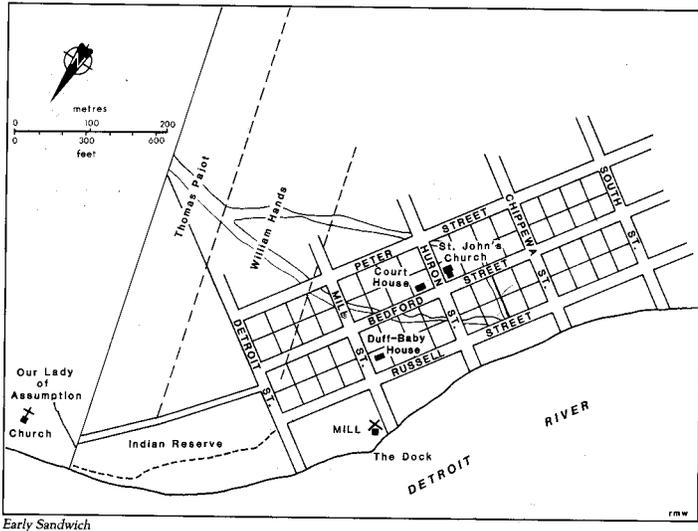


## History

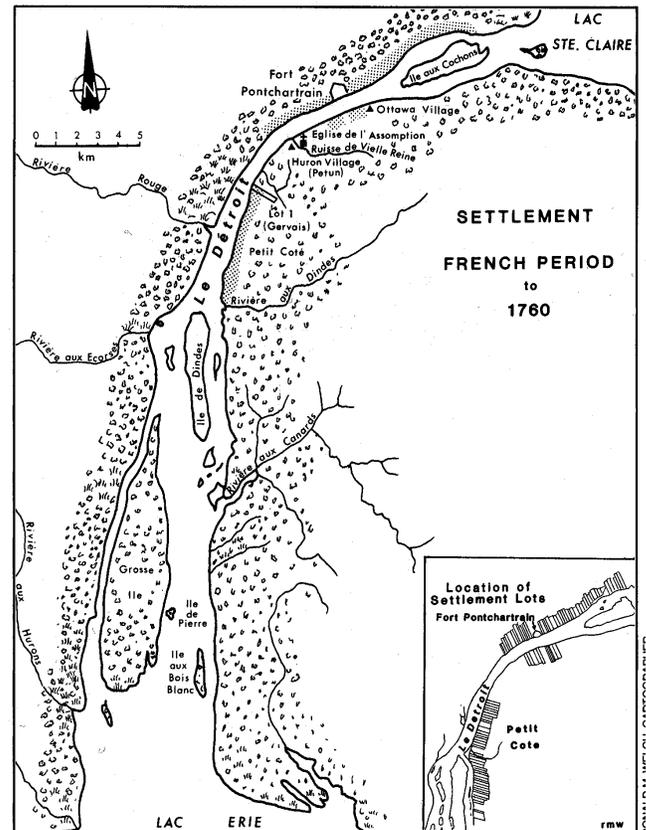
European settlement of this region dates back to 1701, when the French built a military base and trading post (Fort Ponchartrain) in present day Detroit. By the mid 1700s, French settlers were farming the south bank of the river, in an area between the Sandwich community and Turkey Creek, which they called Petite Côte (the oldest continuous European settlement area in Ontario). In 1747, the Huron Indians moved to the south shore of the Detroit River where they asked the Jesuit Fathers to build Assumption Church at the intersection of the main trail into the interior of the future Essex County (current Huron Church Road) and along the gravel ridge of the Detroit River, where it took a sharp bend (See Early Settlement Area Map). This is the approximate location of the east section of Sandwich Street (former Bedford Street), which intersects Riverside Drive (City of Windsor-Dillon Consulting, 1986) (Price-Kulisek).



Early Sandwich

## Early Sandwich

The British captured Canada in 1759, but little changed in this French community, until after 1783, following the American Revolution when retired soldiers and British Loyalists settled in the Sandwich Town area. In 1797, when the Americans occupied Detroit, the Honourable Peter Russell, President of the Executive Council established the new administrative headquarters for the British on the south shore. Sandwich was laid out according to a plan comprising three parallel streets (see Early Sandwich map),



## Early Settlement Area

one of them being Bedford (now Sandwich St). The lots were divided into one-acre sections, while back from the river; the remainder of the town was subdivided into 24-acre “park” lots. The intersection of Bedford and Brock Streets would be the centre of the Town and the four corner lots were set aside for public use. This function of the lots has not changed to this day, where St. John’s Church/ Cemetery, Mackenzie Hall (former Essex County Court House), Windsor Jail and Brock School are presently located (Price-Kulisek).

The names of the streets within this area all have distinct historical reference related to the Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture and help to create a sense of place associated with this area of the city. The name Sandwich can be traced back to its namesake in the County of Kent, United Kingdom, most likely Saxon in origin, approximately meaning ‘sandy place’, or ‘trading place on the sand’. ([www.open-sandwich.co.uk](http://www.open-sandwich.co.uk)).

Sandwich Town was planned as the administrative centre and capital of the Western District to replace the original offices at Fort Ponchartrain in Detroit. Its spaciousness gave it a park-like setting, similar to an English country village. The following summary of events outlines the different phases of development and the important roles Olde Sandwich Towne and the surrounding area has played throughout history, both locally and regionally:

- **Circa 1700:** The area of present-day Sandwich and LaSalle to the south were inhabited for hundreds of years by Ottawas, Potawatamis, Wyandots and Chippewas – the so-called Neutral Nations. As early as 1640, Jesuit missionaries were on the Detroit Frontier, as were such French traders as Etienne Brulé and hardy voyageurs from Montreal. Sieur de Cadillac, along with about 100 military and civilian personnel landed on the north shore of the Detroit River and founded Fort Ponchartrain du Detroit (Detroit). There, they established the first European settlement in the Windsor-Detroit area.
- **Circa 1749:** Jesuit Mission of Hurons, supported by the Neutrals, was established on the south shore of Detroit River and New L’Assomption Mission Church and Petite Côte was established. The area known as Petite Côte (present day LaSalle), below *la Pointe de Montreal* (where Ambassador Bridge now stands), was comprised of narrow undeveloped farms granted to 27 or 28 French families (the first being Louis Gervais) in 1749.

- **Circa 1796:** Detroit gained its independence from British rule and the British authority moved across the river and Sandwich became the Western District of Upper Canada (Ontario). The shift in authority brought numerous British loyalists to Sandwich, including magistrates, lawyers, and constables, which led to a thriving hostelry business. This administrative function also brought the registry and post offices, jail and visitors, which stimulated growth in the service industry and need for tailors, house builders, blacksmiths, and fish hatcheries.
- **1812:** The War of 1812 brought prominent military leaders to Sandwich, including Generals Brock (British), Hull and Harrison (American), and great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. During the war, Hull and a troop of over 2000 men crossed from Detroit and set up headquarters in the area. The American forces retreated to Detroit after a brief encounter with British regulars, militiamen and Indians downriver. General Brock's forces, along with a group of Indians led by Chief Tecumseh followed the Americans into Detroit. After Hull was tricked into believing their forces were much larger than they actually were, Hull surrendered Detroit.
- **1833:** With the passing of Canada's Anti-Slavery Law (1793) and the Emancipation Act (1833) which abolished slavery throughout the British Empire, black refugees began making their way across the Detroit River and the Windsor/ Sandwich area became an important terminal on the "Underground Railroad".
- **1850's:** Administrative arrangement terminated as population grew and the district split into three counties, but Sandwich remained Administrative Centre for Essex County where courts met four times per year.
- **1850's:** Ferry links were established between Detroit and Windsor, and Sandwich residents had to travel to Detroit by way of a toll road to Windsor.
- **1850's:** Price of building materials and food products were cheaper in Detroit and Windsor, which resulted in Sandwich residents purchasing their supplies in Detroit, having a negative impact on business in the area (Price-Kulisek).
- **1854:** The Great Western Railway line arrived in Windsor. Prior to its arrival, Sandwich boasted a population higher than Windsor, but with the new railway terminus established in Windsor, conditions changed. Many residents left Sandwich for Windsor to take advantage of greater opportunities.

- **1857:** Assumption College (now known as University of Windsor) founded and attracted international attention. The Jesuits goal was to improve the status of the French in the surrounding area, but it became a college for a much wider community from the U.S. and Western Ontario. These people could afford a private education whereas most of the locals could not. After 1870, Assumption's impact on Sandwich from an economic and social perspective was minimal due to the self-contained community within the college (Price-Kulisek).
- **1858:** Sandwich was incorporated as a Town.
- **1870:** Streetcar service was established between Windsor and Sandwich Towne, making it more convenient for visitors to stay in Windsor. Businesses that were stimulated by government services located in Sandwich Towne began to decline (Price-Kulisek).
- **In the latter part of 19<sup>th</sup> Century**, celebrations such as St. Jean the Baptiste Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Emancipation Day were established. They brought visitors who visited the hostelrys, mineral springs and Prince's Grove Park (present day Mic Mac Park).
- **1860s - 1880s:** Sandwich became a popular tourist destination when a mineral spring was discovered while drilling for oil. This launched a new period in the history of Sandwich Towne, as it became a popular spa and vacation destination for visitors from Detroit and beyond. Boats brought visitors across the Detroit River to an excavated channel where the former Petite Côte beach area quickly became a popular recreation spot (Price-Kulisek). Many hotels were built to serve the tourists. Today, only the former Chappell House survives (3885 Sandwich Street). The mineral spring dried up bringing the tourism phase to an end.
- **Circa 1900's:** The increase of industrial uses and pollution changed Sandwich Towne to an undesirable rustic retreat (Price-Kulisek).
- **1918 to 1919:** Dreams of a steel town (Ojibway) similar to Gary, Indiana never materialized, and expectations for a real-estate boom were never realized. Even the construction of Essex Terminal Railway had little impact on urban growth (Price-Kulisek).
- **1920's:** The streetcar connection with Windsor changed Sandwich Towne into a commuter suburb of Windsor, allowing for a fine Residential District to be developed west of the current day Bridge Plaza area, near Assumption Church.
- **1929:** The opening of Ambassador Bridge physically and from a human perspective, psychologically separates Sandwich Towne from Assumption and the rest of the Windsor.

Business could not be stimulated as traffic was quickly diverted to the highway leading out of the city.

- **1935:** Sandwich, along with Walkerville and Ford City, amalgamated with Windsor. At the time, Sandwich was financially insolvent and its identity as a separate community began to erode.
- **1960 and 1970's:** A new courthouse was opened in downtown Windsor, and a new Essex County Civic Centre was opened in the town of Essex. With the exodus of the court and county offices, the Sandwich courthouse was left vacant.
- **1980's:** Community improvement initiatives were used to restore many of the historic buildings and to develop a theme based around its history.

This brief history provides insight into the unique character and identity of the Olde Sandwich Towne area.

## CENSUS SUMMARY

Olde Sandwich Towne

### Population

- In 2001, the Census of Canada showed this area's population to be 7,050. Of this population, 3,550 (50.4%) are males, and 3500 (49.6%) are females.
- There was a 2.4% population increase from 1996 (6,877) to 2001 (7,049).
- The average density of population is 1,723.5 persons per square km.
- In 2001, the median age in the study area was 29.7, with the majority of the population in the 20 to 24 (15%) years age group.
- 1,920 people (33.8% of those 15 years and over) are currently married.

### Households and Families

- The number of households in this area is 2,995. Of these, 1455 (48.6%) are single families, 45 (1.5%) are multiple families, and 1495 (49.9%) are non-family households.
- Of the 1,550 families in the area, 1,160 (75%) are married or common law couples; 690 (45%) of the couples have one or more children at home. There are 395 single-parent families. Altogether, there are 2,030 children living in the area, an average of 1.3 children per family.

### Dwellings

- There are 2,990 occupied dwelling units in this area, of which 795 (27%) are owner-occupied, and 2,195 (73%) are rented.
- The average value of housing units in 2001 was \$106,000.
- Most of the dwellings in this area are single-detached houses (31%) or apartments in buildings with 5 or more storeys (29%) and were built in the years prior to 1946 (30%).
- 295 dwelling units (10%) are considered to be in need of major repairs.

### Income

- The average household income in this area in year 2000 was \$33,995, and the median income was \$25,097. In Windsor, the average household income was \$57,939 and the median was \$47,592.
- The average family income in this area in year 2000 was \$40,509, and the median income was \$31,163. The dominant income range was \$20,000 - \$30,000.

### Language, Mobility and Immigration

- In the 2001 Census, 4,355 people (64%) reported *English* as their mother tongue language, and 190 people (3%) reported *French*.
- The dominant non-official mother tongue language is *Arabic*, which is spoken by 395 people, followed by *Chinese*, spoken by 325 people.
- According to the 2001 census, 1,845 people (28%) had moved to their current address in the previous year, and 4,195 people (67%) had moved in the preceding five years. 945 people (15%) had moved from outside Canada in the five year period.
- The dominant place of birth for recent (1996-2001) immigrants was China, followed by Iraq.

### Labour Force and Industry

- Most (21%) of the 3,240 workers living in the area are employed in the Manufacturing industry. The most dominant occupational group (37%) is "Sales and service".
- 390 (14%) of workers usually commute to a different "Census Subdivision", while 1,915 (71%) commute within the local area. 35 people work at home.
- 1,720 people (70% of commuters) travel by car, truck or van, while 305 (12%) use public transit.

### Education

- 980 people (67%) in the 15-24 year age group attend school either full-time or part time.
- Of the population 20 years and older, 1,000 (20%) have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 890 (18%) have a technical or academic certificate or diploma.
- 2,170 people over 20 years old have not received post-secondary education; of these, 900 graduated from secondary school.

### Religion

- Top 3 religions in the area: *Roman Catholic* (37%), *No Religion* (19%) and *Muslim* (13%)