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Report of the Annual Meeting

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Canadian National Parks Branch

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HISTORIC AND PRE-HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA 1925-26

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH

During the year the work of acquiring, preserving and marking Canada's national historic sites was steadily carried on by the Department of the Interior, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and a very creditable showing was made.

A general meeting of the Board was held during the month of June when a considerable number of sites were reviewed and a further selection made from these for action by the Department.

The services of Mr. Aegidius Fauteux were lost through his resignation as a member of the Board owing to pressure of other duties. His Honour Judge W. Crowe was added to its personnel as representative from Nova Scotia.

Ready co-operation is being extended by local societies and affiliated organizations and public sentiment seems to be growing stronger in connection with this national work.

The Board has so far had under scrutiny over one thousand sites and from this number one hundred and eighty-six have been selected and recommended for action by the Department. The control of one hundred and thirteen of these has been obtained by deed of gift, license of occupation or purchase.

Inexpensive memorials in the form of a cobble-stone cairn or large boulder are placed on sites where no remains exist to carry the Department's standard bronze tablet which is of a very artistic nature. Upon completion custodians are appointed to supervise them and to keep the sites in a presentable condition.

A summary of the work accomplished during the past year is enumerated hereunder.

SITES MARKED

In addition to those enumerated in previous reports of the Canadian Historical Association, the following memorials were erected during 1925:—

MARITIME PROVINCES

Louisbourg, N.S.

Two tablets were placed on the outer wall at each side of the entrance to the new lighthouse, erected by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. One of these marks the site of the first lighthouse tower in British North America, built by the French, in 1731, also that of the batteries utilized by the British against the French defensive works on the island opposite. The other commemorates the valour and endurance displayed by the French forces, which, in 1745, and also in 1758, garrisoned the batteries on the Island. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Fort Edward, Windsor, N.S.

A cairn and table were erected on the old military reserve to mark the site of the fort built there in 1750, by Major Charles Lawrence for the protection of Piziquid and the surrounding district and as a symbol of British sovereignty in Nova Scotia. It was of special importance during the war with France in 1755-62, and the American Wars of 1775-82 and 1812-15. It was also closely associated with the tragic incidents connected with the deportation of the Acadians in 1755.

Fort la Tour, St. John, N.B.

A tablet was placed on the face of the rock wall fronting Portland street to mark the site of Fort La Tour, built in 1631 by Charles de La Tour, Governor in Acadie. After an heroic defence by its occupants commanded by Madame la Tour the fort was captured and pillaged by his rival, D'Aulnay de Charnisay, in April, 1645.

Fort Meductic, near Woodstock, N.B.

A cairn and tablet were erected in a prominent location on the side of the public highway about four miles from Woodstock to mark the site of Fort Meductic, which was the chief Maliseet stronghold in Acadie in the 17th and 18th centuries. Near it was a village with a church and burying ground. The church was built in 1717 and a replica of the dedication stone was incorporated in the memorial. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Battle of the Restigouche, Campbellton, N.B.

A cairn and tablet were erected in Riverside Park to record the events associated with the naval battle which took place in the spring of 1760, between a small French squadron which had taken shelter in the Restigouche River and a British squadron commanded by Honourable John Byron. This was the last naval battle of the Seven Years' War in North American waters.

Fort Cumberland, near Amherst.

A tablet bearing a French inscription was placed on another face of the memorial erected in 1924. Repairs were also carried out on the ruins of the old magazine.

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

A tablet was placed on the walls of the lobby of the Provincial Building to record some of the outstanding events associated with the history of Prince Edward Island (formerly Island of St. Jean), discovered by Jacques Cartier in 1534, settled by Chevalier St. Pierre in 1720-21, surrendered to Great Britain in 1758, annexed to Nova Scotia in 1764 and made an independent colony in 1769. It was raided by American privateers in 1775, the United Empire Loyalists arrived in 1783, the first Confederation conference took place in 1864 and it joined the Dominion in 1873.

QUEBEC

Fort Chambly, Chambly Basin.

A commemorative shrine, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected in the old cemetery to perpetuate the memory of the men who, under the walls of the old fort, gave their lives for their country.

Fort Richelieu, Sorel.

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of land, donated by the Canada Steamship Lines, near their dock to mark the site of the wooden fort built in 1643 by M. de Montmagny at the mouth of the Richelieu River. It was reconstructed in 1665 by Pierre de Saurel and served on many occasions as an important defence post against attacks by the Iroquois. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Hochelaga, Montreal.

A boulder and tablet were placed on the McGill campus grounds, facing Sherbrooke Street to mark the site of the Indian village discovered and visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535 and abandoned before 1600. It contained fifty large houses which lodged several families who subsisted by cultivation and fishing.

Fort Longueuil, Longueuil.

A tablet was placed on the outer wall of the Roman Catholic Church which now stands on the site of Fort Longueuil, erected in 1685-90, by Charles de Longueuil II, as an outpost against the Iroquois. It was demolished in 1810.

Tadoussac.

A cairn to which is affixed two tablets was erected on a plot of land directly across the road from the old Tadoussac chapel. This was the oldest French establishment and Christian mission in Canada and an early resort of Basques for the whale fishery. Jacques Cartier arrived September 1, 1535, and in 1600 Pierre Chauvin built the first house in Canada. The war alliance of the French and Algonquins against the Iroquois was effected by Champlain at Lark's Point, opposite.

Fort Charlesbourg Royal, Cap Rouge.

A cairn and tablet were erected adjacent to the main road passing through the village and near the mouth of the Cap Rouge River to mark the site of the forts built there by Jacques Cartier in 1541-42 and extended by Roberval in 1542-43. This, the first attempt to colonize Canada, proved a disastrous failure and was abandoned. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Battle of Coulée Grou, Rivière des Prairies.

A cairn, tablet and fence were erected adjacent to the highway from Montreal to Rivière des Prairies to mark the site of the engagement of July 2, 1690, between the French under Colombet and the Iroquois. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Battlefield of Odelltown, near Lacolle.

A bronze tablet was attached to the cairn constructed last year to commemorate the events associated with the engagement which took place there on November 7-9, 1838, between the Loyal Militia of Canada and the rebel invaders.

ONTARIO

Port Arthur.

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land in Gore Park, leased by the city of Port Arthur, to commemorate the historic events associated with that town. Radisson and Groseilliers were the first Europeans on Thunder Bay, arriving there in 1662. Wolseley's Red River Expeditionary Force camped at the foot of Arthur Street, May 19, 1870,

named by him Prince Arthur's Landing, advanced by the Dawson Road via Lake Shebandowan and other lakes and rivers connected by portages to Fort Garry to suppress the Red River Rebellion.

Fort Nottawasaga, Stayner.

A cairn and tablet were erected on Wasaga Beach with the consent of Messrs. W. H. and S. A. McLean, to mark the site of Fort Nottawasaga, which stood about two miles upstream from that point. The fort consisted of a blockhouse constructed in 1814 by Lieutenant Colonel Robert McDouall, A.D.C., Glengarry Light Infantry, and destroyed by enemy forces on August 13th, 1814. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 8th, 1925, under the auspices of the Huron Institute.

WESTERN CANADA

Selkirk Settlement, Winnipeg, Man.

A cairn and tablet were erected in Sir William Whyte Park, permission having been granted by the City of Winnipeg, to mark the site of Fort Douglas, headquarters of the first British settlement west of the Great Lakes. The Red River Settlement, founded by Lord Selkirk, was established under Captain Miles Macdonnell, in 1812. Fort Douglas, though destroyed by the North West Company in 1815, was rebuilt in the same year and remained the headquarters of the settlement until the Hudson's Bay Company became the owners in 1834.

Forts Rouge, Garry (Old and New) and Gibraltar, Winnipeg, Man.

A tablet was erected on the gateway of Old Fort Garry, to mark the site of Fort Rouge, established by La Vérandrye in 1738; Fort Gibraltar, built by the North West Company in 1804; "Old" Fort Garry, headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company, after the coalition with the North West Company in 1821, and "New" Fort Garry, built of stone in 1836-39, and seat of Government until the transfer to Canada in 1870.

Fort Calgary, Calgary, Alta.

A cairn and tablet were erected in Central Park to commemorate the arrival in August, 1875, of Troop "F" of the North West Mounted Police under Inspector E. A. Brisebois, and the establishment of their post, Fort Calgary. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on July 4th, 1925, under the auspices of the Calgary Historical Society.

Gonzales Hill, Victoria, B.C.

A cairn and tablet were erected on the summit of the hill to commemorate the exploration of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, 1787-1792. The fur trade explorers were Charles William Barkley, who discovered the Straits in 1787; Commander John Meares, who entered the Straits in 1788, and Robert Gray in 1789. Captain George Vancouver, R.N., proved the non-existence of a reputed Northwest passage in these latitudes, also made first circumnavigation of, named and proved insular character of Vancouver Island in 1792. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on November 19th, 1925, under the auspices of the Lady Douglas Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire.

Fort Kamloops, Kamloops, B.C.

A boulder and tablet were erected in Riverside Park in memory of the pioneer fur traders, who, by establishing themselves in this locality,

aided in securing the country for Great Britain. Among the outstanding from 1811 to 1860 were David Stuart, Joseph Larocque, Alexander Ross, John McLeod, Francis Ermatinger, Samuel Black, Donald Manson, John Tod, Paul Fraser and Donald McLean.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

Action was taken with respect to the acquisition of other historic properties recommended by the Board to be of national interest and preservation work was carried out on a number of monuments and other structures already controlled by the Department as follows:—

MARITIME PROVINCES

Battle of Grand Pré, N.S.

A plot of land twenty-five feet square, situated adjacent to the main road leading to Evangeline Beach, was purchased from Mr. E. B. Laird on which a memorial will be erected to commemorate the events associated with the engagement of February 11th, 1747, between the French and English.

Joseph Wallet des Barres, Sydney, N.S.

Permission has been granted by the Department of Public Works to place a tablet on the front of the Post Office building to commemorate the public services of Joseph Wallet de Barres, first Lieutenant Governor of Cape Breton, 1784-87, and founder of Sydney.

Sir Howard Douglas, Fredericton, N.B.

The Provincial Government has granted authority for the erection of a tablet in the main hall of the Parliament Buildings at Fredericton to commemorate the public services of Sir Howard Douglas, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, 1823-31.

Fort Nashwaak, Devon, N.B.

A lease of occupation was executed by the town of Devon covering a site on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of the fort erected in 1692 at the junction of the St. John and Nashwaak Rivers, from which many raids were directed against New England.

QUEBEC

Three Rivers Platon and Fort.

The Department of Public Works has granted authority for the placement of a boulder and tablet opposite the Customs Building at Three Rivers to mark the site of the old fort built there in 1634, which was the centre for fur trade with the Indians.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix.

Extensive improvements were carried out on the several massive stone buildings located on the site to ensure of their preservation. These included laying of floors, plastering and pointing of walls, painting of roofs, erection of eave troughs, installation of windows, etc. A new entrance was also provided from the mainland to the large landing dock.

Battle of Eccles Hill, near Frelighsburg.

The memorial plot was cleared of brush, trees planted, and a new fence erected enclosing it.

Madeleine de Verchères, Verchères.

The site was enclosed with a new chain fence and the masonry on the memorial repaired.

ONTARIO

Fort Wellington, Prescott.

A new fence was constructed around the south and west sides of the fort property, outer and inner palisades repaired and the roof leading to the listening post replaced with new timber where necessary. The increased popularity of the fort was evident from the large number of tourists who visited the site.

Rideau Canal, Ottawa.

The Department of Public Works granted permission to place a tablet on the central pillar of the bridge on the north side of Wellington Street to record the events associated with the construction of the Rideau Canal.

Montgomery's Tavern, Toronto.

The Department of Public Works granted permission to place a tablet on Postal Station K, North Yonge Street, which now occupies the site of Montgomery's Tavern, to commemorate its association with the Rebellion of 1837.

Bishop John Strachan, Cornwall.

The Collegiate Institute Board has by license of occupation granted permission for the placement of a tablet on the outer wall of the Institute to commemorate the public services of the Honourable and Right Reverend Bishop John Strachan as pioneer educator, author and legislator.

Queenston Chippawa Portage Road, Stamford.

Permission was granted by the village of Stamford to place a cairn and tablet on the Village Green at the intersection of the Provincial Highway leading to St. Catharines and the road from Queenston to Niagara to mark the site of the Niagara Portage road opened by United Empire Loyalists in 1788, which was the principal route of travel and trade to the Upper Lakes region until the opening of the Welland canal, in 1829.

WESTERN CANADA

Fort Augustus, Edmonton, Alta.

Permission was granted by the Provincial Department of Public Works to erect a cairn and tablet on the surveyed road allowance passing through River Lot 8, Fort Saskatchewan Settlement, to mark the sites of Fort Augustus, established by the North West Company in 1794, and Fort Edmonton established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1795.

Fort Macleod, Macleod, Alta.

The Provincial Department of Public Works has executed a form of permit granting the Department permission to place a cairn and tablet on their reserve adjacent to Twenty-third Street in the town of Macleod to commemorate the events associated with the founding of the Royal North West Mounted Police post on the island northeast of the town, in 1874.

New Westminster, B.C.

The Department of Justice has granted permission for the placement of a memorial on the penitentiary grounds at New Westminster to commemorate the landing the Royal Engineers in 1859 and the founding of the first capital of British Columbia.

Bella Coola, B.C. (Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Farthest Point West).

The Provincial Government has set aside an area of thirteen acres for the purpose of a Provincial Park, which is to be known as the "Sir Alexander Mackenzie Historic Park." This is to be managed, regulated, and controlled by a board comprised of members of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. A suitable memorial will be erected within this area on the exact terminus of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's trans-continental journey, which has recently been identified.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites have been deemed by the Board to be of national importance and recommended for commemoration:—

First Post Office in British North America, Halifax, N.S.

King's College, Windsor, N.S.

Admiral d'Anville's Encampment, Bedford Basin, N.S.

Fort La Have, Mouth of La Have River, N.S.

Battle of the Shannon & Chesapeake, Halifax, N.S.

Yorkshire Settlement, Chignecto, N.S.

Canso, N.S.

Martello Tower and Blockhouse, St. John, N.B.

Tonge's Island, N.B.

First Steam Fog Alarm, St. John, N.B.

Invention of Compound Steam Engine, St. John, N.B.

Battle of Repentigny, near Charlemagne, P.Q.

Battle of Chateauguay, Allans Corner, P.Q.

Lacolle, Battle and Blockhouse, Lacolle, P.Q.

Gaspé, P.Q. (Landing Place of Jacques Cartier).

Second Battle of Chateauguay and Blockhouse, near Allans Corner, P.Q.

First Patent issued in Canada.

Valcartier Camp, Valcartier.

Ile-aux-Coudres, opposite Baie St. Paul, P.Q.

Temiscouata Portage Route, Cabano.

First Paper Mill in Canada, St. Andrew.

Fort Ste. Thérèse, Ile Ste. Thérèse, P.Q.

First Steamship in Canada, Montreal, P.Q.

Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.

First Railroad in Canada, Laprairie, P.Q.

Champlain's Landing, Allumette Island, P.Q.

Battle of Two Mountains, Rivière des Prairies, P.Q.

Opening of the St. Lawrence River to all nations.

Madeleine de Verchères, Verchères, P.Q.

Battle of the Cedars, Cedars, P.Q.

Battle of Fort Lennox, Isle-aux-Noix, P.Q.

Fort Coteau du Lac, Coteau du Lac, P.Q.

Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.

Mission of Ste. Marie I, near Midland, Ont.

Chatham, Ont. (Action at the house of Thomas McCrea, 1812).
 Nanticoke, Ont.
 Vrooman's Battery, near Queenston, Ont.
 Ridgeway Battlefield, near Ridgeway, Ont.
 Tête du Pont Battery, near Chippawa, Ont.
 Weishuhn's Redoubt, near Chippawa, Ont.
 Navy Island Shipyard, near Chippawa, Ont.
 Battle of Longwoods, near Wardsville, Ont.
 York Battle, Toronto, Ont.
 Point Pelee, Ont.
 Murney Tower, Kingston, Ont.
 McKee's Point, Sandwich, Ont.
 Canoe Route from Montreal to Lake Huron, etc., Ont.
 Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
 Fort York or Toronto, Toronto, Ont.
 Fort Henry, Kingston, Ont.
 Pointe au Baril, Maitland, Ont.
 Fort St. Joe, St. Joseph's Island, Ont.
 Pointe de Meuron, near Fort William, Ont.
 Site of the death of the Duke of Richmond, near Richmond, Ont.
 Fort Norfolk, Turkey Point, Ont.
 Martello Shoal Tower, Kingston, Ont.
 Bishop A. Macdonell, St. Raphael.
 First Salt Works in Canada, Louth Township, Ont.
 First Petroleum Wells, near Bothwell, Ont.
 Fugitive Slave Movement, Windsor, Ont.
 First Electric Telegraph Line, Toronto, Ont.
 Sir Charles Bagot, Kingston, Ont.
 Lord Sydenham, Kingston, Ont.
 Butler's Burial Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Allan Crawford, Ottawa, Ont.
 Canadian Arctic Expedition, Ottawa, Ont.
 Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Port Dover, Ont. (Starting Point of Brock's Expedition, 1812).
 Fort Mississagua, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Fort Cataraqui, or Frontenac, Kingston, Ont.
 Duck Lake Battlefield, near Carleton, Sask.
 Fish Creek Battlefield, near Rosthern, Sask.
 Fort Cumberland, Cumberland House, Sask.
 Buffalo Jumping Pound.
 Jasper House, Jasper Park, Alta.
 Fort La Reine, Portage La Prairie, Man.
 Indian Treaty, Gleichen, Alta.
 Indian Treaty, Lower Fort Garry, near Winnipeg, Man.
 Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
 Henry House, Alta.
 Fort à la Corne, East of Prince Albert, Sask.
 Coal mining in Alberta, Lethbridge, Alta.
 Nanaimo, B.C.
 Barkerville, B.C.
 Fort Alexandria, B.C.
 Fort Hope, B.C.
 Fort Steele, B.C.
 Yukon Gold Discovery.