

# THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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## President's ramblings (by Randall Ash)

Another new year is upon us and that means a new folder on my computer to hold the coming year's issues of The Caboose. It's been five years since I started working with Jeannie to produce this fine newsletter. Building on the solid foundation left to us by Bob Serré, Jeannie and those residents who shared their stories and photos with us have created a historical legacy of which all Cumberland Township residents can be proud. As my term as President of the Society nears an end, I look back on all that we've achieved the past few years: growing membership, engaging speakers at our well-attended bi-monthly general meetings, the CTHS website, 'Murder in Navan,' 'Memories of Cumberland,' Dale's Cemetery Reference Book, the clean-up and digitization of parts of our history collection, The Caboose, and more. And while all members have played a part in the on-going success of the Society, be it through membership dues, attendance at meetings, and/or participation on Society projects, we owe much of our success to the Executive. Their dedication, energy, foresight and enthusiasm have taken the Society from somewhat humble beginnings to what we have today – a vibrant, productive institution that is essential to keeping the 'memories of Cumberland' alive today and for future generations. Best wishes for 2008! *Bonne année et meilleurs souhaits pour 2008!*

### **Our Society**

The Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS) was founded in 1986. We are a non-profit, volunteer and community-based organization whose goal is to preserve Cumberland Township history.

### **Our newsletter**

*The Caboose* is published six times each year by the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

### **Our Executive**

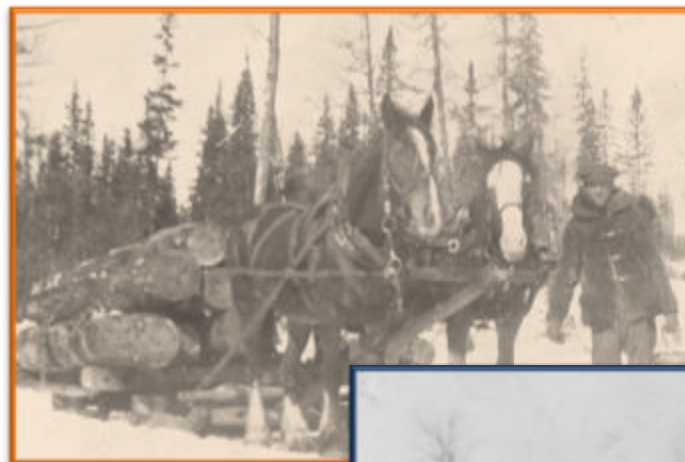
- Randall Ash, President and newsletter production
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Dan Brazeau, Director
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Director
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Director
- Bob Kendall, Director

### **Our address and local history room**

Cumberland Branch  
Ottawa Public Library  
Local History Room  
1599 Tenth Line Road  
Ottawa, ON K1E 3E8

### **Our World Wide Web address**

[www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca)



Tom Smith (right) and George Lowe (above). Logging in the winter time in the Bearbrook bush.



## **Next meeting of the CTHS**

The next meeting of the CTHS will be held on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Ottawa Regional Police Station on St. Joseph Blvd & Tenth Line Road. Our guest speaker, Verna Kinsella, will present "Trains in Vars." Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

## Society calendar



For more information on these and other upcoming 2008/09 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at [www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca).

Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ottawa Women's Canadian Club Luncheon. Chateau Laurier. Thursday, January 17th at 12:15 pm. Gilles Seguin will be the guest speaker on 'Ottawa Museums.' Tickets \$40. Phone Margie Marlatt @ 613-731-7511 or Monique Bertrand @613- 737-6075.
Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>	CTHS General Meeting. Boardroom of Police Station, Tenth Line & Old Montreal Roads 7:00 pm, Verna Kinsella presents "Trains in Vars."

Check for events at the Cumberland Museum: [www.Ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/museums/Cumberland](http://www.Ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/museums/Cumberland)

## Contact us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society including The Caboose, our local history room or anything else of interest to you or to the Society, you may contact any member of the executive by phone or by email:

- Randall Ash, President (833-3207) [randall2620@rogers.com](mailto:randall2620@rogers.com)
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Director (841-0424) [jeanfb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor (833-2877) [gsmith2877@rogers.com](mailto:gsmith2877@rogers.com)
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Dan Brazeau, Director (613-290-0993) [dangrb@gmail.com](mailto:dangrb@gmail.com)
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Director (225-3554)
- Bob Kendall, (613-830-0015) [bobkendall@sympatico.ca](mailto:bobkendall@sympatico.ca)

## The Caboose in colour!

If you have access to a colour printer, you can print out a full colour copy of our newsletter 'The Caboose' by visiting our website [www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca) and clicking on Publications. You will find all past issues created by Bob Serré, Randall Ash and Jeannie Smith since 1998.



*Membership renewal for the 2008/09 season is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Just \$15 for membership includes bi-monthly presentations and six issues of The Caboose.*

## Can you name these men?

(See page 4)



*Continued from page 3...*

Some previous winners of The Edith Wilson Prize were:

- Carol Ann Foley won in 1955. (Gary Nuttall-son of Clara (Wagner) & Gordon Nuttall came 2nd)
- Norman Minogue, son of Kay (McIntosh) & Fergus Minogue
- Betty Somerville, daughter of Violet Mennie & John Somerville
- Donald MacRae, son of Helen (Cook) & William MacRae
- Debra Hansen Wright, daughter of Edna (Galloway) Grant & George Hansen
- Cairine Wilson, daughter of Angus and Alice Wilson
- Debbie Minion Davidson, daughter of Isabel (Stackhouse) & Victor Minion
- Ralph MacEachern, son of Grace (Morin) & Bob MacEachern
- Brian, Terry and Mark Beaton, sons of Wilma (Merrifield) & Ken Beaton
- Mary Jane Alexander Garvock, daughter of Wendall & Elizabeth (Cram) Alexander, and their son David Alexander
- Pamela Smith, daughter of Marsden & Mary (Wurtele) Smith
- Brian Jones, son of Leslie & Ivy Jones

## Edith Wilson Award

Edith Victoria Wilson, born Feb.29, 1872, was the youngest child of William Wilson & Mary McElroy. Her siblings were: George, Charles, Norman, Reginald, Fred and Catherine (Edwards).Edith owned the Dunning house on the corner of Old Montreal Road and Peter Harkness Street, now owned by Jean (Dunning Hanson) Harkness. Edith Wilson rented this house to Peter Harkness Sr., OPP Constable of this area in the thirties and forties. She sold the house to Irene and Corine Tucker of Rockland and they sold it to Peter Harkness Jr. who was CBE School Trustee for many years. Edith died on Sept. 28, 1951 and in her will she specified that a scholarship be created, 'The Edith Wilson Prize'. It was to be awarded to the student who attained top marks at SS#5 Cumberland.



Edith Wilson was the younger sister of Norman (father of Angus) who was married to Senator Cairine Wilson (1885-1962). Prime Minister Mackenzie King appointed Cairine Wilson, the first woman, to the Senate in 1930. The daughter of Liberal Senator Robert Mackay, Cairine Wilson was well connected in the Liberal Party.

Canadian prime ministers Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mackenzie King were friends of the family. Norman Wilson (1876-1956) was Liberal Member of Parliament for Russell before their marriage in 1909. Norman and Cairine Wilson had eight children.



Edith's sister, Catherine, was married to Senator W. C. Edwards of Rockland. Her older brother George died at age 43 from typhoid fever in 1905, and his remains were transported from Ottawa to Cumberland on Senator Edwards' boat, the Nokomis, for burial in Dale's Cemetery.

Cumberland, Ontario July 25, 1956

Dear Mary

The school board congratulates you on winning the Edith Wilson First Prize for general proficiency this year. We wish you every success as you continue your studies and we know you will continue to bring honour to Cumberland. Enclosed you will find your cheque for \$116.67.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. H. D. (Blanche) MacMillan

Sec. Treas. Cumberland Township School Area No. 2



Mary Smith, daughter of Ken Smith (1921-2007) and May Hewens (1923-2003), granddaughter of Julia McGonigle Smith (1896-1977), enjoyed her school years at SS#5 and claims that her teachers, brothers Ivan and Orla Presley, provided her with a solid basis upon which to further her education. After attending Lisgar Collegiate Institute, Mary worked for Canadian Standards Association as an Assistant to the Administrative Officer. In 1969/70, Mary graduated, first in her class, from the Salvation Army Grace Hospital RNA Program. Mary worked as a nurse part time while raising her children. Education has always been held in high esteem by Mary and she took the Ward Clerk-Receptionist course at Algonquin College. In 1991, Mary began working full time as Operating Room Booking Clerk for all surgeries at the Grace Hospital. When the Grace closed, Mary was transferred to the Riverside Hospital where she booked all of the Ophthalmology surgeries until her retirement.

*"I never thought about or dreamed I would win the Edith Wilson Prize but it carried forth my learning from 4H and CGIT-that always 'do the best you are capable of doing' -whatever the challenge. It would be interesting to know what careers other winners of the Edith Wilson Prize went on to pursue in their lives. I know we've had a lot of very talented and scholarly individuals graduate from Cumberland. Also, where is the Edith Wilson Prize now and if a school were to open again in Cumberland Village, would this prize come back to the 'village school'?" (Mary Wilkie)*

*"I remember that the prize was about \$500.00, and that seemed like a huge amount to me back then. I know I had the highest standing in grade 8 and Linda Merrill came in second place. She somehow knew before it was announced, and for many years I kept a handwritten note she had handed to me congratulating me and telling me I had come in first. I often wonder what became of Linda. As you may recall, they lived on the river in a house directly west of the Catholic church. I remember the ceremony took place in Mrs. Moffatt's Grade 3-4 classroom, and I believe my teacher in Grade 8 was Mrs. Sybil Durrell. I was amazed that I had won the scholarship the year I left public school. Some twenty years later, I went on to work as correspondence secretary for the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker." (Debbie Wright)*

(continued on bottom of page 2)

The CTHS graciously thanks the City of Ottawa for providing an annual grant of \$1500. This money enables the Society to continue to publish and distribute The Caboose.







*Winter scene from the Lowe family album (above). The Taylor sisters in the great outdoors (right). Lyman Deavy, Dent Fitzpatrick, Fred Ferguson, Archie MacMillan and Harry Watters pose on the snow (below).*



Answer to question on page 2: Andy Guibord, Dave Farmer, Bob Morin, Sam St. Louis, Glen Smith



**Vars Hockey Team 1910. Champions R. C. H. A.**

Front L-R: Bill Kennedy, Jack Stuart, Elair Geurtin, H. Wright  
Back L-R: George Shaw, Dr. Campbell, L. Merkley, C. Merkley, Kenny Dewar.  
Two men at the very back: Albert Sparks, Sec.; W. G. Gauley, Pres.



**Vars Hockey Team 1912**

Front: Pat Clarey Goalie-Jack Stuart  
Back L-R; Bert Asselin, Harry Rickerd, Harold Halpenny, \_\_\_\_ Switzer,  
Harold McDonald, Bill Fallis



## The Lowe Family

The door opened to reveal Marilyn Lowe whose kind smile and cheerful words made the old farmhouse welcoming. It was as if time had drifted back to years long ago. The kitchen was cozy and the country décor provided an ambience of love, peace and goodwill. In 1956, Garrett Lowe brought his bride from Metcalfe, Marilyn Ena Esther McCooeye, to live in this house where he was born in 1937. Marilyn and Garrett Lowe have made this dwelling a wonderful home for their own children, Kim, Kelly, Marjorie, Vickie, Eleanor, Garry and William, as well as a safe abode for foster children. Garrett and his cousins, Marilyn Trudel, daughter of George Lowe, and Norman Fraser, son of Bertha Lowe, sat comfortably on the wooden chairs and reminisced about 'the good old times' spent at Grandpa Lowe's farm. Marilyn brought out boxes of faded pictures of family members and these were quickly identified by the Lowe cousins.

Nathaniel Lowe (born Oct. 3, 1829) married Maryann Hoit (born Nov 19, 1834) on July 2, 1856. Their children were:

- Thomas William (June 14, 1857-Oct 24, 1873)
- Joanna (March 19, 1859-July 21, 1928)
- Hiram Albert (March 1, 1861-Jan 20, 1934)
- Nathaniel Page (April 1, 1863-Feb 27, 1929)
- Walter Stephen (April 6, 1865-June 11, 1872)
- Robert Hoit (born May 7, 1867)
- George Garrett (Aug 12, 1869-July 2, 1944)
- Lourinda Emma (Oct 21, 1872-March 14, 1928)
- Edith Alice Mary (Aug 13, 1876-Dec 16, 1953) married a Boyd from Carlsbad
- Wilson (Dec 15, 1878-March 22, 1879)

George Garrett Lowe married Mary Ann Wilson (April 16, 1868-Feb 4, 1941, from Russell) on May 17, 1893. Their children were:

- Nathaniel W. Page (July 2, 1895-Aug. 30, 1949)
- Wellington George (Jan. 17, 19-July 20, 1972,)
- Walter Percy (Aug. 16, 1898-Dec 27, 1962)
- Martha Blanche (April 25 \_\_\_-Oct 3 1986)
- Alma Jane (March 27, 1902-Sept 19, 1905)
- Thomas Albert (Dec 7, 1903-Jan 4, 1990)
- Mary Joanna (Sept 24, 1905-Jan 19, 1985)
- Bertha Ann (June 2, 1907-May 19, 2000)

Nathaniel W. Page Lowe married Grace Dashney from Rockdale Road Navan, Nov 16, 1929. Grace's brother Tom was father to Ted Dashney (married to Mary Dunning Dashney). Page and Grace Lowe's children are: twins Wilson Nathaniel and Alma Grace, and Garrett Donald.

Page Lowe built the farmhouse in 1927-28 on land that he had taken over from Steven Lowe, a 200 acre block once owned by the Thompson family.



Page Lowe. Hazel Walsh, Bertha Lowe, Ethel Walsh.  
"What's the latest news? 1925"

When George Lowe Sr. died in 1941, Page took over the original Lowe farm to the east on Clayton Road. This was the farm settled by Nathaniel Lowe and Mary Ann Hoit after they emigrated from Moate, near Athlone, Ireland. The family was known as 'the Lowes of the Cross Roads' in County Westmeath. Times were hard for Grace when she became a young widow with a farm to run. Garrett ran the farm and his young wife, Marilyn, insured with strength and determination from her Scottish-born mother, Margaret Parton McCooeye, raised her children along-side her mother-in-law Grace and made the house truly a 'home sweet home'.

During the early part of the 20th century, the call to the lumber camps rang out to farmers. Page Lowe left his comfortable dwelling from early December to the spring break-up to become a teamster for the lumber camps around Deux Rivieres and Mattawa. With the winter weather settling in and the cows not producing milk, there was nothing much to keep men occupied on farms, and money was always scarce, so the men went to the bush. Teams of horses were driven onto trains at Vars or Leonard and freighted to towns near the camps. Page, and his brothers Percy and George, hauled logs out of the bush with their sturdy teams while their womenfolk kept the home fires going. Winters were long but the people were resourceful. Life was hard, very physical and exhausting but good hearty farm food and unbroken sleep in warm feather beds, revived everyone.

George, father of Marilyn Trudel, moved out west, where he met and married Eleanor Thompson, in 1938. The couple returned to the area and farmed on the Morrison place on Forced Road, then bought 'Village View' on the northeast corners of Frank Kenny and Devine Roads in Vars and farmed there until 1965. George moved to a farm in North Russell, then retired from farming and lived with his son Frank in Almonte.



George Lowe and Family

Joanna Lowe remained single and looked after her father George Garrett until his death in 1941 then she moved to Sudbury to live with her sister Bertha, who was married to mineworker Maynard Fraser, parents of Norman Lowe Fraser. Maynard, born in 1901, was a first cousin to Les Armstrong. Norm, a retired medical doctor who lives in North Gower, spent a few summer weeks at Grandpa Page's farm and recalls seeing soldiers board the troop trains at Leonard and Vars in WW2. Bertha Lowe Fraser was an excellent seamstress who dressed in the latest style of clothing. She taught Sunday school, Francis Coburn was one of the pupils, and was a great cook. Her quilts were creations of design and colour and blanketed the beds of her children Norman, Ivan and Harold Fraser.

Percy moved to Temagami and became an engineer on the boats. He and wife Mazel Morrison are buried in Cobalt. Blanche married Wilfrid Young from New Liskeard.



Wedding of Bertha Lowe and Maynard Fraser

Township. As well as operating a dairy farm, the Lowes operated school buses. In 1961, Garrett got his license to drive a bus and worked for Ed Inglis at

Page and Grace's twins moved from the Bearbrook area. Wilson farmed until 1959, then drove a truck for a while before moving to a farm in North Russell and Alma married Eric Roy and lives in PEI.

Garrett and Marilyn Lowe are a very humble couple who have given much to Cumberland

Capital Coach on Scott Street in Lebreton Flats and drove the high school kids from the southern area of the township to Ottawa. He then got three contracts to drive elementary children to school and in 1967, Garrett, Marilyn and Verna Kinsella transported students to Navan using buses that he had purchased. Small bus operators competed with larger companies, so Garrett sold his buses, and drove for Travelways.

In 1969, the couple began to take in foster children. Nearly sixty children have had the nurturing care of Marilyn and Garrett. With Marilyn's motherly love and Garrett's calm patience, many youngsters received an excellent foundation and new beginning to their troubled lives. The Lowes still provide a safe haven for children who are in need of foster parents.

Garrett has given a tremendous amount of time to sports in Cumberland Township. He coached the Navan Flyers in hockey. Many a



Grace Dashney and Page Lowe

fight was battled on the ice of the old Navan Arena and sometimes the players would have to stop their game to settle a fight amongst spectators in the stands! As President of the Carleton-Russell Hockey League for 10 years, Garrett got lots of experience and went on to coach the Navan Flyers. Then he became the equipment manager for the Gloucester Rangers, who as part of Central Junior Hockey League, played in Pembroke, Hawkesbury, Brockville, Smiths Falls, Cornwall, Kanata and Ottawa. Garrett coached Bearbrook area ball players and was President of the Carleton-Russell Fastball League for 15 years.

Garrett worked for Cumberland Township for 25 years managing the arenas and looking after Parks and Recreation. Navan Arena was Garrett's 'second home' and he always welcomed people with a cheerful smile.

Faith, hope and love form the basis of Marilyn and Garrett's lives. Their church-life at Bearbrook Anglican, is of utmost importance. Garrett has been the caretaker of the cemetery since 1964. The family name 'Lowe' may have come from the French word for water l'eau, and is very appropriate, for Marilyn's and Garrett's energy continues to flow and make Cumberland Township a better place.





Marilyn and Garrett Lowe in 2004 when they were awarded for 35 years of service to the Children's Aid.



Lucky Lads! John Haddad, Glen Smith, Lee Ryan and Pete Lalonde won \$100,000 on 6/49 Encore on December, 9, 2007.