

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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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES

By the NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU, LANDS, PARKS, AND FORESTS BRANCH,
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

THE National Parks Bureau is entrusted with the restoration, preservation, and administration of National Historic Parks and Sites and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding characters in Canadian history.

The Bureau is advised in this phase of its work 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, M.P., 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 24-6, 1944, when many subjects relating to the historic background of the Dominion were reviewed and an additional number of sites selected to be marked by the Bureau at a later date. Of the many sites already considered by the Board, 332 have now been marked or acquired and 172 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.

New wheels were made for some of the old artillery guns which are mounted on the fort grounds; the woodwork in the Acadia Room was painted and several of the other rooms re-decorated; broken tiles in the museum floor were replaced; park benches were repaired and the roads and paths maintained. Additional articles of historical interest were obtained for the museum.

A total of 7,369 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.

The cannon were painted; preserving liquid was applied to the roofs of the Habitation buildings and the doors painted; the woodwork in the

various rooms was polished; built-in bunks were constructed in Lescarbot's quarters and additional furnishings obtained. An interesting old French anvil, reported to have been found when digging a grave at Grand Pré in 1820, was acquired for display in the blacksmith shop.

Visitors registered in the park during the year numbered 2,196.

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 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.

All inside and outside woodwork of the museum and caretaker's residence was painted and the doors varnished; the iron gratings over the basement windows of the museum were scraped and painted; the bridge over the moat leading to the ruins of the citadel was repaired; all field signs were painted and re-lettered and a number of new ones made.

A total of 2,617 persons signed the visitors' 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 caretaker's residence was painted and a new drain installed to replace the old tile one which had been giving considerable trouble; general improvements were carried out at the park and additional articles of historical interest obtained for the museum.

Visitors registered at the museum during the year numbered 3,344.

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.

All doors and windows of the museum and caretaker's residence were painted; the stone walls of the fort were repointed where necessary; the trees were trimmed and arrangements made with the Chambly Power Corporation to install lights at the entrance to the fort.

During the year 14,674 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.

The fort property which had been used since 1940 as a Refugee Camp was transferred back to the Department and suitable arrangements made with regard to the disposal of the temporary buildings, materials, equipment, etc., which had been built or installed on the Island during the period it was occupied by the refugees.

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 log palisades around the fort were repaired; the exterior of the caretaker's residence and old guard house and the interior of the blockhouse were painted; steps were constructed leading to the top of the ramparts; improvements were made to the parking area; the masonry of the entrance gateway was repointed; the guard house and public conveniences were re-shingled and whitewashed inside; the septic tank system was excavated and repaired; small signs marking points of interest on the grounds were painted and additional articles of historical value were obtained for the museum which is located in the blockhouse.

A total of 2,568 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.

Arrangements were made with the Department of Public Works to carry out certain repairs to the protection wall which was erected a few years ago on the side of the park property facing the Detroit River; a new picket fence was erected over the north west bastion; new storm windows were made and painted and many additional articles of historical interest were obtained for the museum.

A total of 12,978 persons signed the museum register during the year.

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

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.