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August | September 2019



**John Dickey** *Community Man,  
Avid Angler, Farmer & Tradesman*

**The "Royal Trio"**  
*On the St. Lawrence River*

**The Rise & Fall of Sheatown**

**End of Proctor & Gamble  
Brockville Teams' Days of Caring**

**Cruisin' in Seeleys Bay**



**Arlene Laberge, RCRT**  
Reflexologist



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Arlene Laberge brings over 28 years of experience in Reflexology and is a member of Reflexology Association of Canada. She has been a team member of Mint Wellness since 2014.

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August/ September 2019



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# Living HERE

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Living Here

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## Uncle Bucks Hawaiian London Broil (Round) Steak

**Prep time: 5 minutes ~ Cook time: 6-8 minutes per side**  
**Total time: 30 minutes ~ Serves 6**

### What you'll need...

680g - 1kg London Broil or Flank (Round Steak)  
 ¼ cup reduced sodium soy sauce  
 1 bottle Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade & Sauce or Similar  
 1 cup pineapple juice • 1-inch piece of ginger, sliced  
 2 large sprigs of rosemary • Olive oil • salt & pepper or favourite spices

### To Create:

- ➔ In a 9x13 baking dish, add ½ bottle of marinade pineapple juice, ginger, and rosemary. Whisk to combine.
- ➔ Add London Broil/Flank Steak, ensuring it is covered with marinade. Add extra teriyaki and pineapple juice if necessary. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in fridge for at least 12-24 hours.
- ➔ Remove steak from fridge about 30 minutes prior to cooking. Taking chill off helps meat cook evenly.
- ➔ Heat BBQ to high. Remove steak from marinade and pat dry with paper towels. Drizzle lightly with olive oil and rub it in to coat (prevents sticking to grill). Season with salt and pepper or favourite spices and set aside.
- ➔ For glaze, pour remaining marinade into small saucepan. Bring to a boil and then simmer uncovered until slightly thickened and reduced by half.
- ➔ Grill/BBQ steak about 6-8 minutes on each side (medium-rare), brush with glaze between each turn. Increase cooking time for temperature preference or size/thickness of steak.
- ➔ Remove from grill and let rest at least 10 minutes so juices can evenly distribute. Thinly slice on an angle and serve with vegetables or side dishes.



## Uncle Bucks Apple Pie Skillet Cake

**Prep time: 10 Minutes ~ Cook time: 20 minutes**  
**Total time: 30 minutes ~ Serves 6-8**

### What you'll need...

½ cup unsalted butter (softened) • 2/3 cup brown sugar  
 ½ tsp. vanilla extract • 1 large egg • 1 cup all-purpose flour  
 ½ tsp. baking powder • ½ tsp. baking soda  
 1 ¼ cup heavy whipping cream, cold • 1-½ tsp. cinnamon  
 ¼ tsp. salt • 1/2 cup buttermilk  
 2 large apples (thinly sliced & cored)  
 1 tbsp. cinnamon sugar (make your own by mixing 4-parts sugar to 1-part cinnamon).

### To Create....

- ➔ Preheat oven to 400° and grease a 9" cast iron skillet.
- ➔ With electric hand mixer, beat butter and brown sugar for 2-3 minutes until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, continue to beat until smooth. Can also mix by hand.
- ➔ In separate bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt.
- ➔ With hand mixer on low, begin adding small amount of flour mixture. Then alternate and add small amount of buttermilk. Keep alternating until both are added. Mix until just combined.
- ➔ Pour batter into skillet and distribute evenly.
- ➔ Cut apples into thin slices and arrange on top of batter, starting from center, in overlapping circles, and working out to the edges. Make sure skillet is covered and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake for 20 minutes, or until slightly golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean from the center. Serve warm with a bit more cinnamon sugar, vanilla ice cream or favourite cheese.

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*Looking South on the grounds*



*The Cemetery present day*



*New Columbarium*

# THE HISTORIC BROCKVILLE CEMETERY

Special Contributor: Brian Porter

Just west of Brockville city limits, on highway 2, lies the beautiful Brockville Cemetery. Since 1860 this historic cemetery has been used by many generations of local families in remembrance of their loved ones.

The cemetery is managed by the Brockville Cemetery Board, composed of Brockville residents appointed by City Council. There truly is "A History of Remembrance in a Heritage Setting."

The story begins in 1851 when, for health reasons, Mayor George Sherwood and Town Council decided to close all in-town burial grounds. The first cemetery in town was begun after the cholera epidemic in 1803. Burials began on the Murray farm, which today is the south side of King St. at North Augusta Road. In 1831 a new cemetery was sponsored by William Buell Sr., one of the original founders of Brockville, and Rev. William Smart of First Presbyterian Church. It was located west of William St. along Buell's Creek over to Louis St. Victims of the cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1834 were buried there, including William Buell Sr.

St. Peter's Anglican Church (now St. Lawrence Anglican) had a cemetery in what is now Victoria Park on Pearl St. E. The Methodist Church (now Wall Street United) had a cemetery on the east side of the church and St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church had a cemetery in the churchyard and across the street on Church St.

A by-law on March 15, 1851 established a cemetery fund, with a levy of three pence on the pound, to purchase land. Fourteen acres were bought for 110 pounds from the Grant family, along Grant's Creek, on the south side of the first concession of Elizabethtown Township. The new land was divided into three sections, one for each denomination.

Burials began in 1860 and many families authorized the moving of remains from the old cemeteries in town. In 1890 the Brockville Cemetery was enlarged with the purchase of forty-six acres on the north side of the highway from James Grant, grandson of the original settler Sgt. Allan Grant U.E.L. who had received 200 acres in 1798, for service in the 84th Regiment during the American Revolution.

The new area was named Oakland and included new St. Peter's, new Protestant and St. Francis Xavier. The name Oakland began to be applied to the whole cemetery. The Roman Catholic Diocese today pays the Brockville Cemetery for maintaining their grounds.

For three generations, from 1871 to 1939, the same family of Lancelot DeCarle, Leopold DeCarle and Victor DeCarle operated and maintained the cemetery. They lived on the grounds and also ran a monument and tombstone business across the highway. Their 1928 house is now owned and rented out by the cemetery.

In 1940 the family of Albert Gilmour (1865-1932) prominent wholesale grocers, donated funds to build the handsome Gilmour Memorial Chapel, still available for small memorial services.

The Brockville Cemetery today, along with all Ontario cemeteries, report to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO). The Cemetery Board seeks to maintain the 19th century garden cemetery idea, under a canopy of mature trees and ongoing tree planting. As you walk over the grounds you might notice the names of many prominent people from Canadian history as well as Brockville history who are buried there. You might also notice how funerary art has changed over time, with all the variety of gravestones.

Superintendent Dale Trickey and his staff take pride in a well-maintained, peaceful setting, honouring and respecting the memory of those who have gone before us. **LH**



*Horse-drawn hearse in the cemetery, 1890*



*Lancelot DeCarle monument business circa 1890's on highway 2 west of Brockville.*



*Gilmour Chapel on the grounds of the Brockville Cemetery*



*John Dickey – Ready with Rod & Reel*

*All photos © Diann Turner*

# JOHN DICKEY:

## Community Man, Avid Angler, Farmer & Tradesman

By Diann Turner

A circular sign in a sports magazine recently caught my attention – “Trout and bass have had a restful few months. Unfortunately for them, so have you!”

I immediately thought of John Dickey, a well-known Mallorytown gentleman, who just might be spotted fishing on Charleston Lake, enjoying the fine art of angling and enjoying the beauty of the outdoors.

Charleston Lake is a Canadian Shield jewel with steep shorelines and extremely deep waters. Lake trout, pike and bass lurk in the depths. For John Dickey, Charleston Lake is just north of ordinary life, miles from everyday humdrum, and provides some of the best fishing Ontario has to offer. For over forty years, John and his family rented a cottage on Charleston Lake from Cecil Alguire, who owned a string of rustic cottages. Sadly, they’ve been replaced by a monster house today. Picture a boat load of kids so laden it is riding on the water line! John taught them all that conditions

must be right, which meant air and water temperatures, and the emergence of food for fish, must all collide to launch the season. He led by example and kids became knowledgeable about minnows, frogs, worms, lures, untangling fishing lines, tackle and figuring out how to turn a follower into a biter! They picked up that adding a piece of worm, or a frog (caught in the marshy areas of Caintown) might result in a big one, reducing the amount of lost catches among the trophies! He was an expert at cleaning fish as well and the innards were tossed over the hill for the raccoons to enjoy. That sweet spot of the outdoor season opening in summer was not completely obliterated in winter. John went ice fishing on various local waters, as well as west on the Bay of Quinte. When the crisp, shorter days of fall arrived, hunting gear came out and John tramped through wooded areas in search of deer.

John has been beating around this old planet for eighty-seven years. He was born

June 2, 1932 in a Caintown farmhouse which stands beside a Jones Creek tributary. He has spent his whole life here. His father, Blaine Dickey, was of Irish descent. Blaine married a teacher, Mary Piercy, and they had two children, Jean and John. When John was born, his Dad and Uncles Wilfred and Raymond “worked amicably together farming chickens, pigs, cows, horses and anything with four legs,” said John. The brothers shared machinery and had “Dickey Brothers” painted on their truck. Income was sparse, so Blaine and Wilfred acquired factory jobs in Rochester and Buffalo, New York. They also went out west on harvest excursions when steam tractors prevailed. Wilfred joined the army and fought in World War I but eventually came back to Caintown and purchased a farm. Young John followed these men everywhere and learned much from their example. They weren’t afraid to box his ears when he needed a trimming, but there was always a wonderful balance



of love, wit, humour and happy times. He attended Caintown Public School and Athens District High School, but a love for the outdoors superseded learning. For most of his life however, he self taught by being a voracious reader.

John considers himself blessed by this heritage. An action man, who loves animals, he thrived in the insouciant family atmosphere and adopted the attitude that hard work and drive are the only way to live. When he was big enough to carry a pail of water, chores were assigned. "I couldn't wait to milk the cows," he said. Some of Leeds County's finest dairy herds originated in Caintown and the cheese factory flourished for years. "I wouldn't trade all this for anything I have seen since," said John. "Life was interesting all the time." The men cut logs in winter, made maple syrup in spring, and when the ice was out in local creeks, they set muskrat traps. "I helped Dad trap for years," said John, "and remember, this country was built on the fur trade." Interestingly, they took their furs to Crosby, Ontario and the Hudson's Bay Company would purchase them. One year, they made enough to purchase a new farm truck. Large gardens were planted, and the half acre of strawberries was harvested and sold. Blaine was a beekeeper and sixty beehives produced golden honey to sell. Sweet corn was sold as far away as Kingston. Above all else, the family was piscatory and fishing was a huge priority! John kept things this way his whole life long. His sons, Mark and David, keep the fishing legacy very much alive today.

Anyone who was lucky enough to hang out with the Dickey family got a fair crack with a fishing pole! John's nephews have wonderful memories of spring nights when a small punt made its way through Leeder's Creek (which drains into Charleston Lake). The boat was loaded with kids; one at the helm dangling a gas lantern ahead to lead the way. Safety was not an issue, or so it seemed. Loons called, bullfrogs croaked, black flies' bit, and everyone hopped out at Bullfrog Bend! They set up lanterns, baited long bamboo poles with worms and began fishing for bullheads. A roaring fire was built and blackened hot dogs became supper. Memories were carved that would last an entire lifetime and then be passed to the next generation.

There are many established ways of life that John faithfully carried out in his own days that began in early childhood. He inherited the gift of loving kindness and demonstrated a Fred Rogers approach

toward everyone in the community; no one would say he was not a good neighbour. A man of integrity, malevolence and dependability, he somehow wove the faith of his fathers into every conversation. He was never given to self-importance. He made everyone feel special and had a descriptive moniker for all around him. He helped the down and out and was ready at any moment to jump into a crisis and save the day. He married Mary Agnes Doyle on May 1, 1954, which means they just celebrated sixty-five years of marriage. They raised seven children whose memories are rich. The children grew up in Raymond Dickey's home. Today they have nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Two of their children have passed away. John does not have a ledger of regrets; for over thirty years he worked as a welder and plumber for Public Works and Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. He farmed beef cattle throughout the years and still operates a thriving maple syrup business.

He states that "he wishes he had the pep he used to have and that they should make aging illegal." He would be the first person to stand up and say he is very thankful to God for the life he has lived and all he has enjoyed. Being an avid reader, he asserts that "when books became beepers (computers) the whole world turned upside down."

A portrait of his idyllic childhood, as well as a family raised in between 1955 and 1972, would certainly validate that statement!

LH



**John Dickey and Children at Charleston Lake, Circa 1964**



**John Dickey and son Dave**



**John and Dave Dickey heading out for bass!**



**Fishing Off the Charleston Lake Outlet Dam**



**Leeder's Creek and Johnny's Rock at Charleston Lake**



**Twist's Bait and Store, Charleston Lake Outlet**

# THE "ROYAL TRIO"

## On the St. Lawrence River

Special Contributor: Brian Porter

Three beautiful, white steamships, with their red smokestacks, belonged to the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company of Montreal, until taken over by the Canada Steamship Line (C.S.L.) in 1913.

Proudly flying the Union Jack, the Rapids Queen, Rapids King and Rapids Prince carried thousands of passengers from Prescott, Ontario to Montreal, Quebec for many decades, until passenger service ended seventy years ago, in September of 1949.

All three ships were designed to "run the rapids" of the St. Lawrence, in the years before the Seaway. Officially opened sixty years ago, on June 26, 1959, by Queen HRM Elizabeth, P.M. John Diefenbaker and President Dwight Eisenhower, the Seaway submerged the rapids and changed the river forever.

It was exciting. It was nerve-wracking. It was dangerous, as these large steamships ran through the rapids in currents ranging from 12 to 20 knots, guided by skilled pilots

and wheelmen. A new word was coined, as "day-trippers" came for the excitement. They left Prescott C. P. R. dock every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 am for the all-day adventure to Victoria Pier in Montreal, arriving about 7:30 p.m.

Beautifully appointed interiors of rich woods, large glassed-in saloons to sit and watch the scenery, classy dining rooms with white linens and silverware welcomed the travelers. Excellent lunch and dinner menus were prepared on board.

Other ships gave the "Royal Salute" of recognition, of 3 long and 2 short whistle blasts, as these ships passed by, carrying passengers, freight and a few cars, downriver only. They returned upriver empty, through the tedious system of canals and locks.

Nine sets of rapids had to be navigated on the trip from Prescott to Montreal. The small Galop Rapids at Cardinal, the Plat Rapids at Morrisburg, then the more treacherous

Long Sault Rapids to Cornwall. Next came a series of five rapids at Valleyfield Quebec, where the river drops 85 feet (25 metres) in 15 miles (24km) into Lake St. Louis. Twelve miles (19km) of calm water led into the fast rushing, most dangerous Lachine Rapids at Montreal. The river had dropped 246 feet (73m) at Montreal. Skilled pilots and crew were needed to navigate the rocks and shoals of the Lachine Rapids, with a current of 20 knots. Wild, white water engulfed the ship. As the bow plunged, speed picked up and the wheel had to be turned hard to port, then hard to starboard, where rocks were large, adding excitement and trepidation for the hundreds of passengers. At times, steering was more difficult, as many passengers rushed from one side to the other to catch sight of the cauldron, as the river continued to drop.

Three "royal" ships, designed to shoot the rapids belonged to Canada Steamship Line (C.S.L.) from 1914 to 1950.

## 1. Rapids Queen



Rapids Queen was built in 1892, in Chester Pennsylvania, by the Delaware River Company, for the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company. Her overall dimensions were 175 feet long, 34-foot beam, moulded depth of 9 feet, with a 5-foot draught. She had two boilers and two propellers. From 1892 –1905, she was known as the *Columbian*, from 1905 –1908 as the *Brockville*, then from 1909 to 1938 as the *Rapids Queen*. In 1901, at Sorel Quebec, she was rebuilt with more accommodation and in 1909 she was lengthened by 19 feet. The hull was sheathed in elm to protect the steel plating while running the rapids.

In 1936 and 1937, she became a floating hotel at Morrisburg, for the overflow of patients attracted to Dr. Locke's famous foot clinics at Williamsburg Ontario. The Canadian Dredge and Dock Company of Montreal cut her down to a barge in Kingston in 1939. The Queen ended her life in 1978, as a breakwater at Queen City Yacht Club, on Toronto Island.



## 2. Rapids King



Rapids King was built in 1907 in Toronto, by the Canadian Shipbuilding Company, for the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company. Overall dimensions were 245 feet long, 40-foot beam and a moulded depth of 10 feet. River pilots had not been consulted by the designers. They would not have approved a draught of 6 1/2 feet. Anything over 6 feet was dangerous in both Long Sault and Lachine Rapids. She struck every time she attempted a descent of the rapids. Pilots later refused to take her down anymore. She was laid up for a while, then tried as an excursion steamer at several lake ports.

Her 6 1/2-foot draught was too light for open water and she rolled badly.

There were two boilers, which developed 1800 horsepower and two, four-blade bronze propellers. It was not a popular ship and was laid up at Sorel Quebec in 1934. In 1950, the Rapids King was broken up in Kingston Ontario. This fine-looking ship proved to be a disappointing failure.

## 3. Rapids Prince

Rapids Prince was built in 1910, by Toronto Shipyards, for the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company Ltd. Overall dimensions were 210 feet long, 37-foot beam and a moulded depth of 9 feet 8 inches. Her single boiler, built by John Inglis Company in Toronto, produced 900 horsepower. This popular ship saw regular service, until her final trip on September 16, 1949.

She was part of Canada Steamship Line from 1914 until she was broken up in Hamilton Ontario, in December 1951.

Her two, four-bladed bronze propellers were sold for use on the S.S. Sagamo in Muskoka and her main engine was saved for use in the Quebec Government Marine Engineers' School in Rimouski. This ship was very successful in running the rapids. Only once, July 6, 1941, due to pilot error, she ran aground, just below Lachine Rapids. All 221 passengers and crew were rescued by motorboats, which were able to handle the fast current. In Montreal Dry Dock nothing was found wrong with the ship's hull. The steel hull was sheathed with elm planks to cushion the shocks in the rapids.



C.S.L. passenger service was discontinued after the terrible loss of 122 lives in the fire on board the Noronic, in Toronto Harbour, on the night of September 17, 1949. Canada Steamship Line assessed the damages of \$3 million.

An era of passenger service on the St. Lawrence River was over. The excitement and the romance of the white ships wrestling the rapids, taking on the turbulence, as the river dropped over the rocks to Montreal is now only a memory. [LH](#)

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Original owners Peter & Jean Manoll circa 1970's



Original Cash Register from 1934



Evangelos Trakas circa 1972



Maria Trakas circa 1972



Maria Trakas and Anna Trakas wrapping up another order

# MANOLL'S FISH & CHIPS

## Humble Immigrant Beginnings to 85 Years of Success!

By Andi Christine Bednarzig

It's a sweltering late summer day in downtown Brockville. At Manoll's Fish & Chips, a customer watches as owner and sole proprietor, Anna Trakas, coats a piece of cod in batter and slides it into a vat of simmering shortening.

"It's the homemade batter with our secret recipe that keeps our customers coming back for more!" she laughs cheerfully.

Anna's mother, Maria Trakas, then places the cooked fish and a heap of fresh cut potato fries into a cardboard box and then enfold it in newspaper to give to a waiting customer eagerly waiting to taste this local seafood treat.

This year marks the Historic 85th Anniversary of Manoll's, the first fish & chips shop in Brockville.

Traditional British-style battered fish fried in oil may have come to Britain from immigrants as early as the 16th century.

Writer Charles Dickens mentions "fried fish warehouses" in *Oliver Twist* (1838) and "Husky chips of potatoes, fried with some reluctant drops of oil" in *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).

By the 1850s, with the expansion of railway systems connecting major fishing ports to industrial areas, fish and chips became a standard meal among the English working class.

Back in 1934 at Manoll's, fish, fries, and roasted peanuts and cashews were sold from the store, which was only about half the size of the present one. The fresh fish arrived from Montreal on ice by train.

The original owners, Jean and Peter Mastromanolakis, gave the shop a shortened version of their name and

"Manoll's" it's been ever since.

When the Manolls were ready to sell their business in 1972, one of the conditions was that it would go to a young couple. Maria and her husband, Evangelos Trakas, bought the business that May.

Maria recalls arriving from Greece as a young bride to settle in Brockville, where a family member had already put down roots. It had been Evangelos's dream to have a business of his own. When this opportunity arose, he quit his job, and Maria's and Evangelos's venture began.

Mrs. Manoll agreed to stay on for a week to help train the couple after they purchased the business.

Despite her language barrier and inexperience, Maria took on her new role in the shop with great enthusiasm. She smiled as she recalled her first day when she gave twenty dollars worth of change to a customer who paid with a twenty-dollar bill for a large order.

Manoll's has been in the Trakas family ever since, except for a span when the premises were leased. When the leasee gave notice, Anna didn't want to see the doors closed because of its family history.

Maria was well into retirement for 13 years when she came back to the family shop to help Anna who had inherited the business in September 2016.

Anna did some renovations to give the shop a fresh look. She also changed the batter recipe, which is a carefully guarded secret.

Not only is Manoll's signature batter homemade, but also the tartar sauce, seafood sauce, coleslaw dressing, and gravy. Keeping

up with customer requirements, Manoll's now has a gluten-free batter as well.

Anna offered a tasting of freshly dipped cod. It was moist and flaky, and the batter crisp, crunchy, and not too thick. Whatever is in the secret recipe certainly works!

Customers vary from locals, seasonals, tourists, and those who arrive from across the river in their boats.

"I have third and fourth generation customers that used to come with their grandparents," Anna said.

One gentleman has been coming every Tuesday for his piece of haddock since 1946. Another claims that Manoll's was his first solid food.

Even in the face of highs and lows of the local economy, a takeout of fish and chips, wrapped in newspaper the old-fashioned way, is an affordable option. Anna works hard at customer retention and loves meeting people from all over making Manoll's a place where people return to again and again to see Anna's and Maria's welcoming smiles. **LH**

**Editor's Note:** Congratulations to Anna and her family on this significant Business Milestone. You can visit Manoll's Fish & Chips @ 11 Buell St., Brockville. Call 613-342-7448 and order ahead for some of the most delicious Fish & Chips you will ever have!



**Manoll's Fish & Chips**



# THE RISE & FALL OF SHEATOWN

By Sally Smid

**L**ike many early communities, Sheatown was once a thriving place. Moss-covered foundations surrounded by underbrush and deteriorated roadways are all that remain now. Author and historian Paul Cote of Gananoque recently released a book that chronicles the rise and fall of this Irish Catholic Community which thrived for 100 years. In 329 pages he details much of the larger histories of what is now part of Athens Township and the Front of Yonge Township in Leeds County. Cote's extensive study of early records is remarkable and his indexes and maps are quite comprehensive. The book is a true testament to his passion for first hand research and local history which began with his personal family research projects. Cote does a very commendable job in uncovering much local history which was quite unknown and not included in other publications.

The abandoned road, which now draws adventuresome four wheelers, once connected Caintown to Charleston, was a busy commercial hub and a vital link between the townships. Because of all the many Irish Catholic settlers in the area, Sheatown became the site of the only rural catholic school. The large catholic population resulted in the creation of the St James Parish in Ballycanoe, which was the heart of the community. Cote's book tells of Sheatown's "rise and fall" and includes local family names such as Shea, Leeder, Slack, Cox, and Flood to name just a few. It also includes local roads, the post office, an inn, mills, a cheese factory and more. Cote describes the book as "somewhat of a metaphor for the changes in Leeds County from the days of

early settlers until our modern age". It also draws upon the larger history of the Front of Yonge and Rear Townships, and shows the vital importance of the only road between them for 50 years, which was probably the reason for Sheatown's existence. It examines the long-abolished road labour laws. While it was not good farming country, the road allowed access and was a hope for further development and economic progress. Many early settlers who came to Ontario had similar experiences and their early communities ceased to exist for the same reasons.

As the 1800s progressed, the population peaked, and industrialization drew many away from the poor farming land around Sheatown. Milling and cheese making became more modern and centralized. With the arrival of the railway, the completion of County Road 5, and the automobile, more goods could be easily transported. Travel to employment was also made a lot easier. This was compounded however, by the challenges of the Depression as many moved away to make a better living.

The "Golden Age" of Sheatown from the 1870s to the early 1900s, came to an end, marking a decline in agriculture in large parts of Leeds County. Passing through Sheatown today it is difficult to imagine that this was once the place where homes, farms, and businesses existed and the forests have returned.

Cote's book truly captures the essence of the Sheatown community and overflows with much valuable local history. It can still be purchased at the Village Store and Museum in Athens and at the Mallory Coach House. [LH](#)



**Top Left: This is a map showing the location of the once booming settlement of Sheatown.**

**Left: Semi-retired archaeologist Peter Rowsome measures the remains of a Sheatown basement on the Keyes property.**

**Right: Historian and author Paul Cote recently released his book about Sheatown after several years of extensive research.**







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# VOLUNTEERS & SERVICE CLUBS

## The Hands & Hearts of Every Community

By Lisa Crandall

By definition a service club is a voluntary non-profit organization where members meet regularly to perform charitable works, either by direct hands-on efforts or by raising money for other organizations. The Legion, The Rotary Club, The Kiwanis, The Lions Club (and Lionesses) are ubiquitous across the country with local chapters in small communities and often multiple chapters in larger communities.

Equally important as these larger power house organizations are the very small very local efforts created by the passions of individual community members. Right here, in our little part of the world in South Grenville, we have an eclectic mix of small groups that all have their hearts and their hands in the right place.



### CUPPA

CUPPA stands for Catholic-United-Pentecostal-Presbyterian-Anglican. This is a unique collective of community churches in the Cardinal/Iroquois area that come together to create an annual free turkey dinner to anyone who wants to join in the fun of a huge family style turkey dinner outside the holiday season. The turkeys and the trimmings are donated and the food is prepared and served by local volunteers. This annual event started in 2014 and is held in Cardinal's United Church hall. It happens at the end of February or beginning of March and organizers are already looking forward to the 2020 event.

### The Cardinal Youth Center

The Cardinal Youth Center is currently being spearheaded by a pair of young mothers from the Cardinal area, Julie LeBlanc and Laci Temple. As parents they became concerned about the lack of affordable activities for local youth. When the previous incarnation of the Youth Center closed down, they stepped up to run a weekly program, on Thursday evenings from 6:30 until 8PM for kids between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cardinal. This is a new location to the group which previously operated out of the Cardinal Legion. They offer fresh food snacks and encourage gentle physical activities, and occasionally seasonal crafts. The program runs during the school year and is supported through a grant from the township, donations from local businesses, as well as donations from local individuals.

When it's possible there will be fundraising projects, such as selling hand decorated



cupcakes to help keep the program running. The program starts up again in September and extra hands would be very welcome. It is only for a few hours each week. Additional information about the program can be found on their Facebook Page at Cardinal Youth Centre. Parents are reminded they need to accompany their kids on the first visit to fill out necessary paperwork for registration.



**Cardinal Youth Group volunteers taking a breather during Earth Day Clean Up 2019.**  
Photo © Julie LeBlanc



## TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release/ Relocate) Stray Cats Project

TNR Stray Cats Project is a team of volunteers who are committing their time and energy to rescuing abandoned and feral cats in the area. The cats are live trapped and then sheltered until they can be taken to the vet to be spayed or neutered and to have any other ailments tended to. Afterwards they have to be nursed and/or fostered until they are ready to be adopted, released back into their original feral community or relocated to an approved barn home.



**Carload of cats heading off to the vet.**  
Photo supplied by TNR

Founded by Cindy Cere in 2017, it started with rescuing a litter of kittens in Spencerville. Now she and her volunteers travel as far afield as Cornwall and Cardinal. She is working with a vet outside the immediate area who specializes in treating rescue cats and each week a carload of 10-15 cats heads off to the vet, driven by volunteers who leave in the early hours of the morning and make the return trip in the afternoon. The food, medicine and supplies are donated or paid for by donations. Foster homes are sometimes needed to house recovering cats and to help abandoned felines get re-adjusted to living with humans. Fundraising happens through Go Fund Me, direct deposit, and are taken at a range of local businesses. Adoptions are arranged online or in person at live events held at Pet Value in Kemptville. TNR helped neuter more than 550 cats in 2018 and has already treated more than 400 in 2019.



## The Good Food Box

The Good Food Box has operated in Cardinal since 2014. It is based on the concept of bulk food buying and each month participants

receive fresh produce that comes directly from the wholesaler. This means they get more value for their grocery dollar. Participants pay \$15 in advance each month and in return receive a generous quantity of fresh produce that they are responsible for picking up at a pre-arranged time and location. This program operates under the umbrella of the Salvation Army and exists in communities large and small across Canada. The local chapter is run by a dedicated group of volunteers who keep track of the orders and money, accept delivery of the fresh produce and get it sorted each month, so that participants can come by the Ingredient Centre and pick up their bags of healthy food with a minimum of fuss and bother. There are parallel programs in Prescott and Brockville.



**Everybody pitches in to get the produce sorted before participants start arriving to pick up their Good Food Boxes.**  
Photo supplied by Good Food Box Cardinal

Each of these groups has stepped up to fill important niches in the community and they need ongoing support if they are going to continue to do the work they do. Becoming a volunteer is a win-win-win situation because the organization wins, the community benefits and the volunteer gains as well. It is a great way for newcomers to make connections in a new area, and to fill time if one is recently retired, unemployed, divorced or widowed. The commitment can be just a few hours a week or per month. Learning to contribute to the community also offers young people a chance to learn or improve a wide range of skills as well. In fact, in Ontario, secondary school students must perform 40 hours of community service in order to graduate. Volunteering is good for everybody.

LH



The P&G plant in Brockville (photo property of P&G)



The team out transforming a flower garden



Painting the grandstand at the fairgrounds



A job well done – the team and the finished garden



Breaking for lunch – a chance to catch up on what's been done and how much is left to do



Straightening headstones at the cemetery

# END OF PROCTER & GAMBLE BROCKVILLE TEAMS' DAYS OF CARING

By Lorraine Payette

For more than 35 years, Procter & Gamble has operated a manufacturing facility in Brockville. They are known not only for their production of Swiffer Dusters, Swiffer WetJet, Downy, Bounce and Gain fabric softener sheets, and Tide to Go pens, but for being Brockville's largest employer. They have received a prestigious manufacturing excellence award (the highest recognition among P&G manufacturing facilities) as well as best-in-class results for manufacturing and culture. They are #1 in North America across P&G facilities.

In addition to all of this, they are very involved in the local community, and shut down one day a year to hold a "Day of Caring". On that day, employees form into teams of different sizes and go out to volunteer in different places where their help is most needed.

However, the Brockville plant will be closing in 2020, while they expand the facility in Belleville. With this closure will come the end of the Days of Caring for this area.

"We've been coming here for many years to help the village and the Fair Board," said John Elasser, team captain for P&G working in Lansdowne. "For this 2019

event, we're repainting all the kitchen up at the Lansdowne Fairgrounds – the whole building on the inside and doing the picnic tables as well. We have a lot of work that needs to be done there, so we're really concentrating on it."

Over the six years that they have come to the village, they have performed many tasks, helping them to keep up with maintenance which might not have been possible otherwise.

"Procter & Gamble chose one day per year to give back to the community in the form of labour to complete community projects," said Donna Dempsey of the Lansdowne Association For Revitalization. "As a member of our community, I have always been truly grateful for the opportunity to have some work accomplished by these hard working individuals."

Among the tasks with which they have helped out have been painting at the Fairgrounds as well as helping finish the interlocking stone walkway; assisting with the care, maintenance, and planting of municipal gardens (including building and installing stone planters at the Railway Garden); raising and straightening

headstones at the Lansdowne Cemetery; and any other tasks that could use a cheerful, helping hand.

"P&G have helped us many times," said Peter Christie of Lansdowne Association For Revitalization. "These jobs have always made a tremendous difference. Over time the P&G crew have done a lot of rock work, they've helped us put in gardens and taking gardens out, cleaning them up, trimming trees, they put their hands to painting fences – all sorts of things. We've been really lucky to have them here. They're very generous people and we couldn't have done it without them."

Everyone is sad to be losing the P&G team. Volunteers can be found to do the different tasks, and things will get done, but it just wouldn't be the same.

"I would like to express our appreciation to the P&G workers who have come to do community service each year," said Dempsey. "They have completed a lot of projects for all of us. We are very impressed with their work and wish them well. We know we would never have been able to get as far as we have without their generous support." **LH**



# THE QUAKERS:

## An Intriguing Part of Our Local History

By Sally Smid

The Quaker Cemetery, which was established in 1831, on what is now Main St. East in Athens, has attracted much interest and curiosity over the years. "The Society of Friends" first met in the cooper shop of Gershom Wing until a meeting house was built in 1938, then the only one in Leeds County. It was located across the road from this graveyard. Quaker members entered through two front doors, one for men and one for women who sat separately for the services. Adherents dressed very plainly, the ladies in long, gray, high-necked dresses and the men in plain black suits and wide-brimmed hats. "Thee and thou" and "brother and sister" permeated their daily conversations. A married couple named Robeson for instance, would formally refer to each other as "Mr. Robeson" and "Mrs. Robeson". Quakers first settled in what is now southern Ontario and by 1860 they numbered over 7000.

It has been said that the name Quaker may have involved founder James Fox, who told an English magistrate to "tremble at the name of God". Others say it came from the physical shaking that occurred during Quaker religious experiences. The group had no minister but any "Brother or Sister" could speak at a meeting "if the spirit so moved them". Sometimes meetings lasted hours in quiet prayer and meditation, but those in attendance say they "came home refreshed".

An old hand-written 1833 record book reveals the details of Quaker meetings at Yonge, later called Farmersville, then Athens. It was found in an old trunk in the attic of an Athens home formerly owned by Quakers Arza and Sarah Wiltse on Sarah St, once the site of the local hospital. Historian Harry Blanchard wrote about some of the book's contents, the book being placed in the library of the Univ. of Western Ontario. There were strict warnings about sleeping during required meetings. Love and unity were to be maintained "as becomes brethren" and "talebearing" was discouraged. Children were to be trained to maintain "plain speech, behaviour and apparel". They were also to be instructed in a "religious life consistent with their Christian profession". Adherents were to "avoid the use of distilled, spirituous liquors unless medicinal" and to keep their promises, pay all debts, and avoid military or government involvement. The Friends took a lead in abolishing slavery. They were discouraged from socializing outside of their society to help deter marriages apart from their church. When two members decided to wed, the meeting had to agree that there were no "impediments". The couple simply exchanged their vows before the assembly. A committee of two male members would then accompany the bridal couple to their first house and would later report back about

the marriage being an "accomplished fact". There were no recorded divorces, desertions or marital disagreements.

At one point their meetings moved into the Methodist church, or what is now the United Church. In the late 1880s the denomination in Farmersville ceased to exist as many older members passed away and a lot of their offspring did marry into other denominations. The old Quaker meeting house was used in 1887 as a bunk house during the B & W railway construction and also for storage by farmer John Layng. Arza Sherman, a Quaker descendant, moved it later to his Mineral Springs south of Joseph Street. He'd hoped that it could be used as a church for anyone who might be disenchanted with other area religious groups. It was used to house livestock for a time and was later torn down.

All that physically remains today is the Quaker Cemetery, which stands as a memorial to these local Quakers. Few stones remain standing and most are unreadable. These have been an important source of early records. The graveyard was somewhat restored and kept up by community volunteers. Today the Township of Athens is seeing that this valuable part of our local history is being valued and maintained. **LH**



**Right: A gravestone in the Quaker Cemetery of Eliza Derbyshire as it appeared years ago. The dates are typical to the way these were recorded. It seems that at least 4 of her infant children are also buried in this grave site. Courtesy of Athens Museum.**



**The Quaker Cemetery as it appears on Athens' Main Street East today.**



*Vintage Nova parked out in front of Perry's Bar & Grill*



*Cars getting ready to be judged Main St*



*Vintage cars lined up on Main St Seeleys Bay*



*Volunteers from Sheba's Rescue Haven for dogs*



*McKenna and her parents*

# CRUISIN' IN SEELEYS BAY

By Jonathan Vickers

For those of us who remember the Movie Classic "American Graffiti (1973), A Coming of Age Classic", which featured a young Harrison Ford, Ron Howard and Richard Dreyfuss. The true real stars of the show were the cars in the movie the teenagers drove in their night of adventure.

If you want to relive those Fifties and early Sixties glory years of Cars, you should check out the 5th Annual American Graffiti Car Classic Car Show to be held on Saturday August 24th in Seeleys Bay, Ont. On the Main Street.

Sherry Schaafsma Perry and her husband Jim, owners of Perry's Place Bar & Grill in Seeleys Bay, started the show from scratch 5 years ago in 2015 in hopes of drawing business to the area to help local merchants have an event in the summer as a draw to the area community.

Their hopes were to find a couple of local charities they could also fundraise for, and help their community.

I asked Sherry initially what started the process, she explained "When we first opened the Restaurant in our first year an old car appeared outside the restaurant and everyone inside went out to have a peek, this is it. From this we decided every year we should host a Car Show to draw business to Seeley's Bay."

Sherry went on to say that the naming of "American Graffiti" was what they decided to tag the show with, as a draw that car enthusiasts would recognize immediately. After

the first year, they decided to keep the name for the Annual Car Classic Showcase. (A similar naming show is held in Modesto, California, the town that the movie "American Graffiti" was based on.)

I asked Sherry and Jim, how do you plan for such an event and what is the process involved?

Sherry replied "Just through advertising, a lot of social media and local radio stations, plus word of mouth. This is how people find out about the show. We have a Facebook page for the show (<https://www.facebook.com/classiccarshowseeleysbay/>) and we collect donations from local and regional businesses who will donate prizes for our silent auctions. The winners are awarded prizes of certain car categories. We have also purchased stuff out of our own pocket. We have been fortunate that the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands has helped us with grants. Other sponsors have also helped us financially. Our business: Perry's Place and a lot of friends and family help support this event by volunteering time for the day to make it successful."

Sherry also pointed out that fundraising the event brings in for 2 local charities; McKenna's Dream – a fundraising campaign aimed at easing the financial burden on families facing a cancer diagnosis and; Sheba's Haven Rescue – rescues palliative/special needs dogs. Those dogs who have limited quality of life so they live out their lives in a well-balanced environment, as part of our family. All our

rescued dogs enjoy this setting and are free to roam indoors or outside in the fenced 3-acre property.

In 2018 the Car Show raised over \$1400 for each charity. Sherry and Jim and their collection of volunteers are very proud of this achievement.

For those who have not attended, there is a trophy and prizes awarded by judges for different categories of cars, with the highlight being, "The People's Choice Award Trophy". You can view the cars and meet the owners of their vehicles as they will be displayed along the Main St. of Seeleys Bay. Also, during the day, there will be Local Vendors selling Crafts and Goods along the Main St. There is also fabulous BBQ food available at Perry's Place Bar & Grill during the afternoon with great Chicken BBQ by Steve Halladay with \$3 of every chicken dinner sold going to charity. There is a 50/50 draw, a Silent Auction for Fundraising, and Entertainment with special guests: "The Fabulous BelAirs, performing on the patio, bringing back memories of the 50's & 60's marking it a truly wonderful day of fun for the whole family. **LH**

**Don't pass up this opportunity for a late summer day of fun in Seeleys Bay. For those who want more details of the show or you wish to be a vendor or sponsor contact: Sherry @ 613-387-3003 or email: [deltadawn1ca@hotmail.com](mailto:deltadawn1ca@hotmail.com)**



# American Graffiti

V Classic Car Show

No Admission Fee • No Registration Fee

**Saturday August 24th, 2019**

*Right on main street, Seeley's Bay!!!*

Creative Crafters  
Vendors &  
Entertainment



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