

# 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

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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 functions of the National Parks Bureau include the restoration, preservation, marking and administration of National Historic Parks and Sites and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding personages connected with the civil and military history of the Dominion. In this phase of its work the Bureau is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing the various parts of the country.

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 Bureau, Ottawa, Ontario.

A general meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 16-18, 1945, when many subjects relating to the historic background of the Dominion were reviewed and an additional number of sites selected to be marked by the Bureau at a later date. Of the many sites already considered by the Board, 332 have now been marked or acquired and 202 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 museum building, bandstand, cannon, flag pole, benches and chain fence were painted; the roads and lawns properly maintained and the hedges trimmed; a number of the electric light posts in the park were moved to other locations in order to improve the lighting conditions; an underground drain was laid from the west side of the museum building to the moat. Many additional articles of historical interest were acquired.

A total of 5,544 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.

Several pieces of furniture were made and placed in the Governor's Chambers; preserving fluid was applied to the outer walls of the Habitation; the Coat-of-Arms over the main entrance was cleaned and varnished; the doors were painted and all iron work cleaned and oiled; the bridges were repaired; fresh gravel placed in the powder magazines and the lawns rolled, fertilized and maintained.

The Minister of Game and Fisheries for the Province of Quebec kindly arranged for four wolf skins to be sent to the park and these are now on display at the Habitation.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 3,296.

*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.

The damage to the entrance road caused by a tidal wave was repaired; a new woven wire fence was erected along the western boundary of the park; the lawns and paths were kept in good condition; bridges within the park area were repaired; the iron fence enclosing the Society of Colonial Wars memorial was scaled and painted; the entrance gates, field signs, and all storm doors and windows were painted and several of the rooms in the basement re-decorated.

A memorial erected by the Congregation of Notre Dame on the site of the convent to the members of the Order who served at the fortress during the period it was occupied by the French, was unveiled on August 25.

A total of 3,126 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.

New signs were made and erected throughout the park to mark points of interest, the larger ones being placed on heavy posts set in concrete; the roads and paths were cleaned and trimmed; the walls of the furnace room were treated with a special cement preparation and the guns and gun carriages painted. The Coats-of-Arms of H.M.C.S. "Whitby" and "Moncton" were obtained from the Department of National Defence (Navy) and are on display in the museum.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 5,393.

*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.

The walls of the fort were repointed; the memorials within the fort grounds were cleaned; the caretaker's residence and the interior of the museum were redecorated, the flag pole, picnic tables, storm doors, etc., were painted, and the trees, shrubs and paths trimmed.

During the year 16,203 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.

Permission was granted for the fort buildings to be used during the summer as a training centre for the Canadian Youth Association, sponsored by the Physical Fitness Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare; two of the temporary buildings erected on the Island during the period it was used as a Refugee Camp were disposed of by the War Assets Corporation and the water tank, also erected at that time was taken down. The roofs of the Guard House and Officers' Quarters were scraped and painted; the main entrance bridge was repaired; a new fire pump was installed and general maintenance work carried out on the fort buildings.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 655.

*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 wire fence enclosing the park property was removed; electric lights were installed in the underground passage leading to the caponniere; repairs were made to the palisades and to the drain from the septic tank; rubberized flooring was laid in the museum; a porch was constructed on the front of the Officers' Quarters now used as the caretaker's residence; the guard house was whitewashed, and the grounds maintained in good condition. Additional articles of historical interest were obtained for the museum and a four page leaflet was published containing a condensed version of the history of the fort.

A total of 2,594 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.

The boundary of the park has been extended to include an area immediately to the south on which a large residence known as "The Fort," and a smaller dwelling, known as "The Cottage," are situated. The latter is the only remaining building of the original Fort Malden. Many additional articles of interest relating to the early history of the district were received and are on display in the museum. The flag pole was painted and the lawns and paths kept in good condition.

During the year 15,279 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.

General supervision was continued throughout the year.

#### NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

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.