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Some Historic and Prehistoric Sites in Canada

National Parks Branch et Department of the Interior

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SOME HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC SITES IN CANADA

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Considerable progress was made during the past year in connection with the preservation and marking of outstanding historic sites or events throughout the Dominion, recommended for action by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This Board is composed of a number of outstanding authorities on Canadian history and acts in an advisory capacity to the Department of the Interior. Its present personnel 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., F.R.S.C., New Westminster,
B.C.

J. Clarence Webster, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Shediac, N.B.

Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., F.R.S.C., Halifax, N.S.

Marechal Nantel, K.C., Montreal, P.Q.

Professor Fred Landon, M.A., F.R.S.C., London, Ont.

J. B. Harkin, Ottawa, Ont.

Secretary—G. Wilford Bryan, Ottawa, Ont.

To date the Board has had over one thousand sites under consideration, and from these it has selected two hundred and sixty-eight as being worthy of commemoration and recommended them for attention. The National Parks of Canada, which actually carries out the Board's recommendations, has to date marked one hundred and ninety of these sites by the erection of suitable memorials. A bronze tablet of artistic design is used for this purpose, and in most instances it is affixed to a standard in the form of a field stone cairn, large boulder or other monument.

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

SITES MARKED

St. Peters, N.S.

A cairn, bearing a bronze tablet, was erected on the canal near the main wharf to mark the site of the fort and trading post built by Nicolas Denys in 1650. In 1713 the place was selected as one of the principal ports in Isle Royal, named Port Toulouse and fortified by works at Point Jerome. These were destroyed by British troops in 1745. The French re-occupied it, however, in 1748, but finally abandoned the place in 1758.

St. Peters Canal, St. Peters, N.S.

A bronze tablet was affixed to another face of the St. Peters cairn to commemorate the events connected with the constructions of the canal connecting St. Peters Bay and Bras d'Or Lakes, which was built in 1854-69. It follows the route of the portage used by the French in the early trading days and materially shortens the distance to the eastern coasts of Cape Breton.

Jean Paul Mascarene, Annapolis Royal, N.S.

A monument of cut stone, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on the Fort Anne Park grounds to perpetuate the memory of Jean Paul Mascarene, a

French Huguenot in the army of Britain, who served in the garrison at Fort Anne for over forty years. He mounted the first guard there on 6th October, 1710.

Mallard House, Saint John, N.B.

A bronze plate was attached to the outer wall of the Royal Hotel, facing Germaine Street, to mark the site of the building in which the first Legislature of New Brunswick met in February, 1756.

Martello Tower, Saint John, N.B.

A bronze plate was affixed to the outer wall near the main entrance of this structure, which was built in 1812-14 for the defence of Saint John.

Fort Nerepis, near Saint John, N.B.

A cairn, bearing a bronze tablet, was erected on a plot of land donated by Mr. Edward Bates, at the intersection of the Saint John-Fredericton highway and the road leading to Woodman's Point, to mark the site of the ancient Indian stronghold, which was strengthened by the French under de Boishebert in 1749 and used by them in their operations against the British for several years.

Beaubears Island near Newcastle, N.B.

A cairn with a bronze tablet affixed to it was erected on the west bank of the Miramichi river, immediately opposite Beaubears Island and adjacent to Highway No. 8. This island served as a concentration camp for refugee Acadians, 1756-59, and was established by their protector, Charles Deschamps de Boishebert, a Canadian officer, after whom the island was named.

Temiscouata Portage, near Cabano, P.Q.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on a small plot of land donated by Mr. William Purcell, adjacent to the Caldwell road, about a mile east of Cabano, to commemorate the events connected with the old Temiscouata portage which was used from the first settlement of the country in the overland route between Acadia and Quebec. The site of Fort Ingall lies immediately adjacent.

Lachine Canal, Lachine, P.Q.

A cairn, bearing a bronze tablet, was erected on the canal reserve adjacent to the Montreal-Ottawa highway just beside the bridge leading to La Salle village, to commemorate the events connected with the construction of the Lachine Canal which was commenced 17th July, 1821, opened in 1824, and completed in 1825. This is one of the eight canals which, by way of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, connect Western Canada with the Ocean.

Grenville Canal, Grenville, P.Q.

A cairn with a bronze tablet affixed to it was erected in a small park adjacent to the Grenville-Carillon highway to commemorate the events connected with the Grenville Canal which was designed and constructed by the Royal Engineers. It was commenced in 1819, completed in 1833 and enlarged from 1871 to 1882.

Carillon Canal, Carillon, P.Q.

A cairn bearing a bronze tablet was erected on the canal reserve adjacent to the Grenville-St. Andrews highway to record the events connected with the construction of the Carillon Canal which was built by the Royal Engineers from 1823 to 1833 and enlarged from 1871 to 1882.

Pointe au Baril, Maitland, Ont.

A cairn to which is affixed a bronze tablet was erected on a small plot of land donated by Mr. H. J. Barber adjacent to Highway No. 2, just east of the village to mark the site of Pointe au Baril, where the barques "Iroquoise" and "Outaouise," the last French ships of war that navigated Lake Ontario were built.

Sir Charles Bagot,

Lord Sydenham, Kingston.

A cut stone monument bearing two bronze tablets was erected on the Kingston General hospital grounds at the corner of Stuart and George Streets in recognition of the public services of Lord Sydenham, 1799-1841, as an economist, statesman and Governor in Chief; also of Sir Charles Bagot, 1781-1843, as a diplomatist, ambassador and Governor in Chief of United Canada.

Fort Mississauga, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the stone gateway at the entrance to the fort to commemorate the fact that it was built in 1814 by military labour for the defence of that frontier and the Niagara River as a port of refuge and base for naval operations on Lake Ontario. It was occupied as a military post until 1845.

Dundas Street near Dundas, Ont.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on a small plot of land donated by Mr. W. J. Woodley, adjacent to the Governor's Road, to mark the old military road and commercial highway between Lake Ontario and the River Thames, which was planned by Lieut. Governor Simcoe in 1793 to promote the settlement of the Province. It was laid out and constructed by the Queen's Rangers in 1794-95, and named in honour of Hon. Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies.

Normandale Furnace, Normandale, Ont.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the outer wall of the Fish Hatchery building to mark the site of the iron furnace founded in 1818 by Samuel Mason. It was operated with success until 1853, when their supply of bog ore became exhausted, and was an important factor in the early economic and industrial development of the country.

Officers and Seamen Royal Navy, Amherstburg Navy Yard, Amherstburg.

A monument of stone, bearing two bronze tablets, was erected in Waterworks Park to mark the site of the British Naval Station for Lakes Erie and Huron, 1796-1813, in which nine ships of war were built, and to perpetuate the memory of the officers and seamen of the Royal Newfoundland and 41st Regiments who were killed in action and their comrades, who served on these lakes in the defence of Canada in 1812-14.

Port Churchill, Manitoba.

A cairn with a bronze tablet affixed to it was erected at Battery Point to commemorate the discovery of Port Churchill in 1619 by the Danish expedition under Jens Munck, and to mark the site of the fort built there by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1689. This was destroyed during the same year, but was rebuilt in 1717 and remained for nearly 200 years its most northerly post on the Bay. It was the starting point of many Arctic explorations.

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

A cairn, bearing a bronze tablet, was erected on a plot of land adjacent to the highway near the town which was donated by Mrs. M. A. Brierley. This marks the site of the trading post built in 1799 by the North West Company. David Thompson wintered there in 1800-1, 1801-2 and 1806-7. It was his starting point in 1807 for the discovery of the Columbia River. The post was for over seventy years the most westerly and most southerly one in the Blackfeet country, and remained in operation until 1875.

Collin's Overland Telegraph, Quesnel, B.C.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected in the small park between the Fraser river and Front Street to commemorate the events connected with the Collin's Overland Telegraph scheme of 1865-66, whereby it was proposed to connect America and Asia by telegraph.

Yukon Gold Discovery, Dawson City.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the outer wall of the Administration Building to perpetuate the memory of the indomitable prospectors and miners who, in 1896, paved the way for the discovery of the rich gold fields of the Yukon.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

The following action was taken with respect to the acquisition of sites recommended for attention by the Board, and in connection with the improvement of other properties already controlled:—

Louisbourg Fortress, near Louisbourg, N.S.

Further progress was made with the development scheme decided upon some years ago at this site. Roads previously constructed were surfaced and a new stretch built along Rue d'Estrees. Additional excavations were made at the citadel and hospital and all exposed walls re-pointed and in some cases rebuilt. Special attention was paid to the easterly half of the citadel, which comprised the Governor's quarters and the chapel where it was reported the remains of Duc d'Anville are interred. Charred portions of the original chapel flooring were discovered but no signs of a grave were located. Maintenance work was carried out on both the north and south casemates. Some excavations were also made at the Queens' Gate where some of the original walls were uncovered.

Bloody Creek Engagements, near Bridgetown, N.S.

Mr. Milledge Rice of Bridgetown donated a plot of land, adjacent to the highway leading to Annapolis Royal, on which to erect a memorial to commemorate the engagements which took place there in 1711 and 1757.

Fort Beausejour, near Aulac, N.B.

Further improvements were made to the grounds including the painting of the fence, mounting of cannon on the southeast and west bastions and the erection of markers at La Coupe dry dock and Abbe de Loutre's aboideau.

Martello Tower, Saint John, N.B.

Repairs were carried out to the structure, including the coping of the firing step, pointing of inner walls and replacing the main floor. A bronze plaque was also affixed to the outer wall of the structure.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, Quebec.

Extensive improvements were made to that portion of the officers' quarters used as a museum which included replacement of floors, repairs to walls and ceilings, etc. Repairs were also made to the soffit arched roof at the main entrance, and to the ceiling in the upper story of the men's barracks building.

Chambly Road, near St. Hubert, Quebec.

The Department of National Defence granted permission for the erection of a memorial on their property at the entrance to the St. Hubert airport, adjacent to the Montreal-Chambly highway to mark the site of the first important highway in Canada.

First Paper Mill, St. Andrews East, Quebec.

Permission was obtained from the Municipal authorities to place a memorial in a small park near the town hall and adjacent to the Montreal-Ottawa highway, to mark the site of the first paper mill in Canada.

Fort Ste. Therese, near Chambly, Quebec.

Mr. Pierre St. Antoine donated a plot of land adjacent to the new highway from St. Jean to Chambly on which to place the memorial marking the site of Fort Ste. Therese.

Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ont.

An old cannon, which was located on the embankment surrounding the fort was raised and suitably mounted near the museum. Repairs were carried out on the palisades where a number of the original posts had deteriorated; the block-house was repainted and other improvements made to the buildings and grounds.

Crawford Indian Purchase, Kingston, Ont.

The Department of National Defence granted permission to affix a tablet to the gateway at the entrance to Tete du Pont Barracks to commemorate the treaty made between the Crown and the Mississauga Indians in 1783.

Combat at McCrae's House near Chatham, Ont.

Mr. Frank Parker donated a plot of land adjacent to the river road leading to Chatham on which to erect a memorial to commemorate the events connected with the engagement which took place there on 15th December, 1814.

Burlington Heights, Hamilton, Ont.

Permission was obtained from the Board of Park Management to place a memorial in Harvey Park to commemorate the events which took place on these heights during 1813-14.

Capture of Schooners "Tigress" and "Scorpion", Penetanguishene.

The Provincial Government granted permission for the erection of a memorial on the Hospital grounds at the north end of Fox Street to commemorate the events connected with the gallant capture of these United States warships on September 3-5, 1814.

Treaties of Niagara, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

Permission was obtained from the Niagara Historical Society to affix a tablet to the outer wall of the Niagara Historical Museum to commemorate the treaties concluded with the Indians in 1781 and 1784.

General Strange's Column, Edmonton, Alta.

The Provincial Government granted permission for the erection of a memorial on the grounds adjacent to the new Administration Building to commemorate the operations of the Alberta Field Force during the Rebellion of 1885.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites and the services of important personages have been recommended for attention by the Board, and will be dealt with from time to time:—

- Battle of Grand Pre, near Grand Pre, N.S.
- Indian Fort, Hogg Island, N.S.
- First Submarine Telegraph in America, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- Inception of Survey System in Canada, P.E.I.
- Fort St. Louis, Port la Tour, N.S.
- First Patent in Canada, Quebec, P.Q.
- Chaudiere Portages, Hull, P.Q.
- First Stage Coach Service, Montreal, P.Q.
- Fort Jacques Cartier, Cap Sante, P.Q.
- Fort Temiscamingue, P.Q.
- Jacques Cartier's Landing, Gaspé, P.Q.
- Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.
- First Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.
- Champlain's Landing Place, Morrison's Island, P.Q.
- Indian Treaties, near Orillia, Ont.
- First Iron Furnace in Upper Canada, Lyndhurst, Ont.
- Navy Yard, Kingston, Ont.
- Officers & Seamen Royal Navy, Kingston, Ont.
- Mission of Ste. Marie I., near Midland, Ont.
- Nanticoke, Ont.
- Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
- First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.
- First Petroleum Wells, near Bothwell, Ont.
- Butlers Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
- Yonge Street Highway, near Richmond Hill, Ont.
- Danforth Road, Hamilton, Ont.
- Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, Ont.

Fort Henry, Kingston, Ont.
Trent Canal, Bobcaygeon, Ont.
Six Nations Indians, Brantford, Ont.
Fort Erie, Ont.
First Cheese Factory in Canada, near Norwich, Ont.
Discovery of Red Fife Wheat, near Peterboro, Ont.
McKee's Purchase near Chatham, Ont.
Chief Tecumseh, near Moraviantown, Ont.
Henry Kelsey, The Pas, Man.
Fort Maurepas, Man.
Norway House, Man.
Fort Alexander, Man.
Fort Prince of Wales, Churchill, Man.
Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.
Battle of Fish Creek, near Rosthern, Sask.
Fort a la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.
General Strange's Column, N.W. Rebellion, Edmonton, Alta.
Fort Chipewyan, Alta.
Fort Alexandria, B.C.
Rev. John McDougall, Alta.
Rev. Father Lacombe, Alta.
