



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

DISCO

“I learn!”

GRADE 2 SOCIAL STUDIES

Early Settlers of Coote’s Paradise: The Birth of Dundas!



1 Stationed at Fort George, Thomas Coote was an avid huntsman.

This education module complements Strand B- People And Environments: Global Communities.

Can you imagine a time without electricity or automobiles? Now imagine that you and your family have to find a place to live... in the wilderness! Where would you go? What sort of land would you want to find? What kind of relationship would you have with your natural environment? And how would that environment shape the way you live?

Join the DMA’s resident anthropologist, Professor Interrogo, as he takes you and your class back in time to meet the first settlers of Dundas. This is the story of a brave widow named Anne Morden and her family, forced to flee to Canada after the American Revolution. They were among the thousands of United Empire Loyalists. Why did Anne and her family choose to settle in the valley wilderness of what would become the town of Dundas? What happened to her husband that he didn’t come along? Visiting the History of Dundas Gallery,

your students will see the baby cradle brought by Anne Morden to her new home in Coote’s Paradise.

The early history of Dundas is a fascinating one! Your class will have the opportunity to learn about Thomas Coote who discovered Coote’s Paradise and Governor John Graves Simcoe who built Governor’s Road shortly after these first settlers arrived. Of enormous significance to the early settlement of Dundas is the abundance of waterfalls which resulted from the



2 Diorama of the Dundas Valley



4 Grist and Sawmill built by John Morden near the current location of Borer's Falls.

formation of the Dundas Valley by a glacier cutting through the Niagara Escarpment. . Students will have a chance to examine a large diorama of the valley town clearly laying out the waterfalls and creeks in the area. Consequently, Dundas was a mill town with the early settlers building grist and saw mills. Your students will discover how this abundance of mills gave rise to coopers and blacksmiths and see some of the strange tools used to make a barrel. Viewing videos, you and your students will learn just how a grist mill and a saw mill work and see the huge

model of the Darnley Mill housed at the DMA. Its ruins can still be found on Crooks Hollow Road.

Professor Interrogo will also introduce the class to Richard Hatt and his first store in Dundas – which is still standing! – and explain just how the early village of Coote’s Paradise came to be known as the Town of Dundas.

From *The Ontario Curriculum, Social Studies Grades 1-6; History and Geography, Grades 7 & 8, 2013*, this Education Module offered by the DMA addresses the following expectations: B2.1, B2.2, B2.3, B2.5, B3.2, B3.6, B3.7 (pp. 80-81).



3 Ruins of the Darnley Mill, Crooks Hollow Road