



Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation

Scavenger Hunt

WAR OF 1812

Since it's founding in 1983 the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation has conducted numerous excavations on a variety of sites in Kingston. This hunt takes you to some of those places. Visit all the sites and collect the clues for a chance to win.

Fort Frontenac

The Fort was constructed by the French in 1673. In 1758 it was lost to the British, who under Lt.-Col. Bradstreet and his 3,000 men assaulted the Fort and its 110 French men. The Fort served as the main British military base for the eastern end of Lake Ontario until it was deemed obsolete after the War of 1812, at which point it was replaced by the Tete-de-Pont barracks, which now bears the name Fort Frontenac. Kingston's strategic importance increased when the south shore of the St-Lawrence River was ceded to the Americans.

Q: Who was the Fort named after?

A:

Q: After the War of 1812, what replaced Fort Frontenac at this location?

A:

Fort Henry (seen from Confederation Basin)

Now that you are here look across the water to find the Fort on the hill

The original Fort was built during the War of 1812. The British anticipated an attack on Point Henry, since this location held great value due to its proximity to the Royal Navy Dockyards (RMC) and the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. Losing this vital trade route would have cut the British off from everything east of the city of Kingston. Fort Frontenac was too far to cover that area.

The Fort that we see today was built between 1832-1837. Since the south shore of the St. Lawrence River was ceded to the Americans after the war, it was considered even more necessary to fortify this point due to the completion of the Rideau Canal (1826-32). This new Fort would protect the naval dockyard at Point Frederick, the entrance of the Rideau Canal and the Town of Kingston.

Q: An extensive fortification plan of redoubts, towers, and batteries was developed to protect what the dockyard and entrance to Canal, out of these plans, what was actually built?

A:

Q: What are the 3 important waterways that intersect at Point Henry.

A:

Market Square

The Kingston Public Market is the oldest market in Ontario. It was officially founded in 1801, and has served as a community-gathering place and has played an integral role in Kingston and our country's history. The Market Square was laid out as part of the original town plan in 1784 and the first Market regulations published in 1811. It was the focal point for the local trade in foodstuffs and fuel, all the consumables that supported day-to-day life in early Kingston. It was also where the town sentinel was posted and a small picket barracks was situated approximately under the south wing of the current City Hall. It was a small 'T'-shaped building constructed of wood approximately 35' x 22'. Associated with the picket barracks was a small outbuilding situated where the west wing of City Hall now stands. These small military buildings existed from the War of 1812 to 1831 when they were auctioned off to the public and dismantled.

Q: What is written on the Square's marker by City Hall?

A:

Dockyard (Macdonald Park, King St E btw Emily and Barrie Sts)

With the outbreak of the War of 1812, a blockhouse was built on Point Henry and the Position of the Kingston dockyard was formalised as the British Naval Base for the Great Lakes Fleet. Batteries were hastily constructed on Mississauga Point and Point Frederick, which repelled the November 10th American attack. Defences were strengthened throughout the war, a blockhouse was built on Point Frederick to protect the dockyard and the first Fort Henry was constructed. The dockyard at Kingston became heavily involved in the shipbuilding race, which provided the means to end the war. Despite the many vessels that were constructed, the greatest shipbuilding achievement at the dockyard was *HMS St Lawrence*. Launched in September 1814, a three-decked ship with 102 guns, was larger than Nelson's *Victory*, and had a profound impact on the war.

After the failed American attack in November 1812, the Americans would not again try to take the point, but the British would use the dockyard as a launching point to attack the American dockyards at Sackets Harbour and Oswego.

Now that you are here, try and find the similar tower across the water on the Point, this was the dockyard prior to the construction of the Tower.

Q: Which ships were involved in the Nov 10th 1812 naval engagement?

A:

Q: What was the greatest ship built at the dockyard during the War of 1812

A:

St George's Cathedral

The first church was a small blue wooden church that was built on the edge of Market Square in 1792. It was only 40x32 feet. This Anglican Church was the first church of any denomination in Kingston. This church was not in the same location as the one that stands today, a plaque on the British Whig building marks the location where this small first church once stood.

The War of 1812 proved to be quite the boost for Kingston. With the influx of soldiers and other peoples to the area, it became obvious that a bigger church would be needed to serve its growing flock. The current St George's Cathedral was built in 1825, and was designed by Thomas Rogers (he was the first practicing architect in Kingston). The building was enlarged in 1839, and the present portico and bell tower with its supporting narthex were completed in 1846.

St George's became the Cathedral of the new diocese of Ontario in 1862. A fire in 1899 badly damaged the interior, and a complete restoration was undertaken in 18 months.

Q: The Cathedral is home to many plaques commemorating some of Kingston's most influential and prominent people. Which is the earliest, and who does it commemorate?

A:

Mississauga Point (Left side of the Coast Guard Boat to the water)

It has been the scene of intensive activity for the past 200 years, first as a Native encampment, then as a War of 1812 battery, then as a location of early industrial activity. With the outbreak of the War of 1812, a blockhouse was built on Point Henry and the Position of the Kingston dockyard was formalised as the British Naval Base for the Great

Lakes Fleet. Batteries were hastily constructed on Mississauga Point and Point Frederick, which repelled the November 1812 American attack. Defences were strengthened throughout the war, a blockhouse was built on Point Frederick to protect the dockyard and the first Fort Henry was constructed.

It is now the site of the present day Kingston Dry Dock National Historic Site of Canada.

Q: Standing by the water, looking from where the battery on Missisauqua Point that would have stood here in 1812, how many of the future Martello Tower locations can you see?

A:

Lower Burial Ground/St Paul's Church

Today at 137 Queen St you find a Church, St Paul's Church to be exact. But until 1845, this lot was the home to Kingston's original non-military burial ground. Known as the Lower Burial Ground, it dates back to 1784, and many of Kingston's pioneers were laid to rest here. It wouldn't be until the 1820s and 1830s that Kingston would get two other burial grounds: The Upper Burial Ground (aka Skeleton Park or McBurney Park) and the famous Cataraqui Cemetery. So if you lived in Kingston during the War of 1812, you were buried in the Lower Burial Ground.

This burial ground is possibly one of the oldest cemeteries in Ontario, as it was laid out in preparation for the influx of Loyalists after the American Revolution.

Founded in 1845, the plot of ground on which St Paul's stands was originally a cemetery (the Lower Burial Ground). This lot had been owned by St George's Church, and you can find notable character's buried here such as: Reverend John Stuart, Sir Richard Bonnycastle, and Sir Richard Cartwright. St Paul's Church was built in part to help "lighten the load" of the poor and needy from St George's Church. There are no plans or dimensions of the original building that remain today, or records as to how this new church was even financed.

It has been generally believed that one of the grave's in St Paul's lot was that of Molly Brant, but there is no way her grave can be found. The rector in 1963 had an interesting theory as to why that was: the grave is under the church, and when the debris caused by the 1854 fire fell in, the grave marker was covered.

Q: The Cartwrights, Stuarts, Molly Brant and her family, Sir Richard Bonnycastle are all buried here. How many of these can you find?

A:

Q: What year was the Forsythe Monument built?

A:

