

# Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site

*Site of the Last Invasion Attempt of Canada*

## Open Mid-June to Labour Day Weekend

For hundreds of years, Canada was a British colony and was governed by a small ruling elite. In the 1880s, discontent spread amongst Upper and Lower Canadians who cried for democratic reform.

In 1837, reformers and ruling elite clashed in open rebellion along the shores of the St. Lawrence. The British Army and local militia crushed the revolt, causing many of the rebels to flee to the United States.

Here, the rebels joined forces with American sympathizers and planned an invasion of Canada at Prescott. By invading, the rebels thought they would be seen as liberators by the local population. On November 12, 1838, invaders landed at Windmill Point. Contrary to their beliefs, the local population did not greet the rebels as liberators.



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On November 13, 1838, 2000 British soldiers and local militia surrounded the rebel forces. Over the next four days, a bloody skirmish took over Windmill Point. On November 16, 1838, the rebels surrendered unconditionally.

After the battle in 1838, the windmill was later converted to a lighthouse and functioned as such for over 100 years. Today, the site is maintained and operated by the Friends of the Windmill and Parks Canada. The public is invited climb the tower for an exceptional view of the St. Lawrence from atop the 80-foot structure.



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