

THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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March 2012

President's message (by Jean-François Beaulieu)

We had a nice March meeting with our guest experts on the history of the railroad in Cumberland Township. As well, we continue to work under the leadership of Ross Bradley and Verna Cotton on a new book about the history of the Domes on the Navan Fairgrounds. A reminder that the AGM will be held in May with Jean-Marc Lalonde as speaker. We are always looking for people to sit on the executive, so if you want to join a dynamic group of individuals, please let us know. I would also like to highlight a good cause worth supporting, the Cumberland Lions Maplefest breakfast on March 31st and April 1st.

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 four times each year by the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

Our Executive

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Past President, Caboose editor
- Vice-President – vacant
- Gilles Chartrand, Treasurer
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Ross Bradley, Director

Ex-officio

- Randall Ash, Caboose 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



Who were they? We know two of the children were Mildred Cameron (Smith) and Dorothy Cameron (Chamberlin) but who were the woman and the rest of the children. Photo was taken in Cumberland Village about 1918 or 1919 and we speculate that it might possibly have been a Sunday School picture from the Baptist church or possibly St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Tell Dorothy Smith at 613-225-3554 or at deejaysmith@rogers.com your ideas about this photo.
(From the collection of David Chamberlin)

Next meeting of the CTHS

The Annual General Meeting of the CTHS will take place on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 in the 2nd floor boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Jean-Marc Lalonde, former MPP for Prescott-Russell, is our guest speaker. Plan to arrive at **6:30 pm** as the meeting will begin at **7:00 pm**. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Society calendar



For more information on these and other upcoming 2011/12 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at www.cths.ca.

SOCIETY EVENTS

May 2 nd	Annual General Meeting; Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP, guest speaker
September 5 th	CTHS meetings - Regular meetings resume on September 5, 2012
September 9 th	CTHS is partnering with Heritage Ottawa and Cumberland Heritage Village Museum to lead a walk on the history of transportation and Cumberland Village. Charge by Ottawa Heritage, CTHS members half price of \$5. Extend the tour to the Museum for \$4.

AROUND AND ABOUT

April 7 th	At the Museum – 613-833-3059 / CumberlandMuseum@ottawa.ca Join Curious Cottontail's egg hunt at the museum on April 7, 10 am to 5 pm.
May 13 th	Museum season opens on May 13, 2012 with workshops on "Famous Funnies" and "Beaded Beauties" (pre-registration required)
May 26 th and 27 th	Rural Roots Day
June 3 rd	Firefighters Day
June 6 th	Cumberland Farmer's market re-opens Saturday June 16, 2012 and runs every Saturday 8 am to 1 pm until October 13th. Check out http://www.cumberlandfarmersmarket.ca for all the special events planned.

CTHS meetings - Unless other stated, all meeting are at 10th Line Road Police Station, 2nd floor boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time 7:00 pm.

Time to renew your membership in order to keep receiving the newsletter and, more importantly, to keep local history alive. Send in your renewal form with the same good old price of \$15.00.

Did you know?

Railway enthusiasts have been very busy collecting information on local railways and making that information generally available on the Internet.



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:

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President (841-0424) jeanfb@sympatico.ca
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Past President (225-3554), Caboose editor
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Randall Ash, Caboose production (833-3207) randall2620@rogers.com
- Dan Brazeau, Website (834-8336) danbrazeau@rogers.com

Our speakers at the March meeting, Fred and Peter Mills, singled out "Colin Churcher's Railway Pages" - <http://www.railways.incanada.net/> - as a site well worth visiting. Churcher is an Ottawa researcher who has made railways both a career and a hobby.

This is a well-organized site, separated into themes of Ottawa area railways, railway history, railway chronology, and trains around the world. It covers not just the usual history but the more obscure parts of our railway past. For example, given our many ties across the river to Thurso, it is possible some of our own members can tell stories about the Thurso and Nation Valley Railway, but how would researchers find out about it otherwise? Churcher provides here an extensive article on the railway which was one of the last logging railways in Canada. The viewer can see pictures, read a transcript of the Superintendent's log kept for the railway from 1932 to 1945, and delve into information on both the personnel and the locomotives on the line.

Yet another excellent compendium of local historical information on the Net is "Bytown or Bust" at <http://www.bytown.net/>. This site is focused on immigration and settlement in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Rather than being organized via a table of contents on the home page, as the Churcher site is, this one invites the reader to search using keywords. In a way the viewer should approach it as if it were a Cyndi's list, which may or may not serve your purposes. Yet another unfortunate aspect of

the site is that in trying out the search engine, I found I was really just doing a google search which returned hits far away from the Ottawa area or, for that matter, from "Bytown or Bust?"

One useful link was a bibliography of published material of potential interest to genealogists researching this area. It includes well-grounded studies such as Bruce S. Elliott's work on the Irish migrants from Tipperary, to immigrant writings, such as Catherine Parr Trail's *The Backwoods of Canada*, and on to local church histories. The missing link for many is where to find the texts identified.

For that, I would recommend starting with a search of the Ottawa Public Library which may very well have a copy of a particular title in their Ottawa Room in the Main Library Branch on Laurier Street - <http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/>. If they do not have a copy then the next place to try is the Amicus catalogue of Library and Archives Canada - <http://amicus.collectionscanada.gc.ca/aaweb/aalogle.htm>.

If you are searching Amicus, simply ignore the invitation to enter your username which is intended for subscribing library systems. Instead, hit the large blue button marked "search amicus" and then choose whether you wish to search just Library and Archives Canada's holdings or the holdings of all subscribing libraries. If you choose the latter, you widen the possibility of determining that a copy exists somewhere in Canada which you can then order in through the Ottawa Public Library as an inter-library loan.

Note from the editor...

by Dorothy-J. Smith

This issue is the last for the 2011-2012 year. Despite increasing personal commitments, I remain committed to producing an interesting newsletter but with the new membership year I will move to a quarterly production of 4 issues per year. As a result the next issue is due out in June rather than in May 2012. We welcome ideas, articles, and feedback, for this is your newsletter.

Last month's issue sparked some discussion for which we are very pleased.

Lorna Glennie pointed out that the inclusion of the photo of the Navan Players in an article



Hilda Allan and Mina McLaren, married name Caldwell, are in fancy dress as bride and groom. Mina Caldwell was a local school teacher.

(from the collection of David Chamberlin)

that was about the amateur dramatic societies of the 1920s and 1930s left the wrong impression. Since Adelaide Newton and Inez Smith were born in the 1930's, it is more likely that the picture was taken about 1950 or 1951.

Fred Jones phoned with information on the mysterious "bride and groom" of last issue's photo. It appears the photo was in both the Allan family photo album and that of their Cameron neighbours. The picture is reproduced here with the full and correct information, thanks to Fred's sharp eyes.



When I told Lori Nash that I planned an article on the school board amalgamation of the 1960s, she did a characteristically generous thing. She pulled out a copy of a paper she had written in 2005 and told me to use whatever I needed. There was only one problem. I enjoy Lori's writing too much for it to be simply grist for another person's mill. Instead I have chosen to use extracts from it, keeping Lori's voice to the greatest extent possible. It is a tremendous loss to our Society that Lori is now gone from us. D-J. Smith

Queenswood Public School Through the Years

by Lori Nash

Queenswood Public School opened the same year that man walked on the moon, teens went wild at Woodstock, and Trudeaumania had engulfed the country. But in Cumberland, the municipality was just making its way from a rural township to the urban city it became in the late nineties.

At the beginning of the sixties, Queenswood Land Associates announced plans for the development of the community of Queenswood, prompting the school authorities to create School Section #11 in April 1961 for the large population expected in the proposed community.

The school trustees for Queenswood SS#11 were new homeowners Ron Power, Al Richards, Moe Arnott, and Gary Partridge. A mill rate was levied yet the public school system children were bussed to Ottawa to attend Crichton Public School for grades 1 to 6, York Street School for grades 7 and 8, and to Hillcrest for high school.

By 1966 there were 124 homes in Queenswood Heights and 53 in Queenswood Village. Space was available to accommodate the Queenswood kids at the school in Cumberland Village, Riverview. By 1966, 41 kids were bussed to Cumberland Village. By 1967, this number had increased to 81 and by 1968 Riverview was taking in twice the number as 160 children bussed from Queenswood.

Queenswood Heights had grown to 172 homes by the end of 1968, and Queenswood Village to 120 home, Housing starts for the following year were predicted to rise

considerably. The Cumberland Township School Board decided to build a new school in Queenswood Heights for the urban area. Ross Bradley recalled that one of the last acts of the Cumberland Township School Board was the sod-turning for Queenswood Public School on November 23, 1968, a very cold, wet and miserable day.



Queenswood Heights School was a design of local architect Harry Ali-Kanti.

The Cumberland Township School Board ceased to exist December 31, 1968 and was replaced January 1, 1969 by the Carleton Board of Education. [In 1969, more than two thousand boards across Ontario were amalgamated into 190 school boards, eliminating all the many school sections that had one school run by two or three trustees. The creation of the Carleton Board was part of this process. – djs]

When the school opened on September 2, 1969, it was not fully complete and furniture and desks had not been moved into all the classes. In addition, staff expected 185 pupils but instead 252 children arrived. The original school consisted of two four-room classroom pods, a library/kindergarten room, a gymnasium, and two portable classrooms for the school. Within two years an addition had to be built for the school.

Principal Jim Ferguson recalled the opening of Queenswood in September of 1969: "We

opened with a building that wasn't ready. We had no phones for three days. This was a fairly risky thing for emergency purposes and we didn't have cell phones in those days. We got phones installed, then we worked out of the coat room because the office wasn't ready. The gym wasn't ready until the next spring, the library wasn't ready. It was just after Christmas when we got in there. We had no storage room for a long time so we had all our supplies in the hallways and we ended up with more kids than we expected so we had to split a class and get a portable. We were in tight straits from the very beginning."

[editor – The people attending the CTHS meeting of January 4, 2012 had the opportunity to share memories of Queenswood Heights. Ross Bradley remembered that he was elected to the Cumberland Township Board in 1965. He had managed to obtain all of 45 votes in Queenswood and he still has the cardboard he was given with the vote result to prove it. The turning of the sod for the school was subsequently done by Wilfred Murray and Ross together. Jeannie Smith recounted some of the names of the original teachers—Jim Ferguson who was principal and Bruce Gawling, and Ruth Barton, The school secretary was Mickey Barteaux and the teacher/librarian was Marg MacDonald who lived in Cumberland Village.]

Profiling the Township – Ray Friel

The following was prepared by Ann Gonneau at the request of (Cumberland Councilor) Dave Lewis as fund raising material for the Ray Friel Centre in May of 1990. The information was excerpted from biographical information published by the "Communique" in 1982 and 1985.



Raymond V. Friel 1936-1986

Ray Friel served the Township of Cumberland as a member of municipal Council for eight years. Ray's untimely and sudden death in 1986 left a sizeable vacancy which was indicative of his dedication to his community, his considerable contributions of time and energy and his skill as a conciliator.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Ray worked with Transport Canada all of his working life. At the time of his death, he was Chief of Administration for the strategic planning group of Transport Canada. During his early career, he worked as a radio operator and on his extensive, job-related travels, met his future bride Paulette in her home town of Hay River, North West Territories. Ray and Paulette raised three children, Diane, Danny and Mark, as they continued to travel with Transport Canada. In 1972, the Friels settled back in the Ottawa area and moved to the new development of Queenswood Heights.

Ray soon became involved in the Queenswood Heights community. He became a Kinsman, coached softball, and participated in Our Lady of Wisdom School activities. He served as President of what was then known as the Queenswood Heights Homeowners Association and was appointed as a member of the Municipal Planning Board. He continued to work with the Queenswood Heights Community Association even after gaining municipal office, chairing Mayfair activities for many years. [ed. note – The Mayfair was weekend fun fair organized in May by a Queenswood Height Community Association that ran in the 1970s and 1980s in the Centennial Park.]

He was first elected to Cumberland Township Council in November of 1978. Returned in 1980 and 1982, Ray ran and was elected for the new position of Councilor-At-Large, which had been established in 1985. His success in winning this at-large position was a measure of the degree to which he was well known and respected by residents throughout the Township. As a member of Council, his duties during his eight years included membership on the Recreation, Police Protection and Economic Development Committees. Ray also served as Chairman of the Museum Board, Fire Committee and Group Homes Committee.

When Ray entered municipal politics, he was following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Henry James Friel, for whom Friel Street in Ottawa is named. Henry James was co-founder of the Bytown newspaper, "The Packet" and became a member of the first council of Bytown in 1847. He served as the Bytown's last mayor and was involved in its incorporation as the City of Ottawa in 1854. He was elected Mayor of Ottawa in 1863, 1898 and 1869, and died in office in 1869.

Ray was well connected politically and socially to Ottawa society through his family. His great-grandmother, Mary Anne O'Connor was the first white woman born in Bytown in 1826. She was the daughter of prominent businessman Daniel O'Connor, for whom O'Connor Street is named. More recent connections included Ray's mother, Germaine Latreille, who was a first cousin of former Governor General Jeanne Sauve.

In a newspaper interview, Ray once described himself as shy. His wife Paulette added in the same interview that Ray truly cared for other people. His sudden death left a considerable gap on Council and in the community. Ray had played the role of arbitrator and his understated style and calm approach always had a moderating influence. His skill as a conciliator, his courtesy, consideration and kindness, his intelligence and wit are still remembered. Helen Tweddle, a neighbour, friend and co-worker in the community spoke volumes when she referred to the community's affection for the "little guy who stood taller than most".

Addendum

In checking the facts with Paulette Friel, Mrs. Friel indicated that there was some question as to the reference to "The Packet." The book "Bytown" by Mika, refers to another paper, "The Monarchist" which was purchased by Henry James and renamed "The Unionist".

A telephone check with the City of Ottawa Archives, who referenced a work on Ottawa newspapers to 1896, however, indicated that the "Packet" was founded by Henry J. Friel and Robert Bell in 1844. The paper was political, commercial and agricultural in tone and was published out of the Old Market Building on George Street. Subscription rate was 15 shillings

per year. On February 22nd, 1851, the "Packet" was re-named the "Ottawa Citizen" and was solely owned by Robert Bell. The "Monarchist", however, was not founded until 1880 by Mrs Powell and Francis Clement. (Ann Gonneau)



Ray Friel at work representing the residents of both urban and rural Cumberland Township (this and previous picture from the collection of Paulette Friel)

Notes by D-J. Smith (March 2012)

The creation of the position of councilor-at-large took place in 1985 as part of dividing the township into wards. The two urban wards were Heights Ward and Villages Ward, covering Queenswood Heights and Queenswood Village respectively. The rural remainder of the Township was one ward, Heritage Ward, with two councilors.

The position of councilor-at-large was intended to build a bridge between urban and rural Cumberland. Ray Friel himself said in his

election profile that he was choosing to run for this position because he wanted "to maintain his ties with rural and urban residents." His statement of priority issues also sought to address the concerns of all, favouring industrial development as key to Cumberland's future while also working to bring more services to the Township villages.

It was a fitting tribute to his dedication when the decision was announced in December 9, 1986 that a proposed new sportsplex would be named after him, for it was intended to become "focal point of the community."

(sources - *Ottawa Citizen*, Nov 5, 1985, E22 and December 19, 1986, B5 col. 1)

History out of the Camera—Annie Barnett

by Dorothy-J. Smith

History Keeping is not always an activity that a person deliberately sets out to do. Nor does a history keeper have to identify themselves as such. Annie Barnett is one person who quietly went about keeping Cumberland Village's history through the lens of her camera.

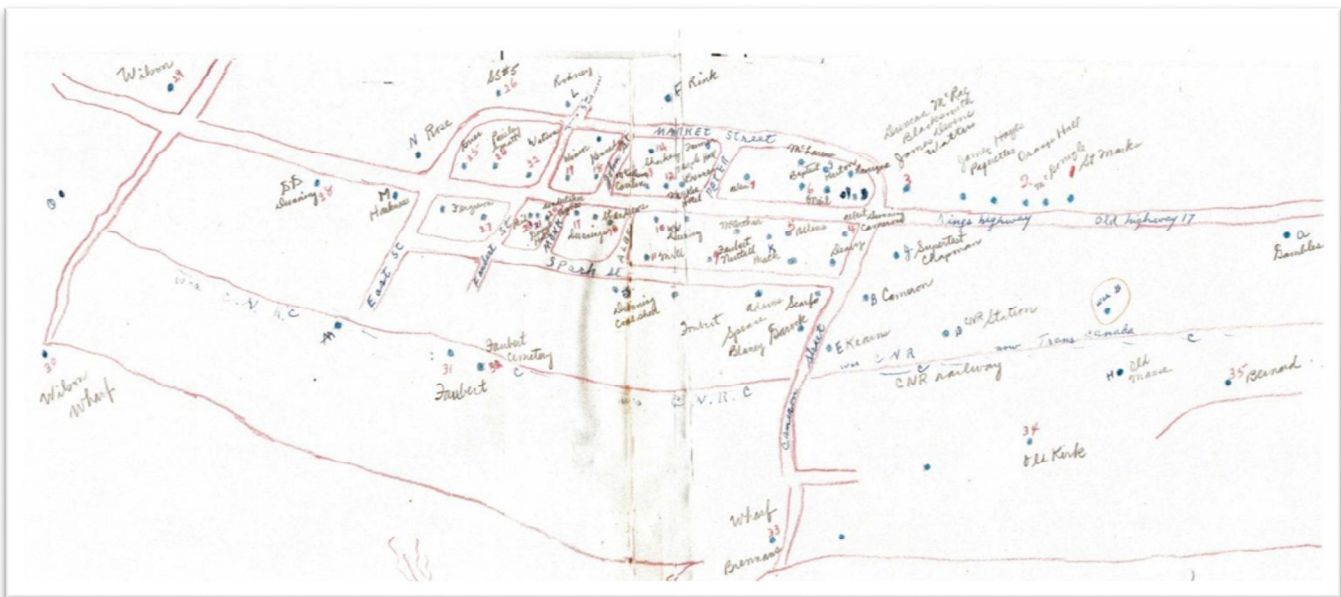
She was born Annie Watson in 1902 in Sarsfield. In 1908, when she was six, the Watson family moved to Cumberland Village. This was

where she went to school and where she met Lawrence Barnett though they married at her sister's house in Osnabruck Township.

By the time her children were born Annie had acquired a camera, recording the growth of each child in a separate baby book. She was also a collector and a scrapbooker. Her children believe her earliest collection was a set of greeting cards. Happily for Cumberland Village she went on to collect all the memorabilia she encountered. Her daughters, Joan Lancaster and Joy Morin, remember that she would send them to pick up material from village events she was not attending. And if there was an interesting notice posted on the street, she never hesitated to remove it for her collection.

She had a wide-ranging curiosity about the world. A third daughter, Malva Lagimoniere, remembers how during World War II her mother suggested that the two of them hitch-hike into Ottawa one night just to see what a blackout was like. They found only one small neon sign left on and read in the paper the next day that the company was being fined.

It is not known when Annie started taking photographs of Cumberland Village buildings. Her daughters believe it may have been before they were born, for she photographed the McRae House, both front and back, before it had become the double house they



A sketch map of Cumberland Township prepared by Annie Barnett (from the collection of Joan Lancaster)

remembered from their childhood. But photograph she did, and so we have a record of buildings that have burnt, been torn down, or renovated since the 1930s and 1940s. As she entered her photos into her scrapbooks, she added the names of the families living in them.

Annie was prepared to spend money on recording history even in hard times. We sometimes forget now that photography cost money, to buy the film and then to pay for the developing while crossing fingers that we were not paying for duds. She also bought Cumberland Village postcards produced by Alex Garvock. He had taken the photographs, written Cumberland on them, and then turned them into postcards for sale. Annie bought a complete set: each one at five or ten cents was the price of a loaf of bread.

She never told her family what she was trying to achieve. We can only speculate now. Perhaps she was moved by an understanding of the impermanence of what seems so permanent in our built environment. Joan and Joy know that her father, their grandfather, had a sense that things change. He would come to their house to listen to the news on the radio, for he did not have one. He told the unbelieving children that someday they would not listen to the news but would see it on a box in their homes.

Annie told her children about houses and a wharf by the river that were no longer there by the 1930s—perhaps telling of a place she remembered from her childhood that was long gone. The daughters remember as well that she insisted they come with her to wait in a field to see the last train that ran in 1936 along the CNR tracks (now Highway 174). Joan says, "she made us stand there for ages waiting for that train." It was important to Annie that they see for themselves the passing of this history.

By the 1980s she was recognized as one of the village's history keepers. In 1981, Riverview Public School organized a homecoming. The *Ottawa Citizen's* report on the plans highlighted her crammed scrapbooks as one of the memory aids that would be used to elicit village memories from those attending. After the reunion she put together another full scrapbook of photos, both the early photos she had of the school and each year's class, and the photos and memorabilia from the day itself.

Annie continued to take photos and to collect until just a few years before her death in 1996. When necessary she commandeered her children to drive her around or to take pictures for her. She also continued to arrange and rearrange her scrapbooks, always thinking of a new and better system for structuring the story she was telling in them.

Her scrapbooks and photographs are invaluable sources today. Her daughter Joan, who along with a few other of the children inherited the collecting gene, has copies and originals of the material. The photograph collection is also kept at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum archives while the Cumberland Township Historical Society is proud to preserve some of Annie's scrapbooks.

Sources

Joan Lancaster and Joy Morin

Ottawa Citizen, June 16, 1981, 4 col. 3.



Annie (Watson) Barnett (from the collection of Joan Lancaster)