staff from the City of Ottawa archives to review remaining GHS holdings on site. These holdings will be transferred to the archives building on Tallwood Drive in April. As of March 9th, large numbers of museum artifacts and archeological material remain, but numerous boxes are on skids preparing for transfer to a new site, likely when spring weather arrives. Many other items remain on site including many large artifacts. The removal of these artifacts to an alternative facility is the responsibility of city museum staff.

Ongoing Projects

Winter is the best time for doing research and writing stories. I had certain plans this winter which didn't work out quite as expected. Research has been intense with few concrete results, so far. I expect that this work will provide important dividends for upcoming newsletters and elsewhere but other important projects were delayed with regret.

While I write this, I wish to invite anybody to



Mary Boyd receives the Grace Johnston History Award on January 21, 2026. Presented by President Glenn Clark, with Reverend Nash Smith.

contribute to this newsletter by offering a story about your neighbourhood or family so long as it has some sort of Gloucester connection. Of course, we consider Gloucester to be those areas east of the Rideau River including Vanier, Rockcliffe and those neighbourhoods that have been part of Ottawa since 1950.

Grace Johnston History Awards

The top honour offered by the Gloucester Historical Society is the Grace Johnston History Award. This award is named in honour of the society's first President and is given to those who provide outstanding service to the society or make important contributions towards the preservation, documentation and research of Gloucester history. The last recipient of the award was Robert Serré, Past President of the society, and prolific author.

It was decided last fall to honour two longstanding volunteers of the society, Mary Boyd and Joan Scott.



Joan Scott receives the Grace Johnston History Award on March 25, 2026. Presented by President Glenn Clark.

Mary Boyd

Mary Boyd is from the Boyd family, which operated the Boyd Hotel in Carlsbad Springs for many decades. She served on the Gloucester Historical Society board for years prior to my arrival and was President at the time when I joined the board in 2006. She remained as President until 2009 but continued to serve on the board for several more years until mobility issues made it impossible to participate. Mary knew more about Gloucester Historical Society holdings than anybody else during my tenure and she created many indexes that remain on our computer system. Mary was delighted when we surprised her with the award following a religious service on January 21, 2026. Today, Mary lives in an assisted living residence in the Blossom Park area.

Joan Scott

Joan Scott served on the Gloucester Historical Society board for many years. She retired from the board this year. She served as secretary of the society, meticulously taking minutes at board meetings and GHS Annual General Meetings for several

years. She was also the editor of our newsletter, Historic Gloucester, for 25 years. We thanked her for her service when we presented her with the award on March 25, 2026. She was very pleased with the surprise. Joan now resides in Orléans.

An Opportunity – The Next Generation

With the retirement of board members Aline Mageau, Mary Boyd, Joan Scott and Pauline McNally and with tremendous thanks for their service with the Gloucester Historical Society, we now move on from the previous generation of volunteers.

This is an opportunity for new ideas and new volunteers in a variety of roles. You do not need to be a historian to help out. I know I wasn't much of a historian when I joined. We are looking for people interested in their community who can share an idea, offer an opinion or help out at our annual or semi-annual events. In turn, our veterans can help you learn, answer questions and offer tips on available research tools. We welcome new volunteers in any capacity at any time. Our Gloucester 175 event last July took a lot of planning and involved

many volunteers, some of whom were not members of the GHS board. All volunteers helped make that event a great success and I thank each of them. Can you help the GHS in any capacity as we move forward? Please contact us at english@gloucester-history.com or speak to any of us at any upcoming event.

The other life blood of the Gloucester Historical Society is membership. This involves no obligations, but you will receive a quarterly newsletter with original stories, and you will be first to be informed about upcoming events. Please consider becoming a member. A membership application appears below.

Please Join Us

We continue to create events that explain our community heritage. Hopefully, they are meaningful and offer a window into our past while also explaining how we became what we are today.

Please join us at our upcoming Annual General Meeting and Jane's Walk and other events that we are considering in the coming months.

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: _____ E-mail 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.

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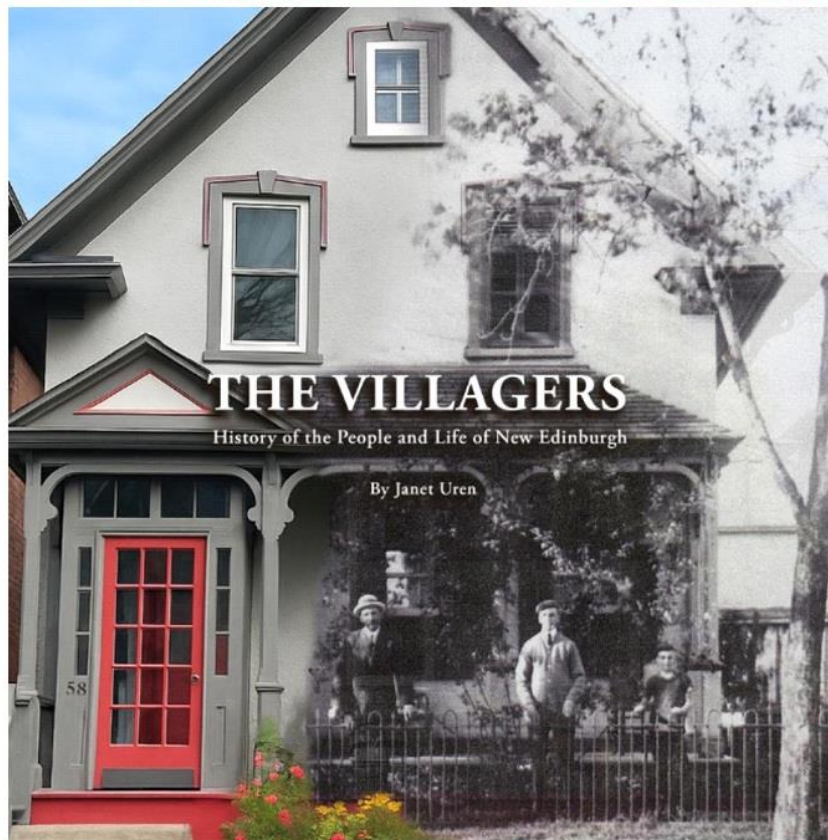
The Gloucester Historical Society Presents

“Helping Hands: A Culture of Mutual Support in Old New Edinburgh”

by Janet Uren



author of a recently published New Edinburgh book



Sunday, April 26, 2026, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: MacKay United Church

39 Dufferin Road, Ottawa (New Edinburgh)

Open to the Public, Free parking and admission, Bus Route 9

A brief Annual General Meeting will precede the presentation.

www.gloucesterhistory.com



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

The Motel that Had to Change its Name – Twice

4 Lane Motel/Gay's Motel – 3625 Bank Street

By Glenn Clark

A modest motel on the Metcalfe Highway (now Bank Street), just south of Park Lane has a surprisingly interesting story that was affected by world events. It was a landmark for decades between Blossom Park and Leitrim.

The Lefebvre Family

Arthur Napoleon Lefebvre was born on January 25, 1884, in Montreal, Quebec, son of Louis Lefebvre and Adèle Bigras. Arthur came to Ottawa in 1907 and married Anna Mary Phillion of Rockland on June 23, 1914. According to his 1940 obituary, he was a former Ottawa storekeeper. Arthur and Anna had five sons, George, Arthur, Henry, Guay and Lindy.

When eldest son, George, was born in 1916, his father operated a grocery store at 305 MacKay Street in New Edinburgh. The current building at that address dates from 1929-1930, so the building containing the grocery store no longer exists. The family then lived at 94 Henderson Avenue in Sandy Hill during the 1920s. In 1926, son Guay Roland was born.

Arthur Lefebvre then purchased the north half of Lot 12, Concession 4, Rideau Front in Gloucester from Cyrus O'Neill for \$8,500 on October 28, 1930, which included almost 100 acres. The farm extended from Albion Road to Conroy Road and was situated just south of today's Park Lane. The house, barn and farm buildings were on the east side of Metcalfe Road, now Bank Street. The current municipal address is 3637 Bank Street, now empty land returning to forest. At the time of the 1931 census, the house was described as wood construction with five rooms and valued at \$300. This house was likely replaced during the 1930s with the two-storey flat-roofed brick house as shown on Page 7. It survived until 2021-2022. A 1965 air photograph shows the property which features several outbuildings and a barn. My early memories also include an old-



94 Henderson Avenue, Google Street View

fashioned windmill located just south of the house.

Arthur Lefebvre died on September 12, 1940, following an eight-year illness. Wife Anna became the sole heir to the farm. Their four younger sons were still at home.

The farm was transferred to eldest son George on June 8, 1956, but this was followed up with two additional transfers to younger son Guay on November 8th and December 6th, 1960. These latter transfers allowed for the construction of a motel, which opened on June 3, 1961. The motel was given an anglicized version of the owner's name and became Gay's Motel.

It was to Mr. Lefebvre's great misfortune, that Notice of Expropriation was given by the

National Capital Commission just 10 days later, on June 13, 1961. This is led to a lengthy multi-year dispute.

The Ottawa Citizen, reported on June 30, 1964 (Page 2):

“No settlement seen by NCC on Gay’s Motel

NCC purchase and leaseback negotiations concerning Gay’s Motel, Morrisburg Highway 31, between Blossom Park and Leitrim, are still hanging fire.

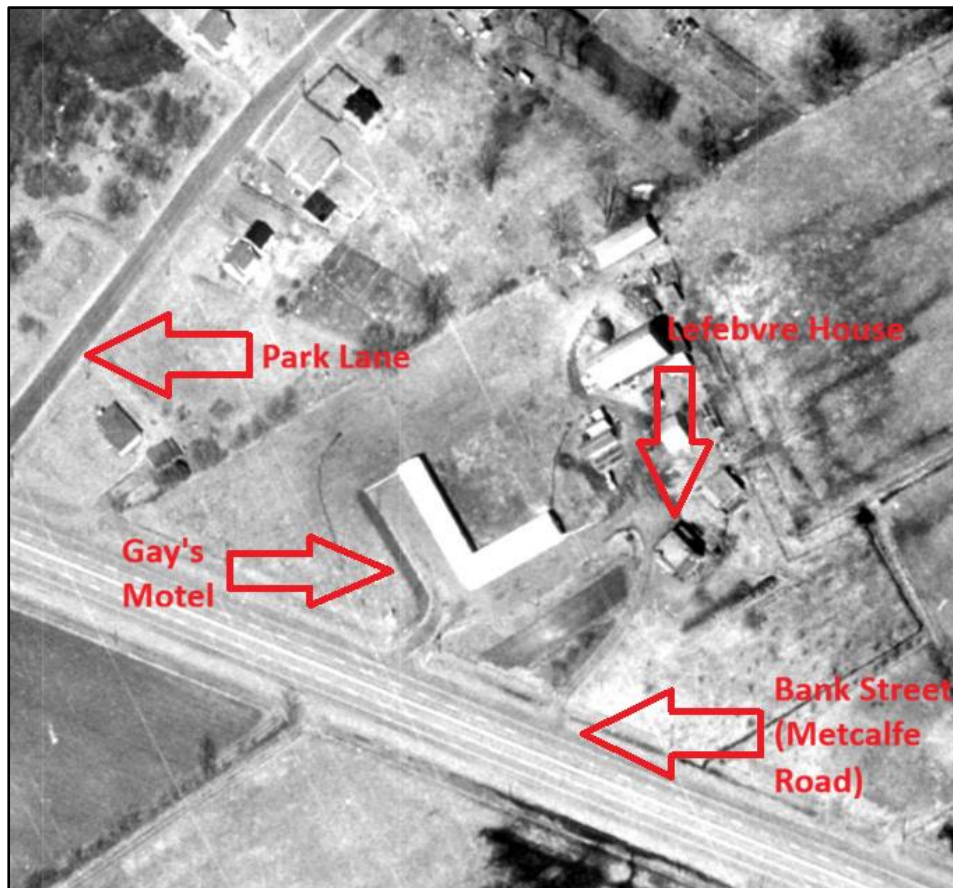
Unless Mr. Lefebvre and the NCC can come to an amicable settlement as to the motel purchase price and rental back lease, the questions likely will have to go to the Exchequer Court for adjudication.

The main difficulty was that Gay Lefebvre built the \$100,000 13-unit motel and opened it on June 3, 1961, just 10 days before federal government action giving the NCC blanket authority to expropriate 9,678 acres of Green Belt lands on which negotiated purchase settlements had not been completed at that date.



Lefebvre House, 3637 Bank Street, Google Street View – June 2009

In April 1960, Gay Lefebvre secured a motel building permit from Gloucester Township and a necessary tourist accommodation license from the Ontario government travel and publicity branch. The motel was built on two acres of the 100-acre Green Belt area farm owned by Mr. Lefebvre’s parents since 1930. His father, Arthur Lefebvre



1965 aerial view.



Leitim Public School – 1938, Gloucester Photo Collection 0080000201

*Back Row from left – Shirley Ritchie, Jean Stewart, Harold Birt, Orville Kemp, Graham Ritchie, **Henry Lefebvre**, Leo Desjardins, Agnes Kossatz.*

*Front Row from left – **Guay Lefebvre**, Norman Robinson, Arnold Spratt, John Kelly, Anna Kossatz*

died in 1940. His mother, Mrs. Annie Lefebvre, still lives on the farm.

Mr. Lefebvre heard nothing from the NCC during the motel construction period from November 1960 until the motel was opened on June 3, 1961. Then on June 13, 1961, the NCC expropriation notice was filed concerning the motel property.

Mr. Lefebvre puts \$125,000 a 'fair valuation' for his motel property. He feels the NCC proffered purchase price is 'too low' and that the NCC proposed rental back figure to him to continue the motel in operation is 'somewhat high'.

NCC officials emphasized today that it had no authority to expropriate any Green Belt properties before June 13, 1961. The NCC does not object to Gay's Motel being continued in operation since the commission considers it a good motel".

The Ottawa Journal on June 30, 1964 (Page 1) expanded on this story:

"Reeve Denies Agreement

A Green Belt expropriation cost the Federal Government an extra \$100,000 because Gloucester Township failed to keep an agreement with the National Capital Commission, the Commons has been told.

But Reeve Earl Armstrong has flatly denied the charge and said no such agreement ever existed.

The accusation was contained in answers to questions tabled in the House Monday for Social Credit Leader Robert Thompson. He had asked why the NCC permitted erection of a \$100,000 motel in the Green Belt and then expropriated it 10 days after it was opened.

The motel was later identified as Gay's Motel on Highway 31 by Reeve Armstrong.

'Prior to expropriations carried out in June 1961, the commission had no authority to prevent the erection of buildings on lands in the Green Belt which it had not purchased up to that time.

Although there was an agreement with the Township of Gloucester to advise the commission when building permits were taken out for erection of buildings in the Green Belt, the fact that this motel was under construction was not brought to the attention of the commission until the building was substantially completed and the roof was on. The motel in question was started in the fall of 1960, the answer to Mr. Thompson reads.

'Not true,' retorted Reeve Armstrong. 'At that time, the NCC asked us not to permit any construction on land it wanted for the Green Belt. We told them we wouldn't do this and that they should buy land if they wanted it.'

'The only agreement we had was to tell them whenever any person asked for a building permit for land under expropriation by them,' he said."

The land in question was not being expropriated at the time the building permit was issued nor during the construction period.

George Lefebvre sold the farm on October 2, 1962 to the National Capital Commission for \$17,000. There was likely an outstanding mortgage that accounts for the small amount paid for almost 100 acres. The motel sale and leaseback were not settled until October 22, 1969 with a final land settlement taking place on May 6, 1971.

Guay Lefebvre purchased a house at 3674 Alderwood Street for \$25,000 on July 20, 1965. He lived there with his mother Annie for the rest of their lives. Annie died on November 24, 1979 and Guay died on July 13, 1994. Guay left no descendants. The family burial plot is in Pinecrest Cemetery.

Guay leased the motel from the NCC until his death, and it was well maintained throughout. One unusual feature near the entrance of the motel was a purple martin house that had an active colony. The last newspaper ad appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on June 30, 1992.

Why the Motel Name Changed Twice?

As mentioned previously, the motel was named with an anglicized version of the owner's name. A large sign appeared along Bank Street at the front of

MURPHY GAMBLE

ON THE MALL

CHOOSE SOMETHING GAY FOR MOTHER

DUSTER 4.00
CULOTTE 5.00
GOWN 4.00

PRETTY COLOURFUL CAREFREE FABRICS

THE DUSTER (Top) 4.00
We've sketched a 3/4 sleeve, button front style in gay custom print... You'll find V-neck styles, wrap-around, short sleeves, some with collars, some collarless. All are colourful, cool additions to any summer wardrobe. Sizes small, medium and large.

THE BRA CULOTTE 5.00
A real sun-lover with low scoop neckline front and back. This long, full cut culotte is tops for comfort. Choose from a variety of colourful summer prints in sizes small, medium, large.

THE GOWN (Bottom) 4.00
The cool light gown of 35% Fagret, 65% cotton with pleated trim - it's a dream! Sizes small, medium, large, in delightful shades of pink, blue, lilac -4.00.

Baby Dolls (as above) 4.00. Matching Coat, 6.00

LINGERIE BAR - SPARKS ST. FLOOR

Ad using "gay" for "colourful" in the Ottawa Journal, May 8, 1969 p.43



BAKERY PRODUCTS

SHIRLEY GAY FRUIT CAKES

1 lb. cake	2 lb. cake	3 lb. ring	4 lb. cake
69¢	1.29	1.89	2.39

SHIRLEY GAY PLUM PUDDING 1 lb. pudding **89¢**

WESTON'S BROWN 'N SERVE TWIN ROLLS SAVE 4¢ Pkg. of 12 35¢	SHIRLEY GAY JAM & LEMON FILLED BUNS Pkg. of 12 49¢
SHIRLEY GAY CINNAMON OR PLAIN DONUTS SAVE 11¢ 2 Pkg. of 12 55¢	SHIRLEY GAY 16 OZ. CAKE Angel Food Cake 69¢

Ottawa Journal, December 17, 1969 p.24

the motel. However, the 1970s were a period of great social change.

Ottawa newspapers reflected this change as the word “gay” was redefined. The traditional definition was cheerful, carefree, bright and showy. Up until 1970, “gay” was reflected in newspaper stories with the traditional definition. It most often was used in clothing ads suggesting cheerful colours. “Gay” was also reported as a surname or a given name. Shirley Gay was a popular store brand for baked goods at IGA supermarkets. IGA later became Loeb supermarkets in Ottawa and today, Metro.

As we all know, “gay” has now become synonymous with people with same sex attractions. This use of the word dates back to the 1920s but was limited as a secret word used within the subculture. It entered the Oxford English Dictionary as a slang term in 1951.

This became popularized following the Stonewall riots that took place on June 28, 1969, and the days that followed. At the time, police raided the Stonewall Inn, in Greenwich Village, New York City with 13 arrests for the illegal sale of liquor, disorderly conduct and violations of clothing statutes. The Stonewall Inn was a mafia operated dance club and a popular meeting place for gay men. It was described as follows:



Stonewall Inn - 1969

“The Stonewall Inn, at 51 Christopher Street, was probably the largest of them all. It bore all the negative hallmarks of the city’s gay bar scene in



*The office of 4 Lane Motel Motel (formerly Gay's and then Day's Motel) after final closure.
Photo supplied by the National Capital Commission*

1969 (it was managed by a mafia associate nicknamed The Skull, which pretty much said it all). But it had one big advantage over others in the neighborhood, in that here you could dance. You could really dance.

“What makes the Stonewall good is that we could dance in there, we could dance slow with each other. That’s a very, very important thing because it tells you that you are a person who deserves affection. It’s very different to meeting someone on the street where you could be killed.”

At a time when the core identity of gay and lesbian people was universally denied, up to 350 gay men, together with a few ‘scare queens’, transgender individuals and lesbians could cram together and slow dance to the sounds of Motown blasting from a juke box. The Stonewall’s two dance floors offered more than a good time. It granted its customers what Lanigan-Schmidt calls ‘personhood’. ‘It was deeper than political. It made you feel good as a person. It was affirming in a totally organic down-to-earth way, like a baby nursing at its mother; it was that basic. And that’s why we fought for it so hard.’ ”⁹

On June 28th, the New York Police vice squad had meticulously planned a raid on the Stonewall Inn. Vice squad raids had been intensifying, but on this evening, there was resistance that changed the course of history. While the police themselves were unexpectedly terrorized, the gay customers were exhilarated by their newfound sense of power and freedom. Arrests were no longer accepted without resistance. They finally could stand up for themselves. Protests continued for six days. From this, the “Gay Liberation Front” was founded for rights advocacy and the term “gay” entered popular culture. It was surprising when a recent conversation in 2025 led to the topic of the Stonewall Riots. I was talking to an eyewitness to this historic event who had been working in Greenwich Village in New York at the time.

The redefinition first appeared in Ottawa newspapers with the release of the film “The Gay Deceivers” that was shown at the Towne Cinema on Beechwood Avenue between July 19 and July 24, 1969. This film told the story of young men who faked being homosexual in order to avoid enlistment during the Vietnam War. It was promoted as a comedy. The film was reshowed at the Rialto

Theatre in January 1970. Later that year, gay literature was first advertised in Ottawa and offered at Ye Market Book Shoppe and The Sister bookstore in the Byward Market. The world had changed forever.

Eventually, talk swirled around the surrounding neighbourhoods about Gay's Motel. The Ottawa Citizen reported on June 17, 1977 (Page 3);

"No joke – Gay's is Day's

You just have to use your imagination to realize what kind of problems a place called Gay's Motel would run into.

Gay Lefebvre, owner of the Highway 31 motel, said several names were bandied about before settling on his when he opened 16 years ago.

Then a few years ago, it started.

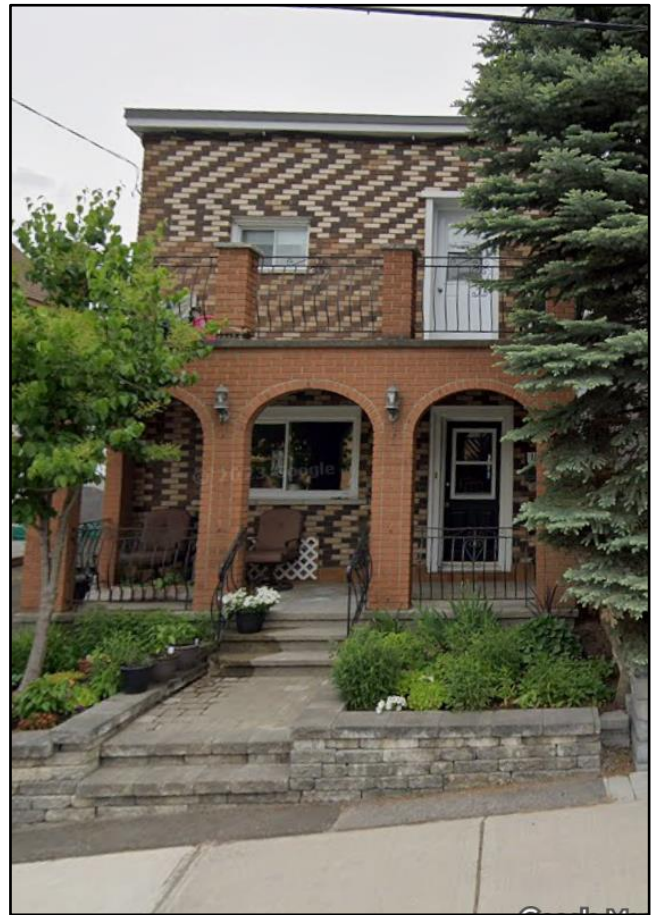
'We'd get all sorts of crank calls,' he said. 'A lot of them were from kids, but we frequently got some really weird ones.' Lefebvre can't remember ever having to contend with a gay couple at the door, though. Anyone who called ahead was quickly told the name held no special meaning.

'The biggest pain is being listed right above Gays of Ottawa in the phone book.' He said.

So sick of being a target of joke calls, Lefebvre has changed the first letter of the motel's name. His road-sign now reads: Day's Motel."

The renaming ended up being a short-term solution. The Day's Motel name lasted only through the 1978 tourist season. As one can imagine, further issues arose with a new and quickly expanding Day's Inn hotel chain that we all know today. It was founded in 1970 with the first hotel opening at Tybee Island, Georgia. It had expanded into Canada before the end of the decade. A new name had to be found. It became 4 Lane Motel, which related to Highway 31's four lane design. The new name was introduced for the 1979 tourist season. Finally, there was a name that would avoid controversy. It lasted for the remainder of the life of the motel.

After Guay Lefebvre's 1994 death, the motel was abandoned. It became an eyesore and a fire hazard. When rookie George Barrett was elected on



109 Sherbrooke Avenue, vastly renovated from its original appearance, when the Lynch family lived there. Google Street View, May 2021

November 14, 1994 to Gloucester City Council for the Gloucester South ward, one of his first tasks was to work with the National Capital Commission to demolish the abandoned motel. Demolition occurred on October 2, 1996.

Peter Pan Motel

South of 4 Lane Motel along Bank Street, a second motel operated near the intersection with Conroy Road.

The Lynch Family

William John Lynch was born on January 28, 1870 at Masham, Quebec. William was a son of James Lynch (who died June 11, 1918) and Mary Margaret Robinson (who died May 25, 1907). They were from County Armagh, Ireland. William married Margaret Mary Robinson (1882-1969) on March



The Lefebvre House before demolition, 3637 Bank Street, September 2, 2021.

Photo supplied by Glenn Clark

23, 1904 at Masham. They had sons William Hastwell, Emrys George, and daughters Gladys and Dorcas. Two additional sons, James Edward and Cyril, died in infancy. Following their marriage, William and Margaret took up farming at Lot 5, Concession 3, Torbolton Township. At the time of the 1911 census, they were living at 109 Sherbrooke Avenue in Hintonburg Village, now part of Ottawa. William was a farm labourer.

They then took another farm at Bells Corners for several years. On April 15, 1925, they acquired the east half of Lot 13, Concession 4, Rideau Front, Gloucester, approximately 100 acres. This farm was along Bank Street, immediately north of the Bank Street/Conroy Road intersection. This had previously been owned by three generations of George Fenton's.

Buy Ottawa Business

AN OLD-ESTABLISHED Ottawa business, Fenton's Bakery, has been purchased by Canadian Food Products Limited. This was announced by L. W. Lawson, president of CFP at the company's annual meeting in Toronto.

Fenton's Bakery operates 10 branches in Ottawa and Eastview. Principal shareholders of the family business before the acquisition by Canadian Food Products were Harvey Fenton, Mrs. Pearl E. Fenton, and Miss Annis Fenton.

The sale to CFP means there will be more capital available for modernization and expansion. It does not mean any changes will be made in present operating personnel.

Ottawa Journal, July 15, 1961 p.41

The Leitrim Fenton Family Legacy – Fenton's Bakery Ltd.

The third generation, George Wesley Fenton, was born on March 6, 1895 and son of George Harry Fenton and Elizabeth Rebecca Coburn. George Wesley entered the bakery business after getting out of

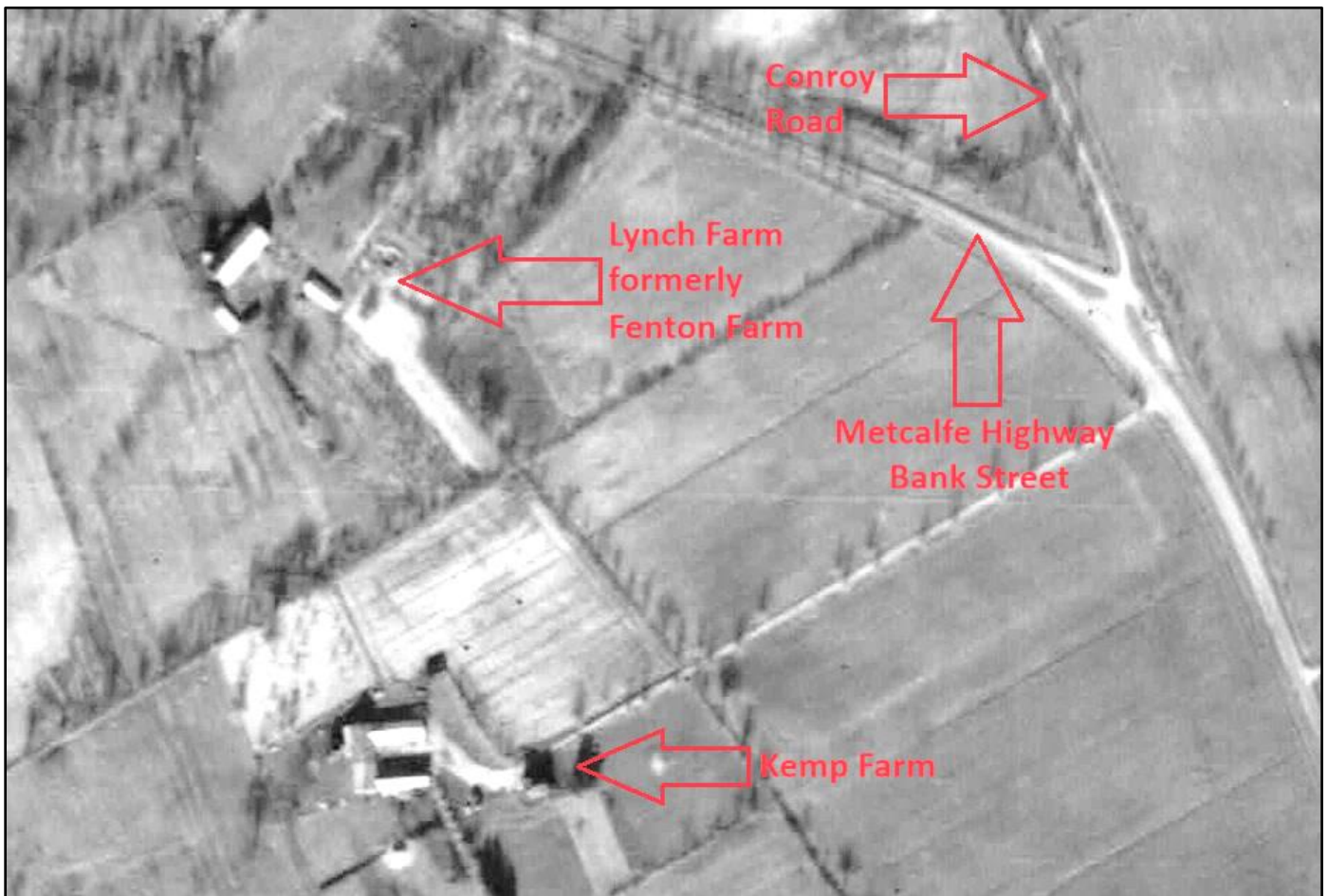
farming. This venture quickly became the biggest chain of bakery stores in Ottawa for many years. It was known as Fenton’s Bakery Ltd.

The first store opened at 284 Bank Street in 1925, which soon relocated to 274 Bank Street. A second store opened on November 1, 1928 at 783 Bank Street in the Glebe. The third opened at 340 Elgin Street on October 5, 1929. By 1955, the business had 10 stores, and the business was branching into real estate with the opening of the Wesley Building at the corner of Wellington Street and Holland Avenue 1. George Wesley Fenton was an avid hunter and died in a tragic hunting accident near Norway Bay, Quebec on October 1, 1958 3. He is buried at Johnston’s Corners Cemetery.

The next generation of the Fenton family eventually sold the business to Canadian Food Products Sales Limited in July 19612. Son Harvey Wesley Fenton (1919-2008) had a greater interest in the real estate side of the business and he became a founding partner of Eades and Fenton Real Estate Ltd. Harvey



George Wesley Fenton
Ottawa Citizen, October 5, 1929 p.18





*Fenton's
Bakery
(location
unknown).*



FO. Harvey Fenton, D.F.C.

Ottawa Citizen, February 29, 1944 p.3

had been a Pilot Officer with the RCAF during World War II and was greatly honoured when he received the Distinguished Flying Cross from King George VI at Buckingham Palace in early 1944 ¹⁰.

The new corporate owners opened a centralized bakery and head office at 466 Tremblay Road in early 1963. Suburban stores were also opened in shopping malls including Westgate (April 17, 1957, the eleventh store ⁶), St. Laurent (October 4, 1967 ⁸) and Billings Bridge (March 20, 1962 ⁷). As the business moved away from its family roots, the bottom line became the focus, and it became vulnerable to corporate takeovers. In 1969, Kellogg's bought controlling interest in Canadian Food Products Sales Limited. The Tremblay Road bakery closed in 1970 with an auction sale for equipment taking place on September 29th ⁴. Bakery operations were consolidated in Toronto.

Canadian consumer tastes were also changing.

"Since it started under another name in 1928, Canada Food Products could best be described as a little old lady bakery. In its Hunt's and Woman's Bakery shops, it sold good quality but somewhat bland WASP-style bread and cakes where nice, elderly ladies with

Light Fruit Sultana Cake
 An ideal cake for the labour day weekend or lunches.
 REG. 69c
SPECIAL 49c

Lemon Meringue Pie
 Made with fresh lemons **69c**

Available at all
FENTON STORES
 HUNTS and WOMANS
 Bakery Counters

Ottawa Citizen, August 27, 1969 p.55

blue rinses could buy a loaf of white and maybe half a chocolate cake. You'd think they never heard of ethnic baking, and a lot of people wanted something different."

"Canadian Food Products wasn't making money on its bakery operations. It had had some good years, back when southern Ontario was almost entirely WASP, but with immigration came new tastes. The firm bounced back and forth between Canadian and foreign owners, then was bought up by Kellogg's in 1969 as part of a group purchase. It hobbled along, making very good white bread".

The company returned to Canadian ownership in late 1971 but product diversification and modernization became a priority. Gradually, the emphasis moved away from specialty bakery

Fenton's
 ANNOUNCE THE
OPENING
 of a fine new down town shop
 at 190 Sparks Street
SATURDAY, MARCH 11th
 where you may obtain the
Cakes - Pies - Breads - Pastries
 for which they are justly famous.
 Also
 Schneider's Cooked Meats and Sausages.
HIGH CLASS CATERING

Fenton's Seven Stores

190 SPARKS STREET	QUEEN	853
284 BANK STREET	QUEEN	1477
783 BANK STREET	CARL	4224
1136 BANK STREET	CARL	358
362 ELGIN STREET	QUEEN	4185
142 RIDEAU STREET	RIDEAU	4027
1107 WELLINGTON ST.	SHER.	4710

Ottawa Citizen, March 10, 1933 p.14

shop sales to supermarket sales, particularly at Loblaws.

The past good reputation of Fenton's Bakery had to some degree become a liability as consumer tastes changed. The Hunt's and Women's name first appeared in ads at the St. Laurent store in 1969. The Westgate store became Hunt's Bakery in 1975 and the Billings Bridge store closed in 1976, when a Hunt's Bakery opened within the Loblaws store in the same mall. The Fenton's Bakery name was gone.

The Lynch Family continued

At the time of the 1931 census, the Lynch farmhouse was described as being brick construction, with 10 rooms and valued at \$3,000. William died on March 27, 1940, leaving the rest of



Lynch House,
3829 Bank Street.
Google Street View, June 2009

his family to continue farming. A further tragedy struck when the Lynch farmhouse burned to the ground sometime after World War II. Then son

William Hastwell died suddenly on March 15, 1953. Hastwell had taken over the farming operation following his father's death.

ATTENTION

Woman's Bakery

CUSTOMERS

Now you can purchase the same
fine quality baked goods at all our
stores and Hunt's Bakery Sections
in Loblaws



...delicious!

Westgate Plaza Billings Bridge Shopping Centre St.Laurent Shopping Centre

Ottawa Citizen, December 15, 1976 p.80

In order to keep going, the family needed to diversify their business, and they began selling off lots including subdividing a tract of land between Bank Street and Conroy Road, known as the Lynch Subdivision. Subdivision Plan 557 was registered on July 13, 1951.

Mother, Margaret, also transferred a portion of the farm to son Emrys on June 14, 1950, who built a two-storey house at 3829 Bank Street for wife Norma and their growing family. In addition, they decided to enter the motel business in 1953.

HUNT'S BAKERY

(formerly Fenton's)
Now Featuring Those Delicious Products

ITALIAN ROLLS	8 for 49¢
LEMON PIES 6-inch	98¢
CABBAGE SALAD	lb. 89¢
POTATO SALAD	lb. 89¢

Westgate Shopping Centre

722-1381 and 728-7033

Ottawa Journal, March 5, 1975 p.17



Peter Pan movie DVD cover

EMRYS and NORMA LYNCH
Are pleased to announce the opening of their

NEW

Peter Pan

NOW OPEN ☆ **MOTEL** ☆ NOW OPEN

CENTRAL HEATING—MODERN CONVENIENCES

2 Miles Past the New City Limits on the Metcalfe Highway (Hwy. 31)
Telephone 3-2825

General Contractor — CHARLES BEAUMIER Tel. 3-3713
Heating and Plumbing Contractor — R. MALBOEUF Tel. 8-3735
Electrical Contractor — L. A. LEGAULT and SON Tel. 5-9815

Ottawa Journal, June 18, 1953 p.11

Another important event took place in the entertainment industry when Walt Disney released their famous "Peter Pan" motion picture on February 3, 1953. This gave inspiration for the naming of the new motel. The nine-unit motel opened in June 1953 and featured a sign showing the Peter Pan image. The Peter Pan sign remained until demolition

The Haig Family Ran Peter Pan Motel for Several Years

In July 1954, a story on American tourism to Ottawa included the following: ¹¹

"South on Bank Street, traffic was light and the tourist business was slow. At least that was how Mrs. R.B. Haig who runs the Peter Pan Motel found things. She said she found No. 31 to be 'a quiet highway' and she attributed part of the inactivity to the fact that the Waddington-Morrisburg ferry was not operating."

While the Haig family managed the motel in 1954, Robert B. Haig purchased it from Emrys Lynch on February 6, 1956 for \$30,000 and at some point a

When in Ottawa — stay at our

PETER PAN

MOTEL

Two miles from Ottawa on Highway 31 — 822-1233

REASONABLE RATES
COMFORTABLE ACCOMODATION

Proprietors — Rawle Scott, Tom Faasen

Ottawa Citizen, July 31, 1968 p.4

couple of extra rooms were added to the south end of the motel.

Later that year, on August 28th, the Department of Highways unveiled its plans to rebuild and widen Bank Street (Highway 31) to 4 lanes. This particularly affected the motel. The highway plan included banked curves, to allow for faster and safer movement of vehicles. Re-construction took place in the summer of 1957. The end result left the motel well below the grade of the new roadbed. There was a considerable embankment at the Conroy Road intersection. The motel was in a hole. For years, a small strip of original roadbed pavement was visible just south of the motel. This demonstrated how much the highway had been raised.

The late 1950s brought the planning of the Greenbelt, which also directly impacted the Lynch farm, the motel and all the lots previously sold by the Lynch family. The first to be sold to the National Capital Commission was the unsevered remains of the Lynch farm. It fetched a price of \$103,000 on March 10, 1959. Other lots formerly part of the farm

were sold over the next year. As with the 4 Lane Motel, unsold land became subject to expropriation on June 12th and 13th, 1961. The Peter Pan Motel held out but was finally sold by Robert Haig on June 19, 1964 for \$57,500.

Robert Bruce Haig (1918-2002), a native of Montreal, and an army officer during World War II, was the Secretary of the Greater Ottawa Motel Association in 1964¹². In 1970, he was the author and publisher of the history book titled "Ottawa, City of the Big Ears"¹³ and he became the Heritage officer with the National Capital Commission that same year¹⁴. He married Dorothy Mary Stevens (1922-1999) on June 19, 1954.

The National Capital Commission offered rental of the motel by tender in July 1965. The



*Emrys & Norma (née Whelan) Lynch
Ottawa Citizen, June 16, 1996 p.C4*



Margaret and daughter Dorcas (Holbrook) Lynch

**NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
TENDER**

**For Leasing and Operating an 8
Unit Motel in the Greenbelt**

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 3.00 p.m., July 7, 1965, for the privilege of leasing and having the authority to operate an 8 unit motel located in the southerly Greenbelt on Highway 31, known as "Peter Pan" Motel. Tenders will be opened in public at 3.15 p.m. on the day of closing. All tenders must be clearly marked "Tender for leasing and operating of 8-unit motel in Greenbelt" and addressed to Mr. D. L. McDonald, Director of Planning and Property, National Capital Commission, 291 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. The Commission will not consider any application which will offer a rental of less than \$2,500 per annum plus a percentage of gross receipts. Particulars concerning the conditions and specifications may be obtained from the Commission's Rental Office.

tender winners were Rawle Scott and Tom Fassen. An Ottawa Citizen article from November 2, 1965 (Page 4) gave more details on the new managers of the motel:

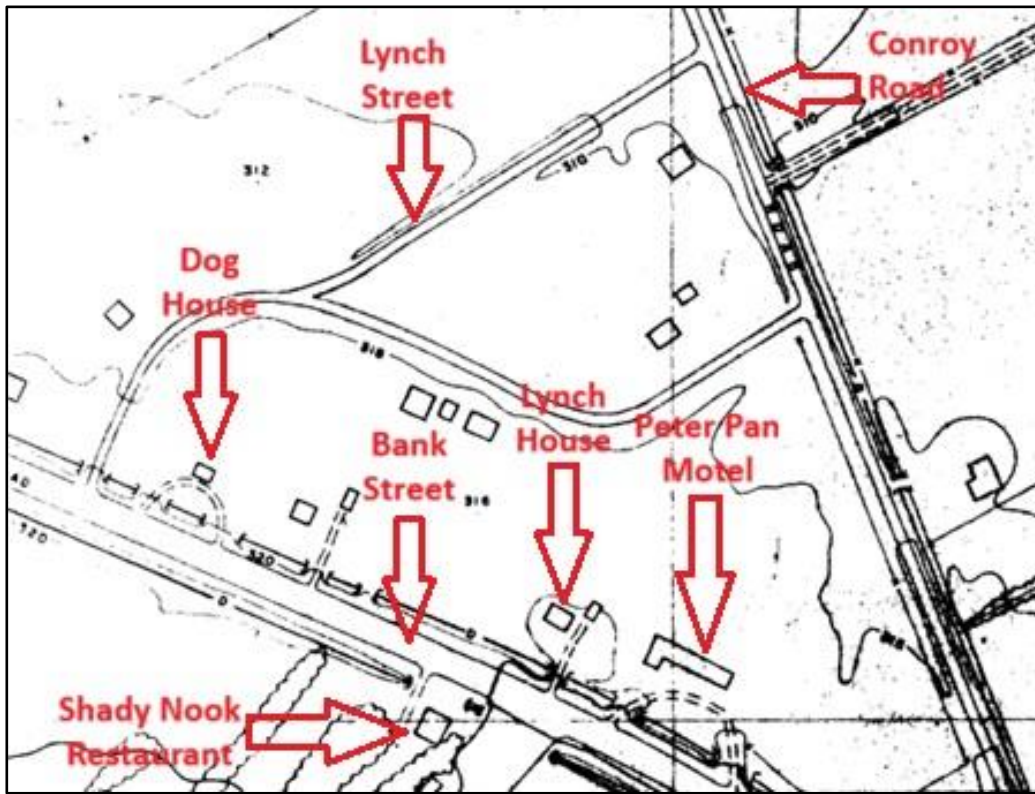
"Success Story: Tom Fassen, who came here from Holland 15 years ago with \$100 and a suitcase weighing 40 pounds now operates the Tulip Valley restaurant at Cascades and his latest enterprise, the Peter Pan Motel on Highway 31. With partner Rawle Scott, they still serve up those fabled Indonesian dishes, Nassi Goring and Bami Goring involving the use of chopped ham, noodles, Indonesian spices, rice, sliced chicken, grilled pineapple, shrimp and banana deep fried in egg and bread-crumbs. Yum-yum! No wonder they're a success!"

At one later point, a family had used the motel as living quarters, and motel rooms were often offered for rent on a weekly, or monthly basis or even for the entire winter. The picture on Page 1 shows the motel and its Peter Pan sign just before its demolition in November 1986.

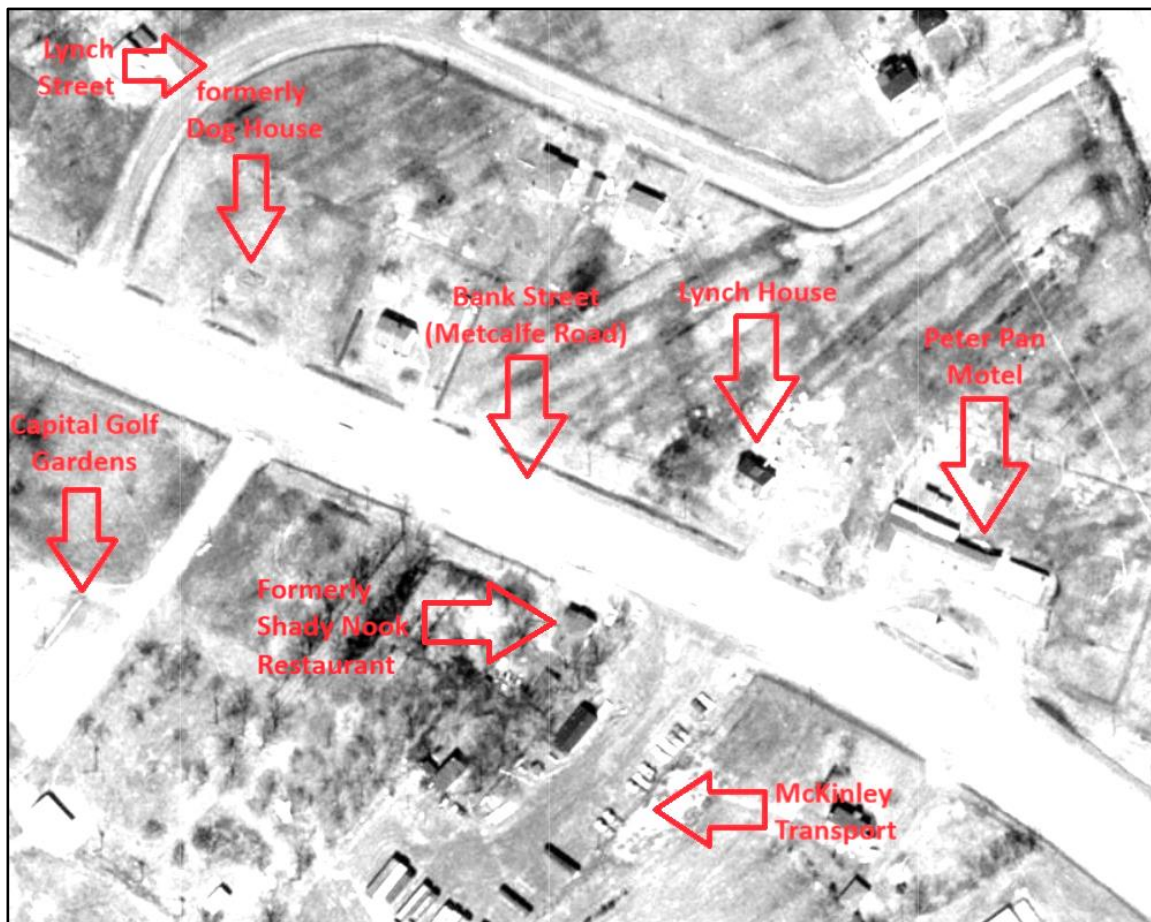
Ottawa Journal, June 26, 1965 p.33



*Robert Haig owned the Peter Pan Motel from 1956 to 1964
Ottawa Journal, October 4, 1976 p.2*



1958



1965

Visit the "Dog House"

Metcalfe Highway — 2 Miles Past City Limits

12" HOT DOGS OUR SPECIALTY

CHEESE DOGS ICE CREAM DRINKS, ETC.

AMPLE PARKING SPACE

Prop., Ruby Blackwell

Ottawa Citizen, July 4, 1952 p.21

Emrys Lynch sold his house at 3829 Bank Street on July 17, 1962 for \$13,500 to the National Capital Commission. The house was demolished around 2014. With the writing already on the wall in 1959, he bought another house at 2655 Bank on October 15, 1959. His family lived there until 1972 when the property was sold on December 15th to Carl Elliott Limited. The house was demolished and has since been various car dealerships, first as Carl Elliott Chev Olds and today, Hunt Club Volkswagen. The Volkswagen dealership has recently become part of the Myers Automotive Group. Carl Elliott died on December 20, 2025.

The Dog House

Other almost forgotten businesses existed on this stretch of Bank Street.

On September 18, 1951, Margaret Lynch sold Lots 5 and 6 Plan 557 (Lynch Subdivision) to Ruby Blackwell for \$1,200 per lot. This was on the east side of Bank Street, immediately south of Lynch Street. Here she built a hot dog stand, which was not much more than a trailer. The business was known for its foot-long hot dogs. The two lots were sold to the National Capital Commission on November 4, 1960 for \$9,000. The very simple structure was not worth saving and was quickly removed.

Ruby Blackwell operated other craft businesses over the years. The following was part of an Ottawa Citizen article on August 28, 1962 (Page 24):

"Sparkling marbles may well become the biggest jewelry craze of the season. The fad is catching on in the United States and everyone – well, nearly everyone – will possibly be wearing glittery marbles as pendants, earrings and bracelets.

But there is no need to start a mad dash south of the border, says Mrs. Ruby Blackwell. With a glinting collection of marbles, she is speedily setting herself up in business on the Metcalfe Highway near Leitrim. She is calling her venture 'Ruby's Hobbycraft'.

Ten years ago, she was doing a roaring trade in shell jewelry. Her centre of operations then was a trailer.

Mrs. Blackwell bakes her special marbles in a hot oven then she dips the lot into cold water. Presto, little bubbles inside the marbles shatter. The result is a sunburst of sparkles wherever the light shines."

Ruby and husband Lloyd Blackwell lived at 4629 Bank Street in Leitrim from 1961 until 1987. Both lived until 1990 and are interred at Johnston's Corners cemetery.



Ruby Blackwell (nee Christy) (1913-1990)



Lloyd Blackwell (1912-1990)

Shady Nook Restaurant

Little is remembered about this restaurant that existed during the 1950s prior to the Greenbelt expropriations.

It was located on the west side of Bank Street just south of the now abandoned Capital Golf Gardens. It was a red brick building trimmed with dark green, and had a screened veranda and central entrance. It was also remembered as being decorated with Christmas lights during the season. There was easy pull off access for vehicles from Bank Street, then known as the Metcalfe Highway or Highway 31.

It was a diner style restaurant offering simple meals, sandwiches and ice cream. Its name was

derived from the adjacent woodlot that had fronted this part of the old Lynch farm. The restaurant did not have a long history, but the building still appeared on a 1965 air photograph, likely after it had ceased serving meals.

Below is the only newspaper advertisement found that likely relates to this restaurant.

Homewood Nursery

Another business has been identified that operated immediately opposite the Peter Pan Motel. Homewood Nursery (ad on Page 24) was in business during the 1953, 1954 and 1955 gardening seasons and may have later become the McKinley Transport yard starting in 1958.

Roadside Restaurant

METCALFE Highway, 2 miles city limits. Fully equipped, good reputation, only \$10,000. Make it back in 1st year. George E. Cochrane Agencies, Realtors, CE 3-8404. Ask for Milton Smith, CE 2-0092, evgs.
H-24C-98

*Ottawa Citizen,
June 19, 1956 p.33*

References

- 1 Ottawa Citizen, December 17, 1955, Page 10
- 2 Ottawa Journal, July 15, 1961, Page 41
- 3 Ottawa Citizen, October 6, 1958, Page 5
- 4 Ottawa Journal, September 24, 1970, Page 67
- 5 Ottawa Citizen, August 18, 1973, Page 82
- 6 Ottawa Citizen, April 16, 1957, Page 2
- 7 Ottawa Citizen, March 19, 1962, Page 35
- 8 Ottawa Journal, October 2, 1967, Page 45
- 9 The Guardian, June 19, 2019
- 10 Ottawa Citizen, February 29, 1944, Page 3

HOMEWOOD NURSERY

10 EVERGREENS FOR \$18.10

2 Pyramid Cedars 18 - 24"
 2 Savins Junipers 15"
 2 Mugho Pines 12"
 2 Japanese Yew Trees 15"
 2 Threadleaved Cypress 15 - 18"
 Other groupings available

PERENNIALS ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

METCALFE RD. (opp. Peter Pan Motel) Tel. 3-2416

Ottawa Citizen, May 15, 1954 p.12

- 11 Ottawa Citizen, July 21, 1954, Page 3
- 12 Ottawa Citizen, February 12, 1964 p.18
- 13 Ottawa Citizen, February 28, 1970 p.34
- 14 Ottawa Journal, October 4, 1976 p.29
- 15 Ottawa Journal, June 19, 1954 p.10



The former Blackwell residence at 4629 Bank Street – Google Street View June 2009