

# 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, 1948-1949

National Parks Service, Lands and Development Services Branch and  
Department of Mines and Resources

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## NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES, 1948-1949

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

THE National Parks 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. The Service is advised in this phase of its work 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, 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, 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; and W. D. Cromarty, National Parks Service, Ottawa, Ontario.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 17-19, 1948, when a wide variety of matters relating to the historic background of the Dominion were reviewed. Of the many sites that have been considered by the Board to date, 365 have been marked or acquired and 206 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 bank of the driveway through the north east ravelin was graded; several rooms in the museum building were painted together with some of the outer walls; the roof of the powder magazine in the Bastion de Berry was also painted as were all signs on the Park grounds, the coats of arms over the two front doors, the cannon and the posts and chain fence along the driveway. A new drain was constructed in the west moat, the powder magazines and all the bronze tablets were cleaned, the hedges were trimmed, and improvement work carried out on the driveway and paths.

A total of 14,547 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 wooden walls and steps in the wine cellar which had deteriorated were replaced in stone; the parchment windows throughout the buildings were repaired and a cannon was mounted on a suitable platform and painted. The grounds and buildings were carefully maintained, drains cleaned, fence repaired, doors to the various rooms painted, and all iron work cleaned and oiled.

Visitors registered at the Park during the year numbered 10,633.

*Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park* is situated about three miles from the town of Louisburg, 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.

A new entrance road was constructed from the Park gate to the museum; repairs were made to the copper roof of the museum and also to the outer walls. All woodwork in the museum and custodian's quarters was painted together with the iron gratings and the flag pole. Repairs were made to the old casemates. Portions of the convent wall and the east wall of the hospital, including two fireplaces, were rebuilt as was the bridge over the moat at Rochefort Point. A new electric lighting system to the Park was installed by the Nova Scotia Power Commission. Old telephone poles were removed and the fence enclosing the Park property was repaired. A large anchor, raised from the harbour, was presented to the Park by the Department of Transport and placed in a suitable location.

A total of 5,012 persons signed the visitors' book.

*Fort Beauséjour 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.

A new addition to the museum was erected to house the many exhibits received in recent years. This is to be known as the John Clarence Webster Wing as a tribute to the services of Dr. Webster the honorary curator of the museum. Considerable grading and levelling work was carried out adjacent to the museum in order to extend the lawns and this adds greatly to the general appearance of the Park. Additional road signs were made and erected. A number of these relate to the site of the La Coupe Dry Dock near Fort Beauséjour, which has been donated to the Department by Dr. Webster.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 19,007.

*Fort Chambly National Historic Park* is situated about twenty 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 vicissi-

tudes, 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 in the following year. The fort was later repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton and played an important part in the War of 1812.

A new storage building of stone construction was erected within the Fort, the walls of the dungeon and the magazine were repointed, flagstones were laid in the picnic grounds, and the drinking fountain was repaired. All window screens, picnic tables, and benches were painted, the septic tank cleaned, and the roofs of the toilet buildings reshingled. The grounds within the Fort were levelled, the paths in the cemetery raked and trimmed and flowers planted.

During the year 28,319 persons signed the museum register.

*Fort Lennox National Historic Park* is located on Île-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 Service in 1921, and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds.

Permission was granted to the Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique Organization to use a portion of the park property during the summer as a youth training centre, a new wharf was built on the east side of the island, and the bridge over the south moat was repaired; the roof of the Commissariat Building, the floors of the Officers' Quarters, the doors of the men's barracks, and the picnic tables were all painted. The rifles on display were cleaned and oiled. The parade ground was levelled and seeded, the ramparts, picnic grounds and cemetery were properly maintained and the hay on the island was cut. The shed at the rear of the Commissariat Building was demolished, repairs were made to the stable and the boat house was moved to a permanent location. New toilet facilities were provided for both men and women.

Visitors registered in the Park during the year numbered 2,888.

*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 wall between two rooms on the ground floor of the blockhouse was removed, making one large room which has been converted into a modern museum. New washrooms and storage room were provided in an existing building which has been completely renovated. The Fort buildings were painted, repairs made to the floor of the blockhouse, the walls of the caponniere were repointed, large stones on the Fort grounds were buried while others were removed. Maple trees were planted to replace those that have died.

A total of 8,390 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.

The retaining wall along the front of the Fort property facing the Detroit River was completed and considerable repairs were carried out on the roadway at the Park. The Old Mess Hall and the sun porch of the "Old Fort" building were re-roofed. A number of paintings and drawings were forwarded to be hung in the various rooms of the latter building. Many additional articles of historical interest were donated to the museum and a leaflet relating to the Park was prepared, copies of which are now available to visitors. The toilets were painted, benches repaired, and the grounds carefully maintained.

During the year 14,004 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 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 carried out.

#### NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

*Lucy Maud Montgomery, O.B.E., Prince Edward Island National Park.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected at Cavendish in Prince Edward Island National Park to Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of "Anne of Green Gables." This was the first in a series of novels which cast a romantic glow over her native province and gained for her international fame as the creator of "one of the immortal children of fiction." The monument was unveiled on September 12, 1948, by the Honourable J. A. Bernard, lieutenant-governor of Prince Edward Island.

*Thomas Beamish Akins and Beamish Murdoch, Halifax, N.S.* Bronze tablets were placed in the main entrance of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia to Thomas Beamish Akins, historian and first Archivist of Nova Scotia, and to Beamish Murdoch, lawyer, legislator, journalist, and historian.

*James Boyle Uniacke, Halifax, N.S.* A tablet was placed in the Province House to James Boyle Uniacke, Tory leader in the Assembly, 1838-40. He was a member of the coalition government, 1840-3 and leader of the first party administration recognized under responsible government, 1848-54.

*The Right Honourable William Stevens Fielding, P.C., Halifax, N.S.* A tablet was placed on the Tramway Building to the Right Honourable William Stevens Fielding, journalist and statesman. He was premier of Nova Scotia, 1884-96 and minister of finance for Canada, 1896-1911 and 1921-5. The tablet was unveiled by the Honourable J. A. D. McCurdy, lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia, November 24, 1948.

*Ancient Indian Portage near Woodstock, N.B.* A tablet was affixed to the Fort Meductic cairn to mark the portage from Meductic to Eel River which led to the waters of the Penobscot and formed part of the main route of travel between Acadia and New England. During the French régime, military expeditions against the English settlements travelled by way of this portage.

*Oliver Goldsmith, St. Andrews, N.B.* A tablet was placed on the Post Office building to Oliver Goldsmith, author of "The Rising Village," a New World contrast to "The Deserted Village." He was the first native-born Canadian poet to achieve more than a local reputation.

*William Francis Ganong, Saint John, N.B.* A tablet was placed in the New Brunswick Museum to William Francis Ganong, scientist, cartographer, geographer, and historian. He was professor of botany at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, U.S.A., 1894-1932. The tablet was unveiled by the Honourable D. L. MacLaren, lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick on August 27, 1948.

*Gananoque, Ontario.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the grounds of the High School to commemorate the events which took place there during the War of 1812-14. It was a vulnerable point on the vital line of supply from Lower Canada and was raided on September 21, 1812, when the bridge across the Gananoque River was broken up. Fortified by the Leeds Militia and garrisoned in turn by the 104th, 41st, 89th, Canadian Voltigeurs, Royal Newfoundland, 57th and 70th Regiments, with Royal Artillery, it became the base for a division of gunboats cruising among the Thousand Islands for the protection of transport.

*Fairfield on the Thames, near Thamesville, Ontario.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected adjacent to Highway No. 2 east of Thamesville to mark the site of the village of Fairfield, which was destroyed by invading American forces following the Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. Its inhabitants, Delaware Indian exiles brought from Ohio to Canada in 1792 by Moravian missionaries, were re-established on the opposite bank of the river after the Peace of 1814. The monument was unveiled on August 15, 1948.

*Charles Mair, Lanark, Ontario.* A tablet was erected in the auditorium of the Town Hall to Charles Mair, poet, dramatist, and advocate of western expansion. He was an original member of the Canada First Group.

*Sir Richard John Cartwright, P.C., G.C.M.G., Kingston, Ontario.* A tablet was placed in the memorial room of the City Hall to Sir Richard John Cartwright, known as "The Rupert of Debate." He was finance minister of Canada 1873-8, and minister of trade and commerce, 1896-1911.

*Sir Gilbert Parker, Bart., P.C., Belleville, Ontario.* A tablet was placed in the Corby Public Library to Sir Gilbert Parker, author of *Pierre and His People* and other novels of Canadian Life. He was a member of the British House of Commons, 1900-18.

*George Herbert Locke, Beamsville, Ontario.* A tablet was placed on the Municipal Building to George Herbert Locke, educationist and author. He was chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library, 1908-37. The tablet was unveiled on October 26, 1948.

*North West Mounted Police, near Emerson, Manitoba.* A cut-stone

monument with tablet was erected adjacent to the Lord Selkirk Highway in the Parish of St. Agathe to mark the site of Dufferin Barracks where, on July 8, 1874, the newly-formed North West Mounted Police consisting of 300 officers and men, having assembled there, left on its assignment to various posts in the Northwest Territories. The record of this distinctly Canadian force in policing the plains is a source of pride to the people of Canada.

*Dr. Charles William Gordon, Winnipeg, Manitoba.* A tablet was placed on the University Women's Club building to Dr. Charles William Gordon ("Ralph Connor"), author of *The Man from Glengarry*, *The Sky Pilot*, and other novels of Canadian life. The tablet was unveiled on June 2, 1948.

*Chief Crowfoot, Gleichen, Alberta.* A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in the Blackfoot Indian Reserve to Crowfoot, Great Chief of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Fearless in war but a lover of peace, he promoted amity among the tribes of the plains and friendship with the white man. Under his leadership the Blackfoot ceded to the Crown title to their tribal lands in 1877, began to adopt a sedentary life, and remained loyal during the North-West Rebellion of 1885. His nobility of character, his gift of oratory, and his wisdom in council gained for him the title, "The Father of his People." The monument was unveiled on September 26, 1948.