

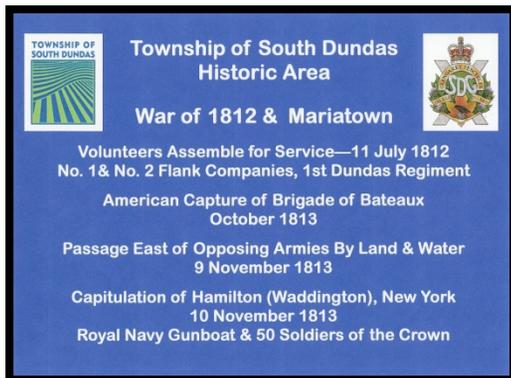
TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH DUNDAS

WAR OF 1812 SIGNS

Commemorating Our 1812 Heritage



Commemorating Medallion
Created by Carolyn Goddard- 2012



Mariatown was located in a key place on the “life-line” of Upper Canada—The St. Lawrence River. This is where the first local volunteers mustered for duty. Friend and foe passed by here.



The 1st Dundas Regiment played a key role in protecting the brigades of bateaux that travelled the St. Lawrence River. This was the first of a number of situations where the Regiment was called upon to safeguard our area.



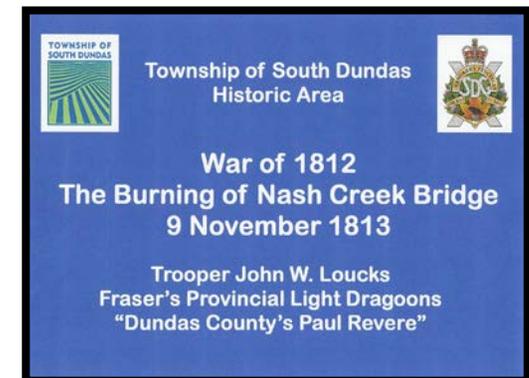
A brigade of bateaux was protected from an American attack when 120 men from the Dundas and Glengarry Regiments lay in wait. The ambushed enemy departed suffering from a number killed, wounded, and taken prisoner.



The Fall of 1813 saw a major American attempt to capture Montreal. Part of the strategy was to move a force down the St. Lawrence River. A small detachment of the 1st Dundas Regiment and two Royal Artillery guns was no match to the number of Americans.



Visualize a teenager on his horse charging to the east to warn fellow citizens of the approaching enemy. He sets fire to a bridge on the River Road to slow the advance, climbs a tree to observe the enemy, and then reports back to his superiors by a back route.



The battlefield and its monument were victims of progress in the name of The Seaway. This set of signs allows today’s residents of South Dundas and its visitors to visualize the limits of the battlefield. Skirmishes started on November 10th with victory coming on November 11th.

Remembering Our Military Heritage



In J. Smyth Carter's "The Story of Dundas" (published in 1905), he writes:

"There is implanted in one a feeling of veneration and of awe when standing on historic ground, and more especially battlefields, the renown of which are recorded in history. Yet, in keeping with the maxim, "familiarity breeds contempt", those who live in close proximity to such places are inclined to disregard their historical significance."

"... we in our little corner of Ontario are so intent on our daily pursuits that we can pass and repass the historic spot of Crysler's Farm without giving it a thought."

"The services of the militia of Dundas County and sister counties deserve an honoured place in history, and in no better way can we cherish the memory of those fellows than by paying tribute to the spot on which they fought and bled for their country."

Those are words written over 100 years ago. But how true!

