

# COMMUNITY DRIVING TOUR

## Prince Albert Our Story

When young Queen Victoria married her German cousin in 1840, many communities celebrated by holding banquets and celebrations. The people at Dayton's Corner celebrated by renaming their settlement Prince Albert.

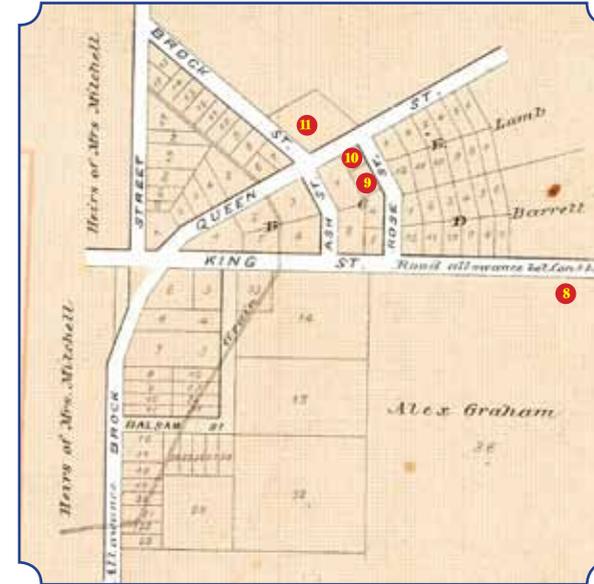
As well, 145 years ago Prince Albert was the second largest grain buying centre in Canada and a booming commercial centre at the junction of Old Simcoe Road and King St. Today it is primarily a growing residential community without a commercial centre but with many original houses from the early booming years.

Manchester is the small hamlet just west of Prince Albert and their histories are closely connected. Originally it was called Fitchett's Corners after pioneer Dennis Fitchett who settled here in 1837. Manchester was the grain railroad station for the area growers.

## Indigenous Burial Ground

On a small piece of land just north of the four corners behind the building that was once the general store, there sits a vacant lot that is believed to be a First Nation Burial Ground. In the early maps for the area the property is designated as an "Indian Burial Ground" whereas in later maps it is labeled a Graveyard or the site is not named at all.

In 2007, LSHS with financial support from the Mississaugas of Scugog island organized a study of the area and conducted Ground Penetrating Radar of the lot. The survey determined there are at least 29 burials on the property. As there are no known records of these burials it appears they predate the arrival of the 1st Europeans to the area. The property is owned by the Township of Scugog.



1 Prince Albert School/Hall

2 P.A. United Church

3 Pine Grove Cemetery

4 William Hayes Residence

5 Jas. MacBrien Residence

6 Rowan Tree Hall

7 Jos. Wright Residence

8 Christie Homestead

9 Primitive Methodist Church

10 Reach Township Hall

11 Abel Ewers Residence

For more Prince Albert history visit our website at: [www.scugogheritage.com](http://www.scugogheritage.com) or contact us at: [lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

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# HERITAGE DRIVING TOURS...



## PRINCE ALBERT & AREA



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## PRINCE ALBERT & AREA

### 1 Prince Albert School / Hall

19 Jeffrey Street  
Prince Albert

This hall is the original public school built during the 1860s as a three-room schoolhouse. In 1934 the school was remodeled and moved back from the street. In 1958 the new school was built south of the four corners and this school became a community hall for the village.



### 2 Prince Albert Methodist Church

23 Jeffery Street  
Prince Albert

This church opened in Sept. of 1866 replacing the first church founded in 1852. This site at the corner of Barber and Jeffery St. was purchased from George Currie. On July 1st 2023 this original Methodist church closed and the congregation amalgamated with Port Perry United Church.



### 3 Pine Grove Cemetery

45 Jeffery Street  
Prince Albert

Founded in 1862 on land purchased from Abner Hurd who is buried here. Originally purchased 8 acres but expanded in 1890 and again in 1915 and is now 13 acres in size. The vault was built in 1911. From the first burial in 1831 until today, this place speaks clearly to Scugog's past.



### 4 William Hayes Residence

14576 Old Simcoe Rd.  
Prince Albert

The land was purchased in 1874 from John Jury and the house built in 1879. The two-story yellow brick home featured arched windows, a tower with a third story room and a large verandah with decorative Victorian gingerbread trim. A fine example of an early Prince Albert mansion.



### 5 James MacBrien Residence

14310 Old Simcoe Rd.  
Prince Albert.

House was built in the 1850s for Aaron Ross a grain dealer. He moved to Port Perry before the arrival of the railway in 1872. It was sold to James MacBrien, an Ont. school inspector. Sir James MacBrien a noted RCMP Commissioner was their son. The house remained in the family for over 90 years.



### 6 Rowan Tree Hall

1618 King Street  
Prince Albert

Rowan Tree Hall was built in 1845 by Abner Hurd and was the largest building in the community at that time. The Hurd's sold the building to James Holden who had founded the first community newspaper for the area- The Ontario Observer in 1857. The property was also once a hotel in the 1870s.



### 7 Joshua Wright Residence

1555 King Street  
Prince Albert

Originally owned by George Currie who operated a general store in community. It was sold in 1875 to the Wright's and is the longest surviving wooden house in community from that period and the only wooden home with a 3 storey front tower. Wright was a maker of boots and shoes.



### 8 Christie Residence

1326 King Street  
Manchester

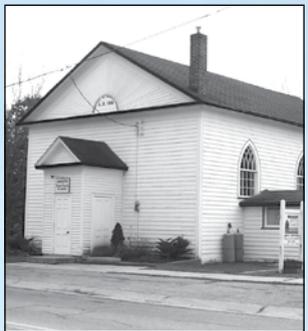
Reuben Crandall came to Manchester in 1821 and built a small log cabin east of this home. He later sold his land to Alexander & Frederick Graham. This house was built by Frederick in 1842 and later bequeathed to his niece Mary who married Peter Christie. Later owners were Dr. Ralph & Patricia Price.



### 9 Primitive Methodist Church

8 Rose Street  
Manchester

This primitive Methodist Church was formally dedicated on Oct. 28, 1866. Cost was \$800 to build and it held about 200 people. The original structure was about 34'x45', and adjacent to the Reach Township Hall it formed the community hub of this hamlet originally called Fitchett's Corners.



### 10 Reach Township Hall

4 Rose Street  
Manchester

This hall & courthouse for Reach Twp. built in 1854 served the residents for more than a century before being closed in 1973 when the new Township of Scugog was formed. The building was rented out to organizations and community groups until its sale to a private individual in 2004.



### 11 Abel Ewers Residence

5 Brook Street  
Manchester

Abel Ewers came to Manchester from Whitby in 1844 and opened a carriage shop. This impressive yellow brick house was built in the late 1860s. The 1877 Ont. County Atlas features a sketch of the home with a wrap-around verandah when owned by Samuel Christian, a local merchant.

