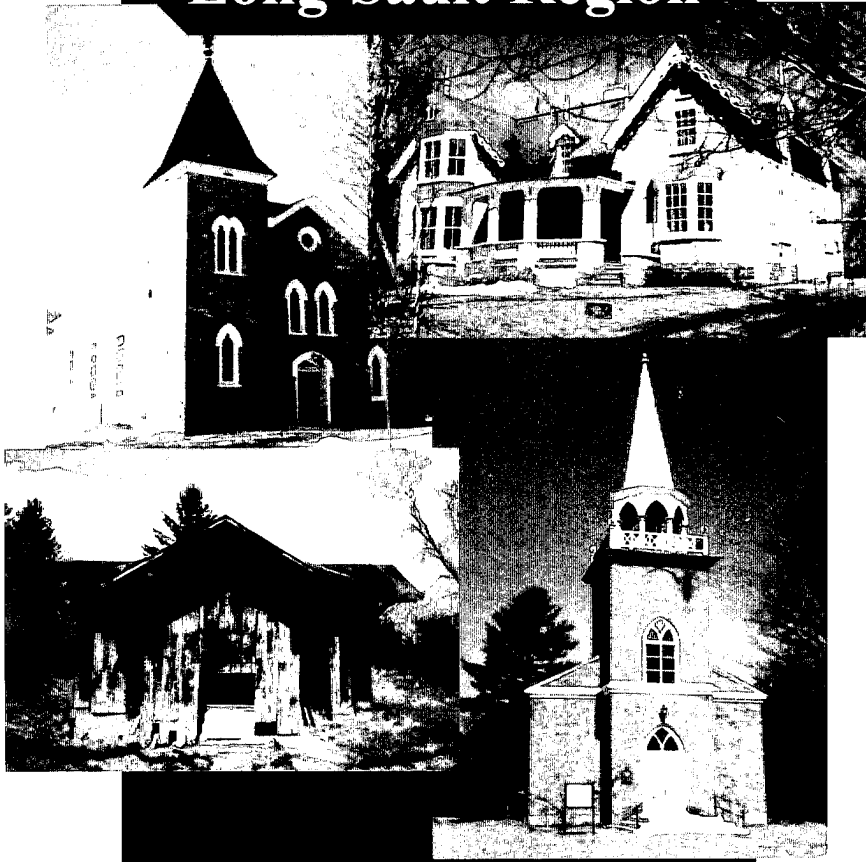


Village of Vignettes

ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER

Long-Sault Region



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**Village Vignettes
along the Ottawa River
Long-Sault Region**

Under the editorship of
the Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House Inc.

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Introduction

This book provides background information on small villages along the route of the Long-Sault Tours organized by the Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House Inc. You are invited to take a journey back in time and discover the Long-Sault area which stretches along both sides of the Ottawa River between Montreal and Ottawa. Whether you travel by bike or by car, spend some time enjoying this region's historical and architectural wealth, while taking in the natural heritage of the small villages along the majestic river. From Pointe-Fortune to Lefaivre, and from Montebello to Saint-André-Est, you will find Canada's earliest beginnings.

Before the French arrived in Canada, Natives met throughout the Long-Sault area to trade goods. Then, in the 17th century, the West Indies Company sold large tracts of land — as seigniories — to people of the high French colonial society. Settlement had not yet begun at that time, but this region, located to the west of Montreal at the junction of the Ottawa River and the Deux-Montagnes Lake still represented an important fur trading centre.

Settlement started early in the 19th century when many Loyalists, having left the United States (which had already become an independent country), came to settle in this region. Later on, an important influx of immigrants came from the British Isles. Thus, many Irish, British and Scots established themselves in the area. French-Canadian masses settled only during the 1830s and especially from 1849 onwards. Under the influence of Mgr Ignace Bourget, French-speaking people settled in Upper Canada due to overpopulation in the St. Lawrence Valley. The French-Canadian population grew and in many instances, French Canadians became a dominant influence over town institutions. Their energetic existence made the French language and culture prevail up to now on the Quebec side as well as on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River.

Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House Inc. is a non-profit volunteer heritage organization working towards the full restoration of the Macdonell-Williamson House (1817), a national historic site located at 25 des Outaouais Road, Chute-à-Blondeau, Ontario.

The Ottawa River

Stretching on for 1,120 kilometres, the Ottawa River proved to be one of the most important routes for the exploration and development of the North American continent. Long before Europeans came to America, the river represented a means of transport and a trading place for Native nations. They called it *Kittchi-sippi* meaning “the river with a great water flow”. The exploration of the continent began during the 17th century when ships from France first arrived in America. In 1610, Étienne Brûlé became the first European to explore the Ottawa River during his one-year stay among the Huron nations. He was soon followed by Samuel de Champlain. During a long trip to the west of Montréal in 1613, the latter saw that the river was the only way to go further inland — as watercourses were the only means of transport at that time.

The Long-Sault area soon became a strategic passage for fur trade. In the past, the three important rapids on the river had not represented a problem for Natives, *coureurs des bois*, explorers and missionaries who only had to portage to go around them. However, traffic soon increased on the river and after the War of 1812 between Americans and English, the British army decided to build the Long-Sault canal (1819-1834) to bypass all the rapids and make the river navigable all the way to Bytown, which would be renamed Ottawa in 1855. The construction of the canal promoted the development of trade and the timber industry, which in turn, led to the growth of numerous small villages located along the Ottawa River. Although it was eventually replaced by a railroad and road network, the river remained an important geographic entity and played a key part in the development of the continent. Even though it has lost its place as a primary route of transportation, the Ottawa River represents an important element of the history and natural heritage of Québec and Ontario.

Pointe-Fortune (Québec and Ontario)

Facts

Population (1996): 451 inhabitants

Area: 8.49 km²

Toponymy

The village of Pointe-Fortune received part of its name from its location on a point of land which juts into the Ottawa River and was also named for Colonel William Fortune, who received 809 hectares of land in the Township of Chatham at the end of the 18th century and for his son, Joseph Fortune, land surveyor and militiaman at the end of the 19th century.

History

Located on the border between Ontario and Québec, the village of Pointe-Fortune was first known under the names of Petites-Écores and Petit-Carillon. About 1750, brothers Pierre and François-Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil established a fur-trading post here. Settlement in the territory began in the early part of the 18th century, with the arrival of William Fortune and his son, Joseph, who were probably the first inhabitants of the town. In 1833, Schagel, the hotel keeper, established a ferry service between Point Fortune and Carillon, two villages which share a very close social, economic and religious history. The railway between Point Fortune and Montreal was completed in 1892. However, the development of the village was slowed when the Canadian Pacific Railway Company decided to connect the metropolis to Ottawa through St-Eugene instead of Point Fortune. The site of the village was considerably transformed after the construction of the Carillon hydroelectric power station in early 1960. Many historic edifices were demolished but fortunately, certain heritage buildings were saved.

Economic profile

The establishment of the ferry (1833) and the building of the railway (1892) had the greatest impact on the economic development of Pointe-Fortune. Formerly, the village contained all the commercial establishments it needed to grow, namely, Théorêt's bakery, Dicaire's cheese factory, and Brown's general store. These businesses have disappeared and today, the small town is mainly residential. However, the marina and tourist industry are sources of revenue.

Architectural heritage

- Saint-François-Xavier-de-Pointe-Fortune Church
642a, rue Tisseur Québec)

The name of the Catholic church of Pointe-Fortune, constructed in 1904, reminds us of François-Xavier Tisseur, the first priest. The white stucco and blue wooden slat covering make it an original. The modest church has beautiful pointed windows decorated with panes and is crowned with a small steeple enclosing a wheel-driven bell. The Quebec comedian Olivier Guimond (1914-1971) — who played in the television program, “*Cré-Basile*”, broadcast during the 1960s — gave numerous shows to collect money for the church and the community activities. In recognition of his generosity, the inhabitants of the village had a commemorative monument erected on church property after his death in 1971.

- Macdonell-Williamson House National Historic Site
25 des Outaouais Road, Chute-à-Blondeau, Ontario

Located in Ontario near the provincial border, the Macdonell-Williamson House was built circa 1817 for John Macdonell, a wealthy, retired fur trader and partner in the North West Company. Macdonell married Magdeleine Poitras, a Métis from Qu’Appelle (Saskatchewan) and they had twelve children. When he died in 1850, the house was passed on to his youngest son, John Beverly Palafox. In 1882, the residence was purchased by William Williamson and remained in the family until 1961. That year, Hydro-Québec expropriated the property for the commissioning of the Carillon hydroelectric power station and the dwelling was abandoned, but not demolished. In 1978, the Ontario Heritage Foundation acquired it to protect it. Also known as “Poplar Villa”, the Macdonell-Williamson House is an example of early Georgian architecture and is one of the oldest residences in the counties of Prescott-Russell. Since entering a custodial agreement with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House have worked toward having it become a cultural, heritage and tourist centre. The House was recognized as a national historic site in 1968; thirty years later the national historic plaque was unveiled.

- ▶ The House is available for visits on weekends in August or by tour group requests during the summer.
- ▶ Information and reservations: (613) 632-6662

See for yourself:

- Commemorative monument of the Protestant churches of East Hawkesbury.
Close to Carillon dam. (Get there by County Road in Ontario)

This memorial was raised in 1965 to remind us of the two Protestant churches that once dominated the site. The stone Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in 1869 to replace a modest wooden building dating from 1848. St. Columba Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1874, 100 feet away from the Methodist church. Both congregations continued independent of each other until 1925, when the Methodist Church became part of the newly-formed United Church and some Presbyterians joined the United Church. At that time, St. Columba became a United Church hall. Unfortunately, both were destroyed in the early 1960s to prepare for the development of the Carillon hydroelectric power station. With the destruction of the churches, an important part of the East Hawkesbury's heritage was lost forever.

- The ferry and the ice bridge

Since 1813, a ferry service has connected Pointe-Fortune to Carillon. This link has always been essential for the economic development of the two villages divided by the Ottawa River. *Anick*, the actual ferry boat, works seven days a week as long as navigation is possible on the river: from April to the beginning of December. During the winter, an ice bridge is available. Similar to a skating-rink, the ice road has to be watered to remain smooth and, above all, secure. For safety reasons, the ice on the river has to be 30 cm (12 inches) thick before cars are allowed to cross on it.

- ▶ Information about the ferry: (450) 537-3412
- ▶ Information about the ice bridge: (450) 537-3055

- Natural heritage
Ecological site of Charette's stream and Brazeau Bay

While you are in Pointe-Fortune, take the opportunity to explore the ecological site of Charette's stream and Brazeau Bay. The walking trail will help you discover the fauna and flora living in wet areas. The observation tower will offer you a look at the landscape and the many species of birds of prey and

song-birds. Finally, the interpretation centre will clarify animal life and vegetation observed nearby. Picnic tables are available so you can stop for a rest or a snack.

Annual Events

Heritage Weekends (August)

During each weekend in August, the Macdonell-Williamson House, a National Historic Site, is open to the public. Special events such as conferences, live music, historic exhibitions, workshops and antique appraisals take place. After touring the House to see ongoing restoration, take a break and enjoy refreshments in the tea room or visit the general store where souvenirs and local products are available. Money collected during heritage weekends is used for the restoration of the house.

- ▶ Information: (613) 632-6662
- ▶ Web site: www.vankleek.net/mwhouse
- ▶ E-mail: mwhouse@hawk.igs.net

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ The family of Quebec comedian Olivier Guimond owned a cottage at Pointe-Fortune.
- ◆ Olivier Guimond presented many shows to collect money for the Catholic church and the activities of the community.

References

For more information about the history of the Macdonell-Williamson House, consult Valerie Verity's *History of the Macdonell-Williamson House: National Historic Site*, published in 1998. (Also available in a French translation.)

Chute-à-Blondeau

Facts:

Population (1996): 3,296 inhabitants
(Township of East Hawkesbury)

Area: 239.5 km² (Township of East Hawkesbury)

Toponymy

The name "Chute-à-Blondeau" may date back to 1875. Its first component reminds us of a waterfall* on the Ottawa River. This waterfall, unfortunately, disappeared when the water level was raised due to the construction of the Carillon hydroelectric power station (1959-1962). According to some sources, the other part of the name comes from a man named Blondeau who lived close to the falls. However, other texts mention that Blondeau was an imprudent traveller who drowned in the waterfall.

*"chute" in French

History

Following the shore of the Ottawa River, the actual site of Chute-à-Blondeau first served as a relay station for native travellers who rested there before proceeding on their way up the Ottawa River. In all probability, the region had a privileged view of the Battle of the Long-Sault where Dollard des Ormeaux died in 1660. The development of the neighbourhood began in 1804 with the arrival of an American, Daniel B. Wyman, who constructed a flour mill and a sawmill which were operated by the hydraulic power of the waterfall. William Kirby, from Yorkshire, England joined with Wyman and established a coach service between Point Fortune and L'Original. As Chute-à-Blondeau was an important relay station for travellers at the time, Kirby also established a hotel where woodsmen and raftsmen (draveurs) could make a stop-over. In the middle of the 19th century, French Canadians began to settle too and soon, they replaced almost all of the English-speaking population. The site of Chute-à-Blondeau was greatly affected by the construction of Carillon hydroelectric power station and the development of Carillon Provincial Park (now known as Voyageur Provincial Park.) Fortunately, many heritage buildings were saved and today, the influence of Quebec style on their architecture is still obvious.

Economic profile

The first notable economic activity in Chute-à-Blondeau was undoubtedly logging or *la drave*. However, agriculture and fishing (especially shad fishing) also played an important part in the development of this small municipality during its first 50 years of existence. The real growth of the town began in 1850 with the burgeoning lumber industry in Eastern Canada. At the end of the 19th century, the building of a cheese factory helped to diversify the village economy. Today, Chute-à-Blondeau is mainly residential, but large family farms, a few of which are operated by the descendants of Wyman and Kirby, still predominate the surrounding area.

Battle of the Long-Sault

The Battle of the Long-Sault is one of the most important fights ever waged by the French against the Iroquois on Canadian land. It took place somewhere alongside the Long-Sault rapids in May 1660. During this historic conflict, the French, led by Dollard des Ormeaux, defeated the Iroquois of Chaudière-Noire. It is believed that the sacrifice of Dollard des Ormeaux and his friends saved New France. At the beginning of the 20th century, Canon Lionel Groulx initiated the hero worship of Dollard. In 1919, he had a commemorative monument constructed in Carillon, where he believed the Battle of the Long-Sault had taken place. However, experts are not sure whether the fight really occurred at Carillon. No evidence supports Carillon as the actual site of the battle while oral traditions mention that French and Iroquois once fought on Ross-Lavigne's property, near the *baie des Sauvages* about three kilometres east of Chute-à-Blondeau.

Serious archaeological research was undertaken there during the 1950s and what could possibly be the fort of Dollard was discovered. Unfortunately, construction of Carillon hydroelectric power station stopped the excavations and flooded the possible sites of the battle in Ontario as well as in the province of Québec. Even if, in all probability, the battle took place in , it is now impossible to confirm it. Today, two historic plaques, one in Carillon and one in Chute-à-Blondeau, remind us of the Battle of the Long-Sault. French-speaking people celebrate the memory of Dollard on the same day as the anglophones celebrate Victoria Day in May.

Architectural heritage

- The former rectory of Saint-Joachim Church
33 rue Principale

Built in 1898, the former rectory of Chute-à-Blondeau is a beautiful grey stone building. Its mansard roof, sheeted with silver metal, encompasses many gabled dormer windows. The lovely veranda decorated with mouldings and the small front balcony add to the charm of the building. This construction is similar to the old rectories of the Quebec villages along the St Lawrence River. For a long time it was believed that the rectory had been built out of ashlar (cut stone) because the parish was wealthy. It has been found, though, that it was the parish priest who had asked for this building material to be used.

- Saint-Joachim church
Rue Principale (no civic number)

Located in front of the former presbytery, Saint-Joachim church was built in 1892. This church of Quebec architectural style stands out with its high-pitched roof and the statue of Saint-Joachim, the patron saint of the parish, standing in front of the church. Crowned with a steeple and two bell-turrets, the brick church has beautiful round windows reminiscent of Roman architecture. Once resting on a plinth at the east of the rectory, the statue representing Saint-Michel-Archange flooring the devil now stands in the sacristy (storing and changing room) of the church. It was created by the sculptor Louis Jobin in 1913. As this is one of the rare wooden statues still preserved in the province, it is priceless.

- The Wyman house
125 rue Principale

Constructed circa 1804, the Wyman house represents a great heritage. It is actually the oldest residence in the Township of East Hawkesbury. Three gabled dormer windows stand on its pitched roof. The columns of the long gallery skirting the rectangular wooden house are decorated with lovely mouldings called *équerres*. This house, built according to Quebec architectural style, apparently had a great influence on the style of the buildings constructed by the English-speaking immigrants who settled in the neighbourhood.

Natural heritage

- **Voyageur Provincial Park**

Located along the Ottawa River, Provincial Park is a beautiful natural site. It is a natural home to flora and fauna of swamps, mixed forests and rough river banks. Animal lovers will see beavers, red deer and turtles as well as many varieties of birds such as goldfinches, herons and robins and in the spring and fall, Canada geese. The site will also please active people because of its wide range of outdoor activities including swimming, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing and horseback riding. Explore the Coureur de Bois trail or follow one of the guides and discover the animal and floral wealth of the park.

- ▶ Information: (613) 674-2825 or
- ▶ www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/parks/voya.html
- ▶ Reservations: (888) 668-7275
- ▶ The park is open from early May to mid-October and from mid-December to early March.

Oral heritage

The legend of Saint-Michel-Archange flooring the Devil

The inhabitants of the village remember the day when the Devil came to Chute-à-Blondeau. He arrived in a horse-drawn carriage, crossed through the cemetery, the property of the church and finally stopped near the rectory by Saint-Michel-Archange. They fought and the Devil was thrown into the river. To avoid another unpleasant visit, the citizens had a statue made by Louis Jobin in 1913 representing Saint-Michel-Archange flooring the Devil. At first, it was located near the rectory on the spot where the fight took place.

Hawkesbury

Facts:

Population (1996): 10,612 inhabitants

Area: 8.71 km²

Toponymy

The name of the largest town of the Long-Sault comes from Charles Jenkinson (1727-1808), a personal friend of George III, King of England. Baron of Hawkesbury and Earl of Liverpool, Jenkinson was once the minister of the colonies in the British cabinet. The name "Hawkesbury", common in England, is a combination of the name "Hawks" and the word "bury", a popular transformation of "berry" meaning castle.

History

At the end of the 18th century, the Algonquians and Nippissing occupied the actual region of Hawkesbury and camped on the Chenail islands. In 1796, these islands became the property of Nathaniel Hazard Treadwell. Then, in 1803, they were acquired by three businessmen — Mears, Pattee and Shutter — who constructed a modest sawmill there. Five years later, the Hamilton brothers purchased the islands and the sawmill. They enlarged the installations in order to export lumber to Great Britain. Due to the Continental blockade Napoléon I imposed on England, the European and Scandinavian harbours were closed to English ships and Canada became Britain's only resource to obtain the lumber necessary for construction of its fleet, which was the most powerful one in the world at the time. Formerly called Hamilton Mills, the village was not yet located on the southern bank of the Ottawa River but on *l'île du Chenail*. The first inhabitants were English-speaking and most of them, United Empire Loyalists. However, starting in 1840, French-speaking people began to settle, attracted by the development of the timber industry.

Economic profile

English-speaking people gave Hawkesbury its industrial town name. In the past, the lumber industry which developed thanks to Napoleon's Continental blockade was the main source of economic growth of the town. Three sawmills were formerly found in Hawkesbury — the Chenail mills belonging to the Hamilton brothers, the Riordon Paper Mills and the Canadian International Paper Company. The textile industry also played an important role in the eco-

conomic development of the village which included a steamboat factory and a manufacturer of (horse-drawn) coaches.

Even today, Hawkesbury is primarily an industrial town. Lumber (Albert Larocque Lumber Inc.) and textiles (St. Lawrence Textile) industries are still operating. However, new industrial fields have developed throughout the years, including agri-foods (Leclerc Foods) and pulp and paper (Voith Fabrics) industries. A roofing product factory (IKO industries, Ltd.), plastic and metal product manufacturer (Montebello Packaging), windshield factory (PPG Canada, Inc.) and several printers can be found in Hawkesbury. Evidence of new-age business is also felt in Hawkesbury with the arrival of Op-Test Equipment and Dart Aerospace.

Architectural heritage

- Holy Trinity Anglican Church
McGill Street (no civic number)

Sitting on the top of a small hill, this beautiful grey stone church was built between 1844 and 1846 as a place of worship for the Anglican community of the village. On the initiative of a group of citizens led by Thomas Higginson, it was constructed according to Gothic style. They acquired the land from Peter McGill for the sum of 5 shillings. At the end of the 1850s, the addition of a tower, a chancel and buttresses greatly changed the original style of the church. This beautiful church is an important part of Hawkesbury's heritage.

- Saint-Alphonse-de-Liguori Roman Catholic Church
470, Main Street East

Located in the heart of the town, this imposing grey stone church was constructed in 1926 exactly where the first Catholic church of Hawkesbury stood. The latter, built in 1896, burned down in 1924. The two uneven steeples that make the church stand out today were added during the 1930s. The building also has lovely round windows decorated with stained glass and a beautiful rose-window in front. Usually, such monumental and opulent churches are found in urban regions.

- La maison de l'île du Chenail
2 John Street, at the foot of Long-Sault Bridge

La maison de l'île was built circa 1810 by two brothers, Jack and Robert Hamilton, who established the administrative office of their sawmill there. This building also housed a bank (the vault still exists today), an infirmary, a general store and a post office, but it never served as a residence. Historically, this site was the development centre of the town, making its value even greater. Standing on the only piece of the Chenail Island left, the building is the last remnant of what was the most important Canadian sawmill in the 1870s. It was designated a historic monument by the Hawkesbury Town Council and Hawkesbury's Heritage Committee in 1995. Today, the oldest building in the town is home to *Le Chenail* Cultural Centre where the creations of Franco-Ontarian artists are exhibited.

► Information: (613) 632-9555

- Higginson House
517 McGill Street

This beautiful house, crowned with dormer windows, was built during the second half of the 19th century for James Dandy, a shoe manufacturer. It was named after John W. who started the first general store of the town in 1820. Aside from being postmaster and owning a telegraph office, Higginson was very much involved in the local administration of schools and of the town. The residence, an original due to its octagonal shape, has a lovely veranda decorated with mouldings.

Close by:

- The Higginson Round Barn
Highway 34 (south), between Hawkesbury and Vankleek Hill

This barn, built in 1894 by Thomas Tweed Higginson, is special for its round shape. There are only a few other such barns in Canada. It shows the cleverness of the farmers of the time who had to be creative to survive. Here, one of them equipped his barn with a central feeding system to save a considerable amount of labour at the animals' feeding time.

Activities

Le Cercle Gascon II

Le Cercle Gascon II has been presenting two plays per year for nearly 20 years now. The first production runs in spring and the second in early autumn. The French-speaking amateur troupe takes its plays principally from Franco-Ontarian and Québec authors. These plays will suit tourists who are looking for culture during their holidays.

- ▶ Information and reservations: (613) 632-4330

Perley Bridge and Long-Sault Bridge

The first bridge between the Quebec village of Grenville and the town of Hawkesbury in Ontario was built in 1931. The only bridge constructed on the Ottawa River between Ottawa and Montréal bore the name of George H. Perley. He was a lumber magnate who had a long and influential political career. During the 26 years he served in the House of Commons, he held several offices. He was High Commissioner for Canada in London from 1917 to 1922.

In addition to being a link between two communities, the bridge played a great part in the economic development of the region. In the 1990s, after over 60 years of use, major repair work was required just to keep the bridge from falling down. As the maintenance costs were increasingly higher each year, the Government of Canada and the provinces of Ontario and Québec decided to build a new replacement bridge 25 metres upstream from the Perley Bridge. Construction started in June 1996 and the Long Sault Bridge opened to traffic at the end of 1998. The old bridge was demolished. The new structure was named after the rapids of the Long-Sault that once flowed on the Ottawa River. It is approximately 1,280 metres in length and is divided into three parts. This includes the 700-metre main span, 500 metres of highway across the Chenail Island and a small 80-metre bridge connecting the island to Hawkesbury.

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ The town of Hawkesbury holds the record for bilingualism in North America with 90% of its population speaking both official languages.

References

For more information about the history and heritage of Hawkesbury, refer to the web site of the town at: www.ville.hawkesbury.on.ca. You can also read Robert Choquette's *L'Ontario français historique*, published by the *Éditions Études Vivantes* in 1980 or see Lucien Brault's *Histoire des Comtés de Prescott et de Russell*, published in 1965 by the United Counties of Prescott-Russell.

L'Orignal

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,971 inhabitants

Area: 5.68 km²

Toponymy

The village of L'Orignal owes its name to the point of land designated as "*Pointe à l'Orignal*" since 1681. Its name is attributed to early travellers who frequently saw moose at that spot and began referring to it as "*Pointe à L'Orignal*" (Moose Point). The actual name appeared on the maps in 1862.

The Seigniory of la Nouvelle-Longueuil (Pointe-à-L'Orignal)

France gave the 23,000-acre seigniory of Pointe-à-L'Orignal to the West Indies Company. In 1674, this company sold the seigniory to the adjutant François Provost from Québec. The Soulange family then acquired the domain which was handed down to Seigneur Joseph de Longueuil. When the proclamation of the Constitutional Act (1791) divided the province of Québec into Upper Canada and Lower Canada, the seigniory remained on the Upper Canada side of the boundary. In 1796, the seigneur de Longueuil sold it to an American, Nathaniel Hazard Treadwell. As early as 1798, the latter distributed parts of the seigniory to friends and relatives. Unfortunately, London government seized Treadwell's land during the War of 1812 opposing the Americans to the British, because he refused to swear fidelity to the English crown. In 1823, Charles Pratt Treadwell recovered his father's property and sold land to settlers. The seigniory of L'Orignal, which was 9,310 hectares wide at the time, became the Township of Longueuil.

History

Even if Joseph La Rocque Brune and Raymond Duffaut settled in the region in 1791, N. H. Treadwell, who bought the seigniorship of L'Orignal in 1796, initiated real local development. Two years after the acquisition of the territory, he had a sawmill and a flour mill built to make the early inhabitants' life easier. As early as 1812, a small settlement existed in L'Orignal. Designated capital of the new District in 1816, it is the construction of the courthouse and gaol in 1825 that strengthened the administrative and judiciary function of the village. Thus, L'Orignal became the "chef lieu" (county seat) of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell. Initially, the Township of Longueuil enclosed the locality. In 1876, L'Orignal became a village and became a ward of the Township of Champlain on January 1, 1998, as a result of municipal mergers. Until 1820, L'Orignal was mainly occupied by Loyalists and Scots. It was only in 1849 that an important number of French Canadians settled there. From 200 inhabitants, the population increased to 800 between 1846 and 1873. Their number also assured predominance of French in the municipality.

Some pioneer families

Like the surrounding towns and villages, L'Orignal has had its share of great pioneers, among them, Jacob Marston and Alexander Grant. Many English-speaking people settled afterwards, namely the Higginsons, the O'Brians, the Wrights, the Casses, the Allens and the Johnsons. Later on, numerous French-speaking people, including families named Constantineau, Proulx, Bertrand and Millette, arrived from the province of Québec bringing with them their language and their culture.

Economic profile

In the past, trade played an important part in the village economy. Moreover, navigation on the Ottawa River led to the establishment of a fur-trading post in 1805 and the construction of a wharf in 1856. With the traffic of travelers heading towards Caledonia Springs, a coach service was created to connect L'Orignal to the spa. The lumber industry was indeed present in the village with the three sawmills found there between 1900 and 1910. Being the capital of the District, the presence of government offices, jail and the courthouse in the heart of L'Orignal ensured village stability.

Today, the village has kept its administrative vocation. The Provincial Court, the social services offices and the offices of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell are still found there. Equally important, the central office of *le Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien* employs close to

100 people. Even if there is still a sawmill in L'Orignal, many different industrial fields appeared in the region, mainly a machine shop (Elpa Ontario Inc.), a cement and gravel business (Bertrand Construction) and an iron and steel industry (Ivaco Rolling Mills) where over 700 people are employed.

Architectural heritage

- *Saint-Jean-Baptiste* Church, in L'Orignal
Queen Street (no civic number)

The first Catholic church of L'Orignal was constructed in 1830 and 1831. It was of poor construction and only served for a few years before being demolished. The new church, named after Saint-Jean-Baptiste, the patron saint of the French Canadians, was constructed between 1851 and 1854. Father Bourassa, priest of the parish at the time, took an active part in the construction of the church. In fact, he became both worker and carpenter and it is believed that he even drew the plans for the edifice and helped make the altars. The church, built out of grey stone, was enlarged in 1885 and 1886. Designed in 1936 to commemorate the centennial of the parish, the grotto of Lourdes marks the site of the first cemetery of the parish. The actual cemetery is on Sandy Hill Road.

- The District Courthouse and Gaol of L'Orignal
1023 and 1927 Queen Street

When the Ottawa District was established in 1816, the Courts of Quarter Session were held in the Township of Longueuil. Until the construction of the courthouse and jail in 1825, the sessions took place in the school premises and the prisoners were detained at the sheriff's house. The construction of the courthouse began in 1824 on a plot of land donated by Jacob Marston and the central portion of the present building, designed in the neo-classic style, was completed in 1825. The building was enlarged for the first time in 1861. According to research, two other extensive additions were made after that. In 1998, the provincial government closed the prison at L'Orignal, the oldest jail in Ontario up to then. This site is still of great heritage value as the oldest remaining courthouse in the province.

- The edifice of the Provincial Court of Ontario
1023 King Street

This beautiful grey stone building was constructed circa 1821 by John W. Marston who apparently ran a hotel there. At that time, the building, made out of stone but covered with stucco, housed a general store similar to those found in every village during that period. The store served many generations of citizens and changed hands repeatedly. B.R. Poulin and Henri Clément were owners. The stucco covering the stone was removed during recent restoration, returning the building to its former style and charm. It now houses the offices of the Provincial Court of Ontario.

- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1008 King Street

Started in 1832, construction of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church took until 1836 to complete, owing to lack of funds. Before this, the congregation met at the school or at the courthouse. The piece of land on which this superb stone building stands was a gift of Charles Platt Treadwell. An impressive steeple dominated the facade of the edifice until a fire destroyed it in 1920. An interesting characteristic of the construction is that the windows show a *fleur-de-lys* design. Inside, the church is divided into two parts: the church proper and a Sunday School room. Before an adequate heating system was installed in 1983, the building was used only during the summer.

- The former manse of St. Andrew's Church
Corner of King and Wharf Streets

This splendid grey stone house was constructed in 1860 by John W. Higginson to serve as a manse for St. Andrew's Church. In 1958, the edifice was turned into a common residence, purchased by Lewis O'Brian. With its gable decorated with mouldings and its small-paned windows, the house went through many transformations through the years but remains one of the most beautiful buildings in the village. The historic value of the former manse of St. Andrew's church was recognized in 1983 when the province of Ontario designated it as a heritage building.

See for yourself:

- **The Proulx house**
8 Alfred Street

Constructed circa 1885 for Eden P. Johnson, this elegant house was purchased by Judge Albert Constantineau in 1901, then owned by Judge Edmond Proulx from 1905 to 1956 when it passed to his son, lawyer Henri Proulx. It is now the property of Mrs. Bernard Pilon. The red brick house has a charming veranda and its gables are embellished with intricate white mouldings. The facade also features a bay window topped with an ornamental balcony. With its tower reminiscent of old English castles, the Proulx house is an integral part of L'Orignal's heritage.

- **The former convent of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa**
1069 Queen Street

This former residence with its mansard roof and dormer windows was constructed in 1876 for John and Annie Fraser. In 1902, it was acquired by William S. Hall and then by the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa in 1913. The latter played an important part in the community by taking care of the sick and teaching in the schools. Today, this beautiful red brick building, with its moulding-decorated veranda, shelters the Champlain Residence, a rest home for seniors.

- **The former registry office**
36 Court Street

Located near the L'Orignal Jail, this charming edifice was built in 1874 on a piece of land the United Counties of Prescott-Russell bought from John W. Marston. For over 100 years, the building sheltered the County Registry Office, first administered by the United Counties then by the provincial government from 1969 onwards. The red brick structure has a vault where the documents were kept safely. In 1981, the registry office relocated to the basement of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell building. The location was empty for a time before serving as L'Orignal Town Hall and then, soon after municipal mergers in 1998, became quarters for the L'Orignal Food Bank.

- Church of the Nativity (Anglican)
Corner of Peter and King streets

Built in 1891, the Church of the Nativity was so named because its first religious ceremony was celebrated on December 25th, the birthday of Christ. Before its construction, the Anglican community of L'Original met at Watson Little's place; Little was the editor of *The Advertiser* newspaper. Services were next held at the village courthouse for a few years. The only wooden church in the village, this building has a pitched roof and stained glass, pointed windows. The small vestibule in front is also topped with a gable roof. Inside the church, there is a baptismal font dating from 1894.

- The Anchorage
Corner of Wharf and Marston Streets, behind a cedar hedge

This superb residence was built in 1833 for John Marston, probably the son of the pioneer, Jacob Marston. It is designed in Regency style representing the transition period between the Georgian and Victorian eras. The harmony between the stone structure and the lovely latticed veranda, makes it beautiful. The French windows with sidelights and fanlights, as well as the delightful site, add to the charm of the residence. It was named "The Anchorage" by the mother of the former owner, Daniel Neil McLean, to emphasize that the house was the home port for the family.

Close by:

- Duldraeggan Hall
37 King Street, heading towards Hawkesbury

This beautiful stone residence was constructed in 1805 by Alexander Grant, a pioneer of the Seigniory of L'Original. This man, native of Scotland, came to America in 1785. He worked for the North West Company before becoming a wealthy independent fur trader. Grant's influence and generosity encouraged the construction of the first local churches. Moreover, this captain of the first regiment of Prescott discovered the sources of Caledonia Springs while on a hunting expedition. In 1910, the residence was purchased by John F. Raphael, then by Dr. Walter Smith in 1915. It finally passed into the possession of his son, Dr. Henry Drummond Smith, a man who valued horsemanship and thoroughbred horses. Designed in the neo-classic style, well-appreciated by the Loyalists, the dwelling has beautiful small-paned windows and is decorated with a porch topped by a covered balcony. This reproduction of the Grant

house in Scotland is crowned with a pitched roof and five chimney stacks. The beauty and grandeur of Duldraeggan hall bears witness to the Loyalist past of L'Original.

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ The Seigniorship of L'Original was one of only three seigniorships in Upper Canada.
- ◆ The village of L'Original is one of the most ancient settlements along the Ottawa River.
- ◆ L'Original is the oldest village in the region of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell.
- ◆ Five men were once hanged in L'Original at the District Gaol.
- ◆ There once was a coach service between L'Original and Caledonia Springs.
- ◆ Three weekly papers were formerly published in L'Original: *The Advertiser* (1863-1883), *The L'Original News* (1877-1888) and *The Prescott and Russell Advocate* (1888-1938).

References

For more information about the history of the village of L'Original, refer to Robert Choquette's *L'Ontario français historique*, published by the *Éditions Études Vivantes* in 1980 or have a look at Lucien Brault's *Histoire des Comtés Unis de Prescott et de Russell*, published in 1965 by *le Conseil des Comtés Unis*.

Lefaiivre

Facts:

Population (1996): 2,387 inhabitants

(Township of Alfred)

Area: 181.6 km² (Township of Alfred)

Toponymy

The name of this small rural community pays tribute to pioneer Pierre Lefaiivre, first settler of the village, as well as to his son Hercule, to whom the town owes its development.

History

It took a long time before settlers became established in Lefaiivre, in the Township of Alfred. Indeed, settlement only began with the arrival of Pierre Lefaiivre and his family in 1848. Then, in 1855, Hilaire Cholette, a native of Rigaud, Québec, moved with his family on the actual site of the village. Many Irish families joined the first settlers, but they soon left to move further west. By 1867, 60 Catholic settlers were already living in Lefaiivre and soon the village was inhabited mainly by French-speaking people. Elected mayor of the Township of Alfred in 1872, Hercule Lefaiivre, son of the pioneer Pierre Lefaiivre, promoted the development of the local economy. He looked after the roads, took over the post office and started a general store in 1873. He had a wharf built on the Ottawa River in 1882 to encourage an increase in the local trade. Today, the inhabitants of the village are proud of their French origins.

Some pioneer families

Among the French-speaking families who settled in Lefaiivre in 1867, there were Poulin, Cholette and Lefaiivre. Then the Leroux, Daoust, Bélanger, Chénier and Gauthier families joined them. The first Irish families were the Hillmans, Flynn, Donnégans and Kennedys.

Economic profile

The first main economic activities in Lefaiivre were wood-cutting and agriculture. Located alongside the Ottawa River, the ferry service also played a part in the development of the village in making trade possible between Lefaiivre and Fassett. Furthermore, as Lefaiivre was the unloading place for goods heading for Alfred, the wharf indeed promoted the village growth. Agriculture is still a vital part of Lefaiivre's local economy today. Agriculture led to the development of bovine breeding and of the dairy industry. A transport and excavation business as well as a water filtration plant are found in this peaceful residential village.

Architectural heritage

- *Saint-Thomas-de-Lefaiivre* Church
Rue Principale (no civic number)

Before the founding of the parish of *Saint-Thomas-de-Lefaiivre* in 1879, the inhabitants of the village had to attend mass in Montebello, Quebec, across

the river. The first church of the area was built on land acquired for only \$ 7,828 from Hilaire Choquette. The building burned down in 1922. The construction of the new grey stone church started in June 1923 and was completed in 1924. The church has beautiful round windows and three rose-windows in front. The pitched roof is topped by a beautiful steeple that can be seen from as far away as Route 148 on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

See for yourself:

- *La Gantoise*
Rue Principale, heading towards L'Original

Do you like large animals? Then you'll love *la Gantoise* farm! Since 1983, the Belgian *blanc-bleu* is bred there. This bovine species originating in Wallonie, Belgium, is known for its impressive muscle structure and tender, nutritious meat. You cannot miss visiting *La Gantoise* farm while you are in the region of Prescott-Russell.

- ▶ Information: (613) 679-4133

Annual Events

Lions Club Baseball Tournament (June)

The Lions Club of Lefavre has been inviting organizations and firms to take part in a baseball tournament for the past few years. Sixteen teams meet during this friendly competition which raises money to support the Lions Club work in the community. The winning team receives a cash prize. May the best team win!

- ▶ Information and registration: (613) 679-2569

Bass-fishing tournament (July)

For a few years, amateur fishermen have been gathering in Lefavre for an important fishing tournament organized by the Lions Club. As this spot on the Ottawa River contains plenty of bass, you will enjoy good fishing. At the same time, your participation helps support the activities of the Lions Club in the community.

- ▶ Information: (613) 679-4400

The ferry and ice bridge

Facing each other across the Ottawa River, the villages of Lefavre in Ontario and Fassett in Québec are connected by a ferry. *Outaouais*, the ferry-boat, works seven days a week, from April to early December. When the water freezes in winter, people can cross this few-hundred-metre gap on one of two ice bridges. The preparation and maintenance of these bridges represent a lot of work. The ice road has to be regularly watered to be smooth and strong enough to support the weight of a car. When the ice is 30 cm (12 inches) thick, the cars can safely drive across the Ottawa River.

- ▶ Information about the ferry: (613) 679-4664
- ▶ Information about the ice bridges: (613) 679-4617

Caledonia Springs

The site as you find it today, 16 kilometres south from L'Orignal is a mere shadow of its former grandeur. It is hard to imagine that at one time, the luxurious Caledonia Springs 300-room resort hotel attracted thousands of people to what is today a quiet farm field. The curative springs were the main attraction of the resort hotel, which ranked among the most high-class spas in Canada.

History

The local people knew about the existence of the springs in Caledonia Springs since Alexander Grant discovered them in 1806. Thirty years later, William Parker purchased the land on which they were flowing. He had the Canada House Hotel constructed there and set up the Caledonia Springs Co. for mineral water distribution. In spite of its considerable growth, the property was sold in 1847 and the site development was interrupted for 20 years. In 1866, the Caledonia Springs Hotel Co. built a large hotel, but the company dissolved in 1874 after the building burned down. In 1875, the spa finally rose with the inauguration of the Grand Hotel and its sports complex. This health centre also became a resort where the upper classes of society liked to spend their holidays.

Before Caledonia Springs was included in the Canadian Pacific Railroad network in 1896, a coach service transported travellers between L'Orignal and the spa. In 1900, David Russell acquired the establishment. Then, it was bought by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in 1905 and the Grand Hotel became the Caledonia Springs Hotel. The addition of recreational facilities did not prevent the hotel from closing in 1915. It remained a local centre for a

few years. Then, the demolition of the hotel, in 1920, confirmed the death of Caledonia Springs, announced five years earlier. Ubald Leduc, a farmer, acquired the land in 1943 and the post office and railway station of Caledonia Springs disappeared in 1960. Thus, the development of thalassotherapy, the progress of modern medicine and pharmacology as well as the improvement of urban aqueduct systems, won out over soothing waters. Moreover, the Grand Hotel customers abandoned it, preferring instead resorts such as Banff in Alberta and luxurious health centres such as *le Manoir Richelieu* in Charlevoix, Québec, and Caledonia Springs became part of history.

See for yourself

Today, only a few ruins attest to the glorious past of the now forsaken Caledonia Springs. Ancient footpaths, the foundations of the Caledonia Springs Hotel, and an empty thermal bath can be seen on the site. It is also possible to enter the former thermal pavilion where two springs are still flowing and to look at the ruins of the bottling factory.

The former bottling factory

The bottling and selling of water was a significant economic activity for Caledonia Springs. It is in the former bottling factory, built at the beginning of the 19th century, that the Caledonia Springs Company bottled most of its spring water. In 1900, 22 % of all the Canadian production of mineral water was bottled here. This drinking and curative water was selling well due to the bad water quality in urban areas where the aqueduct systems were not satisfactory. The residents, as well as the soft drinks and spirits producers, chose bottled water because it had less chance of containing bacteria. However, with the prohibition and the improvement of the aqueduct networks, the factory closed and was abandoned in 1919.

Oral heritage

The Legend of the Springs

A long time ago, Star of the Night, the young daughter of Native chief Rolling Thunder, caught a strange illness after having been bitten by a wolverine. No medicinal plants could cure her disease. Young Crow's Wing knew about the springs where magical water flowed. He talked with Rolling Thunder, who promised him his daughter's hand if he restored her health. Crow's Wing brought Star of the Night to the springs and gave her water to drink regu-

larly. A few days later, the young girl was healthy again. This is how the local Natives discovered the medicinal powers of the springs.

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ Caledonia Springs was once the most important spa in Canada.
- ◆ The Grand Hotel of Caledonia Springs has been visited by many famous people, namely: Louis-Joseph Papineau, leader of the Patriots, and Lord James Elgin, Governor General of Canada.
- ◆ The waters of Caledonia Springs were well-known for their soothing effects on rheumatism and digestive problems.
- ◆ Sodium, magnesium and sulphur were found in the mineral waters of the spa.

References

For more information about the thrilling history of Caledonia Springs, refer to Michel Prévost's *La belle époque de Caledonia Springs. Histoire de la plus importante station thermale du Canada*, Lettresplus, 1997. 157 p. To obtain a copy of the book, contact the author at (613) 562-5825. To read the entire text of *la Légende des sources*, find it in Marc Scott's *Contes et récits de l'Outaouais* (in French) published by Le Chardon Bleu editions, Buckingham, 1996, 155 p.

Alfred

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,288 inhabitants

Area: 2.3 km²

History

In 1800, Joseph Paquette settled near the Atocas stream in the Township of Alfred. He was joined by a German, Pierre Dauth, ten years later. Real colonization of the township began around 1820 and 1830 with the arrival of the Irish families in the region. Starting in 1830, a large number of French Canadians coming from the province of Québec settled here and soon the population was mainly French-speaking. When the Township of Alfred became a municipality in 1854, it parted with the Township of Longueuil. On that same year, the Alfred mission was established and a modest chapel was built near the site

of the actual church where a post office and an inn already stood. The development of the village of Alfred started right away and its geographical location proved to be of great influence on the economy of the village.

Some pioneer families

Here are a few names of the first families, English as well as French-speaking, which settled in the region of the village of Alfred: Brady (1830), Hughes (1823), Tierney, Brownrigg (1826), Chevrier, Cadieux (1845), Brunet (1830), Parisien (1835) and Lalonde (1844).

Economic profile

Located in a region where the soil is well-known for its fertility, many families began farming in the Township of Alfred. Indeed, the local economy prospered mainly due to agriculture, which is still the economic base today. Farming activities also encouraged the development of the dairy industry and the establishment of *le College d'Alfred*, the only agricultural college in Ontario offering French-language post-secondary instruction. Apart from agriculture, many small businesses are found in the village, including sod-growing, which has taken place commercially in the township since the 1960s.

Architectural heritage

- Alfred College
31 Saint-Paul Street

Inaugurated in August 1933, this grey stone building was intended for Saint-Joseph School, a reformatory administered by the Christian Brothers for young French-speaking Catholic offenders. Since 1981, this building next to the church and the rectory of the parish, houses the administrative offices and classrooms of Alfred College, the only establishment in Ontario offering agricultural teaching and research in French. The college, which is part of the University of Guelph, has created many partnerships with underdeveloped countries. Also, the institution hosts summer camps for children and offers many other courses and activities during the year. Alfred College invites you to visit its stable and maple grove. Take a stroll along the ecological trail and stop in the butterfly garden to learn how to create a microclimate at home to attract many butterfly species.

- **Saint-Victor Church**
Saint-Philippe Street (no civic number)

This stone church was constructed in 1925 according to the plans of the architects Brodeur and Pilon from Hull, Québec. Inaugurated in 1927, it replaced the former church built in 1874 which burned down in March 1925. In July 1944, the new church caught fire too, but fortunately, the walls remained undamaged. After the disaster, it was renovated in accordance with its original style. With its high-pitched roof and its windows of Gothic style, the church majestically dominates the heart of the village.

- **The Saint-Victor presbytery**
297 Saint-Philippe Street

The first presbytery of the village was constructed in 1871, the year of the foundation of the Parish of Saint-Victor in Alfred. This very small stone construction was replaced in 1908 by a new, larger one. The grey stone building of old castle style, was built during the pastorate of priest François Lombard, the second priest of the parish. Located near the church, the presbytery has two verandas. The left one is decorated with a balustrade and beautiful white mouldings at the top of the columns. This veranda adds to the beauty of the building which is the pride of the parishioners.

- **Natural heritage**
Alfred College Ecological Trail
Behind the College, 31, Saint-Paul Street

Stroll along the Alfred College Ecological Trail and take time to discover the animal and floral diversity of Eastern Ontario. Nature-lovers will see a marsh, an active maple bush, a pine plantation and the interaction between agriculture and natural ecosystems. This site represents an essential tool for research in forestry and agroforestry. Ornithologists and arboriculturists will love this path bordered by the habitats of Eastern Ontario birds and by many tree species cultivated in the region.

- ▶ Group visits can be organized with or without a guide.
- ▶ Audio-guides are available.
- ▶ Information and reservations: (613) 679-2218

- **Path of the Alfred Bog**

End of Concession 11. Follow Saint-Philippe Street heading towards Plantagenet, then turn left on Alfred Station Road.

The Alfred Bog covers 4,200 hectares of wetland. This ecosystem of national importance will assuredly please nature lovers. Following the wooden footpath and reading the interpretation boards, you will discover the most important bog in Eastern Ontario. You will be able to see rare species of plants, animals and insects in a peaceful atmosphere. The peaceful Alfred Bog is the best place to go back to the land.

- ▶ Open all year round
- ▶ Information: (877) 984-2948
- ▶ E-mail: info@nation.on.ca

Oral heritage

The Widow Bédard

This story began in Europe when a young bride and her lover sold their souls to the Devil to get rid of her spouse. After the troublesome husband was out of the way, the lovers left the old continent and settled near Lefavre where they were known as Mathilde and Hans Bédard. One Halloween evening, the Devil appeared at the couple's farm and told Mathilde that he had come to fetch her. As she did not want to die, Mathilde pleaded with Beelzebub and they reached an agreement: he would let her live, but in return she had to provide him with five impure souls. Ever crafty, the Devil took Hans with him to make sure that Mathilde would keep her word. The young woman was widowed. In July 1979, the Widow Bédard was hit and killed by a tractor-trailer in the middle of the village of Alfred. In spite of her death, she still had to respect her pact with the Devil. So she took advantage of her ghostly state and caused several accidents by appearing to truck drivers at night on Highway 17 near Alfred. Several tractor-trailer accidents occurred before a young boy finally saw the Bédard widow on the night of March 29, 1980. Ever since the birth of this myth, truck drivers are afraid to go through the village of Alfred at night.

Annual Events

The Alfred Western Festival (July)

The Alfred Western Festival in Alfred is a celebration of country music. Presented by the Knights of Columbus, this musical event features many new singers each year, most of them French-speaking. Country music amateurs will enjoy taking part in the traditional bingo and dancing to their favourite music. Be sure to be there, at the Larocque Park in Alfred.

► Information: (613) 679-1385

***Bon Appétit* food fair (June, every other year)**

Organized by Alfred College, *Bon Appétit* food fair offers you the opportunity to discover the products of the farms of the region and to appreciate the culinary skills of local chefs. For the occasion, a farmer is paired with a cook and the latter prepares recipes with the products of the corresponding farm. The public is invited to taste the carefully prepared meals. *Bon appétit!*

► Information: (613) 679-2218

Agri-Tour (September)

In collaboration with the local farmers, Alfred College offers a tour around the numerous farms of the region. The free visits to agricultural installations and the observation of many animal species make for an exciting discovery of farm life in our region.

► Information: (613) 679-2218

Did you know . . . ?

◆ The village of Alfred is the French-fry capital of Canada.

References

For more information about the history of the village and the Township of Alfred, refer to the *Album-Souvenir du 100e anniversaire de la paroisse Saint-Victor d'Alfred, 1871-1971*, or to Lucien Brault's *Histoire des Comtés*

Unis de Prescott et de Russell, published in 1965 by le Conseil des Comtés Unis. Oral heritage lovers must have a look at Marc Scott's *Contes et récits de l'Outaouais* (in French), Buckingham, Le Chardon Bleu, 1996, 155 p.

Montebello, Québec

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,066 inhabitants

Area: 7.95 km²

Toponymy

There are two hypotheses regarding the origin of the name of this town. Some believe that the village was named in honour of the Duke of Montebello, Napoléon-Auguste Lannes, with whom Louis-Joseph Papineau had become friends during his exile in France. Others maintain that the name was taken from the small Italian town of Montebello (Lombardy) because it showed geographical resemblances to the locality of *la Petite-Nation*.

The Seigniory of *la Petite-Nation*

Before Europeans came, the region of Montebello was inhabited by the Algonquian tribe, Ouescharini, meaning "people of *la Petite-Nation*". In 1674, 20 years after the Iroquois slaughtered the Ouescharini, the West Indies Company sold the Seigniory of *la Petite-Nation* to Mgr François de Laval, first bishop in New France. He gave it to the *Séminaire de Québec* in 1680. About 120 years later, in 1801, Joseph Papineau purchased the seigniory. Denis-Benjamin Papineau — Louis-Joseph's brother — initiated its development and organized the settlement of the first French Canadians who arrived around 1810. In 1817, Joseph Papineau gave the seigniory's title deeds to his son, Louis-Joseph. The latter settled on his land only when the construction of his manor was complete in 1850. When this Patriots' leader died in 1871, the seigniory was divided into three equal parts which were given to his son, Louis-Joseph-Amédée, his daughter, Marie-Rosalie-Exilda, and Napoléon Bourassa's five children.

History

The history of the village of Montebello closely relates to that of the Seignior of *la Petite-Nation* and of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours parish. Established in 1817, the latter really became a parish in 1855. At that time, Louis-Joseph Papineau undertook the development of the village of Montebello. He had the first school and the caretaker's house built and he marked out and named streets. A part of parish of Notre - Dame - de - Bon - Secours, the village became a municipality in 1878 and was called Montebello. Even though a fire destroyed 32 houses in 1913, Montebello is still one of the most beautiful villages along the Ottawa River.

Economic profile

In the early days, the lumber industry represented the main economic activity of the village which expanded thanks to woodcutting and sawmills already in operation by 1873. Agriculture also played a great part in local development, especially after the arrival of the railroad in 1877. The dairy industry was important to the growth of the village as area farmers supplied milk to a cheese factory between 1913 and 1925.

Today, tourism has become the most important economic activity of the municipality. Small businesses and firms are also doing well. The lumber industry is still present, but the local economy no longer depends exclusively on this activity.

Architectural heritage

- The Manoir-Papineau National Historic Site (1848-1850)
500, rue Notre-Dame

The Manoir-Papineau was built between 1846 and 1850 on Cape Bon-Secours. Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871), one of the leaders of the Patriots' rebellion (1837-1838), lived in the imposing stone building from 1850 to 1871. He built his residence according to the châteaux de la Loire which he saw during his exile in France (1839-1845). This construction which reminds us of the neo-classical villas, was influenced by many architectural styles. While the woodwork decoration belongs to the neo-Greek style, the alignment of the doorways between adjoining rooms is typical of French architecture. The mix of limestone and vegetable dyes which cover the stones gives pink and gold shades to the manor house. When Papineau died, his son Louis-Joseph-Amédée, inherited the dwelling. In 1929, it was sold to an

American, Harold M. Saddlemire. Designated as a historic building by the Canadian government in 1975, the Manoir-Papineau is one of the priceless legacies of *la Petite-Nation*. It reflects the prestige and tastes of its famous owner.

- ▶ Guided tours (bilingual)
- ▶ Information: (819) 423-6965

- Château Montebello
392 rue Notre-Dame

Constructed in 1930 on L.-J. Papineau's former domaine, Chateau Montebello is the largest log structure in the world. This famous edifice originally housed a private hotel belonging to a select club, the Seignior Club. Ten thousand red cedar logs coming from British Columbia and the United States, and 3,500 workers were needed for the construction and development of the chateau. The Earl of Bessborough, Governor-General of Canada from 1931 to 1935, was present at the inauguration of the Seignior Club only three months after the beginning of the construction. Through the years, prominent people have visited the site, namely: former Canadian Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King (1949), singer Bing Crosby (1950) and Prince Rainier of Monaco with his family (1968). In 1970, Canadian Pacific Hotels acquired the star-shaped edifice. From that time on, the building, also famous for its hexagonal fire-place, became accessible to the general public and took the name of Chateau Montebello.

- ▶ Guided tours by reservation only.
- ▶ Information and reservations: (819) 423-6341.

See for yourself:

- Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Church
545 rue Notre-Dame

Son of Henri Bourassa, a Quebec politician and founder of *Le Devoir* in 1910, Napoléon Bourassa drew the plan of this beautiful church. Artist, sculptor, novelist, as well as architect, he built the church in the shape of a Latin Cross in 1894. As the priests of the parish did not appreciate the elegant proportions and original architecture of this masterpiece, Notre - Dame - de - Bon-Secours Church was repeatedly transformed throughout the years.

- ▶ Information: (819) 423-6686

- Montebello Railway Station
502 rue Notre-Dame

Montebello's former railway station was constructed in 1931 from logs left over from the construction of Chateau Montebello and has a similar architectural design. The railway station played an important role in local economic development as the arrival point of passengers and goods. It was closed in 1981 and moved to its actual site in 1989. Today, it houses a tourist information centre as well as an interpretation centre reviving the history of rail transportation in *la Petite-Nation*.

► Information: (819) 423-5602

- Papineau Funeral Chapel
Accessible through the Montebello Railway Station

A small grey stone chapel topped with a log cross, stands along the path leading to the Manoir-Papineau. It is the funeral chapel of the Papineau family, constructed in 1855 according to the "rustic Gothic" style. It was rebuilt in 1933 because it was falling into ruin. The mortal remains of Louis-Joseph Papineau, of his spouse, Julie Bruneau (1795-1866), and of many of their descendants lie in this religious temple. A small exhibition displaying the objects and furniture used for religious ceremonies adds to the interest of the building.

► Information: (819) 423-6485 / (819) 423-5356

Close by:

- Omega Park
Route 323, 3 km north of Montebello

At Omega Park, roll along a 10-kilometre path that winds its way through the 1,500-acre animal park. You will discover many species of wild animals such as red deer, bison, wild boars, and black bears living in their natural habitats. This vast domain encloses an extraordinarily varied landscape of lakes, meadows, forests, small valleys and rocky hills. Seize the opportunity to stroll along one of the two interpretation paths (3 km) during your visit and, in summer, do not miss the birds of prey show.

- Information: (819) 423-5487 or www.parc-omega.com

References

For more information about the heritage monuments of the village of Montebello, visit the web site of *la Petite-Nation* at www.petite-nation.qc.ca or consult Jacques Lamarche's *Au coeur de la Petite-Nation, Le Château Montebello*, printed by *les Éditions de la Petite-Nation* in 1984.

Fassett

Facts:

Population (1996): 500 inhabitants

Area: 13.99 km²

Toponymy

The name designating this small Quebec town honours the memory of S. Jonathan Fassett, president of the Fassett Lumber Company which was established in 1905.

History

The small town of Fassett was first known as Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours, a parish established in 1855. The founding of the Fassett Lumber Company in 1905 attracted many families and Saint-Fidèle-de-Fassett Catholic parish was created in 1913. In the early 1950s, Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours became a municipality and was called Fassett. Located between the Laurentian hills and the Ottawa River, this small village evolves on its own in the shadow of the municipality of Montebello.

Economic profile

The timber industry initiated the expansion of the village of Fassett. Then, agriculture and the dairy industry also played a part in economic development. By connecting Fassett to Lefavre, the ferry service allowed these two towns to share their economic and social life.

Today, the timber industry is still at the centre of the economy of the municipality with Sylvio Brunet & Fils sawmill which gives a certain stability to the local development. Cement works (Les ciments Prud'homme) are also found there, but the village remains mainly residential with some farming families.

Architectural heritage

- Saint-Fidèle Church, Fassett

At first, religious services were held on the school premises and then in a small wooden chapel constructed in 1909. This chapel soon became too small for the growing population of parishioners and construction of a new church began in 1918. Built according to the plans of the architect Charles Brodeur from Hull, Québec, the building costs added up to \$33,850. It was covered with beautiful grey stone provided by the Fassett Lumber Company. Consecrated in 1919, the church has beautiful round windows and a steeple crowns its front square tower. As in many French-speaking towns, the imposing structure of Saint-Fidèle Church dominates the village of Fassett.

Pointe-au-Chêne

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,964 inhabitants

(Grenville Township)

Area: 316.1 km²

Toponymy

The village of Pointe-au-Chêne is named after Pointe-au-Chêne Creek. The point of land where the creek flows into the Ottawa River was once covered with oak-trees*. Today, this spot located at the east of the village is called Pointe-à-Legault.

**chêne* is the French translation for oak tree

See for yourself:

- The grotto of the Blessed Virgin
Route 148, heading towards the village of Fassett

This beautiful grotto was constructed during the first half of the 20th century by Napoléon Aubry. This devout man wanted to pay tribute to his late spouse. The local people once went to pray at this grotto, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Many religious ceremonies were celebrated there and the spot was

the site of many processions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We are reminded of the piety of the Catholics of the time by this monument which stands along Route 148.

Calumet

Facts:

Population (1996): 602 inhabitants

Area: 5.54 km²

Toponymy

This small town is located at the mouth of the Calumet River and likely bears its name. The name of this river has a double origin. On the one hand, it reminds us of the Native custom of smoking the peace pipe* on the banks of the river. On the other hand, it refers to its stone of superior quality which was formerly used to make pipes.

**calumet* is the French translation for peace pipe

History

In the 1820s, a man called Charlebois began extracting material from a stone pit near the actual site of Calumet. The region's development was also spurred on by the establishment of the railroad in 1877 and the acquisition of J. K. Word's sawmill by Robert McIntyre during the 1880s. The village expanded considerably at that time. Enough families settled in the region so that the first church (Holy Trinity) was built in 1888 and the first school opened around 1897. A year later, Saint-Ludger Catholic parish was created. The village of Calumet which was part of the Township of Grenville at first, became a municipality in 1918. In that same year, fire destroyed a great part of the town and it has not developed much since then.

Economic profile

Even if Calumet grew mostly due to the railroad and timber industry, other factors have to be mentioned. In 1877, Clément Séguin established a ferry service between Calumet and L'Orignal. The ferry — no longer in operation — allowed the transportation of travellers and goods and stimulated the economy of both towns. The development of a magnesite (magnesium carbonate) mine

between 1907 and 1945 on the site where such mineral deposits were found in 1900 brought diversity to the local economy.

Today, the small village of Calumet is mainly residential and half of the working people earn their living in the trade sector. Timber and manufacturing industries as well as construction, transportation and storing businesses are other sources of employment. Furthermore, the town is the mecca of adventure tourism in the province of Québec.

Architectural heritage

- Saint-Ludger Church in Calumet
145 rue Principale

The Catholic parish of Saint-Ludger in Calumet was formed in 1898, 10 years after the creation of a Protestant parish. At first, religious services were celebrated at the Scott dance hall because the new parish was without a church. This situation continued until the inauguration of Saint-Ludger church in 1929. On the initiative of priest J. A. Mandeville, construction had begun the previous year. In a good state of preservation, the church is made of red brick, arranged differently here and there to cut the dullness of the walls. A steeple, decorated with some mouldings, crowns the pitched roof. The ornaments fixed at the ends of the two roofs — namely the main roof and the roof of the brick porch at the front — enhance the beauty of the facade. The pointed openings and the front bull's-eye window add to the charm of the edifice. Located on the property of the church, the small grotto of Lourdes was designed by Téléphore Carrière in the early 1960s.

- Calumet Railway Station
169 rue Principale

In 1877, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company constructed the Calumet railway station. Even though the station stopped being used in 1970, it remained an important vestige of the municipality's past. It is a modest wooden building topped with a pitched roof that stands out because of its triangular pediment. The wooden bay in front and the superb consoles supporting the gutter mark the ancient elegance of the edifice. The development of the railroad network played a great part in the economic expansion of Calumet. In fact, with the transportation of mail and goods, the station was kept very busy. Moreover, the village served as a relay station for the many passengers traveling between Ottawa and Montréal, as well as for the wealthy people heading

for the luxurious hotel at Caledonia Springs on the other side of the Ottawa River.

- Holy Trinity Church
176 rue Principale

Following Reverend A. J. Greer's suggestion, the small Holy Trinity Church was constructed for the Anglo-Protestant community in June 1888 in Calumet. When it was first built, on land acquired for \$80, its architecture was simple. A pitched roof covered the plain building and another crowned the front vestibule. Nowadays, the bell tower, constructed in 1924 above the vestibule, dominates the facade. The bell, and the wheel commanding it, can also be seen. A white aluminium coating has replaced the wood that once covered the church. Located in the heart of the village, Holy Trinity Church stands out for the simplicity of its architecture.

Close by:

- New World Expeditions
100 Rivière-Rouge Road, Calumet

Seize the opportunity to try one or more New World Adventures while you are in the region of Calumet. Rafting on the Rouge river, horseback riding, mountain biking, sport-yaking, walking trails, camping and more activities await you! The Rouge River is a thrilling experience!

- ▶ For more information: (819) 242-7238
- ▶ Reservations: (800) 361-5033
- ▶ Web site: www.newworld.ca

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ A significant part of the village of Calumet burned in 1918.

Grenville

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,443 inhabitants

Area: 3.19 km²

Toponymy

The name of the small town of Grenville in the province of Quebec is related to that of Lord William Grenville (1712-1770), Count of Buckingham. He was a member of William Pitt's military government during the Seven Years' War which led to the conquest of New France by Great Britain in 1760. He was also a minister in the British government from 1763 to 1765.

History

The development of the Township of Grenville started early in the 19th century with the arrival of a few English soldiers who had served in the British army in Canada. Then, around 1810, Archibald MacMillan, founder of Grenville, settled in the region. In 1819, the English soldiers undertook the construction of the Grenville canal which attracted many Irish workers who finally settled in the region after the project was over. Between 1857 and 1859, two brothers, John and William-Thomas Sikes, had a railroad section built between Grenville and Carillon, two communities which became important economic centres for the region. In 1876, the village of Grenville became a municipality. Over 1,000 people lived there at that time. Unfortunately, the town suffered after the decision to connect Ottawa to Montreal through Lachute instead of through Grenville and Carillon. The economic activity moved North, virtually abandoning the villages along the Ottawa River. Nonetheless, Grenville remains a welcoming village where beautiful heritage buildings can be seen.

Economic profile

The construction of the canal and the establishment of the railroad are responsible for the growth of the village of Grenville. In the past, the timber industry was one of the main economic activities in the town, which also had a brickyard. Just as in Calumet, the village exploited magnesite deposits which were found in the Township of Grenville at the very beginning of the 20th century.

Today, Grenville is a residential as well as a commercial village. Among other things, its economic situation is based on numerous small businesses which are located in the region. Health and social services employ over 30 % of the town workers. The poultry industry is present in the village with Volailles Grenville, a poultry processing plant, and during the summer, the tourist industry works well. Agriculture and forestry also are among important economic activities in the Township of Grenville.

- The Long-Sault Canal system

In 1819, the Royal Staff Corps started the construction of the Grenville canal under Captain Henry du Vernet's supervision and it was completed 10 years later. In 1827, the British army also undertook the development of canals at Chute-à-Blondeau and at Carillon in order to bypass all of the Long-Sault rapids. Including three canals, the 16-kilometre long canal system was inaugurated in 1834. It made access to Lake Ontario possible through the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal in Bytown (Ottawa). Built for military reasons, the canal system was used for trade and for transportation of British immigrants towards Upper Canada. However, the Carillon canal soon became insufficient to handle boat traffic and the construction of a second canal in the village was necessary. Inaugurated in 1882, the new wider canal in Carillon allowed barges through and thus the villages and forestry camps further along the Ottawa River could be fed. Supplanted by the St. Lawrence waterway, the canal system was in operation until Carillon hydroelectric power station was built around 1960. Only remnants of the canal gates in Carillon and Grenville are left to remind us of the existence of the Long-Sault canal system.

Architectural heritage

- The house of the Pridham/Desforges families
1 and 3 rue Canal Nord

This beautiful residence, located near the Grenville canal, was constructed around 1825 for Alexander Pridham. This highly-respected man was militia captain, then mayor of the village in 1875. This house, of far greater size than any other stone construction at the time, remained in the Pridham family until 1949. Then, the Desforges family acquired it and still owns it today. The house was built with stone extracted near the canal. The pitched roof was once topped with three stone chimney stacks and two small gabled dormer windows. Today, the chimney stacks are made of brick and the dormer windows have been replaced by a larger, flat-roofed style. A porch has been added at the

front of the house. An ancient powder magazine built around 1875, stands at the back of the house and is used as a shed today.

- The Filion house
19 rue Canal Nord

Known as the Filion house, this beautiful rectangular residence was built in 1825 according to the *pièce-sur-pièce* technique. The first owner, John Kelley, an Irish immigrant, used it as a hotel where the engineers building the canal stayed. The Filion family acquired it as a residence at the end of the 19th century and a descendant of the family still owns it today. Two brick chimney stacks stand on the roof and a veranda with moulding-decorated columns add a certain charm to the house. In 1870, the house was covered with clapboard. At the front of the dwelling, a modest wooden fence surrounds a cross.

- The former “Manoir du canal”
475 rue Principale, Grenville
Outside the village, heading towards Cushing

In all probability, this superb stone residence was built around 1826 for Archibald MacMillan, the founder of Grenville. This Québec-style house was probably constructed by the canal-builders. It was built at the same time as the Pridham/Desforges house and the stones used were similar. With its pitched roof and dormer windows at the front, this dwelling had once been a travellers' inn, known as *le Manoir du canal*. Later on, it became a residence again. Located at a beautiful spot along the Ottawa river, this splendid house is surrounded by a small forest.

See for yourself:

- The house at 204 rue Principale

In all probability, this beautiful wooden house was built circa 1904 for a man whose last name was Morrow. The front tower, the lovely moulding-decorated veranda and the triangular pediment are typical of the neo-Queen Anne style. Located half-way along rue Principale, this attractive house is one more architectural gem in the village of Grenville.

- Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Church
322 rue Principale

In 1901, when priest Joseph Gascon asked to replace the first Catholic church of Grenville which had become too small for the number of parishioners, this beautiful stone church was constructed. A pinnacle and a cross stand on the steeple crowning the huge square tower in front. An interesting fact about this building is that the stones of the facade are red while the stones covering the side walls are grey. This imposing cross-shaped church dominates the heart of the village.

- St. Matthew's Church
365 rue Principale

At Reverend Joseph Abbott's request, St. Matthew's Anglican Church was built in 1832. As the population of the village of Grenville had increased to 1,500 inhabitants at that time, a new church was needed. This ashlar (cut stone) building distinguishes itself by its pointed openings which remind us of the Gothic style, and by its steeple decorated on three sides by a bull's-eye window. The few trees that surround the church and the small graveyard on the left invite us to visit the site.

Did you know . . . ?

- ♦ About 30 people died as the result of a cholera epidemic which struck the village in 1854.

Cushing

Facts:

Population (1996): 4,100 inhabitants

(Township of Chatham)

Area: 243.1 km² (Township of Chatham)

Toponymy

The small town of Cushing bears the name of Lemuel Cushing who was one of the village founders. Aside from being among the district's great lumber tradesmen and a town councillor, mayor, jailer and magistrate of the Township of Chatham, he owned many buildings. This wealthy man was also

owner of a seaside resort much in demand, Cushing's Island, located at Portland (Maine) in the United States.

History

During the first decades of the 19th century, a few Loyalists left the United States and settled in the region of Cushing which was part of the Township of Chatham at that time. After the Americans' arrival, there was an influx of immigrants from Great Britain. There was no trace of French-speaking settlers in the area until the 1830s. The small village developed thanks to the efforts of many inhabitants, namely Lemuel Cushing and the Reverend William Mair who had churches built in the town. In 1855, the village became a municipality, but it was restored to the municipality of the Township of Chatham lately. The Loyalist and British immigrants brought their culture with them when they settled in the region. The charming stone architecture they introduced in Cushing makes it one of the most beautiful villages in the province of Québec.

Economic profile

The first settlers in the region of Cushing lived from wood-cutting and the making of potash. With the clearing of the fields, basic agriculture began and improved with the introduction of the new farming equipment around 1825. Through the years, farming became one of the most important economic activities in the Township of Chatham, where there is also a thriving timber industry. Cushing itself is a quiet residential town where tourists can make a relaxing stop during the summer.

Architectural heritage

- Former St. Giles Church
562 route des Outaouais

In 1830, the Presbyterian Reverend William Mair asked that this superb rectangular building be constructed to shelter St. Giles Church, the first church for Cushing. It served as a place of worship for the Methodists and Presbyterians until they left for St. Mungo Church which was built in 1836. At the end of the 19th century, the edifice was turned into a theatre, then into a residence in 1936 after having been purchased by Mildred Douglas. As for the architecture, this well-preserved building is topped by a pitched roof and has two types of windows: rectangular windows with shutters and pointed windows

which give a particular style to the former church. The ancient pump standing behind the building still works today.

- St. Mungo United Church
661 route des Outaouais, Cushing

St. Mungo Presbyterian Church was built circa 1836 on a plot of land purchased by Reverend Mair in 1833. The neo-Gothic style of the stone building topped by a pitched roof reminds us of English churches. A huge square tower, crowned with four stone ornaments and bearing a bull's-eye window on each side, dominates the facade. The pointed stained-glass windows and the unique door of the church are typical of Gothic architecture. The placement of the gravestones, some of them standing in front of the church, alongside the road, add to the charm of this site, located on the banks of the Ottawa River. The small stone house across the road was the first presbytery. The second one, a red brick edifice (686 route des Outaouais) dating from 1862, was recently turned into a travellers' inn.

- The former general store
582 route des Outaouais, located at the corner of route des Outaouais and Montée Cushing

This rectangular building was built in 1826 by Lemuel Cushing. It is made of large squared quarry-stones and ashlar (cut stone) taken from a stone pit on the banks of the Ottawa River. Formerly, the building housed a general store, bank and post office. Its facade bears seven small-paned windows. Also, the very low handle of the front door reminds us of our ancestors' shortness of height and suggests the authenticity of the door. The imposing edifice dominates the many heritage buildings found along the main street.

See for yourself:

- The second house of James Cushing
570 route des Outaouais

This well-preserved stone residence was constructed circa 1860 for James Cushing who first lived at 589 route des Outaouais. The magnificent building has a high-pitched roof beautifully decorated with white mouldings. The bay windows and the two projecting facades as well as the arrow-shaped mould-

ings topping the gables are characteristic of Neo-Gothic architecture. Nowadays, many people believe this house to be haunted . . .

- The first house of James Cushing
589 route des Outaouais

This beautiful brick house was built for James Cushing, son of pioneer Lemuel Cushing and his wife, Catherine Hutchins. An elegant veranda and a brick porch enhance the beauty of the facade of the T-shaped house and a few dormer windows are found on its recently shingled roof. Located near a small stream, the house of James Cushing is one of the most charming residences of the area with mouldings that decorate the porch, the gallery and the gables.

- The house of Lemuel Cushing
597 route des Outaouais

The stone of this dwelling, built circa 1829, is similar to the stone of the buildings constructed around that time in Chute-à-Blondeau. Lemuel Cushing supposedly bought it from M. Reardon during a sheriff's sale. With its large stone chimney stacks, its irregular openings, its two front doors and high-pitched roof, the house resembles other homes built under the French regime. Through the years, a few modifications, namely the addition of the gallery and the dormer window, changed the look of the house.

- The former Smiths hotel
634 route des Outaouais

This beautiful stone edifice with small-paned windows was built in the Québec style influenced by English architecture. It was constructed at about the same time as the Grenville canal (circa 1829) and in all probability, by the same masons. This building, which housed the Smiths hotel at the end of the 19th century, is similar to the former general store with its style and massiveness. It was turned into a residence more than 100 years ago. As animal bones were found in a part of the stone annex, it is believed that this outbuilding at the east of the house once served as a smokehouse.

- The Bowron house
818 route des Outaouais

The Bowron house is one of the oldest residences of Argenteuil County. It was built in 1816 by mason John Bowron, native from Yorkshire, England,

who later sold it to Lemuel Cushing. This beautiful grey stone building with small-paned windows is topped by a pitched roof and two chimney stacks made of stone. Many stone walls surround the house. One of these walls forms the front gallery, thus adding to the architectural value of the residence.

Oral heritage

The legend of the ferryman

While attending a ball in June 1899, a young Cushing girl called Julie de Salvail met Samuel MacPherson, a young boy from Dalkeith, Ontario. They fell in love and decided to try to meet again. However, Julie's father firmly wanted to send his daughter to the Ursulines convent in Québec to complete her schooling and he forbade her to leave the house. With the help of a carrier pigeon, the two young lovers planned how Julie would break free from her father's authority and take refuge at Samuel's place in Ontario. Nevertheless, on the evening of August 12th, when Julie attempted to cross the Ottawa River to get to her lover, she was kidnapped by the ferryman. Caught in a storm, he steered his barge into an abyss. Samuel did not know what had happened and the absence of news from his beloved filled him with sadness. A few months later, he joined the merchant marines. On August 12th, 1904, exactly 5 years after Julie's disappearance, Samuel's ship sank during a sudden storm.

Close by:

- Ranch Robert
74 Fuller Road, Saint-Philippe d'Argenteuil
Get there by Montée Robert via Route 344

Is there something better than a horseback ride to enjoy fresh air? An instructor will guide you through the woods and the wild flower fields up to a small lake where three species of wild geese live together. You will love the panoramic view of the Ottawa River which unfolds its beauty at the foot of the Laurentian hills.

- ▶ Open all year round
- ▶ Information: (450) 562-9869

References

For more information about the history and the heritage of Cushing, refer to the web site www.argenteuil.qc.ca or to the document entitled *St. Mungo's Centennial*. To learn more about oral heritage in the region, see Marc Scott's *Contes et récits de l'Outaouais*, Buckingham, Le Chardon Bleu, 1996, 155 p.

Carillon

Facts:

Population (1996): 258 inhabitants

Area: 6.84 km²

Toponymy

Located on the Québec side of the Ottawa River, the village of Carillon was named in honour of Philippe Carion. This officer of the Carignan regiment had received a land grant on the seigniorship of l'Île de Montréal in 1671. Also known as Sieur Dufresnoy, he came to the region of Carillon where he set up a fur trading post. In all probability, Carion became *Carillon* because of a clerical error.

History

The actual site of the village of Carillon first served as a portage place for Natives to avoid the rapids of the Long-Sault. At the end of the 18th century, Philippe Carion established a fur trading post there. Then, the place served as a relay station for travellers. Settling began in the region thanks to the construction of the Carillon canal (1827-1834) which attracted a large number of Irish workers. At the same time, Robert McRobb divided the land and many Americans and British settled in the region. After the inauguration of the canal in 1834, Carillon became a military post with soldiers responsible for the protection of the canal system. The military look of the architecture of the village is reminiscent of Carillon's former vocation. In 1959, the construction of Carillon hydroelectric power-station by Hydro-Québec considerably modified the landscape of the village.

Economic profile

In the 19th century, the establishment of a ferry service between Point Fortune and Carillon (1833) and the timber industry played a great part in the development of the village. However, the construction of the Carillon canal (1827-1834) played the main part in giving Carillon its military post status. Equally important, the establishment of a railroad between Carillon and Grenville (1857-1859) stimulated economic growth in the village. Unfortunately, the local economy suffered later on as a result of the decision to connect Montréal to Ottawa via Lachute instead of passing through Carillon. As a consequence, the focus of economic activity moved North.

Today, a great part of Carillon's population works in the transportation and storing sectors. With the Argenteuil Regional Museum and its numerous heritage buildings, the village is an inviting tourist destination. The Carillon hydroelectric power-station which transformed the site of the town is a significant source of jobs for the inhabitants as well as an important tourist attraction.

Architectural heritage

- Argenteuil Regional Museum
50 rue Principale

This imposing stone building was constructed between 1834 and 1836. At the request of the former assistant commissioner Charles John Forbes, the Royal staff corps of the British army built the severe-looking structure. Originally, it was a warehouse where the materials needed to build the Carillon canal were stored. During the Patriots' rebellion (1837-1838), the building was turned into military barracks. The English officers and soldiers who came to suppress the insurrection in Lower Canada were quartered there. Later on, it housed a hotel administered by the Ottawa River Navigation Company. With its hip roof, prominent dormer windows and five stone chimney stacks, this former barracks is typical of Anglo-Norman style. The front door is characteristic of neo-classic architecture, while the small-paned windows are known to be ancient.

- The Desormeaux house
36 and 38 rue Principale

Halfway through the 19th century, James Barclay, a Scot, owner of many buildings in Carillon, purchased this beautiful brick edifice and converted it to an inn. Due to the shape of the lots, the buildings could not squarely face the

road. To solve the problem, this house of neo-classic style, very popular in New-England, was built according to the same diamond shape as the land on which it stands. The wall intersections and the outline of the front openings are made of grey ashlar (cut stone). The well-preserved house has an entrance of Doric style and two chimney stacks stand on its metal-sheeted roof. Designated a historic monument by the Québec government in 1973, the Desormeaux house shows what great influence military architecture had on the style of residential buildings.

See for yourself:

- Carillon hydroelectric power station
Route 344

Carillon hydroelectric power station was built in 1959 by Hydro-Québec. In operation since 1962, it is the largest power station on the Ottawa River with a capacity of 654,500 kilowatts and an average flow of 2,000 cubic metres per second. The unique lock allows the vessels to cross the 19-foot drop in a single operation. In the reception hall, an exhibition relates the station's history. A park with two picnic areas borders the dam.

- ▶ Free guided tours offered; duration: 75 minutes
- ▶ Reservation required for groups of 10 or more
- ▶ Information and reservations: (800) 365-5229
- ▶ www.hydro.qc.ca

- The Tax Collector's house
Rue Principale (no civic number)

Constructed in 1842 and 1843, this grey stone construction is known under the name of "The Tax Collector's house". A man had to collect the toll from the vessels that went through the canal. To make his task easier, his house was constructed on a high piece of land so that he could see any boat drawing near the passage. The metal-sheeted mansard roof bears a dormer window at the front and two brick chimney stacks. Nowadays, this building with regular and symmetrical openings houses a small museum and also serves as an exhibition place.

- The house of the intendant
2 rue Principale

The house of the intendant is of grey stone construction; it was built near the Carillon canal circa 1840. Initially used as an administration centre for the canal, the building became a residence in 1857. The mouldings that decorate the top of the columns add charm to the residence. With its gable roof, Victorian veranda and small annex of a different architectural style, the house of the intendant plays a great part in beautifying the historic village of Carillon.

- Saint-Joseph Catholic Church
8 rue Principale

At the request of priest Josaphat Verner, the small Saint-Joseph Catholic Church was built in 1915. Located in the heart of the village, it is a plain, wooden construction. A humble steeple crowns its pitched roof and a bull's-eye window pierces its facade. The side windows with their pointed shape are typical of Gothic style.

- The Dollard des Ormeaux monument
Small park near Saint-Joseph Church

Constructed in 1919 by the sculptor Joseph Laliberté, the Dollard des Ormeaux monument is located in a small park on the left of Saint-Joseph Catholic Church. It honours the memory of Dollard des Ormeaux who died during the Battle of the Long-Sault (May 1660), the most important battle ever waged by the French against the Iroquois. It is believed that the sacrifice of Dollard des Ormeaux and his friends saved New France. Actually, New France is represented on the granite monument by a woman's head crowned with oak and maple leaves. The spot where the battle of the Long-Sault took place was, and still is, a source of disagreement among historians. And so, even though a commemorative monument stands at Carillon, research has shown that it did not occur there, but rather near Chute-à-Blondeau, in Ontario.*

*Refer to details about the Battle of the Long-Sault in the Chute-à-Blondeau section of this book.

References

For more information about Carillon's history and heritage, consult the *MRC d'Argenteuil's* web site at www.argenteuil.qc.ca.

Saint-André-Est

Facts:

Population (1996): 1,471 inhabitants

Area: 10.9 km²

Toponymy

The name Saint-André-Est found its origin in the first years of the 19th century. Scottish colonists, having recently settled at the junction of the Rouge and du Nord rivers, named the place St. Andrews in tribute to their national patron saint. When it became a village in 1958, the town took the name St. Andrews East from its railway station and its post office, built in 1819. It was only in 1978 that the village was renamed Saint-André-Est.

The Seigniory of Argenteuil

About 1682, the North West Company sold the Seigniory of Argenteuil to Charles Joseph D'Ailleboust. This first seigneur of the territory owned a castle in Argenteuil, France, and he named his seigniory and the region after it. Five French-speaking families settled in the neighbourhood around 1740 when Marie-Louise Denys de la Ronde was the owner of the seigniory. However, real settlement only began after the purchase of the domain by Adjutant Murray in 1796 when a group of Americans settled in St. Andrews East and built the first Canadian paper mill in 1803. Then, an American, John Johnson, bought the seigniory in 1814. Loyalists came to the region followed by many Scottish families who left their mark on local history.

History

In 1798 an American named Hezekiah Clark settled on the site which became St. Andrews East later on. Many Loyalists were attracted to the area by jobs created when the paper mill opened in 1803. Most of those who found employment soon moved to the village. At the beginning of the 19th century, significant population growth occurred. Between 1820 and 1840, after American emigration slowed down, many Scots came and actively participated in the development of the town which once was the main economic centre in the region. At first, the village was part of Saint-André-D'Argenteuil. Then, it became a municipality in 1958 and today it is part of the municipality of Saint -

André-Carillon. The brick architecture which can be seen there is evidence of Loyalist and Scottish influences.

Economic profile

The small town knew an important expansion period at the beginning of the 19th century thanks to the lumber industry. An American, Walter Ware, built the first Canadian paper mill in 1803 in St. Andrews East. The region is also well known for the rich soil in the surrounding fields, which contributes to the local economy.

Nowadays, agriculture plays an important part in the economic life of the region where many farms are found. The village also relies on tourism, small trade as well as the presence of a wood-treating industry (Goodfellow), a plastic products factory and an aerospace industry.

Architectural heritage

- Christ Church
12 rue Saint-André

At the request of the Reverend Joseph Abbott, the Anglican Christ Church was built in 1819. The Reverend Abbott, who had arrived in St. Andrews East the year before, was the father of John Caldwell Abbott, the first Canadian-born Prime Minister to be elected in Canada in 1891. The church was designed in the style called "classical English Baroque" after the architect Christopher Wren, well-known in Great Britain. Christ Church was not constructed according to the popular English design itself, but was instead inspired by the variations found in the American colonies. The red brick building has pointed windows and its tower bears a bull's-eye window. In the cemetery behind the church, the few gravestones dating from the early 19th century are silent witnesses to the history of the municipality.

- The Presbyterian Church
Rue John Abbott (no civic number)

The plot of land on which this beautiful grey stone church was built in 1818 was a gift from Seigneur John Johnson. Archibald Henderson, a Presbyterian minister newly arrived in St. Andrews East, was the one who requested the construction of a church. In 1880, the addition of the square tower which now dominates the facade changed the look of the church, but not its architec-

tural style. The rectangular church has a pitched roof and its front gable bears a bull's-eye window. While the side windows are rather modest, the front ones, with their Gothic pointed shape and the brick arches that top them, give a particular style to the place of worship. The small sacristy (storing and changing room) at the back of the church was constructed according to the same architectural style as the main building.

- The former flour mill
4 rue du Moulin

Located alongside du Nord River, this severe building was constructed in 1802 at the request of the seigneur of Argenteuil, Patrick Murray. As its name indicates, it first served as a flour mill; it was later connected to a lumber factory. Today, it is still occupied by a lumber company. This rectangular stone building is topped by a metal-sheeted pitched roof and a wooden ventilation shaft. The irregular placement of its openings as well as its many annexes make the mill original in spite of its austerity.

See for yourself:

- The house of a military officer
15 rue Saint-André

This beautiful red brick house of Anglo-Norman style was built circa 1840 for a military officer. It is topped by a hip roof and two tall brick chimney stacks. Lovely mouldings decorate the frieze and the columns of the veranda that once covered the whole width of the residence.

- The residence of Colonel MacDonnell
9 rue de la Seigneurie

Designed in Georgian style, this rectangular residence was constructed circa 1835 for Colonel Charles MacDonnell, Sir John Johnson's grandson. Crowned with a hip roof, the red brick building is surrounded by a stone wall built when MacDonnell owned the house. It is believed that he had the wall constructed to protect his daughters from the soldiers who trained on land close to his residence.

- A Loyalist-style house
9 rue de la Mairie

In all probability, this Loyalist-style house, located across from the town hall, dates from 1873. This brick dwelling stands out for its Loyalist architectural style: the front triangular pediment, the pitched roof and the brick chimney stacks standing gloriously at the ends of the roof. The small balcony crowning the porch as well as the three windows of the pediment also play a part in giving the building its unique character.

- *Au Festin Rural* (At the rural feast)
2535 chemin Rivière Rouge Nord

You are invited to come and enjoy an eight-course gastronomical feast. Your hosts will carefully prepare the courses with poultry and fresh vegetables coming from the family farm. During the summer, people can even visit the farm. Notice to fine gourmets: duck and guinea fowl will be served.

- ▶ For groups of 10 to 20
- ▶ Please book 2 to 3 weeks ahead
- ▶ Information and reservations: (450) 537-8231

Annual Events

La Fête du voisinage (June)

The village of Saint-André-Est invites you to its traditional *Fête du voisinage*. Take the opportunity to discover the region, meet local people, look at beautiful crafts and taste local farm products. Many games, animators and variety singers will enliven the festivities. Then, the celebrations will end with fire works.

- ▶ Information: (450) 537-3527

La Fête champêtre Argenteausol (July)

This summer, come and taste local farm products at the *Fête champêtre Argenteausol*. The day's special: tasting of various local foods (meats, vegetables, wine, honey, maple syrup, etc.) and an exhibition of farming equipment and animals. The chief attraction: a sumptuous supper which, each year, gives

you the opportunity to try a new product. How about ostrich, bison or red deer? Enjoy your meal!

► Information: (450) 537-3989

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ John Caldwell Abbott (1821-1893), the first Canadian-born Prime Minister to be elected in Canada (1891), was born in St. Andrews East.
- ◆ The first Canadian paper mill was built in St. Andrews East in 1803 by the American, Walter Ware.
- ◆ A part of Pierre Falardeau's movie, *15 février 1839*, was filmed in Saint-André-Est.

References

For more information about the history and heritage of Saint-André-Est, refer to the web site of *la MRC d'Argenteuil* at www.argenteuil.qc.ca.



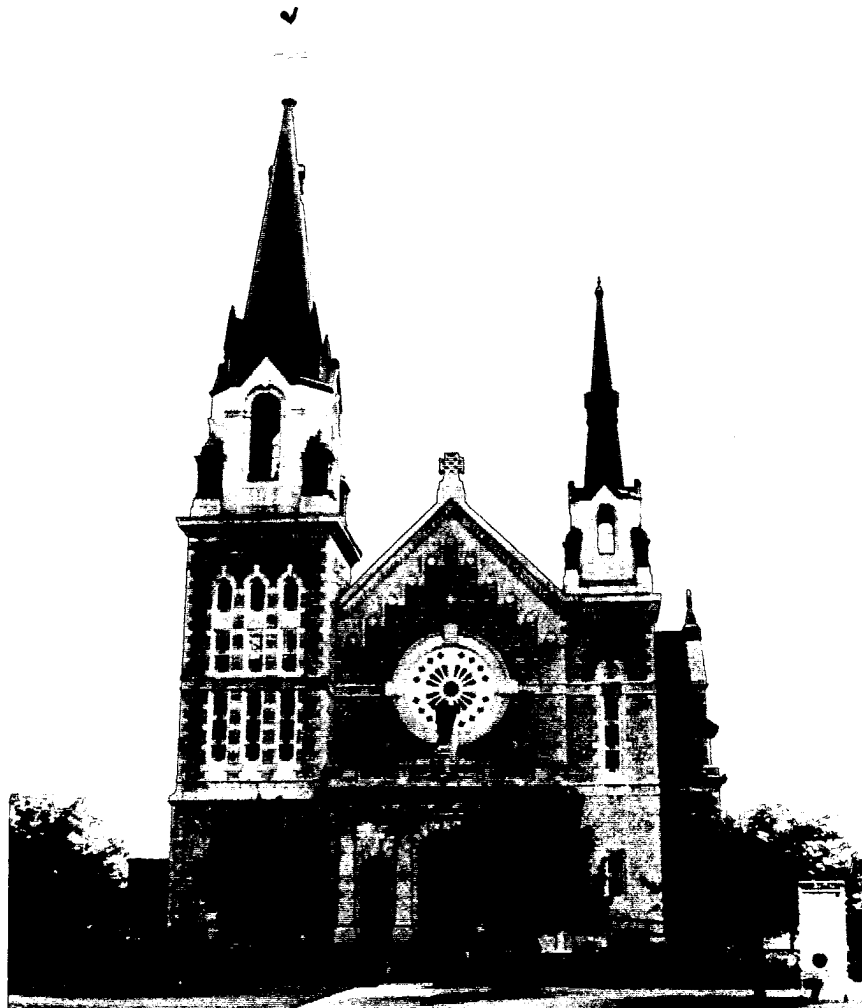
La maison Macdonell-Williamson House, Pointe Fortune.
(Photo: Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House.)



L'église Saint Joachim Church, Chute-à-Blondeau.
(Photo: Jean-Paul Picard/Archdiocèse d'Ottawa.)



L'église Saint Joachim Church, Chute-à-Blondeau.
(Photo: Jean-Paul Picard/Archdiocèse d'Ottawa.)



L'église Saint-Alphonse-de-Liguori Church,
Hawkesbury.
(Photo: Jean-Paul Picard/Archdiocèse d'Ottawa.)



L'église St. Andrew's Church, L'Original.
(Photo: Jean-François Bédard.)



L'église de la Nativité/
Church of the Nativity, L'Orignal.
(Photo: Jean-François Bédard.)



L'Original: L'ancien couvent
des Soeurs de la Charité d'Ottawa/
The old convent of the Ottawa Sisters of Charity.
(Photo: Jean-François Bédard.)



The Anchorage, L'Original.
(Photo: Jean-François Bédard.)



La prison de l'Original/L'Original Jail, L'Original.
(Photo: Jean-François Bédard.)



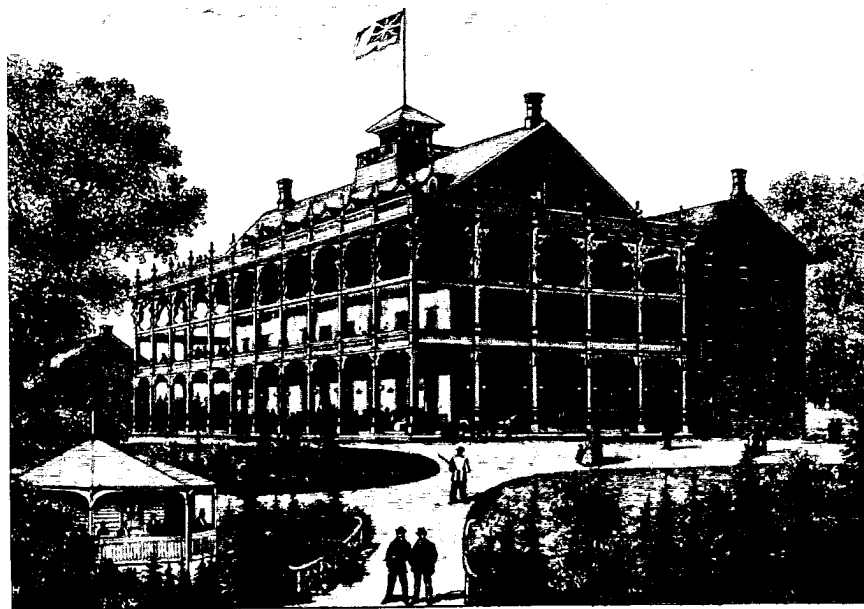
L'église Saint-Thomas Church, Lefavre.
(Photo: Jean-Paul Picard/Archdiocèse d'Ottawa.)



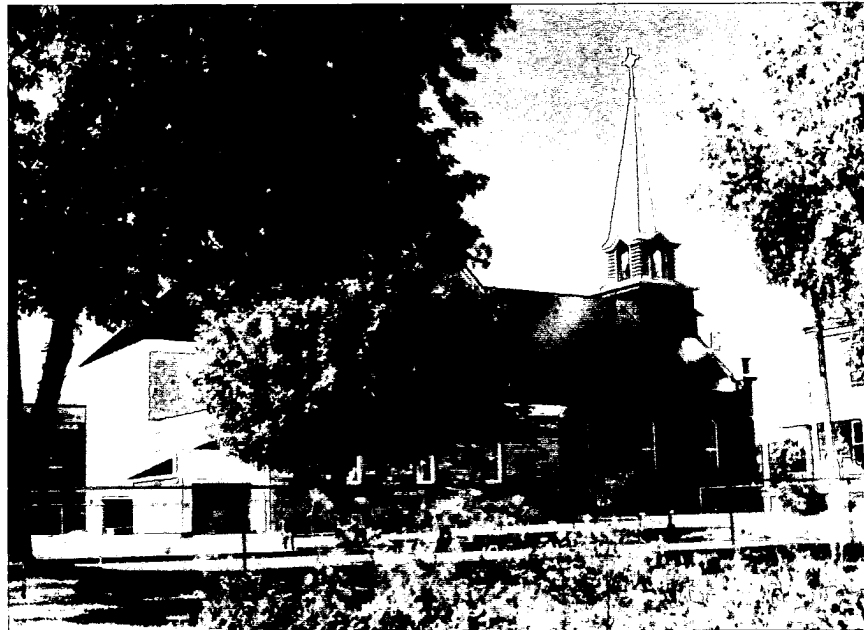
La station thermale/The thermal springs building, Caledonia Springs.
(Photo: Michel Prévost.)



Des ruines de l'usine d'embouteillage/Bottling factory ruins,
Caledonia Springs.
(Photo: Michel Prévost.)



Caledonia Springs Grand Hotel du Caledonia Springs.
(Photo: Archives nationales du Canada, C 65856,
National Archives of Canada.)



L'église Saint-Victor Church, Alfred.
(Photo: Jean-Paul Picard/Archdiocèse d'Ottawa.)



Montebello: Manoir Papineau.
(Photo: © Parcs Canada/J.P. Jérôme/1996.)



Calumet: L'ancienne gare/ The old train station.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Calumet: L'église Saint-Ludger Church.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Grenville: La maison Pridham/Desforges House.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Grenville: Manoir du Canal.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



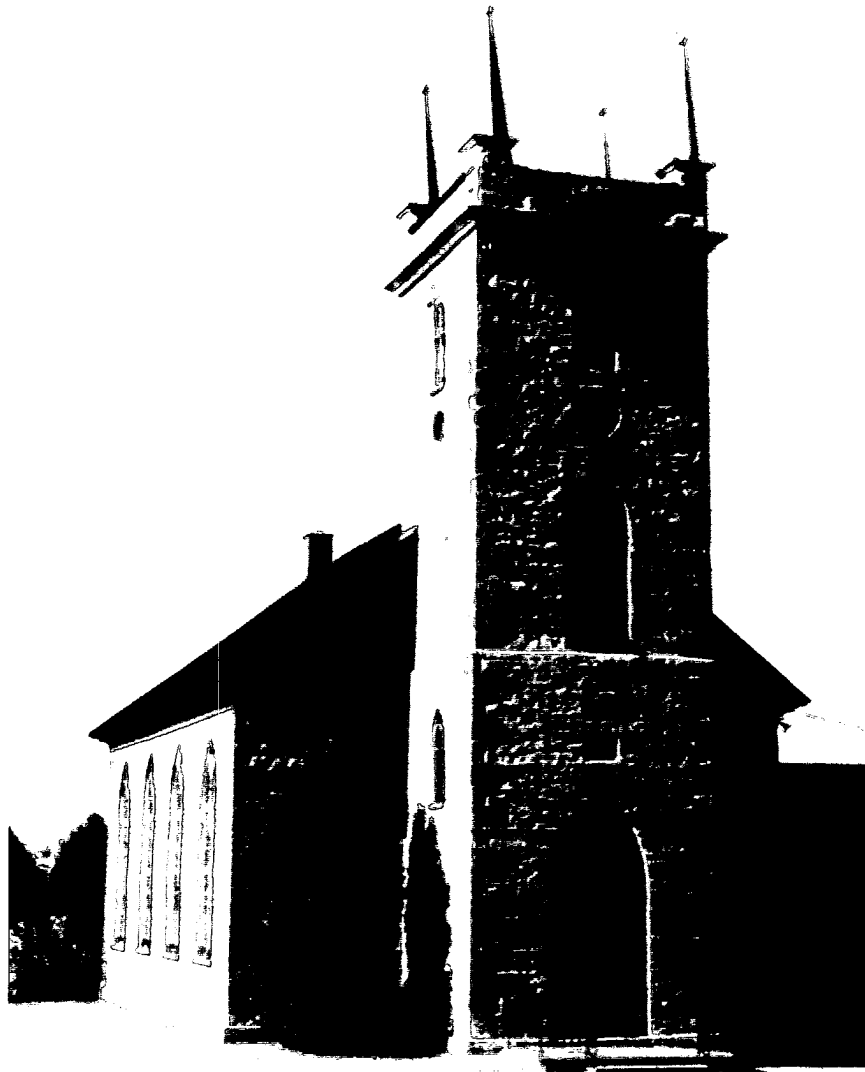
Grenville: L'église St. Matthew's Church.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Cushing: L'ancien magasin général/Old general store.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Cushing: L'église St. Giles Church.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)



Grenville: L'église St. Mungo Church, Cushing.
(Photo: MRC d'Argenteuil.)

