



Ontario ethnocultural profiles

This is one of a series of articles on ethnocultural groups in Ontario.

The influx of Scots to what is now Ontario began at the end of the American Revolution. The Highland regiments which Britain had organized both in Europe and America had to be disbanded and there was little prospect for employment back in Scotland. Faced with the additional problem of defending British property in Canada against possible attack by the Americans, Britain hit upon the idea of establishing settlements in Upper Canada by offering 200 acres of land free to each member of the disbanded regiments. The largest and most famous of these settlements was the one founded in Glengarry county in what is now Eastern Ontario. There were small settlements along the St. Lawrence around Cornwall, Williamsburg, Lancaster, Osnaburck, and Charlottenburg, as well as in Stormont and Dundas counties.

Along with the military men came the United Empire Loyalists from the United States and many of the Scots among these settlers later sent for friends and relatives in Scotland. In 1785, 500 settlers were brought from Scotland to Glengarry by Rev. Alexander Macdonell, attracted by promises of 200-acre land grants. In 1793 and 1799 large groups of settlers arrived in Upper Canada from Scotland.

The economic situation in Scotland encouraged emigration. In the Lowlands, artisans, factory workers, agricultural laborers and small tenant farmers were faced with a lack of work and a shortage of land. In the Highlands, crofters were being expelled from their land to make more grazing room for sheep. High population growth and a severe potato famine intensified the difficulties faced by the Highlanders, and made more attractive the offers of free land and supplies in Canada. Individual emigrants were often financed by landlords keen to get rid of an overburdening number of tenants. Groups of immigrants were brought out and settled in Upper Canada by individual developers or large land development companies. The motivations of these developers ranged from philanthropy to profit. The British Government itself encouraged this emigration, especially after the War of 1812, as a means of safeguarding its property in Canada.

In 1816, Perth was established by a group of Highlanders recruited by John Campbell. In 1812, Lanark was settled by a group of 1,200 Scottish weavers organized by Lord Bathurst. The British Government offered to each of these immigrants 100 acres of land, seeds, implements and a loan of 100 pounds to be repaid over 10 years.

For 30 years from 1803 until 1833, Thomas Talbot, an Irishman, settled over 28 townships on the shores of Lake Erie, land granted to him by the British Government. He brought emigrants from the Highlands, the Lowlands and the United States. In 1816, William Dickson bought from the British Government the township of Dundee in Ontario and proceeded to bring out Scottish settlers. Twenty years later Dundee had a population of 60,000, most of them of Scottish origin. Between 1800 and 1803, 10,000 Scots set out for Canada, with a large proportion of them heading for Upper Canada. There were no regulations for passenger ships at that time and it was not uncommon for ships that normally were allowed to carry only 489 slaves to America, to transport 700 Scots to Canada.

In 1827, John Galt formed the Canada Company which acquired a million acres on Lake Huron. He campaigned to recruit emigrants from Scotland, setting up "emigrant societies" in towns and cities across Scotland, handing out advertisements and publishing letters from some of the earlier settlers describing the glorious life in Upper Canada. The Canada Company was responsible for the founding of Goderich and Galt.

In the 1840s, a large number of Scots settled in Huron and Bruce counties in Canada West. By 1855, when emigration from the Highlands reached its peak, there were Scottish settlements in Canada West

in the Glengarry district near Ottawa, in the west and northwest of what is now Toronto, as far west as Goderich on Lake Huron, and near Windsor in the south.

Immigration from Scotland to the province reached its peak in 1910-1911 and has remained fairly steady since then.

The early settlers in Ontario labored to clear their land and establish farms. Some of those who came later had enough cash to buy an established farm. Those without money worked as laborers on a farm or in a trade to earn money for the purchase of land. For most of the Scottish immigrants, farming was only a beginning. From there they went on to make an impact in education, politics, journalism, business and the shaping of life in this new land.

The Scots in Ontario have played an important role in industry, commerce and business. The CPR owes its existence to a number of Scots who surveyed, organized and financed it. Robert MacLaughlin founded MacLaughlin Carriage Works which later became General Motors of Canada. Robert Simpson was the founder of a province-wide chain of department stores. Scottish farmers in Ontario were the first to make whiskey from Canadian rye and by 1850, there were more than 200 distilleries in operation. This was the beginning of a multi-million dollar export commodity for Canada. And, perhaps more important, the McIntosh red apple, discovered by John McIntosh, has become a major agricultural commodity in the province.

Many of Ontario's leading politicians were of Scottish origin. William Lyon Mackenzie was a member of the House of Assembly and first mayor of the City of Toronto. John A. Macdonald and George Brown were responsible for bringing the provinces into Confederation. John A. Macdonald was the moving force behind the BNA Act and William Lyon Mackenzie King was Prime Minister of Canada from 1921 until 1948.

In literature, the works of Robert Service, Duncan Campbell Scott, and Wilfred Campbell are well known to several generations of Canadians. George Heriot, Robert Tait Mackenzie and James Wilson Morrice have made an impact in the province as painters of Scottish origin. In the field of music, the name of Ernest Macmillan stands out, as a musician and as a music educator. One of the province's

earliest newspapers, *The Globe*, was founded by George Brown. There have been many outstanding teachers and administrators of Scottish origin in Ontario universities. The University in Kingston owe their existence to a large extent to the efforts of Rev. John Strachan in the early 19th century. Some academics have shown a continuing interest in Scotland and its connections with this province. The University of Guelph holds semi-annual meetings and country-wide conferences on Scottish studies. York University publishes a semi-annual journal, *The Scottish Tradition*, with articles on Scottish history, culture and literature.

The sports of curling and golf were introduced in Ontario by Scotsmen. Scottish dance clubs and Scottish bagpipe music continue to be popular throughout the province. The long-standing tradition of Highland regiments remains, and during World War II Ontario sent several Highland regiments overseas with its forces. In every aspect of life in Ontario, the impact of the Scots has been great.

Immigrants to Canada and Ontario having Scotland as country of last permanent residence, 1949-1976.

Year	Canada	Ontario
1949-1950	4,649	2,894
1950-1951	3,829	2,589
1951-1952	10,523	7,400
1952-1953	9,653	6,312
1953-1954	10,802	7,521
1954	10,480	7,153
1955	6,210	3,785
1956	10,939	7,323
1957	23,514	15,154
1958	5,626	3,318
1959	4,508	2,655
1960	5,064	3,130
1961	3,183	1,874
1962	3,505	2,212
1963	6,074	4,301
1964	6,074	4,301
1965	8,363	5,790
1966	16,077	11,748
1967	14,953	10,448
1968	7,302	4,919
1969	5,426	3,771
1970	4,452	3,056
1971	2,522	1,752
1972	3,270	2,784
1973	4,038	2,784
1974	6,259	3,956
1975	4,182	2,395
1976	2,343	1,374

ONTARIO TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Since 1980, the Ontario Government has provided direct annual Property and Sales Tax Grants to offset the municipal, school and sales taxes paid by persons 65 years of age and over (seniors).

For the winter of 1981-82, the government has proposed that Temporary Home Heating Grants be paid to seniors to offset sudden increases in heating costs. The 1981-82 grant will be paid in the spring of 1982.

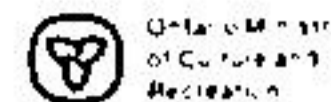
If you have any questions concerning Ontario Tax Grants for Senior Citizens, please call the Ministry of Revenue's multilingual Information Centre free of charge from anywhere in Ontario:

- In Metro Toronto — dial 965-8470
- In area code 807 — ask the Operator for zenith 8-2000
- In all other areas — dial 1-800-268-7121
- Northern Ontario residents may also contact their nearest Northern Affairs Officer — out of town residents ask the Operator for zenith 3-3160

Or write to: Ontario Tax Grants for Seniors, Ministry of Revenue, Guaranteed Income and Tax Credit Branch, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2B3.



SCOTS



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Farm Vacation Offers Affordable Winter Holiday

One economical alternative to a holiday down south for the whole family is a farm vacation.

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"You can walk or cross-country ski through clean white snow. Skate on the farm pond, take the children tobogganing, or enjoy an old-fashioned sleigh ride," says Ms. van Son. "Many farms feature exciting snowmobile trails."

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To obtain a list of Ontario vacation farms for winter or summer holidays, write to Ms. Sammie Putzel, R.R. 2, Vankleek Hill, Ontario K0B 1R0.

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