

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 et Department of
Mines and Resources

Volume 21, numéro 1, 1942

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/300236ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/300236ar>

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Éditeur(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

ISSN

0317-0594 (imprimé)

1712-9095 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

National Parks Bureau, Lands, Parks, and Forests Branch & Department of
Mines and Resources (1942). National Historic Parks and Sites. *Report of the
Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association / Rapport de l'assemblée
annuelle de la Société historique du Canada*, 21(1), 116–120.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/300236ar>

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES

BY THE

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

THE restoration, preservation, marking, and administration of National Historic Parks and Sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding persons connected with the early history of Canada, are undertaken by the National Parks Bureau. 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*, His Honour F. W. Howay, LL.B., LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R.Hist., New Westminster, B.C.; J. Clarence Webster, 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., London, Ont.; Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Halifax, N.S.; The Hon. E. Fabre-Surveyer, K.C., LL.M., B.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Montreal, P.Q.; J. A. Gregory, M.P., North Battleford, Sask.; the Rev. Antoine d'Eschambault, D.S.T., D.J.C., St. Boniface, Man.; Major G. Lanctot, K.C., B.Litt., LL.M., D.Litt., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Ottawa, Ont.; W. D. Cromarty, National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, Ont.

Due to war conditions, the annual meeting of the Board was not held this year. Several tablets, however, were erected, bringing to 332 the number of sites which have now been suitably marked. In addition, 138 sites have been recommended by the Board for marking in the future.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS

Fort Anne National Historic Park is situated in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. Fort Anne today is the outgrowth of two French fortifications built on the same site with additions made by the English. 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.

During the year, the sally-port, or postern, was thoroughly repaired and made waterproof. The entrance to No. 1 Powder Magazine was repointed and the stone stairs restored. Extensive repairs were made to the No. 2 Powder Magazine, and the interior and exterior walls were repointed. Additional articles of interest were obtained for the museum.

A total of 7,595 persons visited the museum during the year and, in addition, it is estimated that 8,884 visited the grounds. Many citizens of the United States, as well as teachers and pupils from Canadian schools, and men in uniform, were among the visitors.

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 newly constructed buildings were officially opened on July 4, in the presence of a large gathering. Ten coloured sketches depicting life at the original "Habitation" were prepared by Dr. C. W. Jefferys. These have been framed and hung in the Community Room. The Order of 1606, Boston, Mass., U.S.A., has donated the furniture for this room and steps are being taken to have suitable pieces made for some of the other rooms.

During the year, 9,139 persons visited the park, an increase of nearly fifty per cent over the previous year.

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. Louisbourg was one of the most keenly disputed fortresses in North America. Erected more than two centuries ago by the French, who had named the settlement in honour of Louis XIV, King of France, it 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.

Considerable excavation has been carried out on the ruins of this old fortress; the museum, which was built a few years ago, contains many interesting exhibits.

During the year, improvements were made to the roads and paths within the park. The exterior woodwork of the museum was painted; additional book-cases were obtained to house the late Senator McLennan's collection of books which has been donated to the museum. A total of 6,690 persons signed the museum register during the year, and it is estimated that an additional 1,000 visited the park.

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park is situated near Aulac, 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, Acadians had their homes and farms. It was captured by the British in 1755 and renamed Fort Cumberland. In recent years restoration work has been carried out and a new museum built at the site.

During the year, the parcels of land on which the site of the old British blockhouse and the remains of Monckton's lines of entrenchments are situated, were donated to the Crown, and steps will be taken to have these areas included in the park.

The exterior woodwork of the museum was painted and the parking area regravelled. Visitors registered at the museum during the year numbered 6,409, and it is estimated that over 10,000 more entered the grounds.

Fort Chambly National Historic Park lies about twenty miles south-east of Montreal, P.Q., on a conspicuous headland on the Richelieu

River. The first fort, built by the French in 1665 as a protection from 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 it the following year, but burned everything that was combustible, leaving only the four walls standing. The fort was later repaired and garrisoned by Governor Carleton and played an important part in the War of 1812. Under the administration of the Bureau, steps have been taken to arrest the disintegration of the massive structure, and a new museum building has been erected within the walls of the fort.

During the year, sections of the masonry in the stone walls of the fort were repointed and repairs carried out on the north-east bastion and the retaining wall facing the Richelieu River. The iron fence in front of the fort and picnic grounds was painted, improvement work undertaken to the grounds, and a catalogue prepared relating to the exhibits in the museum. A total of 5,986 persons signed the museum register during the year.

Fort Lennox National Historic Park is located on Ile-aux-Noix, in the Richelieu River, about thirteen miles south of St. Johns, P.Q. The present fort, which stands on the site of one previously erected by the French, was rebuilt by the imperial authorities in the period from 1812 to 1827, and stands majestically in memory of the defence of the Richelieu Gateway. The island, comprising an area of 150 acres, was acquired in 1921 and considerable work has been carried out on the buildings and grounds. The entire property has been taken over for war purposes.

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 remains as it was when finally completed in 1838, an impressive landmark. Named after the Duke of Wellington, it 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. The fort property, comprising eight and one-half acres, was acquired in 1923.

During the year, the building formerly used as the officers' quarters was reshingled, the palisades and flag pole repaired, improvements made to the parking area, cannon on the grounds painted, and the fence enclosing the park repaired. Additional articles of interest were obtained for the museum. Visitors registered during the year numbered 8,821.

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, and an area of about four acres comprising a portion of these has been acquired. Of particular interest is the fireproof museum, constructed in 1939, which has been suitably furnished and already contains many interesting exhibits.

During the year, a full-time caretaker was appointed. The exterior woodwork of the museum was painted, and the stonework around the basement windows and front entrance steps repointed; a partition was constructed in the basement and two oak racks were built to receive the guns which are on display. Many articles of interest have been presented to the museum, among them being a hand-pump fire engine formerly used at Fort Malden, and a hand-press upon which the first issue of *The Amherstburg Echo* was printed.

The interest that is being taken in this park is shown by the fact that during the past nine months, when a record of attendance was kept, 11,821 persons entered the museum and it is estimated that 1,000 more visited the park.

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 Pérouse in 1782. Its ruins, which are among the most interesting military remains on this continent, have been partly restored and over forty old cannon have been unearthed and suitably mounted on the walls of the fort.

During the year, the signs affixed to the walls of the fort were repaired and general supervision maintained.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

Birthplace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, St. Lin, P.Q.—The house in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911, was born, was formally opened, and the boulder and tablet in front of the house unveiled by the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King on November 20, 1941, the one-hundredth anniversary of Sir Wilfrid's birth. The house was purchased by the Dominion government and has been restored and suitably furnished.

During the year the following sites were marked:

Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, Gagetown, N.B.—A bronze plate was affixed to the Post Office Building in memory of Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, K.C.M.G., a Father of Confederation; Premier and Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, and Minister of Finance of Canada. He was born at Gagetown in 1818, and died in Saint John in 1896.

Treaty with Indians, 1778, Saint John, N.B.—A bronze tablet was affixed to a monument on Fort Howe Hill, in honour of the Abbé Joseph Mathurin Bourg and the Honourable Michael Francklin, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for their services in keeping the Indians of Nova Scotia loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution by a Treaty of Peace made at Fort Howe on September 24, 1778.

Charles Fisher, Fredericton, N.B.—A bronze plate was affixed to the Legislative Assembly Building in memory of Charles Fisher, a Father of Confederation; lawyer, statesman, and judge; Premier of New Brunswick, 1851-61. He was born in Fredericton on September 16, 1808, and died in Fredericton on December 8, 1880.

William Henry Steeves, Saint John, N.B.—A bronze plate was placed in the main hallway of the New Brunswick Museum in memory of William Henry Steeves, a Father of Confederation; industrialist and legislator; Senator, 1867-73. He was born at Hillsborough on May 20, 1814, and died in Saint John on December 9, 1873.

John Mercer Johnson, Chatham, N.B.—A bronze plate was attached to the Post Office Building in memory of John Mercer Johnson, a Father of Confederation and Speaker of the New Brunswick Assembly. He was born in Liverpool, England, on October 10, 1818, and died at Chatham, New Brunswick, on November 8, 1868.

John Hamilton Gray, Saint John, N.B.—A bronze plate was placed on one of the inner walls of the New Brunswick Museum in memory of John Hamilton Gray, a Father of Confederation; lawyer, legislator, and historian; Speaker of the New Brunswick Assembly, 1866-7, and Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. He was born at St. George's, Bermuda, in 1814, and died in Victoria, B.C., on June 5, 1889.

Peter Mitchell, Newcastle, N.B.—A bronze tablet was affixed to the Post Office Building in memory of Peter Mitchell, a Father of Confederation; lawyer, legislator, and journalist; Premier of New Brunswick, 1865-7, and Senator, 1867-72. He was born at Newcastle on January 4, 1824, and died in Montreal on October 25, 1899.

Sir James McPherson Le Moine, Quebec, P.Q.—A bronze tablet was placed on an inner wall of Morrin College in memory of Sir James McPherson Le Moine, Kt., D.C.L., F.R.S.C., author, historian, and ornithologist. He was born in Quebec City on January 24, 1825, and died at Spencer Grange, Sillery, on February 5, 1912. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society on January 14, 1942.

Joseph Bouchette, Quebec, P.Q.—A bronze tablet was affixed to the house at 44 St. Louis Street in memory of Joseph Bouchette, Surveyor-General of Lower Canada and author of standard topographical works. Bouchette was born in Quebec City on March 14, 1774, and at one time resided in the house to which the tablet is affixed. He died in Montreal on April 9, 1841. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Quebec Land Surveyors Association on April 16, 1941.

Chemin Royal (King's Highway) Quebec, P.Q.—A bronze tablet was affixed to St. John's Gate, to commemorate the historic events connected with this highway. On August 5, 1734, Lanouillier de Boiscler, Chief Roadmaster of New France, started from Quebec by coach for Montreal, thus officially inaugurating the King's Highway in Canada.