



## Major-General Sir Issac Brock (6 October 1769-13 October 1812)

**M**ajor-General Sir Issac Brock was an aspiring leader and is regarded as one of Canada's Greatest Military Heroes. He was well respected not only by his fellow officers, but also by the men who served under his command. Brock University as well as several schools, streets, (including Brock St. here in Kingston), and towns (such as Brockville) have been named after him.

The British Military suffered a decisive blow when Brock was shot and killed by American sharpshooters during the battle at Queenston Heights (October 13, 1812). Despite being an obvious target with his formidable height (6'2), cocked hat and general's uniform, Brock stayed true to his character and led a charge against the Americans. It was his belief that he should never order his men where he would not lead them himself. Despite his death, his men rallied on, and the battle was a British success.

For his actions in the capture of Fort Detroit (August 16, 1812) Brock was appointed a Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath on 10 October 1812. Sadly Brock died at the Battle of Queenston Heights before news of his knighthood reached him.

In 1816, a series of private half-penny tokens were issued by an unknown company which honoured Brock with the title "The Hero of Upper Canada". Private copper tokens were common at that time in Canada due to initial distrust of "army bills" which were paper notes issued in response to a currency shortage caused by economic growth. They were discredited in 1820 due to the fact that they had become too plentiful and commonplace.

The Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation has excavated several of these tokens at various locations around Kingston, such as The Royal Military College, Fort Henry, and the K-Rock Centre. They are curated here at the Kingston Archaeological Centre and will be preserved for future generations to come.



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