

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

National Historic Parks and Sites

National Parks Bureau, Lands, Parks, and Forests Branch and Department of
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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES

By the

NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU, LANDS, PARKS, AND FORESTS BRANCH,
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

THE National Parks Bureau is entrusted with the restoration, preservation, and administration of national historic parks and sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding Canadians.

The Bureau is advised in this phase of its work by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of recognized historians representing the various parts of the Dominion.

Since the inception of this work it has been customary for the Board to meet in Ottawa each year. Due to the war, however, these meetings have been deferred during the past three years.

The personnel of the Board is as follows: *Chairman*, His Honour F. W. Howay, New Westminster, B.C.; Dr. J. Clarence Webster, Shediac, N.B.; Professor Fred Landon, London, Ont.; Professor D. C. Harvey, Halifax, N.S.; the Hon. E. Fabre-Surveyer, Montreal, P.Q.; J. A. Gregory, M.P., North Battleford, Sask.; the Rev. Antoine d'Eschambault, St. Boniface, Man.; Major G. Lanctot, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa, Ont.; W. D. Cromarty, National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, Ont.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS

Fort Anne National Historic Park is situated in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. The museum building, restored in 1935, was originally the Officers' Quarters and was built in 1797-8 under the supervision of Edward, Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, when he was Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in North America with headquarters at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

During the year the south end and west side of the museum building, the floor of the Acadian Room, and other parts of the interior woodwork were painted. Additional publications and articles of interest were obtained for the museum.

A total of 2,938 persons signed the museum register during the year and it is estimated that an additional 3,600 visited the park without registering.

Port Royal National Historic Park is situated at Lower Granville, Nova Scotia. A replica of the group of buildings which sheltered the first European settlers in Canada has been erected on the exact site where the Port Royal Habitation stood nearly three and a half centuries ago. The original Habitation was the headquarters for about two years of Samuel de Champlain, famous explorer and chief geographer to Henry IV of France, who chose the location and drew up the plan of settlement.

During the year a weatherproofing and preserving liquid was applied to the outside woodwork of the Habitation, and all exterior ironwork was cleaned and oiled. An old farm house and out-buildings which stood near by have been dismantled and the grounds cleared and levelled.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 1,639.

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park is situated about three miles from the town of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Here were enacted the early stages of the long struggle which culminated in the possession of Canada for the British Crown. Erected more than two centuries ago by the French who had named the settlement in honour of Louis XIV, King of France, Louisbourg was captured by the British forces in 1745, but was subsequently handed back to the French. The fortress was again besieged by the English and finally captured by them in 1758. It is interesting to recall that one of the brigades of infantry engaged in the recapture of Louisbourg was commanded by General Wolfe, who was later to die heroically at Quebec.

During the year an old French anchor was raised from the bottom of the harbour and placed on a stone base adjacent to the Museum Building. The entrance roadway was graded and levelled; loose stone was removed from the foundation of the Citadel, and all tablets on the park property were cleaned. The floors of the Museum basement and boiler room, also the flagpole, entrance gate, and all signs were painted.

Among the visitors to the park during the year were His Excellency, the Governor General and the Princess Alice. A total of 2,666 persons signed the visitors' register, but many others entered the park without registering.

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park is situated near Sackville, New Brunswick. Built by the French, the fort was intended to be an Acadian stronghold against the undefined claims of the English to Acadia. Around the fort the Acadians had their homes and farms. It was captured by the British, under Monckton, in 1755, when the fort was strengthened and its defences extended by a system of entrenchments, traces of which still remain.

During the year the bronze tablets bearing historical data relating to the fort were removed from the cairn, and placed on the stone curtain wall which has recently been restored; the cairn being subsequently taken down. The caretaker's residence was painted and a concrete walk constructed in front of it. The paths throughout the park were cleaned and raked and the hay cut.

Visitors registered at the museum during the year numbered 3,020 and it is estimated that about 1,500 others entered the park.

Fort Chambly National Historic Park is situated about twenty miles southeast of Montreal, on a conspicuous headland on the Richelieu River. The first fort, built by the French in 1665 as a protection from the Iroquois, was of wooden construction. After many vicissitudes, it was rebuilt of stone, this work being completed in 1711. In 1760 the fort was surrendered to the British who, with a small armed force, held it until 1775. In that year the Americans captured the fort; they evacuated in the following year, but burned everything that was combustible, leaving only the four walls standing. The fort was later repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton and played an important part in the War of 1812.

During the year the fences and flag-pole were painted, all surplus iron and scrap metal was disposed of to the local salvage committee, and general improvement work was carried out.

During the year 10,244 persons signed the museum register and it is estimated that over 2,600 more visited the park without registering.

Fort Lennox National Historic Park is located on Ile-aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, about thirteen miles south of St. Johns, P.Q. The present fort, which stands on the site of one previously erected by the French, was built by the Imperial authorities in the period from 1812 to 1827. The island, comprising an area of 150 acres, was acquired by the National Parks Bureau in 1921 and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds. The entire property has now been taken over for war purposes.

Fort Wellington National Historic Park is situated at the east end of the town of Prescott, Ontario, and adjacent to Highway No. 2. The Fort named after the Duke of Wellington was erected when the British authorities decided to fortify Prescott as one of the most vulnerable points of attack in the War of 1812, and as the main base for the defence of communications between Kingston and Montreal.

Improvements carried out during the year included the painting of the exterior of the blockhouse, and the interior of the caretaker's residence. The museum, which is situated on the second floor of the blockhouse, was renovated and new tables and cases obtained to display the exhibits. The parking area was cleared of weeds and calcium chloride spread on it to remedy the dust nuisance. The guardhouse was whitewashed and the palisades surrounding the fort were repaired.

A total of 4,826 persons signed the museum register during the year and it is estimated that an additional 550 entered the grounds.

Fort Malden National Historic Park is situated in Amherstburg, Ontario. The fort was built in 1797-9 by the Second Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteers. It was strengthened in 1812 as the principal military station on the western frontier and dismantled and abandoned in September, 1813. Only slight evidences of the original fortifications remain.

Considerable fill was placed at the rear of the protection wall and along portions of the river bank, and a number of dead trees were removed from the property. A concrete base was constructed to receive the windlass from the schooner "West," presented by United States engineers. A rack was made and fitted into position in the museum, to display the sword collection, and the iron grilles over the basement windows were painted. Four plate glass exhibit cases were donated by the Amherstburg Public Library Board. Many articles of interest were obtained, including a drum used by the Patriot forces during the invasion of Windsor in 1839.

The interest that is being taken in this museum is shown by the fact that 14,709 persons signed the register during the year while many others visited the park without signing.

Fort Prince of Wales National Historic Park is situated at the mouth of Churchill River, Churchill, Manitoba, and comprises an area of approximately fifty acres. The fort was built from plans drawn by English military engineers, to secure control of Hudson Bay for the Hudson's Bay Company and England. Construction was commenced in 1733 and completed in 1771. It was surrendered to, and partially destroyed by, a French naval force under La Pérouse in 1782. Its ruins, which are among the most

interesting military remains on this continent, have been partly restored and over forty old cannon have been unearthed and those suitable mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was continued throughout the year.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

On the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada over three hundred sites of national importance have been marked and are now being suitably maintained. These include Indian earthworks, forts, and villages; French forts, trading posts, and mission enterprises; sites connected with British exploration and naval and military operations in the long struggle for the possession of Canada; posts of the Hudson's Bay Company; and sites related to the social, economic, and industrial development of the country.