Distinguished Governors
Twenty-two, 1691 to 1889,
Sir Thomas Skinner, Bt. 1914.

Sir George Simpson, Governor-in-chief of
the Hudson’s Bay Company’s Territories in
North America, 1821 to 1860. He left Fort William
May 9, 1841, on his famous trip around the world.
John McIntyre officer in charge of Fort William 1855
to 1876 when Chief Factor Harpsty closed the Post.
1877–Fort William was under military jurisdiction
about a year. Restored to the North West
Company by Royal Proclamation.
1821–The Hudson’s Bay and North West Companies
were amalgamated, named Hudson’s Bay Company.
Fort William was main gateway to the North West
during the French regime and main interior factory for
the companies during the first quarter of the
nineteenth century.
1822–Capt. Bayfield, R.N. with staff wintered at the
Kaministikui when surveying Lake Superior.
1870–The boats of Lord Wolseley’s expedition
were taken up the Kaministikui.

M.B. Co. flag floated over Fort William 1821 to 1881.
Hind and Dawson’s expedition to Red River 1857 – 8.
1881–Fort William ceased to be a fur trading post.
1814–Fort William’s population about 2,500
1864–250 – 1914 – 25,000

The Hudson’s Bay Company
The Four Great Governors.
MEMORIAL TABLET
ERECTED BY THE
THUNDER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IN 1914
TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCALITY MADE
FAMOUS BY THE PIONEER FUR TRADERS
OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

1612- Merchants of London Company formed.
1627- One Hundred Associates Company formed.
1784- N.W. Company formed.
1678- Fort Kaministiquia, built here was the first and
main trading post on the N.W. of Lake Superior built
by the pioneer brothers Duluth and La Fourrette.
1688- From here De Noyon explored the first (whites)
canoe route across the height of land to Rainy River.
1717- La Noye built here a stockaded fort the first of three
planned and ordered to be built by the French govern-
ment for stepping stones to the Western Sea.
1731- The Great La Perriere party wintered and started
from here in search of the Western Sea.
1732- From here
La Perriere discovered and built Fort St. Charles Lake of the Woods.
1743- Denoyelles continued the operation from the
Kaministiquia until 1746.
1797- The British through Robert Mackenzie, of the
North-West Company, reopened the Kaministiquia route.

THE NORTH-WEST AND X.Y. COMPANIES HAD POSTS HERE NEAR EACH OTHER.
1800- The North-West Company started building the New Fort here.
1803- New Fort was finished and the supplies and plant
moved into it from Grand Portage, then formed post
1805- This Fort was christened Fort William in honor of
H.L. Prince Rupert, 1670-1683

H.R.H. DUKE OF YORK, LATER KING JAMES II, 1683-1685
LORD CHURCHILL, LATER DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, 1685-1691
LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL, 1889-1914.

05/06/2017
When the boundary settlement of 1783 placed its major inland depot, Grand Portage, in U.S. territory, the North West Company was forced to seek a new site on British soil. Following the reopening of the Kaministikwi route a new post, later named for William McGillivray, the principal Montreal agent, was constructed here at the river's mouth. Here each summer from 1803 to 1821, the Montreal and wintering partners held council, while trade goods were readied for the Indian country and furs brought down for shipment to Montreal. After 1821, changed supply patterns led to Fort William's gradual decline.

Le Grand Portage étant passé en territoire américain en 1783, la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest dut établir un autre entrepôt en territoire britannique. En 1801 et 1802, elle construisit ici son nouveau poste, qui prit le nom de William McGillivray, l'agent principal de la Compagnie à Montréal. Chaque été de 1803 à 1821, les agents et les hivernants se réunirent au fort William pour discuter d'affaires pendant que l'on transbordait les fournitures du pays d'en haut et les marchandises destinées aux posts du Nord-Ouest. Après 1821, sous la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson, le fort William perdit peu à peu de son importance.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada
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