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Serving Prince Edward
County for 100 Years
1905 – 2005

Self-guided DRIVING TOURS Prince Edward County

DRIVING TOUR 1 2 hours and 14 minutes

Wellington, Hillier, Ameliasburgh, & Sophiasburgh

Starting Point:

**Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce, →
116 Main Street, Picton.**



1. Drive West for *approximately 8 km* on Main Street West (Hwy #33) to Bloomfield, make a left in Bloomfield to continue on the Loyalist Parkway to Wellington (Hwy #33) [*10 minutes*]
2. Continue on Loyalist Parkway (Hwy #33) / Wellington Main Street for *approximately 10 km* till you reach Beach Street. Turn left onto Beach Street and take a look at the **Wellington Public Beach**. [*10 minutes*]
3. Turn around and go back to Wellington Main Street and then make a left turn. On your left hand side at **239 Wellington Main Street** stands one of **Ontario's first stone houses ever built** [*.6 km (2 minutes)*].
4. Continue to the **Wellington Library** on your left at 261 Main Street. This is the new home of the **County Archives**.
5. Continuing for *.3 km* on the right hand side of Wellington Main Street stands the **Wellington Museum**.
6. If you travel along Wellington Main Street (Loyalist Parkway #33) you will find many of the Prince Edward County wineries. Check your County Red Map for the locations of each of the wineries. Don't forget to stop and taste and of course buy the excellent wines.
7. Continue on the Loyalist Parkway / Hwy #33 for approximately 9 km; make a left hand turn onto County Road #27 (North Beach Road) to **North Beach Provincial Park**. [*7 minutes*]

8. Turn around and head back 2 km to the Loyalist Parkway Hwy #33. Make a left onto Hwy #33. While driving you will pass by the **Consecon Mill Dam Conservation Area**. [6.4 km, approximately 6 minutes]
9. Continue on Hwy #33 (Loyalist Parkway) for 1 km, you will pass by Salem Road where the **Whitney Memorial Dam Conservation Area** is located.
10. Continue on Hwy #33 (Loyalist Parkway) for approximately 2 km; make a right turn onto County Road #19 [2 minutes].
11. Continue on County Road #19 for approximately 9 km. On the left hand side is the **Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre**, on your right hand side is the **Ameliasburgh Museum** and right across from the museum is the **Harry Smith Conservation Area**. [7 minutes]
12. Continue on County Road #19 then make a left onto County Road #23 [3 km, approximately 4 minutes]. Drive approximately 5.3 km (5 minutes) then make a left onto Barley Road. At the stop sign make a right onto County Road #3 (Rednersville Road). Located on the right hand side is the **Rednersville General Store** [.9 km, approximately 1 minute].
13. Continue 6.3 km on County Road #3, when you reach Hwy #62, make a right hand turn. [6 minutes]
14. Continue 13 km on Hwy #62 to County Road #14. Make a left hand turn onto County Road #14. [10 minutes]
15. On County Road #14 you will pass by the **Demorestville Dam Conservation Area**.
16. Continue on County Road #14 for approximately 9 km then make a left turn onto County Road #15 [7 minutes]. Follow County Road #15 till **Northport**. Check out some of the local stores. (9.7km, approximately 9 minutes).
17. Continue on County Road #15, then make a left hand turn onto Foster Road. Make another left hand turn on to Fish Lake Road. (4.3 km, approximately 8 minutes)
18. Continuing on Fish Lake Road for approximately 7.6 km, on the right hand side is Fish Lake [12 minutes].
19. At the stop sign make a left hand turn onto County Road #5. Continue on County Road #5 to County Road #6; turn right on Hwy #62 to Picton. Take a right at the stop sign to get onto Main Street Picton. At the next stop sign take a right and then on your left hand side at 116 Main Street is the Chamber of Tourism and Commerce, where you began. [9.6 km approximately 9 minutes]

Driving Tour 1 - Tour Details

Wellington, Hillier, Ameliasburgh, & Sophiasburgh



Wellington is situated on the shores of Lake Ontario with a view of the largest freshwater dunes in the world at Sandbanks Provincial Park.

Around 1770, fur trapper Daniel Reynolds traveled north from New York State to escape “overpopulation.” This area’s first white settler built himself a shack where Wellington now stands and later - with help from his Indian friends and using rocks from the beach - he built one of Ontario’s first stone houses still standing today at 239 Main Street.

The County of Prince Edward **Historical Archives** is located in the Wellington library and is an excellent resource for anyone interested in local history, including the people, events, and properties of Prince Edward County. The mandate of the archives is to collect and preserve printed material having any bearing on the history of Prince Edward County.



In the 1800s Wellington was a busy shipping port with docks, warehouses, a shipyard, brewery and foundry. Fishing was serious stuff, with one spectacular haul of 40,000 whitefish recorded taken in one night, and Wellington with its fine harbour and waterfront resorts and hotels was one of the first holiday destinations in the 1800s. Wellington is now in the heart of Prince Edward County’s exciting new wine industry.

Wellington is well known for its Wellington Museum located in the only remaining Quaker Meeting House in Prince Edward County, it has an eclectic collection of items and artefacts showing the history of Wellington and the surrounding area. A stunning collection of early canning labels is the highlight of an exhibit that conveys the importance of the canning industry in Prince Edward County.



Hillier is located on the Loyalist Parkway on a small river that runs into Pleasant Bay. The village of Hillier was busy in the 1800s building ships and growing barley. After the barley bust traditional farming and cheese making flourished and resorts were built on Huycks Bay and Pleasant Bay.

In the early and mid 20th century canning was king, but when canning died in the 1950s, the village dwindled and homes and farms were abandoned. Now Hillier rides into the 21st century on a wave of wine and vineyards and expectation.

In Hillier the vines grow right up to the village, and its fine old buildings and the visionaries restoring them put Hillier on a course to becoming the closest thing in Ontario to a true European style "wine village."

Hillier's heart is agricultural with cash crops and dairy farmers, many vineyards and even a lavender farm. The Village has been almost abandoned for ages but now with the many wineries and vineyards in the area, it is starting to flourish once again.



Also in the Hillier ward is the village of **Consecon**, which is built on Weller's Bay. The name Consecon comes from Indian words for "an opening" and "pickerel," and the town's waterfront location is an important part of its past and future. Samuel Champlain made camp

here in the 1600s, Kente Mission was established nearby, and European settlers arrived in the early 1800s. They dammed the river to power grist and saw mills, and the town flourished until the new Highway 33 passed it by in the 1960s.

Located in Consecon, we have the Consecon Dam Conservation Area. The Dam was constructed in 1975. The dam regulates the water level of Consecon Creek within the village, the creek eventually drains into Weller's Bay. The primary purpose of the dam is flood control and low flow augmentation.

Also located in the village of Consecon is the **North Beach Provincial Park**, which protects one of the several bay mouth sandbars in Prince Edward County. The 1.2-kilometre ribbon of sand shelters tiny North Bay from Lake Ontario.



Originally **Ameliasburgh** Township was known as the Seventh Town of the original Ten Towns of Upper Canada, and was settled by United Empire Loyalists in 1784. The village of Ameliasburgh was named in 1787 after Princess Amelia, the 15th child of King George III. Ameliasburgh rests on Roblin Lake, which was housed by grist, and flour mills that drew the lake's water to the mill located in what is now **Harry J. Smith Conservation area**.

Ameliasburgh was originally called Roblin's Mills until 1832 when the post office opened. Villagers chose to change the name to avoid confusion with another Roblin's Mills to the east.

The **Ameliasburgh Historical Museum** has become well known as one of the finest local museums of Ontario. Ameliasburgh Historical Museum has grown from one building, in 1968, to a complex of many buildings and attractions. The main building was built in 1868 as a Wesleyan Methodist Church.



It became a United Church in 1925 and served the community until 1967 when it was closed. The Ameliasburgh Township Council purchased the church from the United Church of Canada for the sum of \$1.00 and the community officially opened its museum on June 30, 1968. In the glass fronted showcases displayed all manner of heirlooms, loaned and arranged by township families. Over the years, several additional buildings have been added to the site such as: a log cabin donated in 1969, display barns, a blacksmith shop with hand pumped bellows and a forge, a sap shanty, barns, bird pens, animal compounds, a large stone building house, a bee-keeping display, a Beatty windmill, dairy / milk house, cheese-making and butter-making memorabilia also, other attractions such as a carpenter's shop, corncribs and a pea viner.

The Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre (MAGRC) is the home of various assets of the 7th Town Historical Society.



In 1990, 7th Town inherited two Trusts from the estate of Marilyn Adams from which flowed the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, formally opened to the public in June of 1994, and as a research centre in August 1994. MAGRC houses the **Adams' Family Museum, Cunningham House**, which is one of the Trusts. The other is a fund from which the interest helps provide the over \$90 per day required to operate the centre. The centre now houses a valuable and rapidly growing collection of genealogical research material and historic items of local, provincial, national and international interest. These donations have been attracted from Canada, the USA and Europe. Many personal and community group collections have been deposited, including:

- Hastings County Land Records for about 100 years prior to 1955
- Tudor & Cashel Township Records, dating back to 1852
- The Klein research on the Trips' of the Bay of Quinte
- Women's Institute Tweedsmuir histories, minute books, and other records
- Dempsey collection
- Douglas Crawford canning factory papers

- Regional assessment records for the Quinte area
- Hessian Research of Johannes (John) Helmut Merz
- Heal Research Papers and Records
- as well as other records, letters, books, Ontario Vital Statistics BMD, map collection and much much more in the genealogy library.

Other resources include access to the Names database and heal database.

Carrying Place

Of considerable historical importance, Carrying Place or the Portage was thought to have a better future than Toronto when water transport was the principal means of travel. Situated on the narrow neck of land separating the western terminus of the Bay of Quinte from Weller's Bay on Lake Ontario, it was a thriving community in the 1800's. Both ends of the old portage route were well developed to accommodate the needs of the tired traveller. Used for centuries by the Indians, Champlain rested here in 1615.



A stone cairn commemorates the signing of the Gunshot Treaty of 1787. *(It was by this treaty that the Mississauga Indians relinquished to the Crown all of their lands stretching from the Bay of Quinte westerly to the Etobicoke River, including the City of Toronto).*

When Toronto was barely a village, Carrying Place was in the running to be the capital of Ontario. Before the Murray Canal opened a passage for ships in 1889, travelers from Kingston to York knew the spot well.

Long before the white man, Indians portaged the seven miles stretch and gave the place its name. Carrying Place is still a milestone for travelers as they cross the canal that makes the County an island.



Rednersville is named after the Redner family, who settled in Prince Edward County in 1798. In its heart is one of the oldest country store buildings in Ontario, which for more than a century was continuously operated by members of the Redner family, including James Redner, a United Empire Loyalist. With business interests in shipping and merchandising, the Redner family were a significant entrepreneurial force in Prince Edward County. Their general store was the hub of a thriving pioneer community.



Its strategic position on the Bay of Quinte eventually led to prosperity, and Rednersville's location is still its fortune. Today, this historic building has been restored to its original beauty, and stands as one of the finest examples of rural commercial architecture in the area.

Rednersville Road is without a doubt, one of the most beautiful country roads to travel. The shoreline boasts many of Prince Edward County's finest waterfront residences. What make many of the area homes remarkable are the fine landscaping and the abundant natural growth on both sides of Rednersville Road, along with great views across the bay. Naturally, the area is home to many creative and entrepreneurial people. As Rednersville Road follows the shoreline, it is dotted with roadside shops, artists' galleries, and orchards.

Sophiasburgh was the original "Sixth Town" in Upper Canada and was the last township in the County to be settled. **Northport**, settled in the late 1780s, was one of Sophiasburgh's most important communities. Northport had about half the population of the shoreline known as "Marsh Front," where schooners loaded barley, hops and lumber. The northernmost port in the County boasted the first cement dock between Hamilton and Montreal. Six steamers a day would dock there carrying passengers and freight to and from Kingston, Oswego and Montreal. Northport is now a quiet hamlet. Northport attracts holidaymakers to its cottages and B&Bs, and the quiet surroundings, which is ideal for retreats.

In the early 1800s **Demorestville** was a rowdy place with seven taverns and boasted to have the biblical nickname of "Sodom." Eventually the lumberman's town became a respectable village with mills powered by waterfalls, three hotels and thriving businesses. As you enter **Demorestville**, on the right is a conservation area with picnic tables and hiking trails. This hamlet, named after Guillaume de Morest, a French Huguenot descendant, was a thriving community in the 1840s, bustling with activity and supporting a population of 400 persons.

A series of mills were built along the creek from Fish Lake to the Bay of Quinte. In addition to several mills, de Morest built a church, which he turned over to the Methodist faith.

Demorestville Dam Area and reservoir, located in the hamlet of Demorestville, maintains the ground water table for the community. There are also hiking trails on the property.

DRIVING TOUR 2

1 Hour and 17 minutes

**Picton, Hallowell, Bloomfield, Athol Ward, Cherry Valley,
Salmon Point & Point Petre**



Starting Point – Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce, 116 Main Street, Picton.

1. Drive East on Main Street on the right hand side you will see **The Regent Theatre** [.4km]
2. Continue driving East on Main Street, turn right at the stop sign. At the second street on your right turn onto Union Street /County Road #8. Make another right turn onto Pitt Street. Located here is the **District Court House** [.7 km (Approximately 1 minute)]
3. The **County Courthouse** is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Prince Edward County. The jail remained in use as a short-term prison until 1973 and as a local lock-up until 1981. The architecture of the jail remains intact, making this an important historical site.
4. Continuing on Pitt Street at the stop sign make a left onto York Street then at the next stop sign make a left onto Church Street. On the right hand side you will see the **Macaulay Heritage Park**. [.3 km]
5. At the stop sign make a right turn onto County Road #8 (Union Street) follow this for **.5 km** until you reach **Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area** and **Birdhouse City**. There are beautiful walking trails here and be sure to take a look at the replicas of Picton Buildings [.7 km]
6. When exiting the parking lot drive back onto County Road 8 (Union Street) then at the next street on your left, Church Street (County Road. #22), make a left hand turn.
7. Drive *approximately 2 km* on County Road #22; on the right hand side is the **Millennium Lookout**. A few metres further you will notice the **Picton Airport**.
8. Continue on County Road #22 for *approximately 2 km (2 minutes)* till you get to the stop sign then make a left onto County Road #10.
9. Drive for *approximately 6.5 km (6 minutes)* till you reach the stop sign in **Cherry Valley** then make a left turn. (Note: this is still County Road #10)
10. Drive for approximately 2 km then make a right turn onto County Road #24. Follow this road for about 9 km until the end. From this road to the water is the **Provincial Wildlife Area**. [23 km, approximately 20 minutes]
11. Turn around and head back on County Road #24. When you get to the stop sign take a left back onto County Road #10. [10 km, approximately 9 minutes]

12. Continue on County Road #10 for *approximately 2 km*. At the intersection of County Road #10 and #18 take a left onto County Road #18. Continue driving on County Road #18 to the stop sign then make a left hand turn into the **Sandbanks Provincial Park**. [*11 km, approximately 10 minutes*]
13. When entering the **Sandbanks Provincial Park** stay to the right and follow County Road #12 all the way around until you reach Bloomfield. [*15 km, approximately 17 minutes*]
14. Make a left onto the Loyalist Parkway-Hwy #33. Continue driving straight. (Note: Hwy #33 turns into Hwy #62). Drive for approximately 5.6 km (5 minutes) then make a right onto County Road #1. Continue on County Road #1, where you will find interesting places to visit. When you reach the stop sign at the roundabout make the turn to Picton and you will finish back at 116 Main Street [*3 km, approximately 5 minutes*].

Driving Tour 2 - Tour Details

**Picton, Hallowell, Bloomfield, Athol Ward, Cherry Valley,
Salmon Point & Point Petre**

Picton

Merged from two separate villages, the Picton we know today was incorporated in 1837 and grew to become the County's largest town with a population of nearly 5,000. Canada's first Prime Minister,

John A. MacDonald practiced law here as a young man. Dozens of century mansions line the quiet residential streets while fine heritage buildings make up Main Street. A new appreciation of Picton's architecture has spurred conservation and restoration that plays up Main Street's historic facades while developing the businesses within.



The historic **Regent Theatre**, located on Main Street in Picton, has had a rags-to-riches history. Opened in 1922, it has alternately exalted and suffered through changes in the entertainment industry and the whims of its audiences - presenting both film and live shows through the years.

The historic Regent Theatre is the centre for the arts in Prince Edward County, providing the community with a unique venue for live theatre and music.

A rare example of an Edwardian opera house, The Regent's stage is equal in size to that of The Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. Above the stage is a 21 metre (70 foot) fly tower. Original dressing room includes blackboards lining the walls where, in a former era, performers wrote their show's running order. Designed by Toronto architects Warrington and Page for George Cook, The Regent Theatre opened its doors in February 1922 with the Canadian war comedy Mademoiselle from Armentiers. In 1994 The Regent Theatre Foundation, a community based, not-for-profit organization, bought the theatre from the Cook family.



The **Macaulay Heritage Park** is located at Church and Union Streets in Picton.

The main features of the Park are the old Church of St. Mary Magdalene circa 1825; Macaulay House circa 1830; the Parish Cemetery; the Heritage Gardens and Orchard; and, the early 19th century Carriage House.

The Park covers approximately 4.5 acres of beautifully landscaped property nestled at the foot of "Macaulay Mountain". The Whattam's Memorial Walkway connects the site to the **Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area** and **Birdhouse City**.

Macaulay House, the Neo-Classic house was built in 1830 by the Reverend William Macaulay. In the truest sense, it was never a Rectory, as the Diocese did not own it. The restoration, furnishing and decoration of Macaulay House reflects the early 1850's, about the time of Reverend Macaulay's second marriage, to Charlotte Levesconte, when major changes were made to the interior of their home.



The Friends of Macaulay Heritage Park volunteer countless hours to the care, interpretation, research and safekeeping of the Macaulay House. This Anglican Church is the oldest church in the Town of Picton and one of the oldest in Upper Canada. In 1913, construction of a new, larger parish church was completed and old St. Mary Magdalene's was no longer home to the congregation. In 1970, the church building was deeded to the County of Prince Edward to be used as the County Museum. Today, the building stands in the centre of what was once the early village of "Macaulay's Picton". Anne Catherine Geddes, the Reverend Macaulay's first wife, kept detailed diaries of her life at Macaulay House recounting the running of the House and the descriptions of her gardens. Today the gardens have been carefully recreated according to Mrs. Macaulay's accounts. A small orchard has been planted with trees that were grafted with species of apples popular during the mid 19th century. This beautiful cemetery surrounds the oldest Church of England and Ireland in the Quinte area. Several of the headstones have been restored and/or repaired including those in the Macaulay Family Plot. Lofty Black Locust and Maple trees shade the cemetery. Also, Ripley's *Believe it or Not* famous February 31st gravestone is located at this site.

Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area is located on 178 hectares (440 acres). There are over 20 km of trails in the conservation area. In the winter, the trails are used for cross-country skiing and in the summer mountain biking and hiking. The escarpment is forested and you'll find hickory, ash, oak and maple. This is a great birding area frequented by ovenbirds, grosbeaks, woodthrushes and many, many more. Featuring a steep east-west escarpment rising some 40 metres above the local terrain. There is plenty to see here from famed Birdhouse City with its over 100 miniature reproductions of local buildings.



Trails explore lowlands, a limestone plateau, and a wooded escarpment featuring a climax deciduous forest and one unique colony of eastern hemlock. Wildflowers abound in the woods during spring and in summer nesting birds include red-eyed vireo, wood thrush, great-crowned flycatcher and ovenbird. The conservation area is named after the late William Macaulay, the son of a United Empire Loyalist, who donated much of the land where Picton is located today.

Birdhouse City was created when it was decided that if one birdhouse looked good, then a few more would look even better. Designed as a community involvement project, schools, businesses, individuals and groups all got on the bandwagon, coming up with over 80 birdhouses, most of them reproductions of historic buildings and other recognizable structures.



Signs such as Finch Avenue and Swallow Drive served to guide visitors around the complex, designed in the shape of a wagon wheel, much the same as the city of Goderich, with the courthouse forming the nucleus and side streets radiating out from the hub. Since its creation in 1978, Birdhouse City has attracted thousands of people, and feature stories have appeared in publications from as far away as Montreal and Toronto.

If you are interested in military history visit the War Museum located at the **Royal Canadian Legion**. This impressive 1863 brick building was a private home at one time for Walter Ross, one of Picton's most successful merchants and financiers.

Bloomfield

Settled in 1799, the village was called Bull's Mills after its water-powered mills. By 1833 the community deserved the prettier name of Bloomfield. Bloomfield was a Quaker stronghold with three friends' meetinghouses. The first Quaker school established in the 1840s became West Lake Boarding School that still stands on the Loyalist Parkway. There were water and steam powered mills, shingle and stove factories, a cannery, a cheese factory, a brick factory and more. Rich farmland made Bloomfield prosperous and its gracious past is preserved in Main Street's fine red brick houses while the funky 1950s Mustang Drive-In, one of the last in Ontario, is part of Bloomfield's 20th century history.



H.J. McFarland Conservation Area

In 1987, Mrs. H.J. McFarland donated this property in memory of her late husband and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the H.J. McFarland Construction Company. Very active in local government, McFarland served the town as mayor from 1951 to 1970, and again in 1973. The 183 metres of shoreline offer a panoramic view of the county's bluffs and escarpments.

The conservation area also has a boat launch giving boaters access to Picton harbour and the Bay of Quinte.

Sandbanks Provincial Park

Giant sand dunes and golden beaches form two of the largest freshwater baymouth sandbars in the world are here, on the shores of Lake Ontario. Efforts to stabilize shifting sands disturbed by farming have revived distinctive dune plants such as bluets, butterfly weed and sand spurge. Trails feature dune stairs to protect this delicate vegetation.



The Sandbanks Provincial Park boasts three sandy beaches, Outlet Beach, Sandbanks Beach and Dunes Beach, among the largest and most beautiful beaches in Ontario, with golden sand and sparkling water.

Windsurfing, sailing, canoeing and boating compete with sunbathing and swimming as favourite park activities.

Cherry Valley

Though its Cherry trees perished in harsh winters long ago, "The Valley" is still one of the prettiest hamlets in the County. On the shores of East Lake, Cherry Valley built ships in the 1800s and one legend tells of treasure buried in the Outlet Sand Bar by French sailors fleeing the British in the Seven Years War. The village had a tavern, barbers, shoemakers, merchants and blacksmiths.

The last smithy closed his doors in 1964 after 56 years. Now it's a peaceful cluster of historic houses around a fine old church with newer houses and farms radiating outwards and lively holiday resorts along the lake.

Located at **Point Petre** and **Point Traverse** are **Provincial Wildlife Areas**. During migration season there are hundreds of species that have been observed which is why there is a bird banding station on the point.

Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area provides a critical place of rest for migrating wildlife. Songbirds, raptors and other species gather by the thousands during migration to rest and feed before they continue on their journey. There is a broad diversity of habitat on the point, both on land and water, and food is abundant.

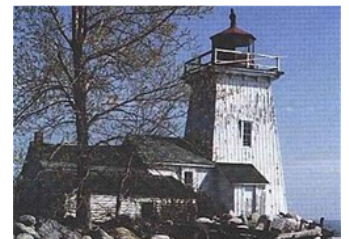


The north shore is made up of spectacular limestone cliffs.

The south side is low and has rocky beaches. The deep waters and shoals off the tip of the peninsula are used extensively by diving and sea ducks during migration and wintering. The interior is mainly grassland and scrubland, which was once used as pasture, but there are also ponds and small lakes, mixed forests and alvars that are rocky barrens, which develop on flat bedrock with little soil or vegetation.

During spring and autumn, Prince Edward Point is a vital concentration point for migrants along the lower Great Lakes. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded on the point, including songbirds, waterfowl, owls and hawks. In autumn, thousands of migrating hawks and owls take advantage of the open fields to hunt for rodents. Monarch Butterflies and various bats also pass through during migration. The area is a valuable sanctuary for bird species at risk that need grassland habitat. The point is also home to one of the largest concentrations of Eastern Garter Snakes in South-Eastern Ontario.

Salmon Point Lighthouse built in 1871 to mark an area of shoals just offshore. The lighthouse had a relatively short life - about 60 years. It wasn't one of the tallest on the lake, standing only a mere 35 feet tall, but it just might have been one of the most important. Why?



Mariners had nicknamed this point "Wicked Point" being that it was such a navigational nightmare when they rounded the western edge of Quinte Isle.

Check out the shipwreck map at the Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce.

Driving Tour – 3 1 hour and 34 minutes

**South Marysburgh, Milford, South Bay & Black River,
North Marysburgh, Waupoos, Glenora & Cressy**



Starting Point – Prince Edward County

Chamber of Tourism & Commerce, 116 Main Street, Picton.

1. Drive East on The Loyalist Parkway – Hwy. #33 (Main Street) direction **Glenora Ferry**. (Approximately 9 km, 8 minutes)
2. Turn right on County Road #7 (.5 km). Follow for about 1 km to **Lake On the Mountain Provincial Park** (3 Minute Drive)
3. Follow County Road #7 for approximately 18 km out to **Prinyer's Cove** (Note: County Road #7 turns into County Road #8) [15 Minutes].
4. Keep following County Road #8 till you reach #3333 which is the **Rose House Museum** (Approximately 10 km, 10 minutes). Along the route (County Road #8) you will find many interesting places to stop and experience cheese and wine tasting and the many fruits and vegetable stands of the Waupoos area.
5. Continue on County Road #8 which will turn into County Road #13.
6. Continue on County Road #13 for approximately 5.6 km till you reach **Mariners Park Museum** on your left hand side. [4 minutes]
7. Continue for about 17.5 km on County Road #13 till you reach **Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area** [14 minutes].
8. Turn around and go back on County Road #13, follow for approximately 12 km then make a left onto County Road #10 (across from Mariners Park Museum) [9minutes]
9. Drive for approximately 5 km until the stop sign in Milford then make a right turn onto County Road #17. As you cross the bridge you can see the **Milford Mill Pond** to your left. [5 minutes]
10. Continue on County Road #17, on your right hand side stands **Mount Tabor Playhouse**.
11. Continue on County Road. 17 for approximately 10 km (8 minutes) then take a left onto County Road #8. Follow for approximately 3 km (3 minutes) then take a left onto Bridge Street (Loyalist Parkway #33). At the top of the hill make a left onto Picton Main Street, continue till 116 Main Street. [Approximately 15 km (14 minutes)]

Driving Tour 3 - Tour Details

South Marysburgh, -Milford, South Bay & Black River,
North Marysburgh, Waupoos, Glenora & Cressy



Milford

Milford village and its beautiful millpond are situated near the upper end of the Black River. In the 1800 and 1900s Milford had flourishing sawmills, grist and carding mills, and craftsmen built schooners that were floated down the river to Lake Ontario.

Mount Tabor Playhouse

In 1967 the Township of South Marysburgh purchased Mount Tabor United Church from the United Church of Canada. The building was used annually during the fair. In the mid 1980's the Marysburgh Mummies began using the playhouse for productions. As the productions and participation increased, the theatre was improved. Mount Tabor was rented for various concerts and live theatre productions due to the intimate theatre setting with excellent acoustics. In 1997 the Township of South Marysburgh, the South Marysburgh Recreation Committee, the Milford Fair Board and the Mummies started a major renovation of the back room of the theatre. Bredin Hall was built to replace the old leaky back room. On January 1, 1998, the County of Prince Edward became the owner of Mount Tabor Playhouse through amalgamation. Over the course of time, Mount Tabor has become the focal point of community theatre in the County and popular for Live Theatre, Concerts, Jamborees, CD Launches, Parties and Weddings.



Located in South Marysburgh ward overlooking South Bay is the

Mariners' Park Museum and the **Mariners' Lighthouse.**

Its mandate is the preservation and interpretation of the significant maritime history of Prince Edward County and the Province of Ontario, and to help visitors rediscover their rich maritime heritage and that wonderful pioneering spirit which enabled commerce in this developing new country to be conducted in a human and meaningful way. It does this by the preservation of tangible evidence of the lives of those who sailed the lakes, or seas, or, as fishermen, sought to wrest a living from the nearby waters. The museum portrays how local families and their work were affected by the waters around the county.



Many hundreds of nautical artefacts of early vessels of the Great Lakes, both steam and sail, from papers, photographs, vessel models, early motors, various types of engines, deck houses, to early birch bark canoes (1700s), even a Lighthouse, are displayed for "hands on" inspection and enjoyment.

False Duck Island Lighthouse

On March 25, 1828 the Province passed an act granting 1000 British pounds for the erection of a "good and sufficient lighthouse on False Duck Island." Three commissioners were appointed to supervise the construction to be situated on the east point of False Duck Island three miles off Point Traverse, at the South Eastern corner of the County of Prince Edward. The lantern, manufactured in England, housed a fresnal lens of French manufacture. Its tower was 62 feet above highwater. The fixed white light beacon could be seen for 13 miles. The last lighthouse keeper was James McConnell, who extinguished the light in the lighthouse on November 3, 1965. Following its closure the iron superstructure, lantern and light were donated to the Prince Edward Historical Society to become a memorial to the County's many sailors. It was erected at what are now adjoining Mariners' Park Museum, Lighthouse Park, and South Bay.



Little Bluff C.A.

Steeped in history and rich in natural features, this conservation area, located atop a 20 meter high limestone bluff, commands a panoramic view of Prince Edward Bay and the rugged shoreline of the southern reach of the county. This quiet shoreline is actually a barrier beach, effectively protecting a small wetland from the windswept waters of Prince Edward Bay. Here, Canada geese, mallards, great blue herons, bitterns and Virginia rails find the protected habitat they require. Here there are remains of grain storage and docking facility where schooners once loaded barley destined for Oswego.



The County's Cheese Production

To truly understand the history of cheese making in the County, you must first know something of its rich marine and agricultural history. It is hard to separate the County's history from the history of the numerous cheese factories that once were here. The County was settled by the United Empire Loyalists (UELs) in 1784, most of them having left the United States at gunpoint.

After the war of Independence, they were viewed as traitors, and nicknamed Tories. The UELs cleared their land, built log cabins and developed communities. It took many years for a dairy industry to develop. The industry developed most rapidly following a 50-year period (1850-1900) of tremendous prosperity that history has named the "Barley Days", when malting barley was grown and shipped in locally made schooners to breweries across Lake Ontario and sold at a premium price as it was highly regarded by the American brewers. This all ended in 1900 when the Americans created a free trade barrier called the McKinley Tariff. Farmers were looking for another source of income and an existing dairy industry expanded very quickly when new markets for cheddar cheese were found in Great Britain.



Because of our proximity to the shipping ports in Lake Ontario, the 90 pound round cheeses of that period could be loaded locally and shipped to Montreal for overseas export. The local cheese auction was centralized in Belleville in the 1940's and a Dutch clock method was used to sell the cheese. Since no form of refrigeration existed the perishable milk was delivered 7 days a week, and kept cool in wells in the summer. Most farms were within a 3-mile radius of the factories because of poor roads and the perish ability of the milk. It was an early morning job to get the cows to the barn, milk them by hand, and have the milk in the milk cans by 7 am to be picked up by the milk man. The factories were seasonally operated, usually opening in April when pasture for the cows became available, through till the end of October, usually the end of the outdoor pasture season. The factory would remain closed over the winter until the following year.

Attractively situated on the **Milford Mill Pond**, one of the features of this area is the historic **Scott's Mill**. Once open to the public, the mill is closed now, but a volunteer group is currently in the process of maintaining the site. The property also contains the Milford Dam.



Beaver Meadow C.A.

This area features a large wetland that harbours beavers, wood ducks, osprey and herons. Deciduous woods and a large plantation of wildlife shrubs on the property are excellent for songbirds. There are two short hiking trails each ending at a scenic observation platform overlooking the wetland.

Wild ginger, trilliums, baneberry, jack-in-the-pulpit and Indian-pipe are some of the wildflowers that may be found here, along with a mix of deciduous trees including white birch, American beech, black walnut, butternut, shagbark hickory and 6 species of maples.

When the property was set aside as a conservation area in the 1970s, a number of wildlife shrubs were planted in the fields beside the access road such as caragana, nannyberry, highbush cranberry, multiflora rose, dogwoods, sumacs and both Russian and autumn olives.

For a short, but intense period in the early 1900s Beaver Meadow existed as an experimental farm complex. G.W. McMullen was involved in growing celery and mushrooms, harvesting sugar turnips, producing maple syrup, raising chickens and manufacturing explosives. Quinte Conservation acquired the property in 1970 to be managed for wildlife.

Following the American Revolution of 1776 the **Township of Marysburgh** was one of many established for the settlement of United Empire Loyalists. Named in honour of Princess Mary, a daughter of King George III, it became home to a small group of disbanded German mercenaries under former Lieutenant Baron von Reitzenstein. This party, numbering about 40 persons, was one of the earliest German-speaking groups to settle in Ontario.

Waupoos

Waupoos (named for the Indian word for rabbit) has a colourful history shaped by its once remote coastline and distance from the mainstream of commerce in the old days. Settled in 1783, Waupoos fostered shipbuilding, fishing, farming, canning and even rum running during Prohibition. Always agricultural, the beautiful settlement grew and canned its own supplies. The last canning factory is now the **Waupoos Marina**.

Locals tells how rum runners once hid their booze from the feds by moving it from Main Duck Island to the Waupoos shoreline where a human chain transported it to the safety of a farmer's barn until the coast was clear.



Rose House Museum

Rose House has survived since the early 1800s with few alterations, inhabited by 5 generations of the Rose family. Peter Rose arrived in Prince Edward County among first Marysburgh settlers, made up largely of United Empire Loyalists and Hessian (German) mercenaries who had fought for the British in the American Revolution.



According to tradition, Rose House is constructed from salvaged timber from the community's original Lutheran Church. Peter and his wife, Christina Bongard, raised 11 children in this modest farmhouse.

Lake on the Mountain

Lake on the Mountain is a natural curiosity: it has a constant flow of clean, fresh water, with no apparent source, 60 metres above Lake Ontario. Mohawks offered gifts to its spirits, while settlers thought



it was bottomless. It defies all known geographical and geological theory because Lake on the Mountain has no visible water source. The mystery of the lake has played a prominent role in the cultural history of the land the Mohawks called it Onokenoga, or Lake of the Gods, and believed that spirits dwelled within its deep waters; each spring they offered gifts to the spirits to ensure a successful crop in the coming year. Early settlers believed the lake was bottomless and still others thought Lake on the Mountain led to a subterranean passage and distant water source.

Prinyer's Cove

Prinyer's Cove is a deep, sheltered anchorage on the tip of Prince Edward County near the Upper Gap. It was first occupied by First Nations people millennia ago. The story of Prinyer's Cove links back to a small band of defeated and exiled Highlanders. In 1745 Charles Edward Stuart, or Bonnie



Prince Charlie as he was known, descendant of the (eventually) headless Charles I and his heirs, decided to invade England by way of Scotland and restore the Stuart family fortunes. Initially, the rising was a startling success. The Jacobite army rapidly broke out of the Highlands, capturing Edinburgh and advancing as far south as Derby in England. However, with no sign of French support, the army retreated back to their stronghold in the Highlands. Finally, at Colloden Moor, near Inverness, on April 16 1746, two thousand Scots were cut down and butchered in the space of thirty minutes. The rebellion was over. In the aftermath of the '45 uprising the English decided to end the Jacobite military threat once and for all. Jacobites were rounded up, imprisoned or executed.

The only way for a Scot to wear a kilt and carry a claymore was to serve in an English highland regiment. In despair, and with their culture and way of life destroyed, many did just that. Archibald Macdonnell was the leader of a handful of Scots families whose men attached themselves to Sir William Johnson's 84th Highlanders in the Mohawk Valley during the American Revolution. When the English cause was lost, they found themselves in a refugee camp opposite Quebec City. After an arduous journey to the "Catarqui towns" in the spring of 1784, MacDonnell landed his group of highlanders, German, English and Irish soldiers on the shores of Grog Bay, which soon took the name of Macdonnell's Cove. They camped in tents and brush huts, waiting for John Collins to complete the survey of the township so they could draw lots for their farms.

MacDonnell established his own house on the shores of the cove - built by the ship's carpenters, it was said. As there was at that time no local system of government, he filled the role of chieftain, arbiter of disputes and spokesman for his settlers for many years. Eventually, he was appointed a colonel of militia and justice of the peace. And so Macdonnell and his people at last found refuge and freedom in the woods of Upper Canada. When Macdonnell died without children, his farm passed to his niece. The name of the quiet cove changed one last time the surname of her husband, John Prinyer.

Glenora Ferry

The Glenora Ferry has long been one of the lifelines of Prince Edward County. Glenora itself became the heart of community and industry, and Van Alstine's mill was often the first view of the County for early settlers. Through the years, several people have managed the vital ferry link with



the mainland, until it became a government-operated, year round service in recent years. When General Frederick Haldimand ordered the surveying of townships into the western wilderness from the old Province of Quebec to facilitate the settlement of United Empire Loyalists, it was only natural that the north shores of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario would be chosen for this purpose. The Loyalists would be settled along watercourses in 1784, which would accommodate transportation and communication. The protected shoreline of the Bay of Quinte and the powerful St. Lawrence River system determined this ribbon development into the interior.

Waves of settlers following the early Loyalists maintained this pattern of settlement along riverfront and lake strand as long as this land was to be found. The wilderness land of Upper Canada could only be traversed with great difficulty. The lakes, rivers and bays became pathways for people and

goods in canoes, skiffs, scows and bateaux. An important element in the early marine network was the ferry, the link between path and road and the fording of river and bay.

The Bay of Quinte spawned many early ferries along the shore to link roads and settlements, the Glenora ferry being one of the earliest and most important.

Currently bridging the Ontario Heritage Highway 33 across the Bay of Quinte, the Glenora Ferry once linked the pioneer lakeshore road from Kingston to York. The ferry is located at a very narrow part of the Adolphus Reach, less than a mile across this part of the Bay of Quinte.

