

had clustered around the British govern-
ors. It exploded into armed rebellion the
next year.

The rebellions stimulated the form-
ation of bodies of armed American
volunteers intent on "liberating" the
lands north of their border from British
domination. In November 1838 a small
force crossed the St. Lawrence River near
Prescott and fought a brief losing battle.
Macdonald defied public sentiment by
assisting in the defence of one of the
American invaders.

At heart he was anything but sym-
pathetic to the aims of the invasion. Some
historians have suggested that, on the
contrary, the incident provided him with
his mission in life — to ensure that the
people of the northern portion of the
continent were sufficiently united under
the British Crown to resist the expansion-
ist impulses of the US.

Political union

The chief upshot of the rebellions was the
political union of the two colonies, which
were re-designated Canada East and
Canada West. In 1844 a group of Kingston
citizens petitioned Macdonald to run for
the local seat in the Legislative Assembly
of the new united Province of Canada. He
was then 29, a successful lawyer, and a
loving husband, having married his Scot-
tish half-cousin Isabella Clark the year
before.

An amiable, cheerful and amusing
campaigner who could disarm a hostile



Isabella Clark who became Sir John A. Macdonald's first wife in 1843.

crowd, he carried the election handily.
Once in the Assembly he gained respect
as an incisive debater who refused to
adopt the then-fashionable flowery style
of oratory. He was promoted to the
cabinet in 1847. Typically, the first bill
he introduced was to reconcile the com-
peting interests of the various Protestant
and Catholic churches by establishing a
three-campus ecumenical university in
Canada West.

(To be continued)

Ottawa and The Hague become twin cities

Ottawa mayor Marion Dewar is flying
to the Netherlands this month to sign
an official agreement twinning Ottawa
with The Hague.

"I think the whole idea is terrific,"
said Mrs. Dewar. "Twinning not only
encourages cultural and community links
but there's potential for economic bene-
fits as well."

When cities twin, they agree to estab-
lish closer ties through cultural and in-
formation exchanges. The cost of such a
relationship varies with the amount of
contact between the two centres.

"But the benefits far outweigh the
costs," said Mrs. Dewar. "There's great
potential for learning new ways of ap-
proaching problems.

"For example, co-operative housing is
a major element in The Hague's housing
system and we'll be very interested to
learn from them."

Another benefit is that business
people who meet as part of the exchange
will seek each other out when economic
opportunities arise, she said.

The Hague is the seat of government
of the Netherlands and the country's
third largest city with a population just
under 600 000. Located close to the
North Sea, it is an important financial
centre, with little heavy industry.

Ottawa Council approved The Hague
as Ottawa's twin on May 19, 1982, on
the recommendation of the Ottawa Twin
Cities Association. But arrangements to
finalize the relationship slowed down
when a new council was elected in
The Hague.

Although officials from both cities
have been in contact since then — in-
cluding a visit to Ottawa in the fall of
1982 by the mayor of The Hague — ne-
gotiations stepped up this month when
Hague officials offered to send speed
skaters to Ottawa to participate in this
year's Winterlude festival which takes
place in early February.

The Ottawa Twin Cities Association
suggested The Hague because of its simi-
larity to Ottawa in size and character. A
contest on Canadian Broadcasting Corpo-
ration's radio program *CBO Morning* also
found that more people wanted to twin
with The Hague than any other city.

The Hague is Ottawa's second twin.
The city linked with Georgetown,
Guyana in 1966.

(Article from The Citizen.)



Bellevue, the house in Kingston, Ontario, where Sir John A. Macdonald lived during the years of his early married life.

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