



Department of Community  
& Development Services  
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# The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

1593 Four Mile Creek Road  
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Virgil, Ontario  
L0S 1T0

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**Report:** CDS-13-042

**Committee Date:** May 27, 2013

**Due in Council:** June 03, 2013

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**Report To:** Community & Development Advisory Committee  
**Subject:** Queenston National Heritage Designation

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## 1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended

- 1.1 That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake provide a letter of support to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for designation of the Village of Queenston as a National Historic District and that this letter be included in the submission of the Queenston Residents' Association.

## 2. PURPOSE / PROPOSAL

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the process associated with national designation of the Village of Queenston and to request that Council provide a letter of support for the designation which will be appended to the Queenston Residents' Association submission.

## 3. BACKGROUND

The Queenston Residents' Association is applying to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for national district designation of the Village of Queenston. In order to do this, the organization has compiled a comprehensive report covering many aspects of the history of the village including:

- Early Occupation by First Nations People.
- European Settlement
- Trade and Commerce
- Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure
- The War of 1812
- Social History
- Agriculture
- Queenston as part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Built Heritage

The report is nearing completion and the group is ready to submit it to Historic Sites

and Monuments Board. However, as part of the submission the Board requires letters of support from a number of individuals, organizations and levels of government. Letters have already been provided by the Regional Chair, Riverbrink Art Museum and Kim Craitor, MPP for Niagara Falls. The association is requesting a letter of support from the municipality and, for Council's information, has also provided the report that will be forwarded to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. **(Appendix I).**

#### **4. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS**

National Historic sites are places that have been designated by the Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of national significance. Some, such as Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, have also been classified as World Heritage Sites.

The National Historic Sites program is administered by Parks Canada. As of 2012, there were 965 National Historic Sites in Canada. The majority of these are administered and/or owned by other levels of government or private organizations or individuals. To be commemorated, a site must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Illustrate an exceptional creative achievement in concept and design, technology or planning, or a significant stage in the development of Canada.
- Illustrate or symbolize, in whole or in part, a cultural tradition, a way of life or ideas important to the development of Canada.
- Be explicitly and meaningfully associated or identified with persons who are deemed to be of national historic significance
- Be explicitly and meaningfully associate or identified with events that are deemed to be of national historic significance.

There are currently six (6) national historic site designations in or near Queenston. These are:

1. Willowbank
2. Laura Secord Homestead
3. Queenston Heights
4. Vrooman's Battery
5. Fort Drummond
6. Queenston-Chippawa Hydro-Electric Plant

Across Canada there are a small number of nationally designated districts. These include:

- St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick
- Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
- Quebec City
- Tilting, Newfoundland
- Old Town, Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first nationally designated district in Ontario

It is important to note that designation as a National Historic Site or District provides

no legal protection for the individual properties or elements of the site and there are no controls governing alterations to individual properties or elements within the site. National designation is simply a recognition that the site is of national significance and worthy of protection and interpretation.

However, National Historic Sites or portions of them, may also be designated under provincial or municipal legislation. Such is the case with Willowbank and Old Town. Willowbank was designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and a portion of the Old Town National District was designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (**Appendix II**) prior to receiving national designation status.

It is only under provincial legislation that Ontario municipalities can exert control over demolition and alterations to property. If the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada approves national designation for Queenston, the designation will not result in additional controls beyond those already in place at the provincial level for the six (6) properties within the village that are already designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. There is currently no plan to designate the Village of Queenston as a Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for the municipality relating to designation of Queenston as a National Historic District. Any plaques or other commemorative markers will be supplied by the Federal government.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

If Council supports the submission by the Queenston Residents' Association to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, a letter of support from the Lord Mayor on behalf of Council will be forwarded to the association for inclusion in the package that will be sent to the Board for their review. The next meeting of the Board is in June of this year. The Board may appoint an architectural historian or other heritage professional to review the document and produce an in depth report for their consideration. If they recommend approval of the national district designation of the Village of Queenston, the Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment for final approval. A formal ceremony and plaque unveiling will take place some time after this approval.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

For many years Queenston enjoyed a strategic location as the last navigable spot on the Niagara River and, consequently, as the natural portage point for trade along the river. The village's strategic economic and military importance during the British occupation and War of 1812 is undisputed. The Battle of Queenston Heights successfully halted an American invasion that would have resulted in control of a significant portion of the Niagara area.

Queenston is associated with a number of famous citizens including Robert and Alexander Hamilton, Laura Ingersoll Secord, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, William

Lion Mackenzie, John Norton and Major John Richardson.

The village retains its historic plan and cultural landscape pattern largely unchanged, as early maps reveal. In terms of built heritage, Queenston has retained a large number of significant buildings constructed in the years after the War of 1812. Some, such as the Laura Secord Homestead and the Hamilton-Kormos House, survived the war, making them some of the oldest buildings in the Town. Significant architects are also associated with buildings and monuments located in the village. These include William Thomas, who designed Brock's Monument and John Latshaw, who designed Willowbank in the Classical Revival style.

The Queenston Residents' Association has compiled a comprehensive report that details Queenston's rich history. The submission is a compelling one which makes a strong case for national district designation. Designation as a national historic district does not result in any legislative controls with respect to property, either public or private, and will not substantively impact the physical layout of the village. It will simply identify Queenston as a nationally significant site which is worthy of conservation and interpretation. A letter of support from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a requirement of the application process. Other levels of government have provided letters of support acknowledging Queenston's significance to the Province of Ontario and the nation.

**Written by,**



**Leah Wallace, MCIP, RPP  
Senior Planner**

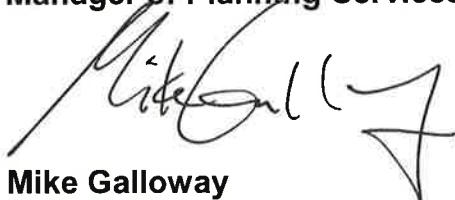


**Milena Avramovic  
Director of Community  
& Development Services**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**John Henricks, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Planning Services**



**Mike Galloway  
Chief Administrative Officer**

ATTACHMENTS



AppendixII\_heritageDistricts\_PtIV.pdf



AppendixI\_Application.pdf



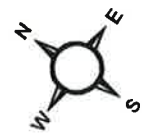
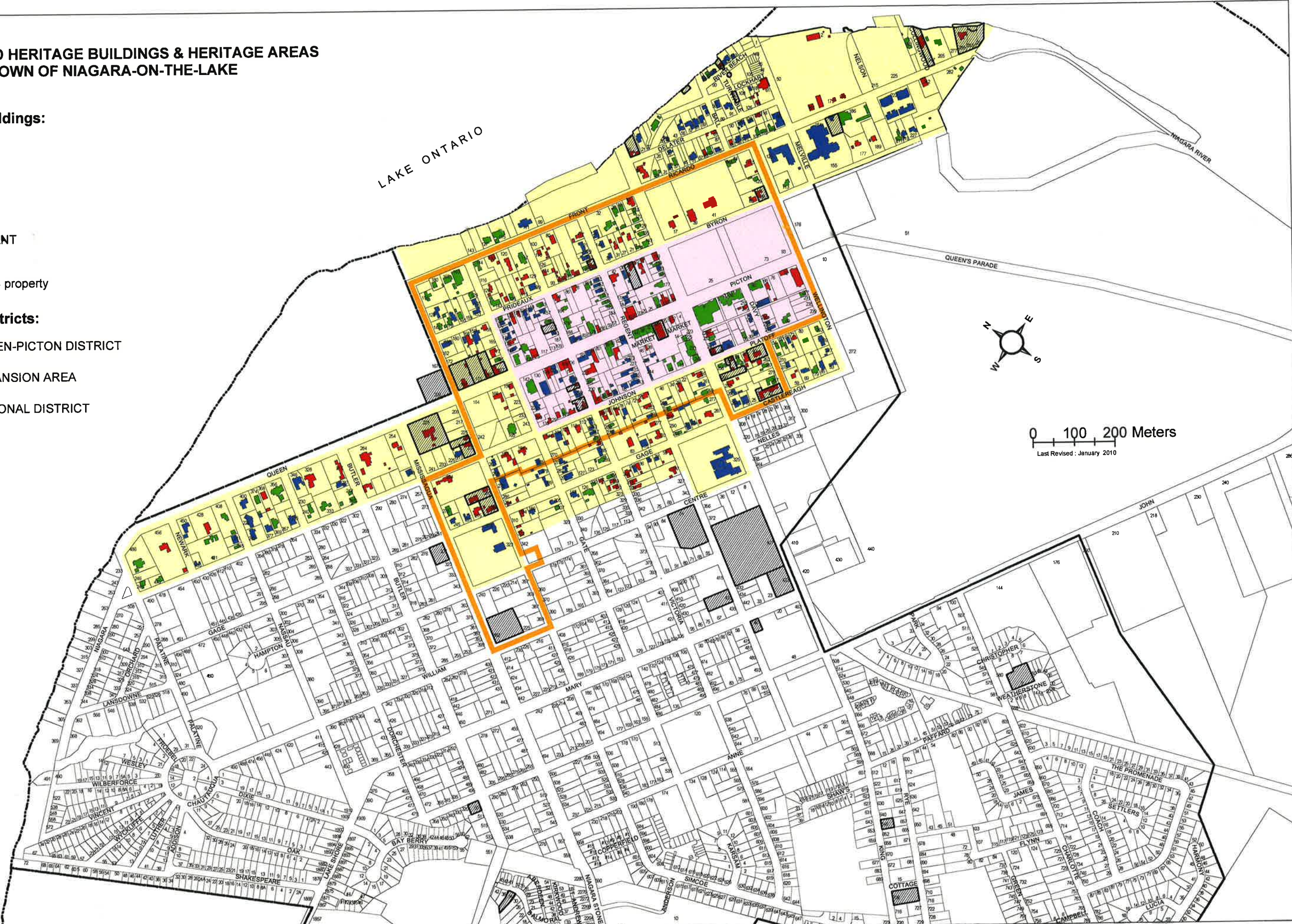
DESIGNATED HERITAGE BUILDINGS & HERITAGE AREAS  
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Heritage Buildings:

- A
- B
- C
- VACANT
- Part 4 property

Heritage Districts:

- QUEEN-PICTON DISTRICT
- EXPANSION AREA
- NATIONAL DISTRICT



0 100 200 Meters  
Last Revised : January 2010





**141 Queenston St., Box 244  
Queenston, Ont., L0S 1L0  
( 905 ) 262-0268**

**Application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of  
Canada for Designation of the Village of Queenston as a  
Place of National Historic Significance**

**Heritage Designation Committee Members**

**J. Armstrong, President, Queenston Residents' Association  
Rob Copeland, Member, Queenston Residents' Association  
Alice Triano, Vice President, Queenston Residents' Association  
Sue Stecyk, Director, Queenston Residents' Association  
Laure E. Harte, QRA Member and principal writer**

**Technical assistance and graphics: Michael Armstrong**

## **Summary**

**The location of the Village of Queenston at the intersection of the Niagara Escarpment and the Niagara River was a natural outgrowth of the use of the Great Lakes and connecting rivers as important trade routes for many centuries. South of this point, the Niagara River was virtually impossible to navigate and led to the impassable barrier of Niagara Falls. As a result, the area became a natural portage point, undoubtedly from the earliest days of Aboriginal occupation to relatively recent times. Portage Road leading along Queenston Heights and south into Niagara Falls was once lined with commercial enterprises, now all gone.**

**The strategic importance of what eventually became Queenston during the British occupation was in the first instance economic and later, military as the conflict between the United States and Britain escalated into the War of 1812. The United States invasion took place along the Queenston shoreline and up into the gorge as an attempt to seize both Queenston and the Heights, thereby gaining control of this key route and marshalling point for penetrating further into the Niagara area.**

**Following the War and the British victory, Queenston continued to be an important point on the trade route and developed a significant commercial sector both at the dock area and up into the village where a number of warehousing operations were located. Over the years, changes in transportation made the use of ship-based transit less and less viable until the use of the Queenston dock area for extensive commercial trade virtually disappeared, the last significant movement of local product ending with the retirement of the Cayuga and her sister ship Chippewa. For a time there was a sand dredging operation at the shore, but this too has disappeared.**

**Queenston has now evolved into a quiet semi-rural village with a strong sense of history preserved to a significant degree by the presence of many well preserved homes from the early 1800's, identification of numerous historic sites and recently discovered evidence of very early occupation by the Woodland Indians. It is widely considered the birthplace of Canada as we know it as a result of the successful repulsion of the American invaders during the War of 1812 at the Battle of Queenston Heights. It is certainly one of the most historically important but under-recognised places in Canada.**

**Queenston's position adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment, a United Nations World Biosphere Reserve, reinforces its importance as an environmentally important area, rich in flora and fauna. It is on the main migratory route for numerous bird species which find food and shelter in the extensive Carolinian forests of the area. It is also adjacent to the Niagara River Parkway, an historic undertaking by the Niagara Parks Commission during the 1930's.**

**Queenston is in the Federal and Provincial ridings of Niagara Falls**

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**Major General Sir Isaac Brock K.B., Hero of Canada**  
**Brock Dead House**  
**Native allies plaque in park on Clarence**



## **New Hist. Sites and Monuments plaque at Queenston Heights**

**Note: all plaque photographs and text used with the permission of <http://www.ontarioplaques.com> with the exception of the Major General Sir Isaac Brock K.B., Hero of Canada and Brock Dead House, native allies courtesy of J. Armstrong, new plaque on Heights courtesy of Leah Wallace and St. Saviour's Church courtesy of Sue Stecyk**

### **Appendix "B"**

**Photographs of early Queenston**

### **Appendix "C"**

**Photographs of present day Queenston**

### **Appendix "D"**

**About the Queenston Residents' Association**



## **OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHAIR**

**GARY BURROUGHS**

The Regional Municipality of Niagara  
2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042  
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7  
Telephone: 905-685-1571  
Fax: 905-685-6243  
E-mail: gary.burroughs@niagararegion.ca

April 12, 2013

Dr. Richard Alway  
Chairman and Ontario Representative  
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada  
Jules Léger Building  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 25 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

Dear Chair Alway and Members of the Board:

As Chair of Niagara Region, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Queenston Residents' Association's application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to have Queenston, Ontario designated as a Place of National Historic Significance.

As both Chair of Niagara Region and a resident of Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, I am quite familiar with the Village of Queenston and the dedication demonstrated by its residents to the preservation and admiration of the robust history and heritage that this distinctive community possesses. The Village of Queenston provides an excellent exemplar of the rich cultural heritage prevalent in Niagara, and the preservation of this historical legacy is of paramount importance to our region.

Queenston is internationally-recognized for its association with Canada's triumph in the War of 1812. The lasting national legacy of the Battle of Queenston Heights along with the existence of important landmarks such as the home of famous Canadian heroine Laura Secord, help make Queenston a community of tremendous national historical significance.

Again, please accept my support for the much deserved designation of Queenston, Ontario as a Place of National Historical Significance. This designation would be a welcome addition to the ongoing efforts to preserve the integrity of Niagara's rich history and heritage.

Yours truly,

Gary Burroughs  
Regional Chair

C: Mr. J. Armstrong, President, Queenston Residents' Association



# RIVERBRINK

## ART MUSEUM

5 April, 2013

Dr. Richard Alway, Chair, and Members of the Board  
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada  
Jules Leger Building  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
25 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, Québec  
K1A 0M5

Dear Dr. Alway, and Board Members,

The Queenston Residents' Association have made application for the historic Village of Queenston to be officially designated as a "Place of National Historic Significance". RiverBrink Art Museum has been part of the Village for 35 years and most recently participated in the events to commemorate The Battle of Queenston Heights and Queenston's crucial meaning in the War of 1812. We are well familiar with the historic importance of the Village and enthusiastically support the QRA application. We strongly feel the Association rightly pursues the recognition of Queenston within the cultural, historical, and heritage significance of Canada, and therefore deserves the designation. We hope the Board will agree and grant the application.

We are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of the RiverBrink Art Museum Board of Directors

David Aurandt, AB., MA., MFA.

Director/Curator

RiverBrink Art Museum

116 Queenston Street, PO Box 266

Queenston, Ontario, L0S 1L0



**Kim Craitor, M.P.P.**  
Niagara Falls

**March 14, 2013**

**Dr. Richard Alway, Chair  
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada  
Jules-Leger Building  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
25 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5**

**Dear Dr. Always and other Board Members:**

I am honoured to write this letter of support for the application of the Queenston Residents' Association in having Queenston designated as a Place of Historic Significance. As MPP for Niagara Falls, Niagara On the Lake, and Fort Erie, I have been involved in many events related to the history of this area, and specifically those related to the War of 1812.

The village of Queenston and its residents are extremely proud of their history and their heritage. The Queenston Residents' Association continues to work diligently and with great pride to preserve the honour of its history and heritage. Therefore, I am completely supportive of their efforts and hope you will look upon their application in a most successful way.

Yours truly,

*Kim Craitor*

**Kim Craitor, MPP  
Niagara Falls**

/b



## **Early Occupation By the Woodland Indians**

The Niagara River corridor and the Niagara Peninsula have been home to human settlement for approximately 9000 years. As it is situated very near both primary and secondary water sources, Queenston represents an ideal location for human settlement. With natural points of access to the Niagara River, Queenston also functioned as a point of contact along the portage route-important for trade and commerce to early inhabitants of the region.

Prior to European settlement of the region in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this area was populated first by nomadic hunter-gatherers and then by Native peoples belonging to the Five Nations. Although these early inhabitants left no written record of their lives or histories, we are given a glimpse into their lives through the archaeological record.

Numerous sites along the Niagara Peninsula speak to the nature of pre-European occupation of the region. Of particular importance to the village of Queenston are the sites surrounding Willowbank Estate. These sites span the past 9000 years; the oldest of these sites is indicated by archaeological artifacts to be a temporary hunting camp of nomadic hunter-gatherer populations. Other sites, dating from the Woodland period also speak to a non-resident population who likely used the location for ritualistic purposes.

More traditional land use begins approximately 3000 years ago during the Middle Woodland period. Artifacts such as stone tools and pottery indicate a settled lifestyle with agriculture and tribal differentiation.

Neutral aboriginals occupied the area until the 1640's when the Senecas from the American side of the river invaded and scattered the inhabitants. In time, the Senecas were repulsed, never having established settlements, and the Neutrals returned to some extent.

By the time Europeans initially arrived in the Queenston region, extensive First Nations communities populated the region. (There is early mention of some Mississauga settlements, though evidence is scant). These communities engaged in an agricultural style economy.

Subsequent to the period of contact, war and famine dispersed much of the Neutral First Nation populations; remaining Native populations, including the Mississauga and Algonquin, became allies of the crown following the Revolution of the 13 Colonies, more commonly known as the American Revolution. The First Nations populations would become an indispensable ally to the British again during the war of 1812.

### **European Settlement**

Prior to the Revolution of the 13 colonies (commonly referred to as the American Revolution), Queenston remained largely unsettled wilderness interspersed with Native settlements. Upon signing of the Treaty of Paris, Loyalists promised land by the British Crown began to move into Upper Canada via the Niagara River. Queenston became one of the first six regions settled in present day Niagara.

Isaac Dolson became the first non-aboriginal inhabitant of the land which is now Queenston, and settled an area of 100 acres. George Field and Robert Hamilton settled nearby lots soon after.

Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe's Queens Rangers constructed in Queenston what was to become the first dense settlement of Europeans- a series of 28 log barracks situated along the lower bank of the river. It is after the Rangers that Queenston is thought to be named, although it has also been suggested that the village was named, prior to the arrival of the Rangers, in tribute to Queen Charlotte.

Robert Hamilton represents another important settler of Queenston. Prior to settling in the region, he established the west bank portage, financed largely by the British military. Along with establishing the portage here, Hamilton erected a series of storehouses, a wharf and guardhouses. Important in establishing commerce in the village, this venture also aided in drawing settlers to the region. Hamilton himself moved to Queenston in 1790 to be closer to his portage business.

In the decades that followed, homes and businesses were built and by

the outbreak of war in 1812, Queenston had a population of 300. War halted immigration into the village and reduced much of the prior construction to ruins.

Rebuilding and an influx of new immigrants following the Treaty of Ghent returned Queenston to a bustling village within a decade.

Evidence of early European settlement remains to this day in the form of built heritage (further discussed in section 8) as well as in archaeological remnants, such as those found on the grounds of Willowbank Estate.

## **Trade and Commerce**

With the influx of European Settlers into Queenston in the late 1700's, so too came an influx of business. Beginning with the aforementioned Robert Hamilton's portage business on the west (now Canadian) bank of the river and the subsequent addition of a village store by Hamilton as well, Queenston was soon to become a bustling village with a thriving economy.

In response to the American decision to restrict trade along the border, the British government imposed regulation of goods imported from the American territories. Thomas Dickson became the first appointed Collector of Customs at Queenston, responsible for collecting the duties imposed on imported items. Concurrent to the establishment of customs, Queenston was also granted a post office, ending the previous tradition of mail distribution through stagecoach owners.

Due to its importance on the portage route, Queenston soon became the mercantile centre for the Niagara region. Merchants here were not restricted to stocking only necessities, as were merchants elsewhere were; luxury goods and fashionable cloths lined the shelves of Queenston shops.

Merchants in Queenston did not deal strictly in cash payments, and shoppers were not restricted by their budgets. Hamilton and other merchants in the village offered credit, allowing people to spend beyond their means. If repayment of credit was not possible, the Queenston merchants accepted a mortgage on property as a means of repayment.

The war of 1812 destroyed the trade and commerce at Queenston, and

the village would never entirely recover its retail trade, having lost this to neighbouring villages. Following the war, Queenston rebuilt and by 1820 consisted of approximately 50 commercial buildings: four liquor stores, thirteen hotels, a shoe factory, tannery, distillery and stores. Nearly 60 houses made up the residential part of the village, housing Queenston's 500 residents. Although no longer the primary retail location in the region, Queenston reached its peak population during this period.

During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, trade became increasingly routed through other ports, and goods were shipped via rail, roadway, the Welland Canal and the great lakes; Queenston's role in the passage of goods diminished as these alternate trade routes grew.

Tourism in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century increasingly became Queenston's main economy. The creation of the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge and the construction of the Niagara River Parkway facilitated day tripping through the village and represented the main thoroughfares into the village.

With the decrease in retail economy, the population of Queenston declined, reaching a low point of 200 in the 1920's. Depression era make- work projects, the creation of the Adam Beck Hydroelectric dam and other small businesses brought residents back to the village, and by the time of its incorporation into the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1970, Queenston's population had once again reached 500.

Evidence of Queenston's economy remains largely in the form of built heritage. Remnants of the former railway, shipping industry and bridge

also serve to remind us of Queenston's once booming economy.



### **Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure in Queenston**

The earliest roadways in Queenston followed the early Aboriginal trails laid out through the village. These trails followed the topography of the land, and as such did not follow the grid pattern later implemented by surveyors in the region.

Among the most vital of these early roads was Portage Road (also referred to as Settlers Road), which linked the Great Lakes to overland trade routes. This was a route critical to the fur trade in the 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, carrying an estimated 40% of the furs purchased by Montreal merchants. Following the collapse of the fur trade, Portage Road remained important to the growth of economic activity in the Niagara region, and also in the province.

Early roads were maintained by pathmasters, who maintained the stretch of road near their property. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, this system was replaced by municipal funding of road construction and maintenance. These municipally funded roads were supported using tolls collected from their use.

Queenston roads served to connect people and trade goods with the Great Lakes system and the ferries, steamers and ships calling at the Queenston port. Due to its location on the Portage Road, Queenston became the government way station for goods shipped along this route. Expanding upon the already successful shipping centre at Queenston, steamboat services were introduced also. These ran weekly from Queenston through Lake Ontario. An additional steamer ran daily to the city of Toronto, then York. Even in the early 1800's, Queenston was an important link in the transfer of tourists

from the Queenston dock to Niagara Falls, via hired carriages ( one of the earliest "taxi" services in the area).

By the 1830's, Queenston's importance as a shipping centre began to diminish. The construction of the Welland and Erie canals was completed, making overland passage of goods redundant. Despite this, Queenston maintained a ferry service, transporting passengers from Queenston to Lewiston and represented an important point of immigration for families looking to move west.

The creation of the Erie & Ontario Railway Company, with its key terminus at Queenston, reinvigorated the town's importance as a transportation centre. Beginning in 1841, this railway relied upon draft horses to pull passenger cars as well as the locomotive up the very steep incline at Queenston Heights. Steam would not be introduced to the main line until 13 years later in conjunction with a regrading of the line and an extension to Niagara-on-the-Lake added.

By 1855 however, the arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1853 had reduced the commercial and passenger traffic along Queenston's rail lines. The town's shipping trade was also beginning to fall off, and by 1860 only one ship called at Queenston. From 1877 until the turn of the century, the port at Queenston ceased to function. It was not until the introduction of tourist boats that Queenston would again see activity in its ports.

With the introduction of tourist steamers, so too came the construction of the Niagara Park and River Railway running from Queenston to Chippawa. This marked the beginning of Queenston's importance as a tourist destination within the Niagara region.

Two bridges spanning the Queenston-Lewiston gap served to accommodate day trippers and passenger wagons traveling between these two towns. The first, swept away by ice in 1864, was a suspension bridge sufficient to carry immigrant wagons across the river. It was not rebuilt until 1888, at which time it was made to accommodate the railway as well as foot traffic. This bridge remained in service until the construction of the current Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in 1962.

Construction of the Niagara Parkway began as a make-work project in the 1920's. Unfortunately its completion was overshadowed by the Great Depression which saw Queenston suffer along with the rest of North America. The once prosperous railway ceased, although lake boats continued to run until 1956 after which they too ceased. The dock at Queenston, once a busy and important site along the portage route, now became a storage area for the sand dredging enterprise along the Niagara River.

## Queenston and the War of 1812

With British forces occupied fighting Napoleon's armies in Europe, the colonial forces saw a window of opportunity to gain territory and "liberate" American citizens living in Upper Canada. Major General Isaac Brock, Commander of Upper Canada, began mustering militia units subsequent to the declaration of war on Great Britain by the Americans in June of 1812. Although some American citizens in Upper Canada remained loyal to the United States, most mustered with Brock providing support for the British Army and the Aboriginal allies.

Upon the declaration of war, most citizens in the village of Queenston and the Town of Niagara (formerly Newark until 1798) moved their families inland to avoid the fighting; this left the towns along the Niagara River populated mainly by members of the Army, both soldiers and officers. 100 men from the Third Division of the 41<sup>st</sup> regiment, and 200 men from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> regiments of the Lincoln militia were stationed at Queenston Heights under their Captains Chambers and Hatt respectively. Defense of the ordinance depot at Queenston was maintained by the Redan battery, a location on the escarpment, halfway up the slope to Queenston Heights. A defensive position was taken in preparation for attack by the American colonial forces, which was to come on October 13, 1812.

In the early hours of the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>, American troops rowed across the Niagara River from Lewiston, landing just upriver of Queenston. Brock, and the majority of the British Army were located at Fort George, and upon awakening to the sound of artillery fire, Brock ordered troops to march to

Queenston. Upon his arrival at Queenston, Brock found that the Heights had been taken by the American forces, and the British were outnumbered by them. British forces began to arrive from Fort George, and began dislodging the enemy forces from their holds in Queenston, including the property of Robert Hamilton.

Brock, deciding not to wait for full reinforcements before taking back Queenston Heights, led a charge up the Escarpment and both he and John Macdonnell, were mortally wounded by American scouts. Arriving from Fort George, Major-General Sheaffe along with John Brant, John Norton, Mohawk warriors, and flank companies from the Lincoln and York militia began detouring inland and regained Queenston Heights west of the Redan. In total, British forces, local militia and Aboriginal allies lost 28 men; 77 were wounded. The American regiments attacking Queenston lost 300 men, and an additional 958 were taken prisoner.

During the short period where Queenston was under American control, the homes in the village were plundered for any remaining possessions. Following the Battle of Queenston Heights, residents of the village began to return to their homes. They were once again to be captured by the American forces, in the winter of 1812-1813 subsequent to their victory at Fort George.

American forces set up camp in Queenston, overtaking the homes of the villagers, including that of James and Laura Secord. It is from here that she began her heroic journey to warn Lieutenant James Fitzgibbons at Beaverdams, after overhearing the enemy's plans for battle.

It was not until July 24, 1814 that Queenston was vacated by the Americans, as they retreated to Chippawa. The village was in ruins with buildings burnt, damaged due to crossfire, and plundered. Significant archaeological artifacts remain, dating from periods of American and British occupation, as well as from the battle itself.



## **A Social History of Queenston: Education, Religion and Politics**

### **Schooling**

Formal schooling began in Queenston in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century at the garrison at the West Bank (now Queenston). This early school was run by retired soldiers and members of the clergy; it was quickly replaced by Queenston's first school run by Francis Goring. Attending this school were three of Robert Hamilton's sons: Robert Jr., George and Alexander, the latter of whom would go on to build the Willowbank mansion. This school operated from 1790 until 1844, when the growth in population demanded a larger school for Queenston. The Old Stone School was constructed at the corner of Princess and Walnut Streets. It was managed by a Board of Trustees formed by local residents. By the early 1900's, this school too became antiquated and fundraising began for construction of a new building. The Women's Institute, through fundraising efforts, contributed a sum of \$3000; J.D. Larkin also contributed \$3000 in order for children on his farms to have the opportunity to attend school. Along with small donations from pupils, the government, and other schools in the province, the funds were finally raised to build a new, modern facility for the village.

Construction of Laura Secord Memorial School was completed in 1915, it opened its doors in September of that year. This school remained an integral part of the Queenston fabric until its closure in 2010

### **Religion**

Early European settlers of Queenston were largely Scottish, and upon their arrival in Queenston

continued practising their Presbyterian faith. Early services were performed by a travelling clergy who serviced several Niagara villages.

In the late 1780's, Major General Neal, a Christian convert, began holding services in the homes of Queenston settlers. Mennonite and Baptist preachers continued their transient visits to the village. Over the next several decades, further churches were constructed in the village.

**Queenston United Church:** The Queenston United Church was built nearly 100 years after Major General Neal began preaching in settlers' homes. For many years this tradition continued, with services held in private homes and in the schoolhouse. It was not until 1862 that the church was constructed. Until 1927 this church remained part of the Queenston-St.Davids-Stamford circuit, after which it began operating independently. The church had few facilities, so in the 1960's it was moved to a new location where a basement was incorporated. The number of parishioners declined until in 1996 the church was given to the Niagara Parks Commission to be used for events and weddings. The church was once again moved in 2011 and became part of the Laura Secord Homestead property.

**St. Saviour, Major General Sir Isaac Brock Memorial Church:**  
**(Anglican)**

The group that was to become the St. Saviour's parish was formed in 1817, and a church constructed in 1818-1820. This structure was located at the corners of the Niagara Parkway and York Road. Destroyed by lightning in 1840, the congregation moved its meetings to various locations for more than forty years until the construction of a new church in the present day location. This

church was built in 1879 with funds from the sale of land once belonging to Brock and donated to the congregation. Upon its completion it was dedicated by the Godson of Major General Sir Isaac Brock, Thomas Brock Fuller, the first Bishop of Niagara. The steeple and stained glass windows were added later and funded by Brock's Toronto regiment. In 2012, a new stained glass window was added on the east elevation of the church to commemorate the 1812-2012 celebrations.

**The Queenston Baptist Church:** By 1808 the Reverend Elkanah Holmes had organized the first Baptist congregation in Queenston. The Queenston Baptist Church operated regularly until 1812 after which attendance declined. Reorganization occurred in 1831. Between 1842 and 1845 the current building was constructed. The church continued to operate until 1918. In 1928 it was sold to the Women's Institute who occupied the building until 1954. In 1970 it was purchased by Dr. Djamal Afrukhteh who donated it to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Queenston Community Association raised funds to renovate the building and in 1972 it became the Queenston Library and Community Centre.

[http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques\\_MNO/Plaque\\_Niagara24.html](http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_MNO/Plaque_Niagara24.html)

<http://www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca/JNAC%20REPORT.pdf>

### **Political Development**

After European settlement, Queenston and the remainder of the Niagara area remained under the Crown. Queenston itself functioned as an independent police village, until its

amalgamation into the Town of Niagara on the Lake in 1970.

Following the War of 1812, William Lyon Mackenzie took up residence in the village, and established Queenston's first and only newspaper, the Colonial Advocate, as a means to express his political viewpoints. In his paper, he called for readers to demand responsible government. Only a year after publishing his first issue, Mackenzie sold his property in Queenston and moved the Colonial Advocate to the city of Toronto.

Hereafter, political activity in Queenston continued in the form of community organizations such as the Queenston Community Association (1972 to the early 2000's and the Queenston Residents Association (2007 to present). These groups maintain a representation of the village's interests in local political matters.

### **Agriculture in Queenston**

Early agriculture in the Queenston area is evidenced by the presence of archaeological findings within the village. These indicate agricultural development of the area by the Native populations.

Subsequent to European Settlement, farming continued in the region, and agricultural development was supported by the portage system. This system permitted goods from the area to be transported throughout the region and farther.

During the war of 1812, local farms were subject to "requisitioning" by occupying forces. Both livestock and crops were taken without payment. The farmers objected to this treatment, and took up arms against foraging parties attacking their farms.

Present day agriculture is of the tender fruit and grape growing type. This remains a major source of income, and of tourism for the region. Several farms are still located within the boundaries of Queenston, although not within the main village.

## **Queenston as an Integral Part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**

Queenston is the meeting place of two Provincially significant land-use plans. The Niagara Parks system and the Niagara Escarpment plan areas intersect in Queenston. A feature of each plan is a trail system. People hiking, walking and cycling have all become a common sight in the village.

The conservation principles of each planning regime reinforce the respect for and the use of the heritage features and cultural landscape of Queenston.

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) lands, established in 1885 to preserve the natural scenery about Niagara Falls, now extend the total length of the Niagara River with a recreation trail and road system that passes through Queenston and the sharp incline of the Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (1973) provides for a continuous natural environment along a length of the Escarpment from Queenston north to the Bruce Peninsula on Georgian Bay. A major impetus of this plan was to secure a route for the Bruce Trail, an 725 kilometre hiking trail that meets the Niagara Parks recreation trail at Queenston at a cairn in Queenston Heights Park.

A side trail, "The General Brock Trail" from the Escarpment is routed through the village of Queenston and then joins the NPC en route to Lake Ontario at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Niagara Escarpment plan area has been designated a United Nations Biosphere Reserve, one of 610 unique sites in the world.



### **Built Heritage in the village of Queenston**

After the village was founded in the late 1700's, a military style grid system was imposed for implementing roadways. The majority of the village's built structures are centred around this grid. Properties of historical significance in the village include:

**Mackenzie Printery**-Built by William Lyon Mackenzie in the early 1820's, this was constructed as a home. From here, he published his political newspaper, the Colonial Advocate. A year after moving into the home, in 1824, Mackenzie moved his family to Toronto. The building fell to ruins and was not restored until 1936. The Niagara Parks Commission conducted the restoration, and in 1938 the home was officially opened by Mackenzie's great grandson, William Lyon Mackenzie King. For some years the building operated as municipal offices for the Township of Niagara, until 1958 when its service as a museum began, first housing the Kirby collection, then commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Portage Road. It is currently The MacKenzie Heritage Printery and Museum.

**5 Queenston Street**- A Victorian building dating from 1885.

**17 Queenston Street**- Dickson House and Barn, stone structures built in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The barn, which may have served as a storehouse during the war of 1812, is one of the buildings rumoured to have housed Brock's body prior to his interment. At the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this setting became a grocers; subsequent uses include a fruit distribution centre, antique business and finally a residence.

**\*53 Queenston St. (Secord-Copeland House)**- Situated on land originally held by Elijah Phelps, a Private in Butler's

Rangers, the house was likely built around 1835 and was used as a hotel for about thirty years, commencing in 1837. Ownership of the property changed numerous times over the years as it evolved from a hotel to a multi and then single family dwelling. The most famous owner was David Secord who became a very successful businessman in nearby St. David's, retaining the property in Queenston. The current owners have been engaged in a sympathetic and painstaking restoration of the house for over twenty years and are keenly aware of its importance in the history of Queenston and the need to preserve the structure.

**\*Dee House, 93 Queenston St. (Hamilton-Kormos House)**- Built by Robert Hamilton in 1807 as a wedding present for his son, Robert Hamilton Jr. It is from the occupancy of Jane Dee (a Hamilton descendant) that Dee Road and "Dee House" are derived. This home remained in the Hamilton family for four generations until 1954 when it sold. The home's current owner purchased the property in 1960 and has restored portions of the home. During excavation in the renovation process, a silver spoon with the initials RH was discovered. This is thought to have belonged to the Hamilton family.

**Queenston Post Office**- incorporating the General Store. This property shows on 1930's maps of the village.

**Laura Secord Homestead**- What stands as the Laura Secord Home is mainly a recreation built in 1971 around the remains of the original structure. It operates as a living history museum of Laura's life and journey to Decew House in 1813. The original home was built by James and Laura Secord after their marriage at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**\*Queenston Baptist Church-**

Built between 1842 and 1845 this Gothic revival style limestone building served as a church for many years until its closure in 1918. Subsequent to this, it was purchased by the Women's Institute in 1928 and occupied by this organization until 1954. In 1970 it was purchased by Dr. Djamal Afrukhteh and then donated to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. After significant fundraising by the Queenston Community Association, the building was renovated and became the Queenston Library and Community Centre.

**\*Laura Secord Memorial School-** See information in Schooling in Queenston section.

**\*Brown Bassil House-** Initially owned by a veteran of the war of 1812, this home changed hands numerous times but retained its original saltbox shape.

**\*Willowbank Estate-**

Built in 1834 by Alexander Hamilton and named after a grove of willow trees which filled the Deep Hollow at the front of the home. It was occupied by the Hamilton family until 1934 when it was purchased by the Brights. The home changed hands several more times before being established as a school for restoration arts and architecture in 2002.

**South Landing Inn-** Built prior to 1827 as a residence, by Thomas Dickson. From its sale in 1841, this home changed hands a number of times, operating as an inn under several different proprietors. The building was named the Wadsworth Hotel and the Riverview Inn. In 1913, it served as a temporary morgue and a resting place for the injured following a railway accident nearby. It then became South Landing Craft House, and finally South Landing Inn in 1981.

**25 Princess Street-** Thought to be one of the earliest buildings in the village,

this home was constructed in 1835. This property occupies the entire Eastern half of the block from Dumfries to Highlander Streets.

**St. Saviour, Major General Sir Isaac Brock Memorial Church-** Dedicated to the memory of Major General Sir Isaac Brock, this church was constructed between 1818 and 1820. The original structure belonging to this congregation was at the intersection of York Road and the Niagara Parkway. This building was destroyed by lightning in 1840. The current church building was constructed in 1879 with funds derived from the sale of land once owned by Brock and donated to the congregation by his family.

**Laurel House-** The Sears Catalogue house, located at 33 Clarence Street.

**12 Kent Street-** A former agricultural barn, this building is now a home.

**Dr. Trimble's House-** Circa 1880, this home was built by Dr. Trimble as a residence and medical practice.

**Brock's Monument-** Built to commemorate Major General Sir Isaac Brock's final resting place, this monument was destroyed by Fenians in 1840. Reconstruction occurred in 1853 and the monument remains to this day. The monument was designed by William Thomas, the architect who also designed St. Lawrence Hall and St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. It is also the final resting place of Sir Isaac Brock. Now owned by Parks Canada, this building is open for tours.

\*Denotes designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Niagara Parks Heritage Website  
Ontario Plaques

## **Suggested area for designation**

The municipal boundaries of Queenston contain the developed areas between the Niagara River on the east, the Niagara Parkway, a portion of York Road to the Concession 1 right of way (unopened), the Old York Road on the south and Concession 8 on the north (including development on both sides of the Niagara parkway to this point). Since the built heritage and historical context of Queenston occurs mainly in what could be called the central village, we would suggest that the area for designation be that portion lying between the Niagara River and the Niagara Parkway to the west, Queenston Heights to the south (in order to include Brock's Monument and other monuments at that location) and the junction of Queenston Street and the Niagara Parkway to the north.

## **Source Materials**

**Sources of information for this application and for further research include:**

**"The Niagara Portage Road-200 Years 1790-1990" George Seibel-published by The City of Niagara Falls, 1990**

**"A History of Laura Secord School" R. and P. Peggs, M. Ott, November 2010 (unpublished)**

**R. Watson Report on Queenston Limestone used at the Laura Secord Memorial School**

**Historical summary of the presence of the Woodland Indians on the Willowbank site prepared by Ms. Shelley Huson, The School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank (unpublished)**

**Draft paper attributed to Ms. Joy Ormsby, Niagara Historical Society member, concerning the history of 53 Queenston Street, Queenston**

**"From the Mouth of the Lower Niagara River" Julie Waldron, Proforma Total Business (publisher) 2012: Michelle Kratts, Teresa Sharp, Linda Fritz, Jim Reynolds, Jim Smith, Gretchen Duling, Dennis Duling, Karen Noonan, Toby Jewett**

**Niagara Parks Heritage Website**

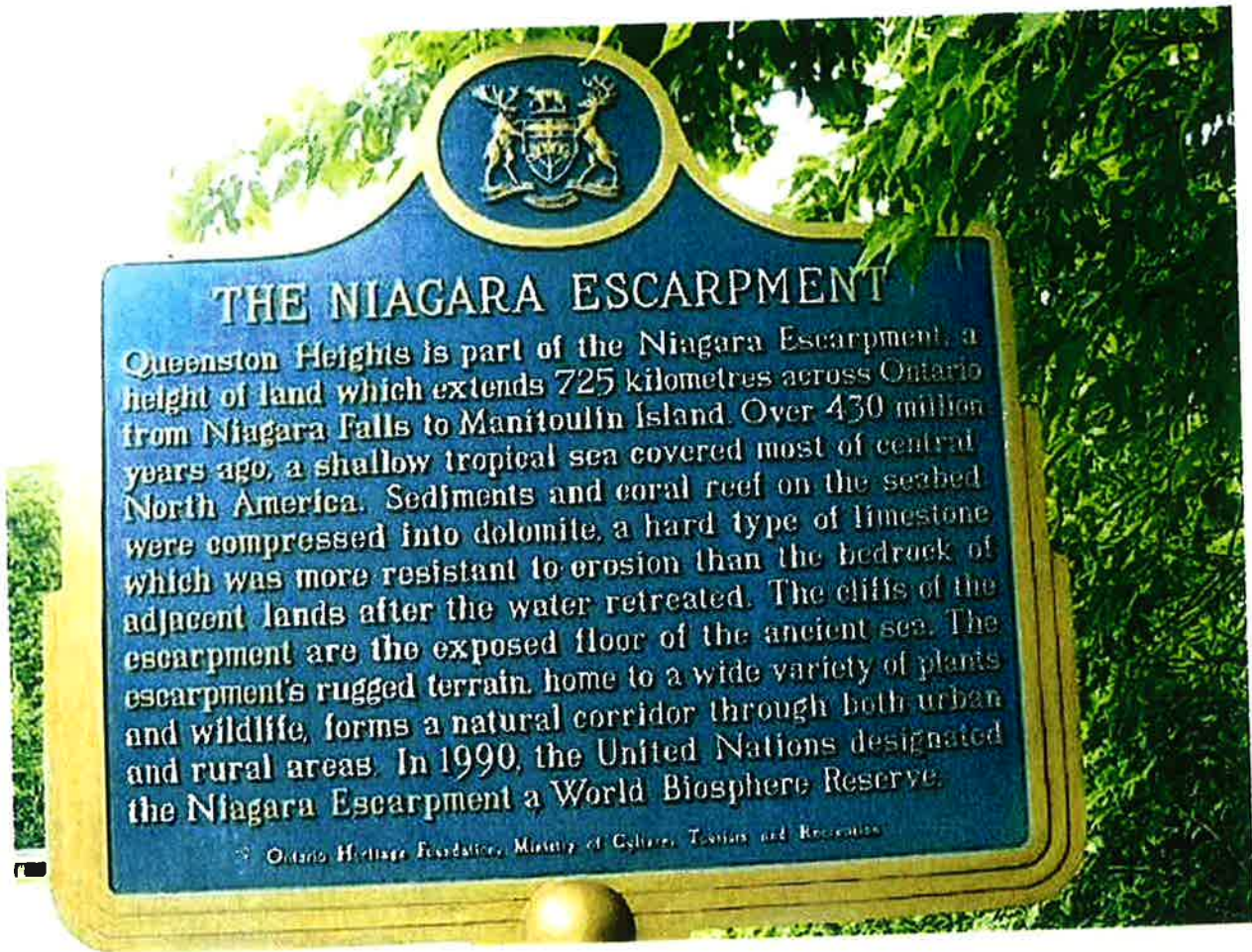
**Internet site <http://www.ontarioplaques.com>**

## **Appendix "A"**

**Photographs and text of historic plaques in Queenston**



## The Niagara Escarpment



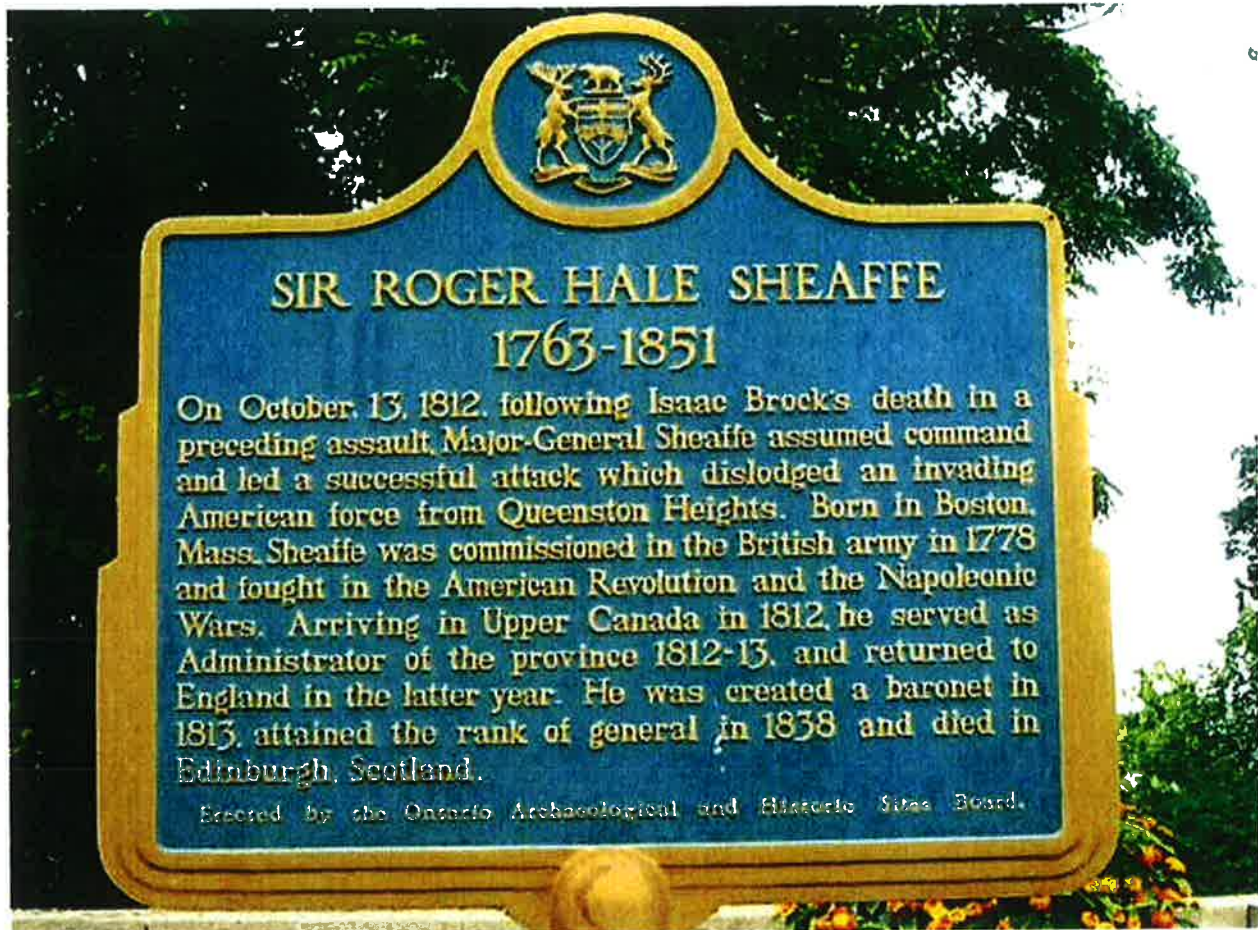
### *Plaque Text*

Queenston Heights is part of the Niagara Escarpment, a height of land which extends 725 kilometres across Ontario from Niagara Falls to Manitoulin Island. Over 430 million years ago, a shallow tropical sea covered most of central North America. Sediments and coral reef on the seabed were compressed into dolomite, a hard type of limestone which was more resistant to erosion than the bedrock of the adjacent lands after the water retreated. The cliffs of the escarpment are the exposed floor of the ancient sea. The escarpment's rugged terrain, home to a wide variety of plants and wildlife, forms a natural corridor through both urban and rural areas. In 1990, the United Nations designated the Niagara Escarpment a World Biosphere Reserve.

**Plaque Location:** On Niagara Parkway at a parking area lookout just south of Queenston, .5 km south of York Road (Road 81)



## Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe 1763-1851



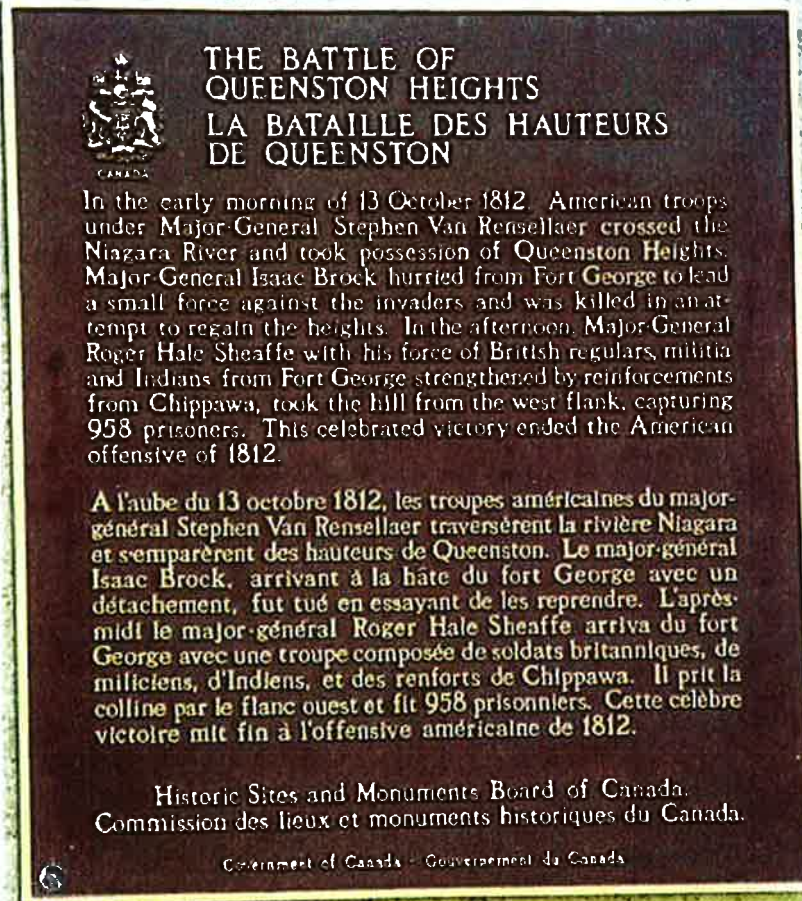
### *Plaque Text*

On October 13, 1812, following Isaac Brock's death in a preceding assault, Major-General Sheaffe assumed command and led a successful attack which dislodged an invading American force from Queenston Heights. Born in Boston, Mass., Sheaffe was commissioned in the British army in 1778 and fought in the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. Arriving in Upper Canada in 1812, he served as Administrator of the province 1812-13, and returned to England in the latter year. He was created a baronet in 1813, attained the rank of general in 1838 and died in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Plaque Location:** On Niagara Parkway just south of Queenston on the walkway circling the Brock Monument



## The Battle of Queenston Heights

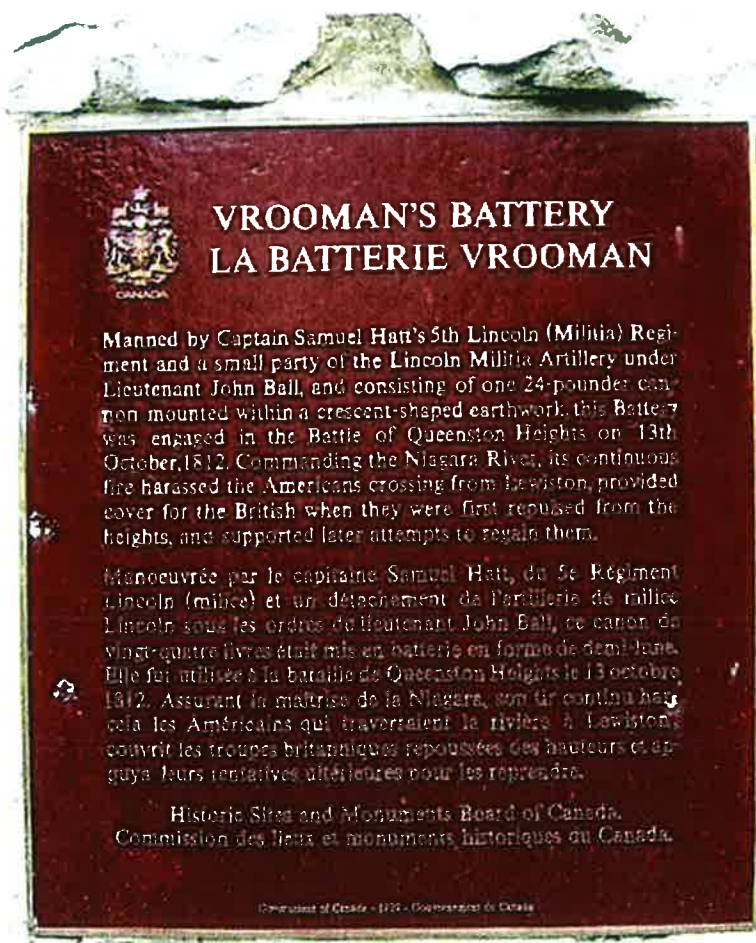


### *Plaque Text*

In the early morning of 13 October 1812, American troops under Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer crossed the Niagara River and took possession of Queenston Heights. Major-General Isaac Brock hurried from Fort George to lead a small force against the invaders and was killed in an attempt to regain the heights. In the afternoon, Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe with his force of British regulars, militia and Indians from Fort George strengthened by reinforcements from Chippawa, took the hill from the west flank, capturing 958 prisoners. This celebrated victory ended the American offensive of 1812.

**Plaque Location: At Brock's Monument on Queenston Heights**

## Vrooman's Battery



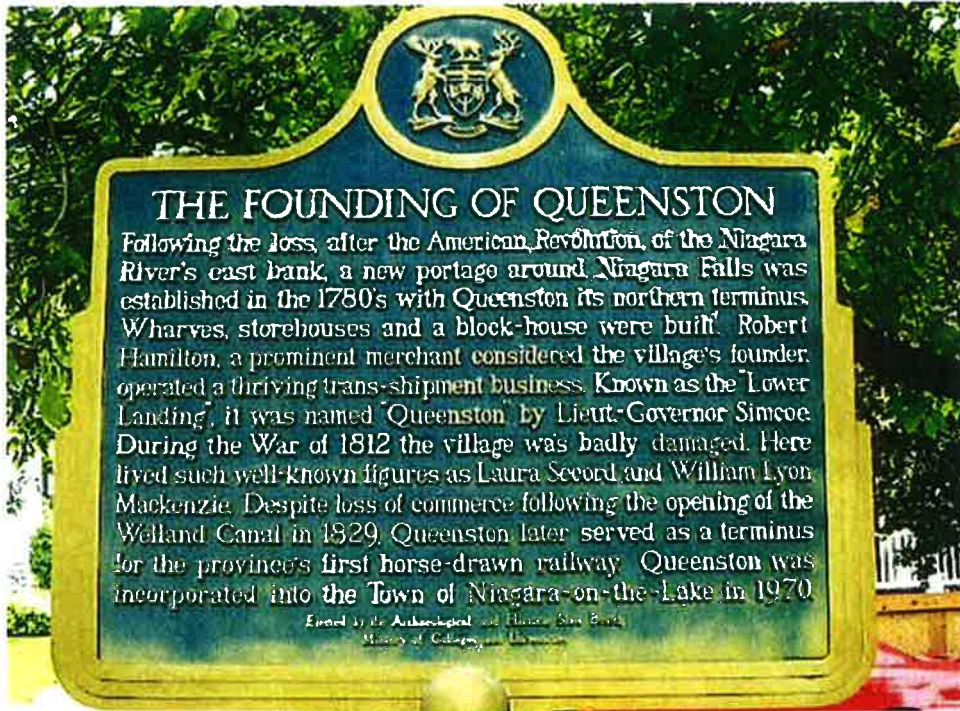
### *Plaque Text*

Manned by Captain Samuel Hatt's 5th Lincoln (Militia) Regiment and a small party of the Lincoln Militia Artillery under Lieutenant John Ball, and consisting of one 24-pounder cannon mounted within a crescent-shaped earthwork, this Battery was engaged in the Battle of Queenston Heights on the 13th of October, 1812. Commanding the Niagara river, its continuous fire harassed the Americans crossing from Lewiston, provided cover for the British when they were first repulsed from the heights, and supported later attempts to regain them.

**Plaque Location: On the east side of the Niagara Parkway 2.1 km north of York Road (Road 81) in Queenston**



## The Founding of Queenston

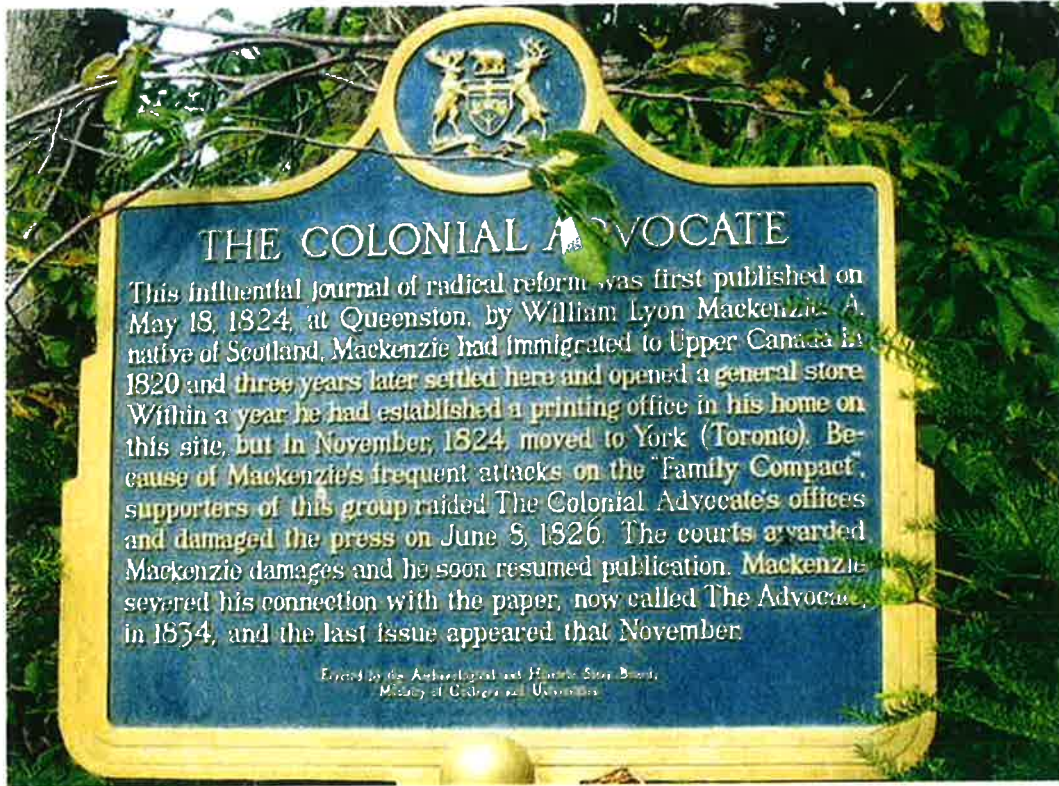


### *Plaque Text*

Following the loss, after the American Revolution, of the Niagara River's east bank, a new portage around Niagara Falls was established in the 1780s' with Queenston its northern terminus. Wharves, storehouses and a block-house were built. Robert Hamilton, a prominent merchant considered the village's founder, operated a thriving trans-shipment business. Known as the "Lower Landing", it was named "Queenston" by Lieut.-Governor Simcoe. During the War of 1812 the village was badly damaged. Here lived such well-known figures as Laura Secord and William Lyon MacKenzie. Despite loss of commerce following the opening of the Welland Canal in 1829, Queenston later served as a terminus for the province's first horse-drawn railway. Queenston was incorporated into the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1970.

**Plaque Location: Queenston Library**

## The Colonial Advocate



### Plaque Text

This influential journal of radical reform was first published on May 18, 1824, at Queenston, by William Lyon Mackenzie. A native of Scotland, Mackenzie had immigrated to Upper Canada in 1820 and three years later settled here and opened a general store. Within a year he had established a printing office in his home on this site, but in November, 1824, moved to York (Toronto). Because of Mackenzie's frequent attacks on the "Family Compact", supporters of this group raided The Colonial Advocate's offices and damaged the press on June 8, 1826. The courts awarded Mackenzie damages and he soon resumed publication. Mackenzie severed his connection with the paper, now called The Advocate, in 1834, and the last issue appeared that November.

Location: Mackenzie House



## Major John Richardson 1796-1852

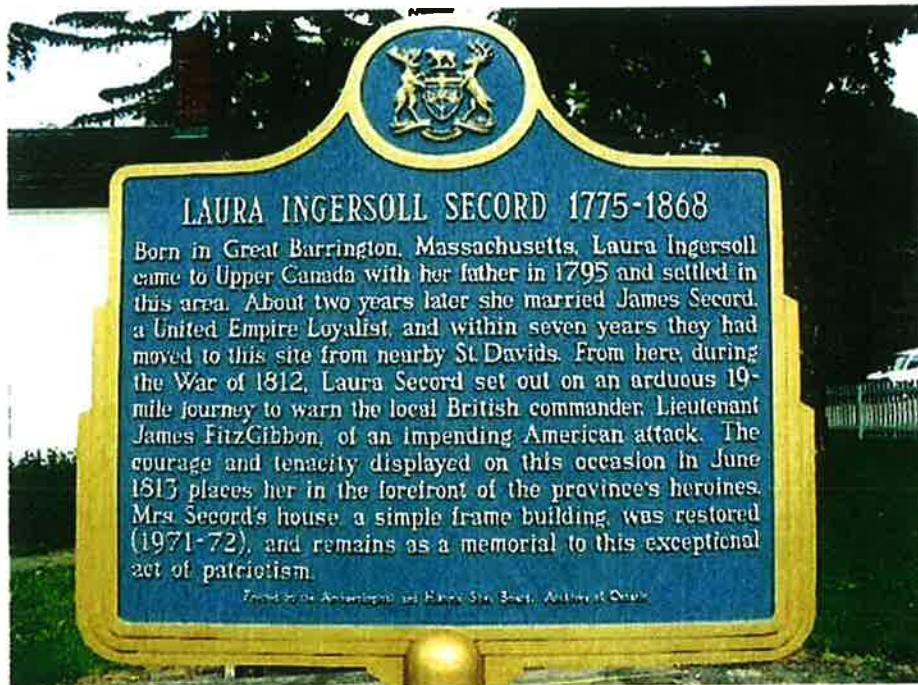


### *Plaque Text*

This pioneer historian, author and soldier was born in Queenston. His family moved to Amherstburg about 1802, and at the outbreak of the War of 1812 Richardson joined the British army. Retired on half pay in 1818 in London, England, he published the epic poem "Tecumseh" and the celebrated historical novel "Wacousta" which established his literary reputation. In 1838 Richardson returned to Upper Canada where he published two weekly newspapers, "The New Era" (1841-42) and "The Canadian Loyalist" (1843-44). His later works "Eight Years in Canada" and "The War of 1812" provide invaluable historical information. In 1848 he moved to New York City where he died in poverty.

**Plaque Location: Laura Secord School**

## Laura Ingersoll Secord (1775-1868)



### *Plaque Text*

Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, Laura Ingersoll came to Upper Canada with her father in 1795, and settled in this area. About two years later she married James Secord, a United Empire Loyalist, and within seven years they had moved to this site from nearby St. Davids. From here, during the war of 1812, Laura Secord set out on an arduous 30 km journey to warn the local British commander, Lieutenant James FitzGibbon, of an impending American attack. The courage and tenacity displayed on this occasion in June 1813 places her in the forefront of the province's heroines. Mrs. Secord's house, a simple frame building, was restored (1971-72), and remains as a memorial to the exceptional act of patriotism.

**Plaque Location: Laura Secord Homestead**



## Laura Secord (1775-1868)



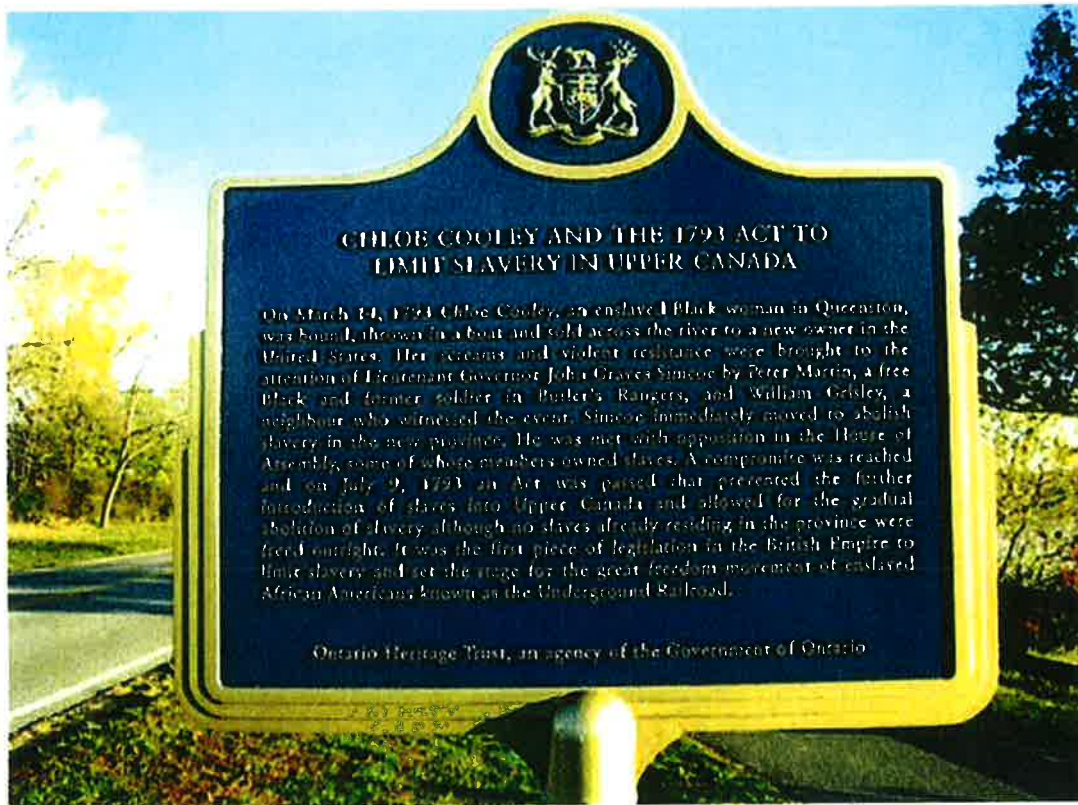
### Plaque Text

This celebrated heroine of the War of 1812 is a renowned figure in Canadian History. Determined to warn the British of an impending attack on Beaver Dams, Secord set out from her home on June 22, 1813, on a dangerous mission. She travelled alone for over 30 kilometres behind enemy lines, struggling to make it to the De Cew farmhouse, where she informed Lieutenant FitzGibbon about the American plan. Later in the 19th century, a first generation of women historians championed Secord's courageous deed with the goal of uncovering and popularizing women's contributions to the history of Canada.

Location: Laura Secord Homestead



## Chloe Cooley and the 1793 Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada

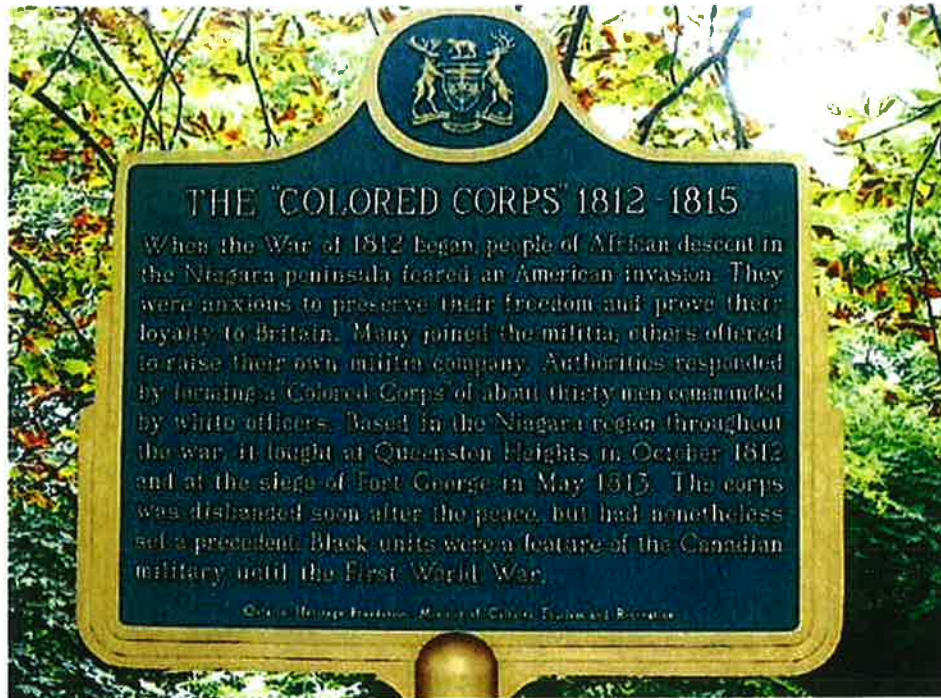


### *Plaque Text*

On March 14, 1793 Chloe Cooley, an enslaved Black woman in Queenston, was bound, thrown in a boat and sold across the river to a new owner in the United States. Her screams and violent resistance were brought to the attention of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe by Peter Martin, a free Black and former soldier in Butler's Rangers, and William Grisley, a neighbour who witnessed the event. Simcoe immediately moved to abolish slavery in the new province. He was met with opposition in the House of Assembly, some of whose members owned slaves. A compromise was reached and on July 9, 1793 an Act was passed that prevented the further introduction of slaves into Upper Canada and allowed for the gradual abolition of slavery although no slaves already residing in the province were freed outright. It was the first piece of legislation in the British Empire to limit slavery and set the stage for the great freedom movement of enslaved African Americans known as the Underground Railway.

**Plaque Location: River Road**

## The "Colored Corps" 1812-1815



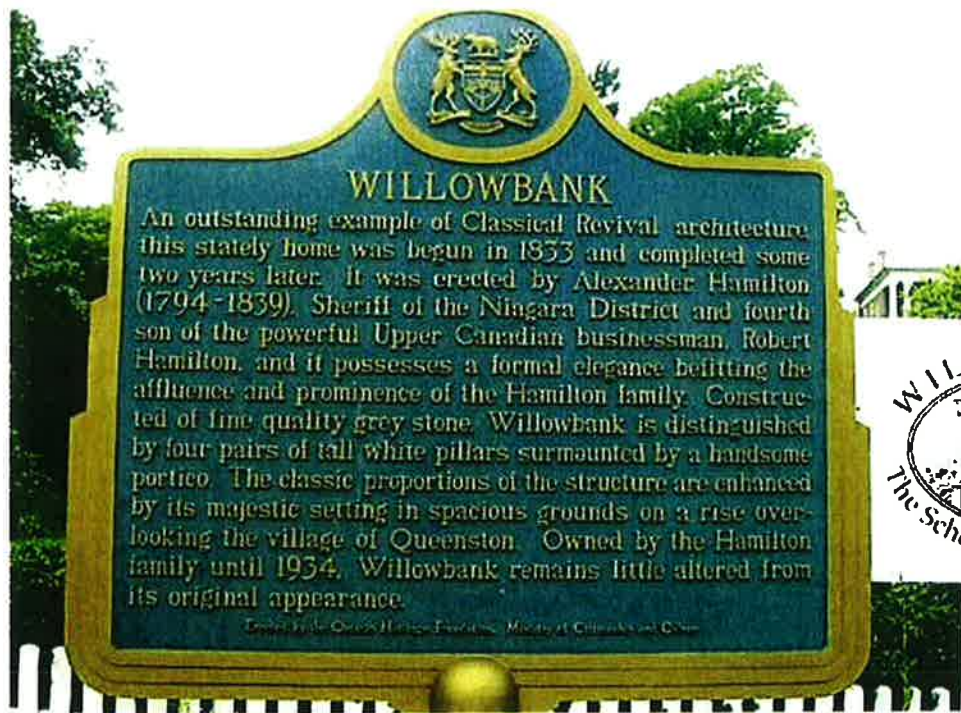
### *Plaque Text*

When the War of 1812 began, people of African descent in the Niagara peninsula feared an American invasion. They were anxious to preserve their freedom and prove their loyalty to Britain. Many joined the militia; others offered to raise their own militia company. Authorities responded by forming a "Colored Corps" of about thirty men commanded by white officers. Based in the Niagara region throughout the war, it fought at Queenston Heights in October 1812 and at the siege of Fort George in May 1813. The corps was disbanded soon after the peace, but had nonetheless set a precedent. Black units were a feature of the Canadian military until the First World War.

**Plaque Location:** On the walkway circling the Brock Monument off the Niagara Parkway just south of Queenston



## Willowbank



### *Plaque Text*

An outstanding example of Classical Revival architecture, this stately home was begun in 1833 and completed some two years later. It was erected by Alexander Hamilton (1794-1839), Sheriff of the Niagara District and fourth son of the powerful Upper Canadian businessman, Robert Hamilton, and it possesses a formal elegance befitting the affluence and prominence of the Hamilton family. Constructed of fine quality grey stone, Willowbank is distinguished by four pairs of tall white pillars surmounted by a handsome portico. The classic proportions of the structure are enhanced by its majestic setting in spacious grounds on a rise overlooking the village of Queenston. Owned by the Hamilton family until 1934, Willowbank remains little altered from its original appearance.

**Plaque Location: On Queenston Street at Willowbank gate.**

# Willowbank



## Plaque Text

Named after the magnificent willow trees that once graced its grounds, Willowbank is an elegant example of the great rural estates of early 19th-century Upper Canada. Built for local businessman Alexander Hamilton between 1834 and 1836, this manor house is distinguished by its sophisticated exterior design and imposing front portico. The property illustrates the Romantic fusion of Classical Revival architecture, then at its height in British North America, with a picturesque landscape. Willowbank stands as one of the finest country estates of its type in Canada.

**Location:** At Willowbank



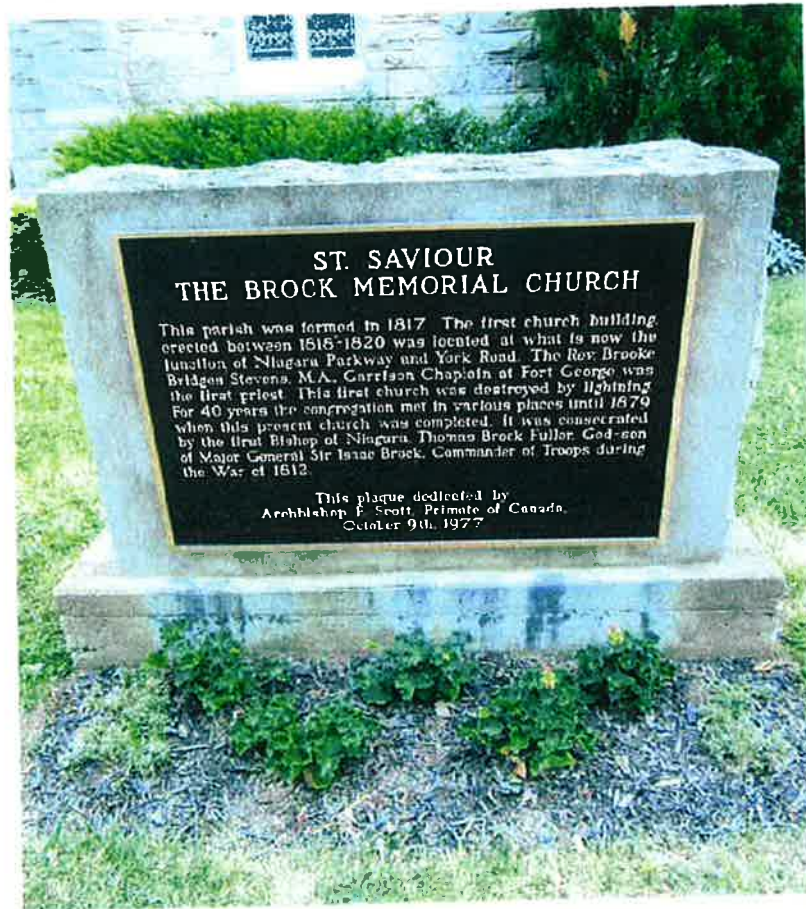
### **Plaque Text**

By 1808 the Rev. Elkanah Holmes, a missionary from the United States, had organized the first Baptist congregation in Queenston. Following the War of 1812 the congregation declined, was reorganized in 1831 and, between 1842 and 1845, erected the rough-cut limestone structure as its church. It is an early and interesting example of the Gothic Revival style in this province. The church had closed by 1918 and in 1928 was sold to the Women's Institute, which occupied the building until 1954. In 1970 it was acquired by Dr. Djamal Afrukhteh who donated it to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. After a fund-raising campaign by the Queenston Community Association, the building was renovated and in December, 1972, was officially opened as the Queenston Library and Community Centre.

**Plaque Location:** On the corner of Queenston St. and Dumfries



## St. Saviour - The Brock Memorial Church



### *Plaque:*

This parish was formed in 1817. The first church building, erected between 1818-1820 was located at what is now the junction, of Niagara Parkway and York Road. The Rev. Brooke Bridges Stevens, M.A., Garrison Chaplain at Fort George was the first priest. This first church was destroyed by lightning. For 40 years the congregation met in various places until 1879 when this present church was completed. It was consecrated by the first Bishop of Niagara, Thomas Brock Fuller, God-son of Major General. Sir Issac Brock, Commander of the Troops during the War of 1812.

**Location: 12 Princess in the Village of Queenston**



Major General Sir Isaac Brock K.B.

### Hero of Canada

Born in St Peter Port, Guernsey, on October 6, 1769, Isaac Brock was the eighth son of a prominent island family. In 1784 he was commissioned in the King's 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. After service in Barbados and Holland he arrived in Canada in 1802 as Colonel of the 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. Promoted to Major General and senior civil administrator of Upper Canada in 1811, he rallied his handful of regulars, the scantily armed Upper Canada militia and native allies for the looming war with the United States.

Brock's combination of high principles, decisiveness and boldness inspired trust and confidence in all who met him. When war broke out on June 18, 1812, his leadership led to swift victory at Michilimackinac in July and the brilliant capture of Detroit in August. That victory earned Brock a knighthood in the Order of the Bath. More than any other, he rallied Upper Canada and inspired its people to fight for their own defense.

In the early morning hours of October 13, 1812, American troops crossed the Niagara River at Queenston and seized the heights. Later that morning, Brock led a quick counterattack up the hill and was killed. Early that afternoon, Major General Roger Sheaffe's combined assault of regulars, militia and warriors overwhelmed the Americans, yet the victory is considered Brock's. His death left a deep impression on his soldiers and a grieving Upper Canada. Even the Americans rendered honours.

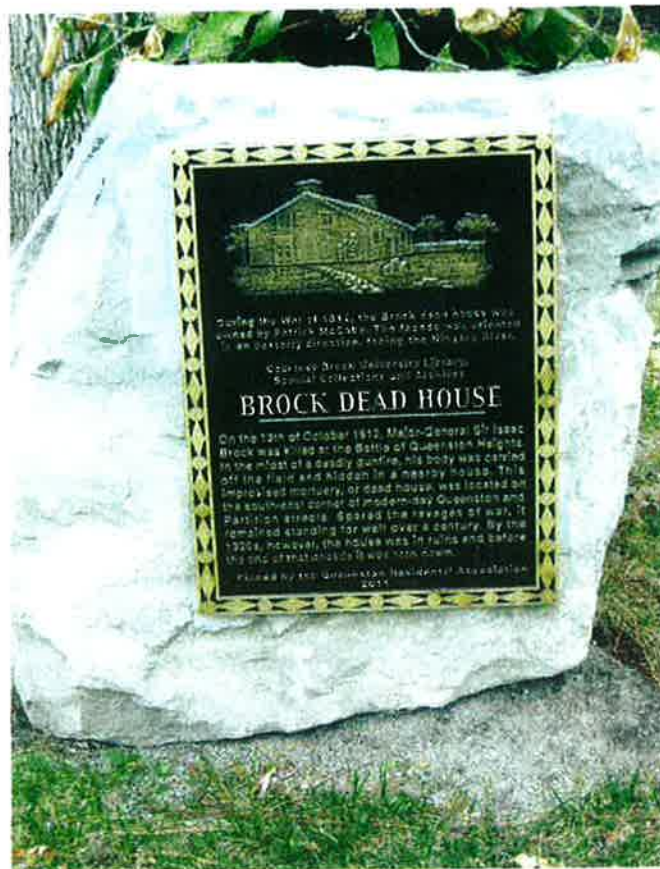
Two monuments have been erected on the Heights of Queenston to honour Brock and those who fought with him. The first was completed in 1827 and destroyed in 1840 by a participant in the 1837 Rebellion. The second monument (1857) rises 56 metres and is crowned with a six metre statue of Brock in stylized pose. While Upper Canadians called him the "Hero of Upper Canada", perhaps the most profound tribute came from the great Tecumseh who observed of Brock "Here is a Man." In life, he inspired as a leader; in death he inspired as a martyr. To a nation, unborn in his own time, Brock remains an enduring inspiration.

This monument was placed by the Queenston Residents' Association and contributing friends to celebrate and commemorate the enduring and historic link between St. Peter Port and Queenston as defined by Brock's life and legacy.

Dedicated October 12, 2012

Location: St. Saviour's Church





During the War of 1812, the Brock dead house was owned by Patrick McCabe. The façade was oriented in an easterly direction, facing the Niagara River.

Courtesy Brock University Library, Special Collections and Archives  
**BROCK DEAD HOUSE**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1812, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock was killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights. In the midst of a deadly gunfire, his body was carried off the field and hidden in a nearby house. This improvised mortuary, or dead house, was located on the south-east corner of modern-day Queenston and Partition streets. Spared the ravages of war, it remained standing for well over a century. By the 1920s, however, the house was in ruins and before the end of that decade it was torn down.

Placed by the Queenston Residents' Association 2011

Location: Queenston and Partition Streets



Location: Park on Clarence Street

*Plaque Text*

**Indians at Queenston Heights**

Warriors of the Six Nations of Iroquois (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagos, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras), mainly from the Grand River, fought as allies of the British in this historic battle with the Americans. Speaking distinctive dialects and with different religious beliefs, these Indians were drawn together for the battle by John Norton, a resourceful and courageous commander. Norton, a man of Cherokee and Scottish ancestry, was a Mohawk (Teyoninhokarawen) by adoption. With John Brant (Ahyouwaeghs), the youngest son of Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea), and John Bearfoot, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, the Iroquois warriors fought for their own survival as a people and in support of the British.

Erected by the Niagara Parks Commission and The Queenston Community Association with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, October 12, 1980





Location: To be located at Queenston Heights (not yet in place)

*Plaque Text*

Sir Isaac Brock

1769-1812

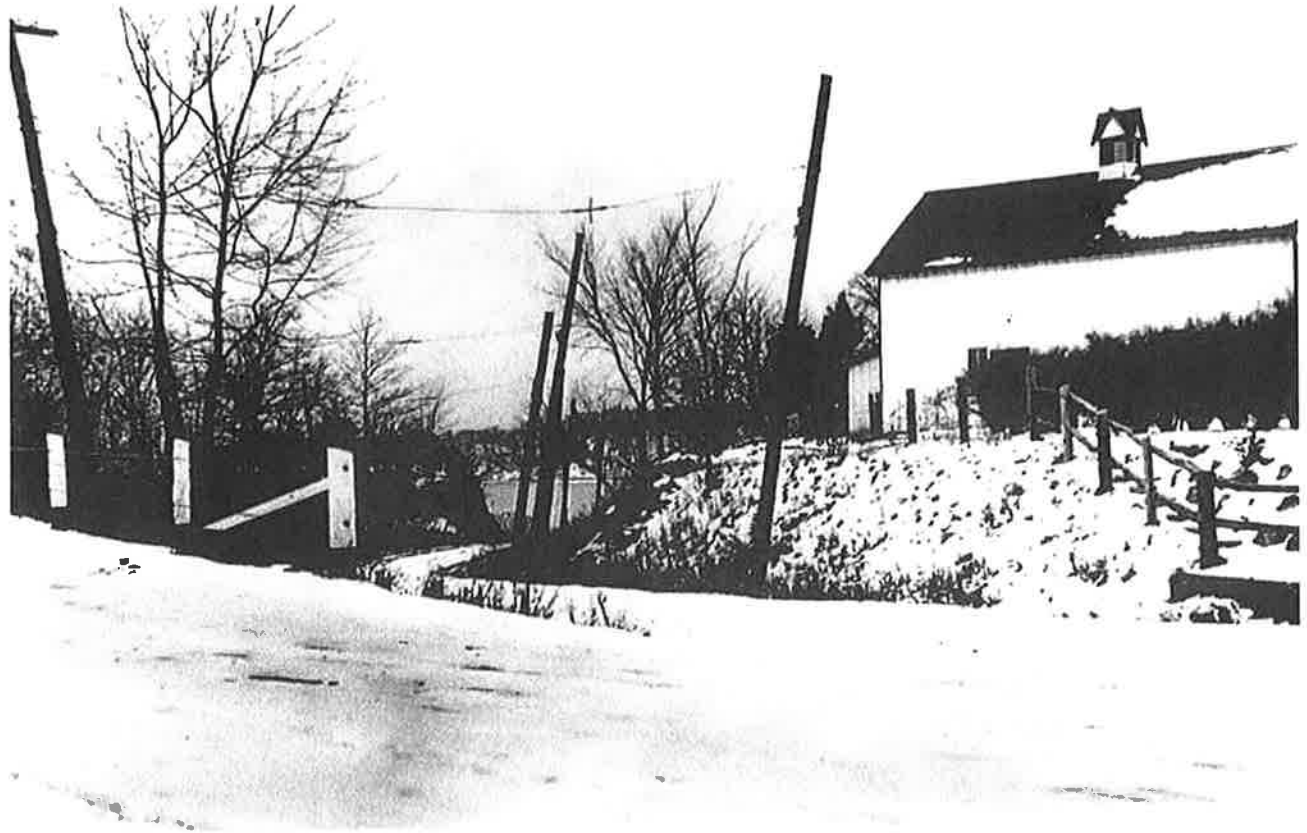
This British officer "the Hero of Upper Canada" led the successful defense of the province early in the War of 1812. Appointed commander of military forces in 1810 he organized the militia and prepared the colony for possible war with the United States. Following the outbreak of war and the forging of a crucial alliance with Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, Major-General Brock led the daring capture of Detroit, securing the western frontier and boosting the morale of Upper Canadians. His death on 13 October 1812, while attempting to recapture Queenston Heights, has made Sir Isaac Brock a national hero and an enduring symbol of bravery and patriotism for successive generations of Canadians.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Parks Canada

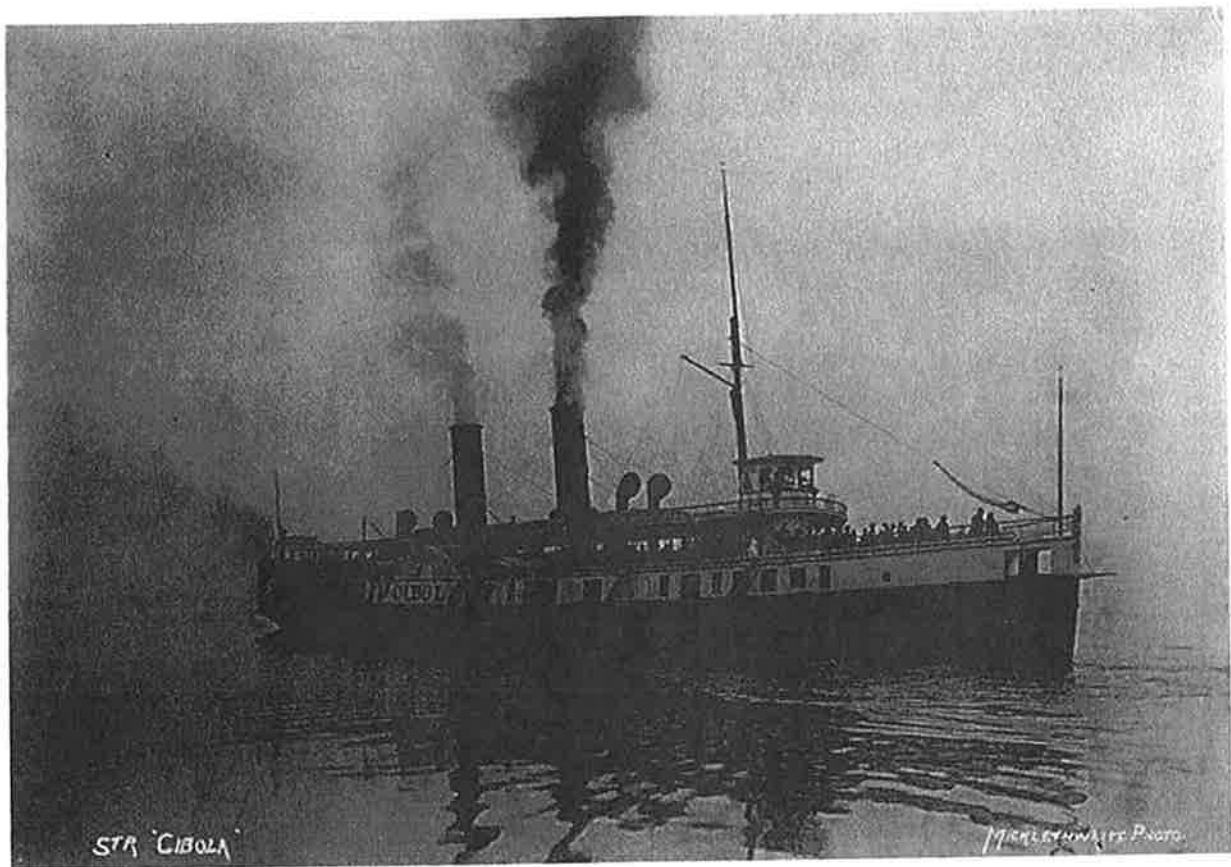
**The following Appendices “B” and “C” contain a selection of old and new photographs of Queenston chosen from hundreds of images available. It is our intent to show, where possible, views of streetscapes and structures from early Queenston and today to indicate both what has changed and what has remained**

## **Appendix "B"**

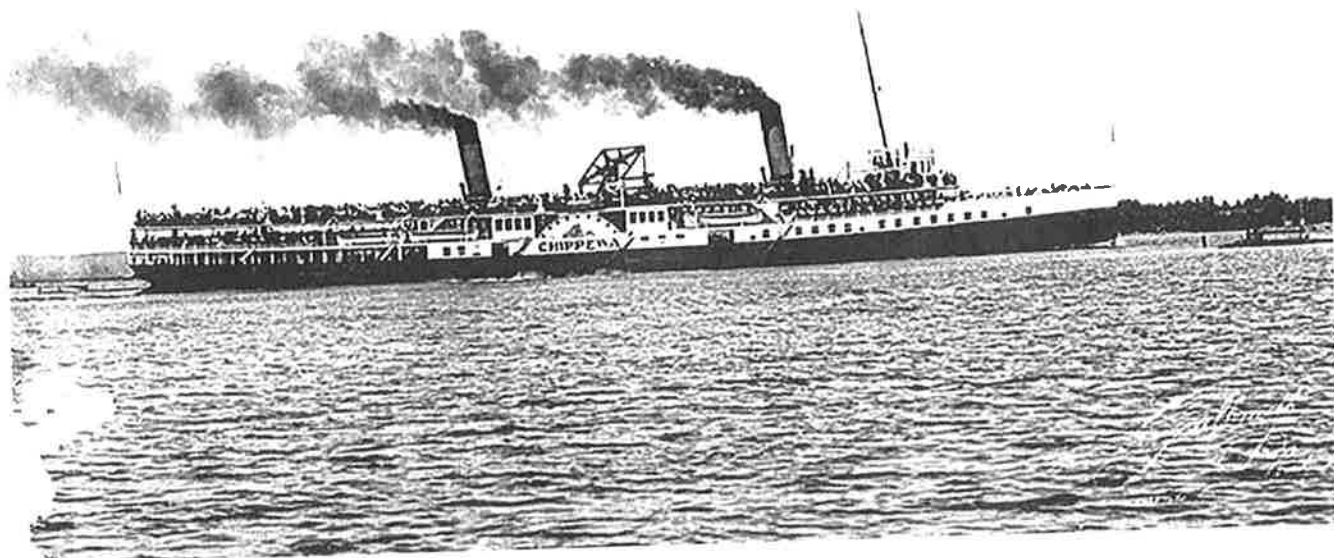
### **Photographs of early Queenston**



Early view of Deep Hollow showing coach house now used as a home

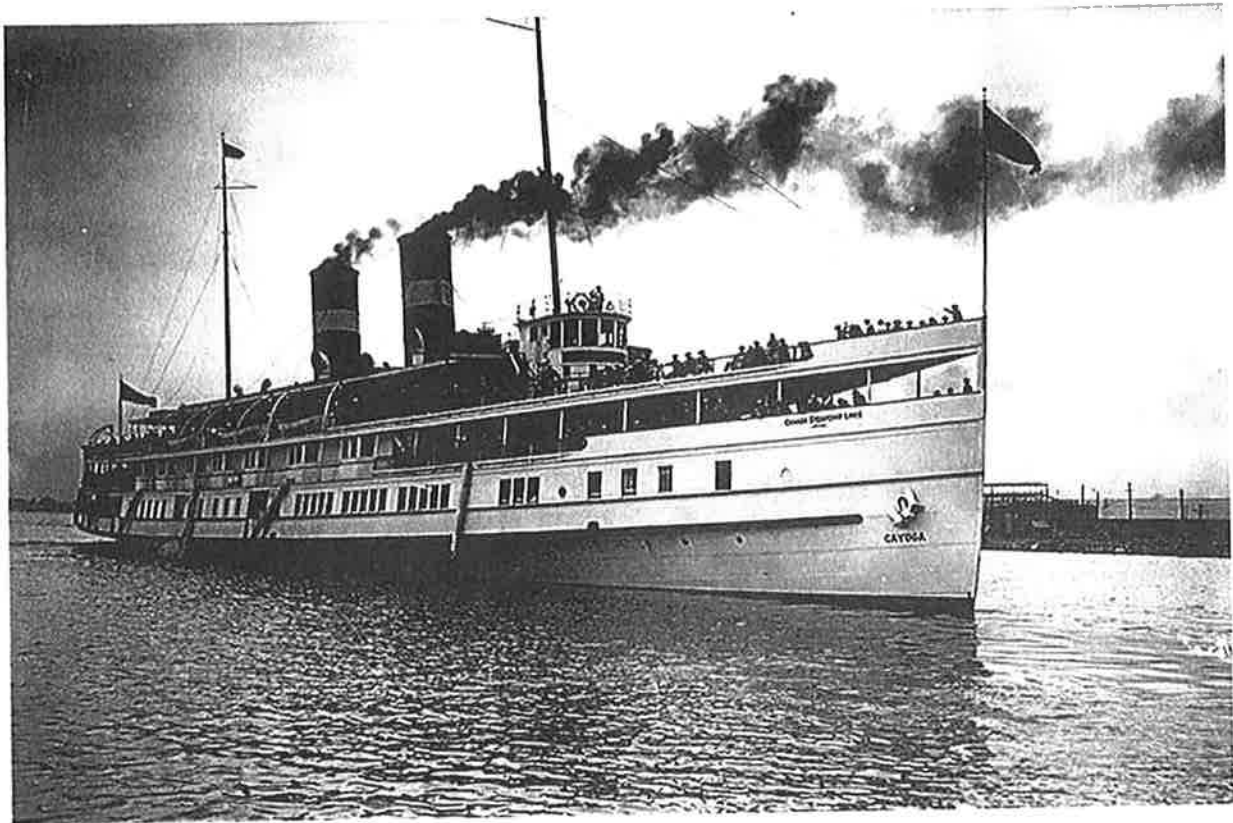


Steamer Cibola, one of the "Three C's" group of steamers visiting the Queenston Dock

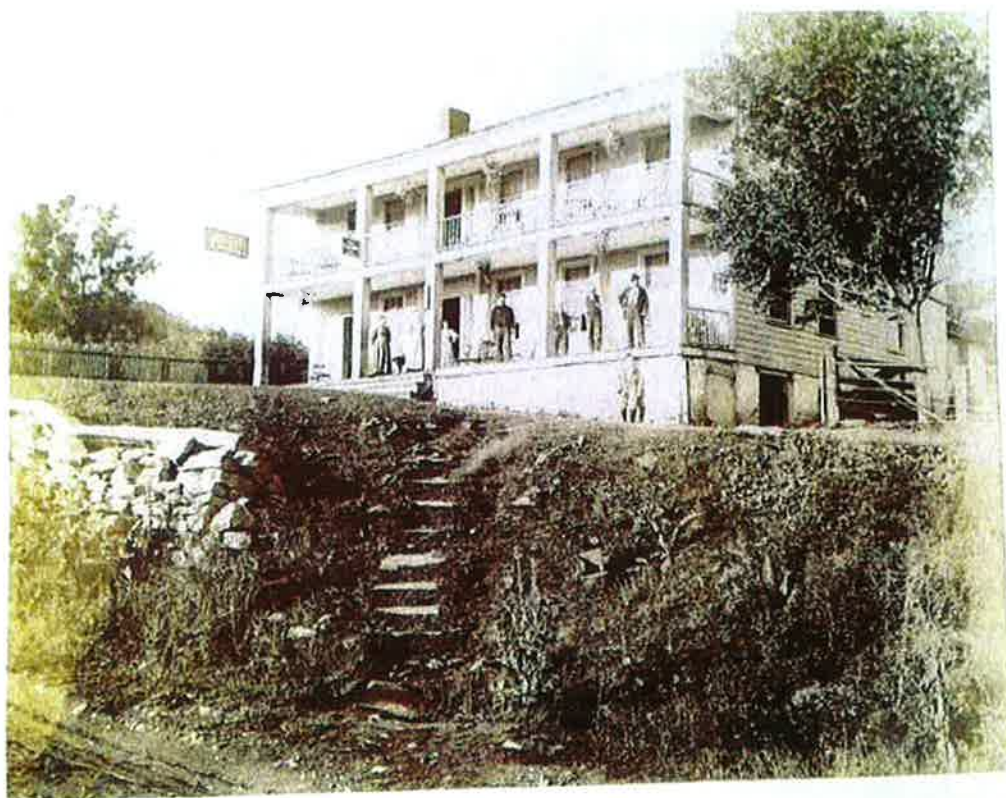


Steamer Chippewa, also one of the "Three C's" steamers running to the Queenston Dock





The Steamer Cayuga, the third of the "Three C's Steamers visiting the Queenstown Dock, and likely the best known X

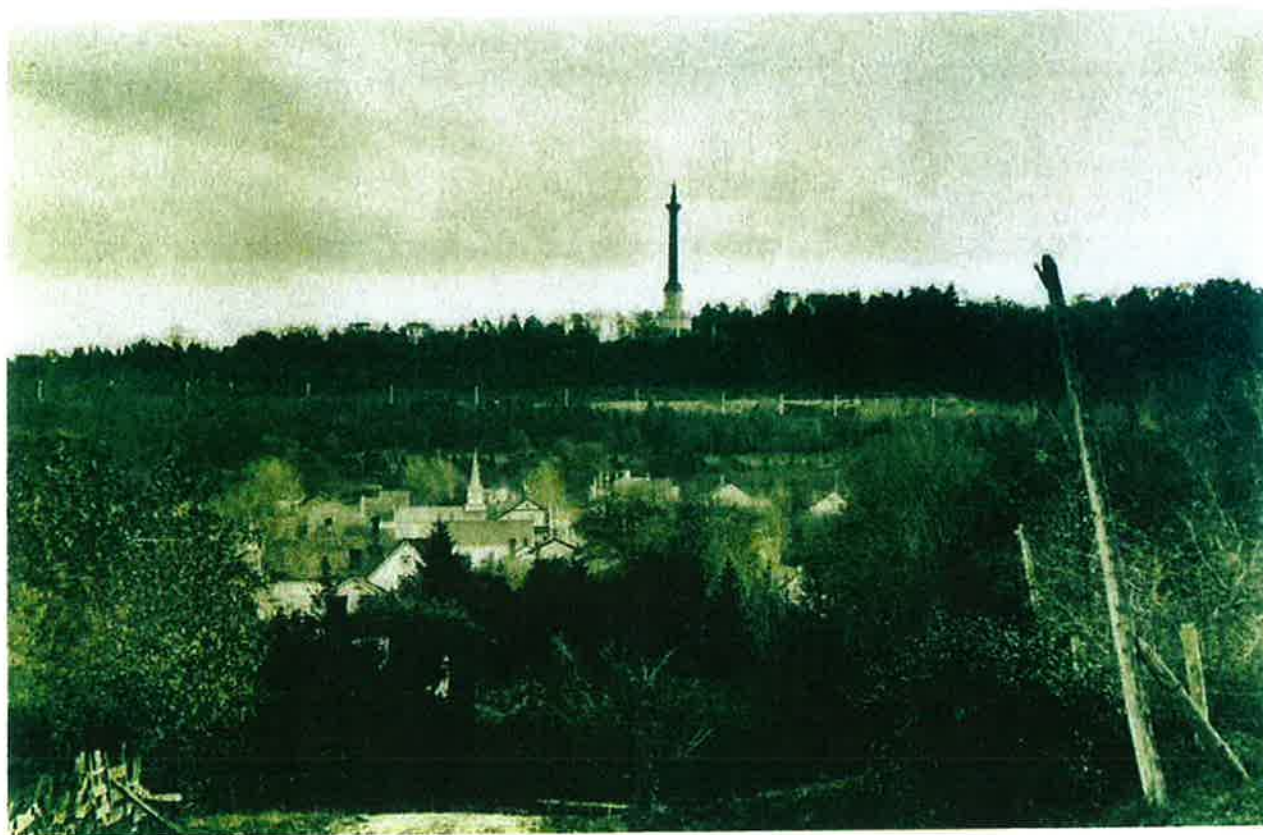


A. HARRETT  
324 YONGE ST. TORONTO

Early view of current South Landing Inn (undated)



Ruins of the Mackenzie Printery



Early view of Queenston, likely along Queenston Street looking south (undated)

*historical vii. modernized residence of Laura Secord,  
heroine of War 1812-14, Queenston, Ontario. Leaving  
this house, she tramped 20 miles through the woods  
to warn the British troops of the approach of the  
American forces, June 23rd 1813.*



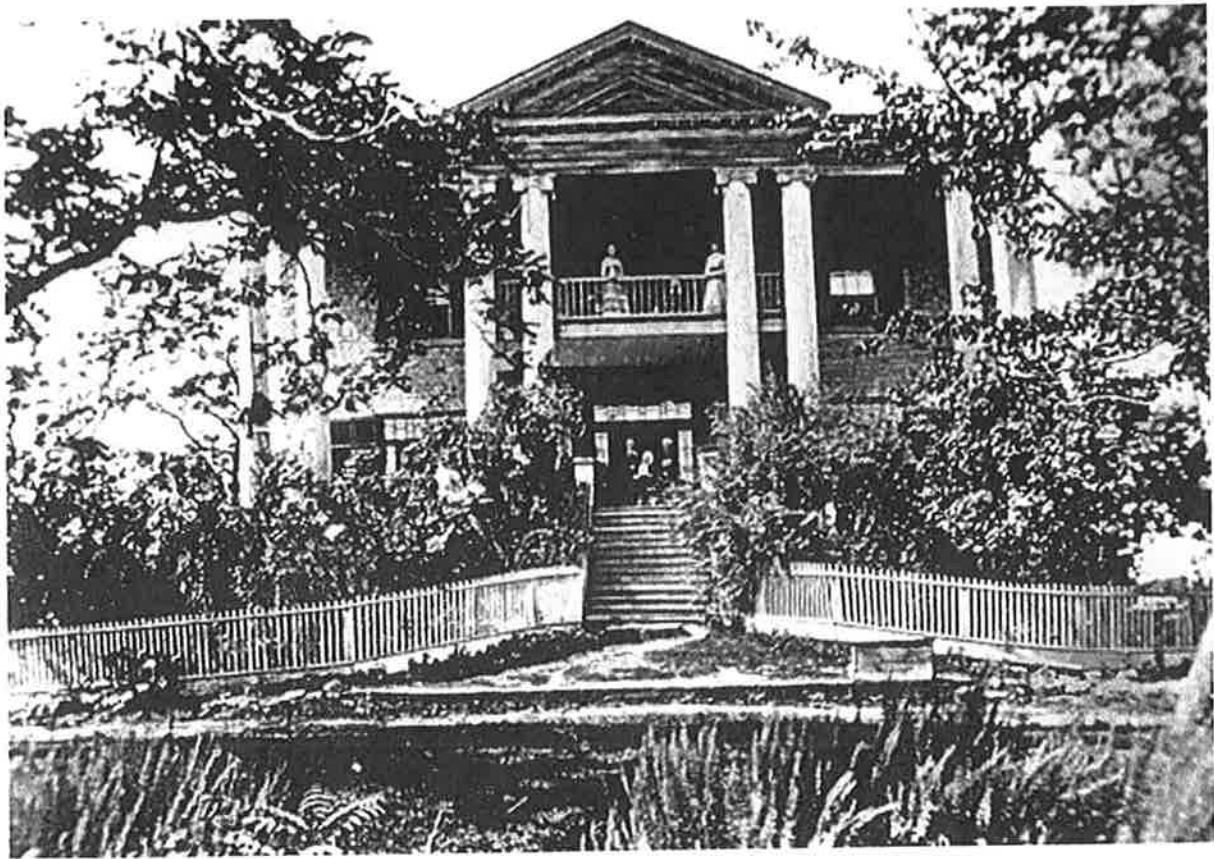
Laura Secord homestead prior to restoration (undated)



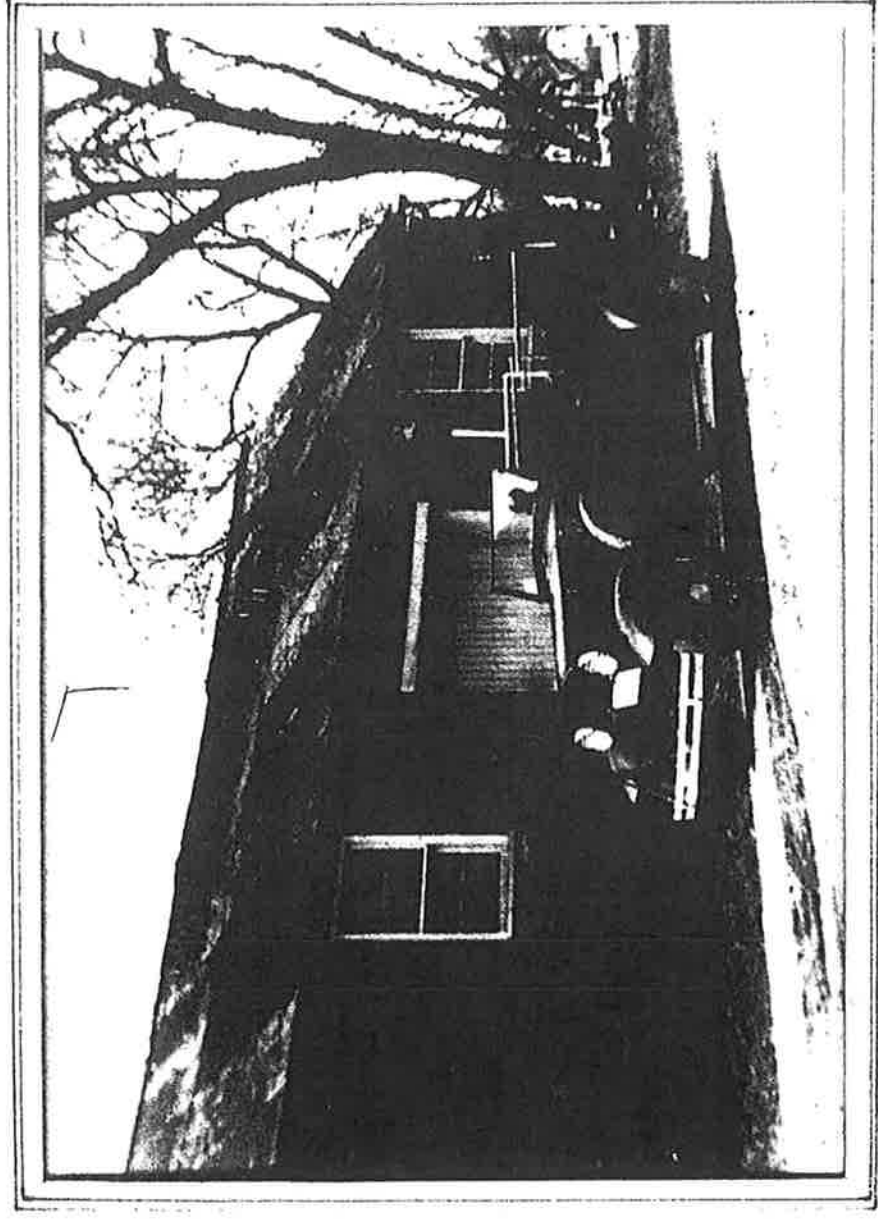


The Fisher Block (undated)

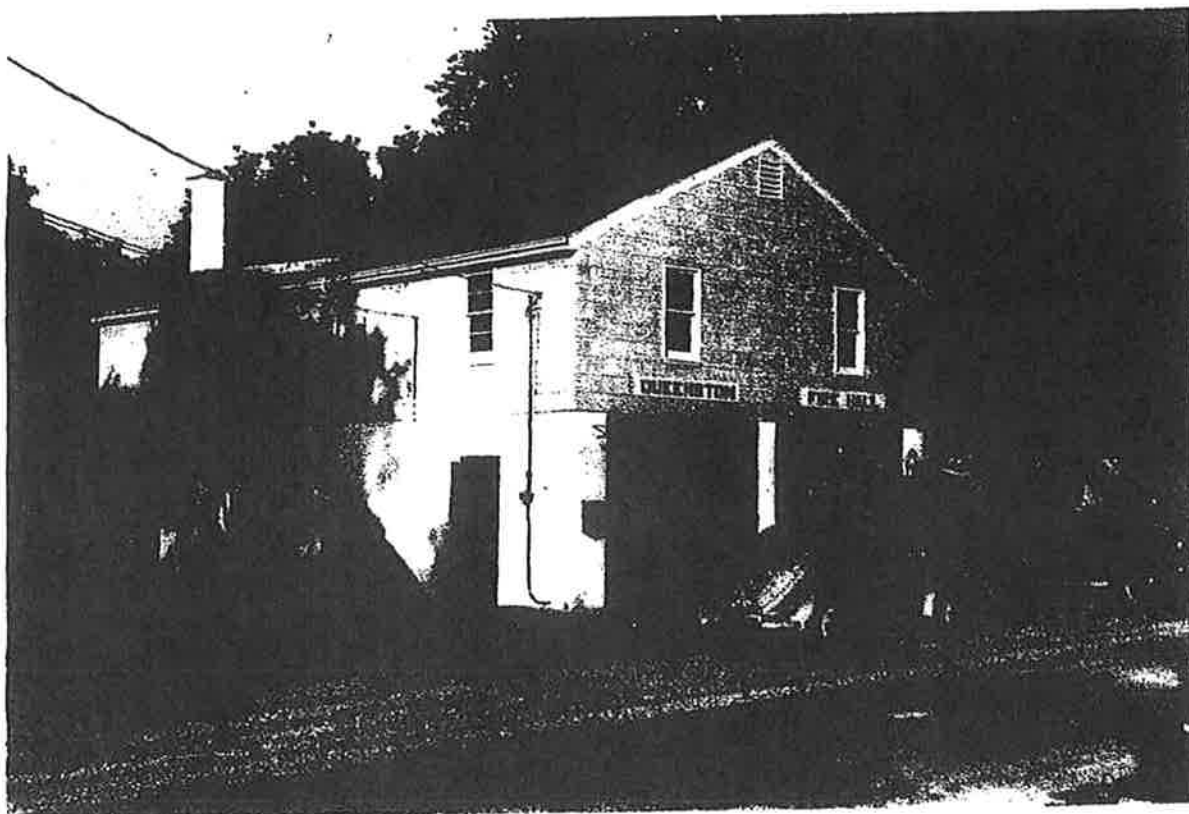




View of eastern elevation of "Willowbank", the famous Hamilton homestead, thought to be showing Hannah Hamilton and other family members (undated)



*The old blacksmith shop at the corners of Highlander & Princess Sts. served as the first substation at Queenston formed for the township of Niagara Fire Dept. in April of 1949. The stone structure was soon razed, however, to erect a new building, using the original foundation. The photo shows a 1930 Model A ~ Queenston's first fire truck.*



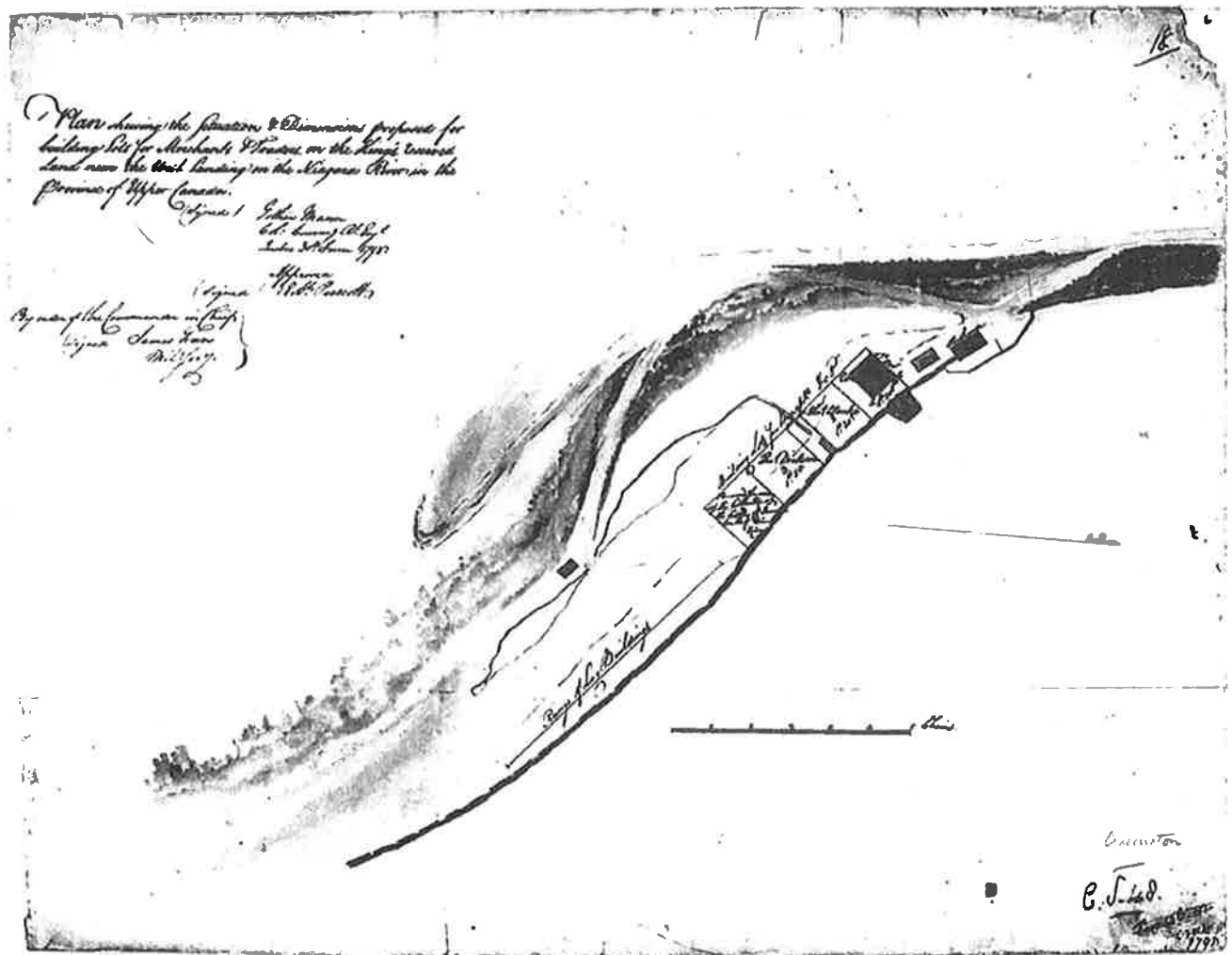
Queenston Firehall, 1959. Portions of the foundation of this and the previous building are still visible at the corner of Princess and Highlander Streets.



The Battle of Queenston Heights, painted by an unknown artist approximately 1820-1830. This iconic image is frequently used in promotional material as a remarkable depiction of the landing of the Colonial forces at Hamilton Wharf and the raging battle. No traces of the depicted buildings remain.

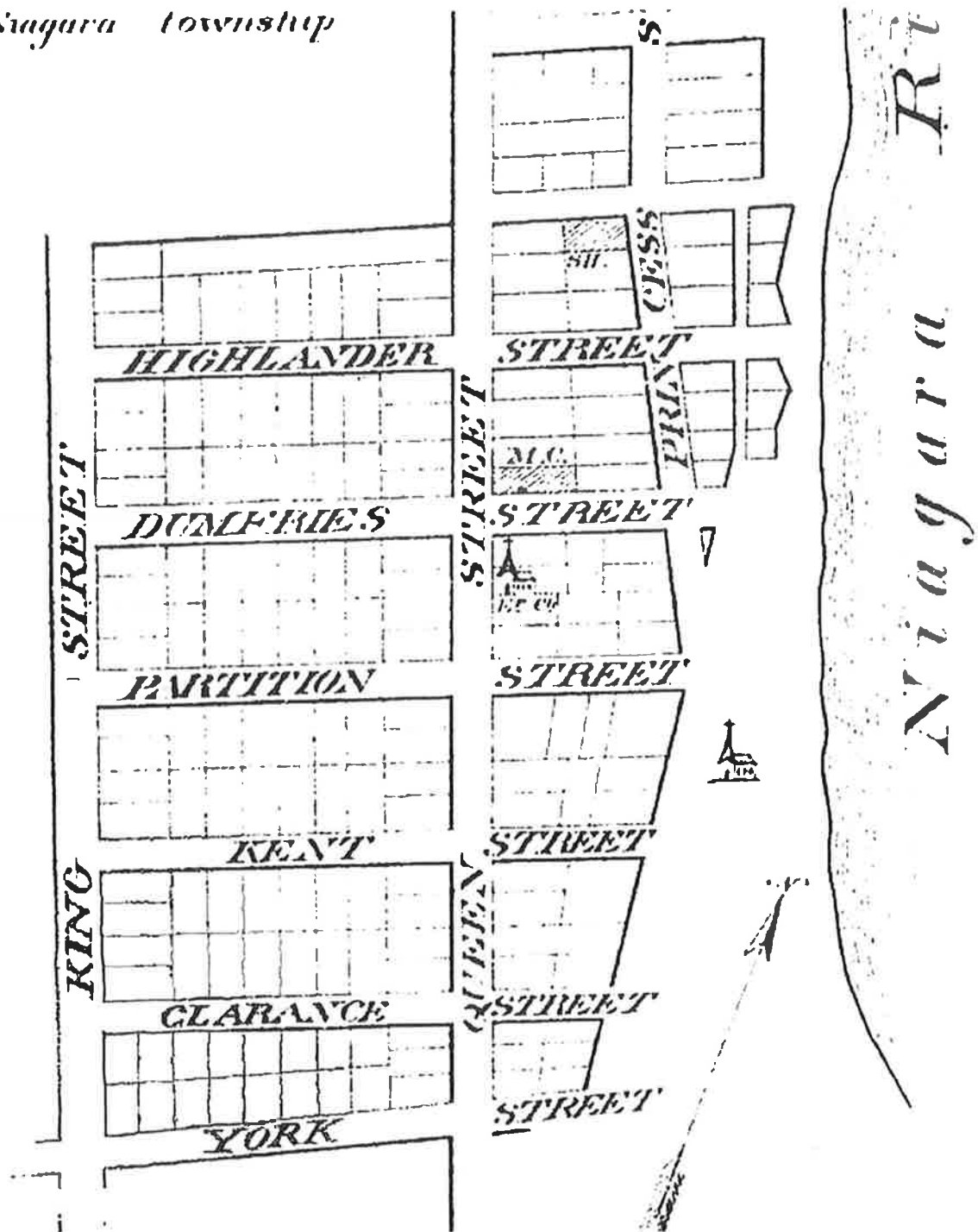
This image is used courtesy of the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston



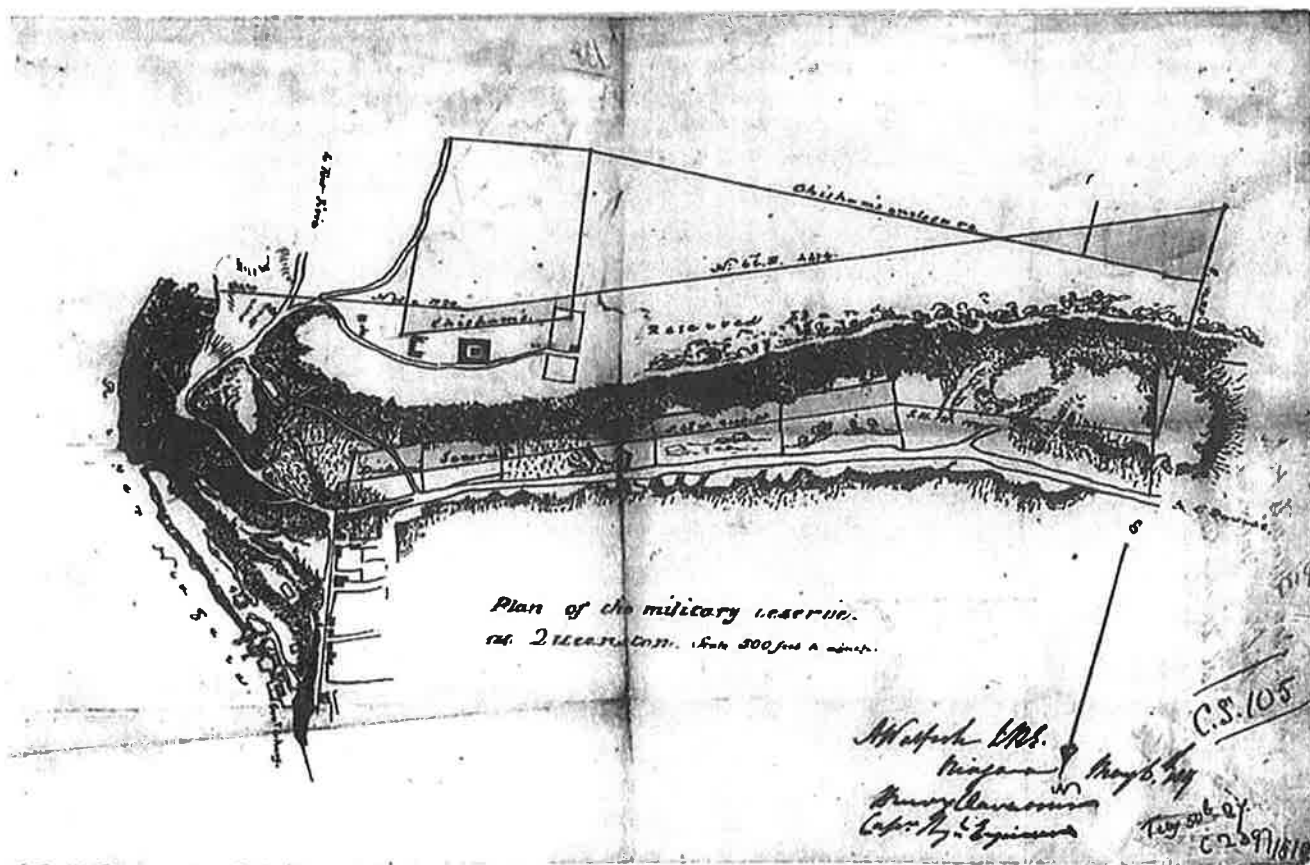


Plan of the Dock commercial area, dated 1798(?)

Niagara township



Early map of Queenston, showing street layout that exists mainly unchanged to this day



Map of dock area showing the Military Chain Reserve, still shown on contemporary surveys (dated 1818)





## **Appendix “C”**

### **Photographs of present day Queenston**



View of Queenston looking south near Laura Secord Homestead



Willowbank as it appears today





Mackenzie Printery side court





Mackenzie Printery from Queenston Street

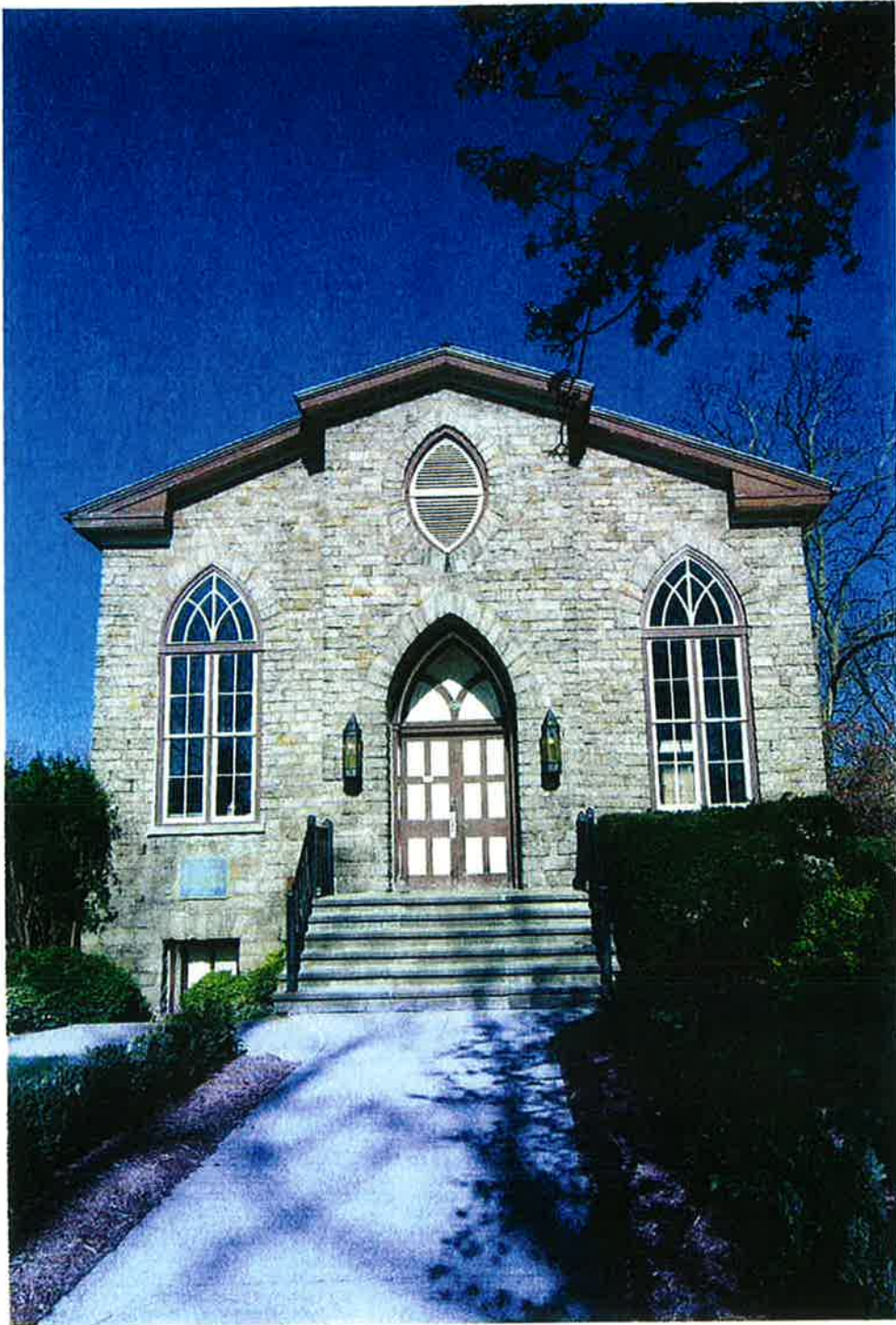


St. Saviour's Church



Queenston Street looking north at Clarence Street





Queenston Library and Community Centre, formerly Queenston Baptist Church



Brock's Monument





The Beck-Turner House, largely unchanged since the early 1800's and currently used by various family members as a weekend and summer retreat. This home was built around 1835 by the Wray family who were influential owners of considerable property in Queenston and a 100 acre peach farm in St. David's. The current owners are direct descendants of the Wrays



The historic Hamilton family cemetery near Willowbank. This cemetery is still used by the Hamilton descendants. The grounds and monuments were recently restored by Doug King and Michael Armstrong on behalf of the Hamilton descendants and the area is now clear of overgrowth





Current home of Arnie and Vicki Lowenberger, this house dates from before 1840 and possibly from the late 1700's. Unfortunately no definitive records have been found to date. It was once owned by The Shipping Company of New York though the purpose is not currently known. One of the earliest owners was Elijah Phelps, owner of the corn field upon which the Battle of Queenston Heights was fought in 1812 and a prominent property owner of early Queenston. While there have been a number of alterations over the years, many of the beams, the upstairs floor and the "lean-to" structure on the north side (presently a dining room) are all original. The house is still supported by its original whitewashed tree trunks, located in the cellar.



Greystone Manor, built by the Bright family ( Bright's Winery ) and still in use as a private residence by the Keshavjee family





This home was built in 1835 and used as a home and medical office by Dr. Trimble. It is now owned by the Fraser family who maintain it in pristine condition



Main doorway of the Hamilton-Kormos house, 93 Queenston Street. This house was built in 1807 by Robert Hamilton as a wedding gift for his son and remained in the family until 1954. The current owners, Jonathan and Elizabeth Kormos are responsible for the careful restoration and preservation of this historic treasure



The Hamilton-Kormos House in 2013





The Second-Copeland house built around 1830 as a hotel and later occupied as a private residence by David Secord. Over the years it has been an inn, a tavern a multi-family dwelling and finally a private residence once again. The current owners, Rob and Helena Copeland have spent over twenty years carefully restoring and preserving this important structure





The Brown-Bassil House original owned by a veteran of the War of 1812 has undergone several changes over the years from single family dwelling to duplex and back to single family dwelling, in common with a number of early buildings in Queenston. The current owners, Ron and Linda Fritz, engaged in an extensive restoration project to bring this building back to a layout more in keeping with its original plan and won The Peter J. Stokes Heritage Commendation, 2009



South Landing Inn, built prior to 1827 as a private residence and used for many purposes over the years. It is now owned by Tony and Kathy Szabo who have spent many years restoring and preserving the structure while operating the current inn



Main door of the Laura Secord Memorial School opened in 1915 as one of the most progressive school designs of its day. It is now owned by the School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank and functions as additional teaching space for the School. This building replaced the original school house on the north east corner of the property, dating from the mid 1800's. This in turn replaced a school located elsewhere in Queenston, dating from the late 1700's.

## **Appendix “D”**

### **The Queenston Residents’ Association**

**The Queenston Residents’ Association is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Village of Queenston and the lifestyle it offers. Membership is approximately 110 of a total population of approximately 450, making the QRA the largest organisation of its kind ever to have existed in the Village. The QRA has engaged in a number of activities including the financing and placement of private historical monuments, successfully promoting the re-publication of the “Journal of Major John Norton-1816” (an important record of the native allies’ role in the War of 1812) and participating in and organising activities of the 1812-2012 Bi-centennial celebrations in Queenston.**