Historical Highlights of Williamstown



The Glengarry Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum: Specializing in the history of the United Empire Loyalists' migration to Canada and the North West Company, The Glengarry Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum tells the story of how Williamstown was first settled. Housed in an Georgian-era school which educated children from the area for a century, this hidden gem features two stories of exhibits and is open for drop-in tours throughout the summer.



The Bethune-Thompson House: This historic house was first built in 1784 by a Loyalist settler using the French-Canadian "poteaux sur sol" technique. It was acquired by Reverend John Bethune, the first Presbyterian minister of Upper Canada at St. Andrews Church, in 1804. Later, it was purchased by famous mapmaker and surveyor David Thompson. While still in use as a private residence, visitors who are interested may stop by on Sundays for a tour if the owners



St. Mary's Catholic Church: St. Mary's is on land located donated by wealthy Nor'Wester Hugh McGillis. It was in the constructed 1840's in the Gothic style using quarry stone and renovated and redecorated in 1916.



The Sir John Johnson Manor House: The Manor House was originally built in the late 18th century for Sir John Johnson- wealthy Loyalist settler, leader of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and superintendent of Indian Affairs. The property was chosen for its ideal location for a grist and sawmill which operated for a number of years. It is open to visitors throughout the summer.

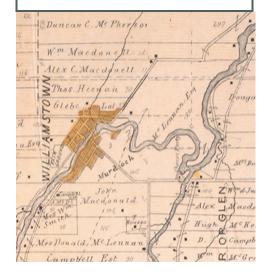
St. Andrews United

Church: This building began construction in 1812 and due to the war was completed slowly over the coming years. It originally operated as a Kirk of Scotland Presbyterian Church, and also once held services in Gaelic. It has been operating as a United Church since 1925.



Williamstown: A Walking Tour

"Presented by the Glengarry Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum, this brochure provides an illustrated map of Williamstown highlighting 5 main historical sites as well as other local favourites to complete your tour. Along with the map, each historical site is given a brief description of its history and present-day operations."



Map of Williamstown:



Settled in 1784, Williamstown is home to several landmarks which provide a window into our historical roots. With a population of under 500, and nestled beside the Raisin River, it is known for having retained its small-town charm. While you are exploring its wonderful history, it is well worth while to stop in at A.L. MacDonald Grocery/Ye Olde Bridge Café or Jack's Pub for a bite to eat, and the Paul Rozon Memorial Park if you have kids. Enjoy your visit!!