

Burnstown



Burnstown is situated on the rugged north shore of the beautiful and historic Madawaska River. Starting in the 1820s, the river became important in the timber trade, with its seemingly unending supply of mature pine and hardwoods. Many rafts of square timber came down the river each spring, even though there were ferocious falls, chutes, and rapids. Burnstown was about half-way along 16 miles of treacherous rapids, known as the Long Rapids. The river was a constant roar until the late 1940s when a hydroelectric dam at Stewartville tamed this section of the river.

Burnstown dates back to around 1825 when the infamous Laird McNab first started bringing his settlers from Scotland. Early names of the settlement were Johnston's Rock and Madawaska Bridge. When the post office opened in 1854, the village was named Burnstown, in honour of Robert Burns, Scotland's beloved poet. Some say, though, the village was named after the 'burn' (Scottish for creek) that merrily rolls through the village and behind the church to the river.

Although there are only about 30 buildings in the village, many of them date back to the original settlement and have been lovingly restored.

1. The church is the only remaining public building in the hamlet.
2. The school now contains an antique shop and home

