

# THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)

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Spring 2018

## 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

*Gérard Boyer,  
President*

*Jean-François Beaulieu,*

*Past President*

*Tom McNeely,*

*Vice-President*

*Gilles Chartrand,*

*Treasurer*

*Verna Cotton, Director*

*Ross Bradley, Director*

*Ivan Tanner, Director*

*Karly Ali, 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)**



## President's message

Another late Caboose. My apologies again. I'm sure our readers have the seasons totally mixed up by now. Although this is the spring 2018 edition, it is summer! Hopefully I may get caught up by the end of August and actually publish the summer edition at the end of this summer season. Hope springs eternal.

We're in full gear up for the Navan Fair and we will be highlighting the following three historical aspects at our booth in the Curling Rink. We thank the Clarence-Rockland museum for loaning us items from their W.C.

Edwards saw mill reproduction. Accompanying this display, Tom McNeely has scanned some images from a very delicate W.C. Edwards book of plans dating back to the early 1900's. And finally we will also have on hand a reproduction of an original patent map of Cumberland Township dating back to the 1820's; care must be taken when interpreting this map, as it was used as a working map and later data has been written on it. Please read on.

We have been able to establish contact with the Cumberland Village Community Association

and hope to work with them on historical plaques for Cumberland Village. We ask our members from Sarsfield to be patient with regards to that plaque. We have a location for it, we have a budget for it and now we need to finalize the wording and images to go on to it.

And we will have a manuscript copy of the Early History of Cumberland Township, 1798-1840 on hand for you to look at. We are still mired in the details of the final editing, but the book itself is complete enough for the public to read about

*Gérard Boyer*

## Information on McGurns, Megurrens?

I was hoping to be able to find out, possibly from local township records, the maiden name of the Margaret Magurn buried at Dale's and/or her husband's name, any information on when they may have arrived in Canada and also where in Ireland they came from. I believe it may have been Newry in County Down because of an envelope I have. I know that the Magurns were Protestant from Northern Ireland and that the name may have been spelled much differently there. I am trying to get as much information on them from Canada before continuing my research across the pond. Are there any pertinent records that might help? Also, are you able to tell me where they lived? I do plan on making a trip to Dale's Cemetery in the spring to visit my great-great-great grandmother's grave site when the weather improves.

From Janet McGurn, Cornwall

Contact Gerard Boyer at [gboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:gboyer@hotmail.com) to respond.

## Contact

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, you may contact any member of the executive by phone or by email: **Gérard Boyer, President** [gboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:gboyer@hotmail.com)

Jean-François Beaulieu, Past President (841-0424)

[jeanfb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)

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

## Navan Fair August 8 to 12

Come and check out our booth in the Curling rink at the Navan Fair: W.C. Edwards mill exhibit and a large 1820 survey map of Cumberland Township.

## Reminder to Renew!!!

About half of our members have renewed to date. Thank you. We need the other half to do the same, please. We'll be happy to accept your renewals at the Navan Fair from August 8 to 12 – Come and see us at our booth. Or send us a cheque by mail.





# W.C. Edwards Sawmills Replica On Display at the Navan Fair

An entrepreneur, lumber magnate and politician, W.C. Edwards built and operated a large saw mill in Rockland, Ontario, from 1868 to 1926. Rockland became a village instantly and residents from Cumberland Township, Clarence Township, Buckingham and Thurso found employment there. I believe all of the Edwards living in Cumberland Township are somewhat related to this tycoon, as are many Camerons (his middle name was Cameron). My great-grandfather George Morin worked for W.C. Edwards as a carpenter and that's where my grandmother (Sarah Morin who married Thomas McNeely) and her sister Gert Morin (who married Archie MacRae) were both born. When the mill closed in 1926, Rockland almost became a ghost town, losing half of its population to mills in Gatineau and Québec province.

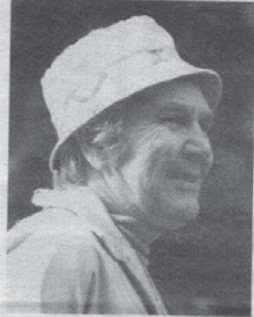
A Rockland resident and former worker at the mill, Mr. Dollard Laporte, recreated miniature versions of the whole sawmill over a 10 year span. Those reproductions are now stored in the Clarence-Rockland museum and some of

this collection will be on display at our booth at the Navan Fair. Some of our readers may have seen the collection at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum in 2009, as it was featured there for part of the summer (See Caboose July 2009 edition available on our website). The Caboose also featured a story on the acquisition of this collection by Gilles Chartrand, founder and manager of the Clarence-Rockland museum (Caboose September 2009 edition, also available on our website).

Accompanying this display, and from a different source altogether, we will also have on hand copies of survey plans of Rockland dating from the days of the mill. Thomas McNeely acquired a book of plans from his wife's uncle Laurent Simoneau. The book of plans is too fragile to have on hand at our booth, but we have included a sample in this Caboose of one set of plans from the early years of Rockland, Ontario.

By Gérard Boyer

**LA FAMILLE LAPORTE**  
a le regret de vous annoncer le décès de



**MONSIEUR DOLLARD LAPORTE**  
**1918 - 2004**

aviateur durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, fervent amateur de la nature et des arts, décédé au CHVO, pavillon de Hull, le samedi 4 décembre 2004, au terme d'une brève maladie, à l'âge de 86 ans. Il était l'époux de feu Yvette-Andrée Lefebvre et fils de feu Oscar Laporte et de feu Rose-Alba Therrien.

Il laisse dans le deuil ses trois enfants: Agnès, Denis (Joanne St-Jean), Louis (Michèle Léveillé); un petit-fils, Sébastien ainsi que cinq belles-sœurs et un beau-frère.

Il fut précédé par sa sœur Laurette et ses frères: Roland, Vianney, Raymond et Fernand.

La famille désire exprimer sa reconnaissance à Suzanne Paradis, Michel Aubry ainsi qu'au personnel du CHVO de Hull, 8e étage ouest pour leur dévouement et les excellents soins prodigués.

**VISITES:** Il n'y aura pas de visites à la maison funéraire.

**SERVICE RELIGIEUX:** aura lieu le vendredi 10 décembre à 11h, à l'église St-Benoît-Abbé, angle Moussette et Sherbrooke, Gatineau (secteur Hull). Parents et ami(e)s sont invités à y assister. La famille recevra vos condoléances après le service religieux.

**DONS:** à la Fondation du CHVO, 448 boul. Lacombe, 1er étage, Hull, QC, J8Y 1W7 seraient appréciés.

La direction des funérailles a été confiée à  
**LA MAISON FUNERAIRE SERGE LEGAULT**  
81, boul. St-Laurent, Gatineau, QC, J8Y 1W7

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez composer (819) 771-6289.  
Pour vos messages de condoléances par télécopieur (819) 771-7066 ou par courriel à [slegaultmf@bellnet.ca](mailto:slegaultmf@bellnet.ca).



# An Original Survey Map of Cumberland Township dating from the 1820's

One of our members, Denise Beaton, alerted us to the existence of an old Cumberland Township map on a recently established web site. When we further investigated her discovery, we were able to establish that the base map is a copy of Duncan McDonell's plan dating from around 1820. Duncan McDonell was the surveyor appointed by the government of the day to survey Cumberland Township. We believe that an earlier survey had been done along the Ottawa River (surveyor as yet undetermined) and that Duncan McDonell incorporated that information into his own survey.

## This map is available on line as follows:

<http://ontario.heritagepin.com/cumberland-township-in-prescott-russell>

Once on the site, click on Maps/w Names, then click on Pre-Confederation Patent Maps, then click on the only one available and it's Cumberland's.

We contacted the website hosts who told us that this map came from the Archives of Ontario. The website hosts are not familiar with its contents.

We will have a large color reproduction of the map at our booth at the Navan Fair. Although it is a copy of Duncan McDonell's original survey, many markings have been added to it, so one must be careful how to interpret the information on it. It looks like the map was used as a working map that could have been used at a municipal office. The map deserves a complete explanation and at this time, we can competently explain only some of it.

For instance, we can verify that most of the names on the map along the Ottawa River are those of the original patent holders. We can also assure readers that any properties listed as Canada Company were not done so by Duncan McDonell, as the Canada Company did not come in to operation until 1826. The map indicates the location of the Hydro towers across the river from Masson, Québec. Those are probably the most recent additions to the map.

We have made a large scale color reproduction of the map which will be on display at our booth at the Navan Fair. The only old map that we had previous to this one was Alexander Findlay's hand drawn assessment map from 1840. This latest find will certainly confirm some of the information that we have established in the soon to be printed *Early History of Cumberland Township 1798 to 1840* and will bring to light information that we have not yet written about.

See you at our booth

Written by Gérard Boyer

## A recent post on our web site

Dear sir, I am trying to trace my grandfather who was sent to Canada to work on a farm by Bernardo's in 1901 after the death of his Father. I have found some one who I think matches him on the 1911 Canadian census and wondered if you might have further information. He is with a Family called Shaw and is listed as an orphan of about 15. He is in the sub district of Cumberland Township, Navan Village, Ontario. I know that he returned to England in time to serve in the Great War in 1914, so maybe you might have details of his time in Canada. What work he might have carried out and when he left or might know how best I can find out. Could there be any living residents who might remember there children coming over. I notice that there was a girl in the household of the same age who was also an orphan. Any help or guidance you can give would be most appreciated.

Contact [gcboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:gcboyer@hotmail.com) with any information



Your membership includes four issues of our Society newsletter, the Caboose. Send your membership dues of \$15.00 ( cheque or money order) payable to CTHS ( Cumberland Township Historical Society ) to:

**Gilles Chartrand, treasurer CTHS, Clarence-Rockland Museum,  
1157 Laurier St, Rockland, Ontario, K4K 1J5**

Name:

Address:

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