

Hunt Club – Riverside Park Timeline

>13,000 years ago: Ice Age

13,000–10,000 years ago: Champlain Sea

12,000 or 8,000 years ago: The Algonkin came to Ottawa area

1783: The Crawford Purchase was agreed upon between the British and the Mississauga people which the British assumed included the area around Ottawa but was actually the traditional land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people

1792–1820: Gloucester Township surveyed

1816: Gloucester Township became part of Ottawa District

1819: Captain Andrew Wilson arrived, the earliest settler in the Hunt Club area. According to the land registry, he bought Concession 2, Lot 2 on May 22, 1824. Wilson was a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars. He built a log house and named it Ossian Hall after Celtic mythology. Many travellers stayed at his home. He was known to have one of the best libraries in the Bytown area.

1826–1832: Construction of Rideau Canal. A dam was constructed at the top of Three Rock Rapids which transformed the rapids into Hog's Back Falls, named by James Otterson. The dam also created Mooney's Bay. It took 4 attempts to construct the dam. On the 3rd attempt, the men constructing it almost died as it collapsed out from under them as they ran.

1827: The family of James Otterson settled on Concession 2 Lot 1, becoming one of the first settlers in the Riverside Park community. James gave Hog's Back its name. His descendants remained on the lot until subdivisions arrived in 1951. Many streets in Riverside Park are named after the Otterson's who still owned the property in the 1950s.

1829: After staying at Ossian Hall and being so impressed with the library, Daniel and Margaret O'Connor purchased it from Wilson when he was experiencing financial problems. Daniel O'Connor became a prominent citizen of Bytown and O'Connor Street was named in his honour.

1858: William Upton purchased Concession 2, Lot 5 after arriving in Gloucester Township the previous year. Born in 1811 in England, Upton went to Russia with his parents. His father, John, was also an

engineer. He fled with his family from England to Russia while on bail for fraud. William helped his father construct the docks and naval base at Sevastopol in Crimea. The Tsar of Russia promoted his father after seeing the docks. He married Charlotte Rowles, a British expatriate, in 1845. He was discharged and granted a 160-acre estate and vineyard near Sevastopol. When the Crimean War began, his villa was pillaged and he was captured by the British. After assisting the British with his knowledge of the naval base, he was promised but not given restitution for his property damage. He returned to England and directly appealed to the Prime Minister for compensation. When this didn't happen, he came to Canada and settled in Gloucester Township in 1857. With his wife, he started a farm and raised 5 daughters and 1 son. He named the farm Groveland and the Uptons often hosted many social events and fundraisers for the church in Bowesville. William died in 1893.

1870s: Mooney's Hotel opened at the end of Walkley Road on Lot 25 of the Junction Gore. The proprietor was Patrick Mooney and it became a popular stop for people travelling along the Rideau Canal. The hotel was later renamed the Ontario Hotel and was demolished in the 1950s.

1874: The Ottawa & Gloucester Road Company expanded their road network to Manotick, purchasing the right-of-way of Bowesville Road and River Road, what would later become Riverside Drive.

1874: School Section #7 schoolhouse opened on Concession 2 Lot 1 with land donated by the Otterson family. The school became known as Otterson's Public School.

1895: A new schoolhouse for S.S. #7 was built across from Mooney's Bay on Bowesville Road (later Riverside Drive) and was renamed Bayview Public School.

1907: Land was purchased from the Upton family for the Ottawa Hunt Club on Concession 2, Lot 5. The hunting club had actually been using the properties in the area for several decades prior with William Upton mentioning them in his diary in 1876. The Ottawa Hunt Limited was incorporated the following year on March 23, 1908.

1910s: Ottawa Uplands Ltd planned to build a subdivision south of the Hunt Club during the housing boom after the First World War but never registered a plan. The airport adopted the name Uplands after the company.

1911: 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 (where the 18th tee is today). They delivered water and soft drinks door to door for almost 2 decades. Their bottling facility was demolished in the 1950s.

1913: Canadian Northern Railway opened a line from Napanee to Hurdman, crossing multiple properties in the area. Difficulties occurred when constructing the bridge over the Rideau River. The 4th pier on the west side sank into the sand. The company also constructed a spur to a gravel pit near Bowesville. The spur was abandoned during the 1920s and 1930s but was used again during and after the war. The line was likely abandoned again in 1960.

1919: The Ottawa Hunt Club shifted focus to automobiles and golf while the hunting club moved to Ashton, Ontario. A new golf course opened in 1921.

July 19, 1919: First plane landed in the field south of the Hunt Club. Eventually, the landing strip became known as Hunt Club Field.

1923: A brick schoolhouse was constructed across Mooney's Bay for Bayview Public School.

1926: Jean-Baptiste and Exilda Plante opened a dairy farm on Lot 4, Concession 3, a lot between Bank Street and McCarthy Road, with access to Bank Street. The farm was located where Plante Drive is today.

July 2, 1927: Charles Lindbergh, along with 12 escort pilots, landed in Hunt Club Field for a visit during Canada's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. However, tragedy struck when one escort pilot, Thad Johnson, died after ejecting from his plane when its tail clipped the propeller of another plane. He was too close to the ground for his parachute to fully deploy. Instead of the planned celebrations, Johnson's funeral was held the following day.

1928: The Hunt Club Field was renamed Uplands Aerodome.

1938: The Federal Government purchased Uplands and opened an expansion. It was renamed Uplands Airport.

1944: A dance hall named Pineland opened just north of the golf course on Bowesville Road. In the 1960s and 1970s, the location became a go-cart track. The Pineland go-cart track moved to Conroy Road in 1981 and a new outfit, called Thunderbird, took its place until 1984.

June 22, 1948: Beluga whale bones were found in the Foster sand pits along the Rideau River at the northwest corner of Riverside Drive and Hunt Club Road today.

January 1, 1950: Entire Riverside Park and Hunt Club area was annexed into Ottawa from Gloucester Township in order to help implement the Greber Plan. The plan would impact the area for the next 20

years with the construction of a railway and property set aside for a ring road between the 2 communities. The ring road never came to fruition and it was replaced with Hunt Club Road as a cross-city route.

1950: Contract awarded to grade right of way for new railway connection between Bowesville Road (Riverside Drive) and Russell Road (cut-off line to replace the cross-town rail line). This would later become Walkley rail yards

March 3, 1950: Plan 518, known as Bayview, was registered, beginning suburban expansion into the area and the start of the Riverside Park community.

July 1, 1952: Mooney's Bay beach opened as an alternative to the original beach near Hog's Back that originally opened in 1936. The beach was moved due to a number of drownings from the fall's currents.

November 17, 1952: The Riverside Park Property Owner's Association, precursor to the Riverside Park Community Association, held its first meeting.

November 19, 1955: More Beluga whale bones were found at the Foster sand pit.

1958: Harry Fine opened a greenhouse operation along Riverside Drive (might have been called Bowesville Road at the time). He named the business Fine's Flowers. He remained with the business until 1991 when it was sold to Fernlea Flowers Ltd.

1962: Expansion of the Bayview Public School on Riverside Drive was complete with a 2nd floor and gymnasium opened that year.

1962: Riverside Park Community Association is founded.

June 4, 1964: St. Patrick's Home for the Aged, first established in 1865, relocated from 380 Laurier Avenue West to 2865 Riverside Drive opposite from Mooney's Bay.

1965: Riverside Mall opened on Ridgewood Drive with Loblaws as one of the first stores.

1969: After a long process that lasted for about 7 years, a pedestrian underpass was built under the Canadian National Railway line connecting Cromwell and Springland Drives.

1972: A pedestrian underpass was constructed under the Canadian National Railway line connecting Otterson Drive with Fielding Drive.

December 18, 1972: The Airport Parkway opened to the east of both communities.

March 22, 1974: Plan M-137 was registered as the first housing development in the Hunt Club community.

Mid-1970s: Residents of Riverside Park expressed concern about traffic along McCarthy Road from the new Western Community (original name for the Hunt Club Community). They asked that the northern connection of McCarthy at Walkley Road be permanently closed. However, the city council eventually dismissed this option.

1978: The Hunt Club Centre opened at the corner of Paul Anka Drive and McCarthy Road with A&P and Shoppers Drug Mart as some of the first tenants.

1982: New underpass for Riverside Drive opened under the Canadian National Railway line along with a new alignment and 4-lane route to the east of the existing road.

September 24, 1983: Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre opens

October 25, 1985: The Hunt Club (Michael J.E. Shefflin) bridge over the Rideau River was opened to traffic.

mid-1990s: Hunt Club Road was extended to Richmond Road in the west and Hawthorne Road in the east, creating cross-city arterial.

September 6, 1995: At the Riverside Mall, a Hollywood-like bank robbery and hostage taking took place at the Scotiabank. Two robbers, one armed with a shotgun, took 11 people hostage after police were called to the location. A retired salesman, who discovered the robbery, entered the bank but said “The hell with this” and left after one of the robbers jumped over the counter and screamed “Lay down, lay down, lay down”. He called 911 at a nearby barbershop. Snipers were deployed by the police and roads and sidewalks were closed. Halfway through the ordeal, one hostage was released in exchange for coffee and cigarettes which were delivered by a robot. One robber wanted to surrender while the other wanted to escape with as much loot as possible. The police used this to their advantage, promising one robber a getaway car if he left the shotgun behind. Police arrested him as soon as he left the bank. The other robber then surrendered 15 minutes later. The entire ordeal lasted from 9:30am to 6pm.

October 1998: Northern interchange opened on the Airport Parkway at Hunt Club Road.

October 15, 2001: The O-Train opened as a pilot project on the former Canadian Pacific line east of the communities.

2007: Bayview Public School was moved to the existing R. Byrns Curry Public School in the Hunt Club Community. The building on Riverside Drive was later demolished.

November 29, 2014: The Airport Parkway Pedestrian Bridge, later renamed Juno Beach Memorial Bridge, opened connecting the Hunt Club Community with South Keys over the Airport Parkway. Politicians and residents saw the bridge as a new landmark for the city.

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

Sources:

1. Jackson, Wendy. "Ottawa approves community centre for Hunt Club." *Ottawa Citizen*, November 18, 1981, 62. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/463528237/>
2. "Hunt Club / Recreation day set". *Ottawa Citizen*, September 22, 1983, 29. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/464050636/>
3. "Ed Lavery." *Canadian Football Hall of Fame*. Last modified November 6, 2024. <https://cfhof.ca/members/ed-lavery/>
4. Group R. "Now Leasing Hunt Club Centre." *Ottawa Journal*, October 15, 1977, 16. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/50027193/>
5. Ontario Geological Survey. Ontario Mineral Inventory Record MDI31G05SE00003: McCarthy Road Quarry. *Ontario Geological Survey, Mineral Deposit Inventory database*. Last modified May 9, 2022. <https://www.geologyontario.mines.gov.on.ca/mineral-inventory/MDI31G05SE00003>.
6. Fish, Karen. "Hunt Club pit 'gardens' urged". *Ottawa Journal*, May 1, 1980, 55. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/43390902/>
7. Fish, Karen. "Hunt Club garden piled up on rocks, developer now says". *Ottawa Journal*, June 2, 1980, 43. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/41536442/>
8. Moore, Jane. "McCarthy Woods and Meadow|The Three Anchors." *Poets' Pathway*. Accessed September 9, 2026. https://www.poetspathway.ca/a_mccarthy.htm.
9. "Poets' Pathway|Ottawa Ontario." *Poets' Pathway*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://www.poetspathway.ca/pathway.htm>
10. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. "About Us." *Fielding Drive Public School*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://fieldingdrps.ocdsb.ca/our-school-landing/about-us>.
11. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/44462435/>
12. Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est. "À propos." *École élémentaire catholique George-Étienne-Cartier*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://george-etienne-cartier.ecolecatholique.ca/propos>.
13. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. "About Us." *General Vanier Public School*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://generalvanierps.ocdsb.ca/our-school-landing/about-us>.

14. Clark, Glenn. "Gloucester Place Names Project". *Gloucester Historical Society*. Updated February 23, 2011. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/placenames.html>.
15. "Low Priority for Underpass". *Ottawa Citizen*, September 12, 1962, 4. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/457125257/>
16. "Underpass start soon". *Ottawa Citizen*, March 10, 1965, 3. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/459201015/>
17. Clingen, Ron. "Money the Great Unknown in Partial Rail Removal". *Ottawa Journal*, June 23, 1967, 21. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/42663553/>
18. "Underpass ends need of train horn". *Ottawa Citizen*, July 22, 1969, 4. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/459583948/>
19. "Brookfield Road High School". *Ottawa Journal*, September 21, 1962, 39. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/42225350/>
20. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. "About Us." *Brookfield High School*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://brookfieldhs.ocdsb.ca/our-school-landing/about-u>.
21. "Shopping Mall". *Ottawa Citizen*, October 20, 1965, 56. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/459220889/>
22. Stern, Leonard. "Bank hostage drama ends peacefully". *Ottawa Citizen*, September 7, 1995, 1. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/465388676/>
23. Clark, Glenn. "What you May Not Know about Mooney's Bay and Hog's Back". *Historic Gloucester*. Vol. 14, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 7-11. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/Historic%20Gloucester%20Volume%2014%20No%202.pdf>
24. Clark, Glenn. "What you May Not Know about Mooney's Bay and Hog's Back (continued)". *Historic Gloucester*. Vol. 14, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 4-6. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/Historic%20Gloucester%20Volume%2014%20No%203.pdf>
25. HoodQ. *HoodQ Detailed Report: 578 Fielding Drive, Ottawa, Ontario*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://app.hoodq.com/package/6233ab50-f73a-459c-810e-126bbad1f636/detailed>
26. "Parish History." *Holy Cross Parish - Ottawa, Ontario*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://www.holycrossparish.com/parish-history>
27. Clark, Glenn. "The True Story of How Mooney's Bay Got its Name". *Historic Gloucester*. Vol. 17, no. 4 (Winter 2016): 4-8. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/Historic%20Gloucester%20Volume%2017%20No%204.pdf>
28. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/459582505/>
29. Riverside United Church. "About RUC." *Riverside United Church*. Accessed September 10, 2026. <https://riversideunitedottawa.ca/new-here/who-we-are/about-ruc/>
30. Gloucester Historical Society. *Gloucester Street Names*. Gloucester Historical Society. Accessed September 10, 2026. <http://www.gloucesterhistory.com/Gloucester%20Street%20Names.pdf>
31. "Two churches in one". *Ottawa Citizen*, June 14, 1969, 28. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/460372498/>
32. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/placenames.html>
33. Hunt Club Community Organization. *Hunt Club: My Community*. April 2013. <https://hunt-club.ca/hcmc/hcmc132.pdf>.
34. Aubry, Jack. "Up in air over road to airport". *Ottawa Citizen*, September 24, 1982, 39. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/462848755/>
35. "Fine's Flowers Flourish". *Ottawa Journal*, March 31, 1958, 10. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/48630164/>
36. Mahaffy, Robert. "A story of growth". *Ottawa Journal*, April 21, 1973, 9. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/45767306/>
37. "Imperial Esso Stations". *Ottawa Citizen*, February 17, 1962, 24. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/457117864/>
38. Clark, Glenn. "A Spring Stroll along the Old Bowesville Road." *Historic Gloucester* 19, no. 3 (Fall 2018): 6-9. <https://www.gloucesterhistory.com/Historic%20Gloucester%20Volume%2019%20No%203.pdf>

39. City of Ottawa. "Development Application D02-02-26-0055." *Development Applications Search*. Accessed September 10, 2026. <https://devapps.ottawa.ca/en/applications/D02-02-26-0055/details>
40. Kucey, Sam. *The Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club, Our First Century: A History, 1908–2008*. Ottawa: The Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club, 2008.
41. Fawcett, Mark. "Pupils leave classes; move to new school". *Ottawa Citizen*, April 3, 1979, 4. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/461218085/>
42. Flynn, Bruce. "Introducing: Neighbourhood news". *Ottawa Citizen*, September 7, 1976, 1. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/463272461/>
43. Ma, Suzanne. "School board votes to send Bayview pupils to R. Byrns Curry". *Ottawa Citizen*, February 9, 2007, 65. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/466870895/>
44. Miller, Jacquie. "Non-profit doesn't spell GHETTO". *Ottawa Citizen*, June 25, 1982, 33. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/462886496/>.
45. "Official Openings". *Ottawa Citizen*, October 9, 1982, 31. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/462850768/>.
46. "More housing okayed despite park shortage". *Ottawa Citizen*, June 12, 1980, 6. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/460330172/>.
47. "Riverside Residents Organize". *Ottawa Journal*, May 4, 1962, 18. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/46135044/>
48. Sankey, John. "Hunt Club Community Names." *Hunt Club Community Association*. Accessed September 11, 2026. <https://hunt-club.ca/community/history/community-names/>
49. Bellamy, Rhoda. "A Social History: Hunt Club Community." April 1998. John Sankey. Accessed September 11, 2026. <https://johnsankey.ca/bellamy.html>.
50. Johnston, Grace. *Bowesville: A Place To Remember*. Gloucester Historical Society, Gloucester, 1988.