

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, Lands, Parks, and Forests Branch and Department of
Mines and Resources

Volume 17, Number 1, 1938

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/300179ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/300179ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

ISSN

0317-0594 (print)

1712-9095 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

National Parks Bureau, Lands, Parks, and Forests Branch & Department of
Mines and Resources (1938). 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*, 17(1), 145–152.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/300179ar>

PRESERVING CANADA'S HISTORIC PAST

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU, LANDS, PARKS, AND FORESTS BRANCH,
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

During the past year favourable progress was made with the restoration, preservation, marking, and administration of historic sites of national importance, and the commemoration of outstanding personages and events connected with the early history of Canada. The National Parks Bureau, which is entrusted with this work, is advised in this phase of its administration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of recognized historians, representing the various sections of the country.

The personnel of the Board is as follows:

Chairman—Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R. Hist., Ottawa, Ont.
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.
Professor Fred Landon, M.A., F.R.S.C., University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.
Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., F.R.S.C., Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.
The Hon. E. Fabre-Surveyer, B.A., LL.M., B.C.L., F.R.S.C., Montreal, P.Q.
F. H. H. Williamson, Esq., Controller, National Parks Bureau, Ottawa.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa from May 20 to 22, when a number of new sites were reviewed and a selection made therefrom for later action. Of the total number of sites considered by the Board since its inception 254 have now been suitably marked, and 89 additional sites have been recommended for future attention.

During the year, restoration and development work was carried out on a number of the larger historic properties controlled by the National Parks Bureau, including the Fortress of Louisbourg near Louisburg, Nova Scotia; the Prince of Wales Tower, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Fort Beauséjour National Park near Aulac, New Brunswick; Fort Chambly, Chambly Basin, Quebec; Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, Quebec, and the Murney Tower, Kingston, Ontario. In addition the following sites were marked:

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

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected in front of the provincial legislative building, by permission of the provincial government, to commemorate the distinguished services to navigation and science of Admiral Henry Wolsey Bayfield, (1795-1885), whose work superseded the pioneer surveys of Admiral Durell, Captain Holland, and Lieutenant Des Barres. Between 1827 and 1856, after his work on the Great Lakes, he conducted a thorough survey of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, the coasts of Anticosti, the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Sable Island, and parts of Nova Scotia and Labrador. The monument was

unveiled by Lieutenant-Governor George D. DeBlois on September 17, 1937.

Thomas Chandler Haliburton, Windsor, N.S.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected in King's Square by permission of the Department of Public Works and the Windsor town council to commemorate the publication, in 1836, of "The Clockmaker; or, The Sayings and Doings of Samuel Slick, of Slickville", the first in that series of humorous and satirical works which won for Haliburton international fame in the world of letters. The monument was unveiled by the Honourable Angus L. Macdonald, premier of Nova Scotia, on August 28, 1937.

Fort St. Louis, Port La Tour, N.S.

A cairn with tablet was erected a short distance from the Baccaro Point-Port La Tour highway, on a site donated by the heirs of the late Orlando Taylor, Jr., to mark the place where, in 1630, Claude de La Tour arrived with an Anglo-Scottish expedition and strove in vain to induce his son Charles to surrender this last foothold of France in Acadia. From the consequent displeasure of the Scots at Port Royal, Charles later offered him refuge near this fort. The unveiling of the memorial took place on September 6, 1937, under the auspices of the Cape Sable Historical Society.

Prehistoric Indian Portage, near Petitcodiac, N.B.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected adjacent to the Moncton-Saint John highway, on a site donated by Mr. George O. MacMackin, to mark the point where the ancient route, later used by the French, from Acadia to the Upper Saint John and Quebec, left the Petitcodiac. It crossed to North River, and continued to the Washademoak (Canaan) River.

First Canadian Hospital, Quebec, P.Q.

A tablet was affixed to the front of the Hôtel-Dieu, Charlevoix Street, by permission of the Mother Superior, to mark the site of the first hospital established in America, north of Mexico. It was founded on August 16, 1637, by the Duchesse d'Aiguillon and the Augustines Hospitalières de Dieppe. Here, ever since their arrival in 1639, the Augustines have ministered to alleviate human suffering. The tablet was unveiled with suitable ceremonies on June 28, 1937.

Fort St. Louis, Caughnawaga, P.Q.

A tablet was affixed to the outer wall of the fort at Caughnawaga to mark the site of Fort St. Louis, built in 1725 by the French for the protection of the Christian Iroquois.

Robert Cavalier de La Salle, Lachine, P.Q.

A large stone monument bearing a medallion and tablet was erected on the Père Marquette Promenade, by permission of the Department of Transport and the city of Lachine, to commemorate the achievements of Robert Cavalier de La Salle, who founded Lachine in 1667, rebuilt Fort Frontenac in 1675, and was the pioneer navigator on the Great Lakes. By his explorations he enabled France to extend its domain to the mouth of the Mississippi.

Robert Cavelier de La Salle, Ville La Salle, P.Q.

A cairn with tablet was erected in front of the Novitiate Building of the Oblates, on a site obtained by the local Chamber of Commerce, which property formed part of the fief granted to Robert Cavelier de La Salle about 1666. Here he built a house which he occupied until 1669, when he started on his distant expeditions where he found death and glory.

Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, Montreal, P.Q.

A bronze plate was affixed to a building at the north-west corner of St. Paul and St. Sulpice Streets, by permission of the Viau estate, to mark the birthplace of Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville. He was born on July 20, 1661, died on board the *Juste*, and was buried in the cathedral at Havana on July 9, 1706. The tablet was unveiled with suitable ceremonies on April 11, 1937.

Louis Fréchet, Lévis, P.Q.

A bronze plate affixed to an iron pedestal was erected in front of the building at 230 St. Laurent Street, by permission of the Canadian National Railways, to mark the birthplace of Louis Fréchet. He was born on November 16, 1839, and died in Montreal on May 31, 1908. He was the first Canadian poet to be honoured by the French Academy. The unveiling of the tablet took place on June 28, 1937.

Sir John A. Macdonald, St. Patrick, P.Q.

A bronze plate affixed to an iron pedestal was erected on the side of highway no. 2, by permission of the provincial Department of Highways, to mark the place where Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada, spent many summers between the years 1873 and 1890.

Bridge Island, Mallorytown Landing, Ontario

A cairn with tablet was erected near the wharf in the Mallorytown Landing Park to commemorate the historical events associated with Bridge Island, which is visible from where the memorial stands. This island was fortified and garrisoned in 1814 for the protection of the vital line of supply by water from Lower Canada and provided a rendezvous for boats engaged in that service during the War of 1812-14. The memorial was unveiled on September 11, 1937, under the auspices of the Brockville Historical Society.

Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy, Barriefield, Ontario

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to highway no. 2, at the entrance to Fort Henry, by permission of the Department of National Defence, to perpetuate the memory of the officers and seamen of the Royal Navy and Provincial Marine, and of the officers and soldiers of the Royal Marines, Royal Newfoundland, King's (8th), and 100th Regiments, who served on Lake Ontario in defence of Canada in 1812-14.

Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to highway no. 11, on a site provided by the Summit Golf and Country Club, to commemorate the events connected with the construction of Yonge Street. It was planned by

Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in 1793 as a military road and commercial highway between Lakes Ontario and Huron to promote the settlement of this province. Laid out and constructed by the Queen's Rangers under his orders in 1794-96, and named in honour of Sir George Yonge, secretary at war. The memorial was unveiled on October 16, 1937, under the auspices of the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

Glengarry Landing, near Edenwale, Ontario

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to highway no. 26, on a plot of land donated by Mr. Z. Rupert, to mark the place where Lieutenant-Colonel Robert McDouall, Glengarry Light Infantry, built the flotilla of boats with which he effected the relief of the British garrison at Fort Michilimackinac, in May, 1814. He then organized a second expedition which, on July 19, captured Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi.

Norway House, Manitoba

A cairn with tablet was erected at Norway House, by permission of the Hudson's Bay Company, to mark the site of Norway House, built on Jack River in 1812-13 by the above company. It was rebuilt where the cairn stands in 1825 and was a frequent meeting-place of the council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land. Here the Rev. James Evans invented the Cree syllabic system, and in 1875 treaty no. 5 was made, whereby the Saulteaux and Swampy Crees ceded their rights to about 100,000 square miles in this vicinity.

Fort Maurepas and Fort Alexander, Fort Alexander, Manitoba

A cairn with tablet was erected on the Hudson's Bay Company's property to mark the sites of Fort Maurepas and Fort Alexander, the former being one of La Vérendrye's trading posts. Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company located here in 1792. Only Fort Alexander, built by the former company, has survived.

Methye Portage, Fort McMurray, Alberta

A cairn with tablet was erected on the grounds of the public school, by permission of the board of school trustees, to mark this important portage. The earliest trade route between eastward and northward flowing waters followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage. It was discovered by Peter Pond in 1778 and used continuously for more than a century by fur-traders and explorers, including Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Franklin, and Sir George Simpson.

Great Fraser Midden, Vancouver, B.C.

A cairn with tablet was erected in Marpole Park, by permission of the board of park commissioners, to mark the site of one of the largest prehistoric middens on the Pacific coast of Canada. It originally covered an area of about four and one-half acres, with an average depth of five feet and a maximum depth of fifteen feet. Its lowest layers were formed many centuries ago, when the islands opposite were tidal flats. The bone and stone implements and utensils found in it have thrown much light upon the culture status of prehistoric man in this vicinity.

PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

Preservation and development work was carried out at the following larger historic sites:

Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia

Situated three miles south of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island. Built by the French during the years 1720-40, the Fortress of Louisbourg was the scene of great struggles between the French and English. Its final capture by the British in 1758 was the first of a series of events that culminated in the transfer of Canada to the British Empire. Picturesque ruins and historical museum. Area 328 acres. Acquired 1928. During the past year the main entrance road was re-surfaced with a mixture of clay and beach gravel; the road culverts, ditches, and adjacent banks were cleaned out and the fences surrounding the French and English cemeteries at Point Rochfort were whitewashed.

Prince of Wales Tower, Halifax, N.S.

Situated in Point Pleasant Park, it is the last of five such towers erected in Nova Scotia. Acquired January 25, 1936, in view of its significance as a type of military architecture. Repairs were carried out to the roof in order to preserve the interior of this historic structure.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, Quebec

Situated thirteen miles south of St. Johns in the Richelieu River. Gateway to Canada and an advance post against the Iroquois and other invaders. The island was fortified by the French before 1759 and rebuilt by the British during the years 1812-27. The fortifications are in a fine state of preservation. Historical museum. Area 150 acres. Acquired 1921. During the past year the roof of the guardhouse was painted; the walls of the commissary, magazine, and canteen were repointed and the arched ceiling of the latter building, which had become badly cracked, was repaired. The railings of the south bridge and the cemetery fences, were painted.

Fort Chambly, Chambly, P.Q.

Situated fifteen miles south-east of Montreal. Built of wood in 1665 as a defence post against the Iroquois. Rebuilt of stone in 1709-11 to resist the advance of the British forces. Captured by United States troops in 1775. Interior buildings were burned in 1776. Restored in 1777 and abandoned in 1880. Existing ruins consist of three well-preserved walls and caretaker's residence. Historical museum. Area two and one-half acres. Acquired 1921. During the past year a new flag-pole was erected on the north side of the interior of the fort; two new doors complete with frames were set, one at the powder magazine and the other at the entrance to the picnic grounds: the interior walls and ceilings of the powder magazine and dungeon were cleaned of old plaster and repointed. A portion of the flag-stone around the drinking fountain was removed and replaced with smooth stone taken from the river bed and a section of the wall in the basement of the armouries, which had collapsed, was rebuilt.

Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario

Constructed in 1812-13 as the main post for the defence of the communication between Kingston and Montreal. Here were assembled the troops that captured Ogdensburg on February 22, 1813. Large block-house and other buildings within palisade and earthworks. Historical museum. Area eight and one-half acres. Acquired 1923. Work of a general nature was carried out during the year on the buildings and grounds.

Murney Tower, Kingston, Ontario

Situated in Macdonald Park, it is one of four similar towers at Kingston. Leased to the Kingston Historical Society for museum purposes. During the past year the bridge leading to the tower was repaired and painted; the wooden frames to two air-vent openings in the basement were renewed; temporary repairs were made to the roof, and the windows, screens, etc., were painted.

ACQUISITION OF SITES

Grand Battery, near Louisburg, N.S.

The site of this old battery, comprising approximately nine acres, was purchased by order-in-council dated December 18, 1937. During the building of the Fortress of Louisbourg, Grand Battery was equipped with thirty guns and garrisoned by two hundred men. It was captured by New England troops under William Pepperrell in 1745 and by British troops in 1758.

Birthplace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, St. Lin, P.Q.

The house in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier was born was purchased by the Crown in order to ensure of its future preservation.

First Lighthouse on the Great Lakes, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Permission was obtained from the Niagara Parks Commission to affix a standard tablet to the outer wall of Fort Mississauga to mark the site of the first lighthouse on the Great Lakes. It was built of stone in 1804 by John Symington, under orders from Lieutenant-Governor Peter Hunter, and demolished in 1814 to make room for Fort Mississauga. Its materials, with debris from the ruined town of Niagara, are incorporated in the fort.

Sir John A. Macdonald's Grave, Kingston, Ontario

An agreement was executed between the Crown and the Cataraqui Cemetery Company whereby perpetual care will be taken of the grave of Sir John A. Macdonald.

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, Annapolis Royal, N.S.
- Fort Chedabucto, Guysborough, N.S.
- Halifax-Castine Expedition, Halifax, N.S.

First Pictou Academy, Pictou, N.S.
Sambro Island Lighthouse, Halifax, N.S.
Martello Tower, Halifax, N.S.
Grand Battery, Louisburg, N.S.
Battle of Grand Pré, Grand Pré, N.S.
Major Thomas Dixson, near Aulac, N.B.
La Coupe Dry Dock, near Aulac, N.B.
Missequash-Baie Verte Portage, Baie Verte, N.B.
Father Jacques Marquette, Boucherville, P.Q.
First Stage Coach Service, Quebec, P.Q.
The Struggle for Hudson Bay, Ville Marie, P.Q.
First Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.
First Medical School, Montreal, P.Q.
Fort Henry, Kingston, Ontario
First Petroleum Wells, Bothwell, Ontario
Discovery of Red Fife Wheat, near Peterborough, Ontario
Murney Tower, Kingston, Ontario
Indian Treaties, near Orillia, Ontario
Mission of St. Marie I, near Midland, Ontario
First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ontario
Gananoque, Ontario
Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, 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
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
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
Captain George Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.
Kootenae House, Invermere, B.C.
Canadian Pacific Railway, Port Moody, B.C.
Parry's Rock, Melville Island, Arctic Archipelago.

In addition to the above, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has recommended that secondary tablets be erected to mark the birthplaces of the following important personages:

Sir Samuel Cunard, George Monro Grant, Sir Charles Tupper, The Honourable Robert Baldwin, The Honourable Edward Blake, Colonel George T. Denison, Sir Allan N. MacNab, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir John Beverley Robinson, The Rev. Egerton Ryerson, Sir George E. Cartier, François-Xavier Garneau, Louis Joseph Papineau, De La Vérendrye, Sir Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine, Madame Albani, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Bouchette, Octave Crémazie, Sir Arthur Currie, Sir L. H. Davies, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Sir A. A. Dorion, James De Mille, Louis Philippe Hébert, Paul Kane, Beamish Murdoch, Charles Mair, Paul Peel, Sir E. P. Taché, G. M. Theal, Sir J. Thompson, Sir L. Tilley, Sir George Ross.