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Report of the Annual Meeting

## Some Historic and Prehistoric Sites of Canada

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# SOME HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

BY

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Comparatively young though it is, Canada has a rich background of history, not only thrilling with stories of adventure and romance, but marked by many events of lasting significance because of the part they played in influencing the future of the nation.

During the past few years a consciousness of this fact has taken deep root among Canadians, many of whom are awakening to a new realization of the worth-while legacy which has been bequeathed to them from the past. As a result a desire has expressed itself in all parts of the Dominion that those places, events and relics which played a notable part in this country's destiny should be preserved or marked in some suitable manner.

Acting in sympathy with this thought the Federal Government, in 1919, appointed the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to act in an advisory capacity with respect to this work, and already very favourable progress has been made in connection with the acquisition, preservation and marking of these national shrines. (See previous reports of the Canadian Historical Association.)

A summary of last year's operations is enumerated hereunder:

## SITES MARKED

### *Louisbourg, Cape Breton.*

A rubble-stone cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was placed on a small plot of land near the original west gate of the fortress, to mark the site of Dauphin's Bastion, which was constructed by the French in 1738 and demolished after the capture of the place by the British in 1758.

### *Sydney, N.S., (Joseph Wallet des Barres).*

A tablet was placed on the front wall of the Post Office building, facing Dorchester Street, to commemorate the public services of Joseph Wallet des Barres, a distinguished military engineer who served in the mid-eighteenth century wars in America. He was the first Lieutenant Governor of Cape Breton, 1784-87, and the founder of Sydney.

### *Battle of the Shannon and Chesapeake, Halifax, N.S.*

A cut stone granite monument, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on the Admiralty House grounds at Halifax to commemorate the naval engagement which took place on 1st June, 1813, off Boston harbour between H.M.S. *Shannon* and the U.S. frigate *Chesapeake*. The unveiling was carried out on October 15, 1927, with appropriate ceremonies.

### *Yorkshire Settlement, Chignecto.*

A cut-stone memorial, with a bronze tablet affixed thereto, was constructed on the grounds of Fort Beausejour Historic Park to commemorate the advent of the great settlement from Yorkshire, England, between 1772 and 1776. During the American Revolutionary War the loyal support of these settlers helped to quell the Eddy Rebellion, and their descendants have since been prominent in the development of the country.

*Tongue's Island (Ile de la Vallière), N.B.*

A granite monument of special design, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected in Fort Beausejour Park to mark the site of Ile de la Vallière, once capital of Acadia, situated between Fort Beausejour and Fort Lawrence. The island was granted to Michel de Neuf de la Vallière in 1676, and from there he acted as Commandant and Governor under Count Frontenac, 1678-84.

*Fredericton, N.B., (Sir Howard Douglas).*

A tablet was erected in the rotunda of the Legislative building at Fredericton to commemorate the public services of Sir Howard Douglas who was Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick from 1823 until 1831. In the serious boundary dispute of 1826 he boldly upheld the rights of the Province, arresting the leader of armed filibusters who had crossed the Maine border and taken possession of a New Brunswick village. He was a distinguished soldier, military author and inventor. The memorial was unveiled with fitting ceremonies on February 23, 1928, after the opening of the New Brunswick legislature.

*Fort Ste. Therese, near St. Johns, P.Q.*

A large boulder, to which is affixed a tablet, was placed on the Bunker United Empire Loyalist plot to mark the site of Fort Ste. Therese, built in 1665 on the point southeast beyond the canal, by M. de la Salieres for defence against the Iroquois. The Fort was the starting point of the Expedition of 1666, and remained in existence until June, 1760 when it was burned by Major Robert Rogers. The unveiling was carried out on August 21, 1927, with suitable ceremonies arranged for by those locally interested.

*Battle of the Cedars, Cedars, P.Q.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land, donated by M. Adolphe Tessier, to commemorate the events associated with the engagement of May 19-21, 1776, between the Canadian troops and a band of American invaders, resulting in the defeat of the latter. The unveiling of the memorial was carried out on July 20, 1927, with appropriate ceremonies.

*Madeleine de Verchères, Verchères, P.Q.*

A bronze tablet was affixed to the monument erected some years ago at Verchères, and now controlled by this Department, to perpetuate the memory of Madeleine de Verchères, who, in 1692, when alone in Fort de Verchères with her two brothers, an old servant and two soldiers, took command and defended the post successfully for eight days against a war party of Iroquois.

*Battle of Lacolle, Lacolle, P.Q.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land donated by Mme Joseph Boudreau, to perpetuate the memory of the officers and soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Lacolle, which was fought between the Canadian troops and American invaders on March 30, 1814. The memorial was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on September 4, 1927.

*Battle of Ile-aux-Noix, near St. Paul, P.Q.*

A tablet was affixed to the gateway at the north entrance of Fort Lennox to commemorate the events associated with the naval engagement which took place on the Richelieu River nearby, on June 3, 1813, and which resulted in the capture of the American sloops *Eagle* and *Growler*.

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier, St. Lin, P.Q.*

At the request of the National Committee for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation, a cairn and tablet were erected in front of the town hall to commemorate the services of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

*Pointe au Baril, Maitland, Ont.*

A tablet was affixed to the wall of the old stone tower, which stands a short distance south of the Montreal-Toronto highway, to mark the site of Pointe au Baril, where the last ships of war which navigated Lake Ontario were built and launched.

*Sir John A. Macdonald, Kingston, Ont.*

A tablet was affixed to the outer front wall of the building at 102 Rideau Street, Kingston, to mark the site of the boyhood home of Sir John A. Macdonald. This work was carried out at the request of the National Committee for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation.

*Sir John A. Macdonald, Adolphustown, Ont.*

A cairn and tablet were erected near Hay Bay on a plot of ground which was donated by Mr. A. R. Davis, to mark the site of the old home of Sir John A. Macdonald. This work was also done at the request of the National Jubilee Committee.

*Fort Norfolk, Turkey Point, Ont.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of ground provided by the Provincial Government, in concession A, township of Charlotteville, to mark the site of Fort Norfolk, which was an important British military and naval post during the War of 1812-15. Dollier de Casson and party encamped on the beach in March, 1670, and it was selected as a site for a fort and naval station by General Simcoe in 1795.

*Point Pelee, Leamington, Ont.*

A cairn and tablet were erected in the Point Pelee Park reserve to commemorate the several early historic events associated with that locality. Brock's expedition landed at Point Pelee on August 12, 1812, four days before capturing Detroit. Dollier and Galinée camped on the beach during their exploration trip in April, 1670. In the Pontiac War an American detachment was attacked and defeated on the beach by Wyandots, and in the Upper Canada Rebellion the Battle of Pelee Island was fought, March 3, 1838.

*McKee's Point, Sandwich, Ont.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of ground at the intersection of Sandwich and Main Streets, which was provided by the town to mark the site of the embarkation of General Brock's expedition to attack Detroit, in 1812. Its garrison, which was greatly superior in numbers, was forced to surrender on August 16, 1812.

*Kaministiquia Portage, Point de Meuron, Ont.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of ground, donated by Colonel S. C. Young, near the Kaministiquia River, between Port Arthur and Fort William to mark the site of the canoe landing and the beginning of the long portage route to the Great West, used by Indians for ages, by Jacques de Noyon in 1688, and subsequently by French, British and Canadian discoverers, explorers and traders.

*Cluny, Alberta.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on the south half of section 21, township 21, range 21, west of the 4th Meridian, which is included in the Blackfoot Indian Reserve, to commemorate the events associated with the signing of Indian Treaty Number 7 on September 22, 1877, whereby the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan, Sarcee, Stony and other Indians surrendered their rights to fifty thousand square miles of territory lying in the southwestern corner of Alberta. The unveiling was carried out on September 22, 1927, with very impressive ceremonies.

*Jasper House, Alberta.*

A cairn and tablet were erected in Jasper National Park, along the Jasper Highway near the Rocky River, to mark the site of Jasper House, built by the North West Company about 1813. For half a century this post was the main support of the trade route across the mountains and an important point for all persons journeying through the Yellowhead and Athabasca passes.

*New Westminster, B.C.*

A cairn and tablet were erected in front of the provincial penitentiary at New Westminster, the first capital of the Colony of British Columbia, to commemorate the early historic events associated with that place. Here was the camp of the Royal

Engineers, a detachment sent out from England to maintain law and order and to aid in the development of the country. The Legislative Council of British Columbia held its first meeting in the building on January 21, 1864, and continued to meet there until the capital was removed. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on November 19, 1927, in accordance with arrangements made by the Native Sons and Native Daughters of British Columbia.

*Nanaimo, B.C.*

A large granite block, to which is affixed a tablet, was erected on a base in Dallas Square facing the harbour, to commemorate the discovery of the first coal mine in British Columbia, in 1852. Its development ushered in a period of expansion in the industrial life of the province and aided in the growth of British trade on the west coast of Canada.

*Fort Hope, Hope, B.C.*

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of ground at the foot of Wallace Street, near the Fraser River, to mark the site of the stockaded post built there in 1848 by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to commemorate the opening of a way into the interior through British territory. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on June 16, 1928.

## ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

Action was taken with respect to the acquisition of the following other historic properties recommended by the Board for marking as also for the preservation of monuments and structures already administered by the Department:

### MARITIME PROVINCES

*First Post Office, Halifax, N.S.*

Permission was obtained from the Department of Public Works to affix a tablet to the exterior wall of the Halifax Post Office to commemorate the events associated with the establishment of the first Post Office in British North America.

*Admiral d'Anville's Encampment, Bedford Basin, N.S.*

A plot of land on the outskirts of Halifax and adjacent to the old French landing place was donated by Mr. E. Clayton on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of the landing of Duc d'Anville's formidable but storm-shattered expedition which had been sent from France to recover Acadia.

*Martello Tower, Halifax, N.S.*

Extensive repairs were carried out on the masonry of the interior and exterior walls of the martello tower in Point Pleasant Park. The inner staircase and floors were also renovated.

*Fort Cumberland, N.B.*

A pavilion was erected in the park, repairs made to the walls of the old powder magazine, and the site generally improved in appearance.

### QUEBEC

*First Paper Mill in Canada, St. Andrews.*

A plot of land adjacent to the public highway was donated by the Western Quebec Paper Mills, Limited, on which to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of the first paper mill in Canada, built in 1803.

*First Steamship in Canada, Montreal.*

The Molson's Brewery Company, Limited, has executed a license of occupation granting permission to place a tablet on the outer wall of their main office building on Notre Dame Street, East, to commemorate the events associated with the construction of the first steamship in Canada, the *Accommodation*.

*Battle of Two Mountains, near Senneville.*

A plot of land 25 feet square, adjacent to the Senneville Road, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. Skinner on which to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the naval engagement which took place in 1689 between the French and Iroquois on the Lake of Two Mountains.

*Chateauguay Ford Battle, near Allan's Corners.*

A plot of land 25 feet square and abutting the Montreal-Malone highway was donated by Mr. Wm. Kerr on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the events associated with the engagement which took place there on October 26, 1813, between Canadian troops and the American invaders.

*Fort Chambly, Chambly.*

Repairs were made to the living quarters, the observation tower, the dungeon and magazine, also to the stone retaining wall facing the Richelieu River. Trees and shrubbery were set out on the picnic grounds, and camp stoves constructed for the convenience of tourists.

*Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix.*

Considerable repair work, to prevent deterioration, was carried out on the massive stone buildings located on this site and the cemeteries were fenced. Camp stoves were provided for the use of visitors and campers to the island.

## ONTARIO

*Fort Wellington, Prescott.*

The exterior of the blockhouse was painted, inner palisades repaired and electric lights installed in the museum, etc. The site is at all times a mecca for tourists and was visited last year by over twelve thousand people.

*Battle of York, Toronto.*

Permission was granted by the Provincial Government and the City of Toronto to place a tablet on the outer entrance to the Province of Ontario building in the Exhibition Grounds to commemorate the events associated with the Battle of York which took place April 27, 1813.

*Ridgeway Battlefield, near Fort Erie.*

A plot of land 25 feet square, adjacent to the Garrison Road, was donated by the Council of the township of Bertie on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of the engagement of June 2, 1866.

*Fugitive Slave Movement, Windsor.*

A license of occupation was executed by the Dominion Bank of Canada granting permission to place a tablet on the outer column of their bank building on Ouellette Avenue in Windsor, to commemorate the events connected with the fugitive slave movement to Canada, 1861-65.

## WESTERN CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Lower Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Man.*

A license of occupation was executed by the Hudson's Bay Company granting permission to place a tablet on the gateway of Lower Fort Garry to commemorate the events associated with the signing of Indian Treaty Number One.

*Lethbridge, Alta.*

Permission was granted by the civic authorities for the erection of a cairn and tablet in Galt Park to mark the site of the first coal mine in Alberta.

*Fort Steele, B. C.*

A plot of ground 25 feet square, adjacent to the Fort Steele-Bull River highway, was donated by the executors of the R.T.L. Galbraith estate on which to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of the first North West Mounted Police post in British Columbia.

*Barkerville, B.C.*

Permission was granted by the Provincial Government to erect a cairn and tablet on the side of the highway near Barkerville to mark one terminus of the Yale Cariboo Wagon road.

## WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following other sites, events, or services of important personages, have been considered of national importance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and will, from time to time, be marked:

Battle of Grand Pré, near Grand Pré, N.S.  
 Fort la Have, near Bridgetown, N.S.  
 First Atlantic Cable, North Sydney, N.S.  
 Samuel Vetch, Annapolis Royal, N.S.  
 Fort Jemseg, Lower Jemseg, N.B.  
 Major Gilfrid Studholme, St. John, N.B.  
 Battle of the Petitcodiac, Hillsborough, N.B.  
 Battle of de Repentigny, near Charlemagne, P.Q.  
 Jacque Cartier's Landing, Gaspé, P.Q.  
 Valcartier, P.Q.  
 Ile-aux-Coudres, P.Q.  
 Temiscouata Portage, P.Q.  
 Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.  
 First Railroad in Canada, St. John, P.Q.  
 Champlain's Landing Place, Allumette Island, P.Q.  
 Fort Coteau du Lac, Coteau du Lac, P.Q.  
 Battle of Chateauguay, Allan's Corners, P.Q.  
 Ile-aux-Basques, opposite Trois Pistoles, P.Q.  
 Chaudière Portage, Hull, P.Q.  
 First Stage Coaches and Postal Service, Quebec, P.Q.  
 Battle of Montgomery's Creek, near St. John, P.Q.  
 Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.  
 Mission of Ste. Marie I, near Midland, Ont.  
 Action at house of Thomas McRae, near Chatham, Ont.  
 Nanticoke, Ont.  
 Vrooman's Battery, near Queenston, Ont.  
 Battle of the Longwoods, near Wardsville, Ont.  
 Canoe Route, Montreal to Lake Huron, Mattawa, Ont.  
 Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.  
 Starting Point of Brock's Expedition to Detroit, Port Dover, Ont.  
 First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.  
 First Petroleum Wells, near Bothwell, Ont.  
 Sir Charles Bagot, Kingston, Ont.  
 Lord Sydenham, Kingston, Ont.  
 Butler's Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.  
 Normandale Blast Furnaces, Tilsonburg, Ont.  
 Brant's Ford, Brantford, Ont.  
 Dundas Street, Toronto, Ont.  
 Danforth Road, Hamilton, Ont.  
 Capture of the "Tigress" and "Scorpion," Penetanguishene, Ont.  
 Defence of Upper Canada, War of 1812-14, Kingston, Ont.  
 Amherstburg Navy Yard, Amherstburg, Ont.  
 Fort Drummond, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.  
 Sir Gordon Drummond, Toronto, Ont.  
 Brandon House, Wawanesa, Man.  
 Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.  
 Battle of Fish Creek, near Rosthern, Sask.  
 Fort à la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.  
 Fort Carleton, Sask.  
 Rocky Mountain House, Alta.  
 Henry House, Alta.  
 Fort Fork, Alta.  
 David Thompson, Jasper Park, Alta.  
 Fort Alexandria, B.C.  
 Fort Victoria, Victoria, B.C.  
 Simon Fraser, Musqueam, B.C.  
 Point Grey, near New Westminster, B.C.  
 Pacific Cable, Banfield, B.C.  
 Yukon Gold Discovery, Dawson City, N.W.T.