

THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXII Number 1

September 2010

President's message (Dorothy-Jane Smith)

It's summertime and the living is easy – unless you are a director of the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society. Those dedicated souls are working the busiest time of their year, putting on the Navan Fair, just as dedicated volunteers have done before them for the last 65 years. But for those of us who are free to simply enjoy the fruit of their labour, we will dedicate our pages to the pleasures, as well as the work of the fair, along with other summer pleasures. The Caboose, in this issue, continues to benefit from the reporting of Jeannie from the Museum and introduces the reporting of a newer member, Diego Elizondo. Finally we welcome special reporting on the Morin Family Reunion from Gerry Boyer. It is the contribution of all of us that will keep both this newsletter and the Society vibrantly alive!

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

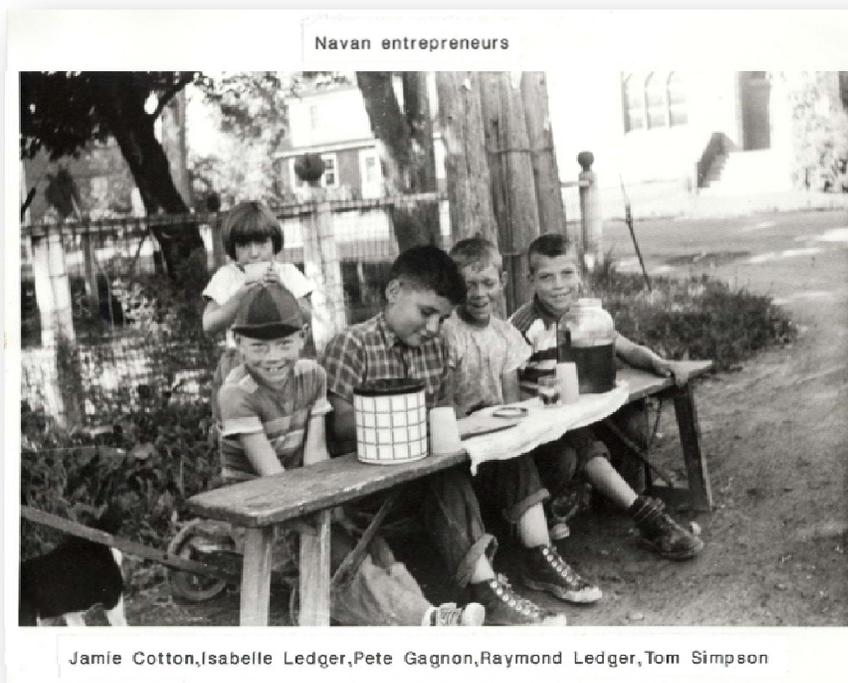
- Randall Ash, Newsletter production
- Dan Brazeau, Website

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



Summertime can also be a prime time for business as long as your drink stand is in the right location (from the collection of Verna Cotton)

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 1st in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Guest speakers Patricia Roberts-Pichette and Caroline Herbert will use the letters of Home Children from the late nineteenth century to share the children's experiences on being sent to Canada from Britain as our smallest worker immigrants. 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

August 28 th	Workshops for children (rural resourcefulness) and adults (preserving food)
Sept. 5 th	Corn boil and Harvest Festival
Sept. 17 th	Beer Tasting (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.); adults only
Oct. 31 st	Vintage Halloween Party
Dec. 4 th , 11 th , 18 th (Sundays)	Cultural Christmas
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.
Nov. 3 rd	Allan Tweedle on Preserving Petrie Island
Jan. 5 th	Members will share stories about famous, and perhaps not-so-famous, Cumberland people (snow date January 12 th)

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.



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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- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Jeannie Smith, Director (833-2877)
- Randall Ash, Newsletter Production (833-3207) randall2620@rogers.com
- Dan Brazeau, Website

Making a Fair

by Dorothy J. Smith

The Navan fair and the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society go back 65 years which makes our local fair a mere child within the family of Ontario fairs. Agricultural societies go back to the earliest years of settlement when the Agricultural Society of Upper Canada was formed in 1792 in the Niagara region. Williamstown now operates the oldest continuously running fair, with a history that dates back to 1812. So how different were the challenges facing the Navan fair in its start-up and early development compared to the Ontario fairs in the earlier century?

Two of our members, Helen Burns and Ethel Findlay, were both active for many years in the Agricultural Society and have many memories of what it took to make a successful fair in the 1960s and 1970s. Helen Burns and her husband Bob were on committees and on the Board of the Agricultural Society for a total of 43 years. Bob was also Director of District 1 encompassing the 18 Societies in eastern Ontario, including Ottawa. Ethel was equally long serving. She started out as a director of the home craft and, after ten years of service in various jobs, became president in 1971.



Helen Burns and Ethel Findlay have long been active volunteers with the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society

Both remember that one of the jobs of the Board was finding the right balance between agriculture and entertainment—as Ethel said, "making sure there was something for everyone". The early concept of an agricultural fair was very much part of the enlightenment as it was expressed in England—that

is, science, individualism and personal improvement, all coupled as part of an elite society where the poor were supposed to know their place and the "better sort" of people did their duty by their community. The agricultural fair had little to do with the often raucous trade fairs of the medieval and early modern period; or that was what was intended. But it was hard to kill the idea that fair time is a break from the everyday when social norms can be relaxed and entertainment can rule.

Serious-minded agricultural reformers had intended the fair to be an educational experience. The Canadian farmer was to learn better techniques and be inspired to invest in better seeds and pedigree livestock by the lure of prizes and competition.

But intent and reality quickly came unglued. Throughout the nineteenth century, reformers sermonized against the levity of farmers who preferred to watch the horse races, and, who knows, perhaps place a little bet on the outcome. By 1946, when the Navan Fair first opened, the entertainment had changed but the challenge to fair managers had not. There were still horse races but, ever since Chicago's 1893 Columbian World Fair had introduced the "midway" to North America, no fair could attract customers unless it served up rides and the bigger, the better. Helen Burns recalls that the 1946 Navan Fair had a ferris wheel that the family saw as soon as they turned off Frank Kenny towards Navan. As a young girl, seeing that wheel come into sight and knowing she was on the way to the fair was a matter of great excitement.

For the adults, though, fairs could mean a lot of work. Only a few farmers were in a position to regularly show animals. Taking part of your herd to Richmond or Ottawa, or any of the other fairs that were around before 1946, required a truck to transport not just the animal but also their feed and bedding. As well, the family had to have enough workers to have perhaps two or three people at the fair to wash and groom the animals, at least one of whom would stay over with the animals. At the same time, other family members had to stay at home to take care of the livestock there.

But, because the first years of the Navan fair were such a major community event, farmers who would not regularly show their animals agreed to bring them to the local fair. Helen and Bob remember that this sometimes meant showing animals that were a little more unruly than what judges usually saw. Of course, farmers with purebred herds, such as the Cottons and Sam Rathwell of Navan or Angus Wilson in Cumberland Village, would take the show far more seriously. These farmers were regular exhibitors at fairs throughout the region. For them, a fair meant advertising their horses or cattle and was well worth the investment of time and money. Angus Wilson also

remembers that it was an opportunity for him to assess how well he was doing as a cattle breeder against an outside standard.

Ethel Findlay remembers that by the 1960s and 1970s there was still a heavy emphasis on agriculture at the Navan Fair. Yet, the Board had become very aware that an important part of their customers were likely to be city dwellers. This meant considering what exhibits and entertainment would make the fair an interesting place for the urban visitor. But the fair was also growing and this too brought challenges. When the fair became a four-day event, even the litter became a much bigger problem. The first year solution was to arm local children with a stick with a nail in it and offer them a free hamburger for every garbage bag filled. Another solution had to be found the following year, having seen how many hamburgers some children can eat.

A new entertainment of a beer garden that started in 1970 also brought increased challenges in the form of security. Up to then, local volunteers had been sufficient but from this point on, the Board had to move to paid security. This was also the period when the first food inspectors arrived. On the first occasion, they quickly left when Mrs. Evelyn McWilliams, who had long overseen the preparation of meals, demanded to know why the city would think the fair workers would serve bad food to their own families and neighbours.



In 1971, Sam Rathwell, the first president of the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society congratulated Ethel Findlay on becoming the first woman president in its history (from the collection of Ethel Findlay)

And so the expansion of the customers to include the neighbouring city dwellers and the sheer growth of the fair created on-going challenges for the board

of the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society, even back in the "good old days".

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Aller à la Foire : comme un jeu d'enfant

par Diego Elizondo

Abstract – Going to the Fair was Child's Play by Diego Elizondo

Guy Saint-Denis remembers attending the earliest of the Navan fairs as a young Franco-Ontarian boy from one of the many families who had settled predominantly in two parish communities, Sarsfield's St Hughes and Vars' St. Guillaume. The family caught the train from Leonard to Navan and, at the fair, the low cost of rides meant he could enjoy the bumper cars. However, the time of conflict between the two language groups was still fresh enough, that the family felt most comfortable attending the Ottawa Ex. Here the summer attraction of a fair combined with the allure of their infrequent visits to the big city.

Bien avant les nombreux festivals qui envahissent aujourd'hui notre région, les gens attendaient avec beaucoup d'impatience l'arrivée des foires. Celles foires constituaient pour eux un événement de grande ampleur lors des grandes saisons estivales chaude et humide, typique dans notre région. La communauté de Cumberland, pour la plus part peuplé d'agriculteurs, ne fait évidemment pas exception. Une foire permettait pour un instant aux villageois de se divertir un peu. Depuis 1945, la Foire de Navan constituerait un endroit privilégié pour les fermiers de la région d'exposer leurs machineries et outils agricoles ainsi que leur bétail. Pour certains, ceux qui ne pouvaient pas se rendre à Ottawa, cette Foire représentait une des seules

activités récréatives estivales à avoir lieu chez-eux. Navan représentait l'alternative idéale.

Guy Saint-Denis est natif de Sarsfield. Né en 1934, M. Saint-Denis représente l'histoire typique d'un jeune Franco-Ontarien, vivant dans le canton de Cumberland, qui attendait avec impatience l'arrivée des Foires dans la région. Il vient de l'une des deux communautés à Cumberland qui regrouperaient un très fort pourcentage de familles francophones à l'époque: Sarsfield (paroisse Saint-Hugues, fondée en 1862) et Vars (Paroisse Saint-Guillaume, fondée en 1914). Bien que les Canadiens-français soient présent partout sur le territoire du canton, la majorité de ceux-ci s'installèrent ensemble et fondèrent ces paroisses.

M. Saint-Denis n'a fréquenté que quelques fois la Foire de Navan, entre 1945-1946, alors qu'il était âgé de 11 et 12 ans. « À cette époque, la plus part des manèges ne coutaient que 5¢ » se souvient-il. Son attraction préférée, c'était les autos-tamponneuses (bumper cars, en anglais). C'était alors quelque chose qu'il adorait particulièrement. Pour se rendre à la Foire de Navan, Guy Saint-Denis partait, avec des membres de sa famille ou des amis de Sarsfield, où ils prenaient le train à la station de Leonard et débarquaient à Navan. À cette époque, la ligne de chemin de fer était le moyen de transport chérie pour ce genre d'activités. De plus, M. Saint-Denis se rappelle d'avoir vu passer toute la marchandise à destination de la Foire de Navan via le chemin de fer. « Tout était fait par train à cette époque » se souvient-il « C'était commode ».

Ce qui frappe le plus M. Saint-Denis dans les changements survenus à la Foire de Navan après tant d'années, c'est les tracteurs d'aujourd'hui. « Avant, tout fonctionnait avec des chevaux. D'ailleurs, les années où j'ai été à la Foire de Navan, il n'y avait aucun tracteur » précise-t-il. Guy Saint-Denis ne s'en cache pas. Même si sa famille possédait une ferme laitière à Sarsfield, jamais n'ont-ils agit comme exposant à la Foire. Les quelques fois que M. Saint-Denis c'était déplacé à la foire de Navan, c'était simplement pour s'amuser.

La plupart des familles franco-ontariennes ne fréquentaient pas beaucoup la Foire de Navan, qui avait une vocation anglophone. Cela s'explique par le fait même que la population de la communauté de Navan était composée majoritairement d'anglophones. Nous devons aussi nous rappeler que le débat de la conscription divisait les francophones et les anglophones du pays à l'époque dont se souvient M. Saint-Denis. Au même moment, les tensions pouvaient être vives aussi à Cumberland entre les deux peuples fondateurs du Canada.

C'est dans ses années d'adolescence (dans les années 1948-49-50) que Guy Saint-Denis fréquenta

souvent la Foire d'Ottawa, qui se déroule encore aujourd'hui annuellement, au parc Lansdowne. C'était, pour lui, un événement très attendu. « Ça venait jamais assez vite! » a-t-il dit. M. Saint-Denis se souvient que la Foire d'Ottawa avait une grande variété de nourriture: des hamburgers, des hot-dogs, des boissons gazeuses ainsi que de la barbe-à-papa, chose qu'il aimait particulièrement. L'Expo d'Ottawa n'a pas beaucoup changé depuis, selon lui. Les animaux défilèrent dans le pavillon Lady-Aberdeen comme aujourd'hui. L'Expo d'Ottawa avait une longueur d'avance sur celle de Navan, car à la même époque, on exposait déjà des tracteurs. La Foire d'Ottawa avait aussi différents attraits comme une grande roue, des funambules, ou des différentes fanfares. Et lorsque on lui demande qu'elle impression il garde de ces années, il vous répondra : « Gros. Tout était très gros ».

À cette époque, aller à Ottawa était un événement hors de l'ordinaire : « On y allait 3 ou 4 fois par année seulement » se souvient M. Saint-Denis. Ainsi, en plus d'aller à la Foire, avec ses amis, M. Saint-Denis en profitait pour découvrir la capitale fédérale. Prendre les tramways était une activité qu'il appréciait beaucoup. « On allait jusqu'à Hull, mais on aurait pu continuer jusqu'à Aylmer si on voulait! » a-t-il dit. Bref, pour plusieurs francophones, comme M. Saint-Denis, aller aux foires était un événement toujours spécial. Chacune avait sa particularité. Cela permettait de se divertir. Pour plusieurs, les foires resteront à jamais, un événement extraordinaire et attendu en été.

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Morin Trek

by Gerry Boyer

Going backwards into our rich Morin heritage

On the evening of July 5, 2010, a large gathering of Morin descendants met at Maple Hall in Cumberland Village as part of a week-long family reunion. This was the first stop in a series of events that

would take a core group of Morintrekkers back to their Acadian origins.

In tracing our ancestors' migration, we traveled from Cumberland to St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud where we explored the Morin history from 1700 to 1840 and then on to Atholville (formerly Ristigouche), New Brunswick where the Morin family was exiled for three years between 1687 and 1690. Next stop was Halifax, Nova Scotia where a Morin descendant, Tracy Boyer-Morris, has created the Hub, an Internet connected meeting place, and we learned about Morin history from 1670 to 1687. The trek ended in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, (formerly Port Royal) where our Morin family history began in North America sometime around 1650.

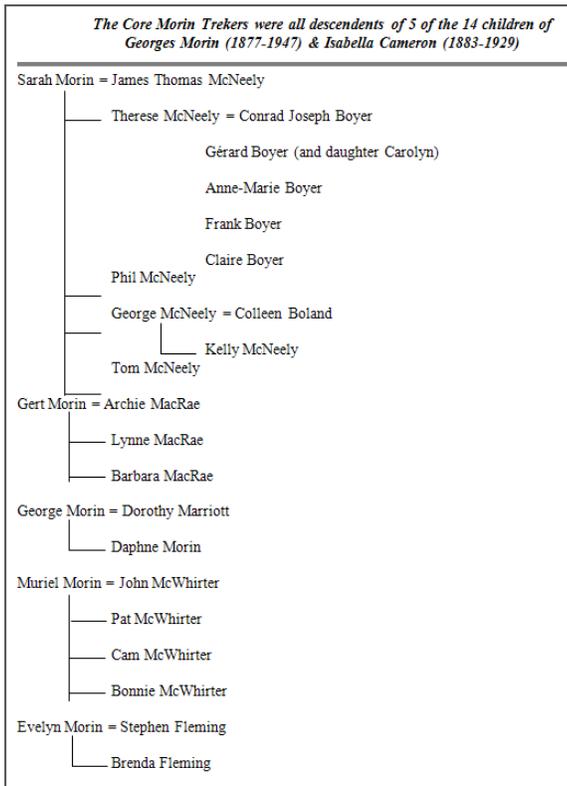
In Cumberland, the family learned that Antoine Morin (born April 4, 1820) left Ste-Marie-de-Beauce, Quebec, sometime around 1840 to find employment in the Hamilton Brothers' Sawmills in Hawkesbury, then called Hamilton Mills. On August 18, 1846, he married Émélie Paiement dit Larivière in the mission chapel of St-Jean-Baptiste parish, L'Orignal, Ontario. Her parents had come from Vaudreuil, Québec, probably to find work in the same mills.



The gravestone of the first generation of Cumberland Morins in Très-St-Trinité cemetery, Rockland, Ontario (photo taken by Gerry Boyer)



The Morin descendants from Cumberland reunited with their Quebec-based cousins to explore their Morin roots in St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, Quebec (photo taken by Gerry Boyer).



Émélie gave birth to 14 children: Antoine, Melia, Margaret, Helene, Philippe, Maria, Epiphane, a child who died in childbirth, Georges, Samuel, Léocadie, Napoleon, Joseph and Fredrick. Ray Morin, a

descendant of Fredrick, came all the way from Wyandotte, Michigan to learn and share some of the Morin family history. He told us that Antoine and Émélie hired a young woman, Sarah Delorme, to look after them in their old age. She ended up by marrying one son still at home, Frederick Morin. The young couple continued to look after Antoine and Émélie until Émélie passed away in 1896 and Antoine in 1905.

It was Antoine who brought the Morin name to Cumberland Township. In 1853, he bought land east of Beckett's Creek, Cumberland, lot 4, concession 1, Old Survey. There, he farmed and operated an inn along the newly established Montreal Road (now Old Montreal Road). We know the original homestead was either very near or at the same location as a house now owned by Mr. Mario Foubert.

Most of the people who attended the Maple Hall event were descendants of Philippe Morin, Antoine's son, who married Sarah Summers on January 11, 1875, in Ste-Félicité Catholic church, Clarence Creek. This was the nearest Catholic church as the Catholic mission in Cumberland had been burnt several years earlier and Rockland and Sarsfield had not yet built their churches.

It seems likely that Philippe built what many consider the Morin homestead up on the hill behind his parents' farm. In my lifetime, this property was called the Winters' place. It is now owned by the Ottawa Carleton Public School Board as part of its MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.

The Winters' place (photo taken winter 2010
by Gerry Boyer)



Sarah gave birth to 14 children: Nelson, Georges, Margaret, Joseph, Emily, Richard, Andrew, Maria Suzanna, Elizabeth, Rose, Christina, Treffle, James Levi and Wilfred. In the audience in Cumberland on July 5th, there were descendants of Georges, Maria Suzanna, Treffle, James Levi (Jimmy) and Wilfred. The descendants of Nelson and Joseph are all out west, but they maintained Internet connection before the Morintrek began and supplied us with interesting photos and family histories.

The core group of travelers on the Morintrek were all descendents of the second son, Georges, and they or their parents all had spent part of their lives in Cumberland. Some still live in the Township. They, along with spouses and even some of a younger generation of descendants, took the trip back to Acadie.

1840 Cumberland Township Map, with an index of early taxpayers, available at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum or by contacting Gerard Boyer at gboyer@reztel.net. A limited number of maps will also be available for sale at the September 1st meeting. Cost \$10.00, plus shipping and handling if necessary.

Many more Morin descendants came with the core trekkers on our visits to Morin sites in Cumberland the previous day (July 4th). And over the following week, we linked up with yet more descendants, both French and English speaking. And so, as we traveled we also extended our family connections further back into the past, all the way to 1661 when Pierre Morin dit Boucher married Marie Martin in what was then Port Royal.

My sisters, Anne-Marie and Claire, and my daughter Tracy, felt well rewarded for organizing the trip as it became more than just a travel event. It renewed old family ties and established new ones that we all enjoyed and appreciated.

Now—once we determine where exactly our first ancestor came from in France, we can organize a trip there in 2012.

The Duford House: a family history fondly remembered

by Jeannie Smith.

This year seven generations of the Duford family celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Orléans. Mathis, son of Steven and Genevieve Duford, is the 78th child to be christened at église St. Joseph d'Orléans.

The next time you visit Place d'Orléans, tread thoughtfully. You walk on land that was owned by the Duford family from the 1840s to the 1970s.

After being released from prison on the promise to fight for 'le roi Louis XVI', Jean-Baptiste Dufort left his birthplace, la Franche-Comté near the French-Swiss border, for New France. He began his new life at Lac des Deux Montagnes in 1748 and became 'un soldat'.

Jean-Baptiste married Marie-Josephte Ranger dit Laviolette at Oka in 1766. From among their ten children, their third child, Jean-Baptiste Thomas Dufort married Marie-Madeleine Wathier at Vaudreuil in 1788 and their third child, Jean-Baptiste Joseph Dufort, married Pélagie Gauthier (daughter of Hyacinthe Gauthier and Véronique Amable Charlebois) at Vaudreuil in November 1824.

It was this third generation that settled in the Cumberland-Gloucester area and changed the spelling of the family name to Duford. Jean-Baptiste Joseph Duford acquired 50 acres of Crown Land on lot 37 concession 1 old survey of Cumberland Township. He had been a 'forgeron' during the construction of the Rideau Canal (1826-1832) and the Duford family lived in a small log house they built by his blacksmith shop. A larger house was built on the north side of the road in 1846 after fire destroyed the original homestead. The blacksmith shop escaped the fire and Jean-Baptiste Joseph continued to work there for many years. He died, age 91, on December 6, 1881.

One of the couple's five children, Clovis, married Joséphine Bélanger, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Bélanger and Émilie Séguin on January 16, 1860 and farmed the land from 1848 to 1892. Elphège, one of their five children, married Exilia Bissonnette February 11, 1901 in Alfred and farmed from 1892 to 1943. Émile, youngest of their fourteen children and great-grandson of Jean-Baptist Joseph Duford, farmed from 1943 to 1957. By 1944 the family farm consisted of 385 acres of land covering what is today Queenswood Heights, Queenswood Village and Place d'Orléans. From this land, Émile carted eggs, wood and ice to the Byward market.



land had previously been expropriated around 1906 for the CNR rail line, and then about 1948 when the Trans Canada Highway was constructed.

As part of the expropriation, the brick bungalow was relocated to Innes Road. As to the farmhouse, in 1978 the roof, kitchen and elaborate verandah of Jean-Baptiste Joseph Duford's house were dismantled so that Drummond Brothers could move it to the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum.

In 1946, Émile brought his bride, Gilberte Giroux, from her home in lower town Ottawa, to live in the homestead. Gilberte had been educated at Notre Dame de Sacre Coeur Convent on Rideau Street. She became organist at l'église St. Joseph in Orléans and taught piano in her home while Émile and their children, Nicole, André, Raymond, Marcelle and Louise, worked the farm. Gilberte also did income tax returns to extend the farm income.

Andy and Ray Duford remember many family gatherings in the kitchen of the

old farmhouse. Its windows revealed a magnificent view of the Ottawa River and Gatineau hills. Original hardwood floors felt the rhythm of soirées filled with laughter, piano and fiddle music. The kitchen walls were adorned with cupboards, one having a flour drawer, while a pantry was laden with preserves. Neighbours and friends were welcomed to taste Gilberte's meals cooked on the wood stove. At one time the oven was outdoors.

In 1957, a Montreal business man presented a deal to Émile that he could not refuse and most of the farmland was sold. The Duford family moved into a modern red-brick bungalow to the west of the ancestral home. Between 1962 and 1968, they

rented out the farmhouse to Jean-Louis Gerard, a Gloucester policeman. After Gerard left, Acadians, Ronald and Odette Breau, made the farm house home to their

Gilberte's piano was centre stage in the room at the bottom of the steep narrow staircase. M. and Mme. Duford's bedroom, birthplace for generations of Duford children, was adjacent. Above the 'piano room' were three bedrooms. Electricity was installed in 1947, as well as a tiny bathroom, only 4'x 9', in the upstairs hallway. The front parlour, with its tin ceilings, was curtained off at various times to provide living quarters for relatives.

Repainting the roof was quite a job for Andy and Ray! They had to take extra care when covering the ornate pattern embedded in the tin as well as working safely on the steep slopes.

Is the house haunted? "No," says Ray, but Andy wonders if the souls of the departed children wander about searching for relatives, now that the house is no longer on Duford land. Only the faces of Elphège and Exilia Duford peer out from their oval framed picture that graces the parlor wall in the house at the museum.



Ray and Marcelle on 'swing' by verandah

family of eight. In 1973 Émile's son, Ray Duford moved into the ancestral home. Then, in 1974, Cumberland Township Reeve, Henri Rocque, visited Émile to discuss expropriation of both houses to improve access to Queenswood Heights. Duford

Little trace remains of the Duford family farm that once bordered Cumberland and Gloucester Townships and ran from the Ottawa River up over the hill to Amiens. Prominent, though, is the street that winds up to Queenswood Heights, once a path where Duford farmers led cattle to pasture and now a busy thoroughfare, Duford Drive.