

# Niagara-on-the-Lake

Generations of Native Canadians lived in this area centuries before the first permanent settlers arrived during the American Revolution. These native people gave the river the name Niagara.

In the winter of 1778/9, Butler's Rangers, a Loyalist Regiment, came from the overcrowded Fort Niagara to build barracks here and the following year a few of their families began farming. The community multiplied after the Revolutionary War ended, when hundreds of disbanded Rangers and other Loyalist refugees were granted land in the town. In 1792, the village became the first capital of Upper Canada (Ontario).

Occupied by enemy troops for seven months in 1813, much of Niagara was burned when the Americans and their Canadian Volunteer supporters retreated.

The rebuilding, begun at the end of the war, started an economic boom which was reinvigorated in the 1830s and 1840s by the activities of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company. However, the second Welland Canal, which opened in the mid-1840s, by-passed Niagara, effectively killing the trans-shipping business.

In the 1870s, the tide turned, at least in the summer time when visitors to the elegant Queen's Royal Hotel and citizen-soldiers training at Camp Niagara swelled the local population. This new period of prosperity continued till the end of World War I when another recession began, lasting until the late 1950s. In the 1960s economic recovery based on heritage, the Shaw Festival and local wineries began. Today, the heritage of the town has been carefully preserved, perfectly complementing current cultural attractions while keeping alive the character of the bygone era.

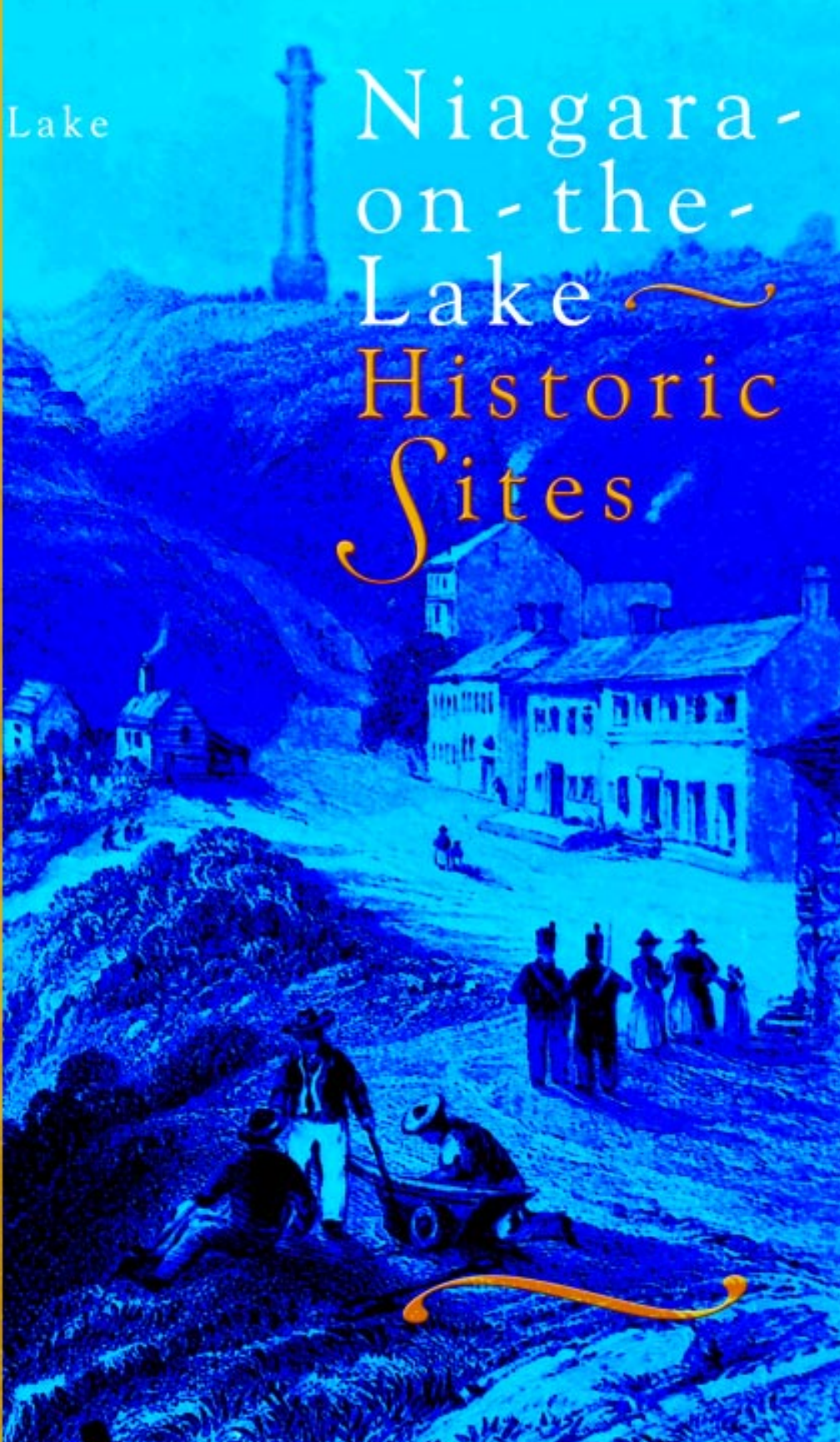
Cover Image: Detail of *Queenston*,  
by W.H. Bartlett, 1840

Niagara Historical Society & Museum Collection

Brochure Graphic Design:

Campbell Creative Services, St. Catharines, Ontario

# Niagara- on-the- Lake ~ Historic Sites



The following pages describe fourteen historic sites which are members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historic Sites Alliance.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Historic Sites Alliance is a local organization that has been formed to promote the public stewardship programs of the historic properties located within the Municipality.

Membership in the Alliance consists of those organizations within the geographic boundary of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake that are administering historic sites or collections and providing a public interpretive program for visitors.

While each site has its own venue and its own interests to promote, the synergy of working together will accomplish much more than working alone. As visitors gain a cohesive awareness of the member sites and their many offerings, they will be encouraged to spend more time exploring the depth of this beautiful and historic community.

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 Non-Staffed Historic Sites

*Rates, hours and events subject to change without notice.*

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum is home to one of the finest collections of early Canadian artifacts and archives.

Founded in 1895, the object of the Society was to encourage the study of Canadian History and literature, to collect and preserve Canadian historical records and relics, and to build Canadian loyalty and patriotism.

Under the determined and devoted leadership of Janet Carnochan, sufficient funds were gathered by 1906 to start the construction of Memorial Hall. Memorial Hall was the first building in Ontario designed solely for the use as an historical museum. The Museum has expanded but Memorial Hall is still the focal point as visitors are treated to temporary exhibitions on the main floor of the Hall and permanent displays in the upper gallery.

Visitors today are treated to one of Ontario's most important collections, reflecting the history of one of its oldest settlements. Aboriginal artifacts, early Canadian furniture, General Brock's Hat and chinaware from one of the finest hotels in Canada from the 1880s, the Niagara Historical Museum explores the history of the town and its' people.



**Niagara Historical Society & Museum**



43 Castlereagh Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Open from: May to October, 10:00 - 5:30 p.m. daily  
 November to April, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. daily

Adults \$5.00 Seniors \$3.00  
 Students \$2.00 Children (5 - 12 years) \$1.00

tel: 905-468-3912

e-mail: [nhs@niagara.com](mailto:nhs@niagara.com)

website: [www.niagara.com/~nhs](http://www.niagara.com/~nhs)



The Court House was constructed in 1847 and designed by notable architect, William Thomas, who also designed Grace United Church, Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights, as well as St. Lawrence Hall and St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

Originally built as the seat of government for Lincoln County, the building included a jail, courtroom and market hall. A fine example of Classical Revival style, the facade displays ornate window heads, keystones carved in the form of faces, string courses of varying styles and intricacy, bracketed cornices and an elaborate stone balustraded portico supported by graceful columns.

The Court House has been extensively restored. The courtroom, with its magnificent domed ceiling, hosts public and private functions and houses the Shaw Festival's Court House Theatre. The Lord Mayor's civic reception rooms and an original prison cell are on the main floor. Unusual brick-lined vaulted ceilings in the basement as well as a fireplace originally used to heat a holding cell were carefully retained.



One of the oldest continuing pharmacies in the country, and certainly the oldest in Upper Canada was Field's Drug Store restored as the Niagara Apothecary. The present building was renovated in 1869, when a Henry Paffard moved his business to this address. In the early history of the pharmacy, advertisements referred to its location at the sign of the Golden Mortar, the traditional symbol for an apothecary, frequently used as a decorative hanging sign to identify its position. Many early account books, prescription books, and most of the containers of the old business have been recovered and are on display.

The Ontario College of Pharmacists undertook the restoration with the help of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the federal government. The Niagara Foundation, pledged to the preservation of local heritage, saved this building for posterity by purchasing it from the last owner, a descendant of a Loyalist family. The Ontario Heritage Foundation owns the Apothecary and the Ontario College of Pharmacists operates it.

Notes by Peter J. Stokes.

## The Court House Chamber of Commerce & Visitor & Convention Bureau

26 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Open 7 days a week. May 1 - October 15: 10:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
October 16 - April 30: 10:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
tel: 905-468-1950  
email: [tourism@niagaraonthelake.com](mailto:tourism@niagaraonthelake.com)  
website: [www.niagaraonthelake.com](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com)

## The Niagara Apothecary

5 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Open daily from Mother's Day weekend until Labour Day,  
noon to 6:00 p.m.  
After Labour Day, open weekends and holidays until  
Canadian Thanksgiving, 11:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
No admission fee.  
tel: 905-468-3845  
e-mail: [niagara\\_apothecary@on.aibn.com](mailto:niagara_apothecary@on.aibn.com)



**S**t. Mark's Church had its beginning in 1791, when the Reverend Robert Addison was commissioned as minister of Niagara. He brought with him from England a silver chalice and his library of more than 1500 books, which remain in Addison Hall at St. Mark's. Addison's parish covered all of the little settlements from Niagara to Burlington and Brantford, including the Native People along the Grand River. The Church built in the next few years had among its congregation Sir Isaac Brock, Daniel Claus, Joseph Brant, and John Graves and Elizabeth Simcoe. During the 1812-14 war the Church was used as a hospital by the British and as a barracks by the Americans. The Americans occupied the town in 1813, destroying the Fort and digging rifle pits which can still be seen in the cemetery. Before retreating, the invaders burned most of the town. The walls of the church remained and the British were able to put a roof on them and use it for stores until the fort could be rebuilt. This fine stone building remains the oldest Anglican Church in continuous use in Ontario.



**B**uilt in 1891, the Niagara Pumphouse is the oldest surviving water treatment building in the region. Wood fueled pumps took water from the nearby Niagara River for distribution to the town. In the early years, a large room in the building was used for town balls until a rudimentary electric systems was installed to serve the neighbourhood. A comfortable three bedroom-home was also provided in part of the building for the plant manager.

By 1981, the Niagara River was so contaminated by industrial chemicals that water service was transferred to the St. Catharines plant and the Niagara Pumphouse was retired. The only remaining traces of its past function is a small display showing photographs with an instrument panel in the back hall and a steam driven pump in the yard.

In 1994, the Niagara Pumphouse opened as an art school and gallery. Today it's an attractive and active centre for students, local artists, and community events; featuring exhibits by local artists and workshops for all ages.

## 4 St. Mark's Church

41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
 Open mid-May until September, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Closed Mondays. Services are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
 Weddings may make the church unavailable.  
 Group tours can be arranged.  
 No admission fee. Donations are appreciated.  
 tel: 905-468-3123 (office) fax: 905-468-0073  
 e-mail: stmarks@niagara.com  
 website: www.niagara.com/-stmarks

## 5 Niagara Pumphouse Visual Arts Centre

247 Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
 Open daily from June to August, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
 September to June, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
 No admission fee.  
 tel: 905-468-5455  
 e-mail: info@niagarapumphouse.ca  
 website: www.niagarapumphouse.ca

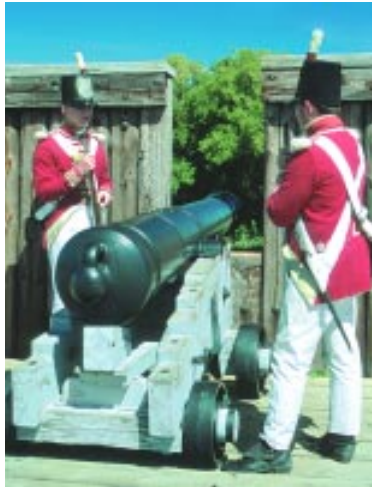


IMAGE COURTESY OF PARKS CANADA AGENCY;  
BRIAN MORIN, PHOTOGRAPHER.

From 1812 to 1814, Niagara was a hotly contested battleground, invaded by armies of the United States. Through that bitter conflict, Fort George played a vital role. No visit to the town is complete without a tour of the venerable Fort George National Historic Site of Canada, where British soldiers, Canadian militiamen and Aboriginal peoples fought to ensure that

Ontario was not annexed to the United States.

Fort George has been restored to the War of 1812 period and contains buildings furnished to recreate the site as it would have been during war. Visitors can tour the Soldiers Barracks, where the wives and children of the soldiers shared the same living space as the men or the Officer's Quarters where upper class English officers lived a much more elegant lifestyle. The stone Powder Magazine where gunpowder was stored, remains as the oldest building in Niagara-on-the-Lake, surviving bombardment from Fort Niagara and a U.S. Navy fleet. Other buildings, the Blockhouses, Guard House, Kitchen and Artificers (craftsmen) Shop, help tell the story of this nationally significant site.

In July and August, the period guard demonstrates the drill and tactics of 1812 with musket and cannon fire while the Fife and Drum Corps perform the thrilling music that resounded on the battlefields of that time.



The Lincoln and Welland Regiment traces its roots back to the Butler's Rangers, and continues to play a major role in world events to this day through its peacekeeping missions. The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum displays the evolution of one of Canada's oldest regiments from Butler's Rangers, War of 1812-14, Fenian Raids, World War I, World War II, through to modern day operations. While featuring general military items, the museum also focuses on the individuals who have and will continue to risk their lives for our country's safety. Located in historic Butler's Barracks on the Commons, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum is nestled in the former Camp Niagara training grounds.



## Fort George National Historic Site

Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Open daily from April 1 to October 31, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Small admission fee.

July 1: Canada Day Celebration

July 17 - 18: Echoes of Niagara's Past

Aug. 14 - 15: Fife and Drum Muster & Soldiers' Field Days

tel: 905-468-6614

fax: 905-468-4638

e-mail: [ont-niagara@pc.gc.ca](mailto:ont-niagara@pc.gc.ca)

website: [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca)

## Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum

Corner of King and John Street, set far back from the road.  
Parking available in lot off of John Street.  
Operates seasonally as funding allows.

Admission: \$3.00 - adult, \$2.00 - child/senior  
free for military members and veterans

For current operating schedule:

tel: 905-468-0888

e-mail: [lwmuseum@becon.org](mailto:lwmuseum@becon.org)

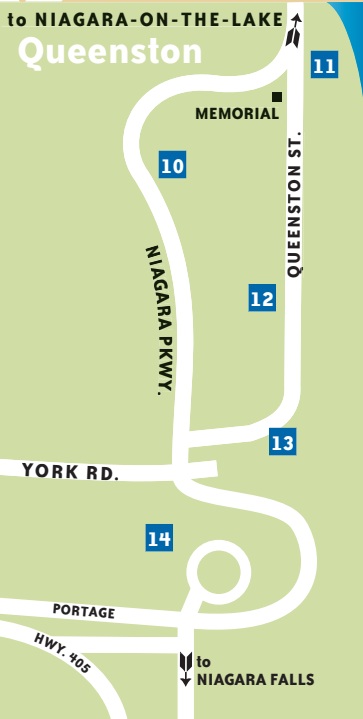
website: [www.lwmuseum.ca](http://www.lwmuseum.ca)



# Lake Ontario

Niagara River

This map is not to scale.



**Niagara-on-the-Lake Historic Sites (open to the public)**

- |   |                                      |    |   |
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SEE INSET OF QUEENSTON



This small house illustrates the variety of early buildings still to be found in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Located at 507 Butler Street, the homestead was built in 1835 by William Stewart, a free black. Its vernacular architecture is typical of the style of construction of many of the homes of black and white residents alike. Today the house is furnished with Niagara Peninsula pieces of the 19th century and is in the process of restoration by the Niagara Foundation. Situated in the area of town once known as the “coloured village,” the homestead was built on land once owned by Andrew Butler, son of the founder of Niagara, Colonel John Butler. The Butler homestead, the site of an extensive archeological dig, along with the Butler Family Cemetery and the Negro Burial Ground are just a short walk away. The Stewart Homestead is open to the public throughout the year by appointment.



This red brick Georgian home was built in 1800 by James McFarland on land purchased about 1795 by his father, John McFarland, who had emigrated from Scotland. During the War of 1812, it served as a hospital for both British and American forces. John McFarland was taken prisoner during this war, and it is said that on his return, he was heartbroken by the damage done to his home. He died shortly after and is buried in St. Mark's Church Cemetery.

For more than two centuries, McFarland House has stood as a monument to the impeccable manners, good taste and gracious living that epitomizes Niagara-on-the-Lake. Come and experience a taste of 1840's Georgian style and pace. Explore the period herb garden. Sample fresh home baking and fine teas or relax and sip a glass of Niagara wine at the McFarland Tea Garden. Located along the scenic Niagara Parkway, 2 kilometres south of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



## 8 William Stewart Homestead

507 Butler Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Open by appointment.  
tel: 905-468-0225  
905-468-0915  
website: [www.niagarafoundation.com](http://www.niagarafoundation.com)

## 9 McFarland House

15927 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Open mid-May to September.  
Small admission fee.  
For information on rates, hours of operation and special events, contact:  
tel: 905-468-3322  
website: [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)



**W**illowbank Heritage Estate, location of The School of Restoration Arts, was declared an official National Historic Site of Canada in Nov. 2003. Visitors will appreciate the built heritage that emerged in early 19th century Upper Canada and how it contributed to Canada's development as a

nation. Willowbank's elegance and design make it a beautiful example of the classical revival architecture that characterized country estates of Upper Canada.

Overlooking the village of Queenston and the Niagara River, Willowbank is part of a small number of classical revival-style mansions built in British North America. The residence was constructed between 1834 and 1836 for Alexander Hamilton, son of a prominent and wealthy merchant, Robert Hamilton.

The property is also unique as it displays "Picturesque" ideas of landscape. Sitting high on an open lawn hillside, Willowbank is surrounded by a variety of trees, including willow trees, after which the Estate was named.

Today, Willowbank is owned by Heritage Enthusiasts who have opened The School of Restoration Arts dedicated to the teaching of all arts and skills related to restoration of built heritage, and uses historic buildings in need of restoration as the teaching venues.



**R**iverBrink, Home of the Weir Collection is a rich and varied collection of paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, decorative arts and books acquired over a period of sixty years by the late S.E. Weir. Housed and exhibited at RiverBrink, located in the historic village of Queenston on the Niagara River Parkway, the gallery is on the wine route and close to both the Shaw Festival Theatre and Niagara Falls.

The collection reflects Mr. Weir's keen interest in historical Canadian art and decorative arts, particularly those dealing with the history of the Niagara Peninsula. Among the Canadian artworks are paintings by Tom Thomson and members of the Group of Seven; Québec artists Cornelius Krieghoff, Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté, J.W. Morrice and Maurice Cullen; Royal Canadian Academicians and British topographical artists who worked in Canada in the early nineteenth century.

In addition to Canadiana examples of British Georgian portraiture, historical American painting and French Impressionist art round out this eclectic collection.



Attributed to Johann Zoffany.  
*Portrait of John Graves Simcoe as a Young Man*, ca. 1770.

## 10 Willowbank Heritage Estate

14487 Niagara Parkway, corner of Dee Rd., Queenston

Seasonal hours.

Small admission fee.

For information on rates and hours of operation;

tel: 905-262-1239

e-mail: willowbankschool@bellnet.ca

website: www.willowbank.ca



116 Queenston Street, Queenston

Open Victoria Day weekend to Canadian Thanksgiving.

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Group Tours: April 1 - November 30

Admission fee. For further information please contact us at:

tel: 905-262-4510

fax: 905-262-4477

e-mail: weirlib@becon.org

website: www.riverbrink.org



While in the Village of Queenston, don't miss a visit to the Laura Secord Homestead. On June 22, 1813, a brave woman set out from this site on a perilous 32 kilometre journey and stepped forever into the history and folklore of Canada.

Laura Secord was a pioneer in Upper Canada whose heroic actions during the War of 1812 have resulted in her becoming an enduring icon of Canadian popular culture and a designated Person of National Historic Significance. Today, guides in period costume thrill you with tales of her adventure at this lovingly restored homestead, complete with authentic furnishings from the War of 1812. Located at 29 Queenston Street, this tranquil location also offers ice cream and refreshments for your enjoyment.



## 12 Laura Secord Homestead

29 Queenston Street, Queenston  
 Open daily from mid-May to September.  
 Small admission fee.  
 For information on rates, hours of operation and events, contact  
 tel: 905-262-4851  
 website: [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)



In this restored home of rebel publisher William Lyon Mackenzie, you can explore 500 years of printing technology, amid the authentic ambiance of a period print shop. Rarest in the museum's collection is the Louis Roy Press, oldest in Canada and one of the few original wooden presses remaining in the world! A collection of working hand and hot lead presses provides a hands-on experience for all ages. Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum is located at 1 Queenston Street, just off the Niagara Parkway in the quaint village of Queenston.



## Mackenzie Heritage Printery & Newspaper Museum

1 Queenston Street, Queenston  
 Open daily mid May to September.  
 Small admission fee.  
 For more information on current rates, hours of operation and special events, contact:  
 tel: 905-262-5676  
 website: [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)

**V**isit Brock's Monument located in picturesque Queenston Heights. Explore the historic battlefield where British and American soldiers struggled for the destiny of two nations. From the top of his 56-metre column, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock looks out over the territory his troops defended. The builders of the monument made it so impressive because the Battle of Queenston Heights and Brock himself symbolized the continuation of their strong ties with Great Britain.

We offer an opportunity to climb the monument, to tour the battlefield by costumed staff and to enjoy a spectacular view of the Niagara Frontier.

The Friends of Fort George's mandate is to support Parks Canada for the protection, preservation, development and interpretation of the historical resources and stories of national significance of Niagara National Historic Sites including Fort George, Brock's Monument, Butlers Barracks, Fort Mississauga, the Lakeshore Properties and the Military Reserve, known as The Commons. Brock's Monument is operated by The Friends of Fort George in partnership with Niagara National Historic Sites. As well,

The Friends of Fort George operate a shop at Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, where books and gifts are offered, reflecting the early 19th century history of Fort George and Brock's Monument.



IMAGE COURTESY OF PARKS CANADA AGENCY;  
BRIAN MORIN, PHOTOGRAPHER.

**A**s with all historic sites, progress overshadows them and they fade, only to become footnotes in history books. Many of these places are denoted by historic markers but many are not and you must depend upon the knowledge of a resident in the community. What nicer way to meet humankind.

**Butler's Burial Ground**, ca. 1796  
South end of Butler Street near  
Mississauga at John Street

**Butler Homestead**, ca. 1817  
St. Andrew's Glen, Simcoe Street

**Clock Tower Cenotaph**, 1922  
Queen at King Street

**Fort Mississauga**, ca. 1814  
foot of Simcoe Street at Front  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course

**Grace United Church**, ca. 1852  
Victoria Street at Queen

**Masonic Hall**, ca. 1816  
corner of King and Prideaux

**Navy Hall**, ca. 1750  
Niagara Parkway and Ricardo Street

**Negro Burial Ground**, 1830  
Mississauga at Mary Street

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**,  
ca. 1831, Simcoe at Gage

**St. Saviour's Anglican Church**,  
Highlander Street, Village of Queenston

**St. Vincent de Paul  
Roman Catholic Church**, ca. 1834  
(corner of Wellington and Picton),  
73 Picton Street

## 14 Brock's Monument

Queenston Heights Park, Queenston  
Open early May to mid-October, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
For more information on rates and programs, contact  
The Friends of Fort George:  
tel: 905-468-6621  
fax: 905-468-7681  
e-mail: giftshop@friendsoffortgeorge.ca;  
website: www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca

Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to many other historic sites, many of which are privately owned and unavailable for public viewing.

If you would like more information, please obtain a complimentary copy of the *Niagara-on-the-Lake Official Visitor's Guide* available at The Chamber of Commerce & Visitor & Convention Bureau in The Court House (page 2).