

Explore where the Fathers of Confederation lived in the Capital



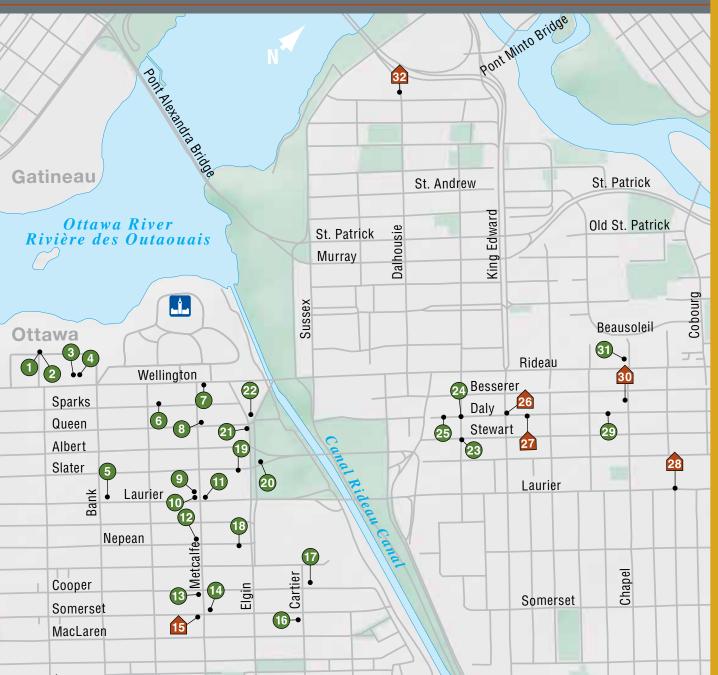


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The Fathers of Confederation





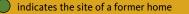
The Fathers of Confederation were representatives from the **British North American** colonies who negotiated the terms of the British North America Act. The negotiations brought about Confederation and the creation of a new country: Canada.

After Confederation, many Fathers of Confederation moved to the Capital to represent their constituents in the House of Commons. They often left behind their families and the comforts of home to take up residence in whatever housing was available. Many lived in hotels or rooming houses, where the cost was affordable and the food was good. Over time, some settled in their own homes in upscale neighbourhoods of that time. Though most of these homes, hotels and rooming houses no longer exist today, this map provides a window on the Capital in the years following Confederation.

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LEGEND

indicates a home that stands to this day



The Fathers of Confederation



SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER (QUE.)

Exiled for his participation in the 1837 Patriots' War, Cartier returned to Canada, where he became a staunch supporter of Confederation. Concerned about American expansionism, Cartier convinced French Canadians that a new province of Quebec in a united Canada was the best way to protect language and religious freedom.



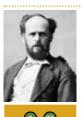
SIR CHARLES TUPPER (N.S.)

Sir Charles Tupper was a practising doctor, in addition to being a Cabinet minister, and was kept busy in both occupations. While he held a number of important posts from minister of Public Works to high commissioner to London — he also treated patients during the many cholera outbreaks in the early capital.



SIR HECTOR-LOUIS LANGEVIN (QUE.)

Langevin served as minister of Public Works for over 15 years. During his tenure, he oversaw numerous building projects in the Capital, including the construction of the Langevin Block, opposite Parliament Hill. Implicated in a scandal surrounding the construction of the Parliament Buildings, he retired from politics in 1896.



PETER MITCHELL (N.B.)

Peter Mitchell was an eloquent and skilled debater, who played a key role in bringing New Brunswick into Confederation. As minister of Marine and Fisheries, he stood up for Canadian sovereignty and fishing rights, leading to an agreement with the United States. Falling out of favour with Sir John A. Macdonald, he retired from politics in 1891.



THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE (QUE.)

A passionate believer in Canada and Confederation, McGee worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Irish Catholics. He was considered to be one of the most gifted orators of his day, and used his talents to advocate for minority rights. His opposition to the Irish revolutionary Fenian movement is believed to have led to his assassination in 1868.

LEGEND

indicates a home that stands to this day

indicates the site of a former home



SIR SAMUEL LEONARD TILLEY (N.B.)

A successful pharmacist by trade, Tilley was a deeply religious man, for whom family was very important. He was a teetotaller, a leader in the temperance movement and a strong advocate for prohibition. Tilley was appointed minister of Finance in 1873 and, although never at the forefront of Cabinet, distinguished himself in that role.



SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL (ONT.)

Representative from Cataraqui, Campbell held several ministerial posts, including postmaster general. A wellconnected businessman and politician, his influence in Parliament was paramount. In 1885, as minister of Justice, he arranged to have Louis Riel tried in an English-only court.



JEAN-CHARLES CHAPAIS (QUE.)

Farmer turned businessman, Chapais started politics in Saint-Denis, Quebec. He served as minister of Agriculture (1867–1869) and then as receiver general until 1873. Chapais sought to abolish seigneurial tenure, which governed settlement, farming and the development of lands in Quebec.



JOHN HAMILTON GRAY (N.B.)

John Hamilton Gray, a long-time supporter of the British North American union, represented New Brunswick in Confederation. Known as a great orator, he lived in the Capital for three years. In 1872, he left for British Columbia, where he became a Supreme Court judge. Paralysis struck Gray in 1889, and he died soon after.





WILLIAM MCDOUGALL (ONT.)

Originally a Liberal, McDougall defected to the Conservatives, where he served as minister of Public Works until 1869, when he was appointed lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories. He returned to Ottawa in 1880 to practise law.



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WILLIAM ALEXANDER HENRY (N.S.)

William Alexander Henry was a delegate to all three conferences leading up to Confederation, but was defeated in the 1867 election in his anti-Confederation riding. Henry was appointed to the new Supreme Court of Canada in 1875, and moved to Ottawa that year. He died in the Capital in 1888.



SIR OLIVER MOWAT (ONT.)

Mowat was a member of the senate and the minister of Justice from July 1896 to November 1897, when he returned to Toronto to become the lieutenant-governor of Ontario. A family man, Mowat once declared, "Providence has smiled on me: health, a good wife, fine children, agreeable friends, a profession which I like, have been some of the blessings of my lot."



JAMES COCKBURN (ONT.)

Cockburn was a lawyer, businessman and federal representative for Northumberland West. After Confederation, he became the speaker of the House of Commons, and later served as the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia.



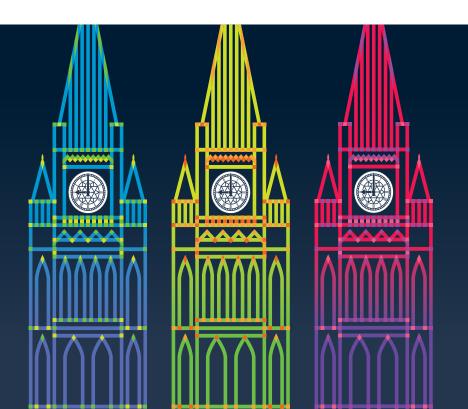
SIR ALEXANDER TILLOCH GALT (ONT.)

Galt, a commanding negotiator and diplomat, was Canada's first minister of Finance. Galt left federal politics until 1879, when he was appointed high commissioner of Canada in London. He accepted the post on the condition that his wife would be received at court — which was not normally permitted by British law.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD (ONT.)

Macdonald became Canada's first prime minister on July 1, 1867, after uniting four provinces in Confederation. Five more provinces joined shortly thereafter. In 1873, the Pacific Railway scandal led to his party's defeat. Macdonald fostered the Canadian economy by placing high tariffs on foreign imports and promoting commercial activity with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway.



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