

# Conserving History Through Generations: Vignettes of the Valley



Chateauguy Valley Regional High School



# Conserving History Through Generations : Vignettes of the Valley



Chateauguy Valley Regional High School

# Conserving History Through Generations: Vignettes of the Valley

## Table of Contents

Foreword	1	Leonard Priest	24
Project Contributors	2	Carolyn Cameron	26
Introduction	3	Susan Heller	28
Cameron Sherry	4	Bill and Mary Stevenson	30
Jean McClintock	6	David Hadlock	32
Jimmy Smythe	8	Diane Morrison	34
Suzelle Barrington	10	Ellen Bulow	36
Marian Ruddock	12	June Todd	38
Ken Rember and Gordon Furey	14	Robert Anderson	40
Gerry Brisebois	16	Shirley Welburn	42
JoAnn McClintock	18	Cathy McFarlane Dunn	44
John Ryan	20	Jozsikam Hevesy	46
Jean Furcall	22	Acknowledgements	48



*"MWCN had a vision of bringing generations together and sharing stories of what seniors contributed to the community throughout the years."*

*Pauline Wiedow, Executive Director  
Montérégie West Community Network*

Some memories remain as buildings, landscapes, and points of interest. However, we are surrounded by the people who have lived so many experiences that helped to shape the surrounding towns. An idea was formed! We could work with some key people within the New Frontiers School Board and the Community Learning Centre and bring generations together to share these vital experiences.

This project became really exciting as we watched the interaction between students and seniors and how both sides looked forward to meeting up and sharing some very important stories of how the community was developed. Seniors came into the sessions carrying mementos they were eager to share. The young people worked in groups and were able to increase their knowledge about community and the important contribution seniors have made to the community. They also learned new skills in interviewing as well as creative writing. The seniors entered the world of learning in this present day and were quite pleased to discover that young people have much to contribute too.

MWCN is very thankful for this opportunity to have been involved in this initiative. Community Learning Center coordinator, Kaylie Stuckey and MWCN coordinator, Kim Wilson who worked diligently together in bringing this book to completion. Thanks also to Sarah Rennie and her diverse expertise. Despite her busy schedule Sarah kept the vision and saw the importance of documenting these important stories as told in the context of bringing generations together and conserving history. And lastly, thank you Don for getting the ball rolling and keeping us connected. All persons involved can be proud of this book of memories which through this process has made memories in and of itself.

**Pauline Wiedow,  
Executive Director  
Montérégie West Community Network** 1

*"We are all better off - as individuals, families and communities - when there are many opportunities for young people and older adults to come together to interact, educate, support and provide care for one another."*

Don Rosenbaum - Advocate for 'intergenerational connections'



**Don Rosenbaum**  
**M.Ed. (Family Life Education)**  
**Member - Advisory Committee**

The 'Conserving History' project was developed with the idea of bringing elders and young people together to capture and share both personal stories and local history. Intergenerational connections like these benefit both the seniors and their young partners, reducing stereotypes, providing an increased sense of worth, self-esteem and self-confidence, and reduced feelings of isolation.

Certainly our seniors were warmly welcomed by the participating students at CVR and were generous in giving their time. And the stories generated about life in the second half of the last century stirred a lot of interest among the interviewers.

Activities like this, which bridge the generation gap not only benefit the participants, but contribute to a more inclusive, cohesive community. We are proud to have been a part of that effort.



**Kaylie Stuckey**  
**Community Learning Centre**  
**New Frontiers School Board**

This is a project that we have been working on for months and it's great to see the positive impact it has made in our community; we have been overwhelmed with encouraging feedback from both students and seniors. This inter-generational project is something that we would like to continue on a yearly basis since it gives our elders and our students a chance to get to know each other and to learn about the Valley at different points in our history.

# Introduction - Vignettes of the Valley

The telling of stories is in many ways what ties communities together. It is these stories, told from one generation to another, that help us develop our sense of belonging. They bring us closer together as a resilient rural community and root us to this exceptional region - the Chateauguy Valley.

As an initiative of the Montérégie West Community Network, this project aimed, among other things, to empower members of an eclectic and diverse group of local people with stories specifically relevant to the Valley community. The Valley's rich history and unique character has been sculpted by the lives of people who have thrived for generations on its soil. The stories included in this book reflect this character and are a powerful reminder of the incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that is transferred through the wonder of intergenerational learning and storytelling.

The stories included in this volume were all written by students attending their final year at CVR. We hope that as the students prepare to go out into the world beyond the Valley, this experience will help to strengthen their roots here at home. The energy in the room during the initial meetings between the students and seniors was nothing short of electric. There is little doubt that all involved in this exciting learning initiative have come away with a greater respect and understanding of this region, its storied history and extraordinary people.



Devean  
Codner, Riley  
Welburn,  
Cameron  
and  
Owen Gagnon



Students  
enjoy trying  
their hand with  
the slide rule  
used by  
Cameron  
Sherry during  
university.



## Cameron Sherry

Cameron Sherry was born in the town of Asbestos in June in the year of 1939 just before World War II. It was a very small community. It had a population of around 5,000 people. Cameron went to school in Asbestos High for his grade 1 year, then he came to Howick for grade 2 because his father had passed away. The year after he went back to Asbestos Danville-Shipton High School for grade 3 to grade 11. The mine in Asbestos was for serpentine rock with asbestos fibre veins. His year book was named after veins in the rock because kids used to chew on it like gum. Asbestos did not have a grade 12 so Cameron had to finish his last year of high school in Quebec City. He then moved on to Queens University and Kingston Ontario.

Cameron started his own company named Enviro-Risque Inc. in 1991. He was the president of the company. He played the role of a salesman, an industrial hygienist, accountant and any other jobs that required two hands and a brain. He had 5 employees at most. The company was first located in Pointe-Claire and then he moved to Howick. He and his brother inherited the family farm in 1973 and he bought his brother out in 1991. His uncle and aunt milked by hand up to 12 cows. A milking machine arrived in 1955. He had not milked by hand. Instead, he would mostly work in the fields and such. His favourite part of working on the farm was getting up in the morning and bringing the cows in to get them ready to be milked. He also liked haying. Once Cameron began university, he used a slide rule for mathematical calculations (that had three figure accuracy). He became an engineering physicist and received his ring upon graduation. These rings are worn today by all Canadian engineering graduates. The rings are made from old iron from the collapsed Quebec City bridge.

Written by Thomas Murphy and Owen Gagnon



Jewel Hewer, Jean McClintock and Ashleigh Cavers



Jean and Erskine McClintock on their wedding day.



The family farm in Ormstown.

## Jean McClintock

Going to school is something we've done for many years and education is a part of everyone's lives in some way. Like everything else in this world, there are changes to everything and there have been many changes over the years to our educational system.

Jean McClintock is one to know this; she was a school teacher for twenty-five years and she attended her fair share of schools to get an education for herself. She grew up in Lacolle where she went to a small school house near her home farm, which she walked to. She still remembers how the stove was in the middle of the class room and the teacher would go outside and play with them at lunch hour and at recess. When she got to grade seven, she began to attend a larger school in the town of Lacolle so she could continue her studies in higher grade levels. Later, to complete high school, she needed to change schools again, and at the age of fourteen she left home to go to Huntingdon Academy for grade ten and eleven. She said she always wanted to be a teacher, but she needed to complete grade twelve and the Academy in Huntingdon didn't offer that, so off to the school in Ormstown she went. It was there she met her husband. They were both in grade twelve at the time and you could say they were 'school day sweethearts.'

After completing her schooling, she attended McGill University due to MacDonald College being used for the military as this was during the war years, so she had to go to the big city. She taught in Montreal for two years and boarded with a couple of other teachers as well. The pay for her first year was only one thousand dollars, so she was stretched pretty thin but made it work and worked hard for her money. When those two years were over, she did another two years at the Huntingdon Academy, which was nice because it was closer to home and her family and was her favorite place that she taught at. After that, there were wedding bells ringing as Jean and her 'school day sweetheart' Erskine got married in September of 1949 and moved to the family farm where her husband had grown up in Ormstown. This was a new chapter of her life beginning, which put her teaching career on hold for about fifteen years, so she was able to take care of her family. Jean and Erskine had two children together; when they were old enough, she decided to get back to her passion of teaching again. When Jean decided to go back to teaching, she taught at Gault Institute in Valleyfield for another twenty years before she decided to retire. After she retired it was time for her to relax and spend time with her family and grandchildren.



Vincent Rollin,  
Jimmy Smythe and  
Zoë Langille

An advertisement  
for Huntingdon  
Motors Inc. in the  
local newspaper  
from 1963.

**'64 CHEVY II with a lively new V8!** More than ever, this low-cost family car looks and goes as if it were anything else but that. Three lively, economical Chevy II engines: 98-hp Super-Thrift 4; 120-hp Hi-Thrift 6; and a new extra-cost 195-hp Turbo-Fire V8. Lots of things make for lower upkeep — and make Chevy II tops in value.

**New pep and new comfort '64 CORVAIR!** Big new air-cooled 6 goes into every '64 Corvair. It's still at the rear, of course, for better traction and easy handling.

**'64 CORVETTE!** Major suspension refinements make Corvette ride more smoothly. New transmissions go with the four big V8s.

See five entirely different lines of cars at your Chevrolet dealer's

Be sure to see Bonanza on the CBC-TV network each Sunday. Check your local listing for channel and time.

**HUNTINGDON MOTORS Reg'd.**  
TEL. 264-5822 1963 JAMES F. SMYTHE HUNTINGDON

'64 Chevy II Nova 4-Door Sedan  
'64 Corvair Monza Club Coupe  
'64 Corvette Sting Ray Sport Coupe

**THERE'S 5 IN '64**



Huntingdon Motors Inc. in its earliest days and later in the new location across from what is now Heritage Elementary School.



## Jimmy Smythe

Did you know that Huntingdon, Quebec has a rich history? Sure, you might recount its foundation and its economy, but I'm talking about the people of Huntingdon. Everybody has a story, and their marks have been left all over town for years. Among them is Jimmy Smythe, born during the 1930s and now in his 80s. He was the owner of a well-known car dealership in the area called Huntingdon Motors Inc. It was a family business. Jimmy had been with the Canadian customs for ten years and his younger brother was being groomed to take over the business, but sadly Jimmy's brother passed away in a plane accident. So, he had to take ownership of the dealership before his father too departed. Even though he was not meant to have it, he ran the business pretty successfully. He dealt with it, instead of leaving the place, he took on the challenge and sacrificed the possibilities he had for his family's legacy. It started out rough, with a small outdoor showroom with room to display only three cars, very high interest that he had to pay and few customers. But no matter what, Jimmy braced for the challenge and took matters into his own hands. He bought a plot across from a school (Huntingdon Academy) to store more cars to sell. After that, things went onwards and upwards.

Written by Vincent Rollin and Zoë Langille



Megan  
McCrudden,  
Suzelle  
Barrington and  
Malie Weaner

## Suzelle Barrington - Pioneering Agricultural Engineer

Suzelle Barrington was raised on a dairy farm in Moose Creek, a small agricultural community of Eastern Ontario. She did her primary schooling in a one room schoolhouse, for grades 1 to 8. She is now married with three children and three grandchildren, and lives with her husband on their farm in Howick. From 1978 to 1985, she worked for the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, to improve the productivity of farms in the Chateauguay Valley. After working as an agronomist at the Ste Martine office for 3 years, she accepted the job of agricultural engineer at the Huntingdon office, supervising a team of 12 technicians in land improvement and drainage.

From 1986 to 2011, she was a tenured professor at McGill University in Environmental Engineering. Her work at McGill University extended her Ph. D. research on mechanisms of soil sealing in contact with wastewater. In 1986, she helped introduced design concepts for earthen basin used to storage wastewater. She then went on to develop an olfactometry laboratory at McGill, in other words, a laboratory to measure and control odours. The odour measuring instrument of the laboratory, the olfactometer, was one of the first to be completely automated for faster analyses and hexagonal in shape for better airflow distribution. She then developed the concept of In-Storage-Psychrophilic-Anaerobic- Digestion, a low-cost system for anaerobic digestion at ambient temperatures. She also held an International Research Chair with l'Universite´ europe´enne de Bretagne (2010-2014) where she successfully initiated several research projects bringing together 4 research institutions. From 2011 to 2016, she was an Affiliated Professor for the Department of Buildings, Civil and Environmental Engineering at Concordia University. She has worked as an Environmental Engineering Consultant for Consumaj Inc., St Hyacinthe, Quebec since the fall of 2011.

In 1985, Suzelle was the first woman in Canada and the fifth in the world to obtain a PhD in agricultural engineering. She is the 2005 recipient of the award for the Support of Women in the Engineering Profession, an award offered by Engineers Canada representing at the time, some 250 000 engineers. In 2015, she was awarded the title of Commandeur de l'Ordre des Agronomes du Qu´ebec and in 2016, she was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineers. Since 2018, she awards two scholarships to CVR students entering CEGEP to study Social Sciences.

Suzelle has always promoted the profession of Engineering. She feels that it is a career achievable for anyone who likes sciences. Engineering is not difficult, contrary to what many people think. At university, it seems like more work, but simply because of the laboratories associated with many courses. As professionals, engineers use shortcuts or reliable coefficients for their designs, and then add a safety factor to cover for uncertainties. As opposed to engineers, for example, physicists will take months to calculate something to arrive at a high degree of precision assuming many factors which are uncertain. A good example is the design of building floors: it will be occupied by how many persons, each weighing how much; what furniture will be used on this floor over the life time of the building? For engineers, it is easier to use a load which has proven over time to be reliable, plus add a safety factor to estimate zones where the load could be higher than average.

Kyriane Bergevin, Marian Ruddock and Abby Faille.



12 The General Store in Dewittville at an earlier time.



Some photos of Dewittville long ago.

# Marian Ruddock - A Local General Store

Marian and Royce married in 1954 and bought a brick house next to the general store in Dewittville. One day in 1954, Marian and her husband Royce, decided to purchase the general store from a man named Doug McColm in 1954.

It was a real General Store that back in the day they sold everything from milk, cheese and dried foods like flour and sugar. They sold can goods, clothing like men's work overalls, work boots, sewing thread and materials for the ladies and tools. Many farmers would come to the store daily to put their milk on the train and would stop by the store to pick up things they would need such as bailer twine and any other essentials for the farm. Most of their supplies were from local farmers but they would also go to Montreal to Caverhill Leadmont to pick up dried goods.

Mrs. Ruddock's husband, Royce was the postmaster. The train would come twice a day with all the mail. The store was open 6 days a week from 8 am to 7 pm twice a week especially Saturday nights open until 9 pm and Sundays they were always closed. The busiest time of the year was around Christmas time because they sold local swiss Canadian butterball turkeys which were really popular.

The challenges of owning the store was to try to satisfy the customers because things were always changing, keeping up to date on new items. Mrs. Ruddock's husband loved to meet new people and loved the people who came to the store to help their business. Marian and Royce had 4 children but none of them took over the business.

Before selling the store they had bought some land and in the winter they would make a skating rink and in the summer they built a baseball field which brought a lot of business to the store. They also built a pool for kids to go swimming during the summer but there was one condition they always needed to be an adult watching them. From 1954 to 1988 they saw bigger changes and their small business started struggling. This was due to the bigger stores which opened up nearby and there were also more cars on the road so people could get around easier giving them more choices.

Written by Abby Faille and Kyriane Bergevin



Ken Rember,  
Riley Welburn,  
Devean Codner  
and Gordon Furey



Mural celebrating the 100th anniversary of Ormstown Fair on Lambton Street.



The "Cow Palace" years ago.

# Ken Rember and Gordon Furey - The Storied History of Ormstown Fair

The Ormstown Fair is 104 years old and is located at 1 McBain Street, in Ormstown, Québec. Local farmers came up with the idea for a rural fair in 1910. The reason they wanted a fair was to show and auction off horses. Horses were used as tractors back in the day and did all the things modernized machines do today. In the beginning there were no rides like today's fair. It was all about auctioning horses and cattle. The original entry fee was 25 cents. For a share in the Livestock Breeders Association of the District of Beauharnois it would be \$10. In the past few years the shareholders donated their shares in exchange for a perpetual membership, which helped turn the Fair into a non-profit event. Now that the Fair is a non-profit organization, it is trying to help educate the public on how their food is produced and the importance of agriculture in our community.

In order for the Fair to become a non-profit organization, members had to go to Quebec City. They presented their case as a Private Members Bill. It was a long process and it took a lot of hard work.

The Fair has a storied history. In 1912, a wind storm knocked down the structure that all the horses were shown in. Within two years they rebuilt the arena and it was ready to be used again. There were once potato pony races to entertain the crowd. Elephants were once part of the entertainment. They are one example of the exotic animals that have been at the Fair. A member of Gordon Furey's family used to own a farm on the fair grounds and made a right of way down to the river for the elephants to get water. They would also have monkeys and such over the years to try to attract people to the Fair.

Cattle were once all brought to the Fair by train. This was the easiest and quickest way to transport a lot of cattle. In 1921, the citizens soldier memorial was built. This would become the entrance to the Ormstown Fair in the future, but it would also be a memorable spot where people could go.

The Ormstown Fair is held on the second week of June. This makes it the earliest spring fair in all of Quebec. It takes about 100 volunteers to properly run the Fair but there are many more who volunteer their time and aid.

The Ormstown Fair is famous for its rainy day: it is common that at least 1 day of the weekend of the Fair will have rain. The Fair is now a non-profit organization, many volunteers work hard to raise money to keep it going. The Fair's project at the moment is to become a charity for education.

Written by Devean Codner and Riley Welburn



Jamie Roy, Mason Simard, Gerry Brisebois, Sky Gopy, David Brisebois

# Gerry Brisebois

Gerry Brisebois was born September 18, 1928 and grew up in a small town named Huntingdon. In 1939, this town was not booming. When the War started, a lot changed for the town. On the corner of Fairview Road and Route 202, carpenters came to Huntingdon for a period of four or five months to build barracks for the soldiers who would soon be arriving for basic training. 1,200 soldiers came from across Canada for this training over a period of three months. Huntingdon was chosen as a basic training site because of the intersection of the Canadian National Railway and the New York Central Railway. The kids in the town would follow the soldiers behind the platoons through the streets of Huntingdon while they marched until the day their 3 months of training was completed. They would take the train to Halifax and board the boats to travel overseas and fight in the war. The influx of carpenters, soldiers and equipment brought newfound prosperity to the small town.

The people of the town decided to create a town band to celebrate important events happening throughout the years. Don Moore was selected to lead this band named the "Huntingdon Citizen Band". They had a big meeting at the Huntingdon legion to see who would be interesting in participating in the new event. There was a lot of interest. Gerry was asked to play the clarinet but when the band leader saw him trying to practice, he noticed that he was missing a finger on his right hand. It turned out to be very funny. So instead, they handed him a trumpet which he learned to play with his left hand. This band lasted six to seven years until the leader died. They were famous for only practicing and performing one song at special events.

Many years after the war, Gerry and his wife would sit on the front porch of their house facing a new store and dream of the day they could have their own. In 1957, his dream came true, as they purchased their first butcher shop/grocery store. At that time there were about nine to ten grocery stores already in Huntingdon, but no chain stores. In the early 1970's, the first chain store appeared in Huntingdon, which made all the small food businesses experience a loss in sales. These new chain stores had a bigger surface area and new technology to speed up the process of checking out. Although there was strong competition, he tried to adapt his store to meet the needs of his customers. For example, preparing cold meat sandwiches for sale at lunch time. This helped him for a short period of time but did not save the business. This is when Gerry decided to retire from the food marketing industry.



JoAnn McClintock,  
Jewel Hewer and  
Ashleigh Cavers

## JoAnn McClintock: Memories of the Barrie Memorial

JoAnn always wanted to be a nurse because she wanted to wear a uniform. JoAnn stated, "once I had the idea in my mind, I just stayed with it." She graduated with a nursing diploma from St. Lawrence College in Cornwall in the summer of 1979. She began to work at the Barrie Memorial Hospital in September 1979 with a full-time evening position in the Obstetrics department.

The hospital was first opened behind the CIBC in Ormstown, on December 2, 1939. It is now the Residence Ormstown. The money to open the original hospital was left to a group of doctors by Margaret Barrie, (who happened to be Joann's grandfather's aunt.) Mrs. Barrie lived along the Chateauguay River on the 138, and upon her death left \$5,000 to be put towards the opening of a hospital in the town of Ormstown. Thus, the hospital became the Barrie Memorial Hospital. After the purchase of a farm by a group of doctors and local businessmen, the new hospital was opened, and patients were moved into it in December 1950.

New sections were added, including the Ormstown Medical Center in 1956, The Emergency Room in the new Stalker wing in 1981, the extension to the third floor in 1991, and the expansion of the x-ray department and CT scan in 2010. Many other renovations have been made since that time, but these were the main structural changes.

The obstetrics department was very busy from the opening of the hospital until 1992 when the department was closed due to a decreasing number of deliveries and fewer doctors willing to deliver babies. The biggest change that she saw during her career was the Emergency department. When she started in 1979, the emergency room had a desk for a secretary and one stretcher. At night, the doctor was called in from home and the nurse worked upstairs on the floors and went down to answer the door when the bell rang. Now there is a doctor in the Emergency department at all times with 5 stretchers being full most of the time. Three nurses work at night, four during the evenings and four on days. They are extremely busy.

There was a fire in the kitchen on the 2nd floor of the hospital in February 1990. It resulted in all of the 2nd floor patients being evacuated and transferred to what is now the Centre Hébergement d'Ormstown. The fire was quickly brought under control by the Ormstown Fire Department and the patients returned to their rooms later that same day.

JoAnn remembers many adventures over the years. A bomb scare, with a bomb exploding in the parking lot behind the hospital and damaging a car. The whole hospital was put on alert for a possible second bomb. She can remember two times where people arrived with a gun and tried to get into the hospital. All of these events were handled by the staff. The Barrie Memorial Hospital may be small, but they have had events that happen just like in the big hospitals.



Written by Jewel Hewer

John Ryan,  
Kristopher  
Dandurand and  
Victor Rugenius



Sections of the mural painted by John Ryan as part of an inter-cultural exchange with Akwesasne depicting the Mohawk culture.

# John Ryan

John Ryan is an artist and painter from Godmanchester. After completing two years of a science program in cegep, he developed an interest in art after his first year of university, when he switched out of computer sciences and transferred to a major in fine arts, finishing three years later. He soon started going door to door asking to do sketches of houses. Then he worked on bigger projects on billboards and advertisements for events like sports or for communities he was a part of.

Of all his works, he considers two recent murals he painted to be among his best. The first, a mural he painted for the community of Akwesasne. During this project, John and an artist from Akwesasne exchanged artwork from both communities, and created a mural representing the cultures of both communities.

The first mural John painted was 15X8 feet and depicts the Mohawk culture. It includes an image of a man showing medicinal plants, children as well as adults playing lacrosse - a game that was created by the Mohawks, a man making handmade lacrosse sticks, and women weaving baskets, all above a depiction of the waterfront, which is all very important to the Mohawk culture and history. The mural was his first and the challenge of creating images for it was an experience for John that was incredible to him.

Another part of the Akwesasne mural depicts the Mohawk ironworkers and pays tribute to them, as many were volunteers who were part of the search crews after the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. It represents an image of a Mohawk worker high in the rafters of a building under construction, as well as a giant iron statue of a bald eagle, which was created by a former Mohawk ironworker.

His second mural was for the Federation of Alzheimer Societies of Quebec. The mural consists of 20 images that represent the geographic areas of Quebec societies, five images represent therapies used to support those affected by Alzheimer's, and 20 participatory canvases created in collaboration with people from across the province affected by the disease. The decision of the images for the mural took a long time and he invested a lot of research into the project. The participation of the people affected by Alzheimer's was "one of the most rewarding parts of the project." Being born on a farm in the country, he moved back there after university. He certainly enjoys the country lifestyle compared to his time in the city, where he was able to live but wasn't able to feel comfortable in the city environment. He does enjoy having access to a city for the services and events that are available that he can participate in.



Vincent Rollin,  
Jean Furcall and  
Zoë Langille

## Jean Furcall: What Christmas Means to Me

My name is Jean Furcall, but you can call me Nana Jean. I was born in 1933 in Riverfield, Québec. I am an author and I'm going to tell you how different Christmas was back in my day. Hopefully, you will notice some similarities and differences between modern day holidays and what they used to be.

Let's start with the most important part which, in my opinion, is the food. The Christmas dinner, which was at noon, was the most important part of the celebrations. One family Christmas, four turkeys were prepared! My father always wanted to be sure there was enough food. Stuffing for the turkey always contained raisins. It's not real stuffing if there are no raisins. The turkey tasted better after having been stuffed, and the raisins only added to the delightful flavour.

My family had a lot of traditions when I was growing up. We made our decorations out of popcorn and paper. Popcorn would be strung with needle and thread to make garlands for the tree. Streams of red and green paper would be twisted into a pattern and hung from the ceiling from corner to corner. We also ironed paper so that it could be reused as gift wrapping for the next year, unlike today where you just buy more and more each year. My father and brothers would go to the woods to cut down a tree, any kind of evergreen would do. Nowadays, many people go to the local Wal-Mart or Canadian Tire to buy artificial trees. When we travelled by sleigh to visit our relatives for family celebrations we kept warm with a buffalo robe. My three oldest brothers also had some traditions. They would bring some cattle from our barn to the house and walk them around, leaving reindeer-like prints in the snow for my sister, brother and I to marvel at Christmas morning. Not only were there tracks, but they also laid hay down as if the reindeer had eaten some.

Christmas was very important to my family as I'm sure you can tell. One year my grandfather left a dime at our place settings for each sibling, despite the sacrifice he would have to make. As a child, I didn't realize how much this actually meant, but I eventually understood.

There are some things you just can't forget, whether you try or not. Like when my cousin sang "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" while missing those same teeth at the annual Christmas concert in town. Every year there was a Christmas concert at the church or in one of the local halls. Once a Scottish man dressed as Santa for the children at the concert, but his accent was so heavy that no one could understand whose name was being called out for presents.

Christmas has always been a way of connecting to family, even in the hardest of times. I lost my cousin at the age of five due to pneumonia which took a toll on our family, as it would anyone's. And growing up during the Great Depression was as hard as it sounds. With no electricity we always stayed warm with the heat from the stove in the kitchen. Fortunately, we always had plenty to eat. Christmas always brought good times and made good memories. We used what we had to make up for what we didn't. In modern times, everyone cares about the gifts, the money. Back then, that was all so irrelevant. While it's not uncommon to meet someone who believes in the old values, we have become a consumer society and many people seem to have forgotten what Christmas is supposed to be about; but I will never forget that.

Written by Zoë Langille and Vincent Rollin



Ian Rugenius,  
Leonard Priest  
and Shane  
Sutton

## Leonard Priest

Mr. Leonard Priest is a self-made man from the town of Hemmingford, where he grew up and has spent his life working and living. Mr. Priest is a man of local culture and of hard work, crafting his namesakes' company in the electricity and renovation business. He started his company in 1964 and slowly grew it with the help of his son, Richard, and his family of employees. Nowadays, Leonard is retired and likes to travel the world and discover the history and culture of new places he visits. He has been leading the charge back home as well, spearheading the move of the Hemmingford Archives to a bigger, newly renovated building, with government grants.

Always digging up the culture of places, Leonard is currently working on superimposing a map of Hemmingford from 1822, onto a recent map of the area to spot the differences between the two eras and to see how things have changed. He is interested to see just how accurately someone could draw a map way back when. This is no simple task, however, Mr. Priest is working to collect information from local elders, who may know the names of landmarks on the older map and locations that have been removed over the last century and a half, so that he can line up the two maps accordingly. Leonard also co-wrote and published a book in 2014, titled “Esclave Blanche en Nouvelle-France”, which tells the story of Leonard’s ancestor Sarah Allen, who was taken prisoner in Deerfield Massachusetts, in 1704. Mr. Priest wrote the book with the purpose of giving his descendants a partial understanding of who they are, and who he is.

Always involved with the community, Leonard was the president of the Chambre de Commerce of Hemmingford, School Commissioner for the local school board, as well as a councilor for the Village of Hemmingford, and last but not least he has worked with various historical societies, all of these for many years. Leonard is also a globe-trotter, in love with traveling and digging up the roots of different cultures all around the world. So far, Leonard has traveled to over 70 different countries, including Haiti, Jamaica, China, Laos, Scotland, France, and a plethora of others. Mr. Priest is a lover of history and culture, and he travels mainly to see how things are done in other parts of the world, where various factors affect the governments, the culture, and the rich history of some of the globe’s most diverse and interesting places. Mr. Leonard Priest is, in conclusion, a very reputable source on our area’s history, as well as other places in this very wide world.



Written by Ian Rugenius and Shane Sutton



Sky Gopy, Mason Simard, Carolyn Cameron and Jamie Roy

# Carolyn Cameron

Carolyn was born in 1949 and grew up in Howick. She is currently 70 years old. Her family originated from Scotland in 1829 and they attended school there as well. Her mother is still alive at the incredible age of 94-years old. She met her husband at a square dance in Ormstown and together they had a family of three children, two girls and one boy.

She went to Howick High School and all of her children attended CVR. Her uncle was the first principle of the school. Her family helped and mentored her throughout her life. She is now living in Hinchinbrooke where she has been for the past 46 years.

Ms. Cameron was a teacher before becoming a mayor. She taught in Montreal for five years. Sixteen years ago, she was elected as a councillor and six years ago was elected Mayor of Hinchinbrooke. She enjoys being in this role because she likes how the system is being run, and it gives her the chance to improve her French public speaking, as the meetings are in French.

Four years ago, she visited China with her husband to go and see the different lifestyles and cultures that they have on this continent. One of her greatest sights was the Great Wall of China. She explained how unbelievable the number of stairs was as there were so many and of varied depths. They didn't even have time to go all the way up or they would have missed their bus.

Her interests are reading, doing needlework, gardening and just being outdoors. The Colour of Water is her favorite book as she says that it really impacted her own life. Several years ago, in the winter, the barn at the farm caught fire and she lost all of her barns, but not many cattle. They separated the cattle that were not impacted by the incident and they were kept at several different barns in the meantime. Throughout this time, the community became involved and gave them a cheque for \$25,000 to help recover from the tragedy. She leaned how nice the community was and got lots of support from her family and friends throughout the community.

When asked what three things she values most, she responded; #1 family, #2 good health and #3 freedom. This shows that Ms. Cameron is a sweet lady that cares not only for herself but for her friends, her family and her community.



Sue Heller, Emily Bétournay and Andy Gervais

# Sue Heller

Sue Heller was born in England in 1930 and grew up on a farm with chickens, ducks, cats, horses and milk goats and always loved animals. Since she can remember she always wanted to own her own farm. She attended art school in her youth. Her mother was an artist and her dad was an army doctor during the war (1939-45). They were considered well to do for this time having servants and a cook in their home.

Sue immigrated to Canada in 1956 feeling blind, not knowing a lot about the country. She found work in Montreal at a lingerie store called, "Linda Underlovelys." She met her soon-to-be husband, who was a rugger player on the team in Westmount at a dance that was held to welcome immigrants to the country.

She married Huguette Heller in 1960 and lived and worked in Montreal while raising their 3 children. Having missed the farm life, they would visit what would soon become her own farm on weekends and holidays. The children, who had only known the city life, were a bit unsure of the farm and its surroundings. When they wanted to go to the forest, they would tie a string of wool to the house door handle and unravel it along their walk into the woods so they wouldn't be scared.

She felt welcomed by the community when she settled into a farm house with her husband in Hemmingford on Roxham Road in 1967.

In 1990, when her husband retired, they decided to move to Hemmingford to the farm. Sue kept busy raising her own sheep and acquired a great talent for spinning and knitting sheep wool. The handmade items were very popular. She attended many craft fairs in the region. Sue is best known for her 'Wool Gathering,' which took place once a year on her farm every September and has been happening now for 26 years. The Wool Gathering is a local show of talent and crafts held in Hemmingford. Sue remembers realizing one day, about 20 years after coming to the farm, how similar her life was to her mother's only in two different countries.

Sue is moving onto her next step in life which involves moving to another country to be near 8 of her grandchildren in Costa Rica. Buildings are only made out of cement and Sue has already inquired as to how she will hang up all her art and family photos. Her new home is located in a beautiful valley setting and she is looking forward to working outdoors on flowers and plants to help pass the time and make some extra money.

Written by Emily Bétournay and Andy Gervais



Bill Stevenson,  
Vincent-James  
Voyer, Mary  
Stevenson,  
Ainsley Allen and  
Edith Stevenson

## Bill and Mary Stevenson: The Stevenson Orchard

The Stevenson's immigrated to Canada from Ireland in the year 1824. At first they started with a small farm as most immigrant settlers did. At this point they did not have any apples.

The farm that they own today was purchased in 1904. They started producing maple syrup, and the first orchard of apples was planted in 1905, with about six acres of mostly McIntosh apples. It wasn't until after 1916 that they started to shift their focus more to apples, but even still there were only a few trees in the beginning.

During the 1930's they started to see more business from their apples and began planting more and more. In the 1940's Edith Stevenson remembers small trucks that would come get bushels of apples and by the late fifties, big eighteen wheelers would come collect big crates of apples, which are the equivalent of about 20 bushels of apples.

They are loaded into the trailer with forklifts.

Always a family run operation, Bill Stevenson was born and raised on the farm and became more and more invested in the apple business as he grew older. He still runs the farm today with the help of his wife Mary, who he has been married to since 1964, and his son Fred. The business has continued to expand with everyone working together. A team of employees work to help prepare the juice, pick the apples, bag them for wholesale or put them in storage.

Their farm is about 480 acres, and about 100 acres of that is apple orchard. On average there are about 450 trees per acre so that averages about 45,000 trees, that is a lot of apples!

In 1980 they built a new storage for the apples and in 1994 it was expanded. To this day it is still the same. It is a huge climate controlled apple storage with rooms that can fit dozens and dozens of crates of apples.

In the 40's and 50's McIntosh was their most sold apple, now it is Honeycrisp and Sweetango. Recently they started to implement the use of nets over top of their trees to protect them from hail damage. They also put super high fences to prevent the deer from getting in the orchard and stealing all the apples.



They use integrated pest management, which means they try to limit the use of pesticides and insecticides because too much isn't good! They also make apple juice. In the 1940's until the 1970's apple juice wasn't in very high demand. They used apples that fell on the ground, which they call "windfalls" to make the juice. By the 1980's the demand for juice was greater so they started making it on a regular basis in the fall season. Now you are not allowed to make juice from "windfalls" because there is a risk of contracting E.coli. Today juice is made from grade outs of apples and is either pasteurised or treated to ensure there is no disease or bacteria so it is safe for consumption. The Stevenson Orchard has now been producing apples and maple syrup for over 100 years.

Written by Ainsley Allen and Vincent-James Voyer



Racquel Vaincourt, David Hadlock and Curtis Kennedy-Lalonde

# Dave Hadlock

Once in a lifetime CVR had the honor of welcoming back Mr. David Hadlock to the building where two grade 11 students had the opportunity to sit down and interview him. In this interview, Mr. Hadlock dove right into the subject in which he has always shown great interest: history. In doing so, he also demonstrated how life was growing up in the 20th century versus today in the 21st century.

Mr. Hadlock was born during a time of great conflict, when man fought against man for the future safety of all. WWII impacted Mr. Hadlock grandly due to his father being a veteran at the time. Growing up in 1944 Lennoxville, a town in the Eastern Townships, hospitals and education were still ruled by the church and the businesses were run by the English majority of the population. Unlike today, religion was still commonly practiced, and the main written and spoken language was English. The local elected positions were also held by the English. Due to the Quiet Revolution, all of this changed and led to the start of the characteristics of the Quebec society we know today. A society where everything has been modernized and French has become the majority for everything.

Growing up with no cellular devices or electronics of any sort, Mr. Hadlock proudly spoke about being a part of the Boy Scouts from the age of 9 to 17, where he learned basic survival skills. Many children today, according to Mr. Hadlock, lack the independence and confidence of his generation growing up due to the distractions of technology. He was also proud to acknowledge that he had many diverse jobs from the age of 12 to 23, such as, mowing lawns, shoveling snow, working at a local hardware store, working on a farm, at a factory where he had to do many shift rotations, at an electrical company and later at Hydro Quebec. On top of all this, he also demonstrated an interest in sports but was more profoundly interested in history.

Mr. Hadlock found himself enjoying and proving to be good at history. His father being a WWII veteran impacted him greatly because this led him to want to know the why's and how's of many world events, including why his father had to go and fight. Therefore, Mr. Hadlock attended Bishop's University. Right after graduation, he left Lennoxville not quite sure where he was going. He ended up coming across the first polyvalent school looking for history teachers known today as CVR. He saw an opportunity here to teach. What could be better? A new school and a new life ahead of him. He taught at CVR for 33 years and then became Vice Principal for 2 years before retiring.

Written by Curtis Kennedy-Lalonde and Racquel Vaincourt



Brandon Blair, Ethen French, Graeme Maither and Diane Morrison

## Diane Morrison - Janitor by day, singer by night

Diane Morrison grew up in Churubusco New York. Music was always a part of her life from the moment she was born. As Diane grew up she came to realize that singing was a big part of her life but couldn't find the time to pursue it. Diane later met Buzzie and they became best friends for the rest of their lives. Diane and Buzzie moved to Howick Quebec where they settled for the next 35 years and had 3 daughters, Julie, Nancy and Janet.

The church had always been a part of Diane's life, but you can't always do everything, so she was unable to frequent church as much as she wanted to. But that all changed when she started singing again. She started to go back to church and joined the choir. Joining the choir really helped her singing career to take off. She was starting to be approached by different people for different occasions to sing at schools, weddings, and churches.

One day she was approached and was asked to come to a recording studio in Howick. "It was like a dream come true, but I was still nervous." Diane took the opportunity and ran with it, she started to record song after song while still working hard and taking care of her family. She signed a contract with Neil Richardson, and he became her music manager. Diane's dream had finally come true, but she had already started raising her family and after all family comes first. Diane's singing career took off and she started creating song after song that was then produced and put on cassettes and CD's where she ended up climbing to No. 29 on the RPM Country Chart. In the music industry, she was known as "The Cleaning Lady" because she worked for the New Frontiers School Board as a janitor along with her husband Buzzie. Before she was known as The Cleaning Lady she was in a group called The Numbers. This group went to churches, hospitals, weddings and they were dressed up in a dress shirt with a tie and everyone's tie had a different number on it. She said it made her feel good to bring happiness and joy to other people in the community and around the province.

Diane loves her family more than anything in this world. In her days as "The Cleaning Lady" she had to make many life changing choices that could have possibly led to a professional singing career but for Diane family comes first. That is one of the many reasons that we all looked up to her as a role model who made the right choices for her and others that are closest to her. She said, "Love what you do, do what you love".

Written by Brandon Blair, Ethen French and Graeme Maither



Kayla Carrière-Ward,  
Ellen Bulow and  
Luwence Tannahil

## Ellen Bulow: The Women's Institute

Ellen Bulow is confident in her speech and quite knowledgeable. The more she spoke, the more we forgot we were even doing an assignment – her storytelling was so captivating and full of character. We learned how much of a caring person she truly is, through and through.

Throughout Ellen's lifetime, she was a teacher, we would say, in all aspects of her life. She worked at CVR in senior math, sciences and home economics, and otherwise devoted lots of her time working with a women's groups.

"I used to teach here [at CVR]. I taught here for years and years and years. (...) I taught science, I taught with Ms. Lum. I also taught Home Ec. I taught grades 7 and 8 for a while, and then I taught grade 9, and then in the end I taught mostly grade 10 physical science, grade 11 biology and grade 9 technology." Years ago, courses were a bit different then they are today. Her room was room 228 with the greenhouse on it.

There were some rambunctious [students], but she got along fine. If Ellen sent somebody to the office, the eyes of the administrator got big because she did not send people there often – Ellen dealt with the problems. Ellen has certainly helped mold those fortunate enough to be under her wing - not only teaching academic skills but with a sense of social belonging as well.

Ellen's involvement in the Women's Institute grew out of a need to support their husbands with farming issues and help bring women together. "The men had this group where once a month they would have meetings to learn and have discussions on how to be better farmers and find better techniques for looking after animals and raising crops. This made Ellen wonder why couldn't she do that for women so that they could become better mothers and better homemakers and look after their children better? This is how the Women's Institute got started. It's a terribly old-fashioned name, but it still exists.

The goal was to educate and share best practices between women, as we know how important it is to have your friends around you to talk and to socialize with. As these women were isolated on farms, this group gave them the opportunity to get together, once or twice a month, where they could be each other's "sisters" and share.

The Women's Institute is still going today and it has been involved in changing things in rural life. For example, the fact that there is a triangle on the back of a farm vehicle or a slow-moving vehicle – that is there because "some women got stinking mad and decided that there should be something on the backs of these vehicles because people were plowing into them."

Ellen is undoubtedly a leader. She supports every and anyone who is fortunate enough to know her. You can depend on Ellen to help whenever she can unless it is something out of her means.

For many years, women both young and old have been and continue to be, influenced by her buoyant nature, helping teach them how to persevere and move forward while supporting them along the way. She looks forward to many more years of helping make a difference in her community.



Written by Luwence Tannahill and Kayla Carrière-Ward



Axel (Yuzhen) Cheng,  
June Todd and Barry  
(Zhongming) Bai

## June Todd

June Todd was born in 1926 in Powerscourt, Quebec. During this time period, when June was born, there was no electricity. In her family, there are 8 people, two parents and six children, June is the oldest one. Even without having electricity, their family always felt very happy.

June went to Huntingdon Academy and graduated with her high school diploma in grade 11 in 1944. Following high school, it was common, at this time, to not continue schooling but to go straight to work as people didn't have extra money to support further education. June and her siblings all found work upon graduation. Her first job was at the Dewittville General Store during war time.

June met her husband, Willy Todd, at a party given by his side of the family and they soon fell in love. They married in 1946. Willy Todd was the 3rd generation of dairy farmers and he and June moved into the farmhouse right after they married. The farmhouse is located on the Connaught Road in Huntingdon. They worked together milking Holstein cattle and running the everyday duties of farming. They had 3 children and one of them took over the farm later in life. June has 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. June and her husband worked the farm for 37 years until her husband passed away in 1983. Her son Jim took over the farm after the passing of his father. Throughout her lifetime, June has been fortunate enough to have traveled to England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Europe, and various states in the United States as well as all of Canada with the exception of Newfoundland and the Yukon.

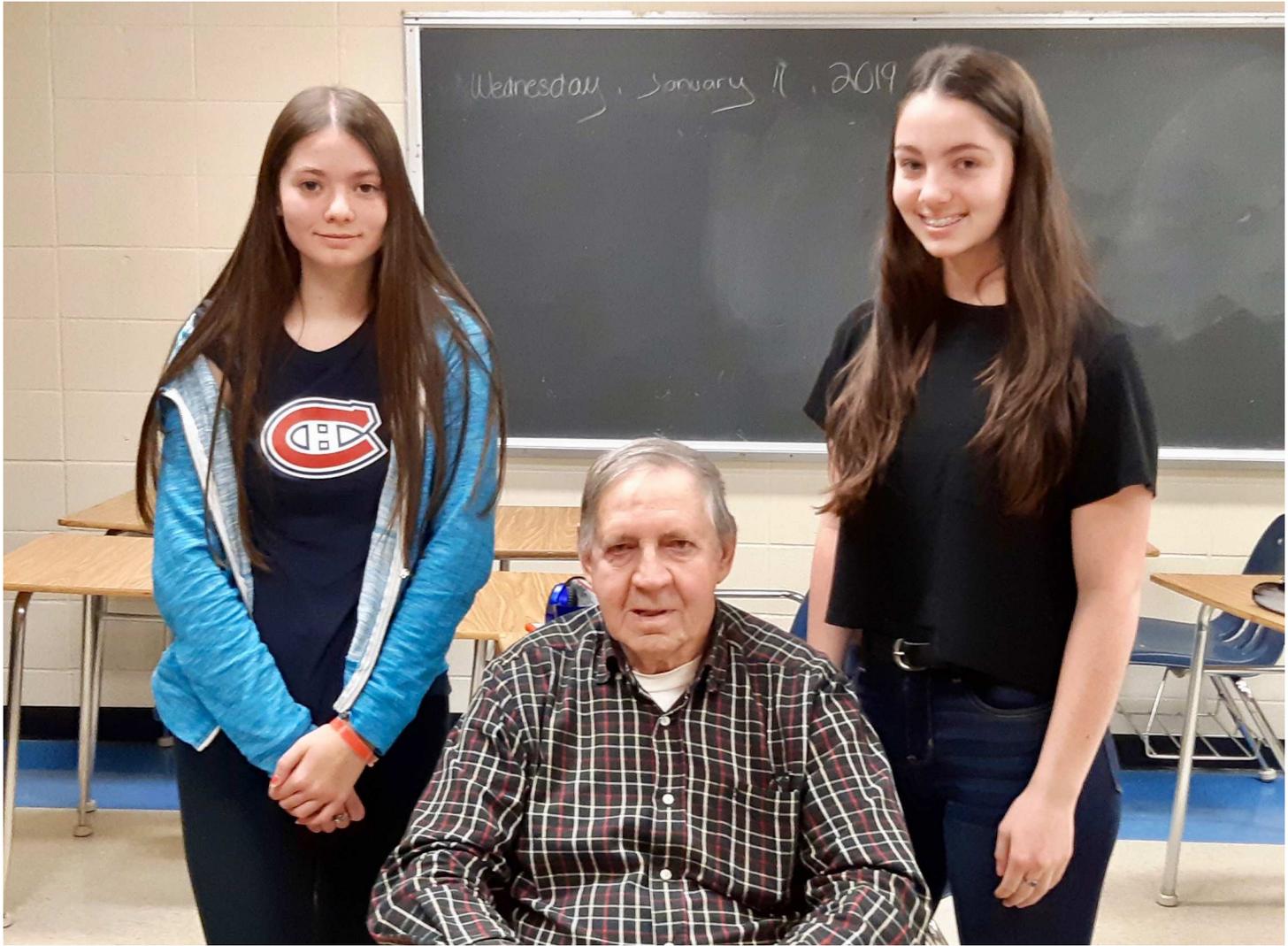
To pass her time, June attends church on Sundays, Military Whists on Mondays, craft center on Wednesdays, volunteers at Meals on Wheels once a month and volunteers at the local library twice a month. She is a busy lady. June has donated most of her time volunteering for the Women's Auxiliary of the Huntingdon County Hospital. For more than 25 years, June has been a member and has been president for the past 20 years. She is exceptionally busy this year as 2019 is the 65th anniversary of this organization.

June's advice is to "keep going because if you stop you will not be able to start again." June hopes to continue to be busy and volunteering and making a difference in her community.



Written by Raphael (Guangyu) Ji, Barry (Zhongming) Bai and Axel (Yuzhen) Cheng

The family farm on the Connaught Road.



Megan Laurin-Ricard, Robert Anderson and Sydney Leger

## Robert Anderson: Life of a Farmer

Robert Anderson is a fifth generation Anderson in Canada. His great-great grandfather, William Anderson and his wife, Margaret Boyd first came to Canada from Scotland in 1818 when they were told that the Seigneurie was granting land to serious farmers. The farm was then passed on from generation to generation, growing into a very respectable dairy and maple operation.

In time, Robert married Penny Root and they raised 3 children, Danny, Mark and Anne on the farm that his father and his grandfather had worked in previous years. The farm has now been expanded greatly with the help of his sons. At the age of 40, Robert was diagnosed with Farmer's Lung and was no longer able to work in barns or be around wheat or sheep. Penny therefore learned how to milk the cows and was able to run everything smoothly until Mark and Danny had finished their education at Macdonald College.

Danny and Mark now run Anderson Farms Inc. in Howick with Robert. Mark has 4 children who are the 7th generation of Andersons in Canada. Anne lives in Belleville, Ontario and has 4 children as well. Robert has not yet retired, he still works in the sugar bush and the shanty with the help of his family. The sugaring operation has gone from producing 20 gallons of syrup per year to now producing over 2,000 gallons per year in their new shanty.

Farming is a wonderful business, it is good to be self-employed. Robert's brother John is also a farmer. His two sisters, Rosemary and Elizabeth, married two farmers. One sister lives in Australia and one in Mississauga. And what do they like best? Visiting the home farm, of course!

Written by Megan Laurin-Ricard and Sydney Leger



Taylor Prémont,  
Shirley Welburn  
and Avery Erskine

## Shirley Welburn

During the 40's and 50's the weather was drastically different from what it is now. As we interviewed Mrs. Welburn she focused mainly on the weather and how the people who lived in the outskirts of a small country town during the winter would live.

When you live in a rural area outside of a bigger town there were no buses to pick you up at the end of the driveway. With the amount of snow that they had, no snow plows were able to reach and plow the roads outside of the town, so the small community of people who were stuck on the unplowed roads would have to shovel themselves out or walk on top of the snow banks that would reach as high as the telephone wires. Having so much snow around would make it hard for families to go to the nearest town to get groceries and necessities. Not being able to go to town wouldn't leave many options for what you could eat while the main source of stored food would be canned or pickled foods with an extended shelf life.

Living so secluded from urban places, and even from neighbors, there was always the potential of having predators looking for their next meal roaming around in your backyard such as coyotes and even wolves.

Families did not always have good plumbing so they would have to go out into the cold to fetch water to fill the bath basin and for cooking. With the well so close to the house, they would be able to store the dairy products in the water to keep them from going bad as the well was always cool.

With no TV or radio for entertainment, the community would hold plays, festivals and programs in the town hall. Indoor activities would be mostly cards at people's homes with the neighbors coming over and bringing their violins and guitars for music for everyone to dance to. Later on in the 40's and 50's, people that had TVs or radios were expected to invite the neighbours over. The TV screens were about 6 inches by 8 inches and that was considered big at the time. The shows were mostly sports and dramas and there were no shows during the daytime as people were supposed to be working. As a young adult, Mrs. Welburn worked at a TV factory but personally didn't own her own until she was 18.

Mrs. Welburn remembers there being a movie theatre in Huntingdon and as years went by there were a total of two in the small town. Mrs. Welburn watched the movie "King Kong," which she herself can tell you was scary for that time. There were a few small grocery and general stores along the main streets and some store owners went on to own larger stores like "Menards Grocery" which went on to become "the old Metro grocery store".

As the winters were so cold, the small country school house, with outdoor plumbing, would hold grades 1 to 6 and would be too cold unless someone came in early to start the wood stove. If the teacher did not volunteer herself, they had to find someone to do the job. Mrs. Welburn remembers her younger brother going in each morning faithfully to ensure that everyone would be warm and comfortable.

Each winter farmers would cut ice from the closest rivers for their ice houses. Ice was stored in sawdust to keep it from melting over the summer. The farmers used the ice to keep their milk cans fresh during these hot days. Each morning they would have to take the milk to the road as the milk truck did not come in driveways. They would hand in their milk cans and in return get others to refill. Each farmer knew their cans as they all had serial numbers. Farmers were less industrial than they are now, only having 15-25 cattle to milk. Farmers always milked by hand.

Each winter when the ground was hard enough to support a heavy sleigh and horses, families would go into the bush to cut down trees for heating for the next winter. Young boys were expected to help however they could some using handsaws and axes. Unlike today people would get married at a much younger age. Mrs. Welburn was married at 15 and is proud to say that she is still happily married 65 years later.



Louis Archambault, Cathy McFarlane Dunn and Tyler MacDonald

## Cathy McFarlane Dunn

Cathy McFarlane Dunn grew up in Howick and she attended school in Howick to the end of grade ten and then was in the first grade eleven graduating class at CVR in 1967-68.

She was a good student, loved sports (played all of them), her family lived on a dairy farm. As both of her parents went to university, it was understood that she also further her education. Her dad had completed the DIP AG program at MacDonald college and her mom had been a teacher before enlisting in the air force.

Cathy's original passion was to study agriculture and to work on her dad's farm. In the 1960's, very few women worked in the field of agriculture, so she was discouraged to take this route. Her second option was to attend MacDonald college and study education with a major in Phys. Ed. This ended up being a wise choice and after a 35-year career teaching, she has no regrets.

Growing up, many activities that she was involved in helped her to develop life-long skills in leadership, organization and confidence. These activities included 4-H clubs, youth groups, church, school teams, students' council, choir and she still found time to ride horses, play guitar upside down and backwards, read and swim in the local river. In winter, skating, hockey and skiing absorbed much of her time.

During her teaching career, she learned that adaptability to any situation was a good quality. In the small rural schools, a specialist had to be prepared to teach other subjects. Cathy taught many subject areas but her passion remained in the sports, music and drama fields.

In her retirement years, family, travel, hobbies and volunteering in local schools helped her transition from teaching. During her teaching career community volunteers were essential to the education program and so she currently devotes much of her free time offering support at her grandchildren's schools.

Written by Tyler MacDonald and Louis Archambault



Sabrina Morssaoui,  
Jozsikam Hevesy  
and Makayla Roy

## Jozsikam Hevesy - Story of an Immigrant

Jozsikam is a 75-year-old man originally from Hungary. He has 3 sons who enjoy travelling similarly to their father. Jo appreciated travelling a lot. It all started at the age of five. Little did he know, he and his mother had to leave Hungary. Jo was under the impression that he and his mother were on their way to the cinema. He didn't question the fact because he was a cinematic lover. He adored watching western, romantic tragedies and comedies. Jo didn't know, but that night was the last one spent with his father for 15 years to come. A taxi was waiting for them at their home to leave for the train station. Jo realized he wasn't on the typical road to the movies but he didn't really question it. Jo's mother didn't tell him the real reason they were going to stay at a cottage. Which is where he encountered a woman named Ari and a man named Gabi. His mother told him they were embarking on a long walk, towards new land.

As they were walking, Jo had thoughts about his parents, because he was a joyful kid, but didn't catch on when his parents had a fight the night before they left. They had a guide that was managing them through a village, to bring them across a border of some sort. They were told to be very, very quiet but Jo didn't understand in the beginning, until he saw the scared look on his mother's face when she was desperately trying to keep him quiet. The guide then told Jo's mother to explain that they couldn't make any noise or else they would get into big trouble. The guide started talking about a hole in the ground made from a bomb.

At this point, Jo was getting nervous. He was asking his mother why they couldn't just walk around the steep hole, but he didn't know how bad the guards were towards people like them. There were a few people following them as they were scared too. His mother finally explained: "Jozsikam" she said "We have to go down into the hole and up the other side, all around it is full of land bombs (mines). On the other side there is a fence full of barbs that we'll have to crawl under. The fence is patrolled by Russian soldiers who will not want to see us go through there." Jo was not yet scared, although his mother was frightened. Jo told his mother, "the Russian soldiers are nice. They won't want to hurt us. I know them. They used to play with me when Esdesapu would take me to Angol Park." To which his mother replied, "No, not these soldiers. They will send us back if they catch us. They might even take you away from me, so you'll never see me again..."

Then, Jo felt a jolt. Soon enough Jo and his mother were on their way down into the dark, empty hole. After impact, he felt dazed and shaky. He looked around, everyone was alright. He started to giggle, he thought "That was it?" His giggle turned into a loud laugh and soon, he could see the worry in his mom's face, pleading him to stop. The guide directed them back up the pit and checked again to see if everything was clear. He was gone for a long time. Jo found that very odd but kept to himself. Not too long after, he returned, and everyone began to crawl. Crawling ever so slowly, making a stop every few feet, making sure there was no mischief. Not a sound was made. Jo kept seriously quiet, because after all, he began to be nervous when they had to crawl and not be seen.

A weight was lifted off their shoulders when they finally arrived at the wire. The guide had made a thin trench for them to go through. One by one, they tried to fit themselves in. Gabi, the man he had met at the cottage was holding the wire above him so that Jo could go under. Once Jo was safely through, he thought they were safe. He thought it was over, or so he thought...And though this seemed like a lot, this was only the beginning of Jo's, the immigrant from Hungary, profound story.

## Acknowledgements

So many people contributed to the completion of this book through the Conserving History Through Generations Project, and each addition, no matter how small, made a significant difference to the outcome of this impactful initiative. We would like to acknowledge the government of Canada and the New Horizons program for the generous support of this project. The far-reaching vision and straightforward, yet always positive, direction of Pauline Wiedow, the Executive Director of the Montérégie West Community Network (MWCN), served as a guiding light for this project. The uncanny abilities of Kim Wilson, MWCN Coordinator, and Kaylie Stuckey, Community Learning Centre Technician, to get more done in an hour than most in a day kept the project on track. The ideas generated by Members of the Advisory Committee as well as their dedication and support in seeing this project through provided exceptional motivation. The members include Don Rosenbaum, whose diverse expertise in the area of intergenerational learning proved invaluable, Wendy Denison, Gayle Holdaway, and Christine Thompson. Thanks also to teacher Neil Ednie for bravely agreeing to open his Grade 11 ethics classroom to this project. Our community members, who steadfastly made their way to the school despite often challenging winter conditions, are the heart of this project. The students who embraced this 'assignment' also demonstrated a much appreciated openness toward such a unique learning experience. A number of others played a key role in this year-long project, including Jayme McClintock, CLC Development Officer, who got the ball rolling, Ms. Brigitte Barrette, Principal at CVR, for her support and commitment to intergenerational learning, as well as teacher Sasha Geukjian and student Reiley Zawislak for their videography skills. Thank you all for your implication. This would not have been possible without you.





*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*

*- Margaret J. Wheatley*



Conserving History Through Generations: Vignettes of the Valley  
Chateaugay Valley Regional High School