

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 Service, Lands and Development Services Branch and
Department of Mines and Resources

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

THE National Parks Service is entrusted with the restoration, preservation, and administration of national historic parks and sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding persons in Canadian history. The Service is advised in this phase of its work by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians, representing the various provinces of the Dominion.

The personnel of the Board is as follows: Chairman, Dr. J. Clarence Webster, Shediac, New Brunswick; Professor Fred Landon, London, Ontario; Professor D. C. Harvey, Halifax, Nova Scotia; the Honourable E. Fabre-Surveyer, Montreal, Quebec; J. A. Gregory, North Battleford, Saskatchewan; the Reverend Antoine d'Eschambault, St. Boniface, Manitoba; Major G. Lanctot, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa, Ontario; Professor M. H. Long, Edmonton, Alberta; Professor Walter N. Sage, Vancouver, British Columbia; W. D. Cromarty, National Parks Service, Ottawa, Ontario.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 21-3, 1947, when a wide variety of matters relating to the historic background of the Dominion were reviewed. Of the many sites that have been considered by the Board to date, 348 have been marked or acquired and 210 others recommended for attention at a later date.

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.

Concrete mountings were made for the cannon on the northwest Curtain; shingle stain was applied to the roof and walls of the band stand; the exterior walls of the museum building were painted; a water sprinkling system was installed on the lawn of the fort square; all signs on the grounds were repainted, the driveway and paths were raked and levelled, the tablets were cleaned, a tile drain laid and the hedges trimmed.

A total of 11,980 persons signed the museum register during the year.

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.

Fresh gravel was spread on the floors of the magazine and wine cellar, ventilators being installed in the latter to offset the trouble from dampness; new steps were constructed in the stockade, cannon were mounted and painted, and the parchment windows were replaced; additional furnishings were obtained, the flagstone walks were repaired and the lawns fertilized and trimmed.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 8,017.

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park is situated about three miles from the town of Louisbourg, 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.

Arrangements were made with the Nova Scotia Light, Heat and Power Company for their power line to be extended to the Park; a memorial was built over the grave of the Duc d'Anville, whose remains were found some years ago when excavation work was being carried out; four old fire places in the ruins of the hospital were rebuilt and a section of the wall was re-pointed; the bridge over the moat leading to the burying-ground, the casemates at the Citadel, and the archways near the bake-ovens were repaired and new stone walls constructed on each side of the doorway. All exterior trim on the museum and custodian's residence was painted, cement bases and carriages were made for some of the cannon, a garage was built for the new truck, and the entrance road and fences repaired.

A total of 4,858 persons signed the visitors' register.

Fort Beausejour 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.

A concrete base was constructed at the north end of the museum building to receive the large millstones which have been obtained; new gun carriages were made and the cannon mounted; the pavilion was painted and broken window panes replaced; the walls, ceiling, and woodwork of the library were painted; the tile floor of the museum was repaired, the interior of the custodian's residence was redecorated, a sump pump installed, and the grounds maintained in good condition.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 16,397.

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 against 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 it 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.

Repairs were made to the retaining wall where it had been undermined by high water and additional fill placed at the points affected; the interior walls of the museum, the main entrance doors, all picnic benches, tables and signs were painted, and the grounds maintained in good condition.

During the year 26,703 persons signed the museum register.

Fort Lennox National Historic Park is located on Ile-aux Noix in the Richelieu River, about thirteen miles south of St. Johns, Quebec. 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 Service in 1921, and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds.

Permission was granted to the Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique Organization to use a portion of the park property during the summer months as a youth training centre; the inner walls, roof, and fireplace of the Officers' Quarters were repaired and the windows painted; the masonry in the archway and along the stairs leading to the second floor of the Guard House was pointed; the Parade Ground was levelled and the drains cleaned; a new roof was placed on the Commissariat Building; the entrance bridge was repaired and the railings painted; the windows in the Men's Barracks and Canteen were repaired, a new boat-house was constructed, dead trees and branches were removed from the moat and ramparts, the picnic tables were painted, and the grounds kept in good condition. Arrangements were made to have the road from the highway, to the wharf repaired.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 1,303.

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. It remains as it was when finally completed in 1838, an impressive landmark.

A new Macadam surface was placed on the entrance road and parking area; repairs were made to the earthworks and a number of new benches made and placed at different points for the convenience of visitors; the bronze tablet outlining the historical events connected with the fort was removed from the entrance gate and attached to the outer wall of the block-house; the buildings were painted, the caponnière was drained, and the grounds levelled. Road signs were erected by the Provincial Department of Highways to direct tourists to the fort and permission was granted to the town of Prescott to plant a number of trees along the east side of the park property in memory of the local men who lost their lives in World War II.

A total of 5,800 persons signed the museum register during the year.

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.

Arrangements were made with the Department of Public Works to have repairs made to the retaining wall and for additional fill to be placed at the back of the wall; repairs were made to the roof of the Old Mess Hall which was slightly damaged by fire and a spark guard placed on top of the chimney to prevent a recurrence; the museum exhibits have been rearranged, some of which have been moved to the "Old Fort" building, and many additional accessions received. The material for a proposed leaflet relating to the park was forwarded to Professor Fred Landon, the Ontario representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to be checked.

During the year 14,065 persons signed the museum register.

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 Perouse in 1782. Its ruins, which are among the most interesting military remains on this continent, have been partly restored and over forty cannon have been unearthed. Those suitable have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

The bronze tablets attached to the outer wall of the fort together with the tablet attached to the cairn at the Open Battery were cleaned; the enamelled signs, that had become damaged, were removed and general supervision carried out.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

The First Responsible Government in the British Empire Overseas, Halifax, N.S. The first Executive Council, chosen exclusively from the party having a majority in the representative branch of a colonial legislature, was formed in Nova Scotia on February 2, 1848, following a vote of want of confidence by the House of Assembly in the preceding Council. This event has been commemorated by the erection of a bronze tablet in the Assembly Chamber of the Parliament Buildings. The tablet was unveiled on March 11, 1948, at the opening of the Nova Scotia Legislature, by His Honour Lieutenant-Governor J. A. D. McCurdy, in the presence of a distinguished gathering.

The Lumber Industry, Saint John, N.B. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in Riverview Park to commemorate the events connected with the Lumber Industry. Beginning with the export of masts to France, timber and wooden ships to Great Britain, staves and boards to the West Indies, this industry flourished until the end of the nineteenth century. In the present century the forests have become the basic resource of the pulp and paper industry, and are also of vital importance to the entire commercial, agricultural, and industrial economy of Eastern Canada.

Bliss Carman, Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, and Francis Joseph Sherman, Fredericton, New Brunswick. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the campus of the University of New Brunswick to these out-

standing Canadian poets, all of whom were born in or near Fredericton, educated in the University where the monument stands, and buried in the cemetery of Forest Hill. Their gifts of verse enriched Canadian literature and gained for their common birthplace the designation "The Poets' Corner of Canada." The monument was unveiled on May 15, 1947, by the Honourable D. L. MacLaren, lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, in the presence of a distinguished gathering, including the Right Honourable Vincent Massey who delivered the main address.

Louis Jolliet, Quebec, P.Q. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on Champlain Street to Louis Jolliet, 1645-1700, a native of Quebec, who, with Father Jacques Marquette, discovered and explored the Mississippi River in 1673. The monument was unveiled on October 12, 1947, under the auspices of the Quebec Historical Society.

Survey of the Great Lakes, Owen Sound, Ont. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the grounds of the Public Library to commemorate the Survey of the Great Lakes. In 1814-16 the first Admiralty Survey of Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay was undertaken by Admiral William Fitzwilliam Owen, after whom Owen Sound is named. His successor, Admiral Henry Wolsey Bayfield, completed the first survey of Lakes Erie, Huron, and Superior in 1817-25. The work of these officers rendered great service to Canada by increasing the safety of navigation.

Brigadier-General E. A. Cruikshank, Welland, Ont. A bronze tablet was affixed to the County Court House to Brigadier-General E. A. Cruikshank, historian, soldier, and magistrate. He was Warden of Welland County, 1886, and first chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Born in Bertie Township, Welland County, June 29, 1853 and died in Ottawa, June 23, 1939. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Council of the County of Welland on October 17, 1947.

Archibald Byron Macallum, London, Ontario. A bronze tablet was placed in the County Court House to Archibald Byron Macallum, biologist, chemist, and teacher. He was the first chairman of the National Research Council, 1916-20. Born near Belmont, Ontario, April 7, 1858, and died in London, April 5, 1934.

The Honourable John Norquay, Winnipeg, Man. A bronze tablet was placed in the Legislative Buildings to the Honourable John Norquay, Premier of Manitoba, 1878-87. Of Scottish and Indian blood he symbolizes the contribution of the Métis to civilization. Born at Red River Colony, May 8, 1841, and died in Winnipeg, July 5, 1889.

Louise Crummy McKinney, Claresholm, Alberta. A bronze tablet was placed on the Post Office to Louise Crummy McKinney, the first woman to become a member of a legislature in the British Empire. She was elected by the constituency of Claresholm to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, June 7, 1917. Born at Frankville, Ontario, September 22, 1868, and died at Claresholm, July 10, 1931. The tablet was unveiled on June 13, 1947.

The Oregon Treaty of 1846, Douglas, B.C. A bronze tablet was attached to the monument erected the previous year on the international boundary in co-operation with the Washington State Historical Society and the British Columbia Historical Association to commemorate the signing of the Oregon Treaty of 1846. Prior to the establishment of the Dominion of

Canada in 1867, Great Britain and the United States, by providing a peaceful settlement to a difficult boundary problem, strengthened the ties existing between the two peoples. Canada has been proud to do her part in perpetuating this relationship and in forging new links of friendship with her neighbour to the south. This tablet and the one erected on the United States side of the monument by the Washington State Historical Society were unveiled in a joint ceremony on November 8, 1947.

Amor de Cosmos, Victoria, B.C. A bronze tablet was placed in the Parliament Buildings to Amor de Cosmos, a leader in the struggle for Confederation and Responsible Government. Premier of British Columbia, 1872-4, he was born in Windsor, N.S. August 20, 1825, and died in Victoria, B.C., July 4, 1897. The tablet was unveiled on January 16, 1948.