

Appendix D

Selected Ontario Provincial Historic Plaques along the Ottawa River

(Ontario Heritage Foundation)

Name	Location	Inscription
Founding of New Liskeard	Temiskaming Shores, Ontario In Riverside Place, at the mouth of the Wabi River, in New Liskeard	The Algonquin First Nations originally inhabited the Little Clay Belt, the rich agricultural belt extending north from New Liskeard. The abundance of good, inexpensive farmland attracted people from southern to "new" Ontario and the town quickly grew.
The Great Fire of 1922	In a roadside park, Highway 11, about 3 km south of the Earlton Overpass, Thornloe	In early October 1922, scattered bush fires burning north of Haileybury were united by high winds into a mammoth forest fire that swept 18 townships. Several communities were destroyed leaving more than 5,000 people homeless. Snow and rain finally brought the blaze under control.
Cobalt Mining Camp	Cobalt, Ontario 26 Silver Street	The first discovery of silver deposits in this area was made in 1903 by lumbermen searching for timber for railroad ties, and led to one of the most intensive mining rushes in Ontario history. In the 1930s, the demand for cobalt assured the economic stability of the mining camp despite a sharp reduction in the price of silver
William Henry Drummond 1854-1907	In Drummond Park, Silver Street and Prospect Avenue, Cobalt	Characterized by humour and pathos, the habitant verses of Dr. William Drummond appealed to readers of many cultures and earned their author international recognition. In 1905, Drummond joined his brothers in a silver-mining venture at Kerr Lake on the outskirts of Cobalt where, two years later, he died.
The Timiskaming Mission	Cobalt, Ontario Mission Point, at the foot of Old Mission Road, east off Highway 567 about 20 kilometres south of North Cobalt	The Roman Catholic mission originally established at Fort Timiskaming on the eastern shore of Lake Timiskaming in present-day Quebec was relocated to the Ontario shore of the lake in 1863. Here the mission comprised a presbytery for the Oblate fathers, a small hospital operated by two Grey Sisters of the Cross, and eventually a frame church.
The Brent Crater	At a lookout tower on the eastern rim of the crater, Brent Road, approximately 6 km northeast of the village of Brent - near the northern edge of Algonquin Park, about 32 km south of Highway 17	First noted in aerial photographs in 1951, the Brent Crater is a circular depression approximately three kilometres in diameter that is thought to have been formed as the result of the high-speed impact of a giant meteorite some 450 million years ago.
Canoe Route to the West	Mattawa, Ontario Legion Memorial Park, Main and Mattawa Streets, Mattawa	The Mattawa River formed an important link in the historic canoe route from Montreal to the upper Great Lakes. For more than 200 years, explorers, fur traders, missionaries and coureurs de bois travelled the route including: Samuel de Champlain, Jean de Brébeuf, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and David Thompson.

Grey Owl 1888-1938	At Finlayson Point Provincial Park, off Highway 11, about 1.5 km south of Temagami	Archibald Belaney came to Canada from England in 1906 and lived as a trapper and guide in the Temagami and Biscotasing areas. After joining an Ojibwa band he adopted the name Grey Owl. Alarmed at the rapid despoliation of the wilderness, the trapper turned conservationist and spent the last 10 years of his life writing and lecturing on wildlife preservation.
Jean Nicolet	North Bay, Ontario Lee Park, Memorial Drive, North Bay	Born in France, Nicolet (c.1598-1642) came to Canada in 1618. He lived for a number of years with the Nipissing First Nations, adopting their lifestyle and thereby helping to strengthen their alliance with the French. An intrepid explorer, Nicolet is generally credited with the discovery of Lake Michigan, which he partially explored in 1634.
La Vase Portages	On Highway 17, near the pond where the former portages began, about 4 km east of North Bay	The three La Vase (Mud) portages, connecting Trout Lake with the La Vase River and Lake Nipissing, formed part of the historic canoe route to the west described by one despondent traveller as "an abominable marsh ... knee-deep in mud and tree-roots."
Mattawa House 1837	Mattawa, Ontario Explorers' Point, Highway 533	Situated at the junction of major canoe routes, Mattawa House was established by the Hudson's Bay Company primarily to discourage lumbermen from encroaching on the company's fur-trading monopoly. The post profited more from the transshipment of supplies than from furs, however, and actually owed its continued existence to business with the lumber companies.
Reverend Charles Alfred Marie Paradis 1848-1926, The	West Nipissing, Ontario St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, 38 Main Street, Verner	An Oblate missionary from Quebec, Paradis was posted to Lake Temiskaming in 1881. During his years in the region, he did much to encourage agricultural settlement, particularly in the area around Verner, and took up farming himself. Paradis was an enterprising man of many talents: he prospected for gold, wrote meditative works, and painted in watercolour.
Temagami Post 1834	Temagami, Ontario Bear Island, Lake Temagami	Established to safeguard the Hudson's Bay Company's fur-trading territory from competitors, the small post on Lake Timagami (now Temagami) was an outpost of the company's major depot on Lake Temiskaming.
Canada's First Polish Settlement	Madawaska Valley, Ontario. Shrine Hill Park, near Our Lady Queen of Poland Roman Catholic Church, Highway 60, Wilno	Leaving behind the adverse social and political conditions of their partitioned homeland, some 300 Polish immigrants came to Renfrew County in 1864 and rapidly established a thriving agricultural community. Wilno was augmented by a second wave of Polish immigration in the early 1900s and still retains much of its distinctive cultural heritage.
Champlain's Journey of 1613	Whitewater Region, Ontario. Municipal Park, Highway 17, Cobden	On his first journey up the Ottawa River in search of the northern sea (Hudson Bay), Champlain stayed briefly at an Algonkian village near present-day Cobden. After learning that he had been misled as to the proximity of the illusive sea, Champlain proceeded down the Ottawa River from Lower Allumette Lake and returned to Quebec.
Daniel McLachlin 1810-1872	Arnprior, Ontario Robert Simpson Park, at the foot of John Street	An astute lumberman, McLachlin recognized the timber potential of the Madawaska watershed and in 1851 purchased a large tract of land at the site of Arnprior. Shortly thereafter, he laid out a town plot and constructed large sawmills at the mouth of the river.

Founder of Pembroke	Pembroke, Ontario Champlain Trail Museum, 1032 Pembroke Street East	After serving in the naval forces during the War of 1812, Scottish-born Peter White settled permanently in Upper Canada and entered the lumber trade. He made his headquarters at the wilderness site of present-day Pembroke and soon became a prominent businessman and public figure in the community that grew around his enterprises.
Founding of Renfrew	Renfrew, Ontario Low's Square, Plant Street and Railway Avenue	Attracted by the lumber activity in the upper Ottawa valley, settlers began moving into the area of present-day Renfrew in the 1830s. The opening of the Opeongo Road in 1854 ensured Renfrew's continued growth.
Gillies Bros. Lumbering Firm	Arnprior, Ontario Gillies Brothers and Company Mill, River Road	By the mid 1880s the four Gillies brothers had established their firm as one of the major lumber producers in the Ottawa valley, a position the company sustained well into the 20th century.
Lieutenant Christopher James Bell R.N. 1795-1936	On County Road 3 at the Bonnechère River in the vicinity of his former sawmill and timber slide, about 2 km southeast of Castleford	One of the first lumbermen in the Ottawa valley, Bell came to Upper Canada about 1817 after receiving a grant of some 800 acres of land. The sawmill and timber slide he built at the first chute on the Bonnechère River became the centre of a small milling community.
McNab Settlement	Arnprior, Ontario Robert Simpson Park, at the foot of John Street	In 1824, some 80 Scottish Highlanders under the patriarchal rule of Archibald McNab established the first organized settlement along the Ottawa River in what later became McNab Township.
Nuclear Power Demonstration Reactor	Laurentian Hills, Ontario Highway 17 at the pull-off overlooking the Des Joachims dam at Rolphton	In 1962, the NPD Reactor supplied the Ontario power grid with the first nuclear-generated electricity in Canada. The reactor was the proving ground for research and development that led to commercial application of the CANDU system.
Opeongo Road	On the grounds of the post office in the vicinity of the former colonization route, Highway 60, Barry's Bay	Part of a network of colonization roads constructed by the government to open the hinterland for settlement, the Opeongo Road was completed as a winter road from Farrells Landing (Castleford) to Opeongo Lake by 1854. The offer of free, 100-acre lots along the road attracted many settlers to Renfrew County.
The Pembroke Mattawan Road	At the tourist information booth in Riverside Park in the vicinity of the former route, Highway 17, Pembroke	Constructed as a supply route to lumber camps in the upper Ottawa valley, the Pembroke and Mattawan Road was begun in 1853 and completed to its full length over the next 20 years. Some sections have since been incorporated into Highway 17, but the original route can still be travelled between CFB Petawawa and Deep River.
The Rapids of the Upper Ottawa	At the lookout point on Highway 17, about 3 km west of Deux Rivières	For over two centuries, the canoe was the only means of transportation between the St. Lawrence settlements and the vast hinterland to the west and north. Four sets of dangerous rapids on the Ottawa River were the first of many obstacles faced by the intrepid explorers and adventurers in Canada's early years.
Steamboating on the Upper Ottawa	On the grounds of the School House Museum, Highway 17, 4 km north of Point Alexander, Meilleures Bay	Steam navigation began on the upper sections of the Ottawa River in 1833 and was instrumental in the early development of the region's lumber industry. Sightseeing excursions also became popular. By the 1880s, however, most water traffic had been replaced by faster, more efficient rail service.

Timber Rafting on the Ottawa	In Robert Simpson Park, at the foot of John Street, Arnprior	The rafting of large cribs of square timber down the Ottawa River and then on to Quebec City was a highly lucrative trade throughout most of the 19th century, and was a significant factor in the economic development of the Ottawa valley.
The Zeep Reactor	In front of the public information centre at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, off Highway 17, about 8 km northwest of Chalk River	The first nuclear chain reaction in Canada was initiated on September 5, 1945 when the ZEEP reactor went into operation at Chalk River. The small, experimental reactor was named Zero Energy Experimental Pile because it was developed to produce only one watt of heat.
Brigadier-General Ernest Alexander Cruikshank 1853-1939	On the grounds of the Canadian War Museum, 330 Sussex Drive, Ottawa	A noted authority on the history of Ontario, Cruikshank became the first director of the Historical Section of the Adjutant-General's Branch of the General Staff in 1918. From 1919 until his death, he served as the first chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
Commissariat Building 1827	Ottawa, Ontario In the lobby of the museum, beside the third lock of the headlocks of the canal, between Parliament Hill and the Chateau Laurier, off Elgin Street	Distinguished by skilful masonry and solid construction, the Commissariat building provides an excellent example of the workmanship of the Scottish stonemasons employed by Colonel By to work on the Rideau Canal. Used as a storehouse during the canal's construction, the building now houses the collections of the Bytown Museum.
Honourable Hamnet Kirks Pinhey 1784-1857	Ottawa, Ontario Regional Road 21 north of Road 49, near South March	On land granted to him for service in the Napoleonic Wars, Pinhey built a substantial estate comprising several log and stone structures. Later, he became prominent in local affairs and held a number of public offices.
The Nile Voyageurs 1884-1885	At Kitchissippi Lookout, Island Park Drive, just west of the Champlain Bridge, Ottawa	In 1884, the British government sent a military expedition up the Nile River to rescue Major-General Charles Gordon who was under siege at Khartoum. On the recommendation of Lord Wolseley a number of Canadian voyageurs, many from the Ottawa valley, were recruited to navigate the expedition through the river's long and treacherous cataracts.
Thomas McKay 1792-1855	In the park at the corner of Sussex Drive and John Street near the site of his former New Edinburgh industrial complex, Ottawa	Master mason, entrepreneur, and founder of the community of New Edinburgh, McKay was responsible for the construction of a number of locks along the Rideau Canal. The McKay family home, Rideau Hall, was purchased by the government in 1868 to serve as the official residence of the Canada's governors-general.
The University of Ottawa	Beside Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, University of Ottawa, Ottawa	Established in 1848 and placed under the direction of the Oblate fathers, this bilingual institution received university status in 1866 and in 1889 was decreed a pontifical university by Pope Leo XIII.
District Court House and Goal 1825	At the site of the former complex, Rye and Cottage Streets, Niagara-on-the-Lake	When the court house and jail complex for the Niagara District was erected at Newark in 1817 it was considered to be the finest public building in the province. The scene of Robert Gourlay's imprisonment in 1819 and a slave riot in 1837, the old structure ended its days as an orphanage.

Founding of L'Original	Champlain, Ontario St-Jean Baptiste School, 35 Longueuil Street	Named after the moose that were so plentiful in the area, L'Original was developed primarily by Nathaniel Treadwell, a land speculator from New York State who acquired the Pointe à l'Original seigneurie in 1796.
Hawkesbury Mills	Hawkesbury, Ontario Confederation Park, John Street	By 1850, the sawmilling operations begun early in the century by Thomas Mears and David Patee at present-day Hawkesbury had become, reportedly, the largest sawmilling establishment in Canada West and the most productive exporter of softwood planks to Britain.
Seigneurie of L'Original	Champlain, Ontario Centennial Park, 772 Front Street	A parcel of land along the Ottawa River granted to François Prévost in 1674 was the first seigneurie in what is now Ontario. Perhaps because of its remoteness, the area was not developed for settlement until the end of the 18th century. By 1825, however, a thriving village was in evidence on the Pointe à l'Original seigneurie.
St. Andrew's Church 1832	Champlain, Ontario 1008 King Street	The Presbyterian congregation at L'Original had been in existence since 1822 but did not begin construction of its church until 10 years later when Charles Treadwell, the current seigneur of Pointe à l'Original, donated land for the structure. In 1925, the congregation voted to join The United Church of Canada.
William Cameron Edwards 1844-1921	Rockland, Ontario Parc du Moulin, Edwards Street, North of Highway 17	A leading lumber producer in the Ottawa valley, Edwards owned many mills in Rockland and Ottawa. As the member of parliament for Russell from 1887 to 1903, he vigorously promoted the interests of lumberers in provincial forestry policies.

Source: Ontario Heritage Foundation: On-line Plaque Guide