



2024 UELAC Conference - Cornwall, Ontario 06 – 09 June 2024

One of the Tours offered during the 2024 UELAC Conference, “*The Story Continues*” will be the “*The Lost Villages Museum*,” sponsored by the Lost Villages Historical Society.

The Museum is located in Ault Park on Fran Laflamme Drive, 3km east of Long Sault, Ontario. The museum site consists of ten heritage buildings, moved, and restored to Ault Park from The Lost Villages and surrounding townships by the members of The Lost Villages Historical Society.

To view the history of this historical event, be sure to check out this video.

<https://lostvillages.ca/>

HOW did the Lost Villages get flooded?

The villages and hamlets of the Lost Villages were intentionally flooded as part of the **St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydro Electric project**. Here’s how it happened:

1. **Construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway:** The St. Lawrence Seaway is a system of locks, canals, and channels that allows ships to navigate from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. It was constructed to improve navigation and facilitate trade between Canada and the United States.
2. **Creation of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam:** As part of the Seaway project, the **Moses-Saunders Power Dam** was built near Cornwall, Ontario. This dam regulates water flow between Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.
3. **Reservoir Formation:** To create a reservoir for the dam, the water level in the St. Lawrence River was raised. This required flooding a large area upstream of the dam.

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4. **Dismantling and Relocation:** The residents of the affected villages were given notice to evacuate. Buildings, infrastructure, and even graves were dismantled or relocated. Families had to leave their homes, schools, and churches behind.
5. **Flooding:** In July 1958, the gates of the Moses-Saunders Dam were closed, and the water level rose, submerging the villages and surrounding land. The Lost Villages disappeared beneath the newly formed Lake St. Lawrence.
6. **Permanent Submersion:** The water level was maintained, and the villages remained submerged. Today, the remnants of the Lost Villages lie beneath the waters of the St. Lawrence River, serving as a poignant reminder of the cost of progress.

The decision to flood these communities was a difficult one, balancing economic development with the loss of heritage and homes for the affected residents.

Be sure to register early!!!

You will find the full Registration information for the Conference, Accommodation and Tours at:

<https://uelac.ca/conference-2024/#registration>

The LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM TOUR is scheduled for the following times:

- Friday 07 June 2024: LOST VILLAGES **Morning** tour – ending with lunch (included)
Friday 07 June 2024: LOST VILLAGES **Afternoon** tour – beginning with lunch (included)

