

THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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Editor's message (by Dorothy-Jane Smith)

The best of the new year to all of you, as we enter a second decade of this new millennium. The past decade has been good to our Society. We have grown in numbers and in financial security and, best of all, we have put out some wonderful products; Murder in Navan, Memories of Cumberland and, most recently, Verna's revisit to Navan of Yesteryear. This year, we have recorded some memories of Bob and Helen Burns, and of Allan and Ethel Findlay around pre 1965 harvesting in Cumberland Township. Our only regret at this time is that we do not have a secure future for the Caboose. Jeannie has kindly agreed to keep some of her other projects on a lower priority so she can produce the March Caboose while I will step in for the May and August Caboose. But we still urgently need a new person to take the Caboose onto new creative lines for telling the stories of Cumberland Township.

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

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice President
- Randall Ash, Past President, Newsletter production
- Jeannie Smith, Director, Newsletter Editor
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Ross Bradley, Director
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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



Navan Flyers

Back Row: Richard Lavergne, Ossie Tanner, Bob Vaillancourt, Rob Lowe, Jim Graham, Barry Irvine, Jamie Cotton, Tom Simpson, Lucien Lalonde, Hervé Trudeau, Lloyd Morrison

Front Row: Doug Heggie, Maurice Cleroux, Henry Sarazin, Willie Shaw, Arnold Dashney, John Bourgeois, Pete Gagnon.

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 6th (the 13th if the weather is bad) in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Plan to arrive at **6:45 pm** as the meeting will begin at **7:00 pm**. Presentation with film and discussion on farming practices before the introduction of the combine harvester. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

LAND IN CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP FOR A FEW BAGS OF OATS AND A LOAD OF HAY

(submitted by Gerard Boyer, Sept. 2009)

As I continue to uncover material dealing with my Morin ancestors, I couldn't help but copy the following deed of land from Betsy Powell to Antoine Morin in 1854. The document is full of legal land language but this land deal is an interesting one. I found a mint of useful information at the Land Registry Office at the Provincial Court House on Elgin St. in downtown Ottawa. By the way, this Antoine Morin is the ancestor of most of the Morins of Cumberland, Rockland and Beckett's Creek. We're still not sure why he left Ste. Marie de Beauce in Quebec sometime before 1853, but we're working on it.

"A Memorial to be Registered in pursuance of the Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Real property By and Between Betsy B. Powell Widow of the late James Powell Lumberer of the Township of Cumberland in the County of Russell Province of Canada West of the first part and Antoine Morin of the Township of Cumberland in the aforesaid County of Russell and Province of Canada West of the second part Yeoman Witnesseth that in consideration of Four Bushels of oats and a load of Hay of five hundred Pounds weight to her paid and delivered by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath given granted bargain sold aliened released conveyance and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant bargain sell convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns for ever all that certain parcel or tract of land situate lying and being in the Township of Cumberland part of the Lot number four front Concession Old Survey Eighteen Acres of land two acres in breadth by nine in depth butting and joining on the South end to that portion of land measuring from the Queen's highway sold and conveyed to the said Antoine Morin as more fully described in the Deed of Sale to the said Antoine Morin dated the Eleventh day of July one thousand Eight hundred and fifty three bounded on the North by that portion of said Lot conveyed to the aforesaid Antoine Morin by

said Deed and in his possession on the South by Charles Hunter on the West by Samuel Lough Senior and on the East by the lands of the said Betsy B. Powell being in all fifty acres of land be the same more or less measuring from the South side of the Queen's highway to have and to hold the aforesaid granted premises to the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns to his and them sole use and behoof forever subject to the reservation limitations and provisions in the original grant from the Crown which said Indenture is Witnessed by John Wiley of the Township of Cumberland in the County of Russell, Yeoman and John Wilson of the aforesaid Township of Cumberland merchant And this memorial thereof is hereby required to be Registered by me the said grantee there named
Witness my hand and seal this ninth day of March A.D. 1854
Signed Sealed and delivered
In Presence of
John Wiley
Antoine Morin
W. Wilson"

Gerald Boyer and his sisters are leading the Morin Trek from Cumberland back to the Beauce area of Quebec. Antoine Morin settled near Beckett's Creek in the 1850s and has descendents throughout Canada as well as Cumberland. Morin Trek will be in Cumberland Village on the evening of July 4, 2010. To learn more, go to <http://www.morintrek.ning.com>

Just a glimpse of Navan History

by Joan Rathwell

Navan was given its name by Michael O'Meara who opened the first post office in 1861 east of the village at what is now 1759 Colonial Rd. Mr. O'Meara immigrated from Navan Co. Meath, Ireland and bought 200 acres from the crown in 1866. In 1875, the post office was relocated to Visser's Store 'at the corners' (Trim, Colonial, Smith Roads). Captain Herman Visser built his home and store in 1862. This building was sold and moved, and another building was built on the same site in 1901 by William Clarke to be used as a general store and Post Office. Later, it housed the Royal Bank, the first branch opening in December 1921. A fire in December 1953



located one quarter mile south south of the church.

West of the four corners on Smith Road is Navan-Vars United Church, built in 1926. Previously, the Presbyterian and Methodist Congregations worshipped in the Orange Hall, which was situated two properties south of the New Oak Tree Furniture Store on Trim Road. Prior to that, the two congregations worshipped in the little Wilson Church, which was east of the village on Colonial Road near the site of the first post office. A cairn marks its location at the Wilson Memorial Cemetery.

claimed this building. The present structure was erected, changed hands, and extensively renovated and currently houses several apartments. The Post Office remained in the Clarke family for 82 years. In 1971, a new post office was built on one property north of the Clarke Store. The subdivision to the west and south, Clarke Woods, was built partly on Clarke property.

On the south-east corner of Trim and Colonial is a red brick house with white veranda which was built in 1912 by Norman Rivington, presently owned by his grandson, Barry Rivington. On the north-west corner is the attractive neo-gothic style house built in 1876 by Samuel Calvin, one of the first settlers in Navan. In 1878, it was purchased by William Shaw and still remains in the Shaw family. It currently houses Laura's Corner (so named for a previous owner) and is a delightful home decorating store. The remaining location 'at the corners' is occupied by St. Mary's Anglican Church, a grey stone building constructed in 1898. It replaced a wooden frame church erected in 1867. It was sold and moved to a location east of the Clarke store. The name comes from St. Mary's Church in Navan, Ireland. St. Mary's rectory built in the 1880's can be seen just north on Trim Road, a striking two story brown brick house. It is now a private home. St. Mary's Cemetery is

The Orange Hall was sold in 1958 to the Christian Reformed Church whose congregation worshipped there until a new church was built on Russell Road. The building was sold in 1967 and a private home was built on that site.

The old railway station was at the west end of Smith Road, near Milton and was built in 1898 on completion of the C.P.R. Montreal-Ottawa short line and remained in operation until 1974. In the early part of the 20th century, it provided an important link to the community in transportation of people, mail and freight. This station is notorious for the 1940 fatal shooting of Constable Harold Dent, who approached a stranger in the waiting room and asked him for identification. O.P.P. Sergeant Alan Stringer, who was visiting in Navan at the time, answered the call for help, followed the fugitive into Jim Spear's bush and eventually shot him. Sergeant Stringer was awarded the King's Medal for police bravery.

On the east side of Trim Road, south of Colonial, stands a building that has a varied history. It was built in 1915 by Walter Bickerton to be used as a grist mill where farmers brought their grain to be ground into mill feed for their livestock. In 1930 it became Lancaster Brothers Feed & Seed Co. which the two brothers operated until 1973. It was purchased by Ted Gulliver in 2000, became

the Feed Mill Restaurant, then O'Meara's and is now the New Oak Tree Furniture Store.

Across the street is the stone block house built by Joseph Clarke in 1876. To the south was the location of the outdoor rink which provided exercise and entertainment for many years before the arena was built.

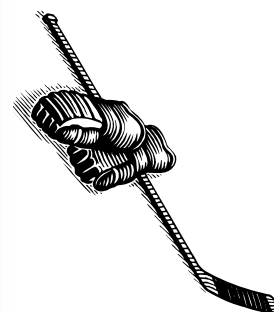
Proceeding east of the four corners you will see J.T. Bradley's Store built in 1901, but lost to a fire in 1948. The current store was constructed and opened a year later with two apartments above. Except for a four year period in the early 1990s, this store has been managed by the Bradley family and is presently run by John Bradley, great-grandson of the original owner. It is now a convenience store, LCBO outlet and general meeting place common in rural communities.

The cement block building across from Bradley's Store was constructed in 1907 by Marshall Rathwell and operated as a cheese factory, then as a creamery by Producers Dairy, then later it became a cheese factory run by a local farmers co-operative. The front eastern section housed a telephone exchange system, the first telephone being installed in Navan in 1911. In 1948, the building was bought by Basil Johnston who opened a general store with locker plant. In the days before home freezers, people brought their meat and garden produce to be frozen and stored in individual compartments which were rented from Mr.

Johnston. In one corner of the store, near the cash, was a favourite gathering place where friends could pause to visit after shopping. Following Mr. Johnston's death in 1967, there were subsequent owners. In 1999, the current proprietors opened Costello's Greek, Canadian and Italian Restaurant.

History is never complete without mention of the schools, of which Navan has had five. On the east edge of the village you will see Heritage Public School, opened in 2006 replacing Meadowview PS, which was located on the same site, and Riverview PS which was built on the spot of SS#5 in Cumberland village. In 2007, a daycare facility was added to the school. The old Navan Public School, SS#3 was built west of Heritage PS in 1896 to replace an earlier one room log building. Navan Continuation School was built in 1915 on the south side of Colonial Road, where the Fair Board Office and Nursery School now operate. It was a two storey building, housing the high school upstairs and public school below. It operated as a continuation school until 1952 at which time the students were bussed to high schools in Ottawa, and as a public school until 1966 when Meadowview opened.

A momentous event occurred in 1931 when electricity was installed in area houses. In 1936, street lights lit the village for the first time.



In 1946, the first Navan Fair was held on property surrounding the continuation school. A one day event, the exhibits were displayed in the school and box lunches sold out of the

burned to the ground a year and half after it was built. Undaunted, the dedicated people of this area raised funds and reconstructed a similar building on the same site, ready for



basement. The fair was and still is sponsored by the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society to promote agricultural products and livestock. Cattle and horse judging was held outdoors.

In 1995 the Guinness World Record 50 Horse Hitch was held to mark the 50th fair. This consisted of 50 Clydesdale horses hitched as one team and driven 3.5 km through the village by Willard McWilliams. There is a life-size replica of the lead team, Tony and Duke, on display at the fairgrounds. Forty to fifty thousand people witnessed this thrilling event.

In 1952 a covered arena and community centre was built, largely by local help, to provide a recreation place for the young and not so young of the area. It was named the Navan Memorial Community Centre and in front stands a cenotaph commemorating our war heroes. In a spectacular fire, this building

opening in 1955. It remained in operation until 1982 when it was deemed unsafe and was torn down. The current community centre opened in 1984.

At the south side of the fairground you will see the Domes which had been originally used for the Papal mass on Lebreton Flats when Pope John Paul XXIII visited Canada. In the 1980s when Peter Clarke was Mayor of Cumberland Township, the domes were air lifted to their present location to be used as an entertainment venue during the fair and for other occasions. Near the domes is the Navan Curling Club, established in 1990. In the 1970s, land adjacent to the fairgrounds was purchased to become a community park. It consists of a ball diamond, tennis courts and children's playground.

The glue that held this closely knit community together was the people, the churches, the Navan Women's Institute formed in 1931 and the Lion's Club chartered in 1952. In more recent years, the Navan Community Association has been very active.

From the 19th century to the 21st, much has changed with the decline in the number of farms to the revolution in agricultural practices and the encroaching urban community. The first settlers milked their cows into wooden pails. Today, on the Edwards' farm just north of the village on Trim Road, the milking is done by a robot!

At one time, this community supported four general stores, three machinery dealerships, two blacksmith shops, a garage, electrical and refrigeration business, as well as a dairy. Most of these are no longer in operation but new businesses have opened, even a vineyard and winery!

Navan, My Second Home

by Jeannie Smith

I'm a boomer babe, born in 1950, who grew up in a lovely home on the corner of McLeod and Metcalfe Streets. My school pal from Elgin PS, Pat Peterson and I raced over to the museum each Saturday morning to sit in the little auditorium with a bunch of screaming kids and watch movies. Weekend afternoons, our 1950 navy blue Pontiac would be chucked full with family, friends and dogs. My father drove down Metcalfe to Laurier, to Eastview, along Old Montreal Road, through Orleans, and the car settled in front of Chestnut Cottage, my grandparent's home in Cumberland.

Little did I realize that my friend Pat would

move to Cumberland, marry Cumberland lad Bruce Hill, and her son Matthew and my son Brett would become buddies. Bruce's mother, Florence MacEachern, was raised in Cumberland and my father, Doug Ferguson, taught her in school, along with classmates Phil Morin and Hilda MacMillan Kearns in 1925 before he became a dentist. Florence's older sister, Bertha MacEachern was best friends with my Aunt Bessie. Bertha married Archie Edwards and was the mother of Stan, whose farm welcomes folk to Navan as they travel Trim Road into the village. Bertha's daughter Maysie married Garrett Rivington, a well respected Navan farmer.

After my father's death in 1965, my Mother and I moved to Cumberland to live in the stone house, Clearview (Galla Heritage Restaurant) that my older sister Suzanne, and her husband Hugh McCord bought from my Uncle Fred's estate. Chestnut Cottage was purchased by Joan Rathwell's father, Leslie Edwards. Cumberland always had an attraction for me. Most weekends, we would visit our grandparents and I would play with friends Marian Watson at her father's Esso Garage or with the Schryers at the stone house. Every summer was spent at Cedar Cabin, our little cottage Dad built on the river just north of Chestnut Cottage (where my husband and I built our home in 1974).



Charlotte, Margaret, Suzanne, Jeannie 1952

But, Navan also had an allure. Each June, Navan's annual Strawberry Social enticed our family to sample the delicious desserts and mix with the welcoming residents. The Navan Fair was the big attraction in August. It was small but cozy and the best meals were found at St. Mary's booth. We knew most of the people there. My father was dentist to many of the folk. His father's cousin, Percy Dunning, had been teacher, then doctor in Navan at the turn of the 20th century. Joyce Widenmeir, later to



Back: Suzanne, Uncle Fred, Dad-Douglas, Aunt Bessie, Charlotte
Front: Anne, J.D. Ferguson, Jeannie, Margaret

windows. The Fifth Line (Dunning Road) was the snowy, slippery route from Cumberland to Navan, and the North Road (Trim) was the snow blown drive, oft-times a tunnel through high banks of snow, back home via the Edgewater Hotel on Highway 17.

Jim and Doug Hill, younger brothers of Bruce, were proud members of the Cumberland Knights. Their sister, Roberta, met her husband Jamie Cotton, who played for the Navan Flyers, at the Navan rink. In winters on the ice, the rivalry between Cumberland and Navan was intense. Summertime was long, hot and sultry and soft ball tournaments and league games between the two villages were loud with curses and cheers yet after the games, the

camaraderie was filled with spirits and fun.

From 1970 until 1975 I travelled to Navan from Cumberland to teach at Meadowview PS. I would stop (to buy cigarettes!!) at Bradley's Store where owner Lorne Bradley always greeted me with a smile and a cheery "Hi Jeannie Baby!" My pupils were dear little souls who responded politely with "Yes, Miss

become Mrs. Lorne Bradley, taught my older sister Margaret in kindergarten at Elgin Public School. St. Mark's Church in Cumberland and St. Mary's in Navan were served by the same Anglican minister.

My first 'dates' in 1967 with my husband, Glen 'Pinky' Smith, were spent at the Navan Arena watching the Cumberland Knights play, and fight, with opponents from the Carleton-Russell Hockey League. (Jan. 2007 Caboose cover picture of the Knights '72) The canteen smelled of greasy french fries; the lobby was cold and frosty but warmed up with the laughter of fans, bellows of smoke from endless cigarettes and the occasional downing of a shot of booze offered by some of the local lads. In the days of natural ice, the rink shifted from being icicle cold in January to dripping wet in March. Fans stood along the ice with little protection from flying pucks. Players were rough and tough, with only knee and shoulder pads, and maybe a sip of spirits. At intermission, everyone crowded together producing a steamy atmosphere that was exciting. Upstairs, partygoers could watch the game from the large



Anne Ferguson by Cedar Cabin 1956

Ferguson" as they promptly obeyed my commands. School bus driver Ted Dashney cared for his 'flock' like a shepherd. Often, I would accompany Ted as he drove the children home.

The ties between Cumberland and Navan are strong. Some Cumberland gals married Navan lads: Stella Farmer & Dr. David Irwin; Hilda Sharkey & Stanley Edwards; Mary Dunning & Ted Dashney; Helen Edwards & Bob Burns; Catherine Morin & Jack Armstrong; Joan Edwards & Don Rathwell; Roberta Hill & Jamie Cotton; Trudy Bakker & Richard McWilliams; Sheila Minogue & Gerry Calver; Nancy Edwards & Martin Toonders; Suzanne Lalonde & André Rollin; Karen Findlay & Wally Burns; Stephanie Barnett & Allan Burns.

Some Navan women hitched up with a Cumberland fellow! Eleanor Cotton & Colin Beaton; Leticia McCullough & Bob Russell; Jean Magladry & Ken Beaton; Lana Lancaster & Norm Deavy; Colleen Grimes & Jim Levesque; Cheryl Wall & Tim McNeely. Marlene Dagg & Frank Boyer.

Many Cumberland girls married further afield in Cumberland Township: Rita Smits married Robert Dessaint from Sarsfield. Marilyn Millar married Bearbrook's John Griffith. Heather Millar married Ivan Tanner from Vars. Gloria Hunt married Ivan Moffatt and Darlene Murray married Stephen Rathwell, boys from Leonard.

The lure of Navan is still strong. She summoned me to supply teach at Heritage PS. She beckons me to sing for various occasions. She calls me to CTHS meetings at Verna Cotton's or Ross Bradley's. She attracts me to the beer gardens at the Navan Fair!

Navan is now the village called home by my son Brett, who lives in the house owned by his friend Jeff Cotton, (son of Roberta and Jamie), once built by Manson Walsh, farm boy from Cumberland, whose schoolmate and pal was my Uncle James Ferguson. Small world isn't it!



Back: Tom McNeely, Glen Smith, Henry van den Hanenberg, Leo Poirier, Stu Muir, Cory Colwell, Mike Eagen, Doug Frizell, Dave Billings, Tom Goss, Clayton Minogue
Front: Sonny Hidlebaugh, Ray Julien, Rich Lagimonière, Don Findlay, John van den Hanenberg, Bernie Lafrance, Bernie Beauchemin.