

## Arnprior--Stewartville



Arnprior-Stewartville and surrounding area is closely connected when you begin to search our heritage. This common thread that connects us is our rich Heritage in Lumbering and Agriculture. Another area that connects us is our waterways namely the Madawaska River and Ottawa River. While we all know, from History lessons at school, about the founder of McNab Township, the famous Archibald McNab, who caused undue hardship to the pioneers who followed him to this great country. The village of Arnprior was a rundown place when the McLaughlin's came and settled in this wilderness.

The first Daniel McLaughlin arrived on a bright windy day in May 1851. His eyes feasted on the large heavily timbered shoreline. Mr. McLaughlin walked slowly up the dusty road, now called John St. and with the roar of the rapids in his ears he knew that he was nearing the abandoned Buchanan holdings. As McLaughlin had previous lumbering experiences his mind envisioned a vast new lumber expansion. Surveying the ruined Buchanan Mills his minds eye saw great potential. As he had a thriving lumber business in Bytown, he could not in his wildest dreams forecast the effect he would eventually have on Arnprior and District.

In 1851 McLaughlin purchased 400 acres of land and watershed rights known as Arnprior, Township of McNab from the Middleton firm in Liverpool. He then commenced to encourage people to settle here. He laid out plans for a hamlet. Many of the streets were named after family members. In 1853 the destroyed wooden bridge left by the Buchanans was rebuilt and a gristmill was also erected. The same year he also began to build the stone mansion to be known as "The Hill". The family moved from Ottawa in 1857. This property was purchased in 1946 by the Oblate Order.