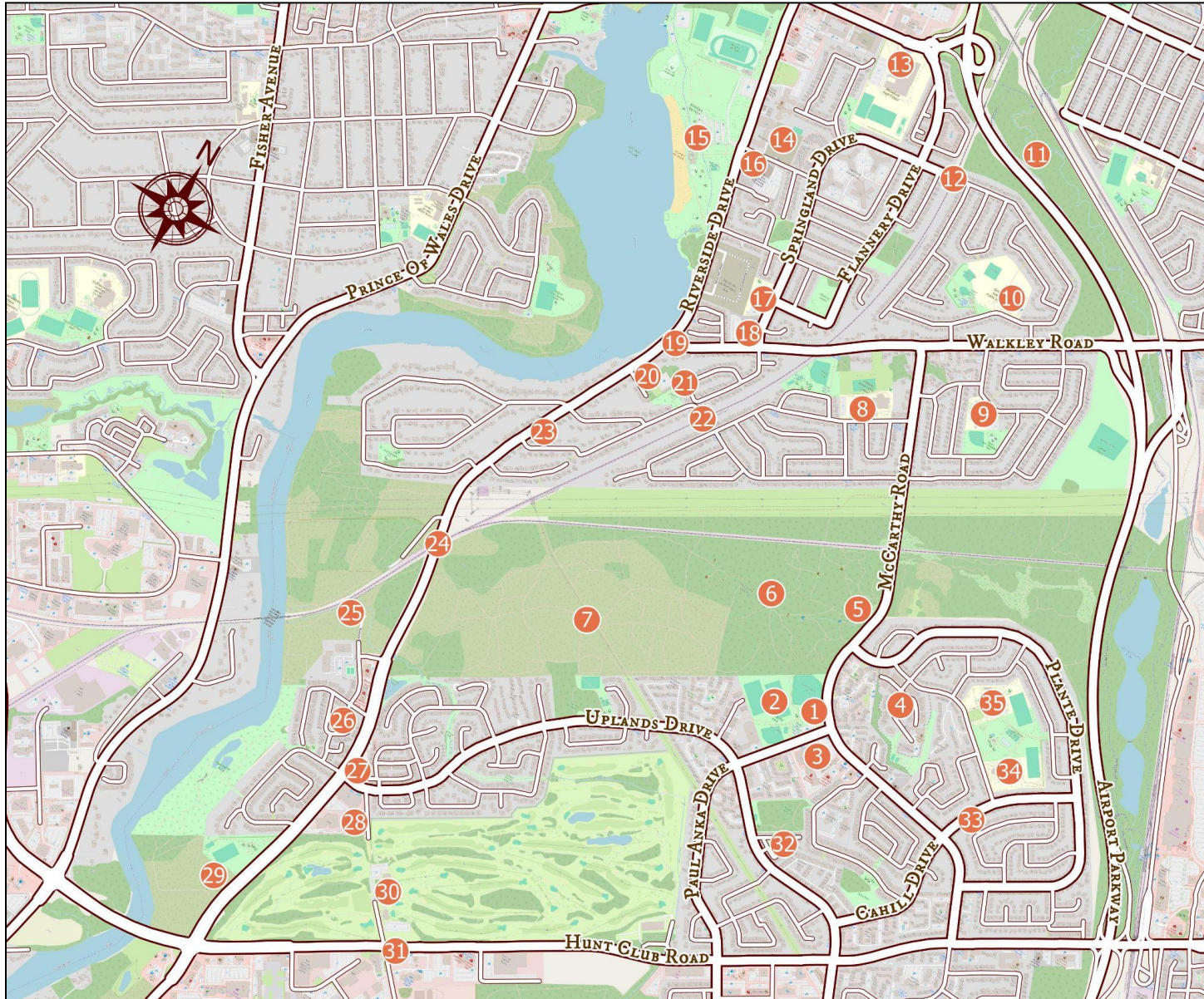


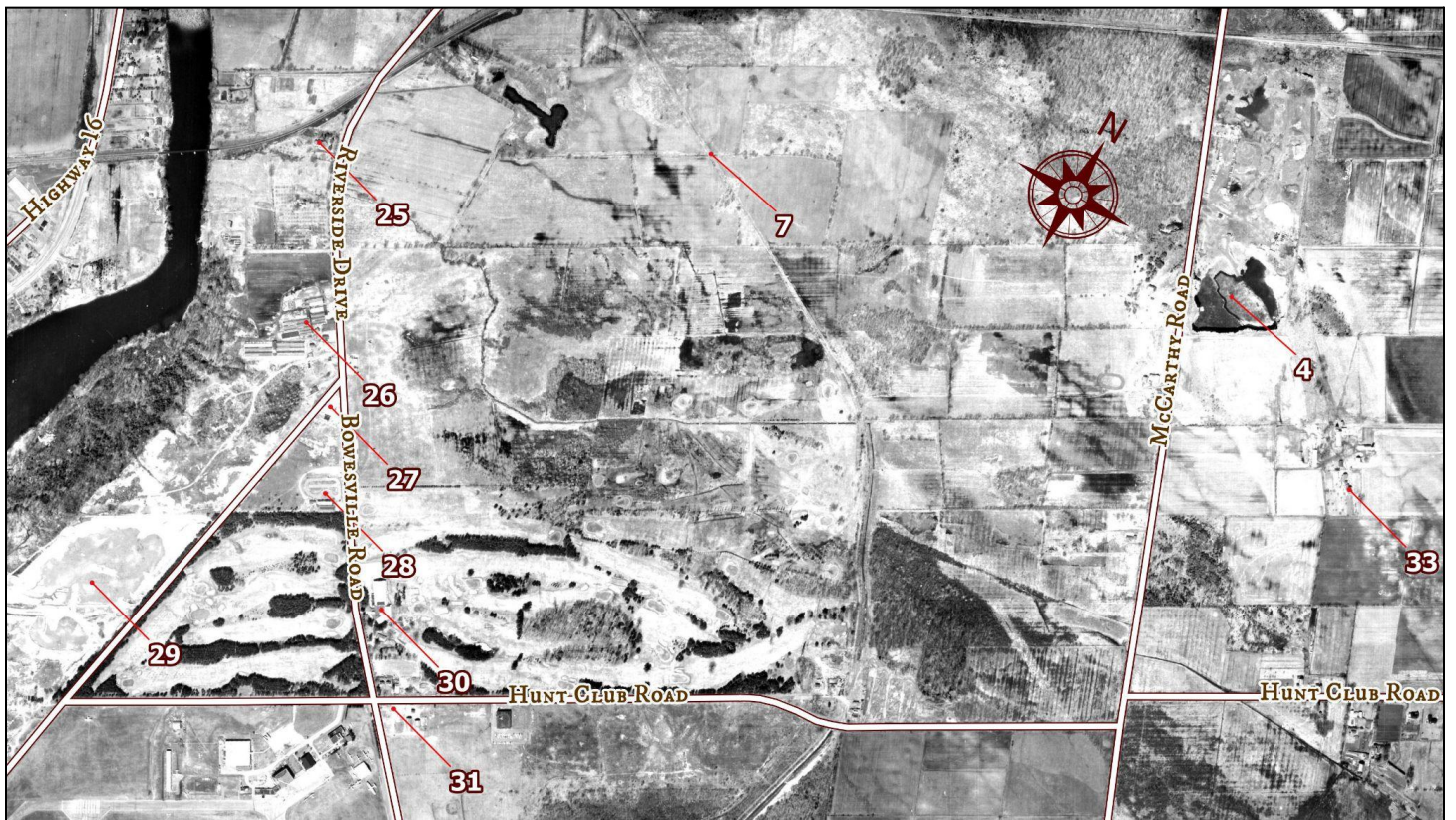
Hunt Club - Riverside Park

Map of Places & Their Histories





1950 air photo of Riverside Park prior to development of subdivisions



1965 air photo of Hunt Club area prior to development

1 – Hunt Club – Riverside Park Community Centre

Approved by council in 1981, the community centre opened on September 24, 1983 with a 4-team softball tournament, a children's earthball game, football games, folk dancing, a trampoline show, band concert and tours of the centre.

2 – Ed Lavery Fields

From 1964 to 2015, Ed Lavery was President of the Ottawa Nepean Touch Football League. He also presided over Touch Football Ontario for 10 years and helped launch Touch Football Canada. In 2013, he was awarded the Mayor's Cup Award and in 2014, he was inducted into the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame. These fields were named for Lavery in 2018, the year after he died.

3 – Hunt Club Centre (shopping centre)

This shopping centre opened in March 1978 with the first tenants being an A&P, Beckers, David's Pizza, Parker Cleaners, Bank of Nova Scotia and Shoppers Drug Mart.

4 – McCarthy Road Quarry

A quarry existed at this location starting c1919. It was known as the McLaurin Quarry or Kirby Quarry. In 1958, the quarry was operated by the Dibblee Construction Co Ltd. By 1980, the quarry was abandoned and local residents hoped for a rock garden and nature park after Campeau Corp. proposed a land-swap with existing parkland. When Campeau retracted the proposal, residents were upset but the president of the Hunt Club Community Association said there was no money in the city budget for the construction of the garden.

5 – McCarthy Woods

Originally the property of Captain Andrew Wilson, the lot changed hands throughout the years until it was expropriated by the Federal District Commission

(precursor to the National Capital Commission) in 1953 for railway access to the Walkley Yards and a ring road around the city. After Hunt Club Road took the place of the ring road, the area became an important and very popular place for its natural beauty and walking trails.

6 – Poet's Pathway

The Poet's Pathway is a 34-km walking trail around Ottawa established to commemorate the Confederation Poets, Canada's and Ottawa's famous poets of the 19th Century who lived in Ottawa and wrote about its landscape. The path runs from Britannia Beach, south along Pinecrest Creek, east along Nepean Creek, crosses the Rideau River and then runs through McCarthy Woods. It then goes north toward the Ottawa River and ends at Beechwood Cemetery where the poets rest.

7 – Railway Ties (Canadian Northern Spur)

There are still railway ties at this location in McCarthy Woods from the spur to the gravel pit near Bowesville. The spur was opened in 1913 and later abandoned during the 1920s-1930s. The spur was used again after the War but redirected to the airport.

8 – Fielding Drive Public School

Opened in 1969 as a kindergarten to Grade 8 school. Its design was called "revolutionary" with a "domestic look" since from the outside, each classroom looked like individual houses. It became a middle school for Grades 4-8 in 1988.

9 – George-Étienne-Cartier Catholic Elementary School

Opened on September 7, 1965 as Thorndale School. In 1967, Thorndale changed to a French-speaking school and changed its name to George-Etienne-Cartier to mark Canada's centennial year.

10 – General Vanier Public School

Opened on November 21, 1963, this school is named after Georges Vanier, Governor-General of Canada from 1959 to 1967.

11 – Site of Brookfield Village

A subdivision once existed at this location at the end of Junction Avenue connecting to the road named after the village. The village itself got its name due to its location on Sawmill Creek and the fields surrounding it. The community began in 1912 and many of the large lots were often owned by market gardeners, although the houses were known to be of poor construction. The Federal Government expropriated the land between 1957 and 1964 to make way for the Airport Parkway. The only access to the village was over a bridge at Sawmill Creek and the concrete foundations of the bridge are still there today.

12 – Cromwell – Springland Pedestrian Underpass

Despite residents asking for a pedestrian underpass in 1962, the city saw it as a low priority and it was not included in the budget. Construction was to begin in 1965 however the city instead wanted the railway removed and the line relocated to the Canadian Pacific line, parallel to Bank Street. This would have then eliminated the need for a pedestrian underpass and a new underpass for Walkley Road. However, the railway company was against this idea. Construction began in 1968 and the underpass was opened the following year. Since the underpass replaced an existing at-grade crossing, the community was no longer annoyed by the sound of the locomotive whistle.

13 – Brookfield High School

Named after Brookfield Road, in fact for some time, the school was known as Brookfield Road High School. The high school opened in September 1962.

14 – Riverside Mall

Opened in October 1965, one of the original tenants at this mall was Loblaws. On September 6, 1995, a Hollywood-like bank robbery and hostage taking took place at the Scotiabank at this mall. Two robbers, one armed with a shotgun, took 11 people hostage after police were called to the location. 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 event lasted from 9:30am to 6pm.

15 – Mooney's Bay Beach

The bay is named after Patrick Mooney who owned property and an inn at the corner of Riverside and Walkley (see #18). The first beach opened in 1936 closer to the Hog's Back Falls. After a number of drownings due to the current from the falls, the current beach opened further up the bay on July 1, 1952. The Terry Fox Athletic Facility, originally called the Mooney's Bay Sports Complex, held its first track and field event on August 26, 1972.

16 – St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral

Originally the church was on Lyon Street. The first hall and school at this location was completed in December 1985. The full church was completed by August 1990 and continues to serve the Lebanese Christian community in Ottawa. Since 1991, the church has hosted the Lebanese Fun Festival every year.

17 - Holy Cross Elementary School

This school was opened sometime during the 1960s and later amalgamated with St. Victor School in 1999 when that school on Brookfield Road was closed.

18 - Holy Cross Church

On September 14, 1966, Archbishop Lemieux announced the formation of a new parish and construction began on this building in 1968. The first Mass was celebrated on March 23, 1969.

19 - Site of Mooney's Inn

Patrick Mooney and his family came to Gloucester Township in 1873 and built the inn sometime in the 1870s. After Mooney's death in 1894, the inn continued to operate, providing a place to stay for travellers along the Bowesville Road. The inn later became known as the Ontario Hotel. After converting to a private residence, the building was demolished in the late 1950s for road improvements. Mooney's Bay is named in honour of the Mooney family.

20 - Riverside United Church

The church at this location opened in late 1969 and was one of the first joint congregational buildings in Canada between the Riverside United Church and Anglican Church of the Resurrection. In 2020, the Anglican Church of Resurrection was disestablished.

21 - Otterson Park/Otterson Drive

Named after the family of James Otterson, one of the first families that settled in the Riverside Park area in 1827. The descendants of the Otterson family owned the property until residential development in the 1950s.

22 - Otterson - Fielding Underpass

This underpass was built in 1972 to facilitate pedestrian movement to schools, churches, shopping and recreational areas located west of the railway line.

23 - Site of School Section #7

This location once featured the Otterson family farm and also a schoolhouse. The Ottersons donated land in 1874 to build School Section #7 (locally known as Otterson School). A new S.S.#7 schoolhouse was built across from Mooney's Bay in 1895 and got a new name: "Bayview". A brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1923 and had further additions over the years until a gymnasium and a 2nd floor were added in 1962. In 2007, Bayview Public School moved to its current location (see #34) and the building on Riverside Drive was demolished.

24 - Riverside Drive Re-Alignment & Railway Bridge

Riverside Drive was moved to the east of the existing at-grade crossing with a new underpass and also expanded from a 2-lane to 4-lane thoroughfare. The bridge and re-alignment opened to traffic in October 1982.

25 - Site of Dowler Family Farmhouse

The Dowlers operated a large farm at this location. Captain Andrew Wilson's original log house, Ossian Hall, was at this location until the 1920s. The Dowlers lived in a 2-storey stone house which was at this location until it was demolished in 1998.

26 - Site of Fine's Flowers

At this location was a garden centre on Riverside Drive which was owned and operated by Harry Fine. Fine purchased an existing greenhouse as a hobby but expanded his operation and opened the garden centre in 1958 with 6 greenhouses. He wanted to grow out-of-season flowers locally. By 1973, he had expanded his operation to include 5 acres of greenhouse space at this location. In 1987, as they expanded into franchising, the family demolished the buildings at this location and moved to a new building about 30 metres away at the current location of Riverside Court. However, trouble soon began for

the company and it was sold to Fernlea Flowers Ltd. in 1991.

27 – Esso Service Station

There has been an Esso service station at this location since 1962 (first mention in the papers). Prior to the realignment of Riverside Drive, the station was between the Bowesville and River Roads split. The owner was J. W. Birtch.

28 – Pineland/Thunderbird Club Go-cart

At this location was the Pineland dance hall dating to 1944 and also a go-cart track during the 1960s and 1970s. The go-cart business was sold in 1981 and moved to Conroy Road. However, the track continued in this location as Thunderbird Club Go-Cart until 1984. The dance hall was later renamed Tudor Hall in 1980 and continued operation until recently. However, the original building burned in 1999. Today, the site is slated for development.

29 – Foster’s Sand Pits

A popular place to collect sand for construction projects. It was also a known problem place for “parking” (romantic interludes) and parties. In 1948 and 1955, Beluga whale bones were found buried in the pits, remnants of the Champlain Sea.

30 – Ottawa Hunt Club Golf Course

The Ottawa Hunt Club bought the property from the Uptons in 1907 and incorporated a year later. Originally only a hunting club, the club decided to shift focus to automobiles and golf in 1919 while the hunting club moved to Ashton, Ontario. Over the years, the course has expanded and hosted many Canadian Opens. A fire in 1962 destroyed the original clubhouse but a new one was quickly constructed.

31 – Site of Tally-ho Water

Location of the Tally-ho bottling plant, named after the hunter’s cry when they saw a fox. Tally-ho was established as an alternative drinking source during a

typhoid epidemic in Ottawa in 1911. The water was pumped from a spring on the Hunt Club golf course with some of the pumps still remaining today. By 1939, Tally-ho had shut down.

32 – Log Cabin

This log cabin was not part of any farmstead at this location. In 1979, the city approved a plan to build community housing at this location. City Living, precursor to Ottawa Community Housing, built the houses around a “village square”. The NCC donated the log cabin which was moved from the “Eastern Greenbelt”. The community was opened on October 16, 1982.

33 – Site of Plante Dairy Farm

The Plante family, led by Jean-Baptiste and Exilda Plante, operated a dairy farm at this location, delivering milk to the Ottawa area from 1926 to 1967. Initially, the milk was delivered by horse or sleigh until 1932. The building of the Airport Parkway cut off their lane to Bank Street and in 1975, the family sold the property to Campeau Corporation for development.

34 – Holy Family School

This school opened in 1979 for kindergarten to Grade 6 students.

35 – Bayview Public School

Bayview Public School has over 150 years of history (see #22). However, the building at this location used to be R. Byrns Curry Public School which opened in 1976. In 2007, the pupils of this school were split between General Vanier and Field Drive schools while pupils from Bayview Public School moved from Riverside Drive when that school building was closed and later demolished.

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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