

years later he graduated from the Law School of that University. Immediately after graduating in law, he left Toronto for the Western District, settling in Sandwich in 1849. The year after, he was appointed Clerk of the District Council of the Western District, then composed of the Counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton, and also Solicitor to the Council.

On the opening of the Great Western Railway in 1853, it becoming evident that the terminus opposite Detroit would become a town, Mr. Macdonell became the purchaser of the farm known as the Goyeau Farm, opposite Woodward Avenue in Detroit, and had it laid out into lots, at the same time widening and improving the front, which at that time was a narrow, winding, and irregular road. Resigning his office as Clerk of the District Council, Mr. Macdonell took active measures for the incorporation of Windsor as a village, and came into the County Council as Reeve of Windsor. In 1855 and 1856 he was elected warden of the County of Essex. The building then used as a gaol and Court-house being out of repair, and insufficient, the Reeve of Windsor succeeded in procuring the building of a new gaol and Court-house, which is substantially the present structure, some additions having since been made. On ceasing to be warden, the County Council presented him with a testimonial for his zeal in the promotion of the public interests, and the useful measures introduced by him during his wardenship. For eight years he was elected Mayor and Reeve of Windsor, and during that period he was active in promoting measures affecting the prosperity of the town, such as the building of the Town Hall, the school-houses, the purchase of the property on which the Union School building now stands, as well as other measures affecting the municipal government of the town. He has also been active in promoting the interests of the public schools, having occupied the position of Secretary of the Board of Public Instruction for several years, and having served as Trustee of the schools in Windsor more than twenty years.

In 1854 Mr. Macdonell, with some associates, purchased the Cuthbertson Farm, opposite the depot of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, consisting of 265 acres, from which a successful sale of lots was made the next year. There being at that time no road suitable for travel, leading from the country directly into Windsor, farmers were obliged to go around by way of Sandwich. Mr. Macdonell projected a gravel road, leading from Windsor to the Talbot road, the main road through the interior of the county. This gravel road of 6½ miles was completed in 1860, and had the effect of compelling the removal of the leading merchants of Sandwich to Windsor, and of considerably increasing the trade of the latter place.

The British Government having taken a high stand as to the surrender of Mason and Slidell, in the Trent affair, telegraphed the commanding officers of districts along the frontier to call out for active service, from the Sedentary Militia, one company, with the option of the commanding officer to serve in the capacity of Captain. In response to this call, Mr. Macdonell, then lately gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Regiment of Essex Militia, raised a company of 75 men in three days, who were inspected and accepted for service under his command as Captain.