



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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Lemieux Landslide Zone

Lemieux Ghost Town

First settled in 1850, Lemieux was a small milling and farming community. A post office opened in the town in 1875, followed by a saw, flour and planing mills. A blacksmith shop, hotel, school and carpenter rounded out the town's businesses. The focal point of Lemieux was its Roman Catholic Church and large cemetery. In its heyday, 75 residents called Lemieux home.



Demolition of the Church in 1992

Landslides in this area have been documented as far back as 1910. Soil testing carried out after the 1971 slide by South Nation Conservation confirmed leda clay in the area. After consultations with the Township and Ministry of Natural Resources, the decision was made to relocate the village. Buildings were demolished or relocated to nearby communities. At that time, the cost was covered by the Province.

Lemieux was officially abandoned in 1991, only the cemetery remains today.



1993 Landslide

Potential Retrogressive Landslides

Between the villages of Casselman and Lemieux, the banks of the South Nation River have experienced large-scale retrogressive landslides. The most recent occurred on June 20, 1993. The landslide dammed the river and consumed 17 hectares of land next to the former town site. Another large-scale landslide occurred in 1971, approximately 4.5 kilometers from the 1993 event.

Both landslides occurred in the Champlain Sea sediments (also known as Leda clays, quick clays or sensitive clays), and were triggered by excess rain. Leda clay has the potential to instantly turn from solid soils to liquid clay flows. Retrogressive landslides can occur rapidly and without notice.



1971 Landslide