

## James Bobier - by Mrs. Lena Bobier

James Bobier went to Oshawa at the age of 17, roomed at a cousin's, and obtained employment delivering milk door-to-door for a dairy. Approximately three years later he drove to Regina, helped a farmer harvest his crop, then drove to the West Coast and back home, started dating his future wife and was hired by Fraser-Brace in Maitland, apprenticing as a self-taught welder. In a year he was employed on the Maintenance staff at Ontario Hospital School, later to become Rideau Regional Centre. He achieved certification as a professional welder during this time. To keep his welding license current, he had to pass yearly certification. He was a high pressure welder and welded on boilers, gas lines, overhead welding. Occasionally Public Works Department would borrow his services from Rideau Regional to weld in Kingston, Kemptville, Ottawa.

In Smiths Falls, James contributed his skills locally, installing trailer hitches, making artistic railings, repairs for the Royal Canadian Legion, St. John's Anglican Church; did the cutting of steel, welding and assembly of the sculpture, designed by Peter Doef located in Confederation Park, Centennial Fountain Plaza.

In 1958, James built the house I am presently living in, raised and educated four children, namely Steven, Deanna, Deborah, Darlene, and seven grandchildren and one great grandchild followed.

James was an avid walker so it is fitting that this stone is located along a pathway.



Photos: My father-in-law Harold Bobier and my Dad, Delmer James. My Dad was overseas in the CAMC and served in France.

