

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 restoration, preservation, and administration of National Historic Parks and Sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding Canadians is entrusted to the National Parks Bureau. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians, representing the various provinces of the Dominion, acts in an advisory capacity to the Bureau in this phase of its work. Judge F. W. Howay of New Westminster, British Columbia, who had been a member of the Board for more than twenty years, and who was appointed Chairman in November, 1941, died on October 4, 1943, at the age of seventy-six. Dr. J. Clarence Webster of Shediac, New Brunswick, succeeded Judge Howay as Chairman, and two new members have been appointed: Professor M. H. Long, Department of History, University of Alberta, and Professor Walter N. Sage, Head of the Department of History, University of British Columbia. 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 Hon. E. Fabre-Surveyer, Montreal, Quebec; J. A. Gregory, M.P., North Battleford, Saskatchewan; the Rev. 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 Bureau, Ottawa, Ontario. A general meeting of the Board, the first since the outbreak of the war, was held in Ottawa on May 19, 20, and 21, when a wide variety of matters relating to the historic background of the Dominion was reviewed and a selection made of sites to be marked at a later date. Of the total number of sites already considered by the Board, 332 have been marked or acquired and 162 recommended for future action.

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 cannon, signs, benches, and the fence posts along the driveway were painted; repairs made to the roadways; iron bars installed on the basement windows of the museum, and other general improvement work carried out. Additional publications and articles of interest were obtained for the museum.

A total of 7,640 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.

During the year all interior and exterior woodwork of the Habitation was given a coat of preserving fluid, which has added greatly to its appearance. Approximately forty pieces of furniture, made at the Acadia Forest Experiment Station, Fredericton, New Brunswick, in accordance with designs prepared by Dr. C. W. Jefferys, R.C.A., have been placed in position in the various rooms. The cannon were painted and mounted on a platform; the lawns were rolled and fertilized, and the flagstone walks repaired.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 2,163.

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, a new sign depicting the Fortress as it existed in 1745, was carved at the Acadia Forest Experiment Station with a view to having it placed in a suitable position on the grounds. Temporary repairs were made to the entrance road, which was badly damaged during the fall by a heavy storm. All outside woodwork of the museum building and caretaker's quarters was painted, together with the entrance gates, the flag-pole, and the fence enclosing the monument commemorating the capture of Louisbourg.

A total of 2,383 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.

During the year the tile drain leading from the basement of the museum was replaced with a larger pipe in order to overcome certain drainage difficulties. Hay was cut and removed from the park; the paths were cleaned and raked, and general improvement work carried out.

Visitors registered at the museum during the year numbered 2,854.

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; 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 walls of the fort were repointed where necessary; the window sash painted; trees and shrubs pruned; paths raked and cleaned, and general improvement work carried out.

During the year 9,779 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 Bureau in 1921, and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds. The entire property has been in use 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. It remains as it was when finally completed in 1838, an impressive landmark.

During the year the exhibit cases and tables obtained for the museum were painted and new electric fixtures installed; the roof of the guardhouse was repaired and improvements made to the palisades around the fort. The parking area was cleaned and levelled; the inside of the buildings white-washed, and the brush in the moat cut.

A total of 2,403 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.

During the year a tile drain was laid to the moat; the fence at the southern boundary of the park property was repaired; a layer of top dressing was placed on certain parts of the grounds; the ironwork of the fence along the front of the park was painted, and the trees were trimmed. A considerable number of articles of historical interest were added to the museum collection.

A total of 12,308 persons signed the museum register during the year.

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. Those suitable have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was continued throughout the year.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

On the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, three standard tablets were erected in the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, to commemorate the British Explorers who participated in the Conquest of the Canadian Arctic during the years 1497-1880. These tablets, together with one commemorating the distinguished public services of Douglas Brymner, First Dominion Archivist, were unveiled on May 20, 1943, under the auspices of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa. The ceremony was attended by the members of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, who were holding their annual meeting at the time.

During the year all the sites which have been marked on the advice of the Board were 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.