



A little background and history about the times

- Before 1841, the territory roughly corresponding to Southern Ontario in Canada belonged to the British colony of the Province of Upper Canada, while the southern portion of Quebec and the Labrador region of Newfoundland and Labrador belonged to the colony of the Province of Lower Canada.
- The Act of Union (1840), passed July 23, 1840, by the British parliament and proclaimed by the Crown on February 10, 1841, merged the two colonies by abolishing the legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada and replacing them with a single legislative assembly. The combined colonies became the United Province of Canada. The location of the capital changed many times over its 26-year history, and included Kingston, Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, and Ottawa.
- The Province of Canada ceased to exist at Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867, when it was re-divided into the modern Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

How did the Prince come to visit Canada, the US...and Arnprior?

- The 1859 invitation that brought the Prince of Wales to Canada came after a lengthy period of negotiations around the idea of a royal visit.
- Prior to 1859, Canadians had put forth various proposals for a royal visit, and though the queen turned them all down, in the mid-1950's, she had given encouragement to the notion that one day such a visit might take place.
- According to the official biographer of the Prince of Wales, the queen wanted to express her appreciation for the imperial sentiment demonstrated by Canada during the Crimean War, 1854-6. When approached immediately after the conflict by a delegation from Canada inviting her to visit, she said that while she could not go herself, the Prince of Wales might make the trip once old enough to do so.