



Eastern Ontario

The Thousand Islands

The St. Lawrence

Kingston



Bruce McKay

www.Travel-Pix.ca



Eastern Ontario

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Eastern Ontario

Introduction

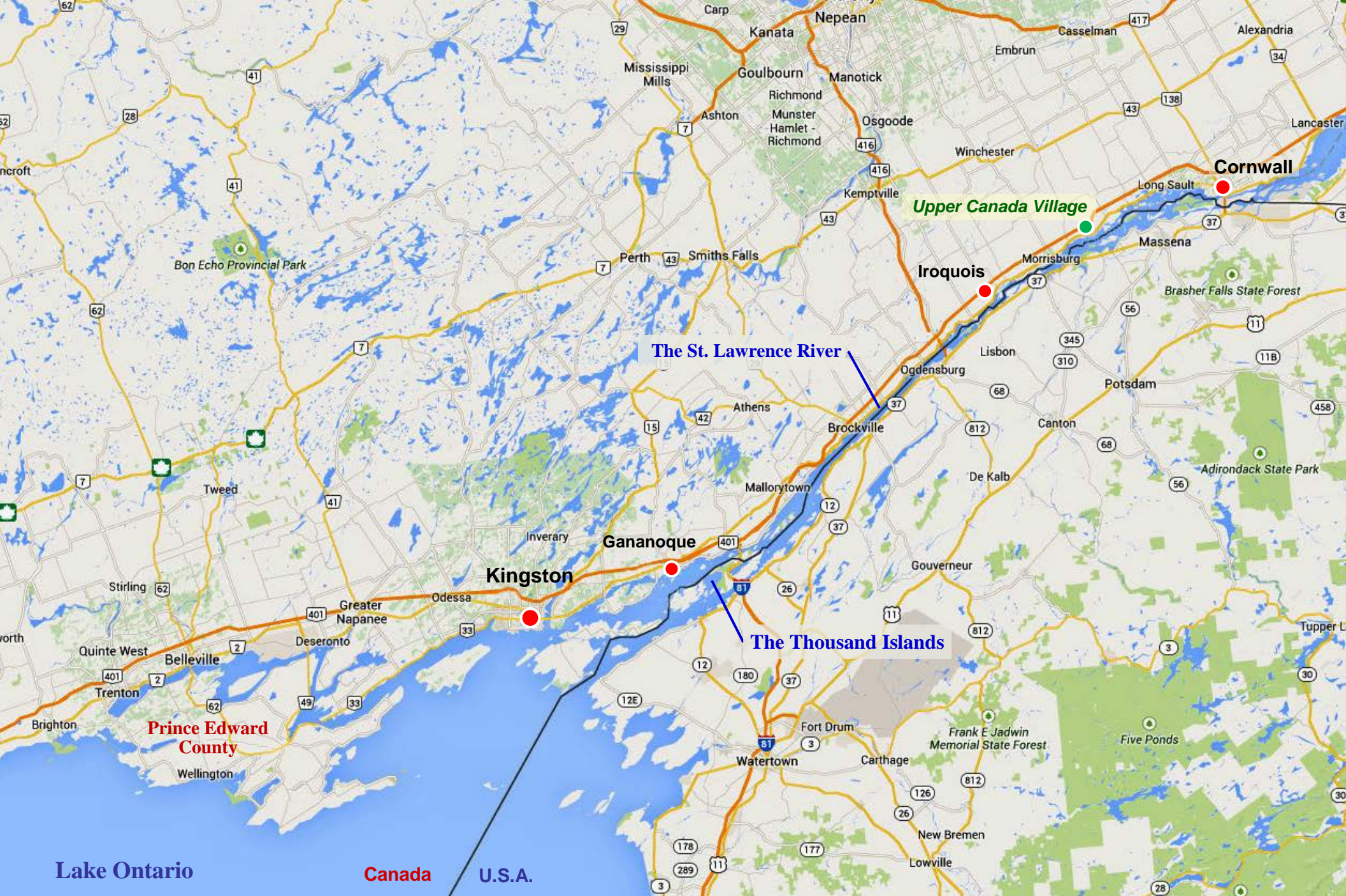
The south-eastern part of Ontario is where Europeans and their descendants first settled in the province, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Today the region is a fascinating mix.

- ▶ A popular vacation destination: **The Thousand Islands** where Lake Ontario empties into the St. Lawrence River, first popular for summer getaways in the late 1800s, remain as beautiful and inviting as ever.
- ▶ An engineering triumph: **The St. Lawrence Seaway** project opened the river for ocean-going vessels, added hydro-electric power generation, and pioneered new approaches to community displacement and heritage preservation.
- ▶ History: The region is mindful of its past, and that's reflected at **Upper Canada Village**, in **Prince Edward Country**, and in the **City of Kingston**.

These photos reflect these different aspects of the region in turn.

– Bruce McKay



**Eastern
Ontario**

Specific locations referenced in the pictures file are highlighted.



The Thousand Islands

The Thousand Islands are a Canadian and U.S. vacation wonderland that's located where the St. Lawrence River emerges from the northeast corner of Lake Ontario.



Gananoque

Gananoque is a small town at the heart of the Thousand Islands, an almost too-good-to-be-true vacation destination.



Gananoque

**Gananoque was founded by Joel Stone, who came from Connecticut in 1792.
Gananoque has wonderful parks ...**



Gananoque ... with facilities for families ...



Gananoque ... and active vacationers,



Gananoque ... and plenty of fine accommodations.



Gananoque

This town of 5,200 thrives during the summer ...



Gananoque ... but remains remarkably calm and quiet.



**Cruising
the Islands**

**The Gananoque Boat Line operates several different tours from here.
I sign up to go cruising to see the homes of the rich and famous.**



Cruising
the Islands

Not quite what I was expecting ...



Cruising
the Islands

... though this adaptation is admittedly ingenious.



**Cruising
the Islands**

Signs of human habitation.



**Cruising
the Islands**

The Thousand Islands became popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s with wealthy families fleeing summers in New York City, 350 miles south.



**Cruising
the Islands**

**Many of the larger summer homes on the islands
still date from that early development period ...**



**Cruising
the Islands**

... though there are some tasteful modern additions.



**Cruising
the Islands**

**A seven-span island-hopping international bridge 9 miles east
east of Gananoque, near Ivy Lea, connects Canada and the U.S.**



**Cruising
the Islands**

**Nearly two-thirds of the \$ 600 billion annual trade between
Canada and the United States crosses the border by truck.**



**Cruising
the Islands**

**Relations between the two countries are now so close
in this region that mashup combined flags are common.**



Boldt Castle

Boldt Castle on Heart Island is the most famous of the island estates. It was begun in 1900 by George Boldt, General Manager of New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.



Boldt Castle

The Alster Tower was a playhouse, purposely constructed with slanting and uneven walls, ceilings, and roofs.



Boldt Castle

Shuttle boats carried visitors to the castle from the main Yacht House on a nearby island.



Boldt Castle

Boldt Castle included a Power House with a generator to supply electricity. Construction stopped abruptly in 1904 after the death of Boldt's wife.



Boldt Castle

After decades of neglect the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority acquired the island in 1977 and has restored the castle for visitors.



**1000 Islands
Tower**

Just before our cruise ends I spot a beckoning lookout tower.



**1000 Islands
Tower**

**This is not a communications tower with an observation platform.
It was built just for tourists (and photographers), and opened in 1965.**



**1000 Islands
Tower**

The Tower sits just north of the border on an island where the Thousand Islands International Bridge crosses. This view looks north towards Ontario.



**1000 Islands
Tower**

Two Canadian spans of the bridge system.



**1000 Islands
Tower**

**The U.S. Customs and Border Protection
checkpoint just south of the Tower.**



1000 Islands **A bird's eye view of the good life.**
Tower



**1000 Islands
Tower**



**1000 Islands
Tower**

**Further east the islands gradually give
way to the mighty St. Lawrence River.**



**St. Lawrence
Seaway**

Between 1954 and 1959 Canada and the United States transformed the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Lake Ontario to accommodate ocean-going vessels.



**Seaway –
Shipping**

Ships up to 225 m / 740 feet long can travel 3775 km / 2345 miles inland from Montreal to Duluth, Minnesota on Lake Superior as a result of the \$ 470 million navigation project.



Seaway – Shipping

This lock at Iroquois is one of the seven added. The project also included channel deepening, building three dams, and relocating highways, railways, and villages.



**Seaway –
Power**

This dam adjacent to the Iroquois lock regulates the water level in Lake Ontario. The joint project also included a major hydro-electric power development.



Seaway – Power

This 980 m / 3215 foot wide dam at Cornwall houses hydro-electric generating stations for Ontario and New York State that produce about 2000 megawatts.



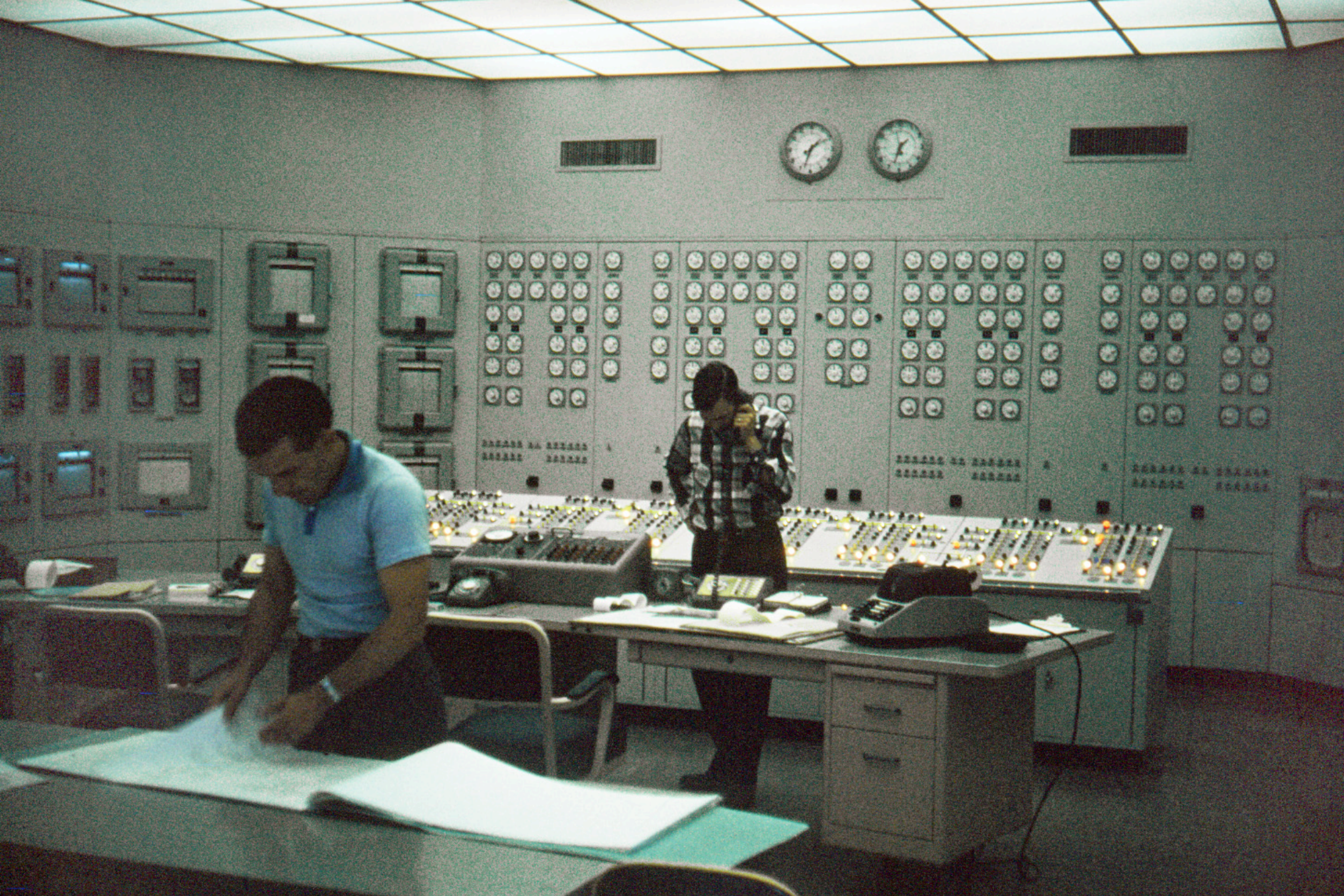
**Seaway –
Power**

The Moses-Saunders Power Dam opened in 1958 and straddles the international border. Ontario and New York State have almost mirror-image facilities.



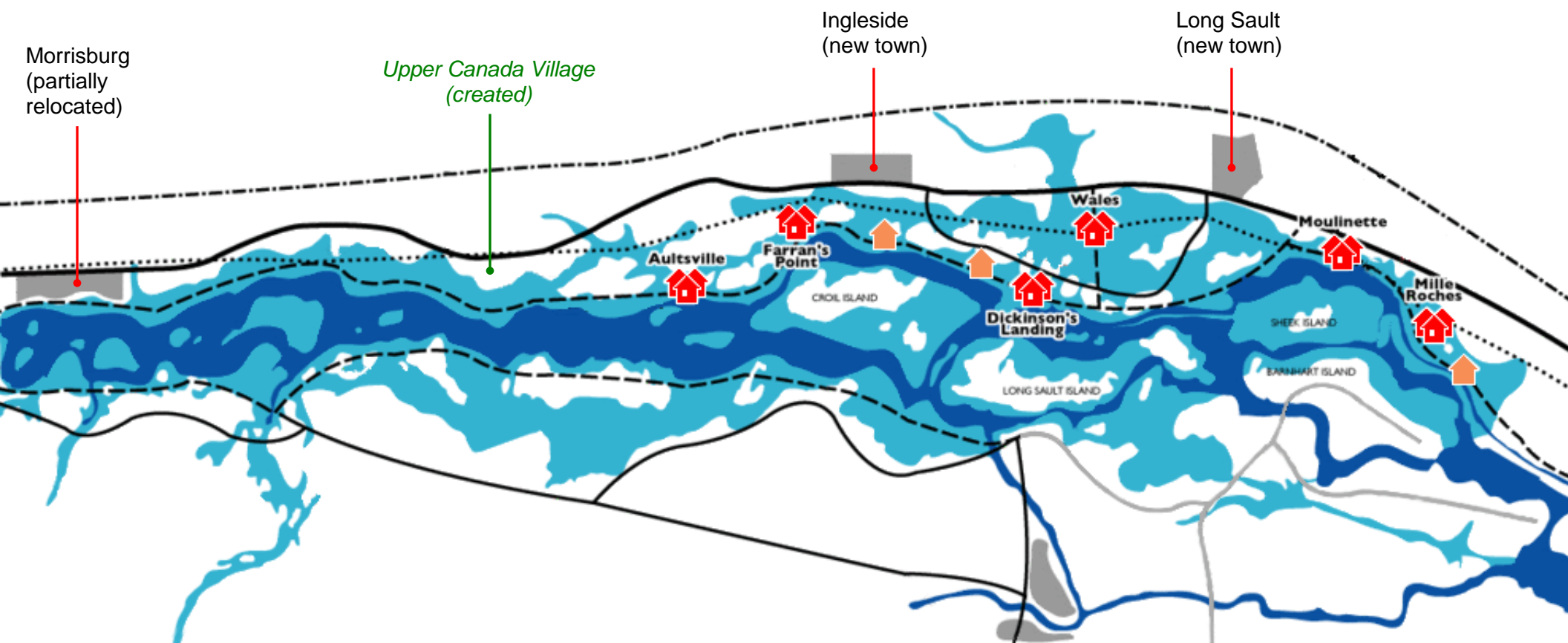
**Seaway –
Power**









**A new Visitor Centre has a viewing deck where the previous pictures were taken.
A high security fence prevents getting closer to the power station than this.**



Seaway –
Power

In 1961 tours were taken inside the station. I took this slide from the gallery behind Ontario Hydro's main control room. That was before terrorism became a concern.



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  Original River |  Lost Village |  Original Highway |  Original Railway |
|  Flooded Area |  Lost Hamlet |  Relocated Highway |  Relocated Railway |

Seaway – Relocation

The St. Lawrence Seaway project flooded an area of 100 square miles / 259 km². It displaced 6,500 people. Over 550 homes were moved to new locations.



**Seaway –
Relocation**

Even fifty-six years later, and with trees now grown, the new towns like Morrisburg still seem unnaturally orderly and almost over-planned.



**Seaway –
Relocation**

Relocation also included cemeteries. This new combined cemetery at Iroquois consolidated those of several smaller ones at lost villages.



Upper Canada Village

Upper Canada Village is a heritage park begun in 1958 as part of the St. Lawrence Seaway project's heritage preservation plan.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Many of the 40 buildings were transported directly from the ten "Lost Village" communities to be flooded.



**Upper Canada
Village**

The village recreates pioneer life in a rural English Canadian setting in the 1860s. It includes homes, functioning mills, and trades workshops.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Daily activities are portrayed as they were by interpreters in period costume. This blacksmith shop helps with repairs to the heritage buildings.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Most young people attended a school like this for at least six years to gain a basic education in literacy and mathematics, with some science and history.



Upper Canada Village The school's writing desks were at the windows to take advantage of the sunlight.



**Upper Canada
Village**

The McDiarmid Home was build by a family which arrived in Canada from Scotland in the early 1860s and was obliged to seek land in the back townships.



Upper Canada Village
McDiarmid Home



Broommaker



Shoemaker



Providence Chapel



Cabinetmaker

Upper Canada Village

Timber construction was common. Timber was readily available as land needed to be cleared for farming.



**Upper Canada
Village**

The sawmill was often the first public building to be erected in a pioneer community. Settlers' needs included wood for buildings, furniture, wagons, and barrels.



**Upper Canada
Village**

This water-powered working mill produces lumber for village repairs and for sale to restoration specialists.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Local stores provided a wide range of good and services, including acting as a local clearinghouse for rags, wool, firewood, and local produce.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Eastern Ontario stores bought their wares from wholesalers in Montréal. These local stores often also provided postal services.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Not all homes were log cabins. This brick house was built in the 1840s, and has been outfitted to represent the comfortable home of a 19th century physician.



**Upper Canada
Village**

This imposing structure was built for a successful timber merchant and politician in 1846. It is not typical of most houses of the period, and would have been considered pompous.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Christ Church was built in the "Lost Village" of Moulinette in 1837 by the local Anglican congregation, one of the main Protestant denominations in the area.



**Upper Canada
Village**

The most ambitious undertaking in the village is the operation of Loucks Farm, a "mixed" farm involving several types of crops and a variety of livestock.



**Upper Canada
Village**

Farmhands bring in hay to feed the animals kept in the village without the help of modern machinery.



**Upper Canada
Village**

An impressive "demonstration" on a day when the temperature was just a bit above 30° C / 86° F.



**Upper Canada
Village**

I had seen the Village in the early '60s. Time has given the trees a chance to grow and give the village a natural atmosphere. Magic.



Prince Edward County After the American Revolution of 1776 people who had supported Britain and were threatened fled the country and headed for British territories.



Prince Edward County Many "United Empire Loyalists" settled in Prince Edward County, west of Kingston. A "Loyalist Parkway" route now connects key historic sites in the county.



**Prince Edward
County**

Daniel Reynold's stone house (c. 1792) is said to be the oldest surviving home in the county. It has been carefully restored and is a private home.



Prince Edward County The Loyalists organized church congregations almost immediately. The Hay Bay Methodist Church dates from 1792.



HAY BAY CHURCH —1792—

In 1791, William Losee, an itinerant preacher, organized in this district the first Methodist circuit in Upper Canada. This Meeting House, Upper Canada's first Methodist chapel, was built in 1792. Enlarged in 1834-35 it was used for worship until about 1860 after which it served as a farmer's storehouse. In 1910 in recognition of its historical significance, it was reacquired and restored by The Methodist Church and is still used for annual services by The United Church of Canada.

Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board.



Prince Edward County Fairfield House in Amherstview dates from 1793 and is considered to be the best preserved 18th century house in Ontario.



FAIRFIELD HOUSE

This is one of few eighteenth-century Loyalist residences remaining in Ontario. William and Abigail Fairfield were among the first Loyalists to settle this area after the American Revolution. They arrived in 1784 and probably completed this farmhouse by 1793. Its symmetrical style and timber-frame construction evoke the architecture of the family's native New England. Except for its verandahs and french windows, added by 1860, Fairfield House survives much as it was built. It offers rare evidence of building techniques and interior detailing from the Loyalist era. By 1959, when it was donated for public preservation, Fairfield House had been in the family for six generations.

Ontario Heritage Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario



**Prince Edward
County**

The Loyalists chose or accidentally landed in a good location.
Prince Edward County has a microclimate now exploited for vineyards.



Prince Edward County People prospered here, and maintained British traditions. Queen Anne style architecture is common in Wellington.



**Prince Edward
County**

Today the county is a popular tourist and migratory bird watching destination. The Glenora Ferries are a highway novelty (when not too busy).



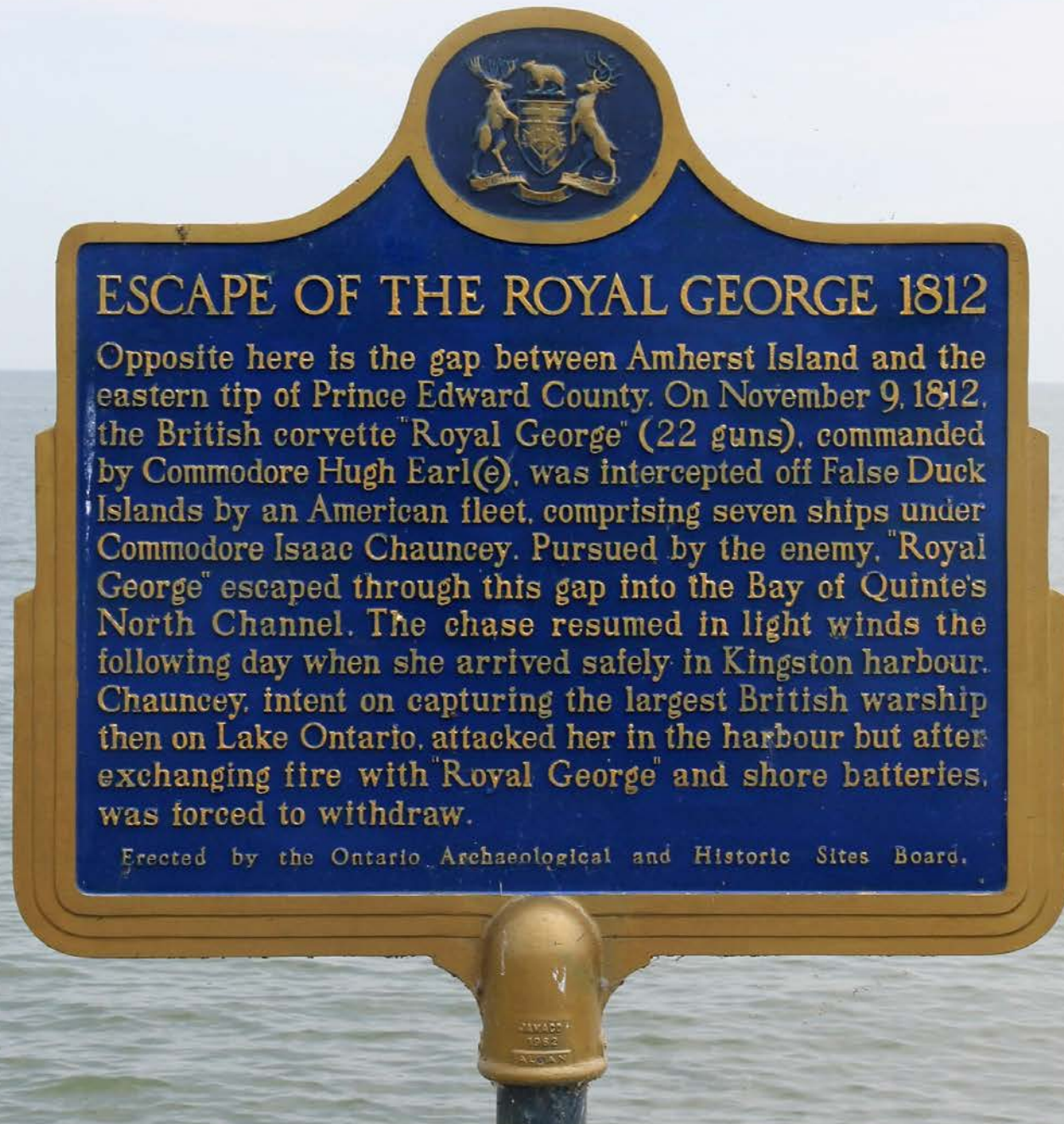
**The War
of 1812**

Although relations are friendly now, just a century ago war raged along the border. The Seaway project flooded the site of the November 1813 Battle of Crysler's Farm.



**The War
of 1812**

The British were grossly outnumbered but succeeded in defeating an American army, ending their plans to attack Montréal. This monument was moved to Upper Canada Village.



ESCAPE OF THE ROYAL GEORGE 1812

Opposite here is the gap between Amherst Island and the eastern tip of Prince Edward County. On November 9, 1812, the British corvette "Royal George" (22 guns), commanded by Commodore Hugh Earl(e), was intercepted off False Duck Islands by an American fleet, comprising seven ships under Commodore Isaac Chauncey. Pursued by the enemy, "Royal George" escaped through this gap into the Bay of Quinte's North Channel. The chase resumed in light winds the following day when she arrived safely in Kingston harbour. Chauncey, intent on capturing the largest British warship then on Lake Ontario, attacked her in the harbour but after exchanging fire with "Royal George" and shore batteries, was forced to withdraw.

Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board.

**The War
of 1812**

In the end nobody won. No boundaries changed. The U.S. did not annex Canada. But defending Canada promoted the development of a distinct Canadian identity.



Kingston

Kingston, population 125,000, is located midway between Toronto and Montréal, and is the largest city between them.



Kingston

Kingston was temporarily the capital of Canada. The impressive City Hall was built in an unsuccessful attempt to retain that honour.



Kingston

Kingston was incorporated as a town in 1838. It has both important and infamous institutions, and busy commercial and tourism industries.



Kingston

We can go for a cruise, though competing with Gananoque is difficult. Apart from Fort Henry, which we'll see later, there's not much except ...



Kingston

... Kingston Penitentiary, once Canada's main maximum security prison, now closed.
(Kingston owns a franchise, and has seven more prisons in and around the town.)



Grant Hall

**Queen's
University**

Queen's University is one of Kingston's most respected institutions. The Church of Scotland established Queen's College in 1841 with a royal charter from Queen Victoria.



Kingston Hall and Theological Hall

**Queen's
University**

Queen's is now ranked as one of Canada's top universities, with 15,000 undergraduate and 3,600 graduate students, and is noted for its medical, law, and business schools.



Ontario Hall

**Queen's
University**

The Queen's campus is distinguished by its graceful stone buildings, the legacy of abundant local limestone and available Scottish stone masons during its early years.



**Royal Military
College**

The Royal Military College, established in 1876, is Canada's only military university, and is considered an elite school.



**Royal Military
College**

The College prepares officer-cadets for military careers and continues the development of other Canadian Forces members and civilians with an interest in defence issues.



**Royal Military
College**

The campus occupies a 40 hectare / 100 acre peninsula facing Navy Bay.
The Royal Navy built warships here during the War of 1812.



**Royal Military
College**

In addition to training, the College conducts advanced research in engineering and science fields related to its primary mission.



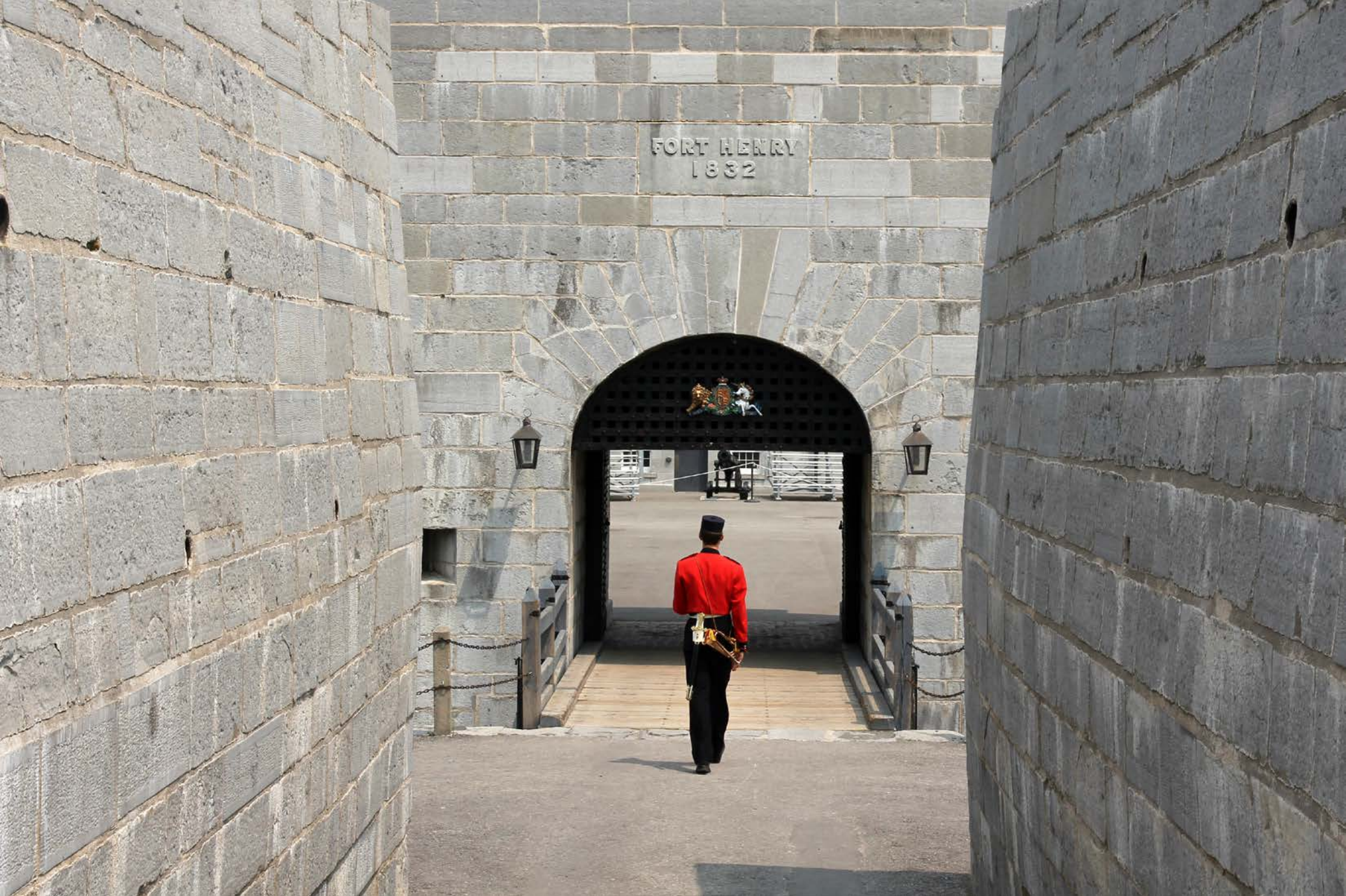
Fort Henry

Fort Henry is Kingston's largest, most conspicuous, and most popular tourist destination.



Fort Henry

The original fort was built on the lake to protect the naval dockyard nearby and the entrance to the Rideau Canal.



Fort Henry

The current Fort Henry was built from 1832 to 1837 to replace the existing fortification which had played a successful role in the War of 1812.



Fort Henry

Following WW I the fort fell into disrepair, but it was restored from 1936 to 1938 as a government make-work project during the Great Depression.



Fort Henry

The Fort is now operated as a National Historic Site, with a Fort Henry Guard of students recreating British military traditions of a bygone era.



Fort Henry

The Guard specializes in both military traditions and customer relations.



Fort Henry

The placement of cannons make the strategic nature of the Fort's location obvious.



Fort Henry

Perfect for dealing with that American riverboat.



Fort Henry

The Fort Henry Guard dresses in British military uniforms of 1867, and performs precision drills to entertain visitors.



Fort Henry

The Guard also demonstrates sustained rifle firing.



Fort Henry

Most of my pictures files end with sunsets.



Fort Henry

This ends with a bang.

< End >



Eastern Ontario