



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR APRIL 11TH CELEBRATES ARTHUR ; 150 YEARS

This 2022 Canada Day weekend, the village of Arthur will celebrate 150 years of incorporation.

The site that became Arthur was established at the northern end of the Six Nations Land Grant set by the Jones Baseline survey in 1792. Eighty years later, Arthur village entered the railroad age just as it began incorporation. The end of 1871 and beginning of 1872 brought freight and passenger trains through the area, allowing for growth from a widespread rural settlement into a thriving community. The addition of telephone service in 1891 further connected Arthur with the wider world.

By this time immigration of Eastern and Western Europeans, particularly Ireland, the British Isles and Germany, served to build the village's population and expand businesses and services needed to serve the area. Much later the devastation of World War II brought waves of immigrants from countries like Holland and Italy. In the 21st Century, Arthur has welcomed more diversity among those families who enjoy their homes in the village after workdays in large urban centres. And their children can flourish in a place closer to nature.



From its beginning Arthur proved to be the heart of its rural area. Saturdays were the time for residents and farm families to conduct business, catch up on the news, perhaps attend the latest horse races, and enjoy a weekly break. Farmers who supplied milk and cream to the Wellington County Creamery picked up the checks which paid for necessities and small indulgences.

The arduous work of carving out family farms and building successful village businesses established traditions of both self-reliance and service to others. While preserving individuality, the residents of Arthur are ready to support fellow citizens. This has always been a village of volunteers through service clubs, churches, schools, sports, and numerous other ways.

Long before its designation as "Canada's Most Patriotic Village" Arthur's residents rallied to the call from the British mother country to give sons and daughters to wars across the ocean. The Boer war and the "war to end all wars" brought deeds of heroism and daily tragedy for every Arthur resident. In World War II the acts of bravery and sacrifice continued. One hundred and fifty years into Arthur's incorporation, dedication to the protection of lives and freedom continues to inform the village's identity.



In 2022, the foundations on which Arthur was built continue to sustain this community: hard work, support for one's neighbour, resourcefulness, and respect for our history. The planned celebration embodies all these qualities. We can be assured that the citizens of Arthur will safeguard them for the next 150 years.

Submitted by Gail Donald, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable