

The revolt of the American colonies to the south ended in 1783, and the first of the fugitive United Empire Loyalists, anxious to remain under the crown, began to settle along the northern shores of the St. Lawrence and as far up the Raisin River as Martintown. The UEL Route follows this migration starting in South Lancaster. Most of the refugees were Scots who came via the Mohawk Valley in upper New York State. By late 1784 the disbanded soldiers of Sir John Johnson's regiment came to join them. A large contingent were aboriginal Mohawks who had fought with the British and settled on the Akwesasne Reserve.

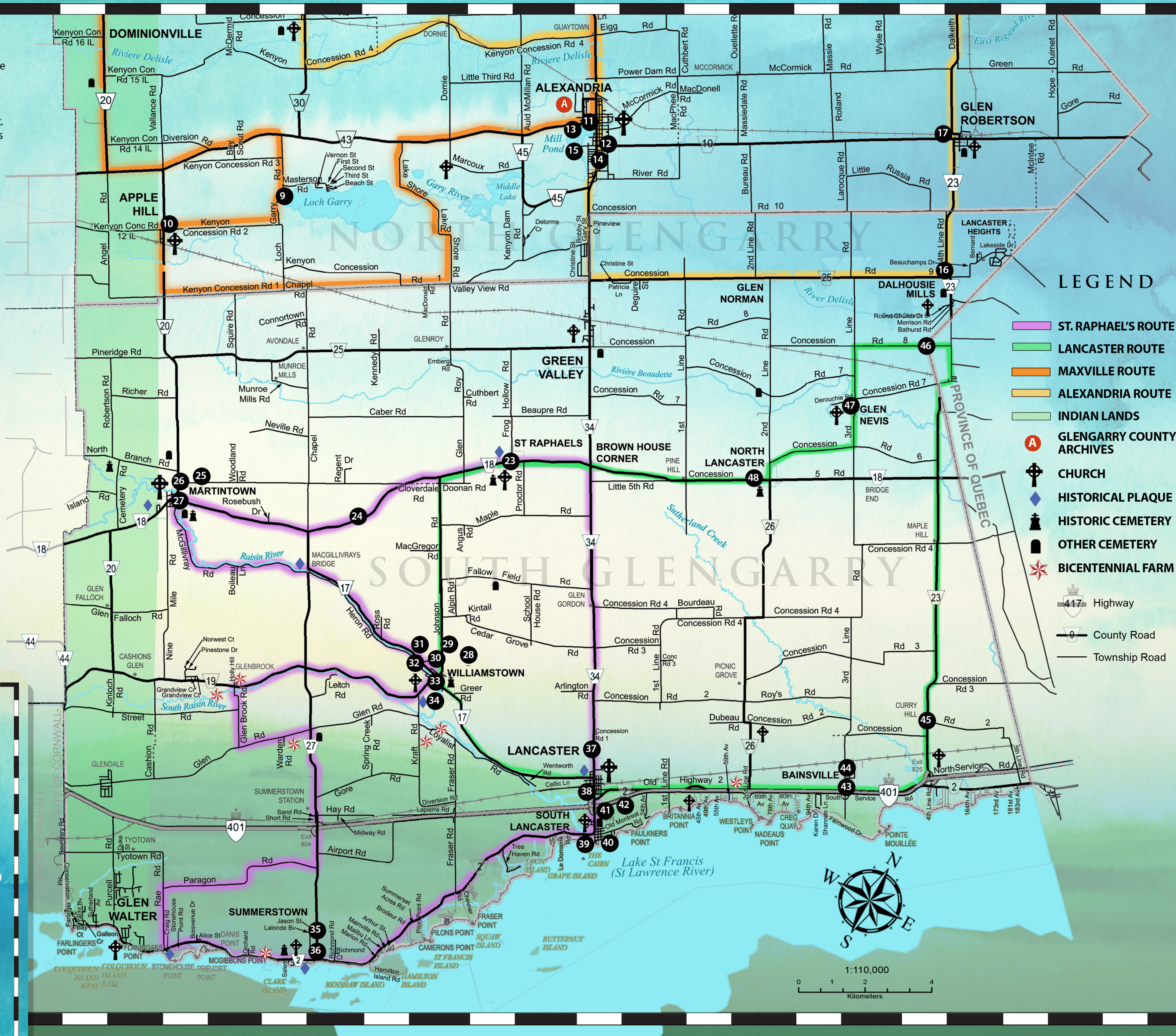
The Glengarry Routes heritage tour logo combines the iconic shapes of a trillium and a heart woven into a Celtic knot with the yellow markings overlaid to depict a roadway. Referencing Glengarry's Routes throughout the county is key to interpreting how the county evolved as a distinct cultural landscape. The surveyed concession roads that divide the county into a grid running north-south and east-west are one of its most prominent features as straight lines bisect the land into lots. Throughout the tour, you will be following in the footsteps of the pioneer families that settled the County by traversing through places like Lochiel, along sections of aboriginal trails between Martintown and Williamstown, and the Old Military Road, which once served as a connection for the ferry wharfs at South Lancaster with the docks on the Ottawa River at Hawkesbury.



# Glengarry Routes

## HERITAGE TOUR

## Discover Our Roots





# ST. RAPHAEL'S ROUTE

St. Raphael's Route takes you to four of the earliest settlements in Ontario, starting at Saint Raphael's Settlement and travelling west into Martintown. Driving counter clockwise the route meanders south beside the Raisin River to Williamstown, before looping through picturesque farmlands down to the St. Lawrence River and the coastal route #2 back to Lancaster. Each of these centres and the lands framing the routes are a visual delight that allow visitors to immerse themselves in Ontario's early history.

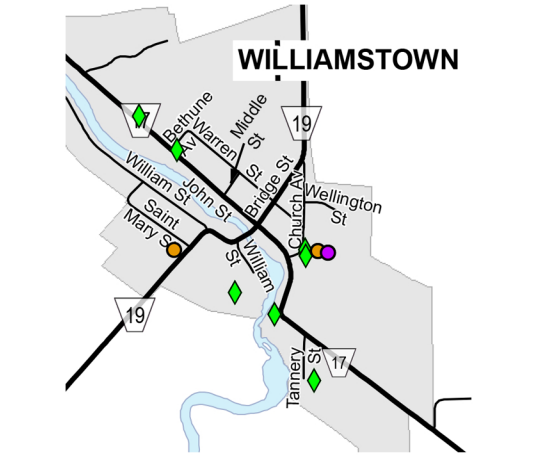
**23 St. Raphael's** (pronounced St. Raffles)  
This settlement begun in 1786, includes St. Raphael's Church NHS Ruins and cemetery, the Bishops House and Iona Academy; all were part of a planned metropolis. Rev. Alexander MacDonell arrived in the settlement in 1803 and took up the vision directing the construction of the Bishop's House in 1808, followed by the classic college, Iona Academy and St. Raphael's Church. Known as the 'Great Church in the wilderness'; it was to be the centre piece of a thriving community. Throughout his life, MacDonell was enormously influential in the county, although the planned metropolis never materialized. The church served as the administrative centre of the Roman Catholic Church in Upper Canada. Built between 1815 -1821 it was destroyed by fire and since 1970 has stood as a ruin. [www.saintraphaelsruins.com](http://www.saintraphaelsruins.com)

**24 King's Road Dundas Road**  
The route travels on a short section of what was known as Dundas Street stretching from Windsor to Montreal. The road is one of the oldest in Ontario it was constructed by the British military following the war of 1812-14. Unlike later surveyed roads, it winds across the county following the topography. This is a very scenic section of the county with panoramic views towards the south, well maintained farms set back from the road, with Glengarry stone fence rows and wood lots framing the route.

**25 Martintown**  
Martintown located on the Raisin River was traditionally a hub and crossroads with five roads intersecting at the McMartin Grist Mill. The river, bridge and surrounding buildings create a postcard setting that documents the evolution of one of Ontario's earliest settlements. The stone building across from the mill built in 1815 by John Grant was named "Grants Folly" – despite its beauty, the locals at the time only saw the expensive bill Grant ended up with.

**26 Martintown Mill**  
**18585 Dundas Street, Martintown**  
This impressive, but odd-looking four-storey, stone mill on the bank of the Raisin River was built by Alexander McMartin in 1846. Due to structural instability sections of th facade have collapsed and then been stabilized giving the stone mill an organic whimsical appearance. It was one of several mills built by the McMartin family that supported the growth of the surrounding village. Recent efforts to stabilize and restore the mill have made it accessible to the public. [www.martintownmill.org](http://www.martintownmill.org)

**27 The Grand Hotel**  
**18526 Dundas Street, Martintown**  
Dating back to the late 1800s the hotel and stagecoach stop served passengers enroute between Montreal and Toronto.



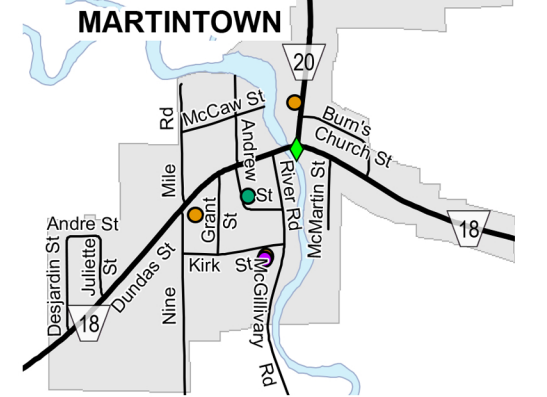
**28 Williamstown**  
Williamstown is a gem within Glengarry County with two National Historic Sites, several museums and churches as well as other interesting sites such as the Williamstown Fairgrounds, home to Canada's oldest annual fair. You should plan to spend a bit of time here. The site of Williamstown was a grant from the Crown to Sir John Johnson.

**29 Bethune-Thompson House**  
**19730 John St., Williamstown**  
Peter Ferguson, an early United Empire Loyalist, built the original portion of this house in 1784. It was built in the "porteau sur sol" method which has logs uniquely set vertically rather than horizontally. Rev. John Bethune took over the house in 1804 and added the remainder of the building. David Thompson, an explorer and mapmaker for the North West Company, lived in the home between 1815 and 1834. Open year-round, free of charge, after 4:30pm Monday-Friday, 1-5pm on Sundays.

**30 St. Andrew's United Church**  
**5793 Church Ave., Williamstown**  
In 1787, Rev. John Bethune organized a Presbyterian congregation who erected a log church at this site, then a stone structure in 1802, followed by the present church in 1812. This congregation had only six minsters for its first 170 years, between 1787 and 1958. It also is home to Glengarry's first church bell.

**31 Sir John Johnson House NHS**  
**19626 William St., Williamstown**  
Built between 1784 and 1792, the Sir John Johnson House is recognized as being one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario.

**32 Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum**  
**19651 John St., Williamstown**  
Located in the old Williamstown schoolhouse, this museum focuses on the stories of the United Empire Loyalist settlers of the area and the Glengarry members of the North West Company. Some of the partners of the NWC that lived in the area include David Thompson, Hugh McGillis, John McGillivray and Duncan Cameron. *Open Wed. – Mon. 10am-5pm Victoria Day to Labour Day Phone (613) 347-3547* [norwestersandloyalistmuseum.ca](http://norwestersandloyalistmuseum.ca)



**33 Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame**  
**19687 William St., Williamstown**  
Founded in 2003, the Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame recognizes the talented individuals who make up Glengarry's rich Celtic culture. The inductees range from pipers and fiddlers to singers and composers. The hall also showcases memorabilia relevant to the music and culture of the area. *Open June 24th-August 12th, Tues.-Sun. 10am-3pm Year-round by appointment. Free Admission Phone (613) 347-9996* [glengarrycelticmusic.com](http://glengarrycelticmusic.com)

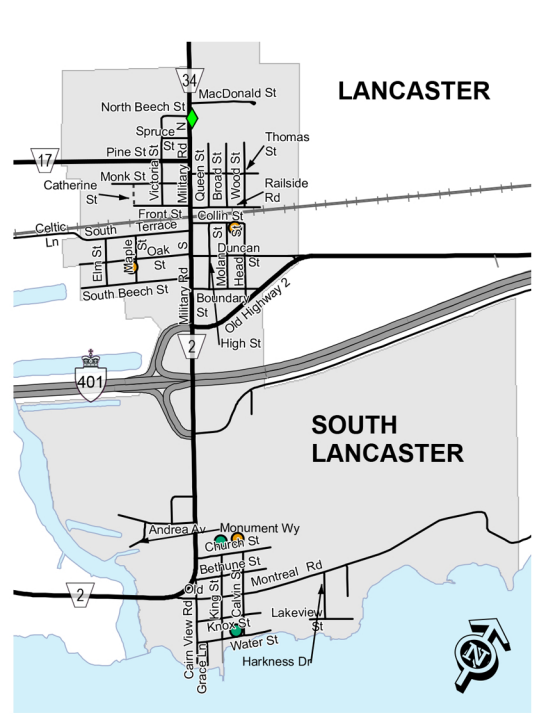
**34 Williamstown Fairgrounds**  
**19629 John St., Williamstown**  
Sir John Johnson granted a portion of his land to the "people of Williamstown to hold a Fair and for no other purpose". The fair has been held at these fairgrounds every year since 1812, making it Canada's Oldest Annual Fair. [williamstownfair.ca](http://williamstownfair.ca)

From the fairgrounds the route follows a switch-back through farm lands and passes several bicentennial farms marked on the map. These private residences are only accessible from the road.

**35 Salem United Church & Cemetery**  
**19041 County Rd. 2, Summerstown**  
The Salem Church and cemetery is home to the third burial site of John "Cariboo" Cameron's wife, Margaret Sophia Groves. The famous Glengarry story follows Cameron and his wife's journey to British Columbia during the gold rush. Shortly after arriving, Margaret passed away. Knowing she wanted to be put at rest at home in Summerstown, Cariboo placed her in a barrow (coffin) filled with alcohol and shipped it to Cornwall by way of Panama. The public was wary of Cariboo with rumours spreading that Isabella was still alive or that Cameron sold her to an Indian Chief for gold. Fed up with the accusations, Cameron had her coffin dug up and put the rumours to rest. She now lies in this cemetery.

**36 Fairfield Estate**  
**19119 County Road 2, Summerstown**  
This ornate estate was built in 1865 by John "Cariboo" Cameron after he had returned from striking gold in British Columbia. Named it Fairfield after the home of his great-father.

**37 Glengarry Fine Cheese**  
**5926 County Road 24, Lancaster**  
The final stop on this tour is a cheese factory. Just north of Lancaster, this factory and outlet are not in a historic building but offer a very worthy place to sample the flavour of one of Glengarry's traditional products. At one time there were over forty cheese factories in the county. *Mon.-Fri.: 10am-5:30pm Sat. & Sun. 11am-4pm* [glengarryfinecheese.com](http://glengarryfinecheese.com)



## LANCASTER ROUTE

**38 Lancaster & South Lancaster**  
In 1778, then Falkner family arrived from Lancashire, England and settled at South Lancaster – then called the Falkner Settlement. There have been many names for this area in the past, including Riviere, Raisin, Kirktown, Lancaster, and the Lower Village. As the village grew along the waterfront, it became the "Gateway to Glengarry". When the railroad station opened to the north of the Raisin River in the 1880s, the village became divided, creating Lancaster and South Lancaster.

**39 South Lancaster Wharf**  
**End of King Street south of Water St.**  
South Lancaster is a charming, waterfront village with many historic residential buildings along narrow streets with mature trees. Up the road in Lancaster older commercial buildings along the main street (County Road 34) as well as elegant houses along Oak Street that are worth seeing. Before the coming of the railway, South Lancaster and its wharves were the gateway to Glengarry.

**40 The Glengarry Cairn**  
**National Historic Site 1837-1838**  
From the end of the wharf, the Glengarry Cairn built by soldiers can be seen. It is dedicated to Sir John Colborne, the leader of the military at the time and later Governor General of Canada. The cairn is 60ft in diameter at its base, 60ft high and has a stone stairway winding around it to the top.

**41 Falkner's Settlement Cemetery**  
**Water & Calvin Streets, S. Lancaster**  
This cemetery recognizes the Falkner family as the founding family of South Lancaster, then referred to as the Falkner Settlement or Falkner's Landing. William Falkner was instrumental in assisting Sir John Johnson in settling the Loyalists and Mohawks ensuring they received the land granted to them.

**42 Moose Head Inn**  
**20373 Old Montreal Road, South Lancaster**  
The Moose Head Inn, built in the 1790s, operated as a stagecoach inn and continued to operate through the 1960s. It was also used as a courtroom in its early years. The south-west window has been called the "Moccasin Window"; ale was passed to First Nation customers as they were not allowed to enter the tavern.

**43 Bainsville**  
East on old highway # 2, this land in this area was known as Bains Fields or the Drowned Lands because of drainage problems and low swamp land. It went unclaimed until the Dutch settled the area. Arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway was largely responsible for the development of the town and at one time Bainsville depot was the largest transit point for milk being shipped to Montreal. At one time a bustling market town centered around the Sangster General Store and the post office.

**44 Sangster General Store**  
**6080 3rd Line Road, Bainsville**  
James A. Sangster and Donald D. McCuaig opened, owned and operated this general store for over 40 years. The McCuaig shares were sold in the mid 1930s and the name was changed to "Sangster's Sons Merchants". The store is still owned and operated by the Sangster family, one of many Glengarry businesses that have been passed down through several family generations.

**45 Curry House**  
**County Rd. 23, Curry Hill**  
The Curry House is an impressive Georgian Style timber frame building constructed in 1806-08 for James Curry and Maraget M. Van Nostrand both UEL. All of the nails used in the building were hand forged and the timber frame hewn out of oak. A large room on the second floor was used as a school as well as a community hall and housed the first post office in the area.

**46 Boundary Marker and Plaque**  
**Conc. Rd. 8 - Ontario / Quebec Border**  
The border line was established in 1791; you will notice on your map that you have crossed the boundary between Quebec and Ontario at the tip of a v-shaped boundary line. This represents the intersection of the two survey lines set perpendicular from the St. Lawrence River in the south and the Ottawa River in the north. Markers have been placed at 1-mile intervals along the entire border. Because alcohol was always more accessible in Quebec, these crossing points were frequented by Glengarry residents.



**47 Glen Nevis, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church**  
**Butternut Lane and Concession 3**  
Driving north along the 3rd line, the spires of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church dominate the viewscape. Over 200 parishioners were said to be involved in the site selection. The 1882, stone church and rectory served as a centre and became known for holding massive celebrations, picnics and socials. Next door and part of the complex, the 1919 Maryvale Academy served as a school, a nursing home and is now an inn 'the Abbey for the Arts'. It is an impressive example of Boyd Block, a patented decorative cast concrete block construction.

**48 LeClair Mansion**  
**4792 2nd Line Rd., North Lancaster**  
The home of Alexander LeClair one of the sons of Glengarry's most successful French Canadian merchants and entrepreneurs, Charles LeClair. The second empire Revival mansion stands testament to the many French Canadian business persons who were later to own prosperous businesses throughout the county. For two generations the LeClairs ran a diverse range of businesses in and around North Lancaster. The pioneer cemetery just at the edge of the hamlet contains stones of many of the early families.

**St. Raphael's** (pronounced St. Raffles)  
See description under #23

**Williamstown**  
See description under #28

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