

CONTINUING THE MACDONALD TOUR BY CAR, BUS OR BICYCLE

After you've discovered what life was like for John A. Macdonald in Picton from 1833 to 1834 by taking the self-guided walking tour, you may want to drive further to visit the historic sites nearby in the Quinte region where Macdonald lived.

You'll need a full day to take the tour by car or bus. Using a map or GPS, plan a trip from Picton to Glenora to start. You should end up back in the County at the end of the driving tour in a town called Hillier south of the Murray Canal.

To begin, proceed by car east on the Loyalist Parkway to Glenora. John A. Macdonald would walk this five-mile stretch of highway to his home at Glenora (sometimes barefoot to save shoe leather). It's a walk or drive well worth taking along the south shore of the Bay of Quinte toward Adolphus Reach.

1. Just before you reach **Glenora**, turn right and drive up the escarpment to picturesque **Lake-on-the-Mountain**. John's father Hugh operated a fulling and carding mill near the present day [Miller House Cafe-Brasserie](#), now a charming Cafe-Brasserie where you can stop to take in the spectacular view and enjoy a light meal.

2. **The Stone Mills of Glenora** where Hugh Macdonald ran a grist-mill from 1830-1836. Please see the video [John A. Macdonald – The Quinte Years](#) to learn about his life in this part of Canada.

3. Take the historic [Glenora Ferry](#) to [Adolphustown](#).

4. A **Cairn at Hay Bay** marks the spot near the Old Hay Bay Methodist Church where the Macdonald family lived from 1824 until 1830. To get there, drive north of Adolphustown on County Road 8 for 3 miles to the historic Quaker cemetery, the cairn showing the location of the Macdonald family home, and the [Old Hay Bay Church](#) built in 1792 by United Empire Loyalists.

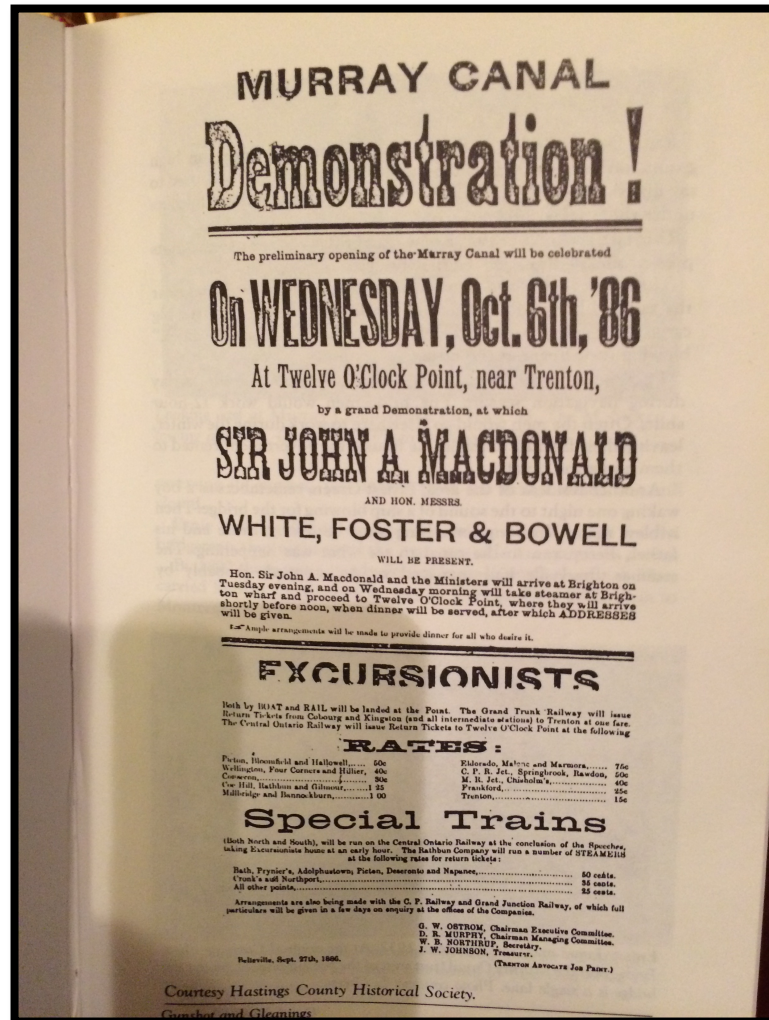


Macdonald Home at Hay Bay 1824 -- 1830

5. Drive east on South Shore Drive to County Rd. 8 and drive east (left) to Napanee. Visit the [Macpherson House](#) museum in Napanee, (180 Elizabeth Street), where John A. lived with his cousin Allan Macpherson, the “Laird of Napanee.” Plan to tour this historic Georgian home while you are visiting Napanee.

6. Drive west out of Napanee on the historic [King’s Highway](#) (Hwy. 2) from Napanee to Trenton and then drive south on Highway 33 on what becomes the Loyalist Parkway to the historic Murray Canal. Highway 2, as you can tell by its number, is the oldest highway in Ontario. (There is no number Highway 1).

7. Continue on the Loyalist Highway to the bridge at the Murray Canal and turn east to **Twelve O’Clock Point**. On this site on October 6, 1886, Sir John officiated at the preliminary opening of the Murray Canal. Although the official opening didn’t occur until August 15, 1889, the prime minister wanted to demonstrate that he kept his promises to the people of the Bay of Quinte area. This canal opened up the Bay of Quinte to Lake Ontario and helped the area to prosper for many years to come. The opening of the canal effectively turned Prince Edward County from a peninsular like nearby Presqu’ile (peninsula) into an island.



Preliminary Opening of the Murray Canal

Sir John A. had just returned from a long trip with his wife across Canada by train to Victoria B.C. to drive the last spike in the Esquimalt to Nanaimo Railway at Cliffside, Shawinigan Lake in August 13, 1886.

8. Finally drive south to Hillier by crossing the Murray Canal on the Loyalist Parkway. John A. Macdonald visited his cousins Lowther Pennington Macpherson, John Alexander Macpherson, and Mary Ann Whitten. They all lived at one time in Hillier. Lowther convalesced here with his brother John during his long illness. John Alexander Macpherson owned a number of businesses and much of the land in the village then known as Dorland's Creek or Slab Creek. John visited Mary Ann and stayed with her family for many years after the Macphersons had left the village. Stop at the Hillier House to find out more about the town of Hillier. Suggested reading about Macdonald's family connection with Hillier: *On the Edge of History* by E.D. Taylor Ashton. 1996.

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