

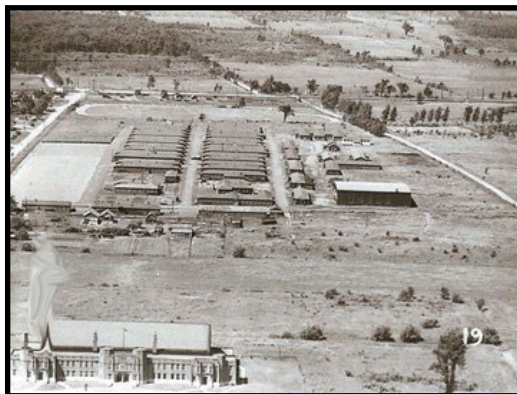


The Raven & The Rock

The Glens' Association Newsletter—March 2022

Some Stories about our Armoury

A few receiving this may remember when Cornwall was still a town, and there was an armoury and a training camp built East of the town in Cornwall Township. The Town of Alexandria had an armoury that was built before the First World War. But for members of the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders in Cornwall, they relied on rooms in the high school and later the Customs Office. Local community representatives made numerous appeals to the Department of National Defence and Public Works for the need of an armoury in Cornwall stressing the district as an important point of strategic importance. Finally in 1936, Parliament approved the funds.



On September 15, 1938, the cornerstone was laid by Lionel Chevrier, MP, Stormont (Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, '48 – '56; Honorary Colonel, '56 – '61). A copper box containing regimental memorabilia was placed in the hollow beneath the stone. Thanks to those in the 30's who made our armoury a reality. It was one of 12 constructed between the First and Second World Wars. The last parade of the 1st Battalion was held there on December 29, 1945. It was recognized as a Federal Heritage Building in 1996. (Despite this, the Government considered closing it in the 90's. Local support saved it.). The picture above shows the Cornwall Armoury in 1940 and the 35-acre basic training camp that operated for four years and trained an estimated 15,000 soldiers. (Source: Cornwall Township Historical Society)

As well as the home of the SD&G Highlanders, the Armoury became an important part of the social life of Cornwall and The Counties. Below are pictures of a Louis Armstrong concert at the Armoury. (Facebook site: Historic Cornwall and area in Photos and Stories; Contributor: Garry Trudeau).



Some of us will remember the Annual St. Andrews Balls that filled the drill floor. These were a success because of community support. Many local industries and organizations used the Armoury for events.

But things have changed. Cornwall became a city in 1945. It has expanded its boundaries into the Township. The industries that had a relationship with the Armoury have closed. Cornwall has added new social centres.

This month, our Association would normally have a Spring general meeting. Like the last two years, our Association will not gather in the Armoury. If we were there, I am sure we would hear the Regimental Toast:

"Here's tae us, Wha's like us? Damn few. – Up the Glens"

Up The Glens!

Glens' Association Website—<http://www.glensassociation.ca>