

# 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, 1949-1950

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## NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES, 1949-1950

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES SERVICE, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Dr. J. C. Webster of Shediac, New Brunswick, who had been a member of the Board for twenty-seven years and who was appointed Chairman in November, 1943, died on March 16, 1950.

The personnel of the Board is as follows: 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, Genthon, Manitoba; Professor M. H. Long, Edmonton, Alberta; Professor Walter N. Sage, Vancouver, British Columbia; the Honourable Thane A. Campbell, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Dr. Wm. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa, Ontario; C. E. A. Jeffrey, St. John's, Newfoundland; and W. D. Cromarty, National Parks and Historic Sites Service, Ottawa, Ontario.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 30, 31, and June 1, 1949, when a wide variety of matters relating to the historic background of Canada were reviewed. Of the many sites that have been considered by the Board to date, 390 have been marked or acquired and 194 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.

The exterior of the museum building and some of the interior wood-work were painted as well as the chain fences, cannon, cannon balls, and wooden signs. Improvement work was carried out on the driveway, paths and moat. The hedges were trimmed and all bronze tablets on the park grounds cleaned.

A total of 16,283 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. Champlain chose the location and drew up the plan of settlement.

A section of the palisades was rebuilt, repairs were made to the roof of the Habitation, and additional gravel was spread in the magazine. The buildings and grounds were carefully maintained, some of the interior woodwork was painted, and all iron work cleaned and oiled. The Scots Fort area was cleared of stones and brush and the roadway leading to it levelled and graded. The site of the John Robblee house was also filled in and levelled.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 10,523.

*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 transfer of Canada to 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.

Considerable repair work was carried out on the walls of the museum building in an effort to prevent leakage by the driving rains, and repairs and repointing were made to the old casemates and to the remains of the Hospital and de Mezy buildings. The museum and custodian's residence were painted, the condition of the entrance road was improved, the flag pole and pump house were painted, and repairs made to the sewage system; the fence enclosing the park was repaired, the bases of the monuments were painted, and new field signs erected.

A total of 8,236 persons signed the visitors' book.

*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.

A hand-drawn ice boat used prior to the establishment of the ferry service between Cape Tormentine, N.B., and Port Borden, P.E.I., was donated to the park by the Canadian National Railways. A section of the park area near the museum was levelled and seeded, new road signs were erected, and the trees and brush removed from along the old trench lines. The John Clarence Webster Wing of the museum was officially opened on August 2, 1949, by the Honourable Colin Gibson, then Minister of the Department of Resources and Development.

It is estimated that close to 50,000 persons visited the park during the year.

*Fort Chambly National Historic Park* is situated about twenty miles south-east 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, which they evacuated in the following year. The fort was later repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton and played an important part in the War of 1812.

The interior of the museum was completely redecorated, all display cases were stained and varnished, and the main entrance door to the fort was painted. A protection wall was constructed along the river front of the park property to prevent further erosion and repairs were made to the walls of the fort. Repairs were also made to the custodian's residence, a sump pump was installed, a new base made for one of the grave-stones in the cemetery, and top dressing spread on the lawns.

During the year 43,488 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 as a youth training centre. Repairs were made to the Men's Barracks and Officers' Quarters and the roofs of the Guard House, Officers' Quarters, and boat house were painted. A temporary wharf was constructed on the west side of the island for the convenience of visitors, the ramparts around the fort were cleared of dead timber, the casemate doors and picnic tables painted, all bronze tablets cleaned, and the grounds and cemetery properly maintained.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 5,604.

*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.

The highway fronting the fort property was reconstructed, the expense in connection with this work being shared equally by the province, the municipality, and the National Parks and Historic Sites Service; the telephone poles along the front of the park property were removed, the cable

being placed underground. The fort buildings were painted, repairs made to the Guard House, and additional lighting fixtures installed in the new museum; renovation work was carried out in the custodian's quarters and the grounds were properly maintained.

A total of 6,650 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.

A layer of crushed stone was spread on the driveway and paths, and repairs were made to the eaves troughs on the Old Mess Hall and to the drain pipes on the "Old Fort" building. New museum cases were obtained to display the exhibits which are continually being received, concrete bases were constructed on the park grounds for a water fountain, anchor, and naval gun, the posts and rails along the steps of the moat were painted, and the dead trees removed.

During the year 11,835 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. Over forty cannon have been unearthed and those suitable for the purpose have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was carried out.

#### NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

*Sir Louis Henry Davies, K.C.M.G. and Sir Joseph Pope, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., Charlottetown, P.E.I.* Tablets were placed in the Confederation Building to Sir Louis Henry Davies, Premier, Prince Edward Island and Chief Justice of Canada, and to Sir Joseph Pope, Private Secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald, 1882-91 and Under-Secretary of State for Canada, 1896-1926. The tablets were unveiled on August 25, 1949.

*Robert Harris, C.M.G., Charlottetown, P.E.I.* A tablet was placed in the Harris Art Gallery building to Robert Harris, painter of the historic picture "The Fathers of Confederation." He was a charter member of the Royal Canadian Academy and its President, 1893-1906. The tablet was unveiled on August 25, 1949.

*Isgonish-French River Portage, near Truro, N.S.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected adjacent to Highway No. 2 west of Truro to mark the Isgonish-French River Portage, the chief route of the French and Indians from Cobequid to Isle St. Jean and Louisbourg and later of the British from Halifax to Charlottetown.

*Captain Savalette, Tor Bay, N.S.* A tablet was placed on a large boulder at the side of the road at Tor Bay, to Captain Savalette, pioneer of "dry" fishery in Nova Scotia. Among the islands in the bay there he carried on the "sedentary" fisheries for forty-two years prior to 1607, when he entertained both Champlain and Lescarbot on their way from Port Royal to Canso. The tablet was unveiled on July 30, 1949.

*Sir George Augustus Westphal, Sir Provo William Parry Wallis, K.C.B., G.C.B., Sir Edward Belcher, K.C.B., Philip Westphal, and George Edward Watts, C.B., Halifax, N.S.* Tablets were erected in the Maritime Museum building, HMC Dockyard, to these distinguished persons, all of whom were born around Halifax Harbour and rose to the rank of admiral in the Royal Navy. The tablets were unveiled on August 8, 1949, in the presence of officers of the Royal Navy, the United States Navy, and the Royal Canadian Navy.

*Sir John Sparrow David Thompson, P.C., K.C.M.G., Halifax, N.S.* A tablet was placed on the North End Postal Station to Sir John Sparrow David Thompson, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, 1878-82; Premier, May to July, 1882; Justice of the Supreme Court, 1882-5; Minister of Justice of Canada, 1885-94, and Prime Minister, 1892-4.

*Harriette Taber Richardson, Port Royal National Historic Park, Lower Granville, N.S.* A tablet was erected in the Habitation in honour of Harriette Taber Richardson who first dreamed of the restoration of this building as an "Act of International Good Will." The tablet was unveiled on August 30, 1949, under the auspices of the Annapolis Royal Historical Association.

*Sir John George Bourinot, K.C.M.G., Sydney, N.S.* A tablet was placed on the Post Office building to Sir John George Bourinot, historian and authority on parliamentary procedure. He was Clerk of the House of Commons, 1880-1902, and President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1892-3.

*Sir George Parkin, K.C.M.G., and Sir George Eulas Foster, G.C.M.G., Saint John, N.B.* Tablets were erected in the main hall of the New Brunswick Museum to Sir George Parkin, educationist and author, and to Sir George Eulas Foster, statesman, orator, and administrator.

*Lemuel Allan Wilmot, Fredericton, N.B.* A tablet was erected in the Legislative Assembly building to Lemuel Allan Wilmot, statesman and jurist. He was an advocate of responsible government and Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, 1868-73.

*Sir Charles Edward Saunders, London, Ontario.* A tablet was erected in the City Hall to Sir Charles Edward Saunders, distinguished experimental agriculturist. His development of Marquis wheat added untold wealth to his native land. The tablet was dedicated on April 11, 1950, under the auspices of the London and Middlesex Historical Society.

*Adam Shortt, C.M.G., London, Ontario.* A tablet was erected in the Court House building to Adam Shortt, economist, educator, and historian. He was Professor of Political Science in Queen's University, 1891-1908; Civil Service Commissioner, 1908-18, and co-editor of *Canada and Its*

*Provinces.* The tablet was dedicated on April 11, 1950, under the auspices of the London and Middlesex Historical Society.

*Sir John Stephen Willison, K.B., Goderich, Ontario.* A tablet was placed on the Court House building to Sir John Stephen Willison, journalist, author, and publicist. He was editor of the *Globe*, 1890-1902, and of the *News*, Toronto, 1902-10. The tablet was unveiled on November 16, 1949, under the sponsorship of the County Council of Huron.

*Sir William Buell Richards, K.B., Brockville, Ontario.* A tablet was placed on the Court House building to Sir William Buell Richards, jurist and legislator. He was Attorney-General for Canada West, 1851-3, and first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, 1875-9. The tablet was unveiled on September 2, 1949.

*Sir Richard William Scott, K.B., Prescott, Ontario.* A tablet was placed in the Town Hall to Sir Richard William Scott, Secretary of State for Canada, 1874-8 and 1896-1908. He was father of the Canada Temperance Act, 1878 ("The Scott Act"). The tablet was unveiled on September 3, 1949, during the centennial celebration at Prescott.

*La Vérendrye's Journey to the Mandans near Morden, Manitoba.* A boulder with tablet was erected adjacent to Highway No. 3, about ten miles west of Morden, to commemorate La Vérendrye's journey through that region. With two of his sons he had left Fort La Reine on October 18, 1738, on his way to the country of the Mandans whence, by following the Missouri, he hoped to reach the western sea. The monument was unveiled on Labour Day, September 5, 1949, under the auspices of the Pembina Hills Historical Society.

*First Legislature of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.* A tablet was placed on the National Canadian Bank Building, Main Street, to commemorate the first legislature of Manitoba, which met in the home nearby of the Honourable A. G. B. Bannatyne, on March 15, 1871.

*Preservation of the Plains Buffalo, Elk Island National Park, Alberta.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the beach lawn to commemorate the preservation of the Plains Buffalo. Ruthlessly slaughtered for meat and hides, this noble animal almost became extinct, but in 1906 the Dominion Government procured in Montana the last large herd. Their offspring now graze by thousands in various national parks of western Canada. The monument was unveiled on Labour Day, September 5, 1949, under the auspices of the Historical Society of Alberta and the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers' Society.

*Okanagan Brigade Trail, Westbank, B.C.* A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to the highway at the eastern outskirts of Westbank to mark the Okanagan Brigade Trail, a link in the fur-trading route from New Caledonia (North Central British Columbia) to the Columbia River. First explored by the Astorians in 1811, the trail was used by the North West Company and from 1821 by the Hudson's Bay Company. The fur brigades from New Caledonia journeyed by this route from Kamloops to "Fort Okanagan" until 1848. The monument was unveiled on August 24, 1949, under the auspices of the Okanagan Historical Society and the Westbank Women's Institute.