

# Island...

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**military significance and farming.**

**The British built the 10-acre Fort Haldimand on the west side of the island in 1775. The ruins of that fort are still visible on the island.**

**According to history compiled by the late Harry F. Landon, managing editor of The Watertown Times, the island was a gathering point for Tory refugees after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. It was a natural point for troops to gather before moving on to Oswego.**

**The island was also used as the headquarters for the Iroquois Indian Chief Joseph Brant in 1778 to plan the massacres of hundreds of people in the Mohawk valley.**

**"Here Brant's Indians made their headquarters, sometimes hundreds of them, supported and furnished with cheap finery by the British military authorities and from here set forth on their expeditions of murder and pillage," wrote Mr. Landon.**

**From Carleton Island, Brant sold the scalps of women and children to British agents.**

**As the military significance of the island dwindled in the 1900s, the island became known for fine farmland. Farming continued on the island until 1974.**

**The property remained idle until Jerome LaLonde purchased Riverhead Lodge on the island in 1982.**