



# SDG Historic Tour

An SDG Counties project  
November 2021

United Counties Historic Tour  
Tournée du passé historique des comtés unis

UNITED COUNTIES OF STORMONT DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY  
COMTÉS UNIS DE STORMONT, DUNDAS ET GLENGARRY

**UNITED COUNTIES COURTHOUSE AND JAIL**

Completed in 1833, the United Counties Courthouse and Jail serves as a local hub for government and legal proceedings. Initially a two-storey frame structure was completed on this site in 1802 and remained until fire swept through in 1826. It was replaced by the main block of the present building, which is one of the province's oldest remaining public structures. It serves as the seat of government for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and continues to house a courtroom and administrative offices for the municipality.

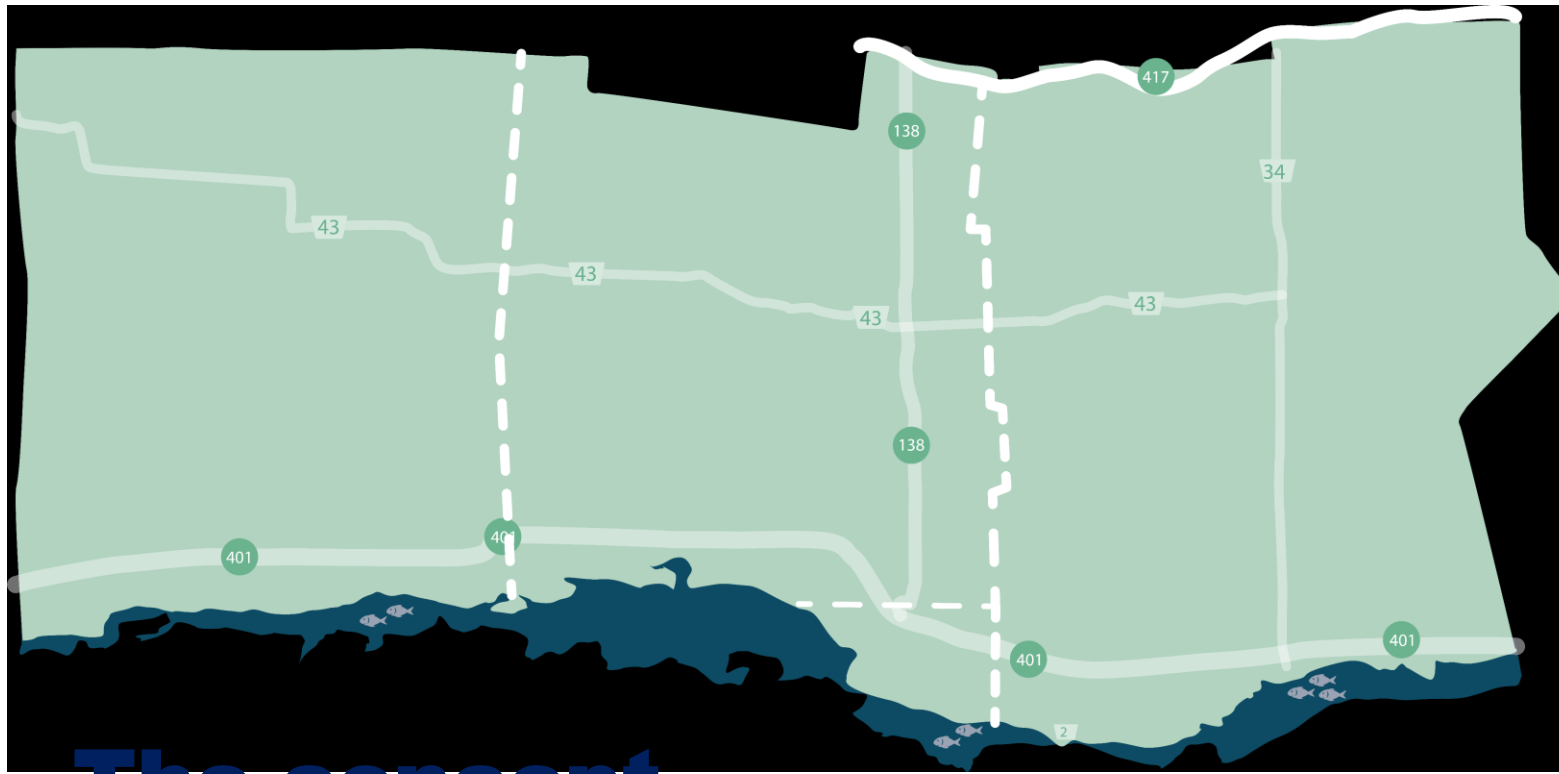
**TRIBUNAL ET PRISON DES COMTÉS UNIS**

Terminés en 1833, le tribunal et la prison des Comtés Unis est à présent un centre où l'on mène les affaires du gouvernement ainsi que des affaires juridiques. Le bâtiment d'origine de deux étages avait été terminé en 1802, mais il avait été ravagé par un incendie en 1826. Il a été remplacé par un bâtiment qui constitue le bâtiment principal de l'immobilier d'aujourd'hui qui est un des bâtiments publics les plus anciens de la province. Il sert de siège pour le gouvernement des Comtés Unis de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry et continue à héberger le tribunal et les bureaux administratifs de la municipalité.

**THE JAIL**  
LA PRISON

Now operating as a tourist attraction, the jail housed inmates for 168 years beginning in 1833. Men, women, and even children were incarcerated in the jail for various offenses, including being in debt and murder. Over the years, five inmates were officially executed by hanging behind the jail walls for a variety of convictions. The last execution took place in 1954.

Maintenant une attraction touristique, cette prison a hébergé des détenus pendant 168 ans, à partir de 1833. Des hommes, des femmes et même des enfants avaient été incarcérés pour diverses infractions, allant de simples dettes à des meurtres. Au fil des ans, cinq détenus ont été officiellement exécutés par pendaison au sein des murs de la prison, après avoir été condamnés pour diverses raisons. La dernière exécution a eu lieu en 1954.



# The concept

Create an SDG-based historic tour, with three plaques in each of the six local municipalities in SDG. These plaques will be installed in clusters in areas where there is high visibility and foot traffic. The tour will complement other plaques and hubs located in the region, including those already in place in local municipalities, The Lost Villages Museum in South Stormont, as well as the commercial and waterfront districts in the City of Cornwall. The tour will serve as a vehicle for expanding the 'Where Ontario Began' brand throughout the Counties.

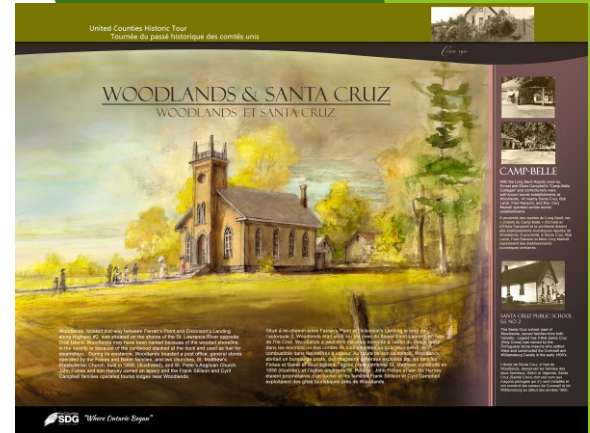


# Timeline

At its meeting of Oct. 18, Counties Council was briefed on this project and provided tacit support to proceed. The goal is to have this project continue with presentations before the councils of local municipalities. Research, preparation, and production of the plaques can take place over the fall/winter/spring of 2021/2022. Plaque completion will take place before the end of 2022.

# Budget - \$50,000

It is fair to estimate that a plaque can cost approximately \$2,500, which includes the artist's fee, plaque production, manufacture and installation. The County has identified funds that can be spent on this project and does not require investment by local municipalities.



# Why are we here?

## Partnerships

This project has the potential to create multi-layered partnerships. Those partnerships include SDG, its local municipalities, historical societies, local businesses and community-based organizations. Of particular importance will be fostering relationships with local historical societies, who will be an important resource when it comes to collecting materials, photos and other content for the plaques.

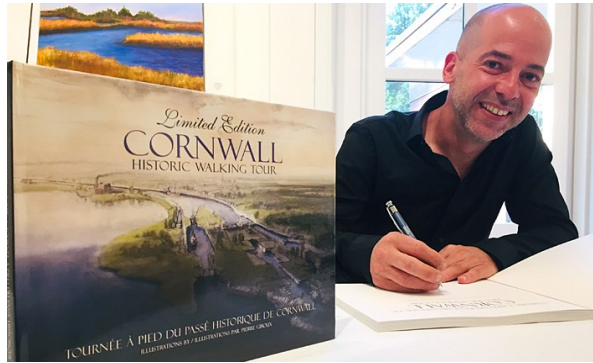
## Content

SDG will liaise with local municipalities and local historical societies to develop engaging content that tells stories of value for residents and visitors. The plaque content consists of a central painting (based on historical photos and accounts) as well as verbiage that explains the story behind the artwork. Plaques will also contain reproductions of old photographs that further illustrate the links to the past.



# Spinoffs

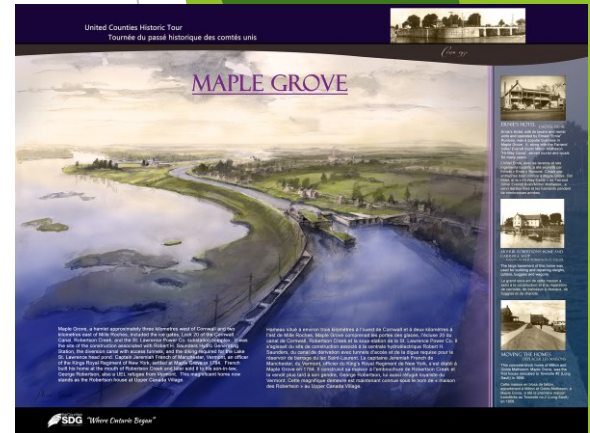
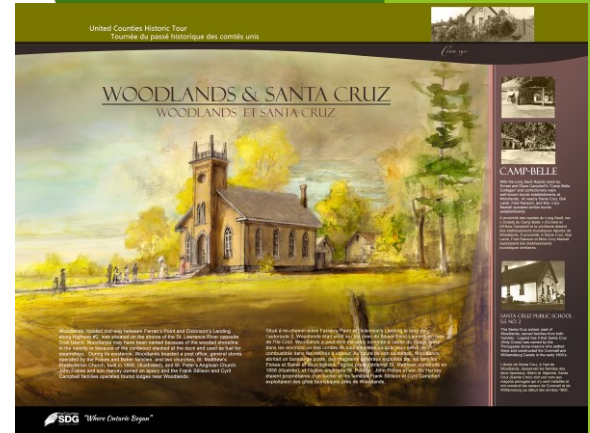
## Revenue



In Cornwall, a book was created in 2019, which depicts all the plaques contained within the Cornwall Historic Walking Tour. Annual calendars were created, with depictions of popular plaques. These items were sold, and a profit was made. The revenue generated from these exercises was modest at best, but **its purpose was to add different levers to the project** that marketed its appeal to a broader audience.

## Inventory

Like many communities, SDG and its local municipalities already have a plethora of plaques that mark watershed moments from our past. This project will include a component that builds a roster of existing historic plaques so that the Counties, its local municipalities and its partners have an updated list of these materials and their locations.



# Location, location, location

Location is a key pillar of the success of this project, and the ultimate decision on where these plaques will be located will require the input of our partners within local municipalities.

Some key points to remember when choosing a location include:

- Traffic – The plaques should be located in clusters, where people are known to gather in groups.
- Saturation – The plaques should be located in areas where there are few, if any similar plaques already in place.
- Cost – It is cheaper to attach plaques to existing structures, like buildings and walls. In places where structures are unavailable, plaques must be secured to a stand and concrete base (sonotubes or a larger pad), which adds to the total cost of the project.



# Next steps

*What do we need from you to proceed?*

The purpose of meeting with local municipal councils is to request support for this project in the following ways:

- Location – It is best to erect the plaques on township property to ensure the sustainability of the tour.
- Content – Staff and representatives from local historical societies will be consulted throughout this process to ensure plaque content is relevant and accurate. It is our request that municipalities identify staff who can best help with this process and help connect the County with other local experts.
- Interest – These meetings serve as the initial salvo in marketing the tour and generating interest from the public.

**\*Financial support is not being requested.\***

