



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

CELEBRATE THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOYALIST SETTLEMENT IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY!

FACTS:

- United Empire Loyalists were individuals who resettled in the late 18th century from America to British North America (Canada) and other British colonies due to their support of King George III after the British defeat in the American Revolutionary War and prior to the Treaty of Paris.
- After the war, approximately 50,000 Loyalists went to the British North America colonies such as Nova Scotia and Quebec (including what is now Ontario – and consequently Prince Edward County).
- The signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which recognized the independence of the United States provided the final impetus for Loyalists to leave for British colonies.
- The greatest number of the Loyalists who came to British North America settled in what is now Ontario.
- The disbanded Loyalist military regiments provided the majority of residents. For their loyalty to the King, the Loyalists (primarily farmers and trades-people) were provided with individual land grants of 200 acres.
- The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) tended to side with the British. Approximately 2,000 followed Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) into British North America after the Revolutionary War. On May 22, 1784, the landing of the Mohawks at Tyendinaga, the first Loyalists on the Bay of Quinte, took place.
- On June 16, 1784, the landing of Peter VanAlstine's band of Loyalists in Adolphustown occurred.
- The first settlers in Marysburgh Township ("Fifth Town" – the fifth town settled west of Kingston) in Prince Edward County, also arrived in 1784, and were made up largely of United Empire Loyalists and Hessians (German) soldiers that had fought against the Americans.
- Due to the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists, the British Parliament passed the Canada Act in 1791 which created Upper and Lower Canada.