

WHITEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT



BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA COBDEN BUSINESSES & BUILDINGS

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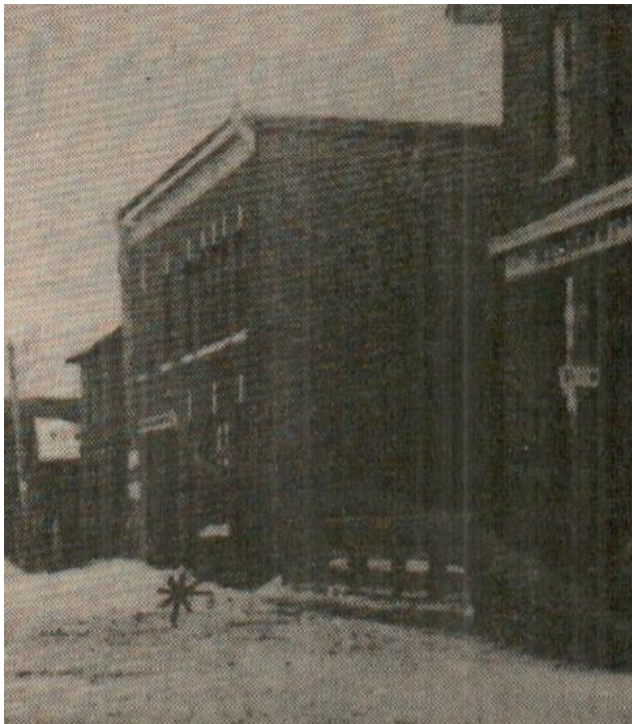
Bank of Nova Scotia

Early Beginnings – 53 Main St.

The property was part of the parcel of land owned & surveyed by the Gould brothers, James & Jason in 1876.¹ It is not known when a building was erected on the property but after several owners, namely James Tierney in 1878¹, Charles Coulter, Blacksmith & Agent Agricultural Implements² in 1881¹, and Archibald Cameron in 1885¹, it was sold to David Collins, Grocer in 1896¹.

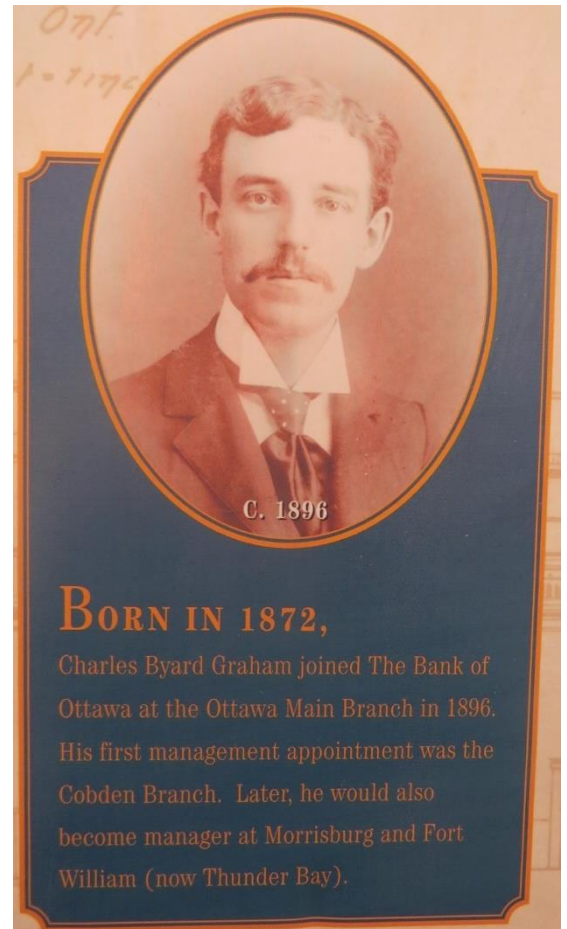
Early Beginnings – The Bank of Ottawa

The Cobden Branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia located at 53 Main St., had its early beginnings as a Bank of Ottawa, opening on November 1, 1901.³ Employees were Charles B. Graham, Manager and Andrew R. Fraser, Accountant.³ A portion of the building operating as a General Store,⁴ was leased from David C. Collins, Grocer for the annual fee of \$250.00¹. The Bank of Ottawa was originally established in the province in 1874 by Ottawa Valley lumber pioneers.⁵



Pic 2: The Bank of Ottawa c1906

The current building was erected in 1913.³ A portion of the main floor was used for the bank and the remainder of the building was utilized as the Manager's residence.



Pic 1: First Bank Manager



Pic 3: The Bank of Ottawa, 1914

Bank of Nova Scotia

The Bank of Nova Scotia

In 1919⁵, the Bank of Ottawa merged with The Bank of Nova Scotia. In 2001, the bank celebrated 100 years since the opening in 1901 (as the Bank of Ottawa). In two years the bank will celebrate 100 years as The Bank of Nova Scotia in the same location.



Pic 4: Bank of Nova Scotia, c1931

Interior views over the years



Pic 5 & 6: Interior of BNS
(view looking towards front door)



Pic 7: Manager's Office
(located at front of bank)



Pic 8: Interior of Bank
(view looking towards the back wall)

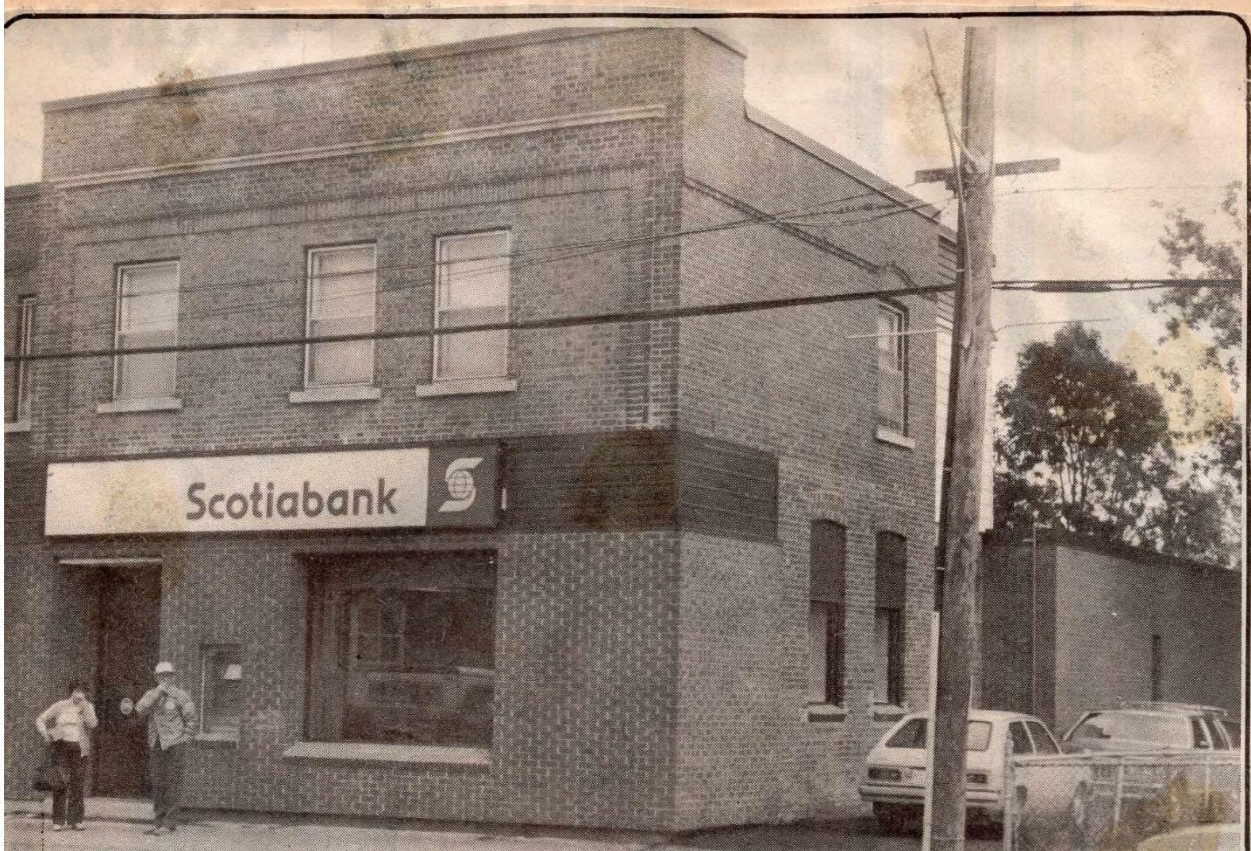


Pic 9: Renovations, 1981
(view looking towards front door)



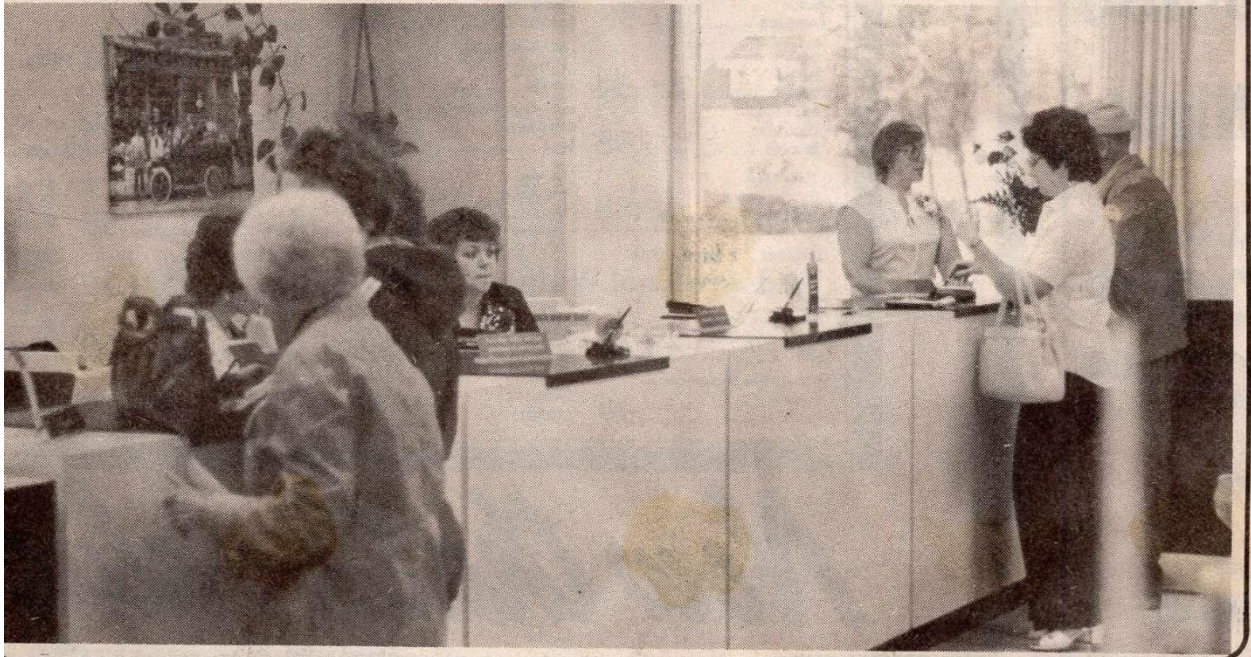
Pic 10: Renovations, 1981
(view looking towards the back wall)

Bank of Nova Scotia



Cobden's 'new' Bank of Nova Scotia held an open house Tuesday to—in the words of Branch Manager Wally Welsh—"thank the people for putting up with the inconvenience" during the recent renovations. Customers were treated to coffee and doughnuts, and a couple of representatives from the District office in Ottawa, District Manager Lorne Babcock and Senior

Operations Officer Leonard Wright, were on hand for the occasion. The renovations include a 26-foot extension at the back of the bank, a new facade [both visible in the photo at top], as well as extensive interior renovations including the addition of staff quarters and a storage room. Total cost, according to Mr. Welsh, about \$150,000.



Pic 11: Renovations, 1981

Bank of Nova Scotia



Pic 12: Renovations, 1981

(view looking towards the back wall)



Pic 13: Renovations, 1981

(view looking towards the back wall)



Pic 14: Installation of ABM, 1995



Pic 15: Installation of ABM, 1995

Bank of Nova Scotia



Pic 16: Renovations, 1995



Pic 17: Renovations, 1995



Pic 18: Renovations, 1995



Pic 19: Renovations, 1995

Bank of Nova Scotia

PIC 19: LIST OF BANK MANAGERS³

Charles B. Graham	1901 – 1904
J. C. Burgess	1904 – 1911
James F. Moffatt	1911 – 1919
Alexander C. Allen	1919 – 1923
Hubert C. Morris	1923 – 1930
Frank C. Marshall	1930 – 1940
Harold A. Ballard	1940 – 1946
Frederick A. McCallum	1946 – 1955
Robert A. Thompson	1955 – 1968
David C. Whyte	1968 – 1970
D. M. Deighton	1970 – 1973
John T. Mains	1973 – 1978
William A. Welsh	1978 – 1988
James R. Clark	1988 – 1997
Hessel Vander Velde	1997 – 2001
Jill Campbell	2001 – 2006
Mary C. MacFarlane	2006 – 2014
Patricia Leech	2014 -

Pic 20: List of Bank Managers

Staff

The Bank of Nova Scotia has been a long-term source of employment in Cobden. Most of the Bank Managers, except for recent years, moved to Cobden to take up their duties, however the majority of the employees were residents of the community and surrounding area.



Pic 21: Staff – Orla MacDonald, Carol Brown, Marion Horner, Isabel Johnston, Anne McWade & Robert Thompson (c1965)



Pic 22: Staff – Anne McWade, Orla MacDonald, Patsy Recoskie, Jean, Miller, John DeBoer (c1966)



Pic 23: Jean Miller, Ruby Purcell, John Mains, Lucille Vigrass, Anne McWade c1978



Pic 24: Anne McWade & Wally Welsh



The Cobden Bank of Nova Scotia staff bought their own T-shirts in order to promote the Children's Miracle Network Telethon last weekend. In the back row are: Liz Pilgrim, Pat Leech, Irene Hill and manager Jim Clark. In the second row are: Sue Deighton, Colleen Wood, Marilyn Mick, Patti Eckford, Sherry Godin and Linda Schilling. Seated are: Shirley Ullrich and Doreen Bailey.

Pic 25: Outfitted to promote Children's Miracle Network Telethon, 1993

Bank of Nova Scotia

The employees as a group, have been active in the community, involved in fund raising such as the Cobden Food Bank, Canadian Cancer Society and Relay for Life. Dressing in theme costumes has also been a regular occurrence at Halloween, the annual Santa Claus Parade and other special events.



**Pic 26: Bk: Lorna Snider, Sue Deighton, unknown, Doreen Bailey, Hessel Vandervelde, Irene Hill, Patricia Leech
Ft: Pat Lipton, Colleen Wood, Bernadette Seigel, Gina Houta**

**Pic 27: April 30, 2003
Doreen Bailey's
Retirement: Susan Kuzela, Barbara Teske, Judy Stewart, Jill Campbell, Sue Trembley, Doreen Bailey, Irene Hill, Anne Dierion, Colleen Wood, Melanie Waito, Pat Leech**





Pic 28: Isabel Johnston's Retirement, 2002
Bk: Susan Kuzela, Colleen Wood, Isabel Johnston
Ft: Doreen Bailey, Lucille Vigrass, Shirley Ulrich, Barb Teske



Pic 29: Bk: Lucille Vigrass, Patricia Leech, Shirely Ulrich, Marilyn Mick
Mid: Linda Schilling, Colleen Wood, Patty Eckford
Ft: Sue Deighton, Doreen Bailey



Pic 30: Judy Stewart, Lise Reid, Irene Hill, 2005



Pic 31: L-R: Sherry Proulx, Colleen Wood, Tina Moore, unknown, Lise Therrien, Jodi Costello, Melanie Woito, Joy Horner, Lorraine Mullins

Place hold for current staff photo

Pic 32:

In 2001, the Cobden Branch of BNS celebrated 100 years in Cobden which includes the time as Bank of Ottawa. There was a coming together of current and past employees and managers.



Pic 33: Bk: Wally Welsh, Doreen Bailey, Isabel Johnston, Marion Horner, Sue Deighton, Wally MacDonell, John Mains
Ft: Hessel VanderVelde, Shirley Ulrich, Lucille Vigrass, Anne McWade

ARCHIVES

Cobden, Ont. May 7th 1909

100 Years in Cobden

*The Bank of Ottawa
Cobden Ont.
June 2nd 1896*



C. 1896

BORN IN 1872,
Charles Byard Graham joined The Bank of Ottawa at the Ottawa Main Branch in 1896. His first management appointment was the Cobden Branch. Later, he would also become manager at Morrisburg and Fort William (now Thunder Bay).



C. 1931-1932.

ORIGINALLY A BANK OF OTTAWA BRANCH, the Cobden Branch opened for business on 1 November 1901. It had a staff of two, Charles B. Graham, Manager and Andrew R. Fraser, Accountant.

The present building was built in 1913, and was designed by the Architect, J. MacLaren of Ottawa. A portion of the ground floor was used for the branch and the remaining space as the manager's residence.

From 1919-1921 a sub-branch operated in Foresters Falls, which was under the management of the Cobden Branch. It operated three days a week.

Today the Cobden Branch celebrates 100 years of service to the community and surrounding area of Cobden.

Man - Forestry



JULY 1914



JULY 1914

PASSBOOK, 1902-1908

Preservation and repair of these Passbooks of value should be given. They should be kept safe and secure. They are the property of the Bank and should be returned to the Bank at once on their expiration.

The Bank of Ottawa.

COBDEN BRANCH

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

4723

Be ready for the withdrawal of money from this account with the great interest it bears the longer it remains.

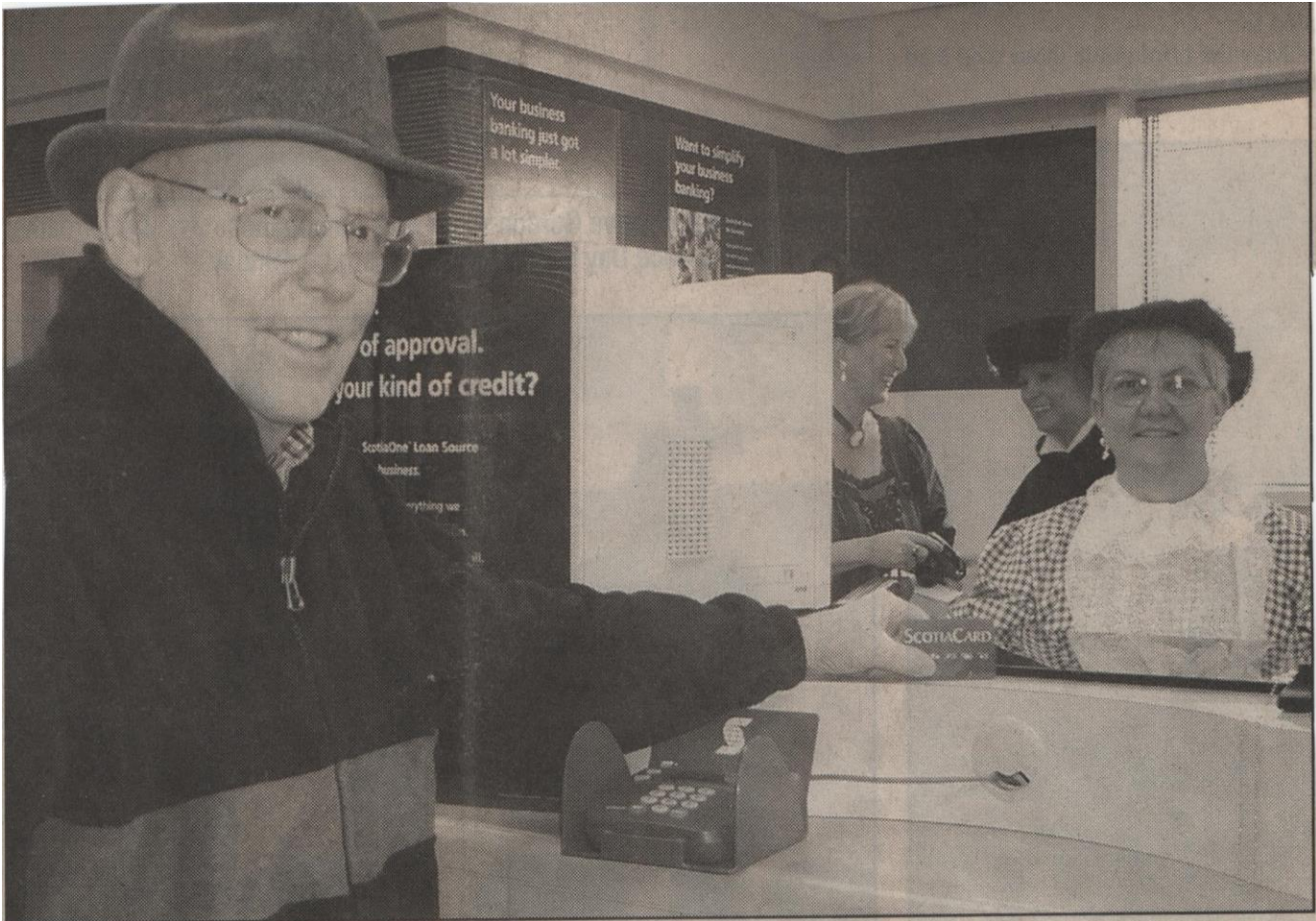
MANAGERS OF COBDEN

Charles B. Graham	1901-1904
J. C. Burgess	1904-1911
James F. Moffatt	1911-1919
Alexander C. Allen	1919-1923
Hubert C. Morris	1923-1930
Frank C. Marshall	1930-1940
Harold A. Ballard	1940-1946
Frederick A. McCallum	1946-1953
Robert A. Thompson	1953-1963
David C. Whyte	1963-1970
D. M. Deighton	1970-1973
John T. Mains	1973-1978
William W. (Wally) Wetak	1978-1988
James R. Clark	1988-1997
Hazel Vander Walde	1997-2001
Jill Trappnell	2001-Present



BACKGROUND IS ARCHITECTURAL PLAN, MAY 1913.
© Bank of Nova Scotia

Pic 34: Cobden Branch, BNS History Poster



Long-time customer

Harry Hill, left, has had an account with the Cobden Bank of Nova Scotia Branch for 80 years, since his father opened one for him the year he was born. He was among the customers who came to the bank last Thursday, November 1, when it celebrated its 100th anniversary. Here he is being served by teller Colleen Wood, who, like other bank staff, came to work in the clothing of yesteryear on that day.

Bank branch celebrates 100th anniversary

By Marie Zettler

Editor

One of the most enduring institutions in Cobden celebrated its 100th anniversary last week.

On Thursday, November 1, it was exactly a century since the doors opened for a branch of the Bank of Ottawa on the village's Main Street.

There was a staff of two: the manager, Charles B. Graham, and an accountant, Andrew Fraser.

The bank of Ottawa, known as the lumbermen's bank, was originally es-

tablished in 1874 by several prominent Ottawa Valley families. It quickly expanded beyond the Ottawa Valley all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

In 1917, the Bank of Nova Scotia was looking to expand, and in 1919 it amalgamated with the Bank of Ottawa. The building in which the Cobden Scotiabank branch is located was built in 1913.

For a time there was even a sub-branch in Forester's Falls which was open three days a week.

Emily Farrell, vice president of the Ottawa River District of Scotiabank, said the Cobden branch is the second

oldest in her jurisdiction.

"The Arnprior branch is approximately 102 years old," she said.

Jill Campbell, the present manager of the Cobden branch, says you can always tell when a branch is in an original building because there is always an apartment upstairs, which was built to accommodate the manager.

"We've taken it over," she said. "We have our board room up there, and it's the only one with a hardwood floor and a fireplace."

Nov 7/01 See Page 3

Pic 35: Long Time Customer – Harry Hill

The Cobden Branch has not been exempt from bank robberies. A number of these unfortunate and stressful events have occurred over the years and captured in local newspapers.

Gunman Takes \$8,296.00 In Cobden Bank Robbery

Shortly after 12.30 a.m. Monday when banking had practically ceased for the noon hour, the manager, Mr. F. A. McCallum, was working at a stand-up desk, and the cashier, Mrs. G. Waite, was typing. The noise of the typewriter prevented them from hearing the man who had entered the bank silently. Their first knowledge of his presence was when he said: "Do you want my business?" Looking at the speaker they found that they were threatened by a revolver held by a masked man in dirty khaki coveralls.

He ordered them to stand with their backs to the wall and with their hands held overhead. He then proceeded to rifle the cashier's cage, leaving only small change and a package of American currency. His take was ascertained later to be \$8,296.00.

When he was nearly finished with lifting the cash, Mr. Nickel the senior clerk arrived on the scene and was ordered to stand by the wall with Mr. McCallum and Mrs. Waite. Then with dire threats as to what would happen if he were followed, the bandit slipped out the front door.

Mr. McCallum rushed to a window at the front of the building and saw him leaving in a 1951 or 52 blue Dodge sedan, he also noted the license number but this information proved useless as the plates had been stolen at Carleton Place a week previously and were probably discarded shortly after leaving town.

Mr. McCallum then called the police at both Renfrew and Pembroke and they swung into action by placing roadblocks at all roads, bridges and ferries in the district. However, all this takes time and unless the bandit is holed up in the district he

has been able to escape before the cordon was completed.

A car of the same description was seen to pass Carson Wilson's service station at reckless speed a few minutes after the hold-up and the same or a similar car turned off the highway at Haleys, heading for Portage du Fort. The guards at the Chenaux hydro plant were called and they blocked the interprovincial bridge in the hope of stopping the bandit, but their efforts were in vain. The car in question either beat them to the bridge, took some other route, or has been abandoned in the bush some place.

The police now think that the hold-up car won the race against time and crossed the bridge into Quebec province. The Quebec provincial police manned road blocks at all strategic points in that part of the province.

Acting on another tip the police conducted a thorough search of the Carleton Place-Almonte district, but the man or car were not picked up.

All police officers on both sides of the river were heavily armed with rifles and sawed-off shotguns, and while the road blocks were set up the occupants of every vehicle were carefully examined.

The only hold-up ever to take place in Cobden, the bandit benefitted from a series of lucky breaks. There was a good sum of money in the cage; he was not interrupted by any of the bank's customers; although there was a wide window behind the manager and clerks when they were standing with their hands up, no one outside noticed their predicament, and after leaving town he must have been travelling at a terrific speed and did not meet a patrol car.

Search Bush For Cobden Bank Robber

No Trace Found Of Getaway Car Since Holdup

COBDEN, Sept. 22.— (Staff) — A bush-by-bush search at gun-point is being made today by teams of Ontario Provincial Police for the lone gunman who yesterday robbed the Bank of Nova Scotia branch here of \$8,296.

The search is centred in two distinct areas:

1—In the heavy bush near Portage du Fort on the Ontario-Quebec border, 30 miles northeast of here.

2—In the Almonte-Carleton Place area.

Handkerchief Mask.

The six-foot two-inch gunman who wore a black handkerchief as a mask when he robbed branch manager Fred A. McCallum and cashier Joan Waite was believed to be driving a 1951 or '52 blue Dodge sedan.

The car had plates stolen at Carleton Place Saturday.

The vehicle was seen turning off Highway No. 17 east of here at Haley's Station and heading north towards Portage du Fort.

No trace of the vehicle has been seen since.

Two Theories.

Police have two theories:

The gunman was either a resident of this district or a professional thug working out of Montreal or Toronto.

Working on the first theory police have been scouring the Carleton Place-Almonte area to check the actions of a man who had access to the Dulmage Garage lot from where the plates were stolen. The man has not been picked up yet.

Working on the other theory, police are looking for a hide-out in the Portage du Fort bush country on both the Quebec and Ontario sides of the Ottawa for trace of the car and possibly the gunman.

Despite their intense activity in the Ottawa Valley police frankly admit their quarry may have slipped through the net and circled through Quebec to Montreal.

When the gunman walked into the bank here at 12.40 yesterday afternoon he forced the cashier and manager to stand against the wall while he cleaned out the cashier's cage.

Halfway through the operation the bank's chief clerk, Keith Nickle came into the building and was forced to join his two fellow-employees against the wall.

Then the masked man still brandishing a heavy calibre revolver in his right hand walked out, threatening to kill the staff if they tried to follow him or raise an outcry.

Final check of the loss was not completed until this morning.

The \$8,296 taken was most of the cash in the teller's cage. Overlooked, however, was a large sum of money in an open safe.

FIND GET-AWAY CAR

The car used in the Cobden bank robbery Monday of last week was found Sunday night abandoned at the bush ranch owned by Mr. Sam Gaffen. The ranch is situated a short distance off the Haleys to Portage road.

The vehicle is a 1950 blue Plymouth sedan, owned by Rev. C. G. Ward, Renfrew, which had been stolen from its owner's laneway September 17. Police had previously sought a blue 1952 Dodge.

Licence plates on the car, noted by Mr. McCallum after the robbery, were stolen from a vehicle on a Carleton Place car lot.

The car had apparently not been damaged, but an outside sun-visor had been removed prior to the hold-up.

Ontario Provincial Police refused to give out any information on the hunt for the robber.

The man they seek is a slim six-foot-two or three. He was wearing a black handkerchief across the lower portion of his face during the robbery, but it was noticed he had light-colored eyebrows and dark eyes. The Canadian Banker's Association offers a substantial reward for any information which may lead to his capture.

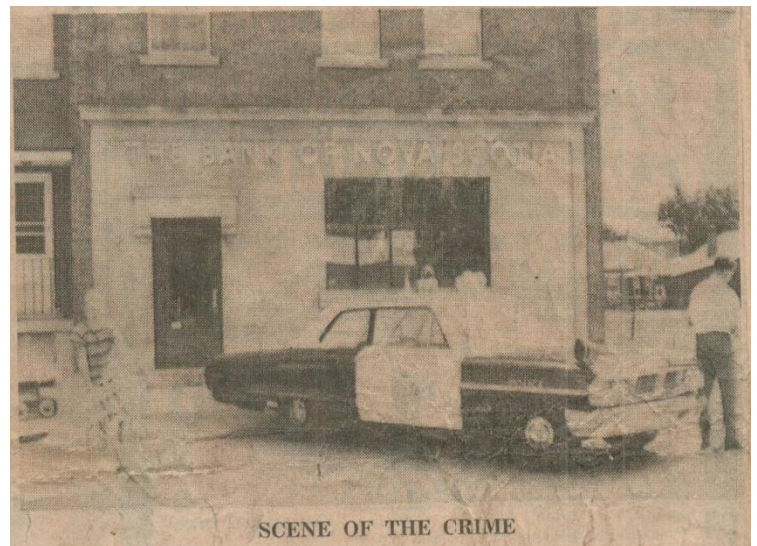
Belief is now held the man had a second car hidden at the spot north of Haley's where he abandoned the vehicle found Sunday night.

Pic 36, 37 & 38: Newspaper
clippings covering the bank
robbery, Sep 21, 1953



Pic 39: Bank Staff Held at Gunpoint, 1953

Pic 40: Scene of Crime, July 23, 1964



Thugs Nabbed After



MRS. RALPH MILLAR
... They threatened to kill me'



JOHN BAK
... slugged by bandit



PATSY RECKOSKIE
... escaped unscathed



BOB THOMPSON
... having lunch

Pic 41: Cobden Bank Robbery, 1964

By RICHARD JACKSON
of The Journal

Eastern Ontario's greatest manhunt was all over in 11 frantic hours and 150 fright-filled miles.

At 1.30 p.m. yesterday, two gunmen burst into the Bank of Nova Scotia at Cobden, a quiet Ottawa Valley town populated with 800 people, 80 miles northwest of the Capital.

They scooped up \$6,000.

Shot one girl in the leg.

Kidnapped a mother of two.

Gun-butted a school-teacher across the back of the neck.

Terrorized a farm family.

And then, meekly surrendered.

It was 12.30 a.m. today when they drove up in a stolen car to the West Gate of Algonquin Park, 25 miles east of Huntsville.

LONE POLICEMAN

There they were confronted by a lone, patiently waiting police officer.

And with their hands meekly hoisted, they gave themselves up to face a series of charges.

Night of Terror



ROBERT WAITE
... 'they worked fast'



MRS. FRANK SHEAN
... saw them go in



ORLA McDONALD
... bank worker

From the floorboards of the car, Constable Mel Inch of the Ontario Provincial Police, Huntsville Detachment, gathered up a .22 calibre rifle, a carbine and two hand guns.

The carbine had a telescopic sight.

The entire armory had been used.

The hooligans were carrying their hand guns when they came bursting in through the front door of the bank.

AT LUNCH HOUR

It was still the lunch hour, and part of the staff still had to return to their desks and cages.

There, bent over their accounts and books were Robert Waite, Orla McDonald, Patsy Reckoskie, Mrs. Ralph Millar and Anne McWade.

There were no clients in the bank at the time.

Guns outthrust, the two hoodlums proceeded in the classic style—announcing, as if anybody had to be told, that “this is a stick-up. Stay put and stay alive.”

Mrs. Millar, 21, mother of two and an employee of the bank for about a year, was in her teller's cage, its door locked.

HERDED INTO VAULT

At gunpoint, with a key from her purse she opened the door and after the hooligan stripped her cash drawer, he herded her, revolver butt in her back, into the open section of the vault.

In the next cage, like the other, locked, was Miss McWade.

Possibly in fright, she laughed when the gunman ordered her to unlock the door.

In John Dillinger style, he vaulted over and in, scooped empty her cash drawer, opened the gate from the inside and, with his gun in her back, marched her into the vault.

“Open it,” ordered one of the men.

“I can't,” Miss McWade told him, “the manager has the key and he's upstairs having lunch.”

Then, for some mad reason, both Miss McWade

and Mrs. Millar have told police, he fired.

Two shots were ripped off. One caught Miss McWade in the right knee.

She fell to the floor.

“No more shooting,” snapped one of the men, “we've got to get out of here fast.”

“What about the other dame?” asked the second gunman.

“We'll take her with us. Here, come on,” he ordered, and shoved Mrs. Millar out ahead of him.

As they ran for the door, in came John Bak, 25, a high school teacher.

He was quickly disposed of with a gun-butting across the back of the neck.

He wasn't injured.

But the attack was savage enough to crumple him to his knees.

NO STRANGERS

Now, one of the several astonishing things about the case was that nobody had much doubt about who the two hoodlums were.

They had been around town for a week.

Spent their time drinking coffee and cokes and playing the juke box.

Even dated a couple of the local girls.

They had even gossiped about being a pair of big-time spenders who had cleaned out the tables at Las Vegas and were just killing time and relaxing in what they called “the cool, tall pine country” while they prepared for another profitable gaming caper.

They were driving a 1954 Pontiac with Connecticut plates.

And every police detachment all across Ontario had the licence number moments after they had left the bank.

In a screech of rubber, they shot out of town, south on the Eganville road.

ABANDON CAR

Four miles out, they abandoned the car.

Right there in plain sight, at the edge of the road.

Quickly police found it and fanned out across the fields

and through the bush lots.

Road blocks were clamped on provincial highways and dusty country lanes for 50 miles away.

But the two hoodlums were holed up in a barn, the sights of their telescopic rifles trained on their abandoned car even as police circled and searched it.

At this point, Mrs. Millar has told police, her two kidnappers panicked again.

“Let's get out of here”—and again they were on the run, through bushes, across fields, over fences—to the

There, rounding the corner of the barn, they ran into Mr. Holley and his 16-year-old daughter Madeline.

“They had rifles across their arms,” Mr. Holley told police, “and I knew we were in for a bad time.”

Father and daughter were herded, a trifle-point into the house, where the gunmen found themselves with even more people on their hands: Mrs. Holley and three of her nephews and nieces.

Mrs. Millar, fatigued with fright, speechless with thirst, was ordered to tear out the Holley telephone cords from the wall.

THUGS FRANTIC

The two men prowled through the Holley refrigerator, gobbling up handfuls of berries and arguing frantically as to what they should do, where next they might go, where possibly they might find escape.

Did Mr. Holley have a car? He did. A '58 Pontiac.

Was it gassed?

It was. A tankful!

That was it.

They were ready, again to run.

But what about the Holleys? Would they remain there, keep quiet, give no alarm?

WHIPS OUT KNIFE

They would, threatened one of the hooligans, “or this will happen” — and he whipped a knife from his belt and drew it across Mrs. Millar's throat.

“If we see a cop in the next hour,” he snarled, “the dame's dead — like this,” and he made a quick slashing motion and a hissing noise.

“Don't worry,” Mrs. Holley, almost in tears, assured him, “we'll sit here all night if you want us to. But for the good Lord's sake don't hurt the girl.”

Then began the long night's run across Eastern Ontario, down back roads, concession lanes, short bursts of speed along straight concrete highway stretches to the Huntsville country within reach and perhaps safety-in-crowds of the holiday-packed Muskokas.

Meanwhile, when the long hour was up, the Holleys fled their farm, racing across the fields to the home of Ike O'Niell where they phoned police and Mrs. Millar's worry-sick husband.

For Mrs. Millar it was all like “a dreadful nightmare.”

She tried to keep track of where they were going, but in the darkness, lost trace in the maze of high-speed twisting and turning.

Almost too terrified to care, she recalled that at one horror-cold moment of the night the two hoodlums talked of jamming a rifle barrel into her open mouth.

Part of the time, she believes, she rode with a gun at her ear and a knife at her throat.

Sometimes she rode in the front seat between them.

Other times she covered in the back seat under the constant threat that her “face will be blown off if you don't behave.”

From the drift of the talk, Mrs. Millar judged her kidnappers to believe they were safe—or as safe as two red-hot fugitives could be with 200 police and 50 cars on the trail — as they rode, undetected through the night.

END OF THE ROAD

They approached the West Gate of Algonquin Park all unsuspecting that this was the end of the road.

They thought, as they were stopped and asked for their drivers' licence, related Mrs. Millar, that this was just the routine way people were checked in and out of the Park.

And then they saw Constable Inch's revolver with the moon gleam on its barrel.

It was too late then to run any further.

Pic 42: Bank Robbery, 1964

Mac Beattie & His Melodiers published a song about the robbery on Jul 27, 2016 entitled "Bank Robbery at Cobden"

**By MRS. RALPH MILLAR
As Told to Bill Collins.**

What can I say . . . except perhaps that I've never been so sick with fright. And never so happy as when I saw that wonderful policeman and knew I wasn't going to die.

Sure, they didn't really hurt me, although they scared me to death.

Threatened like that, with a knife at your throat and a gun at your head, I think anybody would be frightened.

LIKE NIGHTMARE

Honestly, it all seems like an impossible nightmare now. Like something you read in those crime stories. Something that couldn't happen. But it did.

It all happened like a dream.

There we were, in the bank, in the heat of noon, things quiet, almost sleepy.

Then in came these two men with their guns.

Anne laughed at one of them, I guess she didn't believe it was a holdup. Then he leaped into her cage and took her money.

They came over to my cage and it was locked, so I got the keys out of my purse.

They took us into the open part of the vault and that was when they shot Anne in the leg.

One of them pushed me through the door with his gun and shoved me into the back seat of the car.

They drove out of Cobden and then stopped.

FLED TO BARN

We left the car and ran through the bushes to an old barn and stayed there until around seven.

One of them had a rifle with

a telescope on it and they were looking through it at the car beside the road.

Then they saw the police walking around the car and got frightened; one of them saying we had got to get out of there.

We ran out the back. Climbed a fence. Scrambled through some bushes, and there was a farmhouse.

Turnto Page 35--WAS LIKE

Pic 43: Cobden Bank Robbery, 1964

Tuesday, October 6, 1970

Th

No Leads—Police

Cobden, Douglas Robberies Net Two Gunmen \$12,500

RENFREW (Special)—Police had uncovered no leads today in their search for two gunmen who got \$12,500 in morning bank robberies at Cobden and Douglas.

"We're still looking for the 1969 two-tone brown Cadillac, they were reported to have been driving," said OPP Detective Sergeant Norman Hogarth of Perth. "It will be abandoned somewhere and we'd appreciate it if anyone can give us information at the Renfrew detachment."

The men, wearing stocking masks and "camouflage army-type" caps entered the Cobden branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia at 10.10 a.m.

Fifteen minutes later and 12 miles farther south, at Douglas, two men robbed the Bank of Montreal.

"We believe it was the same two men," said Detective Sgt. Hogarth. "Descriptions given in both places were of one man at least six feet tall and another about five feet, five or six inches. Both were wearing blue jackets."

At Cobden, branch manager Donald Deighton said, he and four other staff members and a customer were "lined up

against the wall," by two armed men.

PUT IN WASHROOM

"They put us in the women's washroom while they were taking the money and told us to remain there for a while," he said. "We were in there for maybe a minute, but it seemed a lot longer than that."

Donald Hamilton, a Bromley Township farmer who was in Mr. Deighton's office, was given the same treatment as the staff.

Mr. Deighton told the robbers that the safe could not be opened, and they fled with \$8,500.

Circling two blocks in Cobden, they dropped at least three empty "customers' night deposit bags" on the street before leaving Cobden by the Douglas road.

"It was about 20 minutes after 10 when these two fellows came storming in and told us it was a holdup," said Anthony Van Zon, manager of the Douglas branch of the Bank of Montreal. "The big one stayed outside the counter and did most of the talking. The smaller man went directly to the teller and scooped everything out of the till."

Mr. Van Zon opened the safe and he and staff members were herded into a corridor leading to the bank basement.

PHONED POLICE

In the meantime, Mrs. Van Zon, in an apartment above the bank, had telephoned police.

"My wife heard the ruckus and she guessed what was going on," said Mr. Van Zon. "She had phoned for help before these fellows left."

One man had a pistol, the other, what appeared to be a semi-automatic rifle."

They took approximately \$4,000.

An unwilling spectator, Mrs. Austin Legree, was sitting in the bank when the robbers entered. The 81-year-old widow had visited the bank to cash a pension cheque.

"I had \$70 and I sat on it when the big man said 'this is a holdup'," she said.

At the height of the action, Mrs. Legree decided to leave.

"The big one was very polite," she said. "He held the door open for me and when I asked if it was a real holdup, he said 'yes, ma'am, it's the real thing'."

Anne McWade, who was on duty in the Cobden bank Mon-

day, was shot in the right leg by one of two bandits who robbed that bank July 23, 1964.

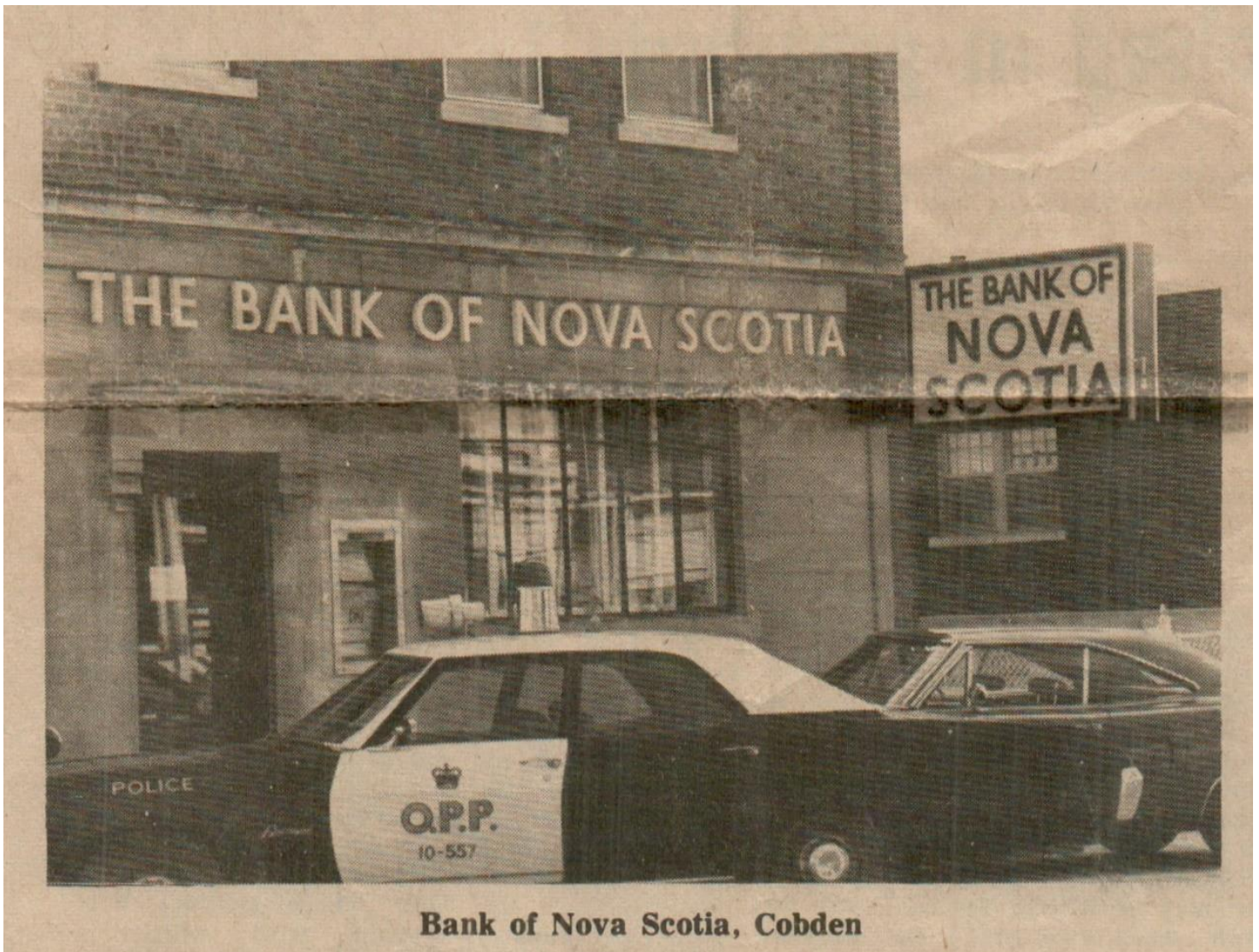
Orla MacDonald was also present on both occasions.

The same bank was robbed Sept. 21, 1953.

"We've employed boats, aircraft, the whole bit, but we just can't find that car," Detective Sgt. Hogarth said Monday night. "We're still pitching in the dark."

Three cars of the type being sought have recently been stolen.

Pic 44: Cobden Bank Robbery, Oct 5, 1970



Pic 45: Cobden Branch, BNS, site of robbery

More recent robberies occurred on:

- 28 Oct 1993 when a mother & son robbed the Cobden & Beachburg branches⁶
- Feb 10, 1997 when three males robbed the Cobden branch but didn't get very far
- September 17, 2010 when a single man robbed the Cobden branch as well as others across Eastern Ontario

In each and every robbery the monetary costs were somewhat measurable however in many cases, the adverse health consequences linger on. Some accounts of these robberies are as follows.

By Marie Zettler
Sun Editor

They're thankful that no one was hurt when Hallowe'en costumed bandits robbed banks in Cobden and Beachburg last week.

But the customers that were in the banks at the time of the hold-ups have been left with harrowing memories of the events.

Phyllis Delport had raced the clock on Thursday to make it into the Cobden Scotiabank branch to get a document photocopied. She made it just minutes before its 6 p.m.

Bank staff was preparing to close for the day as Mrs. Delport waited for her photocopy. She heard one of the staff say "Here comes Lynn Dunn."

"The next thing I saw was Lynn being marched in with this guy behind her," said Mrs. Delport.

As Mrs. Dunn had approached the door of the bank, the male robber had stepped out of the alleyway beside the bank and put his left arm around her neck. With his right he put what she believed was a gun to her head, just below her ear.

"He told me to go in and not say anything," said Mrs. Dunn. "In the bank, he yelled 'this is no joke' and fired some shots. Then he told them to put the money in the bag."

The female robber entered through a gate that gives access to the office area and held a bag open for the tellers to fill, according to the two witnesses. The male robber kept the gun to Mrs. Dunn's head and shouted that no one should make any moves toward a door, a window, or a telephone, said Mrs. Delport.

"He said his buddy with a gun was in a red truck that was parked outside, and he'd shoot if we made any wrong moves," she said.

There was indeed a red truck parked outside the bank, but it was owned by one of the bank staff members.

Mrs. Delport said the female robber moved slowly and deliberately.

"She walked as if she were doing her Sunday shopping," she said. "It wasn't like what I'd observed on TV. They're always in a rush to get away."

Mrs. Dunn said she was amazed at her own reaction at the time.

"It's scary to have a gun to your head," she said. "All I could think of was to do whatever he said."

She said she did a lot of pacing that evening, and awakened a number of times during the night.

"Every time I woke up, I thought of a gun," she said.

Mrs. Delport said 24 hours later than she had not been able to eat or sleep since the incident.

At about 1:30 p.m. the next day, Terry Lavallee was waiting her turn at the wicket in the Beachburg bank when one of the staff there said "Here come a couple of goblins."

"I moved closer to the window to get a good look at them," she said. "The woman even held the door open for Mr. Conley."

George Conley arrived to do his banking at the same time the robbers came to the door. He went in, and the robbers followed.

The next thing Mrs. Lavallee knew, the male robber was holding a gun to her back.

"All I could think of was my kids," she said. "I was crying -- I was so afraid. I begged him to please not do anything to me because of my kids."

Mrs. Lavallee has four children, aged 4 to 10.

The robbers ignored Mr. Conley and another customer, Earl Brown.

"I thought it was a damn joke," said Mr. Brown. "But then the girl went behind the counter and the two tellers that were open started putting their money in her bag, and then I knew it wasn't."

Mr. Conley also thought initially that it was a joke.

"But I couldn't figure out who would do a thing like that," he said. "It takes a fellow a while to decide what's going on when something like that happens. I've been into that bank a thousand times, and nothing like that has ever happened. I just stood there and didn't interfere with anything."

"I was thunderstruck. It kind of bothered me."

However, he said he hasn't lost any sleep over it.

Mrs. Lavallee said she went into shock when the robbers left.

"The girls [bank staff] were ex-

cellent," she said. "I have great respect for them. Somebody got me into an office and got me covered up to keep me warm."

"Believe me, it's easier having a fire."

Less than three years ago, Mrs. Lavallee and her husband, Jeff, and children escaped their home in their night clothes just before the house burned to the ground.

Meanwhile, across the street from the bank, Brenda Weaver was working in her chip wagon.

"I saw two people, one all in black and one with a gorilla mask and a cape go to the door of the bank," she said. "I thought nothing of it -- after all, it's Hallowe'en and this is Beachburg."

She realized something was amiss minutes later when the two came running out of the bank and ran around behind the building. She saw them get into a car parked two driveways away from the bank and drive away. She noted that the car had no licence plate on the back.

Beachburg bank manager John Mains said this is the first time in his 39-year banking career that a bank where he has worked has been robbed. He missed the incident because he hadn't returned from lunch when the robbers entered. He returned right after they had left.

Marion Horner, who took charge in the manager's absence, said she and the rest of the staff are very thankful that no one was hurt.

"Everyone was pretty shaken," she said. "But if anyone had been hurt, it would have been that much worse."

Cobden Scotiabank branch manager Jim Clark was on holidays last week, and learned of the heist when acting manager Doreen Bailey called him at his home immediately after the robbery.

"My biggest concern was for my staff," he said. "I don't regret having missed the robbery, but I wish I would have been there for them. But at least I was close enough to be able to get there right away."

He said the staff handled the event in the best possible way.

"They were extremely professional," he said.

"I must say the police were exceptional as well," he added. "They provided a police presence for us until well into the day Friday."

Pic 46: Halloween Bandits rob Cobden & Beachburg branches of BNS, 1993

Staff, others are left with bad memories from bank holdups

By Marie Zettler
Special to The Leader

They're thankful that no one was hurt when Hallowe'en costumed bandits robbed banks in Cobden and Beachburg last week.

But the customers that were in the banks at the time of the holdups have been left with harrowing memories of the events.

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"The next thing I saw was Lynn being marched in with this guy behind her," said Mrs. Delport.

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There was indeed a red truck parked outside the bank, but it was owned by one of the bank staff.

Mrs. Delport said the female robber moved slowly and deliberately.

"She walked as if she were doing her Sunday shopping," she said. "It wasn't like what I'd observed on TV. They're always in a rush to get away."

Mrs. Dunn said she was amazed at her own reaction at the time.

"It's scary to have a gun to your head," she said. "All I could think of was to do whatever he said."

She said she did a lot of pacing that evening, and awakened a number of times during the night.

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Mrs. Delport said 24 hours later than she had not been able to eat or sleep since the incident.

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"The girls (bank staff) were excellent," she said. "I have great respect for them. Somebody got me into an office and got me covered up to keep me warm."

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Cobden Scotiabank branch manager Jim Clark was on holidays last week, and learned of the heist when acting manager Doreen Bailey called him at his home immediately after the robbery.

Pic 47: Accounts of Robbery, 1993



Beachburg Scotiabank employee Trish Dupuis opens the door for investigators called to the scene of a robbery Friday. Police made the arrest the same day.

Pic 48: Trish Dupuis at Beachburg Branch, 1993

Mother and son charged with bank robberies will return to court for preliminary hearing

A mother and son from the Golden Lake area who were charged in connection with bank robberies in Cobden and Beachburg in October will return to court January 25 to confirm a preliminary hearing date.

Heather Matte and and her 18-

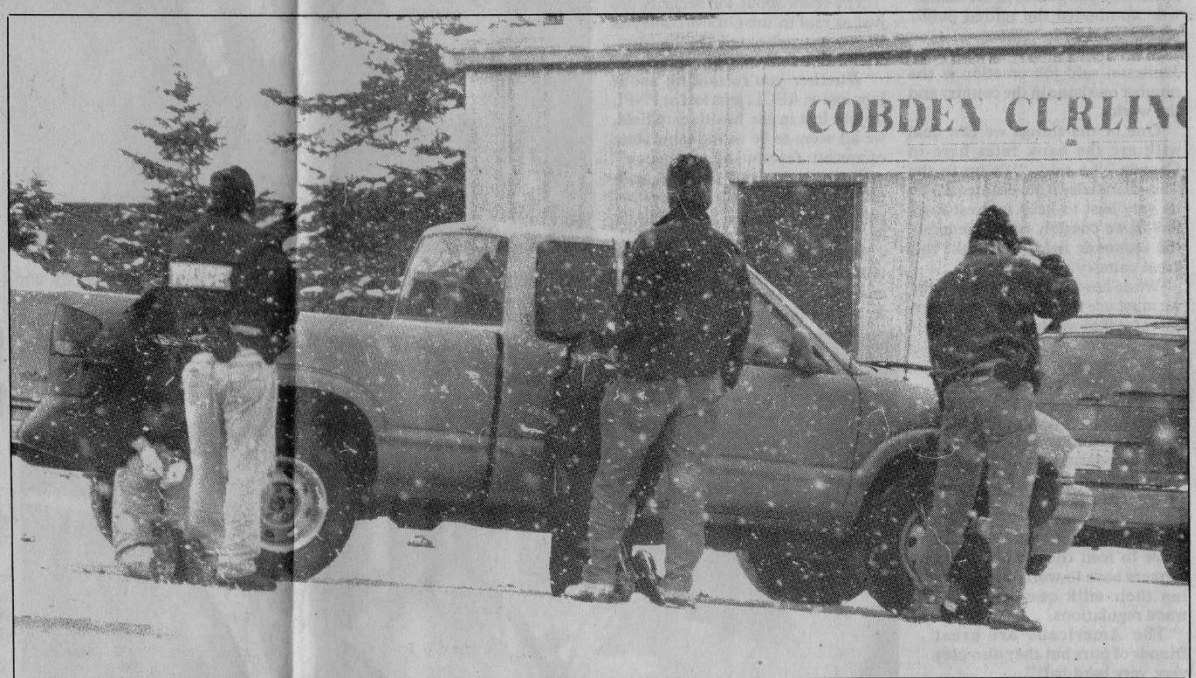
year-old son, Corey, both of R.R. 2, Golden Lake (Tramore Road), were in court in Pembroke last Tuesday and agreed to a preliminary hearing April 20 and 21 when a judge will determine if there's enough evidence to go to trial.

The Mattes are charged with two counts each of armed robbery,

wearing a disguise while committing an indictable offence, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace, unlawful confinement and possession of stolen property.

About \$9,000 in stolen bank money and disguises were recovered by police.

Pic 49: Bank Robbery Charges Laid in 1993 Robberies



Robbery foiled

Photo by Marie Zettler

Three suspects were taken into custody in the parking lot at the Cobden Fairgrounds minutes after the Cobden Scotiabank branch was robbed on Monday at about 1:30 p.m. The robbers were armed, but no shots were fired and no one was injured.

Pic 50: Bank Robbery foiled, 1997

By Marie Zettler
Editor

Three male suspects were taken into custody minutes after the Cobden branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia was robbed Monday afternoon.

Eyewitnesses say three males entered the bank at about 1:30 p.m.

"I was just finishing a transaction when the three came in and I heard 'Nobody move. This is a stickup,'" said Doug Schauer. "My first thought was 'This is a joke'. But the looks on the tellers' faces told me it wasn't."

"One (robber) jumped over the counter," continued Mr. Schauer. "I'm not sure how the second one got behind the counter. The third one stayed behind us (the customers). He had what looked like a shotgun."

Mr. Schauer said three men behind the counter proceeded to empty the cash drawers. Then one of them demanded that the vault be opened.

"When the staff person told him it was on a timer, he got quite threatening with her," said Mr. Schauer. "But the fellow behind us was apparently timing the whole thing because he said 'We're seven seconds over. Let's get out of here.'"

When the robbers left, Mr. Schauer and another customer, John Faught, followed them outside. The three got into a white car which they had parked in the alleyway beside the bank.

"I called out the licence number to Doug, and he relayed it to the staff in the bank," said Mr. Faught.

All three were in dark clothing, and were wearing balaclavas and latex gloves, said Mr. Schauer.

"It was just like a movie," he said. "They'd done their homework."

The getaway car sped north on Main Street and then turned east on Crawford Street and headed to the fairgrounds.

Lise Dillabough, secretary of the Cobden Agricultural Society, was working in the office at the Agricultural Hall and at about 1 p.m. had noticed a vehicle being parked alongside others at the curling rink, just across the parking lot from the hall. Three men then left in a second vehicle.

"I thought nothing of it," she said. "People are coming and going and parking cars here all the time."

Mr. Faught said he was at the wicket closest to the door when the three robbers burst in.

"I could hardly believe it was happening," said Mr. Faught. "One lad jumped over the counter right beside me and the other one shoved what I assumed was a gun at my back. He told me not to move. I didn't move, so I didn't see him."

He said that when the trio left the bank, everyone drew a deep breath. He said he wasn't really frightened

at the time.

"You don't have time to be scared," he said. "After a while was the worst for me. I did start to worry when the fellow was giving Colleen (Colleen Wood, the last teller in the line) a hard time about opening the vault."

Mr. Schauer said the whole thing was over in about five minutes. Shortly after 1:30 p.m., a flurry of activity was noticed by Lennox McLaughlin and Steven Edwards, who were changing a light bulb above the main door of the hall.

"Lennox was on the ladder and I was holding it," said Mr. Edwards. "A car drove in and three people got out. They no sooner jumped into the second vehicle when all of a sudden the cops were there."

Bob Bulmer, Cobden's public works foreman, and a member of his staff, Irvin Dupuis, were interrupted on their garbage pickup rounds by the arrest.

"There was a van blocking the main entrance to the fairgrounds," said Mr. Bulmer. "We wanted to go in and pick up the garbage, so we drove up behind him and gave him a toot. A fellow got out of the van and showed us a police badge and a rifle."

When contacted by the Leader at about 5 p.m. Monday, Hessel VanderVelde, who was appointed manager of the Cobden Scotiabank branch just last month, confirmed that there were no injuries and no shots fired in the heist.

He declined to give any information about how much money the robbers had taken.

Const. Bruce Tiernay, Community Services Officer for the Renfrew OPP detachment, confirmed that three suspects had been taken into custody and two vehicles had been recovered. He said the arrests were part of a joint forces investigation.

A release issued late Monday evening by the OPP said that the three men taken into custody were: Benjamin Rudolph Liedtke, 20, of Thompson Street in Pembroke; Trevor Hammond, 21, of Elgin Street in Pembroke, and Ramez Srouji, 20, of no fixed address.

The suspects appeared in court in Pembroke on Tuesday and were remanded in custody until next Tuesday, February 18.

The release stated that police had been concentrating their patrols on area banks due to a recent rash of robberies in the Ottawa Valley. Police officers from Renfrew and Pembroke patrolling the Cobden area responded quickly to a silent alarm coming from the bank.

This is the third bank robbery in Renfrew County in four months. Both the Beachburg and Cobden Scotiabank branches were robbed by bandits wearing Hallowe'en masks in October of 1993.

Pic 51: Bank Robbery, 1997

Bank of Nova Scotia

Sergeant Andrew Gagne in an interview at the time of his retirement stated:

“Asked about what he is most proud of in his accomplishments as a police officer, he said the highlight of his career was in 1997, when he took part in catching a trio of bank robbers, who in rapid succession had been hitting a series of banks within the Ottawa Valley. He arrested them shortly after the robbers had held up the bank in Cobden, with the take down happening at Cobden's Astrolabe Arena.”⁹

On September 17, 2010, a single man wearing a mask put a bag on the counter and demanded money.

The Renfrew Mercury - February 17, 2011

Police

Ottawa man arrested for armed robberies across eastern Ontario

A joint investigation conducted by the Pembroke Police Service (PPS), the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) Robbery Unit and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Eastern Region Crime Unit has led to the arrest of a male responsible for several armed robberies across Eastern Ontario.

OPP Crime Units in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG), Grenville County, Hawkesbury and Renfrew have charged the man with armed

robberies in Chesterville, Merrickville, St. Isidore and Cobden.

The accused is charged with four counts of robbery, and four counts of disguise with intent and imitation firearms.

He is charged in relation to the following armed

robberies: Dec. 2, 2009 at about 4 p.m. at the TD Bank in Chesterville; Dec. 15, 2009 at about 1:45 p.m. at the Royal Bank in Merrickville; July 21, 2010, at about 2:25 p.m. at the Caisse Populaire in St. Isidore; and, Sept. 17, 2010 at about 2:45 p.m. at the Scotiabank in Cobden.

Pic 52: Bank Robbery, 2010

Sean Chase of “The Daily Observer” reports on the conviction in 2011.

Pembroke bank robber gets five years in prison

schase@thedailyobserver.ca

An Ottawa man has received five years in prison for committing a series of robberies across Eastern Ontario, including one in Pembroke.

This week, 41-year-old Peter Harding was sentenced to the five-year prison term after pleading guilty to six counts each of robbery, five counts of wearing a disguise while committing an indictable offence, and one count of using an imitation firearm while committing an indictable offence. Mr. Harding also received a lifetime firearms prohibition and was ordered to provide a DNA sample.

In handing down the sentence in Pembroke provincial court, Justice Robert Selkirk granted Mr. Harding seven-and-a-half months of pre-sentence credit.

Defense counsel Michael March said the judge had applied the totality principle in sentencing, noting that his client could have faced two years for each robbery, a total of 12 years. One mitigating circumstance was that Mr. Harding never brandished a weapon during the commission of these robberies or showed an imitation weapon. "He gave a culpatory statement to the police and admitted to robberies that would have never been solved," said Mr. March.

Justice Selkirk found it aggravating that the robberies committed by Mr. Harding were a symptom of a lifestyle. However, he credited the accused with entering an early plea, co-operating with police and accepting responsibility for his actions.

Mr. Harding had been arrested earlier this year after a man had committed a brazen daylight robbery in downtown Pembroke. Shortly after 4 p.m. on Jan. 28, the Pembroke Police Service responded after an armed robbery had just taken place at Desjardins Credit Union at the corner of Victoria Street and Pembroke Street West.

The investigation revealed that the suspect, who later turned out to be Mr. Harding, was seen in the area in a car with a bicycle in its trunk. The car was parked at Pembroke Armoury on Victoria Street, just north of Pembroke Street West. He later walked inside and demanded money from the teller, who turned over an undisclosed quantity of cash to the robber. He then fled the bank on the bicycle, back to his waiting car.

After his arrest, Mr. Harding was charged for his involvement in robberies in Chesterville, Merrickville, St. Isidore, Kanata and Cobden.

Bank of Nova Scotia

The robbery spree began in December, 2009 at a TD Bank in Chesterville. Mr. Harding was also connected with a robbery at the Scotiabank in Cobden on Sept. 16, 2010. The largest amount of money he made off with was \$3,500 from the Caisse Populaire in Kanata.¹⁰

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Bank of Nova Scotia

Pictures

Pic	Description	Source
1	First Bank Manager	Cobden Branch, BNS ³
2	Newspaper clipping - The Bank of Ottawa c1906	The Cobden Sun
3	The Bank of Ottawa, 1914	Scrapbook, Cobden Branch BNS provided by Doreen Bailey
4	Bank of Nova Scotia, c1931	Cobden Branch, BNS ³
5	Interior of BNS	Scrapbook, Cobden Branch BNS provided by Doreen Bailey & Colleen Wood
6	Interior of BNS	Ibid
7	Manager's Office	Ibid
8	Interior of Bank	Ibid
9	Renovations, 1981	Ibid
10	Renovations, 1981	Ibid
11	Newspaper Clipping, 1981 Renovations	Scrapbook, The Whitewater Historical Society
12	Renovations, 1981	Scrapbook, Cobden Branch BNS provided by Doreen Bailey & Colleen Wood
13	Renovations, 1981	Ibid
14	Installation of ABM, 1995	Ibid
15	Installation of ABM, 1995	Ibid
16	Renovations, 1995	Ibid
17	Renovations, 1995	Ibid
18	Renovations, 1995	Ibid
19	Renovations, 1995	Ibid
20	List of Bank Managers	Cobden Branch, BNS ³
21	Staff photograph c1965	Scrapbook, Cobden Branch BNS provided by Doreen Bailey
22	Staff photograph, c1966	Ibid
23	Manager John Mains & Staff photograph, c1978	Ibid
24	Manager Wally Welsh & retiring Anne McWade	Ibid
25	Newspaper clipping: Staff promoting Children's Miracle Network Telethon, 1993	Scrapbook, The Whitewater Historical Society
26	Staff photograph	Scrapbook, Cobden Branch BNS provided by Doreen Bailey
27	Doreen Bailey's retirement & Staff photograph, 2003	Ibid
28	Isabel Johnston's Retirement, 2002	Ibid
29	Staff photograph	Ibid
30	Staff photograph, 2005	Ibid
31	Staff photograph	Ibid
32	Current Staff photograph	tbd
33	100 Years Celebrated, 2001	Ibid

Bank of Nova Scotia

34	Cobden Branch, BNS History Poster	Cobden Branch, BNS ³
35	Newspaper clipping: Long Time Customer – Harry Hill	The Cobden Sun, Nov 7, 2001 p. 1
36	Newspaper clipping: covering the bank robbery, Sep 21, 1953	From the scrapbook of Irene McLaren
37	Newspaper clipping: covering the bank robbery, Sep 21, 1953	The Ottawa Journal, Sept 22, 1953 p. 1
38	Newspaper clipping: Bank Robbers Car Found Abandoned	The Cobden Sun Oct 1, 1953 p. 1
39	Newspaper clipping: Bank Staff Held at Gunpoint, 1953	The Ottawa Journal, Sept 22, 1953 p. 1
40	Newspaper clipping: Scene of Crime, July 23, 1964	From the scrapbook of Olive Hill
41	Newspaper clipping: Cobden Bank Robbery, 1964	The Ottawa Journal, July 24, 1964 p. 1, From the scrapbook of Olive Hill
42	Newspaper clipping: Cobden Bank Robbery, 1964	The Ottawa Journal, July 24, 1964 p. 35, From the scrapbook of Olive Hill
43	Newspaper clipping: Cobden Bank Robbery, 1964	The Ottawa Journal, July 24, 1964 p. 1, From the scrapbook of Olive Hill
44	Newspaper clipping: Cobden Bank Robbery, Oct 5, 1970	The Ottawa Journal, Oct 6, 1970 p. 5
45	Newspaper clipping: Cobden Branch, BNS, site of robbery, 1970	Scrapbook at Whitewater Historical Society
46	Newspaper clipping: Halloween Bandits rob Cobden & Beachburg branches of BNS, 1993	The Cobden Sun, Nov 3, 1993 p. 2 From the collection of Marion Horner
47	Newspaper clipping: Accounts of Robbery, 28 Oct 1993	The Eganville Leader, Nov 1993 From the collection of Marion Horner
48	Newspaper clipping: Trish Dupuis at Beachburg Branch, 1993	The Cobden Sun, Nov 3, 1993 p. 2 From the collection of Marion Horner
49	Newspaper clipping: 1993 – Bank Robbery Charges	Scrapbook at Whitewater Historical Society
50	Newspaper clipping: Bank Robbery foiled, 1997	The Cobden Sun, Feb 5, 1997 p. 1 From the collection of Marion Horner
51	Newspaper clipping: Bank Robbery, 1997	The Cobden Sun, Feb 5, 1997 p. 1 From the collection of Marion Horner
52	Newspaper clipping: Bank Robbery, 2010	The Renfrew Mercury, Feb 17, 2011