



DUNDAS  
MUSEUM &  
ARCHIVES

# DISCO

*“I learn!”*

## GRADE 7 HISTORY

### Conflicts and Challenges: Dundas 1787 – 1814

*This education module complements Strand B. Canada, 1800–1850: Conflict and Challenges*



**1** *Brown Bess musket on display at the museum*

In one sense, the beginnings of Dundas were rooted in The American Revolution. In a similar way, the conflict of The War of 1812 was significant in shaping the future of the settlement known, at that time, as Coote’s Paradise. Indeed, it was due to this conflict that the little village in the valley would eventually take the name of “Dundas.”

How did the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada at that time become known as “The Father of Dundas”? Who besides the First Nations knew about a secret portage to the west that began at Coote’s Paradise? What was the military importance of Governor’s Road?



**2** *Built in 1804 by Richard Hatt as a store to accompany his nearby mill, this building likely housed British soldiers.*

Your students will discover the significance of the American Revolution in causing United Empire Loyalists like Anne Morden – the first settler of Dundas - to find their way to the head of Lake Ontario. One of the key figures at this time was John Graves Simcoe, then Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. He saw the potential of a military garrison at Coote’s Paradise and the need for a road west to the Grand River and Lake Erie.

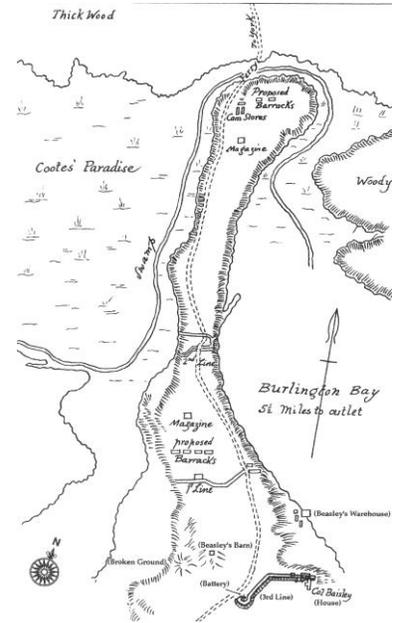
Fired upon by the USS Oneida while sailing on Lake Ontario, Richard Hatt, another early settler, was directly involved in the beginnings of The War of 1812. The students will learn of the significance of Burlington Heights at the east end of what was to become the Desjardins Canal and how many of the wounded in the war were treated in Dundas and some of the prisoners were kept in jail here.

Dundas itself was not directly involved in The War of 1812 and escaped much of its turmoil. During the autumn of 1813, however, the Valley Town felt its impact deeply. Almost overnight, the population of the town – just a few hundred – grew to more than 7,000! Retreating British soldiers and their families, along with First Nations and their families, descended on the small village. The impact on resources was devastating.

This educational experience also includes a hands-on examination of many intriguing artifacts housed at the DMA relating to early settlement and The War of 1812, including a sword worn by John Atkinson, a Dundas native, at the Battle of Queenston Heights where he witnessed the death of Sir Isaac Brock, a Brown Bess musket and various soldier paraphernalia.

There is also a language component to this educational experience as your students will learn the origin of several phrases associated with the musket: *lock, stock and barrel*; *half-cocked*; *flash in the pan*. And they will also learn why a rifle is called a “rifle” and how it differs from a musket.

*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: B3.1,2,3,5. (p. 144).*



**3 Just east of Dundas, Burlington Heights was a key point of defense. It is the current location of Dundurn Castle.**