

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

Preserving Canada's Historic Past

National Parks Bureau and Department of Mines and Resources

Volume 16, Number 1, 1937

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/290009ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/290009ar>

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Publisher(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

ISSN

0317-0594 (print)

1712-9095 (digital)

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Cite this document

National Parks Bureau and Department of Mines and Resources (1937).
Preserving Canada's Historic Past. *Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association / Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada*, 16(1), 92–97. <https://doi.org/10.7202/290009ar>

PRESERVING CANADA'S HISTORIC PAST

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND
RESOURCES

During the past year the work of preserving and marking historic sites of national importance, recommended for attention by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, was continued in a somewhat limited degree due to economic conditions. The board is composed of recognized authorities from various sections of the Dominion who render their services gratuitously and the following is its present personnel:

Chairman—Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R. Hist., 53 Wilton Crescent, Ottawa.

His Honour, Judge F. W. Howay, LL.B., LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R. Hist., New Westminster, B.C.

J. Clarence Webster, Esq., C.M.G., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Shediac, N.B.

The Hon. E. Fabre-Surveyer, B.A., LL.M., B.C.L., F.R.S.C., The Judge's Chambers, Superior Court, Montreal, P.Q.

Professor F. Landon, M.A., F.R.S.C., University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., F.R.S.C., Archivist, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.

F. H. H. Williamson, Esq., Controller, National Parks Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

At the annual meeting of the board held in Ottawa on May 28 to 30, 1936, inclusive, with a full attendance, a number of sites which had been proposed for marking were reviewed, a selection made for future action, and inscriptions decided upon for the bronze tablets to mark them. Over one thousand sites have been under review by the board and from these three hundred and ten have been selected for marking.

The board's recommendations are carried out by the National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources. To date two hundred and thirty-five sites recommended for attention have been marked by the erection of suitable memorials and a number of areas on which original fortifications or ruins stand acquired with a view to their preservation. Museums have been created at some of the larger sites and these house valuable collections of historical material.

During the fiscal year 1936-7 the following memorials were erected:

Jean Pierre Roma, near Brudenell, P.E.I.

A cut-stone monument bearing a bronze tablet was erected on a plot of land at Brudenell Point, donated by Mr. Henry Parker and Mr. William Stewart, to mark the site, where in 1732, Jean Pierre Roma founded a base for control of the gulf fisheries and for fur trade with France, Quebec, and the West Indies. This establishment was destroyed following the fall of the fortress of Louisbourg, in 1745. The memorial was unveiled with suitable ceremonies on September 5, 1936.

The Portages of the Chaudière, Hull, P.Q.

A field stone cairn to which is affixed a tablet was erected in Eddy Park, Hull, adjacent to the Aylmer Road, to commemorate the events connected with the first of the three portages of the Chaudière on the route from the St. Lawrence to the Great Lakes, the prairies, Rocky Mountains, and beyond. It was traversed by Champlain in 1613, and until the middle of the last century by explorers, missionaries, and fur-traders.

Samuel de Champlain, Ottawa, Ontario

A bronze tablet was affixed to the large monument which stands on Nepean Point, Ottawa, to Samuel de Champlain, the first great Canadian, who was born at Brouage, France, 1567, and who died at Quebec, December 25, 1635. He was king's geographer, navigator, explorer, founder of the city of Quebec, and governor of New France. This was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on June 24, 1936, arranged under the auspices of the Ottawa Saint Jean Baptiste Society.

Combat at McCrae's House, near Chatham, Ontario

A cairn with tablet was erected on a small plot of ground adjacent to the River Road, five miles from Chatham, which was donated by Mr. Frank Parker, to mark the site of the engagement which took place on December 15, 1813, when a small company of the provincial dragoons, Kent, Middlesex, and Norfolk militia, surprised and captured an enemy outpost after a sharp conflict. The memorial was unveiled on September 26, 1936, in accordance with arrangements made by the Kent Historical Society.

Roseau Route, Letellier, Manitoba

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to the Jefferson Highway in the village of Letellier, with the permission of the municipality, to mark the ancient war road of the Sioux leading to the Lake of the Woods. This was the earliest route to the west and was first used in 1733 by the French. The unveiling of the memorial took place on July 26, 1936, in the presence of a large gathering, under the auspices of the Saint Boniface Historical Society.

PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

Preservation and development work was carried out at some of the larger sites controlled as indicated below:

Fortress of Louisbourg near Louisburg, Nova Scotia

Excavation was continued on the site of the governor's residence and in the moat surrounding the citadel building; all exposed walls being rebuilt to a height of two feet above ground level. The walls of the small guard-house unearthed last year were completed. All walls of the convent building were excavated and the interior of the rooms cleaned out. Road repairs were carried out and additional surfacing placed as required. The grounds surrounding the new museum building were graded, terraced, sodded, and seeded. The street in front of the building

was graded and gravelled, as well as the approach to the caretaker's quarters. Concrete entrance walks were constructed at the main entrance to the museum and caretaker's quarters and two gun emplacements built.

Fort Beauséjour near Sackville, N.B.

The gateway at the main entrance was widened and cobblestone gateposts erected. The grounds around the new museum building were partially graded and a concrete walk constructed to the main entrance. The museum was officially opened with appropriate ceremonies on August 1, 1936, in the presence of many dignitaries and with an attendance of over five thousand people. New fort signs were constructed and erected along the main highway leading to the site.

Fort Chambly, Chambly, P.Q.

The outer walls of the fort were re-pointed and a concrete retaining wall constructed along the Richelieu River on the north side in order to protect the dry stone wall of the fort and improve the appearance of the river front from the terrace. The area within the walls was regraded and laid out with grass areas, gravelled walks and terrace, and a sunken garden in the centre. New entrance doors to the fort were provided and the driveway leading thereto improved.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.

The ovens and kitchens located in the embankment in the rear of the men's barracks building, were cleared of all debris, and the earth floors graded to the first course of the interior stone work. The walls and vaulted ceilings were pointed and the brick fireplaces and flue openings in the cook-houses repaired. Stone entrance steps were reconstructed and new doors and windows provided for the several openings. The embankment near the west wharf eroded by spring floods was repaired and a stone revetment wall constructed. Repairs were made to the interior of the men's barracks, officers' quarters, and powder magazine buildings and the roof of the guard house was repainted.

Fort Prince of Wales, Churchill, Manitoba

The restoration of the ruins of this northerly fortification was continued under the direction of the resident engineer of the Department of Transport. The west wall was almost entirely rebuilt and about two-thirds of the east wall repaired. Five additional cannon which had been unearthed were mounted on carriages on the south wall.

ACQUISITION OF SITES

Survey of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Permission was obtained from the premier of Prince Edward Island to place a memorial on the provincial legislative grounds at Charlottetown to commemorate the events connected with the survey of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, Prince Edward Island, and adjacent territory, between 1827 and 1856.

Fort St. Louis, Port La Tour, Nova Scotia

Mrs. Orlando Taylor of Lunenburg has consented to donate a plot

of land as a site for the memorial it is proposed to erect to mark the site of the last foothold of France in Acadia.

Thomas Chandler Haliburton, Windsor, N.S.

Permission was obtained from the Department of Public Works and the Windsor Town Council to place a memorial on King's Square, Water Street, to commemorate the literary achievements of T. C. Haliburton, 1796-1865.

Louis Fréchette, Lévis, P.Q.

The president of the Canadian National Railways granted the necessary authority for the erection of a standard tablet on the front of the lot at 230 St. Laurent Street, Lévis, to mark the birthplace of Louis Fréchette.

First Canadian Hospital, Quebec, P.Q.

Permission was obtained from the Reverend Mother Superior of the Hôtel-Dieu, to affix a bronze tablet to the outer wall facing Charlevoix Street, to mark the site of the first hospital established in America, north of Mexico, in 1637.

Pierre LeMoyne, Sieur d'Iberville, Montreal, P.Q.

The executors of the Viau estate, by licence of occupation, granted authority for the affixment of a tablet to the outer wall of the building at the corner of St. Paul and St. Sulpice Streets, to mark the birthplace of Sieur d'Iberville.

Fort Saint Louis, Caughnawaga, P.Q.

Permission was obtained from the Indians of the Caughnawaga reserve to place a tablet on the outer wall of the fort, in front of the presbytery, to commemorate the events connected with its construction in 1725.

Discovery Red Fife Wheat near Peterborough, Ontario

The Ontario Department of Highways has granted the requisite authority to place a memorial on a small plot of land at the intersection of highway No. 7 and the 4th concession of Otonabee Township, east of Peterborough, to commemorate the events connected with the discovery and first production of red fife wheat in Canada, in 1842.

Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ontario

An area of approximately four acres lying between Laird Avenue and the Detroit River, on which is located a part of the remains of Fort Malden, was transferred for historical purposes by the town of Amherstburg.

First Petroleum Well in Canada, Oil Springs, Ontario

Permission has been obtained from the municipality to place a tablet on the outer wall of the Community Hall facing Main Street, to commemorate the events connected with the first oil wells in Canada which were dug in 1858.

Fort Maurepas, Fort Alexander, Manitoba

The Hudson's Bay Company has provided a plot of land, comprising part of their Fort Alexander Post property, on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of Fort Maurepas, one of La Vérendrye's trading posts.

Methye Portage, Fort McMurray, Alberta

A plot of land twenty-five feet square has been made available by the trustees of the McMurray school district, on which to place a memorial to commemorate the events connected with the earliest trade route between eastward and northward flowing waters, which followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites which have been recommended for attention by the board will be dealt with from time to time:

Mohawk Indian Fort near Hogg Island, N.S.
 Fort Chedabucto, Guysborough, N.S.
 Halifax-Castine Expedition, 1814, N.S.
 Pictou Academy, Pictou, N.S.
 Sambro Island Lighthouse, Halifax, N.S.
 Misseguash-Baie Verte Portage, Baie Verte, N.B.
 Petitcodiac-Washademoak Portage, Petitcodiac, N.B.
 Sir Louis H. Lafontaine, Boucherville, P.Q.
 Father Jacques Marquette, Boucherville, P.Q.
 First Stage Coach Service, Quebec, P.Q.
 The Struggle for Hudson Bay, Temiscamingue, P.Q.
 First Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.
 Cavalier de La Salle, Lachine, P.Q.
 Indian Treaties near Orillia, Ontario
 Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy, Kingston, Ontario
 Mission of St. Marie I, near Midland, Ontario
 Glengarry Landing near Edenvale, Ontario
 First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ontario
 Gananoque, Ontario
 Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, Ontario
 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario
 St. Clair Flats Canal, Lake St. Clair, Ontario
 Murray Canal, Ontario
 Survey of the Great Lakes, Owen Sound, Ontario
 Danforth Road, near Toronto, Ontario
 Alexander Graham Bell Homestead near Brantford, Ontario
 Fort St. Pierre, Rainy Lake, Ontario
 First Cheese Factory in Canada, Ingersoll, Ontario
 Galops Canal, Iroquois, Ontario
 Rapide Plat Canal, near Iroquois, Ontario
 Farran's Point Canal, Farran's Point, Ontario
 Cornwall Canal, near Cornwall, Ontario
 Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ontario
 Bridge Island, Mallorytown Landing, Ontario
 Sir Arthur Currie, Ontario

First Lighthouse on the Great Lakes, Mississauga Point, Ontario
First Women's Institute, Stoney Creek, Ontario
Sir James Lucas Yeo, Kingston, Ontario
Trent Valley Canal, Bobcaygeon, Ontario
Battle of Lundy's Lane, Ontario
York Factory, Manitoba
Norway House, Manitoba
Dawson Road, St. Anne des Chênes, Manitoba
Fort Dufferin, Manitoba
Thomas Simpson, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Samuel Hearne, Churchill, Manitoba
Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan
Cumberland House, Cumberland Lake, Saskatchewan
Fort à la Corne, near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
Fort Chipewyan, Lake Athabaska, Alberta
Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Great Fraser Midden, B.C.
Captain George Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.
Kootenae House, Invermere, B.C.
Canadian Pacific Railway, Port Moody, B.C.