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# THE CABOOSE



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NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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## President's message (Jean-François Beaulieu)

We live in a vibrant city with heritage sites, local, regional and Federal museums, and a beautiful Rideau Canal World Heritage Site. This summer there are lots of things going on in local heritage, including an archaeological dig at Casselman, Ontario by local archaeologist Paul Thibaudeau. The site being excavated is a prehistoric hunting/butchering site. A team of students from Carleton University and other volunteers are helping in this work. In July there will be a grand opening of the new City of Ottawa Library and Archival Centre built by the City of Ottawa. In October 2011, there will be an archaeological Symposium in Ottawa at City Hall. Currently, the CTHS has a few projects on the go, such as the one concerning the Navan Dome. We will announce further details at the coming fall meeting. We are still looking for a Vice President and a secretary. If you want to be part of an energetic team of individuals who love local history and local heritage, talk to us.

### *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*

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Past President; Caboose editor
- Vice-President (vacant)
- Gilles Chartrand, Treasurer
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, 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](http://www.cths.ca)



What can be more evocative of summer than a photograph of the family on a road trip? This photo was in the album of Stella (Knox) Cameron who was raised in Rockland, went to school in Vankleek Hill and lived in Cumberland Village after her marriage in 1908. Based on the clothes we can guess it was taken just after the turn of the nineteenth century, but who would you guess this family to be and what road were they on? (collection of David Chamberlin)

### *Next meeting of the CTHS*

The next General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 for a start-time of 7 P.M. Come out for a great speaker (to be announced) and as an opportunity for members to grow the Society through new blood and new ideas. 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](http://www.cths.ca).

Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	CTHS general meeting; speaker to be announced.
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	CTHS general meeting; speaker to be announced.
Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Taped interview and photos on Queenswood by Lori Nash
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	CTHS general meeting; speaker to be announced.
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP
CTHS meetings	Unless other stated, all meetings are at 10 <sup>th</sup> Line Road Police Station 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time 7:00 pm.



Calling volunteers!!  
 We are at the point where we cannot lose more Board members without losing the Society. Think about coming out and being part of the gang.

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



### 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](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Past-President (225-3554) and Caboose Editor
- Gilles Chartrand, Treasurer
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Randall Ash, Newsletter Production (833-3207) [randall2620@rogers.com](mailto:randall2620@rogers.com)
- Dan Brazeau, Website

## Did you know?

I have previously explored the French newspapers on-line with Library and Archives Canada but the Archives has more databases to explore than just that. I am sure everyone is aware of their database for World War I soldiers in which you can find attestation papers as well as the references to seek out the actual files. But there's more, much more. Click on the left hand red column on "Discover the Collection" and then at the top of the page click on "Browse ... Data bases". This week, just for fun, I started exploring the database on Canada's UFO's - [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/ufo/](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/ufo/)



I entered as the location for a possible sighting "Cumberland" with the province of Ontario selected. I expected to get nothing. But did you know that on November 10, 1973 something *was* seen in our skies overhead. The file on that sighting is in the papers of the National Research Council and a reference is given for looking it up. So while the details are not right at our fingertips, if you have an interest in UFOs here is a starting point for making Cumberland our very own Roswell.

## Remembering Canaan Road

*Dorothy-Jane Smith with Emmett Carr*

I talked to Emmett Carr this month about history in the east end of Cumberland Township. Below is just a portion of that conversation as Emmett tells us about paving the Township roads and the origins of the name, Canaan.

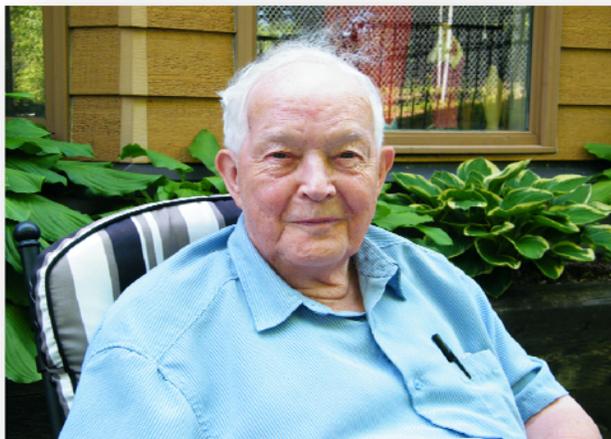
I am the son of William John Carr. My mother was Mary Butler. She came to teach at Dawson School on RR 3 in Clarence and they married in 1929. I lived on the family farm until they sold it and moved to Ottawa. The farm was on the Clarence side of Canaan Road.

If you would like to know the history of the layout ... Each municipality is allowed one road where they come together. Where one finished, the other started. So, Canaan Road is two widths, 66 feet times two is 132. Which side the road is on, we're not sure. It starts at the escarpment - whether it goes past the escarpment, I've never been - and it runs down to 174, highway 17. Our farm was half a mile east of it and the rest of the school section was in Cumberland Township.

Somebody approached my father to be foreman on the road because he could talk French to the workers and talk English to the road superintendent. Clare Dawson was the superintendent on that section of the road at that time - Clarence Dawson from Bearbrook. The Councils decided that they had

to do some repairs. They started in 1937 to put some stone in the swampy area. The next year, they had to build a bridge; I guess it's Beckett's Creek that winds around there. That was a major project.

Clarence said that it had to be graded up so they got a bunch of farmers, pulled all the shrubs out and plowed it with a big wide plow to take out 18 inches



Emmett Carr relaxing at his home in Ottawa.  
(photograph, Dorothy-J. Smith)

or so. And they used these hand scrapers – you hold them with a team of horses on them and they follow each other around and around and around from the ditch on that side and another group on the other side. They bring it together and it [forms] a nice high road. And the farmers were thankful because they were able to drain their fields there. It's hard land to drain.

The part that runs down to the highway - there's a jog in it. That jog is because there's a ravine where the road should be. At some point in the past, the Councils decided that they would ask the farmer – I think it was Mr. Smith or whoever owned it before him – whether he would mind if the road would go on this side of his farm next to McLaughlin's. [ed. Robert Smith owned a farm at the end of Canaan Rd. He died in 1934. At the time of the Canaan Road project, his son, Norman Smith would have been living on that farm while an older son, Alton Alfred (John) Smith had acquired the farm beside it]. That gave a straight hill; the other way they couldn't fill in because they didn't have the equipment at that time.

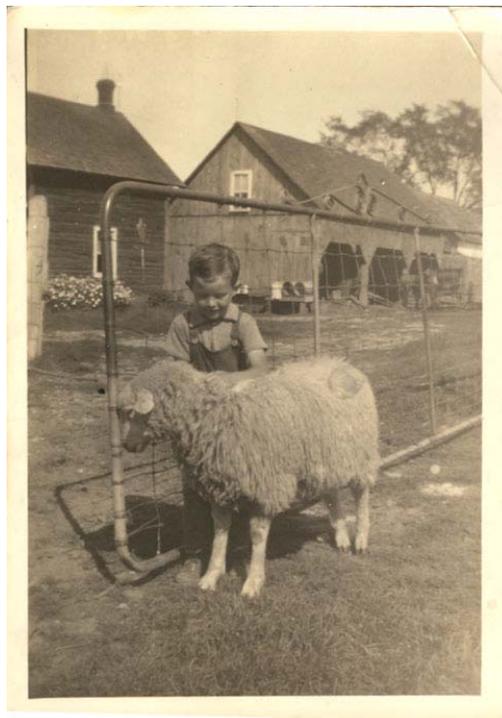
Those two projects were the big ones my father was involved in. The maintenance was done with a four-horse team on a hand grader with wheels to level it. The road would be smoothed off after the frost came out. Originally part of the taxes had to be done as work on the road, but that changed,

sometime in the twenties I think. By the time the depression came, it was a major source of income. [My father] got a dollar a day, the workers got 50 cents and the ones that came with horses got a dollar for the horses.

We walked [to school] across O'Brian's farm. There was a kind of a road there. When we went for the mail, we followed the horse tracks. It was the original road. The roads were not opened where the survey was [on the concessions- ed.] until 1904 or '5. There's a hill that cuts corner-ways across our farm. That was in bush until 1904. For the first fifty years people went through our place and through the bush to go to Clarence Creek. [This is from Cumberland] across through O'Brien's and across through our place and up the hill.

The baseline, the first road when you are coming up from the highway, is where the jog is. The next road is two miles away and that's the road we were building. And the next road is Colonial Road. Then the escarpment cuts across. So the road where the Millers live at the top of the hill that's two miles too. Then the next one is Russell. This original trail in the centre of the Township came through O'Brien's farm, going to Leonard Creek.

[ed. I asked when the hamlet of Canaan was no longer visible on the road.] I think it was 1941 when my father sent me out to Hobsons with some logs. My uncle brought a team with logs too. It was a hot, hot day. We went that way [towards the hamlet of



Emmett with his pet lamb on the home farm on the Clarence side of the Canaan Road at about the time of the Canaan Road project.

Canaan up the ridge road] because the paved road was hard on the horse's feet. We stopped at that corner and looked around. He told me where the church was. Across the road from it was this little log building and a bunch of sheep were in there. He says that was Mrs. Larmour's store. She had a store on the main floor and upstairs was where the [first] school was ... before the school sections. I think she died in 1889 or so and her daughter ran a post office until the postal laws were changed and everybody had to have a post office name. That's when the name [Canaan] came.

Mrs. Dawson belonged to that [Canaan Anglican] parish. People asked, where did the name come from? Well, she says, they talked about it off and on for I don't know how long and, this morning, they were getting near the deadline. They had to have a name in or lose the post office. So, the epistle that morning was about the battles in Canaan - Canaan was part of Israel, Judea. Well somebody jumped up, "Canaan is a name. Why don't we call it Canaan." Interrupted the minister! Everybody thought that's not a bad idea. It would be different. Nobody would copy it. So, the name became Canaan.



## What's in a name? Take Queenswood, for example.

by Lori Nash

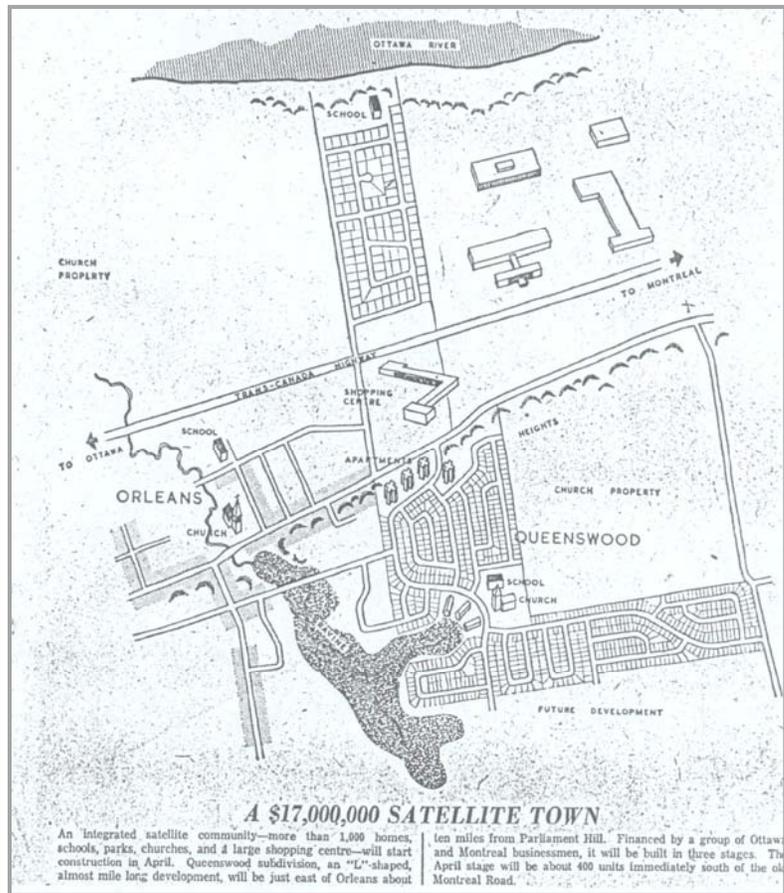
The New Years celebration at the Duford family home in 1957 was lively and filled with anticipation. It was just a few days 'till they would come into a small fortune of \$52,500. Emile Duford had agreed to sell 385 acres of farmland to Parks and Garden Home Development Ltd and the deal would close on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The day when it came had clear skies and no snow; just a cold 15 below zero. Yet the Duford family was warmed by their prospects. With this sale, came the new community of Queenswood.

Of course the first thing people want to know is where the name came from and who named the streets. You would think this a simple bit of research since it took place just 50 years ago and many of the people who were part of the development are alive today. Yet it took me nearly a decade to squeeze out the right answers.

I interviewed people from Queenswood Land Associates, who owned about 1,100 acres of land in the area. I had assumed

given their name they were the origin of the name of the community. But it was not so for this company was formed in 1962 after the initial development and naming of Queenswood and had nothing to do with that project.

The name Queenswood had been coined by Morris Kertzer, a young Ottawa lawyer for the Parks and Garden Home Development company. He lived in Ottawa and spent many long trips driving down the highway and out the rural roads to the Cumberland Town hall and offices in Leonard. This was often a peaceful time to ruminate and go over the things Morris had to do for the meeting ahead. One particular evening, he was wondering what name would be good for the subsidiary of Parks and Gardens that was being set up to service the land. As he drove along the Queensway he began to think about his own family business named "Trentwood" and then he thought "Queensway." Together they blended into "Queenswood". That would be a good name to call the new subsidiary, Queenswood Development Limited. The name "Queenswood" went viral.



Clipping from Ottawa Citizen 21 March 1961 for the new subdivision "Queenswood" on plan 17 and 18. This first public naming of Queenswood predates other development companies that adopted the name.

The first appearance of the name describing the subdivision appeared on the maps for development Plans 17 and 18 probably in 1960. Then it appeared in an Ottawa Citizen article on 21 March of 1961. The first appearance of the name "Queenswood" subdivision to describe the lands of Parks and Garden Home Development Limited appears in the Cumberland Minutes April 3, 1961.

Naming the Streets is yet another story. When the first houses were built on the road going up the hill to the heights, that road was not called Duford Street. It was actually a horse trail etched up the escarpment that was identified in the registry office as Valenciennes. Trying to track down the origins of the name of other streets led me to Boris Blanchard, a former sales manager for Marling Estates in the 1960's. He told me that the original names for roads in Plan 17 and 18 and 19 were all French, likely those of cities in France. These were the names that were registered on Aug 10, 1961 but Blanchard thought the names would make it difficult to market the properties.

On March 22, 1963 by-law 1479 was passed to rename the streets as Jamison, Duford, Major, Sault,

1957	Jan. 3	Parks and Garden Home Development Ltd bought Land from Emile Duford
1958	Sept. 23	Parks & Garden sold first lot to Guenter Jansen for \$810 with no subdivision plan.
1960	Oct. 3	Cumberland Minutes Resolution # 2086 approved two sub-division plans for Parks & Gardens for part of lot 37 Concession 1 O.S.
1961	Mar. 21	Ottawa Citizen story described satellite town of "Queenswood" with 1,000 homes
	July 12	Plan 17 and 18 registered by Parks & Gardens with street names based on names of French cities
	Oct.	Model homes built on Duford Street in two weeks by Marling Estates
1962	March	Building stopped in Queenswood Heights due to loss of funding in Sudbury by Marling Estates
	Mar. 28	Queenswood Homeowners Association formed by twelve residents; name not official until June 1962
	May	First homeowners moved into homes in Plan 17 and 18; The Powers family and Ron Pedlar
1963	Mar. 22	By-law 1749 changed street names on Plan 17 and 18, including Kennedy Lane from Mirabeau Street
	Nov. 22	John F. Kennedy assassinated
1965	Mar. 15	By-law 1593 restates By-law 1749 including renaming Mirabeau to Kennedy Lane

Kennedy, Chartrand, Charlebois, Fraser Park, Tompkins and Lacroix. Then, oddly enough, the exact same action was repeated on 15 March 1965 under by-law 1593. Now, where did the name Kennedy Lane come from?

I will tell you two versions of how Kennedy Lane got its name and what I think happened.

Helen Burns (nee Edwards) has told me in an interview in March 2003 that the name came from her grandfather, James Archibald Kennedy, who had a farm in the area.

Boris Blanchard (from Regional Realty) says that the street was named after the death of former President John F Kennedy to move sales of properties, simply because the Kennedy name was so much in the news at the time of his assassination in November 1963.

James Archibald Kennedy and Jane Fraser owned the land that Queenswood Village was built on. They had seven children but the sons did not want to run the farm so Helen's mother, a daughter of the family, and her husband took it over. Helen Burns was raised on that farm.

Helen points out that the developers used the names of local families for the other streets. "Kennedy Lane is named after James Archibald Kennedy because Queenswood Village and Queenswood Heights were near our farm. Major Street was renamed after Dr. Major from Orleans, this was I believe from the early settlers. They owned a house where the theatre is at today and was a cottage adjacent to our farm. ... Chartrand and Duford were also original families from Orlean's. Deavy's were from north of Navan and Galloway came from north Cumberland."

It is clear Tompkins was named from an old family because the family of Patrick Tompkins lived in the old brick house that was taken over by the Cumberland Resource Centre for social services. This, too, was adjacent to the Kennedy Farm. It is likely that the surname of Jane Fraser, the wife of James Archibald Kennedy, was the origin of street named Fraser Park.

In an interview that same year, 2003, with Boris Blanchard, I told Helen Burns's story of how the name Kennedy came from her family. Boris pointed out that Regional Realty took out the mortgages on the first and second house sold "at the time Kennedy was assassinated in 61." But this answer raised a question for Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

To follow the trail, I spent time in the City of Ottawa Archives looking at minutes from Cumberland and the city registry office and put together a timeline for the naming of Queenswood and the first streets (see insert). Here is where I found

two by-laws making exactly the same street name changes.

The first of these, By-law 1479, was passed eight months before November 1963. And so the original renaming of Mirabeau to Kennedy Lane preceded the murder of president Kennedy. The story that the street was named after the Kennedy family who owned the farm in that area is also consistent with the renaming of the other nine Queenswood Heights streets for local families.

Names are not always what one might think and the origin of the place or street name can be as compelling as the history itself.

## Kennedy and Fraser Connections

*by Jeannie Smith using family history  
written by Dr. I. F. Kennedy.*

In 1844 at Bytown, Robert Frazer married Louisa Jane Hurdman. But he and his family had first immigrated to St. Andrew's East, Argenteuil County in Quebec. By 1845, when the couple purchased Crown land on the Ottawa River, they were known as Frasers. With a promise to clear the 200 acres in the northwest corner of Cumberland Township that ran due south a mile, Robert Fraser farmed and logged the land. He also invented the four-runner logging sleigh, the bobsled, that eased the hauling of timber.

In 1889, Robert and Louisa's seventh child Jane Fraser married James Archibald Kennedy. He had steamed up the Ottawa by boat from his birthplace which was also in Argenteuil. Since Jane's older sisters had married local farmers, Caroline to Isaac Taylor, Sarah to John Walsh and Harriet to James Spratt and her brother Thurlow Fraser, had become a minister, James and Jane Kennedy took over the Fraser farm. Their married daughters were Louisa (Mrs. Harvey Dunning); Edith (Mrs. James Drew); Maud, Mrs. George Smith and Florence (Mrs. Norman Edwards). Of their three sons, Thurlow Kennedy married Phyllis Chapman while John Kennedy married Harriet MacArthur. Their second child, Robert James Kennedy married Eva Farmer, whose father David had bought the Petrie farm in 1902. He was Cumberland Township Clerk for 35 years. The R. J. Kennedy Arena bears his name.

Robert Fraser had been a spirited sixteen year old when the 1837 Rebellion erupted near his home. He showed his skill as a sharp shooter and this was inherited by his grandsons. Robert James Kennedy, with the Royal Canadian Artillery, was distinguished for marksmanship in 1917 at Vimy Ridge. R. J. Kennedy's brother, Thurlow returned home from that war, but his cousins Leslie Taylor and William Spratt laid down their lives for freedom.

Decades later, Robert Frazer's great grandson Squadron Leader Irving Farmer Kennedy would be awarded the DFC and Bar for shooting down German spitfires during WW2. Dr. 'Bus' Kennedy's older brother Robert Alvin returned home after overseas service but his younger brother Carleton Kennedy was killed in action in 1944.

Kennedy and Fraser descendents, to this day, contribute much to their local communities.

## La légende des chutes Princess Louise: mythe ou réalité?

*Par Diego Elizondo*

Abstract –

What is the truth? Did Princess Louise, wife of the Governor General, drive out to Orléans to paint the falls at Fallingbrook? Diego Elizondo looks at the investigation carried out on the question.

Alors que la "fièvre royale" s'est emparée de plusieurs canadiens au mois d'avril dernier, dû au mariage royal britannique entre le *Prince William et Kate* Middleton, soulignons qu'un épisode moins connu dans l'histoire de la royauté britannique s'est possiblement produit à Orléans. Du moins, c'est ce que dit la légende...

On a donné le nom de "Princess Louise" aux chutes naturelles qui partent du Nord de la promenade Princess Louise, qui descendent la côte pour traverser au boulevard Saint-Joseph et terminer sa course au ruisseau Taylor Creek qui s'étant jusqu'à la rivière des Outaouais. C'est justement la raison de l'attribution du nom "Princess Louise" à ces chutes, que la légende est née et qu'une controverse s'est enveloppée autour d'elle, depuis maintenant plus de 20 ans.

Quelques notes biographiques

La Princess Louise, (née en 1848 et décédée en 1939, Louise Caroline Alberta puis surnommée « Louise du Royaume-Uni ») fût une des cinq filles de la Reine. Le 21 mars 1871 elle épouse celui qui deviendra le 4<sup>e</sup> Gouverneur Général du Canada; le Marquis de Lorne, 9<sup>e</sup> duc Argyll (né en 1845 et décédé en 1914 - gouverneur général du Canada de 1878-1883). Ils n'eurent pas d'enfants.

La Princess était reconnue pour être une enfant hors de l'ordinaire. Sa grande passion pour les arts ont fait de cette féministe franche à la pensée libérale d'avant-garde, une enfant malheureusement peu aimée par la Reine Victoria, avec un caractère peu conventionnel, digne de la grande famille royale britannique, d'où son surnom de "Princess rebelle". De plus, toujours selon ses biographes, le séjour de la Princess au Canada, plaisait énormément à la Reine Victoria et à ses



Les Chutes aujourd'hui (photographe Diego Elizondo)

autres enfants, qui étaient enfin privés de cette Princess, haut-en-couleur.

#### La légende

Selon la légende, durant son séjour à Ottawa, la Princesse faisait régulièrement le voyage Ottawa-Orléans, vers l'an 1880 et ce, en carrosse pour peindre dans son temps libre des aquarelles de couleurs des chutes qui portent son nom aujourd'hui. La Princess aurait été fascinée par les chutes d'Orléans.

Cette légende s'est rependue par Mme Marjorie Ward, qui vivait à proximité des chutes et du développement domiciliaire dans le quartier de Fallingbrook dans les années 1980. Mme Ward soutenait que la Princess y venait souvent. Elle déclara même aussi qu'on avait érigée une plaque près des chutes pour commémorer les visites de la Princess, aujourd'hui disparue. Une entrevue fut organisée en 1989 avec Mme Ward, mais elle devenu gravement malade et mourut. L'entrevue n'a jamais eu lieu.

#### De la légende à la réalité

Durant la fin des années 1980, M. David Villeneuve de l'association communautaire de Fallingbrook s'intéressa à cette histoire.

Il entama des recherches dans le but de s'assurer de la vérité des dires de Mme Ward. M. Villeneuve se présenta aux Archives nationales puis au Musée des beaux-arts. Bien que le Musée possède des peintures de la Princess, aucune ne ressemble aux chutes d'Orléans selon lui. Pendant ce temps, M. Villeneuve contacta l'archiviste en chef de la résidence du

gouverneur général, Rideau Hall pour d'autres informations. Dans une lettre du 19 juillet 1900 Mme Kathleen O'Brien du ministère de l'Énergie des Mines et des Ressources naturelle, au département de généalogie, contactée par Rideau Hall. Aucun document ne permet de retracer les périples de la Princess à Orléans.

De plus, deux biographies; *Royal Rebels: Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne* par Robert M. Stamp et *Princess Louise: Queen Victoria's unconventional daughter* par Jehanne Wake (tous les deux parus en 1988), n'aborde aucunement les supposés voyages de la Princess à Orléans.

Véritablement fausse, cette histoire?

À la lumière de ces différents faits, nous pouvons affirmer qu'il est peu probable que la légende de la Princess qui venait peindre des chutes dans le territoire du canton de Cumberland qui se retrouvait à l'intérieur des limites d'Orléans, soit véridique. Entre temps cette histoire est devenue une légende bien particulière dans le folklore de Cumberland et d'Orléans.

Quoi qu'il en soit, aujourd'hui, les chutes portent de nom de la Princess Louise et une promenade porte également son nom, toujours à Fallingbrook.

Où sont situées les chutes?

Les chutes se retrouvent dans le quartier Fallingbrook, à Orléans, dans l'ancien territoire du canton de Cumberland. Les chutes se retrouvent à proximité de l'intersection du boulevard Saint-Joseph et de la promenade Taylor Creek. Sur le lieu des chutes, nous retrouvons plusieurs vestiges de l'ancienne partie du boulevard Saint-Joseph. Certains racontent même que ces vestiges seraient ceux d'un ancien pont qui passait à proximité des chutes.

Elizondo, Diego (2010). La légende des chutes Princess Louise: mythe ou réalité?, 1<sup>ère</sup> version de l'article, paru dans le cahier spécial "Orléans, 150 ans d'histoire" du journal L'Express d'Ottawa, le 7 octobre 2010.

Stamp, Robert M. (1988). *Royal Rebels: Princess Louise & the Marquis of Lorne*, Toronto : Dundurn Press, 321 p.

Wake, Jehanne (1988). *Princess Louise : Queen Victoria's unconventional daughter*, London : Collins, 478 p.

Association Communautaire Fallingbrook.

<http://www.fallingbrook.com/history/falls.htm> Référence du 23 avril 2011. (Articles sur les chutes Princess Louise, par David Villeneuve).



## Verna Cotton -A Lady in the Know!

By Jeannie Smith

If ever you want to know anything about the history of Cumberland Township just ask Verna Cotton. Her memory is phenomenal. Names and dates quickly unfold in her mind. Without hesitation, Verna can put her hand on a picture to match the subject of your research or retrieve a newspaper clipping that details your inquiry. After all, Verna has been keeping scrapbooks that depict local people and events since 1940 when she was fourteen.

For the past seventy years, Verna Coburn Cotton has amassed sixteen scrapbooks that have become archival gems. This treasure-trove is an accumulation of articles and photos from Ottawa's major English newspapers and local newsletters. Verna, in collecting announcements of births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and deaths, has preserved the circle of life of our community. Tales of sorrow and joy, items of interest and intrigue, and stories about celebrations as well as calamities, are stored on the pages of Verna's books.

Do you want to know about the Women's Institute, church bazaars or the Navan Fair? Verna can find what you're seeking in a flash!

Verna is well known as a local historian. She has been a Director of the Cumberland Township Historical Society since its inception in 1986. She is rooted by kinship and friendship to the pioneer families of Cumberland Township and can recall her Leonard homestead and Navan school days vividly. If Verna is unsure of an exact name or date, she'll check her books for the correct data.

Verna is a history keeper—a gatherer of information. She has written a pictorial account of Navan's buildings "Navan of Yesteryear". She enjoys taking pictures and supplied photographs for Navan W. I. calendars. Her nephew Brian Coburn was thrilled to have received her gift of two scrapbooks that chronicle his ten year political term in Cumberland Township.

Verna has been curator of the Navan W. I. Tweedsmuir history since 1984. Mrs. George McCullough (1963-70) and Betty Deavy (1971-1984) laid the groundwork for this priceless historical vision of Navan. In 2009, Bonnie Sastri digitized this collection into three bound volumes. One set is shelved in the CTHS history room. One is at the Ottawa Public Library. Verna will gladly welcome you into her home to view the third copy.

Verna participates actively in her community. Her fifty-one year career as a bowler is over but she still remains envelope secretary for St. Mary's Anglican Church. And, of course, the Navan Fair is dear to her heart!

Verna found time to chart her paternal Coburn and maternal Taylor genealogy. Corresponding with a relative in France, Verna is now documenting her Melvin ancestry.

The walls of Verna's house feature photos of family generations and numerous awards and certificates



Verna with her late husband Sydney Cotton in their home on Trim Road.

that Verna and her husband Sydney Cotton received for years of volunteer work.

No computer is needed to cut and paste and store information for Verna! It is with patience and passion that she manually cuts, pastes and saves the stories that people have provided or that she obtains from her newspaper scanning.

A valued volunteer is Verna. Without her, there would be little record of seven decades of Cumberland Township history. Thank you Verna for providing this legacy.