

Settling the Land

Le peuplement

Agriculture was practised in Ontario long before the creation of records to document it. The Huron used the land to grow corn, peas, squash, kidney beans and sunflowers. It was not until the late 18th century, however, that large-scale settlement of farmland took place with the establishment of a land granting process. To earn the right to own a piece of property, emigrants petitioned the Crown with a promise to fulfil certain duties, such as clearing trees, cultivating the soil, and building houses. If the requirements were met, the settler was granted ownership. Others were awarded land for free, including members of the militia and United Empire Loyalists, as rewards for their allegiance and service to the King. Over the centuries, various government programs were created to attract newcomers from all over the world seeking the opportunity to live and work in Ontario and contribute to its growing agricultural industry.

L'agriculture en Ontario est plus ancienne que les documents à son sujet. Les Hurons cultivaient le maïs, les pois, les courges, les haricots secs et le tournesol. Ce n'est toutefois qu'à la fin du 18^e siècle que le peuplement à grande échelle sur les terres arables débute avec la mise sur pied d'un processus de concession des terres. Pour obtenir le droit de posséder une terre, les immigrants doivent soumettre une pétition, dans laquelle ils s'engagent à remplir certaines conditions telles la coupe des arbres, la culture du sol et la construction d'une maison. S'il remplit ces engagements, le pionnier obtient la propriété de sa terre. D'autres, comme les Loyalistes de l'Empire-Uni et les miliciens, obtiennent des concessions gratuites en guise de récompense pour leur allégeance et service envers le Roi. Au fil des ans, le gouvernement met sur pied divers programmes pour attirer des nouveaux venus de partout à travers le monde à la recherche de la possibilité de vivre et de travailler en Ontario et de contribuer à une industrie agricole en pleine croissance.



Encampment of the Loyalists in Johnstown, a new settlement on the banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada West, 1783, J.R. Simpson, after James Peachey (Museum Program Drawings, Department of Education, RG 2-344-0-0-89, 10003081)
Encampment of the Loyalists in Johnstown, a new settlement on the banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada West, 1783, J.R. Simpson, after James Peachey (Dessins des programmes du musée du Ministère de l'Éducation, RG 2-344-0-0-89, 10003081)

When the American Revolution ended in 1783, many British loyalists, who were forced to leave the United States, chose to settle in what would become Ontario. They were offered free land, tools, and seeds. This 1925 painting recreates a scene of newly arrived Loyalists on the shores of the St. Lawrence.

À la fin de la Révolution américaine, en 1783, de nombreux loyalistes britanniques, forcés à quitter les États-Unis, choisissent de s'établir dans ce qui deviendra l'Ontario. On leur offre gratuitement des terres, des outils et des semences. Sur ce tableau de 1925, des Loyalistes fraîchement arrivés sont sur la rive du Saint-Laurent.



Emigration to the Province of Ontario, 1869, Department of Immigration (Archives of Ontario Poster collection, C 233-1-5-1938)
Affiche de promotion de l'immigration en l'Ontario, 1869, Ministère de l'Immigration (Collection d'affiches des Archives publiques de l'Ontario, C 233-1-5-1938)

Beginning in 1869, Government advertising programs were created to encourage people to settle in Ontario. Through the use of pamphlets, posters, and very persuasive agents, emigrants from United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States were drawn to Ontario for the free land and hope for a better future.

À partir de 1869, des campagnes gouvernementales encouragent le peuplement de l'Ontario. Grâce à des brochures, des affiches et des agents très persuasifs, des émigrants britanniques, européens et américains sont attirés par l'Ontario, ses terres gratuites et l'espoir d'un avenir meilleur.

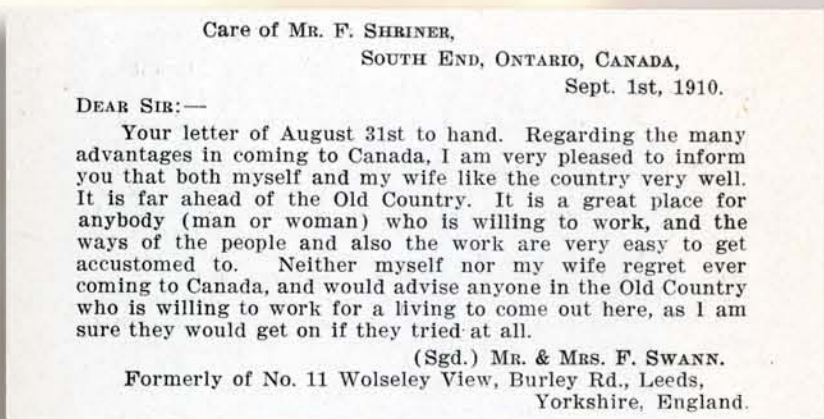
In 1921, Ontario led the way as the province with the highest annual field crop value and highest immigration rates. At that time, the most prominent immigrant groups were English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Dutch and Italian.

En 1921, l'Ontario est le chef de file des provinces au chapitre de la valeur annuelle de récoltes et du taux d'immigration. À l'époque, les groupes d'immigrants les plus importants sont les Anglais, les Irlandais, les Écossais, les Français, les Allemands, les Néerlandais et les Italiens.



ONTARIO, the great English speaking province of Canada, owes its success to the United Empire Loyalists, those intrepid pioneers who settled along the shores of the Bay of Quinte, and the Niagara River. They were Ontario's first settlers and they built up settlements which today are thriving communities and their offspring are still carrying on. That Ontario offers farmers and farm laborers greater opportunities than can be found in any other province of Canada, and is recognized by the incoming settler, is proved by immigration returns. During the period 1911 to 1921, 652,000 immigrants settled in Ontario, a number approximately one hundred per cent. (100%) greater than that of any other province and representing thirty-seven per cent. (37%) of the total number of immigrants entering Canada during that period. Ontario is the ideal province for the home seeker; its farm lands possess a marvelously rich and fertile soil, are well timbered and well watered; they provide lumber for building the home, farm buildings and fences; game of all kinds frequent the forests while the numerous rivers and lakes abound in fish of every description.

Ontario, Department of Agriculture. *Farming in Ontario*. Toronto: The Department, [ca.1924] (Archives of Ontario Library Collection, Call No: Pamph nd F #16 folder G-445)
 Ontario, Ministère de l'Agriculture. *Farming in Ontario. Toronto: le ministère, [vers 1924]* (Collection de la bibliothèque des Archives publiques de l'Ontario, Cote : Pamph nd F #16 folder G-445)



Ontario, Department of Agriculture. *Ontario: the premier province of Canada: settlers' opinions*. Toronto: The Department, 1911 (Archives of Ontario Library Collection, Call No: Govt Doc A Misc Box 2 No 4)
 Ontario, Ministère de l'Agriculture. *Ontario. The garden of Canada. What recent settlers say*. Toronto: le ministère, 1911 (Collection de la bibliothèque des Archives publiques de l'Ontario, Cote : Govt Doc A Misc Box 2 No 4)

Many were convinced to leave the poverty and cramped living conditions in Great Britain after reading the glowing words of former neighbours who had become Ontario farmers. These and other examples of promotional materials can be found in the Archives of Ontario Library and Department of Agriculture collections.

Plusieurs sont convaincus de quitter la pauvreté et le surpeuplement qu'ils vivent en Grande-Bretagne à la lecture des écrits élogieux de leurs anciens voisins devenus fermiers en Ontario. On trouve ces textes et d'autres exemples de matériel promotionnel dans les collections de la bibliothèque des Archives publiques de l'Ontario et du ministère de l'Agriculture.



Finish farm in the Fort William District, 1926 (Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Representative Photograph, Albums, RG 16-273, Album 3, pg. 73, 10019305)
 Fermiers finlandais dans le district de Fort William, 1926 (Ministère de l'Agriculture, Albums de photographies des représentants agricoles, RG 16-274, Album 3, p. 73, 10019305)