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National Historic Parks and Sites, 1950-1951

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES, 1950-1951

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

THE NATIONAL PARKS and Historic Sites Service is entrusted with the restoration, preservation and administration of national historic parks and sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding persons in Canadian history. 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.

The personnel of the Board is as follows: Chairman, 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. Jeffery, St. John's, Newfoundland; W. D. Cromarty, Ottawa, Ontario; and C. G. Childe, National Parks and Historic Sites Service, Ottawa, Ontario.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 31, and June 1, 2, 1950, 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, 407 have been marked or acquired and 192 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 sallyport and magazines were repointed and the wooden limbers of the guns on the King's or East Bastion were replaced by concrete ones. The exterior of the museum building and some of the interior woodwork were painted as well as the chain fences, cannon, wooden signs and benches. Repairs were made to the entrance road, all tablets in the park were cleaned, and the hedges were trimmed. The toilets were painted and tile flooring laid in part of the custodian's residence.

A total of 17,716 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.

Preserving oil was applied to the shingle roofs and to some of the buildings, the parchment windows were repaired and grading and seeding was carried out around the palisades. A new fence was erected around a portion of the park property, a cannon was mounted on a suitable platform and painted, and all ironwork in the buildings was cleaned and oiled. Additional furnishings were acquired for some of the rooms and further items of fire fighting equipment were supplied for the protection of the property.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 11,153.

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.

Restoration work was carried out in the Governor's Gardens and on the site of the De Mezy house; the bridge over the moat at the Maurepas Gate was repaired and waterproofing was carried out on the Museum building to prevent seepage during heavy storms. The exterior woodwork of the museum and custodian's quarters was painted as well as the field signs, cannon, anchor, fences, pump house and the railings of the wooden bridge in front of the remains of the Citadel. Repairs were made to the entrance road and the grass was trimmed along the paths and around the parking area.

A total of 14,059 persons signed the visitors' book.

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.

Brushing and levelling was carried out on the area comprising the advance line of defence and directional signs were erected in and around the park property. The septic tank was repaired, additional articles of interest were obtained for the museum, and the lawns were trimmed. A new fence was erected to enclose the Butte à Roger area which is situated near the park.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 24,864.

Fort Chambly National Historic Park is situated about 20 miles southeast 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 the following year. The fort was later repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton and played an important part in the War of 1812.

Repairs were made to the walls of the fort and to the protection wall at the cemetery; the roofs of the museum and custodian's quarters were re-shingled and stained and the basement wall of the museum was sealed to prevent water seepage in the spring. A new steel picket fence was erected to enclose the picnic grounds and the interior of the museum was painted together with the main entrance doors, pavilion, picnic tables, toilets, and the fence adjacent to the fort. The grounds were levelled and seeded, the paths were raked and trimmed and flowers were planted.

During the year 55,491 persons signed the museum register.

Fort Lennox National Historic Park is located on Ile-aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, about 13 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.

A permanent wharf was constructed on the west side of the island and the bridges over the moats at the north and south entrances to the fort were repaired and painted. Repairs were also made to the floor of the Guard House and to the windows in the Men's Barracks, Canteen building and Guard House. The interior of the museum, the roof of the Men's Barracks, the picnic tables and toilets were painted; the parade ground was levelled, the trees and grass along the embankment were trimmed, and the bronze tablets were cleaned.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 5,074.

Fort Wellington National Historic Park is situated at the east end of the town of Prescott, Ontario, 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.

Considerable grading and levelling was carried out along the front of the park property, and repairs were made to the inner and outer palisades and to the roof of the entrance to the Caponniere. The fort buildings were painted, brush in the moat was cut and removed, and the grass on the lawn and inner mounds was trimmed.

A total of 6,821 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 was dismantled

and abandoned in September, 1813. Only slight evidences of the original fortifications remain.

Considerable repairs were made to the retaining wall along the front of the fort property facing the Detroit River, a layer of crushed stone was spread on the driveway at the park and levelling and sodding was carried out around the north west bastion. The exterior wood-work of the stone museum was painted, some of the rooms in the "Old Fort" building were redecorated, and repairs were made to the flagpole near the old Mess Hall. The lawns were cut and sprayed, the trees and shrubs were trimmed, and additional items of interest were obtained for the museum.

During the year 14,716 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 50 acres. The fort was built from plans drawn by English military engineers, and was intended 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. More than 40 cannon have been unearthed and those suitable for the purpose have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was carried out.

Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park is situated on the west bank of the Red River, about 20 miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba. It comprises an area of approximately 12.75 acres. It was built between 1831 and 1839 by the Hudson's Bay Company and although never besieged it played an important part in meeting the threat of war and rebellion. Indian Treaty No. 1 was signed there on August 3, 1871. It remained a place of considerable importance until about 1882 when the head of navigation for the Red River was removed from there to old Colville Landing on the opposite side of the river near Selkirk.

The Hudson's Bay Company has very generously donated this property to the Crown and by Order-in-Council dated February 13, 1951 it was established a National Historic Park. For the past 30 years the buildings and grounds have been leased to the Motor Country Club. This privilege has been extended for a further period of five years.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G., Charlottetown, P. E. I. A tablet was placed in Prince of Wales College to Sir Robert Falconer, educator, writer, and lecturer. He was Principal of Pine Hill College, Halifax, 1904-07; President of the University of Toronto, 1907-32, and author of many books and articles on educational and public questions. The tablet was unveiled on July 25, 1950.

George Frederick Cameron, New Glasgow, N. S. A tablet was placed on the Post Office building to George Frederick Cameron, poet

and journalist. He was the author of "Lyrics of Freedom, Love and Death".

William Wolseley and Philipps Cosby, Annapolis Royal, N. S. Tablets were placed on the museum building at Fort Anne National Historic Park to William Wolseley and Philipps Cosby who were born at Annapolis Royal and who both rose to the rank of admiral in the Royal Navy. The tablets were unveiled on August 11, 1950, under the auspices of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal.

Ancient Indian Portage, Frosty Hollow, N. B. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected adjacent to Highway No. 2 to mark the Ancient Indian Portage. This route connected Beaubassin by way of Westcock and the valley now known as Frosty Hollow with the Memramcook and Petitcodiac rivers and was an important link in the communication system between Acadia and Quebec.

Sir Charles Carter Drury, K.C.B., G.C.V.O., Saint John, N. B. A tablet was placed in the Military Gallery of the New Brunswick Museum to Sir Charles Carter Drury, who was born at Rothesay, N. B. and rose to the rank of admiral in the Royal Navy.

The Quebec Conferences, Quebec, P. Q. Two tablets were affixed to the stone piers flanking the stairway leading up to the inner Citadel to commemorate the conferences that were held there during the Second World War. On the invitation of the Prime Minister of Canada, W. L. Mackenzie King, the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston S. Churchill, met there on two occasions (August 10 to 24, 1943; September 11 to 16, 1944) to discuss the strategy of allied victory. The tablets were unveiled by the Governor-General, Viscount Alexander, in the presence of a distinguished gathering on October 2, 1950.

Craig's Road, Richmond, P. Q. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in a small park adjacent to Craig Street to commemorate the events connected with the construction of Craig's Road. This road, completed in 1810 from St. Giles to the township of Shipton, was for many years the principal line of communication between Levis and the Eastern Townships for the transportation of cattle and agricultural produce. The monument was unveiled on November 26, 1950.

Frank Dawson Adams, Montreal, P. Q. A tablet was placed on the Redpath Museum building, on the grounds of McGill University to Frank Dawson Adams, eminent geologist of that University. He was President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1913-14, and of the Geological Society of America, 1916. He was awarded the Flavelle Medal, 1937.

Michel Bibaud, Montreal, P. Q. A tablet affixed to an iron standard was erected on property facing Cote des Neiges Road to Michel Bibaud, journalist, historian and poet. He was the first French-Canadian to publish a collection of poetry, 1830, and a history of Canada, 1837.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., Belleville, Ontario. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in front of the Armoury to commemorate the public services of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who for many years was editor and proprietor of the Belleville Intelligencer.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1867, he subsequently held the portfolios of Customs (1878-92), Militia (1892), and Trade and Commerce (1892-94). He was Prime Minister of Canada from December 21, 1894, to April 27, 1896. Appointed to the Senate in 1893, he was leader of the Opposition in that House, 1896-1906. The monument was unveiled by The Rt. Hon. L. S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on October 28th, 1950.

James Henry Coyne and George MacKinnon Wrong, St. Thomas, Ontario. Tablets were placed in the main corridor of the Court House building to James Henry Coyne, historian and scholar, President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1926-27 and a Member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, 1919-31; and to George MacKinnon Wrong, Professor of History at the University of Toronto, 1892-1927. By his teachings and writings he greatly advanced the study of Canadian history in schools and colleges. The tablets were unveiled on May 4, 1950.

Sir William James Gage, Brampton, Ontario. A tablet affixed to an iron standard was erected in Gage Park to Sir William James Gage, publisher and philanthropist. With broad vision and high idealism he gave leadership in Canada to the crusade against tuberculosis.

William Kirby, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. A tablet was placed on the Town Hall building to William Kirby, journalist, poet, novelist, and historian. He was the author of "The Golden Dog" (Le Chien d'Or) and other works. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Niagara Historical Society on October 3, 1950.

Sir John Carling, K.C.M.G., London, Ontario. A tablet was placed in the Municipal Offices to Sir John Carling, industrialist and promoter of scientific agriculture. While Minister of Agriculture, for Canada (1885-1892) he established the first Dominion Experimental Farm.

First Eastward Crossing of the Northwest Passage, Regina, Sask. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the grounds of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Centre to commemorate the first eastward crossing of the Northwest Passage by the R.C.M.P. auxiliary schooner St. Roch. The St. Roch, under the command of Sergeant Henry A. Larsen, sailed from Vancouver, B. C. on June 23, 1940, and anchored in Sydney Harbour, Cape Breton Island, on October 8, 1942. The voyage, unique in the annals of Arctic exploration, was made in the regular course of duty. The monument was unveiled by The Honourable John M. Uhrich, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, on September 16, 1950.

Duck Lake Battlefield, near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. A cut-stone monument with two tablets was erected in the Indian Reserve to commemorate the engagement which took place there on March 26, 1885, between the Canadian Government forces under Major L. N. F. Crozier, and the Metis and Indians under Gabriel Dumont.

Stephan G. Stephansson, Markerville, Alberta. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in the Community Grounds to Stephan G. Stephansson, Icelandic Canadian poet. Born in Skagafjord, Iceland, on October 3, 1853, he settled in the Markerville

district in 1889 where he lived until his death on August 10, 1927. Ranked among the great poets of modern Scandinavian literature, he endured the hardships of the pioneer and in much of his work depicted the life and scenery of Western Canada which shared his affection with the land of his birth. The monument was unveiled on Labour Day, September 4, 1950, under the auspices of the local Park Advisory Committee.

The Lumber Industry in British Columbia, Port Alberni, B. C.
A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected at the intersection of 3rd Avenue North and Redford Street to commemorate the lumber industry in British Columbia. The opening of the Panama Canal greatly stimulated the export lumber trade. The monument was unveiled on July 22, 1950.

British Columbia becomes a Province of Canada, Victoria, B. C.
A tablet was placed at the entrance to the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament Buildings to commemorate the historic events connected with British Columbia becoming a Province of Canada. During the middle years of the nineteenth century the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were founded and the Stikine Territory was organized. These colonies were united in 1866 as British Columbia, which became the sixth Province of the Dominion on July 20, 1871. The tablet was unveiled on March 9, 1951, under the auspices of the British Columbia Historical Association.