

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
Mines and Resources

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[See table of contents](#)

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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 characters in Canadian history is carried out by the National Parks Bureau. In this phase of its work the Bureau is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of recognized historians representing the various parts 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 Bureau, Ottawa, Ontario.

A general meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 15-17, 1946, when a wide variety of matters relating to the historic background of the Dominion were reviewed and a selection made of sites to be marked at a later date. Of the many sites that have been considered by the Board to date, 337 have been marked or acquired and 216 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 east side and north end of the museum building and all wood-work downstairs in the north and south halls were painted, together with the library, cannon and cannon balls around the building, the chain fence, well-sweep, and sign posts; the roads were repaired, magazines cleaned, moat drained, a new floor laid in the band stand and repairs made to the bases of the columns at the entrance to the museum; the hedges around the memorials were trimmed and the hay cut and removed from the fort grounds facing the highway.

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 8,754 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.

Preserving fluid was applied to all shingled roofs and to the cannon platform, palisade and new built-in bunks; additional furnishings, including four baby harbour seal skins, were obtained for the various rooms; all iron work was cleaned and oiled, bridges repaired, cannon painted and the lawns rolled and fertilized.

Vistors registered in the park during the year numbered 6,025.

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.

A section of the breast-work near the main entrance was dismantled and rebuilt; the cairn near the west gate, marking the Dauphin's Bastion was taken down and the tablet affixed to the remains of the Bastion which has been partly restored; repairs were made to the northwest walls of the casemates, the doorway in the citadel was rebuilt and concrete bases made for the cannon; the main entrance gate, the fence enclosing the Society of Colonial Wars memorial, and all windows in the museum building and caretaker's quarters were painted and also the cannon and anchors in front of the museum; the bridge across the moat at the Citadel was repaired, part of the entrance road was re-surfaced and the lawns and paths kept in good condition.

A total of 4,256 persons signed the visitor's 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.

The stonework of the museum building was caulked and made water-proof; the caretaker's residence, rest lodge and cannon were painted; the pavilion provided for the convenience of visitors was moved to a more suitable location; repairs were made to one of the stone pillars at the main entrance gate; all road signs were re-lettered and the grounds maintained in good condition.

Visitors registered at the museum during the year numbered 12,023.

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.

Flagstone walks were laid in the picnic grounds; the iron fence around the cemetery and in front of the fort, together with the picnic tables, storm doors, etc., were painted; the trees and shrubs were trimmed and the grounds kept in good condition.

During the year 22,546 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 to the Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique Organization to use a portion of the park property during the summer months as a youth training centre; the metal roof on the Powder Magazine was painted, the roof of the Officer's Quarters was repaired and the entrance to the latter building repaired and painted; a new floor was laid in the Men's Barracks, a temporary landing dock was constructed on the east side of the island and a cement platform built around the well; repairs were made to the entrance bridge and to the windows in the various buildings; the parade ground was levelled, casemates and picnic grounds cleaned, brush and dead trees along the embankment were cut and removed and the grounds kept in good condition.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 1,248.

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 old fence around the fort property was taken down; new palisades were erected to replace those in poor condition; all fort buildings and cannon painted; repairs made to the entrance gates; new signs made and placed in position; trees and shrubs planted and the grounds kept in good condition.

A total of 5,699 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 top floor of "The Fort" residence was converted into living quarters for the park custodian and arrangements made with the Provincial Government for one of their Police Constables to occupy the dwelling known as "The Cottage" to give additional protection to the property.

A small bronze plate was attached to the "Tecumseh Stone" donated to the park; the existing tile drain was extended into the sunken garden; repairs were made to the plumbing of the "Fort" and several sections of the rain conductor pipe on this building replaced; additional fire extinguishers were obtained, lawns and hedges trimmed and many articles of interest, including a large anchor, were presented to the park.

During the year 17,355 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

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Welshpool, Campobello Island, N. B. A. cut-stone monument with tablet was erected near the library building to the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1882-1945, statesman and humanitarian, who, during many years of his eventful life, found in that tranquil island, rest, refreshment, and freedom from care. To him it was always the "beloved island". The monument was unveiled on August 1, 1946, in the presence of a distinguished gathering including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Father Jacques Marquette, Boucherville, P.Q. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in the small park lying between Highway No. 3 and the St. Lawrence River to commemorate the public services of Father Jacques Marquette, who was born in France on June 10, 1637. With Louis Jolliet, he discovered the Mississippi River on June 17, 1673. He visited the seigniory in which the monument stands in May, 1668, and died in Michigan on May 18, 1675.

William Wilfred Campbell, Kitchener, Ont. A bronze tablet was erected in the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate building to William Wilfred Campbell, the Canadian Poet, who was born in Berlin, (Kitchener) on June 1, 1858, and died near Ottawa on January 1, 1918. His verses revealed the beauty of the Great Lakes, "the magic region of blue waters". The tablet was unveiled on November 25, 1946.

Sir James Douglas, K.C.B., Victoria, B.C. A bronze tablet was erected at the entrance to the Legislative Chamber in the Parliament Buildings to commemorate the public services of Sir James Douglas 1803 - 1877, "The Father of British Columbia". In his early life he was associated first with the North West Company and later with the Hudson's Bay Company. He founded Fort Victoria in 1843. By his firm and wise rule as Governor

of Vancouver Island, 1851 - 1864, and Governor of British Columbia, 1858 - 1864, he laid the foundations of that province. The tablet was unveiled on November 19, 1946.

Frederic William Howay, New Westminster, B.C. A bronze tablet was affixed to the Court House, to Frederic William Howay, historian of British Columbia and Judge of the County Court of Westminster, 1907 - 37. He was a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, 1923 - 41 and chairman, 1941 - 43. President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1941. Born near London, Ontario, November 25, 1867, and died in New Westminster, October 4, 1943. The tablet was unveiled on November 25, 1946.

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.