

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Winter 2023

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXX, Number 3

President's message

In preparation for this year's annual general meeting in May, I am announcing my retirement from the presidency of the Cumberland Township Historical Society. I am also vacating the job as editor of the Caboose newsletter. So this could be the last Caboose newsletter and the May annual general meeting could be the last meeting of the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

My sincere hope is that someone will step forward to serve as president for the next two years and that someone will take over the newsletter. I will be happy then to serve two years as past president to help assist and guide the new president. I will be just as happy to help a new executive find a new editor for the Caboose.

Our historical society is in excellent financial shape and some of the executive would stay on with

a new president and a new editor of the Caboose. The Society just needs someone to put their name forward as president and for someone to take over the publication of The Caboose.

In case there is no one to take on either of the above positions, members at the May general meeting will need to appoint some kind of caretaking group to ensure that our assets are properly reassigned to other organizations and that our accounts are properly closed. That caretaking group should be represented by a member from each of the new City of Ottawa wards that now cover the geographical area of the former Township of Cumberland.

Please feel free to discuss any of the above with members of our current executive. I am proud of having served the Society for the past several years and

am particularly pleased with the publication of The Early History of Cumberland Township. There is no negative reason for my abandoning my roles with the Society other than I have served well beyond my constitutional term and I have family histories that need addressing.

Besides that announcement, please enjoy this issue's contents: Travelling to Navan by Gladys Eggert, A Tribute to Bob Serré, and Lost and Found! by Jeannie Smith. Check out the ad on our latest book, Stitching Hope by Hand, WWII Cumberland Blue Quilt and the addition of the Foubert-Dunning graveyard to a well-known website.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Annual General Meeting in Navan on May 3, 2023.

Gérard Boyer

New Federal Riding Name

Thanks to the efforts of Don Boudria, former federal Liberal member of Parliament, the following recommendations were made:

The Commission received submissions to add Cumberland to the name of Prescott-Russell, recognizing that the district extends into the City of Ottawa and includes the former historic township of Cumberland. The Commission agreed with these submissions and has renamed the district PRESCOTT-RUSSELL-CUMBERLAND. There has been a minor change to the western boundary of the proposed district. This simplifies the border by aligning it to Highway 417 and the Ottawa-Russell municipal limits.

Nouveau nom de notre circonscription électorale

Grâce aux efforts de Don Boudria, ancien représentant Libéral fédéral, la recommandation suivante a été faite : La Commission a reçu des observations selon lesquelles on souhaite que le nom Cumberland soit ajouté au nom de la circonscription de Prescott-Russell, et ce, pour préciser que la circonscription s'étend jusque dans la ville d'Ottawa et comprend l'ancien canton historique de Cumberland. La Commission est du même avis, et c'est pourquoi elle a décidé de renommer la circonscription PRESCOTT-RUSSELL-CUMBERLAND. Nous avons légèrement modifié la limite ouest de la circonscription proposée pour simplifier les choses en fixant la limite sur l'autoroute 417 et les limites municipales d'Ottawa-Russell

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

Lynda Rivington, Director
Ross Bradley, Director
Ivan Tanner, Director
Jeannie Smith, Director
Christine Boyer, 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



Lost and Found!



A 1930s photo album, filled with pictures of the Winters family, has resurfaced during demolition of a house at MacSkimming Centre east of Cumberland. Jessie McDonald and her husband Wilfred Winters bought the farmhouse in 1953. It was their home until the Ottawa Board of Education purchased it in 1987. Numerous families have rented this dwelling, unaware that a gem lay hidden within its walls. Who hid this 'time capsule' remains a mystery! Amazingly, the album

has been returned to the Winters family after being hidden all these years!

Bonnie Rivington, secretary at MacSkimming, contacted Tom McNeely, Vice President of the Cumberland Township Historical Society. After informing the CTHS executive about the discovery of the album, Jeannie Smith offered to find the owners. Jeannie's mother, Anne Ferguson, was a friend of Jessie Winters, and often played bridge at the Winter's home on the

hill, south of Old Montreal Road, east of Beckett's Creek. Anne Ferguson's sister-in-law, Catherine Carter, lived across the street from Jessie Winter's daughter, Margot Toller, in Mississauga. The puzzle was soon solved when Jeannie contacted Margo Toller's daughter, Jane Toller, who is the Prefete of the Pontiac, and lives in Fort Coulonge, Quebec. Jane Toller had attended highschool with Jeannie's cousins Llew Counsell and Robert Carter.

Parution du 2023/01/02 au 2023/01/07

Le Droit

C'est avec tristesse que nous annonçons le décès de Robert (Bob) Serré, survenu le 27 décembre 2022 après une longue lutte contre la démence.

Il laisse dans le deuil son épouse de 46 ans, Rose-Aline Belcourt, sa sœur Louise, son frère Pierre (Lois David); ses nièces Lynne (Doug Hagar) et Heather; son neveu Andrew (Sofia Auer); ses petits-neveux Téo et Sebastián, ainsi que de nombreux amis, cousins et collègues.

Bob était un traducteur, un correcteur et un chercheur passionné. Il a signé plusieurs petits dictionnaires bilingues et un dictionnaire trilingue destinés aux traducteurs dans le domaine des sciences et de la technologie, ainsi que de nombreux livrets d'histoire locale. Au moins cinq familles sont reconnaissantes à Bob d'avoir effectué des recherches et publié leurs généalogies.

The Cumberland Foubert-Dunning cemetery now shared on Find a Grave web site

Thanks to Cliff Seibel, a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the names of 74 individuals known to have been buried in the old Foubert-Dunning cemetery (1822-1866) have been posted on the Find a Grave website. Your president, Gérard Boyer, accepts responsibility for providing the information. Please contact me with revisions, corrections or additions. Check out the site.



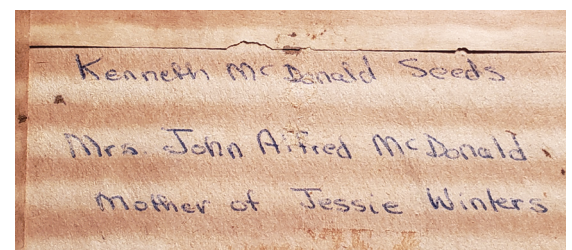
Winters barn



Jessie winters



Winters house



Tributes to Bob Serre



*Jeannie, sister Margaret, Bob Serre, cousin Llewellyn and father.
Photo submitted by Jeannie Smith*

Bob Serre was a wonderful man. He and his family had a cottage beside us. His father bought an acre from Jimmy Morin about 1956. Bob was highly intelligent man. He loved the outdoors, canoed the Ottawa river exploring every creek and nook. He knew several languages and was a translator with the government. He attended the Rigaud seminary intending to become a priest, but then questioned his faith and married Rose Aline who had just left the convent, deciding not to be a nun! It is such a shame that a brilliant mind, great historian and good person fell victim to Alzheimers disease. I think we should plant a tree at the Cumberland Museum in his honour. He planted most of the trees that are still standing on the lot west of our home.

by Jeannie Smith

Many, many years ago, I was stumped figuring out who my Morin ancestors were. I didn't even know about The Caboose or the Cumberland Township Historical Society. I was living in Barry's Bay, Ontario and had become passionate about searching my Boyer, Cameron, McNeely, Morin roots. I had gotten as far back as 1659 with my Boyer roots, but could not get past my Morin great-great-great grandfather Antoine Morin and his wife Émilie Larivière. In doing some haphazard research in the old City of Ottawa Archives, which were at the old City Hall just above Rideau Falls, I found copies of The Caboose where information about these great-great-great grandparents was being traced all the way back to 1636. Bob Serre was writing these articles based on information given to him from my Great-uncle Jimmie Morin. I managed to meet Bob; he lived close to Montfort

Hospital. And he told me about how Émile Larivière was actually Émilie Paiement dit Larivière, and that unlocked the genealogy of my Morin ancestors!

Bob and I never met again since then, but I was able to use his genealogical research for Orléans when assisting the Orléans Heritage Society (SFOPHO) in organizing events for the commemoration of Champlain's first trip up the Ottawa River.

Cumberland Township owes Bob Serre a big thank you for being a founding member of the Cumberland Township Historical Society and as a Township citizen who shared his gifts with many of us, as he did with Jeannie and I.

by Gérard Boyer

Memories of travelling to Navan, Ontario, to visit my aunts shop at J.T. Bradley's store and at Elsie Clark's store in the 1930's and 1940's



Jennie Scharfe, nee Findlay, my mother, and her siblings, were born on a farm in Navan, Ontario. Two of my aunts worked at the Rural Telephone switchboard when it was moved into the Findlay house in 1918. In 1944, James Dunfield purchased the telephone company

and moved it to a cement block building at 1223 Colonial Road.

My siblings went to Navan High School. They travelled there by bicycle in the summer and by horse in the winter.

I remember travelling to Navan every week by horse and buggy in the summer and by horse and cutter or sleigh in the winter. Mother always had a nice driving horse. In my time, mother's horse was Fred, a chuck wagon breed brought here from Western Canada. He was a tough but very gentle horse. About two miles from Navan, he would get into a full gallop and one wouldn't want to stop him or he wouldn't go at all. He would rear up and fall backwards.

Mother wanted to drive into Navan with her horse looking nicely groomed. Instead, Fred looked like she had made him run full gallop from home, about five miles away. Sweat and foam dripped off Fred and steam rose into the air above him when we stopped at J.T. Bradley's store. Mother tied him to the hitching rail in front and covered him with a horse blanket. The two Bradley brothers, Morris and Borden, were always there working in the store. Mother bought some groceries. Then we stopped at Elsie Clark's store, where the Post Office was located. Fred was tied and covered again at the hitching. There was always a good visit at each store.

Then we drove down the road south to my aunt's home to visit in the big house. Fred was put in their hen house where he was given food and water. After visiting, we would arrive home late in the afternoon. The groceries were carried into the house and I stalled the horse.

Fred was mother's last driving horse. When our roads became snowplowed in the winter, the car replaced the horse. Fred was also my riding horse. I rode him bareback of course. He lived to be 30 years old.

Written by Gladys (Tootie) Eggert, nee Scharfe, 2021.

On Sale now



**STITCHING HOPE
BY HAND**

**WW II CUMBERLAND
BLUE QUILT**

**On Sale now for \$25.00, contact Jeannie Smith at (613) 833-2877
or by e-mail: jeannie279glenn@rogers.com.**

**Next AGM :
7:00 pm, Navan Curling Club, May 3rd, 2023**