



The Bromley Sheaf

Bromley Historical Society Newsletter

Issue 4, 2026

President's Remarks

When I was growing up in the Montreal area, we spent part of almost every summer in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, where my mother was born and raised. My aunt, who lived in the family home, understood the value of the printed word and she kept almost everything. When we kids looked bored (especially on rainy days), down the stairs would come Aunt Alice with her arms full of yellowing copies of *The Glace Bay Gazette*, published 1904 - 1950.

We would spread them out on the parlour floor and get lost in another world. Weddings and funerals ... births and deaths ... auction sales ... reports of trouble at the coal mines ... news of war and lists of those who had enlisted and those who had died ... stories of families heading "out west" looking for work.

And there were family stories. The number of vehicles that were in our great-grandfather's funeral procession ... an invitation to a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the end of WWI ... who poured tea at the wedding of the former Olga Jones (Aunt Olga) and how the bride's aunt (Great Aunt May) had traveled from her home in Boston to be present.

And then we hit the jackpot! Our parents' wedding! It was all there. What our mother wore ... how it was the local United Church minister who officiated (the Presbyterian Church being without a settled minister at the time) ... and how the former Lyla Jones would be moving to Vancouver, British Columbia with her husband, Lieutenant Rex Page, recently discharged from the Royal Canadian Air Force.

It was another world to us. But, more than that, it was a window into a certain time, and for the people who were living those events. It was their connection to their community. They shared an awareness of everyday, commonplace, and oh-so-important moments in life.

Over the years, local newspapers have changed, both in format and news coverage; but they still provide that connection and that shared awareness of important moments in life. Where would we be without them?

Pat Van Gelder

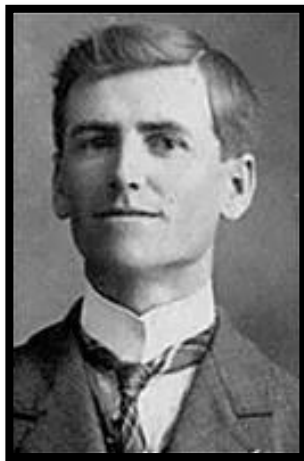


. 124 Years of Excellence

In the very first issue of the *The Eganville Leader*, June 20, 1902, its founder and publisher, Patrick McHugh, wrote that “It is our resolve to publish a paper which, free from all local jealousies and influences, will, in its treatment of matters of public concern, be fair and unprejudiced.” He went on to promise readers the current happenings of the day as well as the district and local news.

Patrick McHugh was born on 26 October 1874, in Eganville to Patrick and Mary (McNamara) McHugh. He married Catherine Bernadette Dowdall, the sister of Father Patrick Sylvester Dowdall, on 30 January 1906. Eganville had two papers at the time, *The Star* (when it began is not known) and the *Enterprise* (established in 1875 as a weekly by M. Simpson). In the late 1800s, the two papers merged to form *The Star Enterprise* under publisher George Reeves.

It is said that in those sectarian times, Father Dowdall believed the village needed another paper that represented the Irish Catholic and more liberal point of view as well as to provide information that would keep the farming community informed. And



Patrick McHugh
Courtesy of The Eganville Leader

so, *The Leader* came into being under the stewardship of his brother-in-law, Patrick McHugh. The price of subscription was to be \$1 a year, paid in advance.

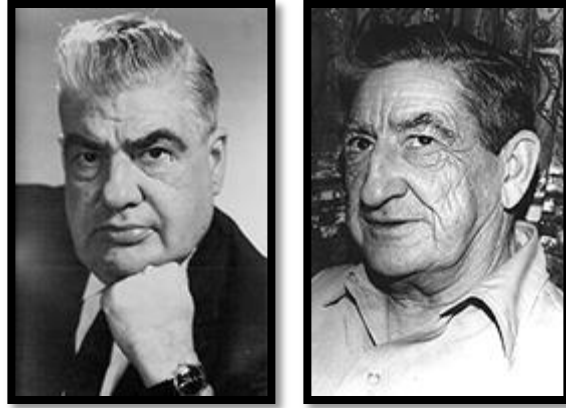
The nascent paper set up shop on John Street, next to the Lisk Bakery, another fabled Eganville business. The paper was printed on a Prouty Power Press that had been developed in the late 1870's by an American Baptist minister, Enoch Prouty, who wanted to print a small temperance paper. The press was a flatbed cylinder press, nicknamed *The Grasshopper* due to distinctive jumping side arms. It was well suited to the needs of small-town and rural print shops. In *The Leader* office, the machine was assembled by W.J. Henry, a machinist with the newspaper. The newest typeface from Toronto Type Foundry Company was purchased to produce the newspaper.

The paper was welcomed with open arms by other small town presses across the Valley. As is the case today, subscriptions were taken out, not only by residents of the town, but from distant points. As McHugh wrote in the first edition, "We feel sanguine that the future shall see this latest addition to the ranks develop and grow, and as the years roll by, the sphere of its influence shall extend far and wide until the goal of its ambition is reached – a LEADER in the ranks..." Appropriately, McHugh chose as the paper's motto: "*Dare to Be Honest, Honest to Dare*".

Nine years after its founding, a devastating fire ravaged Eganville. It destroyed 75 homes, churches, schools, and local businesses on both sides of the river. The offices of *The Star Enterprise* and *The Leader* were lost. While the former closed up shop, the latter rose phoenix-like from the ashes.

McHugh, who was an imposing 6'1" of erect bearing and given to long contemplative silences, persevered. He simply rebuilt the office and recommenced publishing. He remained at the helm until 1944, when he retired age 70.

The next owners were Ambrose (1913-1951) and Sylvester Tracey (1918-1978), both born in Eganville. The two were the sons of Peter and Mary Theresa (Menard). Ambrose, who had left high school to work, honed his skills in composing metal blocks of type that would then be used in the printing process. His work took him to Rouyn-Noranda, Arnprior and Kingston. At the latter, he worked for The Catholic Register, a publication founded in 1893, although its roots go back 30 years earlier to a paper called the Irish Canadian. Under the Traceys' stewardship, the paper continued true to McHugh's commitment "to keep our readers thoroughly posted on the current happenings of the day—with an intelligent discussion thereof—besides furnishing all the district and local news".



Ambrose & Sylvester Tracey
Courtesy of The Eganville Leader

In 1956, the next generation began to work on the paper. Like his father, Ambrose, Ron left high school and started working at the paper where he learned the printing side of the business. Although the machinery was complex, he found that with continual practice, especially in the evening after dinner when he would return to the office, he became proficient. The new Linotype, a hot-metal typesetting machine, meant that the slow and laborious process of setting type by hand, letter by individual letter was no longer required. He said much like the digital desktop publishing today, it was revolutionary.

In 1960, Ambrose bought out his brother and became the sole owner. Eight years later, Ambrose died tragically in an automobile accident. His wife, Lucy (Lamarche) continued to own the paper and eldest son Ron assumed responsibility for its operation.

Younger brother, Gerald, also continued the family tradition of quitting high school. Since Grade 5, he had worked alongside his father and brother. He learned to use the linotype machine. A few years later, he was running the flatbed press that transfers the ink to paper. He joined the paper full time in 1971. They became perfect complements to each other with Ron holding down the printing side of things with Gerald focusing on news and photographs. He began to set the editorial direction of the paper, hiring its first full-time reporter. Under the brothers' leadership, they grew the paper from eight pages to as many as 34 a week, and its circulation from about 2,800 to 6,600 at its peak. One of the Ron and Gerald's major accomplishments was the 945-page book, *Reflections of A Century*, published in 2002 to celebrate the paper's centennial. Featuring on selected articles and photographs from the newspaper's files, the publication is a time capsule of Renfrew County over the previous 100 years. The book was a success, and sold more than 9,000 copies.



*Ron and Gerald Tracey with Reflections Of A Century
Courtesy of The Eganville Leader*

Throughout its history, the newspaper has always been located on John Street. Its fourth and most recent move in 1985 was to its current address, 150 John Street on the former site of the CPR right of way. Upon its arrival in Eganville, the tracks followed along John Street, travelling through the downtown on the north side of the Bonnechere River to the station, which was located across the street from the Bank of Montreal that recently closed. *The Leader's* new location provided the paper with a larger and more modern venue. Ron and Gerald were partners for 34 years. Ron retired in September, 2007 after 51 years in the business. Gerald continued as editor and publisher of the paper until this past spring when he sold the paper. However, he is continuing on as editor and publisher.

Under the brothers' stewardship, the paper has won numerous awards given by the Ontario and Canadian Community Newspapers Associations. It has one of the largest paid circulations of any community newspaper in Ontario, and possibly Canada. Not bad for a village of 1300. It has a weekly circulation of 6,000, and is considered the paper of record in Renfrew County.

Since its beginnings, *The Leader* has had four editors, the last three from one family. And as can be seen by the family names, McHugh and Tracey, the paper has been blessed with Irish luck. Neither fire nor changing times have stopped it from going to press. Most recently, it appeared that the paper would cease. But in a last-minute Hail Mary, Gerald Tracey was able to make a deal with two southern Ontario companies -- *London Publishing Inc.* and the *Aylmer Express*, in March of this year. The new owners, Ray Stanton and John Hueston, longtime newspaper colleagues, long admired the quality and success of *The Leader*. They have pledged that nothing will change and, perhaps echoing the words of *The Leaders'* founder, Patrick McHugh, believe the

local community paper will continue to be “*one of the best weekly newspapers in Canada*” for years to come.

Sources: *Reflections of A Century*, The Eganville Leader Publishing Company Ltd., 2002; and various interviews and articles found online.

Looking Back – Local Briefs

February 12, 1904

Without a School Board and a Teacher

A most unusual peculiar state of affairs exists in the Bulger school section in the Township of Bromley. Quite recently the members of the school board, without exception, resigned, and the school has been vacant since early January consequent upon the resignation of the teacher and certain supporters of the school. This phase of the question, however, is of so delicate a nature that we refrain, from motives that can be easily understood, from making any comment or criticism reflecting in any way on the parties implicated. The fact that must impress itself is that the school is closed and as yet no steps have been taken to re-organize the school board whose first duty will be to engage a teacher.

March 4, 1904

Fire at Douglas

The residence of Mr. Thomas Gorman, in Douglas, was destroyed by fire early on Monday morning. About 4:30 a.m. the kitchen was discovered to be on fire, and beyond control. Mr. and Mrs. Gorman, and neighbours who gathered quickly, tried to save the contents, but managed to get out very little, and when the flames burst through from the kitchen to the main part of the house, Mrs. Gorman's hair was badly singed. Besides his household goods, Mr. Gorman's watch and \$73 in cash were destroyed. He was the local agent for Frost & Wood and all his books and papers were burned. His loss is consequently serious in many ways. There was \$800 in insurance in the Renfrew Farmers Mutual.

March 18, 1904

Brick and Tile Factory for Douglas

It is quite probable that within the near future Douglas will see established in its locality a brick and tile factory. The enterprising promoters are two brothers, Messrs.

John and Daniel Kilgore, of the Township of Bromley. We understand they have the necessary capital to push the scheme to a successful issue, and, as Douglas offers many natural advantages, we doubt not but that the project will soon be a reality. The clay used in the manufacture of bricks is found in unlimited quantities at Douglas.

December 13, 1907

Large Vein of Free Gold At Douglas

Douglas — Free gold within a mile of the village and coal oil within a shorter distance are two recent discoveries which have startled the inhabitants of this place. A prospector from Cobalt has pronounced the large vein uncovered as containing an excellent showing of free gold. He has sent for a drill to conduct a further examination of the possibilities. The general belief is that both finds will prove rich.

May 28, 1909

The fire which destroyed the public school at Osceola some days ago is still agitating the people of the section in which it occurred. Reports of incendiarism have been current as a solution of the origin of the fire. The *Sun* last week gave another theory held by others who do not accept the theory of deliberate ignition. This paper has been asked to correct the observation made in that story of the occurrence. The flues, it is asserted, were in the very best of repair, and, moreover, there had been no fire in the stove on the afternoon and preceding the destruction of the building. The trustees disclaim any knowledge of who the incendiary may be, but they are certain the chimney was not in any way defective condition and do not intend to have any prejudice arise against them from any alleged negligence on that ground. — *Cobden Sun*

September 10, 1909

The Douglas House, Douglas, has reverted to the management of its owner, Mr. James Murphy — - the late lessee, Mr. Jones, silently folding his tent and going away in the night. The house will be conducted as a temperance hotel, and Mr. Murphy is at present engaged renovating it from top to bottom. Special attention will be given to the dining department.

July 30, 1926

Osceola Garden Party

The annual garden party at Osceola on Wednesday proved a repetition of the gratifying successes, which attended like undertakings in other years. It would be difficult to find grounds better adopted for these delightful afternoon functions. Everything is compressed in a small area and the arrangement for the amusement and

entertainments of visitors leave nothing to be desired. Rev. Father Dooner, and his parishioners were deserving of the congratulations which were tendered them during the evening from the speakers' platform.

Political addresses were heard from Mr. Alex Stewart, M.L.A., Mr. John Carty, M.L.A., Mr. J.L. Murray, Liberal candidate in South Renfrew, Dr. Cotnam, Conservative member for North Renfrew in the last parliament, Mr. Arthur Collins, Dr. McKay, Liberal candidate in North Renfrew, and Mr. Paul Martin of Pembroke,

Rev. Father Dooner, Chairman, in his introductory and closing remarks, expressed his thanks to all for coming to his little garden party. He was particularly grateful to Mr. Herb Jordan of the Renfrew Machinery Co. for the splendid gift of a steel range, and also very thankful to the gentlemen who had come to address the people.

August 13, 1926

Thousands Assemble on Douglas Picnic Grounds

In the design or conception of big things and the executive ability to give those material form, the Rev. J.J. Quilty, P.P., of Douglas had already received a reputation, but if there were any lingering doubts, they were dispelled by the wonderful picnic event on his church grounds on Wednesday. Four thousand persons assembled. From every part of the Ottawa Valley, from both sides of the Ottawa River Valley came the contingent of pleasure-seekers in a long line of motor cars. The preparations for their reception and entertainment were not wanting in any particular and the splendid program as arranged, was carried out with clock-like precision. And as evening approached, and the great crowd began to disperse, on many lips could be heard words of gratification for the happy experiences and admiration for the directing and controlling minds of the undertaking.

Rev. Father Quilty, P.P., acted as chairman of the joint political discussion and held the scales impartially. The competition between the old-time fiddlers and dancers aroused the interest of all and proved a very popular feature. After several performances, the judges – Dr. Brown of Douglas, P.J. Whalen, of Renfrew, and F. Houlihan of Eganville – found that between two team honours were even, and for a final decision, the fiddlers were asked to play again. The result was that first place was awarded to P.J. Corkery and Louis Cyr, of Pembroke, second to George Wilkes of Douglas, and Patrick L. McHugh, of Eganville, and third to Delisle Romain (fiddler, aged 80) and Adolph Richard, (dancer, aged 78) of Fort Coulonge.

The above extracts are taken from Reflections Of A Century, printed by The Eganville Leader Publishing Company, 2002. The last two extracts are from recent editions of The Leader and appeared in the paper this past summer.



Gerald Tracey & The Eganville Leader – What a Team!

By William Enright PhD

Firstly, one cannot separate Gerald Tracey, community activist, from Gerald Tracey, newspaper publisher. Gerald has used his 124-year-old newspaper to focus and deliver on the needs of the rural Ottawa Valley on unceded Algonquin lands.

Over 50 years, working in tandem with his brother Ron for much of that time, Gerald's efforts have had huge and measurable impact on our community. As publisher, citizen and volunteer, he has taken a leadership role to marshal citizens and stakeholders towards challenging and ambitious accomplishments. Directly through his hard work, passion, creativity and persistence, he has led fundraising and organizing community-driven projects to completion, thus improving the lives of tens of thousands of residents in Eastern Ontario. His initiative and efforts are an inspiration to all. Gerald Tracey has lived his life believing that each of us should leave this world a better place.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gerald and the Leader since 1980 when, as an Irish Agricultural Science university student in Dublin, I worked on the Howard dairy farm in Donegal (Foymount Rd.). At the time, Gerald did nearly a whole page article in the Leader about this "Irish lad" coming to Eganville for the summer. Between 1983 and 2014, I was in Eganville at least 50 times and often met Gerald at community events, like mass, weddings, Canada Day, etc. When I lived full time in Eganville from 2014 to 2023, Gerald and I became good friends, and will forever remain so, even if I'm now living in Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

I wrote many Letters to the Editor and many articles for the annual St. Patrick's Day and Christmas special magazine inserts. During COVID and until I left, to help Gerald out when he had health issues himself and was also down on reporter numbers for various reasons, I volunteered to proofread the preprint paper for a few hours every Tuesday morning. Thus, I got to see firsthand the way Gerald treated his staff and the way they in turn treated customers that would come in to place ads, etc. He was also a mentor and teacher to his staff and all who came in contact with him.

There was mutual respect and the office ran like a well-oiled machine. This also included all the drivers who would be there with Gerald every Wednesday at 5 am sorting out the delivery runs. He had huge loyalty to the staff and *vice versa*. Also, during COVID he started the now long-standing practice of using local reporters who would cover council meetings and other local stories in their parts of the county. He

also had his weekly columnists (Johanna Zomers and the “Old Man”) and community organizations that provided monthly updates on their activities.

Gerald has emphatically proven by his actions and his spirit that he “desires a better country” for all Canadians, from indigenous First Nations to recent immigrants. His progressive role as editor, publisher, owner and community activist with the Leader, has had a longstanding impact on the Ottawa Valley. In this era of ‘fake news’, a respected regional newspaper is a crucial tool for dispersing accurate information. For most of his adult life, Gerald has been the driving force behind the multi-award-winning newspaper which provides coverage of issues such as racism, addictions, seniors’ needs, education, health care, history, sport and local events.

Rural Ontario can’t flourish without leaders and volunteers like Mr. Tracey who know that small communities are a vital part of our province. During the past fifty years he has championed multimillion-dollar fundraising efforts for health, economic, tourism, recreation and sports organizations. He has taken leadership in a variety of projects where he successfully marshals diverse community stakeholders towards challenging



William & Gerald

and ambitious accomplishments. His professional and personal volunteer and fundraising contributions to these community projects in the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario are immeasurable.

I have been very fortunate to have been at his side, to varying degrees, for several community projects, including the Eganville & Area Long-Term Care Corporation (Fairfields), facilitating the hugely successful Seniors Active Living Centre (“Echo Centre”), the Eganville & Area Community Development Association (think Dinner on the Bridge on Canada Day and the very recent Water Street and McRae Park Lighting Project), and especially the Ukrainian Fundraiser in 2022.

After watching TV coverage of the Russian invasion of Ukraine night after night, Gerald felt compelled to do something. The tipping point was when he met a young Ukrainian woman who arrived in Renfrew County on April 29th, 2022, he was convinced it was time to do something. Therefore, in the May 18th, 2022 issue of the Eganville Leader, Gerald announced that in honour of the 120th anniversary of the Eganville Leader, instead of throwing some meaningless party, he was going to sponsor a huge fundraiser for the Ukraine relief efforts. The fundraising event took place in the Eganville Arena in June with the help of local volunteers and with township staff and council support. The very ambitious goal was to raise \$100,000. The fundraiser was advertised and reported on weekly in the Leader, and Gerald also paid himself for a band to come from Alexandria, ON. The event itself consisted of a major live auction, a silent auction and the band/dance with entry by donation. On the night of the event, the Leader's team of volunteers had decorated the arena in the Ukrainian colours, and the government of Ukraine was represented by the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Andrii Bukvych, from the Ukraine Embassy in Ottawa. The target was exceeded, and the total raised topped out at \$110,000.

Gerald and his core team of volunteers decided to give \$80,000 direct to President Zelensky's national fundraiser platform, United24, and the money went into "the National Bank of Ukraine's special account to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine". The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, Yulia Kovaliv, and colleagues were invited to a lunch on July 13th in Eganville, hosted by the Leader, where she was presented with the cheque for \$80,000. The balance of \$30,000 was used to help support Ukrainian refugees who had come to Renfrew County to settle. Not only did this help the local Ukrainian community and the people in Ukraine, but it built bridges for the future relationships between Canada and Ukraine. For the Leader and Gerald's efforts in this mammoth fundraiser, I nominated the Leader for the 2022 Warden's Award (For Profit Organization) which he deservedly won.

Other huge projects he has initiated and driven include Hospice Renfrew (Renfrew), Madawaska Valley Hospice (Barry's Bay), the Eganville Centennial Committee (and recently the park was named after him), publishing "Reflections of a Century" (which not only raised over \$150,000 for community and civic projects in the communities served by the newspaper but has also provided the residents of Renfrew County with a major historical record of the 20th century), and helping fundraise for Melissa Bishop.

There are many traits and attributes to being a truly great community-inspired champion, namely: energy and passion, creativity, collaborative spirit, integrity, reliability, commitment and results-driven approaches. Gerald displays all these in a selfless way. Although Gerald has been honoured by his newspaper peers with many honours, awards and accolades, none are as meaningful to him as the many life-altering community projects he has led to completion.

Under Gerald's leadership, the Ottawa Valley has become a more community-oriented environment where all residents can achieve a good quality of life. He has lived and is living his life believing that each of us should leave this world a better place.



A Fixture of Cobden

One of the ventures The Leader undertook under Gerald and Ron Tracey was the Cobden Sun. Originally founded in 1895 by Frederick Baxter Elliott, he was the editor and publisher. Its printing office and the paper became a prominent fixture of the Cobden business community. On February 21, 1913, a fire swept through Main Street, destroying an entire block, among which was the Cobden Sun building. Unfortunately, the paper's early historical records were lost in the blaze. After a hiatus of five years, it resurfaced in 1918.

In modern times, the paper was published under the ownership and direction of Ron & Gerald Tracey from 1975 (until 2010) after they purchased it from Howard McCready. In 1989, the old printing office on Crawford Street was demolished and replaced with a new editing building and printing moved off-site. At the end of 2010, it faced permanent closure, but was saved when a former Cobden man returned to the village and revitalized it. However, it only survived briefly, closing in 2012.

Among the editors during its recent years were:

Connie White, who served as a long-time editor of the paper;

Marie Zettler, an editor throughout the history of the ***Cobden Sun***, and a Local Journalist Initiative reporter for papers such as The Eganville Leader;

Debbie Robinson, who served as an editor for the publication;

Neil Etienne, who worked for the paper as a reporter, photographer, and copy editor from 2008 to 2011.

Looking back with Marie Zettler

President Pat Van Gelder recently visited Marie Zettler and, over coffee and apple muffins, they talked about Marie's life in journalism. Here is some of what came out of it:

The Journey

- In 1981, Marie was asked to take over the "Who Visited Who" local interest column.
- She was a freelance reporter for local papers (Cobden Sun, Eganville Leader, Pembroke Observer), as well as farm publications and the Ottawa Citizen.
- In 1984, she became a regular reporter for the Cobden Sun.
- In 1989, she was hired as the editor of the Cobden Sun, a position she held until her retirement in 2002.

- After retirement, she was back to doing freelance work.
- A mother, farmer & school bus driver, Marie was grateful for the guidance and mentorship she received from so many people, including Carol Doran, a former editor of the Cobden Sun.
- She enjoyed the connections made and the insights gained at Conventions of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association.



*Sean Chase, Marie Zettler, Gerald Tracey
Courtesy of The Madawaska Valley Current, 2019*

A few Stand-Out Memories

- Marie had several interviews with Dr. Allan Bromley, an American physicist, university professor, and science advisor to President George H.W. Bush, who was born in Westmeath and was a frequent summer visitor to the area.
- She covered the sentencing of a man convicted of spousal abuse, only the second time in Canada that spousal sexual abuse was an offense that came to trial.
- When cataract surgeries started in Pembroke, Marie was invited to be present, in the operating room, gowned and masked, to report on what she saw.
- She was present at some difficult meetings when new landfill sites were being explored.
- At her request and the invitation of a local veterinarian, Marie was present to report on the caesarean section of a cow.

From the start, Marie's life in journalism was about introducing people to the world outside their door. She was welcomed at family and community celebrations of all kinds and enjoyed the relationships she developed in the area. "... like going in the grocery store and having some little kid tug at his mother's sleeve and say "Mommy, there's the paper lady".



A New Joint Venture

With thanks to two members of our Society, Barry Conway and Peter Niemczak, you can enjoy listening to our speakers and their presentations via a podcast. Barry is the host of **The Opeongo Line**, which is a regional podcast that explores the heritage, culture, and history of Renfrew County. Running biweekly, its episodes are approximately 60 minutes. Barry has agreed to create podcasts on behalf of the Society.

To date, two of this year's presentations can be enjoyed:

Chief Tessouat and the Algonquin Nation, featuring former chief, Kirby Whiteduck:
<https://www.podbean.com/eas/pb-syd35-1b05224>; and

Renfrew Politics: A Family Tradition, given by former Renfrew MPP, John Yakubuski:
<https://btconway.podbean.com/e/the-yak-and-his-renfrew-county-political-heritage/>

Stayed tuned for three more later this year.



Recapturing Our Past

With thanks to Laurel Cook of the Bonnechere Valley Museum, the Bromley Historical Society is now in possession of a pen and ink drawing the Campbell-McNab grist mill that once graced the shores of the Bonnechere River.



*Mrs. Mitton presents the drawing to Roy Rutland,
board member for the Bonnechere Museum.
Photograph Courtesy of the Mitton Family*

Built by Thomas Bell in the 1840s, the original mill was three stories, a stunning stone building along the banks of the Bonnechere River. The third chute was a 21 foot waterfall that log drivers had to shepherd their timbers over. The mill served as a

central hub for the bustling 19th- and 20th-century farming community, supplying local farmers with feed, salt, and grain processing. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1986. The sketch captures a notable piece of Ottawa Valley industrial heritage.

The drawing was created by Canadian artist Alan Thompson, which was a 30th wedding anniversary gift for Harold and Teresa (Searson) Mitton and hung in their Hamilton area home. When Mrs. Milton went into a seniors' residence, she decided to donate it to the Bonnechere Valley Museum. Having grown up in Douglas, as one of nine children of 'Beattie' and 'Jo-Dan' (McKennirey) Searson, she wanted to keep the drawing in home territory.

After graduating with a Registered Nursing diploma from Brockville Hospital School of Nursing in 1941, she nursed at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto and Homewood Hospital, Guelph. She then moved to Hamilton to continue her nursing career at St. Joseph's Hospital. Shortly after she met Harold and they were married on Christmas Day, 1945. Teresa continued to work, including stints in employee health [P&G], infectious diseases [Hamilton General Hospital], private duty, and Chedoke Sanatorium until the greater demands and roles of motherhood and housewife became her main focus. Mrs. Mitton passed away in 2013.

Now displayed in the Old Town Hall in Osceola, the drawing of the mill, as she wished, remains close to its place of origin...



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

UPCOMING 2026 TALKS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday, September 13
2pm | Celebrating the Eganville Leader
Gerald & Ron Tracey & Guests
Old Town Hall
498 Micksburg Road
Osceola |
| Sunday, October 4
2pm | Dr. Martin Maloney – Personal & Political
Julie Maloney & Sean Conway
Old Town Hall
498 Micksburg Road
Osceola |

Sunday, November 22
2pm

Women @ War
Former Chief Wendy Jocko
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 550
43A Main Street
Cobden

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JOIN US!

Become a member of the BROMLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Renew your annual membership – Individual \$15.00 or Family \$20.00.

- Send your cheque along with your name, street address and e-mail coordinates to: Bromley Historical Society, 34 Gypsy Lane, Cobden, Ontario, K0J 1K0. Our email address is bromleyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Your membership fee can also be sent to the above email address.
- Charitable donations receive a tax receipt.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I wish to join as: Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$20.00 _____

I wish to donate: \$____.

Yes, I would like to volunteer. My interests are:

We are now on Facebook: Scan the QR code below to gain access:

