
THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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President's message (Dorothy-Jane Smith)

As we turn the corner to 2011, we are thankful for a wonderful past year of friends, family and the joy of connecting with our history. We remember those we have lost and we hold tighter their memories. Winter can seem a dark time of year but we all have past winters that shine for us with Christmases that glowed and snowflakes that were glinting, fluffy and magical. Whatever 2011 will bring us, let us focus on our community—family, friends, work and volunteer organizations—to make 2011 a joyous and fulfilling year.

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
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Jeannie Smith, Director

Ex-officio

- Randall Ash, Newsletter production
- Dan Brazeau, Website

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



Miss Ferguson's (aka Jeannie Smith's) first Kindergarten class at Meadowview School decorated for Christmas 1970. L-R, back row: Robert Hansen, Laurie Smith, Santa Claus, Clarke Snippe, __, __, Janet Hamilton, Randy __, front row: Linda Armstrong, George Griffith, __, Richard Whisselle, Bonnie Hamilton, Brenda True, __. Please let us know if you recognize the children whose names we have missed.

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 5th (snow date January 12th) in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Members will share stories of special people in their lives. Doors will be open at 6:30 for a start-time of 7 P.M. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Society calendar



For more information on these and other upcoming 2010/11 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at www.cths.ca.

At the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum

Jan. 5 th	Members will share stories about famous, and perhaps not-so-famous, Cumberland people (snow date January 12th)
March 2 nd	Joy Forbes, author of a new book on one-room school houses
May 4 th	Dr. David Gratton of the Conservation Institute
CTHS meetings	Unless other stated, all meeting are at 10 th Line Road Police Station 2 nd floor Boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time 7:00 pm.

Check for events at the Cumberland Museum: www.Ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/museums/Cumberland

The Caboose is made possible in part through a grant from the City of Ottawa.



Calling volunteers!! Two directors will be stepping down at the May 2011 AGM so we have openings if you want to help grow the history of 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:

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President (225-3554)
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice-President (841-0424) jeanfb@sympatico.ca
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer, b.woodruff@videotron.ca
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- Dan Brazeau, Website

Kennedy Family Honoured



The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum has honoured the Kennedy family with the planting of memorial trees and the erection of plaques commemorating their contribution to Canada through two World Wars. The trees and plaques are in front of the train station entrance to the museum. Centre photo taken November 11, 2010 at the Cumberland community hall: l-r, Clive Horne, museum research gardener, Dr. Irving Kennedy, Suzanne Lavoie, museum administrator.

Robert J. Kennedy, a native of Cumberland Township, served with the Artillery in the Great War 1914-1918. He fought in all significant operations of the Canadian Expeditionary Force from Flanders and the Somme through Vimy Ridge. He was rotated home after being seriously wounded in 1917.

On his return, he served as Clerk and Treasurer of Cumberland Township for more than 30 years (1932-1967). The Cumberland arena is named in Robert J. Kennedy's memory, in recognition of his devoted service to the community and the country.

Robert J. Kennedy, originaire du Canton de Cumberland, a servi dans l'artillerie durant la Grande Guerre de 1914-1918. Il a participé à toutes les batailles d'importance du Corps expéditionnaire canadien, des Flandres à la Somme en passant par Vimy. Il a été renvoyé chez lui après avoir été gravement blessé en 1917.

À son retour, il a servi en tant que greffier et trésorier du Canton de Cumberland pendant plus de 30 ans (1932-1967). L'aréna de Cumberland est nommée à la mémoire de Robert J. Kennedy, en reconnaissance de son service dévoué à la communauté et au pays.

Irving Farmer Kennedy, born 1922 in Cumberland Township, distinguished himself as a fighter pilot in World War II (1939-1945). He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and saw action as a fighter pilot in major campaigns, starting with the bomber escort missions and through to the Normandy Invasion.

By his return to Canada in late 1944, he had been awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross). After military service, Dr. Irving Kennedy chose to pursue medicine and was doctor to a number of communities. From 1961 to 1987, he served the people of Cumberland as a caring and respected physician.

Irving Farmer Kennedy est né en 1922 dans le Canton de Cumberland. Il s'est distingué comme pilote de chasse pendant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Il a joint les rangs de l'Aviation royale du Canada en 1940 et a participé à d'importantes campagnes de guerre, en commençant par des missions d'escorte de bombardiers jusqu'aux combats du débarquement de Normandie.

Avant de revenir au pays en 1944, il a reçu la Croix du service distingué dans l'Aviation (DFC). Après son service militaire, le Dr Irving Kennedy a choisi de faire ses études en médecine et a travaillé pour de nombreuses communautés. De 1961 à 1987, il a œuvré comme médecin auprès de la communauté de Cumberland avec beaucoup de dévouement.

Winter Memories

by Dorothy-J. Smith

Prior to the 1950s, winter was a season with its own specialized rhythm. Jean-Noël Dessaint remembered that he got in 10 loads of wood for heating the house first thing after the snow came while Ethel and Allan Findlay remembered the community work involved. According to Allan, "You saw your neighbours at least three times a year ... because everybody burnt wood and some coal ... but mostly had wood in for the cook stove. So you were there in the wintertime



Men gathered to cut wood at the McCullough farm east of Navan on Colonial Road. (Verna Cotton collection)

cutting wood. You were there in the fall cutting corn and you were there in the middle of summer doing the threshing, you know, and sometimes you were there to help with the haying." The Findlays remind us that neighbours "did exchange work like that. ... of course they did the corn cutting ... and then in the wintertime there was woodsawing ... like Summervilles, they had the saw for the wood in the wintertime. Somebody else had the cornblower."

Another important winter work was gathering ice from the Ottawa River for the ice houses that would keep perishables cool in the hot months to come. For Jean-Noël Dessaint, this was a February job. Each winter he cut 400 to 500 blocks of ice from the Ottawa River and brought them up to the Dessaint farm on Colonial Road in Sarsfield. The ice blocks were insulated with sawdust which he hauled from the various sawmills around. Early one April, he went as far as

Buckingham with his horse and sleigh to get the necessary sawdust.

He went over without incident but coming back things got exciting. Over the day the sun had come out and conditions had changed. When he came back across the Ottawa River on the ice bridge, "I was standing on my load and every once in a while you could hear a crack like that ... I guess it wasn't dangerous ... but I'm not used to that stuff you know and I was damn nervous. I was standing on my load and if everything went down I was going to jump ... I was ready."

My father, Ed Smith, grew up in a farmhouse on Old Montreal Road (McTeer) by Canaan Road (by the 1980s it was the Double D Ranch). He told me that in the period around the First World War it was the sleighs that made the sound of Winter. He would sit up well past his bedtime in his bedroom looking out at the highway to Rockland. The winter moon on the snowy landscape turned night to day but what he was waiting for were the passing sleighs. Well before he saw them, he heard the screech from the runners on the snow, a muffled clip from the horses' hooves and, best of all, the jingle of the bells. Each person had a unique collection of bells and so each had their own sound to announce them as they travelled.

Of course winter also means Christmas which adds light and festivity to the darkest time of the year. Letitia (Tish) Russell (nee McCullough from Navan) remembered that as a teacher in the 1940s and early 1950s the biggest event of the school year



These unknown gentlemen in their home-made sleigh were photographed coming west along Old Montreal Road towards the corner of Cameron Street about 1920 by Dorothy and Mildred Cameron. The arena on Market Street can be seen in the background. (David Chamberlin collection)

was the Christmas concert. "You practised and practised for weeks before the big night. ... there were always dialogues and there were always drills where the children marched around to music in different formations and the little ones always had a recitation to say. ... They really worked hard for those concerts, with just sheets spread across in front of the stage. And at [SS] number 6 we had to have a stage built, a temporary stage built, and at number 10 school too. ... My first school down at Canaan ... someone loaned an organ and Mrs Larmour came and played and she would come to the school to go over the practices."

Jos and Rollande Leduc of Sarsfield remembered Christmas as a religious celebration. The Leduc family went to midnight mass followed by some sweets and cookies. New Years was the festive celebration when all the extended family joined together for a meal of tortière, pigs feet, meatballs, charcuterie, donuts, and un verre de blanc or whiskey blanc. This last was high strength alcohol diluted one part alcohol and three parts water. It was served in *small* glasses. The table would be set all day and friends would drop by, going from house to house. Always there would be someone who would sing.

On the Cotton farm in Navan in the 1920s, the children hung up their stockings in the parlour and on Christmas morning found an apple or an orange and some candy. Once in a long while there might be a chocolate bar. The Christmas tree was also set up in the parlour. It was a simple affair of homemade decorations and purchased tinsel until they got electricity in 1931 and added electric tree lights. Syd Cotton remembered that made a great difference to the look of the tree. But Christmas was still a religious day and they attended Church on Christmas morning and sometimes in the evening as well. Verna Cotton was also asked what her family, the Coburns, did in the 1930s in Leonard for Christmas. She remembered that the tree was decorated with glass balls. But what she remembered best was the Christmas morning when she came down to see a big box with her name on it and in it a large doll—"in those days you believed in Santa Claus."

Sources

- CTHS Oral History Project interviews:
- 1987 Letitia Russell
- 1989 Jean-Noël Dessaint
- 1995 Joseph and Rollande Leduc
- 1995 Syd and Verna Cotton
- 2009 Allan and Ethel Findlay

"Hockey"

by Earl Sharkey

The following is an extract from The Sport and Recreational History of the Village of Cumberland. Researched and submitted as partial fulfillment for his Bachelor of Physical Education (Honours) from University of Ottawa (1980). The full paper is in the CTHS History Room.

... Mr. Eldred Hayes remarked: "even in the old Stuart Cameron rink they used to play in Rockland in hockey." Since the Stuart Cameron rink mentioned by Mr. Hayes has been established as having ceased operations prior to 1900, hockey was therefore definitely a part of the life of the village prior to the advent of the 20th century. [ed. Stuart Cameron was brother of Harvey Cameron who later owned the Cameron Store at the corner of Cameron Street and Old Montreal Road; the rink was on their property across from the Anglican church]

The first hockey game which any of those people interviewed recalled was what was known as a Greenhorn game, which Mr. Eldred Hayes remembered having watched in Stuart Cameron's rink: "I remember being in Stuart Cameron's rink but once, and that was to watch a Greenhorn hockey match. That was the married men against the bachelors and none of them knew anything about hockey, some of them couldn't even skate! It was rather hilarious and later I remember playing in it once."

... John Sharkey, a prominent player of that period, stated: "I played fourteen winters from the early 1900s and through the war and I don't ever remember having played in an organized league, just exhibition games." ... games were arranged by



The Navan hockey club played at Trim Road and Sunnydale Street. (Verna Cotton collection)

simply asking another town whether they wished to play... Thus there were no points or league championships, among other elements, awarded, but rather a person participated basically for the enjoyment inherent in playing. ... "[W]e played exhibition games against Rockland, Navan, Buckingham, and two or three teams from Ottawa there. My brother Norman used to bring teams down from Ottawa in later years." ... [A]ll the games had to be played in the opponent's rinks due to the absence of a village rink. Only in the latter years of Mr. Sharkey's playing days, around 1912, was there a public rink in Cumberland the outdoor rink on the backstreet of the village known as the Hockey Club's rink. ...

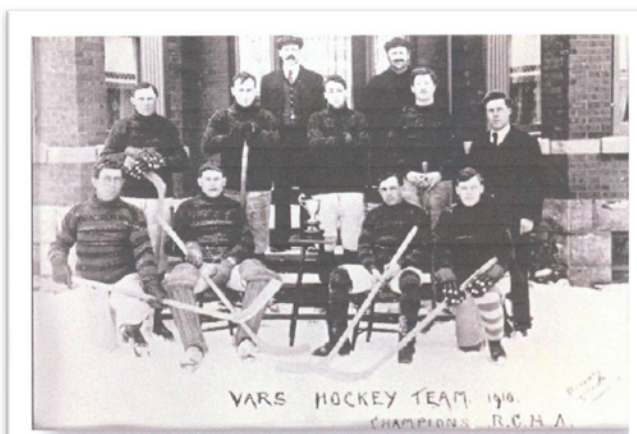
... The shin pads used by Mr. Sharkey are still in his possession and were in reality cricket pads adapted for use as protection in the game of hockey. It is interesting to note that these pads were tied to the player's leg with ordinary string. In addition he remarked: "we used to buy our sticks in the stores in Cumberland for 40¢ or 50¢ each." ... John Sharkey recalled a large number of the Cumberland residents who he played hockey with from 1900-1914: John Macmillan, Bill Minogue, Earle Dunning, Norman Wilson, Alphie Morrow and Norman Sharkey and he believed that Hector MacMillan and Jim McMillan were just beginning to play about the time the First World War began in 1914. Also two Cumberland referees referred to by Mr. Sharkey were Doug Harvey and Percy Gerald who was the train station master at one time. ...

... The organized league in which the men's club participated began sometime following WW1 and continued through the 1931 season at which time Cumberland joined a different league. The league apparently varied from year to year as to which towns participated but consisted basically of some combination of the following teams: Navan, Sarsfield, Rockland and Buckingham. ... Mrs. Jim McMillan whose husband also played also mentioned these three place and remarked: "there was a hostile rivalry between Navan and Cumberland over the cup." Mrs. Jim McMillan recalled that the cup competed for was called the Lancaster Cup. Later the Bradley Cup was competed for but the time period in which it was initiated was not determined.

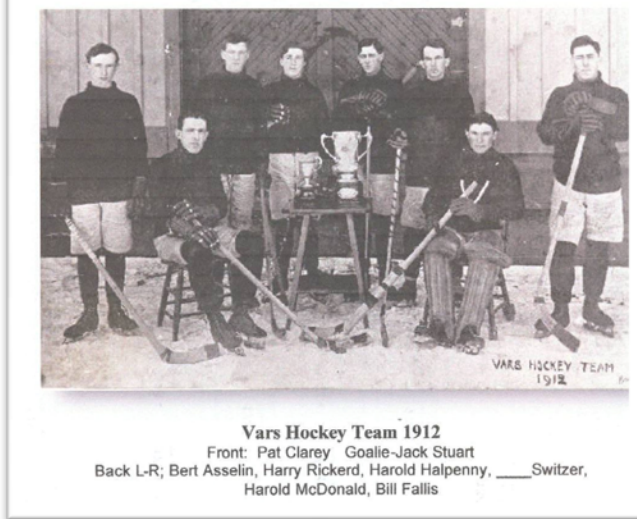
... The first reference to women's hockey was made by Mrs. Bertha Edwards This team didn't play an opponent from the immediate region, but the women's team travelled all the way to Maniwaki, Quebec, a distance of approximately 100 miles to play their one and only hockey game. ... Mrs. Bertha Edwards remembered the names of the women: "The three MacMillans were on it, Lottie, Millie and Nellie (later married Stewart Martin) and they were among our best players. Millie was the goalie, and Lottie was a good player, a great skater. Lillian

Jameson from Masson played as her family came to Cumberland to skate. Lillian was the one who put the idea of a hockey club in our minds. Hattie McArthur, who was a good little player and Mrs. John Kennedy now played. Others were Florence Reid, Annie Watson (Mrs. Lawrence Barnett) and Florence Watson (Mrs. Clint Armstrong), Bessie Ferguson (Mrs. Ross Fraser) and Margaret Chamberlin."

Mrs. Edwards indicated that no protective equipment of any kind was worn by the women and that they all wore bloomers to play. "We wore no pads at all and we all wore bloomers, which was such a shame to me. I thought I'd get out of the house before father saw me with those things on, an awful disgrace to wear those things. We would have been better with slacks, but slacks were out of it then."



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. Merkle, C. Merkle, 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 Vars hockey team (Verna Kinsella collection)

... Mr. John Sharkey had indicated that the Junior team played only exhibition games On the contrary though the Junior team definitely played in the Lower Ottawa Junior Hockey League the following season 1931-32 but perhaps this was their initial venture into the organized league. This also could not be established. The 1930-31 Cumberland Junior team consisted of: Ed Smith in goal; Ralph Dunning and Robert McLaughlin on defense; Irwin Paquette at centre; Wally Blaney and George Watters on the wings; with Lawrence Dunning, Redmond Paquette and Roland Ranger the substitutes.

... in the newspaper on Monday, January 30, 1933, was an account of an exhibition game played on the preceding Saturday between the Cumberland Girls and the Cumberland Public School Boys. This was the first indication that women's hockey was played in the village since 1922 when Mrs. Bertha Edwards indicated a women's team had travelled to Maniwaki to play a game. ... The two teams for the exhibition games consisted of the following players:

Cumberland Girls- Mildred MacMillan in goal; Mina McLaren and Hilda Allan on defense; Nellie MacMillan at centre; Isabelle McMillan and Hilda MacMillan on the wings; with Minerva Minogue, Laura MacMillan, Florence MacEachern, Eileen Shari, Annie Williams and Catherine Dunning the substitutes.

Cumberland Boys- John Dunning in goal; Ralph MacEachern and Percy Minogue on defense; Wilfred Sharkey at centre; John Turner and Leonard Minogue on the wings; with Joseph Ranger, Irving and Alvin Kennedy, Earl Fitzpatrick, Kenneth Hayes, Keith MacEachern and Ellis Minogue the substitutes.

... The 1936-37 Cumberland Senior Club was composed of: George Blaney goal; Stewart Martin and Art Watson defense; Gordon MacMillan centre; Donald Martin and Ralph Dunning wings; Irwin Paquette and Everett and Morris Martin the spares. The 1936-37 hockey season proved to be the final season in which the Cumberland Club was composed entirely of local players, as beginning in 1937-38 and continuing through the remained of the time period researched, the Seniors imported players from Ottawa.



Les legs de Cumberland à Orléans

par/by Diego Elizondo

Abstract – Cumberland's legacy to Orléans

Orléans is a community that was born divided between two municipal jurisdictions, Gloucester and Cumberland. From its settlement through the establishment of modern municipal institutions, a number of places and people located on the Cumberland side formed an integral part of the history of Orléans.

Start of main story

La communauté d'Orléans a toujours eu la particularité exclusive d'être chevauchée entre deux juridictions municipales très distinctes l'une de l'autre. La rue Champlain servait de frontière entre les deux cantons jusqu'à la fusion municipale de 2001, qui a créé la nouvelle grande ville d'Ottawa. À l'ouest de la rue Champlain se trouvaient le canton de Gloucester (qui deviendra une ville en 1985) et à l'est le canton de Cumberland (qui deviendra une ville en 1999). Bien qu'Orléans fût principalement associé tout au long de son histoire au canton de Gloucester (en fait, à ses débuts, la Paroisse Saint-Joseph d'Orléans s'appelait Saint-Joseph de Gloucester) le canton de Cumberland a joué un rôle tout aussi important dans l'épanouissement d'Orléans, surtout à la fin du vingtième siècle dans la période où la population explosa à Orléans.

Les débuts

Déjà avant même la fondation de la paroisse Saint-Joseph d'Orléans en 1860, le pionnier Luc Major s'installe dans le canton de Cumberland à la hauteur du lot 37 dans la première concession en 1856 (aujourd'hui ce terrain est situé aux angles des promenades Place d'Orléans et Duford). Luc Major est le premier à faire pour le compte de Mgr Bruno-Joseph Guigues, premier évêque catholique du diocèse d'Ottawa en 1859 un plan pour le village d'Orléans. De plus, Luc Major ouvre la première auberge d'Orléans.

Aucun des fils de Luc Major ne gardera la terre de celui-ci situé dans le canton de Cumberland. La famille Major vendit leurs terres à la famille Duford. La famille Duford

La famille Duford arrive en mars 1860 et s'installe sur les terres de la famille Major qu'elle avait achetées. Les Duford restent jusque dans les années 1970 et elle est l'une des premières à vendre ses terres aux promoteurs immobiliers. Par la suite, nombreux suivrons. La famille Duford exploitait une ferme, dont la maison familiale fut démantagée au Musée-village du patrimoine du Cumberland en 1977. Une rue fût nommée en leur honneur dans le quartier Queenswood Heights.

Souignons également la présence de la famille Vinette (arrivée au village en 1919) et des deux familles Cardinal (arrivée en 1870 et 1885). Il y a un parc nommé « parc de la Ferme Cardinal » ainsi que le ruisseau « Cardinal » qui commémore aujourd'hui ses deux familles pionnières d'Orléans. Queenswood Heights

Le quartier Queenswood Heights est l'un des premiers développements domiciliaires, dès 1960, à Orléans et il se trouvait du côté de Cumberland d'Orléans. Ce développement emmènera son lot de nouvelles institutions dans l'histoire d'Orléans et de Cumberland.

Les écoles publiques

Les deux premières écoles publiques élémentaire anglophone et francophone ouvrent du côté Cumberland d'Orléans: l'école Queenswood en 1969 (fermée en 2008, aujourd'hui l'école élémentaire catholique d'enseignement spécialisé La Source) et l'école Jeanne-Sauvé en 1989 dans Fallingbrook.

L'ancienne caserne de pompiers et station de police

La première caserne de pompiers permanente à ouvrir ses portes dans Cumberland fut à Orléans dans le quartier Queenswood Heights en 1975. À l'époque, elle est la deuxième caserne de pompier d'Orléans (l'autre était en fonction depuis 1957). En 1991, le canton de Cumberland décide de construire une nouvelle caserne de pompiers sur le boulevard Charlemagne dans le quartier Fallingbrook, toujours à Orléans. On décide donc d'emménager la première station de police d'Orléans. Les policiers séjournent dans le bâtiment jusqu'en 2002 où on inaugure la nouvelle station de police à Orléans, sur le boulevard Saint-Joseph. Entre 2002 et 2007 l'ancienne caserne de pompiers et la station de police demeureront abandonnées. L'édifice sera démolit le 2 novembre 2007 et le terrain restera vacant jusqu'à l'été 2009 avant qu'on y construit des logements abordables.

Parmi les autres legs que Cumberland a laissé, notons l'école élémentaire catholique Notre-Dame du Cap (ouverte en 1950, fermée en 1999), l'école élémentaire publique anglophone Dunning-Foubert, qui commémore deux familles pionnières de Cumberland, le centre récréatif Ray-Friel, qui commémore un ancien conseiller municipal du canton de Cumberland, ouvert en 1992, qui comprends la première piscine-à-vagues d'Orléans, les parcs François-Dupont, Marcel-Lalande, Yves-Richer et le centre communautaire Roy-G.-Hobbs.

Bibliographie

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- Familles pionnière de Saint-Joseph d'Orléans dans l'Est de l'Ontario, Robert Serré, Société d'histoire de Gloucester, 2009.
- Paroisse Saint-Joseph d'Orléans : 1860-1985, 125 ans, ouvrage collectif, 1985.
- Orléans : d'hier à aujourd'hui, chroniques parues dans le journal L'Express, par Diego Elizondo, mars 2010-présentement.
- Visite de l'auteur au Musée-village du patrimoine de Cumberland (à la caserne des pompiers) le 8 août 2010.
- Visite de l'auteur aux parcs François-Dupont, Marcel-Lalande et Yves-Richer les 7 et 11 août 2010.

Tales from the Museum Getting rich, or maybe not, with the Auto Knitter of the Dupuis House

by Dorothy-J. Smith

Ever thought about making money at home and in your spare time? If you have, you can inspect one such scheme on display in the Dupuis House at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. At first, it looks like a strange metal sculpture attached to the table but it is in fact the Auto Knitter Machine. With this apparatus, a housewife could turn spare hours into dollars—or that is what the newspapers advertised.

The City of Ottawa has three Auto Knitters in their museum collection including one donated by Wilmer Dagg. Frances George Dagg, whose farm was on the road between Navan and Sarsfield, had used it to make hockey socks. All of the Museum's machines were sold by the Auto Knitter Hosiery Co. Ltd of Toronto Ontario. The company was established about 1915, possibly as a subsidiary or distributor of an English company by the same name. We know, though, that the Museum's Auto Knitters are Canadian built as that information is proudly forged into the metal base.

There was also a Buffalo, New York company called the Auto Knitter Hosiery Company Ltd. It received its charter for the New York stock exchange December 1915. Sometime about the late 1920s or in the 1930s, the American company was acquired by Ainslie Knitting Machines Company of Brooklyn. The Ainslie company continued to advertise the Auto Knitter until at least 1955. So the Auto Knitter is a contraption with a long history that was manufactured and sold in England, Canada and the United States by three companies whose connection to each other is a mystery.

According to the company's information pamphlet, the Auto Knitter could knit a range of garments, from socks to underwear to sweaters and shawls using the patterns in the instruction booklet. But while the information pamphlet suggested that the housewife might only want to knit for her family, the advertisements stressed the home business potential. The housewife was to turn company-supplied wool into seamless hosiery, or dress socks. These the Auto Knitter company bought and re-sold to wholesalers under the trade name Olde Tyme Socks. Overall, the Auto Knitter seems to have been a good money-making scheme—for the company, who was making money first on the machine and then on the knitters' product.

Deciding to purchase the Auto Knitter must have taken careful thought for it was a relatively expensive investment. In 1925, the Canadian company charged \$72.50 for the Auto Knitter and its kit, which included parts, instruction booklet and a quantity of the company's Olde Tyme yarn. This is almost the same price as the Findlay family paid for the high-end heater-stove that is now in the Museum's Foubert House. A family could also have ordered a sewing machine from the Eaton's catalogue for as low as \$45.00 in 1920, or about \$30 cheaper than the Auto Knitter. We do not know if the Canadian buyer could pay in installments, but a sample contract shows that the English company required full payment up front.

Whether purchased by cash or credit, the knitter who wished to make money had to first recoup the original investment. The company paid \$1.50 for a dozen pairs of socks—and that dozen pair had to meet their quality standards. The advertising said that it took an experienced hand twenty minutes to knit one pair which means, if the family did their math, they knew that it took four hours to knit the required dozen socks. At that rate, it would have taken 193 hours of spare time work before this "money making" machine started to work its magic.

All marketing, then and now, is about fears and desires. The Canadian advertisements from 1915 and 1916 appear to have been aimed at the simple

desire of working people to earn money. The ads simply announce that the Leicester mill needed workers and "families" could earn money at home with an Auto Knitter acquired "on favourable terms." In May 1916 there appears to have been a change of ownership as the Globe advertised a judicial sale of the company, lock stock and barrel. The ads remain unchanged for a time and then, starting about 1921, the Globe begins to carry quarter-page ads aimed at middle class women.

The advertising is also now aimed at a more complex array of fears and desires. The text promises that money can be earned by "deal[ing] privately" with the company. This would have assured a married woman that she could earn money without losing status by being seen to work for wages. Stress is placed on having an independent income, something that would be particularly appealing to the town wife who lacked the "egg money" of the working farm woman—

although the ads do not ignore the farm wife looking for a winter income. At the same time, the 1920s testimonials stressed how the income earned was used for extras, and not as part of a family survival strategy. The fears being appealed to can be seen in the many references in the information pamphlet to "security" and "your comforting protection against dull times."

When you next visit the museum, stop at the Dupuis house and take a closer look at the Auto Knitter. Like all the artifacts you will see at the museum, it has a story to tell. We do not know who used this particular machine or what she hoped for when she sent money to Toronto to buy it. But with



The Auto Knitter on display in Dupuis is a black metal object, about 10" high with a circular head at the top around which are its "needles" which act like latch hooks.

the advertisements and the trade literature, the Auto Knitter tells the 1920s story of middle class married women who were neither welcome nor comfortable in the world of paid work but were still searching for a small financial independence.

Water from Wooden Pumps: The Sharkey Pump Factory

by Jeannie Smith after chatting with Earl Sharkey and listening to CTHS taped interviews of John Sharkey Jr., Wilfred Sharkey and Vic Dunning



Desire to be more securely middle class can be seen in the advertisements for the Auto Knitter (from *The Globe, Toronto*, December 2, 1922)

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Water is life's necessity. Humans have long searched for fresh water to quench thirst, for clear 'aqua' in which to bathe and launder apparel, and for mineralized H₂O to provide elixirs for longevity. Quests were undertaken to extract water out of the earth's depths. Wells were hand dug and jars on ropes were lowered so that water could be pulled out of aquifers. Watering holes were meeting places—oases of conversation as well as of water. Manual scooping and drawing of water was replaced by mechanical inventions which could pump this compound of hydrogen and oxygen up to the surface of 'terra firma'.

John Sharkey Senior was one of those who made the magic of water happen. He had been born in England in 1847. His family, known as the Shirkeys, emigrated to Chesterville, Ontario where they

established a pump factory business and tannery. After John learned the tanning trade in Ogdensburg, New York, his father sent him to Vankleek Hill to be a salesman for the wooden pumps that had been manufactured in the family business. John 'peddled' the pumps there and in Quebec from Masson to Thurso.

Eventually John and his wife, Margaret McCaffery settled in Cumberland where they lived in a small house east of the Maple Hall (Margaret McCaffery's aunt, Ellen McMillan, had married John Stuart Cameron of Cumberland in the 1850s, while Margaret's sister, Jane, had come to Cumberland in the 1860s and married Donald McCallum, J. S. Cameron's nephew). John set up a tannery and pump factory on his property which stretched between Old Montreal Road and Market Street. Several wooden sheds were built on the south side of the lot. Pumps were made in one and horses, cows and hens were stabled in the others. At the same

time, John Sharkey and his friend Frank McNeely longed to own a farm. Neither man, however, could afford to buy the James Carrenduff property which was for sale east of Cumberland Village in 1866. So they split the 100 acres and the Sharkeys and McNeelys remain good neighbours to this day!

John and Maggie Sharkey resided in the village house, where their oldest son, John junior was born in 1885. John Sr. and young John travelled daily, with their team of horses, to clear the bush, burn the stumps and plant crops on their farmland. Their horses and cows were pastured on the farm but remained in the stables by the pump factory in winter. As well as operating the tannery and pump factory, they carted produce to the Ottawa fall market.

By 1916, young John took over his father's pump making business. His sisters moved away and his brother, Leslie, who had been gassed during World War I, settled in Michigan. Another brother Herbert, two years younger than John, had died in 1901. John Sharkey Sr. died in 1920 and his widow Maggie lived in the village house until her death in 1929. Shortly after, Victor Dunning bought the property. His nephew Bill Dunning, the present owner, has retained the character of the house by preserving some of the old sheds.

John married Eva Dale in 1918. But since the Carrenduff farm house was not very warm, the family remained cozy in the house by their pump factory and tannery. It was here that their first son, Wilfred, was born in 1919. John constructed a two storey house on his farmland in 1925 where he relocated his wife Eva and sons Wilfred and Keith. Daughters, Edna (Mrs. Howard Presley) and Hilda (Mrs. Stanley Edwards) were born in this new home. Earl Sharkey, Wilfred's son lives there now.

Victor Dunning recalled that his father sold pine logs to the Sharkeys to make pumps. Along the fence there was a carriage that turned a big squared auger that started the machinery to manufacture pumps. This was driven by a huge wheel built out of wood, with a belt made from leather, cured in the Sharkey's own tannery vats. A horse was harnessed to this contraption and, walked round and round to make the belt go. Dunning recalled that "a fellow sat on the beam to make sure that the horse wouldn't stop." This caused the auger to turn the wheel. On the bottom of the pump there was a valve topped by a square block of wood which had a piece of leather cut out to fit the top of the block. When the handle was pumped, water would be forced up the tube into a valve which would open to allow the water to pour out. When the handle went down this valve would close and fill the cylinder with water. A wooden spout was driven into the pump. "Could you ever get a lot of water fast!" is how Vic Dunning described its capacity.

By the end of World War I metal was the preferred material for fabricating pumps but John Sharkey Jr. continued to produce wood pumps for residents who were unable to afford more expensive models. John Sharkey remembered how difficult it was to collect payments, money being scarce. Rubber tires for cars were not abundant so instead he continued to rely on horse and wagon for transportation as he delivered, installed and repaired pumps.

When John Sharkey sold his village house to Vic Dunning he relocated his pump factory to a shed on his farm and kept it in working order, more as a hobby than a business. John lived to age 96 and eventually sold his pump factory to the Museum of Science and Technology. It is now installed at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum on land that was Eva Dale Sharkey's birthplace. John's grandson Earl labours nearby, working the museum fields and overseeing his cows that he pastures on the hill.

To learn more about the Sharkey Pump Factory visit the museum and witness the transformation of a tree into a mechanism for producing Adam's ale—water.

