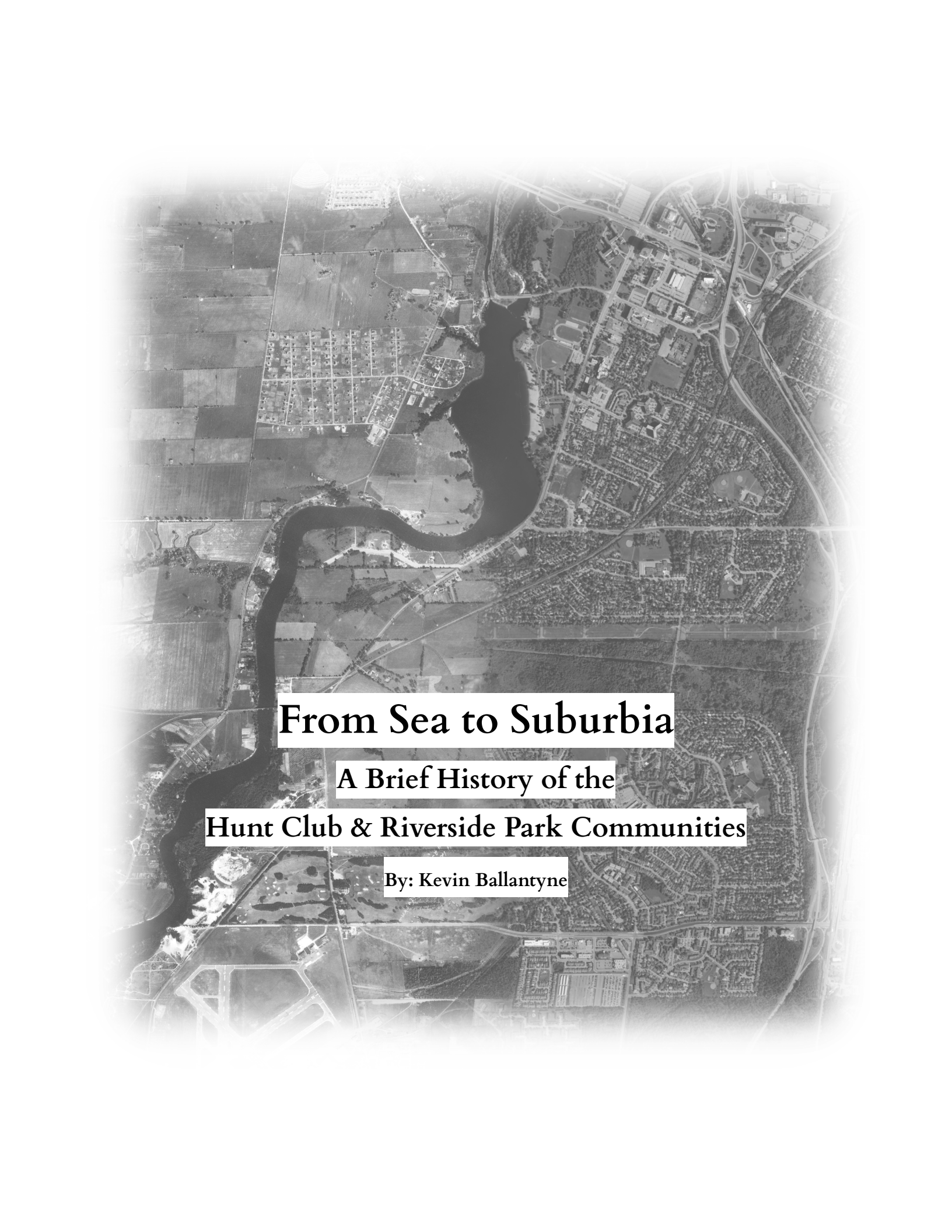


An aerial photograph of a river and surrounding communities. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom center, then turns right. To the left of the river is a large, flat, open area, likely agricultural fields. To the right of the river is a densely built-up area with many houses, streets, and some larger buildings. A highway or major road runs along the right edge of the image. The overall scene shows a transition from rural to suburban development.

From Sea to Suburbia

A Brief History of the Hunt Club & Riverside Park Communities

By: Kevin Ballantyne

Ice Age & Champlain Sea

Today, the Hunt Club–Riverside Park community is a thriving, bustling suburb. However, this hasn't always been the case. If we travel back about 20,000 years, give or take a Tuesday, this entire area was covered by 2 to 3 kilometres of ice. A short time later (in geological time, that is), as the glaciers receded, a large sea, known as the Champlain Sea, filled in over the ground that was depressed under the weight of the glaciers. As the ground rose and the sea disappeared, ancient shorelines left sand and gravel deposits in these parts and remnants are still seen today with the various sand and gravel pits. In fact, Beluga whale bones were discovered in the sand pits on the northwest corner of Riverside and Hunt Club Roads in 1948 and 1955. These same sand pits were a popular place for people from Ottawa to get sand for projects. It was also a popular place for teenagers to party and “park” (make-out).

Algonquin Anishinaabe Homelands

As the sea retreated, the first humans came to the Ottawa area about 8,000 years ago. These were the ancestors of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. Although there has been no archaeological findings specifically within the Hunt Club–Riverside Park area regarding pre-contact activities, the Rideau River was often used for seasonal migration. The land was also part of the hunting grounds of Grand Chief Constant Pinesi just before Europeans came and settled.

When the British came to Ontario to settle Loyalists after the American Revolution, an informal agreement was made in 1783 with the Mississaugas, represented in part by Chief Mynass. The agreement became known as the Crawford Purchase, named after Captain William Redford Crawford who was chief negotiator for the British. However, the agreement did not actually cover land between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers as Chief Mynass had no control over it; it was actually Algonquin territory and they had no say in the purchase. Because no formal treaty for this land has ever been negotiated with them, the area is still part of the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

Gloucester Township & Early Settlers

Despite the absence of a treaty, European settlement began in the Ottawa area after the purchase. Gloucester Township, named after the 2nd Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh, was surveyed between 1792 and 1820. The first settler to the township was Braddish Billings and his family, but the scope of this history is further south.

The first settler to arrive in the Hunt Club area was Captain Andrew Wilson in 1819 who purchased Lot 2 on Concession 2, Rideau Front, a property from the Rideau River to McCarthy Road including the McCarthy Woods. Captain Wilson was a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars and built a log house when he arrived. He named the house Ossian Hall after a character in Celtic mythology regarded as the greatest poet of Ireland. He was well read and was known to have one of the best libraries in the Bytown area and travellers stayed at his home to escape the vast wilderness. As Captain Wilson was experiencing financial problems, Daniel and Margaret O'Connor visited Ossian Hall and were extremely impressed by the house and its library. In fact, the O'Connors were so impressed, they purchased the home from Wilson in 1829 and Wilson moved into Bytown. Daniel operated a store on Wellington Street in Upper Bytown and was appointed first justice of the young town. O'Connor Street was named in his honour. Ossian Hall was later sold at auction by the descendants of O'Connor in 1883 and purchased by Gabriel Dowler Sr. Although Ossian Hall was most likely demolished by 1920, the Dowlers continued to own the property until it was expropriated in 1952 (more on that later).

Not too long after his arrival, Captain Wilson soon had company. One of the first settlers to arrive in the Riverside Park area was the family of James Otterson in 1827 who purchased Lot 1, Concession 2 on Rideau Front, an area between the Rideau River and McCarthy Road and bordered by the powerlines to the south. In 1874, his son John donated land for a school which became School Section #7 (although locally known as Otterson School) but later became known as Bayview Public School and continues as such today but in a different location. His descendants remained on this lot for over 120 years until subdivisions arrived in the 1950s. In honour of the family, many streets in Riverside Park are named after the remaining descendants, Otterson Drive being one example.



S.S. #7 schoolhouse on the Otterson property
(source: Gloucester Historical Society)

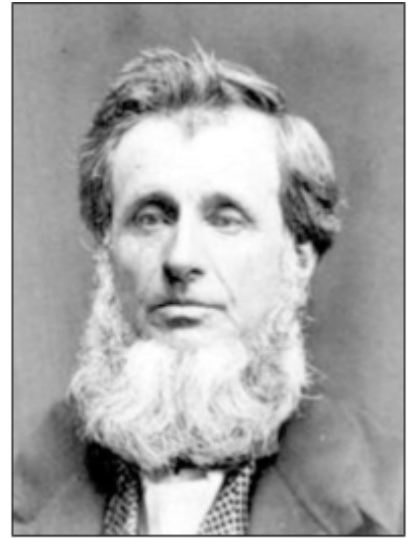
Rideau Canal & Mooney's Bay

Close by, construction on the Rideau Canal was progressing and a dam was built at the top of Three Rock Rapids which transformed the rapids into today's Hog's Back Falls, named by James

Otterson. It also created Mooney's Bay. The construction of the dam became one of the most challenging endeavors of the entire canal as it collapsed 3 times. During the 3rd collapse, Colonel By's men were on the dam as it began to rumble under them. The last man got off just in time before the dam was washed away. The 4th and final dam was completed in 1831.

William Upton and Groveland

Another prominent settler in the Hunt Club area was William Upton. Although the Uptons were known for their hospitality after they settled, William had a very interesting life prior to arriving in Gloucester. Born in 1811 in England, his father John was an engineer who helped build canals and roads in Gloucester, England. In July 1826, while on bail for fraud, John fled England to Russia and was recruited as an engineer for their Black Sea expansion. William also became an engineer and helped his father design and build the docks and naval base at Sevastopol in Crimea to allow large ships to dock. The Tsar of Russia, impressed with the outcome of the docks, promoted his father. In 1845, William married Charlotte Rowles, a British expatriate.



William Upton after arriving in Gloucester

After his father's death in 1851, William was discharged and granted a 160-acre estate and vineyard near Sevastopol by the Russian military. During the Crimean War, his villa was pillaged and he was captured by the British. He was promised restitution for his property if he assisted the British in taking Sevastopol with his knowledge of the naval docks. When the city was not captured hastily, the British reneged on their agreement. He returned to England and directly appealed to the Prime Minister for compensation but this did not happen. He decided to come to Canada and settled in Gloucester Township in 1857.



Rendering of the Upton farmstead "Groveland" from the *Illustrated historical atlas of the county of Carleton, Ont.*

In 1858, he purchased Lot 5, Concession 2, Rideau Front, mainly where the Hunt Club Golf Course is now. With his wife, he started a farm and raised 5 daughters and 1 son and named the farm Groveland. To prevent erosion due to the sandy soil, William planted rows of trees on his property, some of which are still there today at the Hunt Club. The Uptons were known for their hospitality and often hosted local events and fundraisers for the church. William died in 1893 and his son sold the property to the Ottawa Hunt Club over a decade later.

The Ottawa Hunt Club

Fox hunting was a very popular sport at the time and the Ottawa Hunt Club often used the properties

in the area for this activity. Upton records in his diary in May 20, 1876: "The Ottawa Hunt made some ridiculous manoeuvres across our land and some of our neighbours." About thirty years later, the Ottawa Hunt Club purchased the property from William Upton's son in 1907. The Ottawa Hunt Limited was incorporated the following year on March 23, 1908 and the clubhouse was opened on October 30, 1909. Starting solely as a hunting club, it shifted focus to automobiles and golf in 1919 with the hunting club moving to Ashton, Ontario. Teams of horses were on the job to



Original clubhouse of the Ottawa Hunt Club in 1910
(source: Toronto Public Library)

create the course and farmers from all over delivered manure to raise the ground. The course opened in 1921. The Hunt Club has hosted many Canada Opens, with the first one in 1932 which helped bring the course to national attention. July of 1958 saw President Eisenhower come to Ottawa and play a round of golf. The club also expanded into curling, opening their rink in 1959. Tragedy struck on February 25, 1962 when the original clubhouse burned to the ground along with many irreplaceable items and trophies. A new clubhouse opened a year later.

Tally-ho Water Company

During a typhoid epidemic in Ottawa caused by inadequate water treatment, the Ottawa Wine Vault Company started Tally-Ho Water with water sourced from near the Hunt Club. There was a spring near the current 18th tee which was known for its crystal clear and pure water. They delivered water and soft drinks door to door for almost 2 decades. After 1939, their bottling facility was sold to the Department of Transport and used as an equipment garage. At some point in the late 1950s it was demolished.

Prior to suburban development, other businesses also called the area home. An inn at the corner of the Bowesville (now Riverside Drive) and Walkley Roads was built during the 1870s, providing travellers along the route a place to rest before continuing on to Ottawa. The inn was operated by Patrick Mooney (namesake of Mooney's Bay) and he called it Mooney's Inn. After his death, the inn continued operation and was later called the Ontario Hotel. It was demolished sometime in the 1960s for road improvements.

About where Crowsnest Avenue is today was Fine's Flowers, a garden centre owned and operated by Harry Fine on Riverside Drive. Fine purchased an existing greenhouse as a hobby but enjoyed it so much he decided to expand his operation and open a garden centre in 1958 with 6 greenhouses. He wanted to provide Ottawa a local alternative for out-of-season flowers. By 1973, business was so good he expanded his operation to include 5 acres of greenhouse space. In 1987, they continued to expand, opening their first franchise elsewhere in the Ottawa area. They also moved their store on Riverside Drive about 30 metres and opened a new store, demolishing the existing facility. However, by 1991, the company was in trouble and sold the store on Riverside to Fernlea Flowers Limited.

Fight Off the Deadly Typhoid Germ by Using

"TALLY-HO" WATER

The Water of Purity and Zest

"Tally-Ho" comes from the famous rock spring of the Ottawa Hunt Club at Bowesville. Abundant in use in many Ottawa homes, and its purity and refreshing qualities are known to all Hunt Club members.

"TALLY-HO" WATER
is Pure, Palatable and Refreshing

PRICE LIST—(Delivered)

Barrel (40 gal.)	\$3.00
Jars (5 gal.)	.50
Jars (3 gal.)	.30
Bottles (1-2 gal.)	.10
Vicky Bottle (1 quart)	.25

Charges for containers (retained on return): Barrel, \$5; 5 gal. Jar, 5c.; 3 gal. Jar, 3c.; 1-2 gal. bottle, 10c. No charge for Vicky Bottles.

Analysis and Report

Made for the Ottawa Hunt Club by Mr. Frank G. Greve, M.A., F.R.S., Chemist, Dominion Experimental Farms, Ottawa, Ont., of "Tally-Ho" Water from the spring on the Bowesville grounds at Bowesville.

Per 100 cc.

Free Acids	0.00	Free Alkalies	0.00
Chlorides in solution	0.00	Chlorides in solution	0.00
Calcium	0.00	Calcium	0.00
Hardness at 175 deg. F.	0.00	Hardness at 175 deg. F.	0.00
Other solids	0.00	Other solids	0.00
Total	0.00	Total	0.00

Physically excellent, very slightly mineral water.

These data are in accord with those of water of recognized purity and excellence and indicate freedom from all forms of organic pollution, and from all forms of bacteria and other micro-organisms.

(Sd.) FRANK G. GREVE
Dominion Experimental Farms,
Ottawa, Ontario.

WE DELIVER AND CALL FOR CONTAINERS WHEN EMPTY.

Ottawa Wine Vault Co.
PHONES 5916-5917. 35 GEORGE ST.

Ad for Tally-ho Water in
Ottawa Journal
(February 8, 1911)

Another prominent business in the Hunt Club area was the Plante Dairy Farm on McCarthy Road. Owned and operated by Jean-Baptiste and Exilda Plante, the business lasted from 1926 to 1967 although it changed hands from within the family. The milk was delivered door to door by horse and sleigh until trucks were used starting in 1932. Their access to Bank Street was cut off by the construction of the Airport Parkway and the property was sold to Campeau Corporation in 1975.

Rivers, Roads & Railways

The Hunt Club - Riverside Park area has seen all major modes of transportation throughout its history. For thousands of years, the Rideau River was the easiest way to travel and reach other places on the continent. When Europeans settled, they built trails and eventually roads to connect with other settlers. For instance, a trail was made between the Billings' property and Captain Wilson's to connect the only settlers at the time. This trail was extended to Bowesville and became the Bowesville Road which went through several properties including the Uptons'. The River Road split off the Bowevilles Road and continued to Manotick. In 1874, the Ottawa & Gloucester Road Company purchased property to expand their network to include these 2 roads.

In 1854, the first railway to Bytown opened on the eastern edge of the future community although no station was built. The Canadian Northern Railway opened a line from Hurdman to Napanee in 1913 which passed through multiple properties. A spur was also built through Upton's property to a gravel pit near Bowesville. Although the spur was abandoned during the 1920s and 30s, it was used again during and after the Second World War to reach the airport. By 1960, the line was removed. However there are still wood ties in the McCarthy Woods near the wood hydro lines.



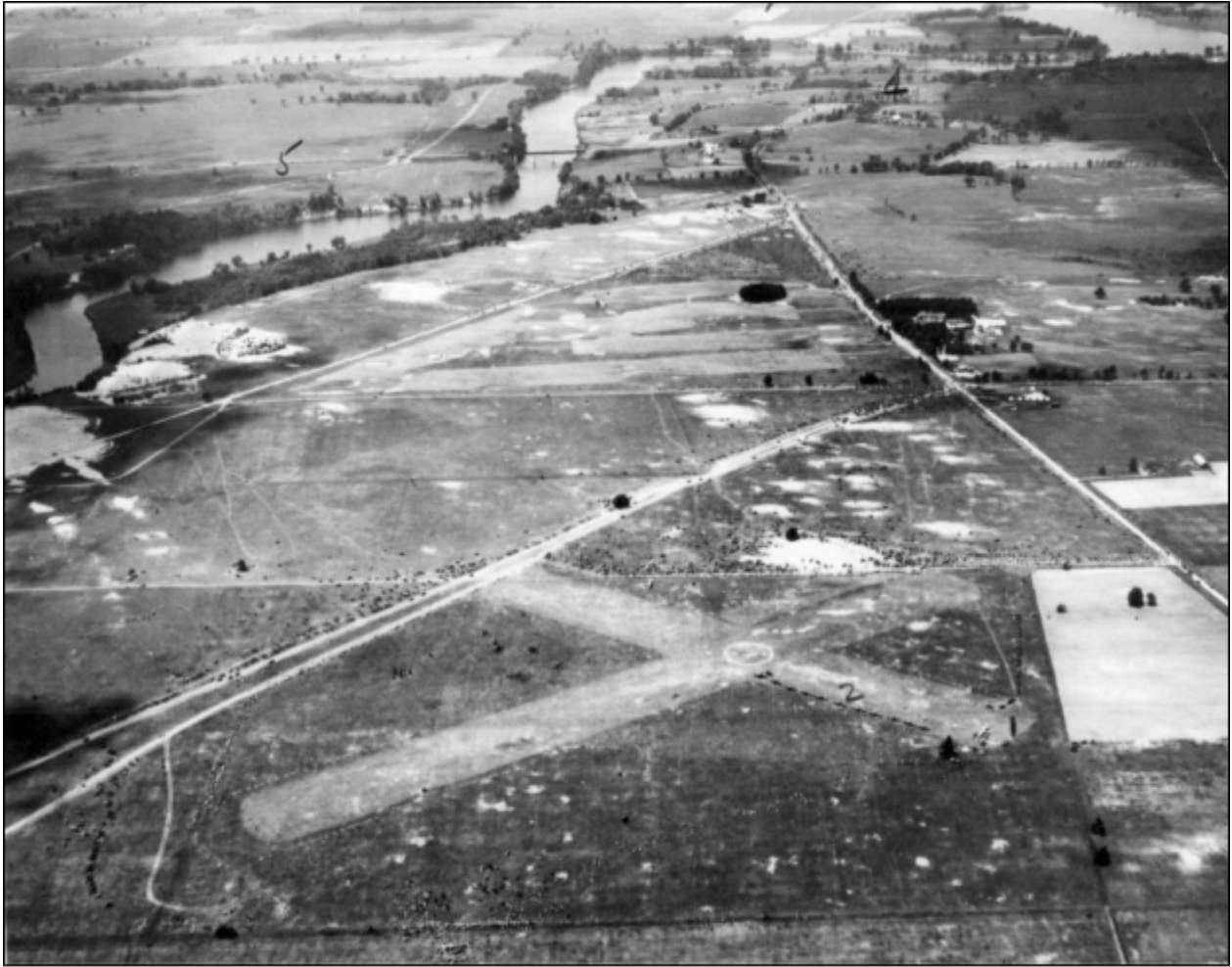
H. Belden & Co. Illustrated historical atlas of the county of Carleton of 1879
with road names from today

Uplands Airport

The relatively flat land to the south became an ideal place for the 20th century's most significant transportation method: air travel. The first plane landing occurred on July 19, 1919 and soon air travel took off (figuratively and literally). The landing strip became known as the Hunt Club Field. On July 2, 1927, thousands flooded the area to see Charles Lindbergh arrive in his Spirit of St. Louis for Canada's Diamond Jubilee. Although Lindbergh arrived safely, Thad Johnson, a pilot in Lindbergh's 12 escort pilots, died when he ejected from his plane after his tail clipped the propeller of another plane. He was too close to the ground and his parachute didn't have time to fully deploy. His death devastated Lindbergh and the celebrations instead became the funeral of Johnson on July 3.

As time went on, the field became more and more busy and in 1928, the strip was renamed Uplands Aerodome. The name Uplands derived from a failed housing development in the area by the Ottawa Uplands Limited after the First World War. In 1938, the Federal Government purchased

the airport, expanded it and renamed it the Uplands Airport. Today, it is now the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport.



**Thousands of cars and visitors at the Hunt Club Field waiting for
Lindbergh to arrive**
(source: Canadian Aviation Museum)

The Greber Plan

By 1950, the Federal Government was eager to implement the Greber Plan. The plan called for the removal of railways in the inner city and replaced them with roads, parkways and grand boulevards; separate areas designated for residential, commercial and industrial enterprises and the expansion of parkland. The area that would become Riverside Park and Hunt Club was not spared from these changes. To start, Ottawa annexed Gloucester Township all the way to Hunt Club Road on January 1, 1950.

The Federal District Commission (FDC) (precursor of the National Capital Commission) began

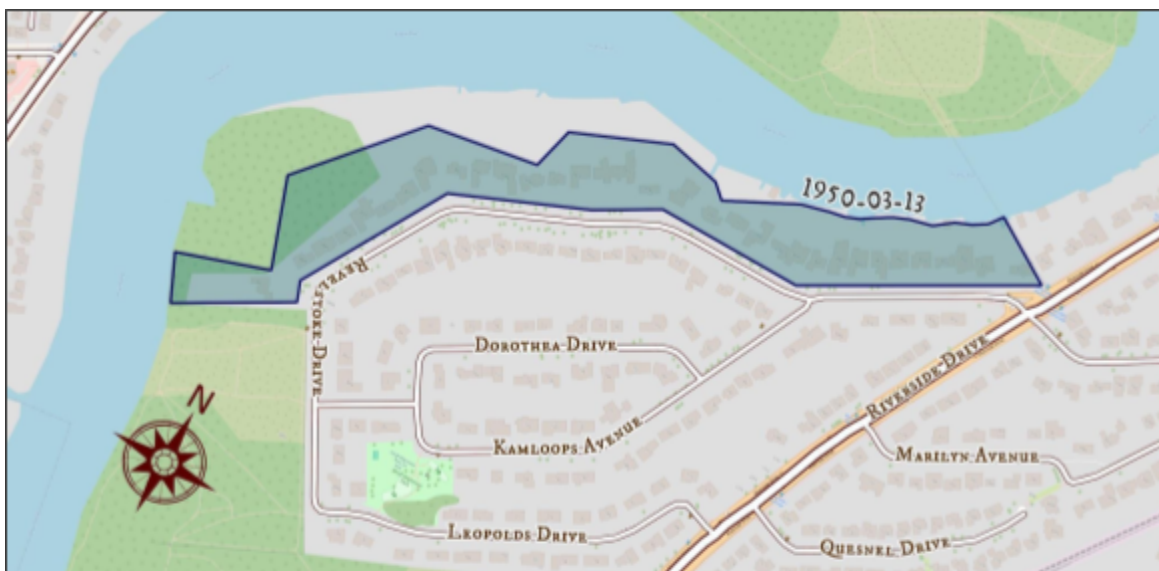
expropriating Lot 2-3, Concession 2 and Lot 2 of Concession 3 in 1952, the vacant area between the Riverside Park and Hunt Club communities today. A new railway line was built to connect the Walkley Yards to the existing Canadian National (originally Canadian Northern) lines. This land was also set aside for a ring road around the city but the road was never built. Today, this area is used for recreational trails called McCarthy Woods although some of it is slated for development as well.

Other development changes in or near the Hunt Club - Riverside Park area due to the Greber Plan include:

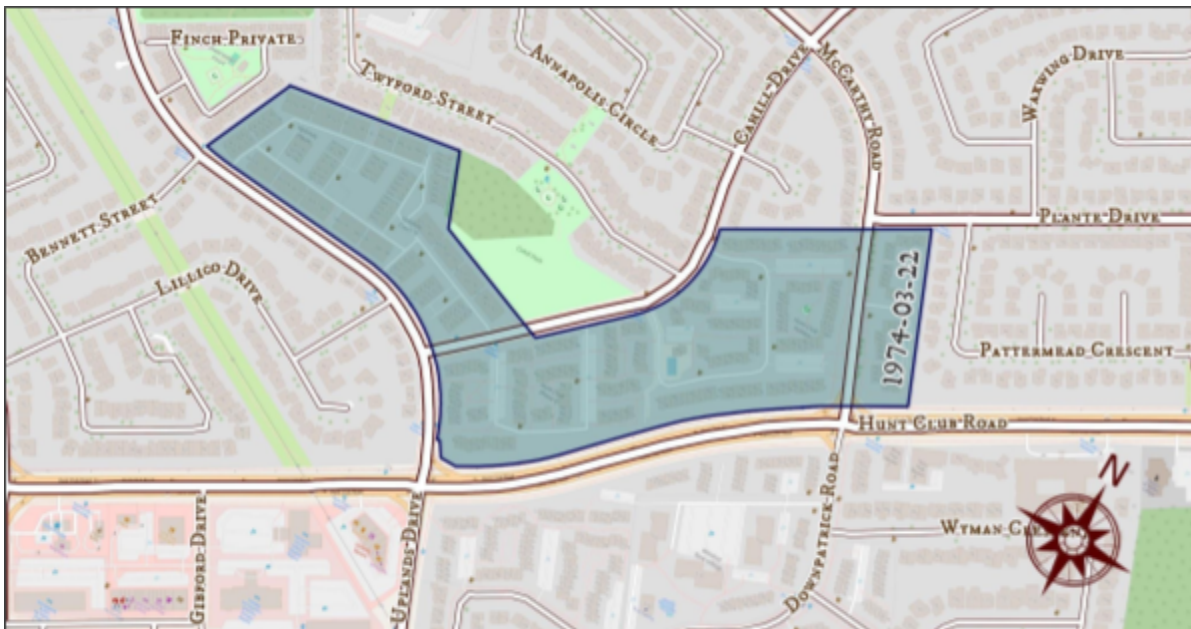
- Confederation Heights: An employment area, built between the late 1950s and early 60s, created as part of the separation of land uses (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.)
- Expansion of Riverside Drive: Constructed in stages as part of plan to have a parkway along the Rideau River.
- Airport Parkway: Part of a grand southern entrance to downtown Ottawa, the parkway opened on December 18, 1972.

Here Come The Suburbs

With the expansion of the city came suburban development. The first subdivision in the Riverside Park area was registered in 1950 along Revelstoke Drive and it was known as Bayview. In the Hunt Club area, the first subdivision was registered in 1974 and included the Hunt Club Estates and Uplands Court in the south end of the community.



**First subdivision in Riverside Park registered in the Land Registry on
March 13, 1950**



First subdivision in the Hunt Club community registered in the Land Registry on March 22, 1974

Suburban Life

Since the first subdivisions were constructed, the population has exploded. Today, Riverside Park has about 8,000 people while Hunt Club has a population of about 13,000. Everyone who moved to the area has helped shape the community through the decades. Over time, farms were replaced with housing developments and wild forests became walking trails.

While both communities grew, community associations were founded to provide a common voice. The Riverside Park Property Owner's Association held its first meeting on November 17, 1952. The association later reorganized as the Riverside Park Community Association in 1962. The Hunt Club Community Association began in 1979 as the Western Community Association..

The transportation network went from rural roads to major urban arterials but not without concerns along the way. In the mid-1970s, residents of Riverside Park wanted McCarthy Road to be closed at its north end due to traffic concerns from the new Western Community (later the Hunt Club Community). However, the city council at the time said no. Residents in the Hunt Club Community protested the planned Knoxdale-Hunt Club arterial throughout the 1980s which today is the Hunt Club Road that stretches across the city. Over time, the road network and impact to the community changed significantly with:

- The Airport Parkway opening in on December 18, 1972

- Riverside Drive being moved slightly east to build the railway underpass in 1982 and expanded to 4 lanes
- The Hunt Club (Michael J.E. Sheflin) bridge over the Rideau River opening on October 25, 1985 as part of the future arterial across the city
- The closure of Bowesville Road in 1995 through the Hunt Club golf course

Public transportation expanded to reach the growing community. Although there was a bus line to the airport by 1951, bus service expanded in Riverside Park during the 1960s and bus routes were added to the Hunt Club community in 1978. Railway transportation arrived with the O-Train coming to the edge of the community in 2001. In November 2014, the Airport Parkway Pedestrian Bridge, later renamed the Juno Beach Memorial Bridge, was opened connecting the Hunt Club community with South Keys, the O-Train and the Transitway. Politicians and residents saw the new bridge as a landmark for the city.

Although major shopping centres were built just beyond the communities, such as South Keys, Riverside Mall and the Hunt Club Centre opened as community malls in 1965 and 1978, respectively.

As more and more families arrived, schools opened to accommodate the growing student population with:

- Brookfield High School in 1962
- Bayview Public School which, although existing since the 1870s, expanded in 1962 for the new subdivisions
- General Vanier Public School in 1963
- George-Étienne-Cartier Catholic Elementary School in 1965
- Fielding Drive Public School in 1969
- Holy Cross Elementary School in 1960s
- R. Byrns Curry Public School (now Bayview Public School) in 1976
- Holy Family School in 1979

Recreation has also been a major aspect of both communities. Initially in the Hunt Club community, there were concerns regarding a lack of parks in the area. However, today there's McCarthy Woods which provides a tranquil oasis from city life, there's summer fun and athletics at Mooney's Bay, golf at the Hunt Club, multiple parks in both communities and McCarthy Park where the Hunt Club - Riverside Community Centre was opened in 1983 along with the football fields and baseball diamond.

For a digital copy or to check out other documents on the history of the Hunt Club and Riverside Park communities, visit

www.forgottenottawa.ca/community/huntclub-riversidepark

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