

UNESCO recognizes Canadian parks as heritage sites

Two Canadian parks were officially recognized recently as United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage sites.

Dinosaur Provincial Park in southern Alberta and L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park at the northern tip of Newfoundland's Western Peninsula were both dedicated in separate ceremonies attended by UNESCO representatives.



Uncovering the remains of the oldest known European settlement in the New World at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park, Newfoundland.

Federal Environment Minister John Roberts officiated at the dedication and plaque-unveiling ceremonies.

The ceremony at Dinosaur Provincial Park, about 100 miles southeast of Calgary, recognized the park as one of the world's important natural areas.

Discoveries, since the turn of the century, of dinosaur fossils within the park's badlands led to last year's nomination of Dinosaur Provincial Park to the UNESCO World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee meeting in Luxor, Egypt. Committee members agreed that Dinosaur Provincial Park was a site of outstanding universal value.

Thirty species of dinosaurs have been found in the park to date and 30 major museums around the world hold fossil collections from the park. No other dinosaur field of comparable size has yielded so many and such a variety of well-pre-

served specimens from the upper cretaceous period of the world's history.

Historic Norse settlement

The ceremony at the L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park commemorated the only authenticated Norse settlement in North America. The dedication was attended by representatives of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland.

L'Anse aux Meadows was named to the World Heritage List by the UNESCO committee at its 1978 meeting in Washington.

As the earliest manifestation of European arrival in the New World the site ranks among the major archaeological properties of the world.

The main portion of the site was excavated between 1961 and 1968 by a Norwegian team led by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad, who discovered the site while in search of Vinland, the first Viking settlement in North America. Four years of additional archaeological excavation were subsequently undertaken by Parks Canada.

The Norse site contains the remains of eight sod buildings. Three are large dwellings, the rest, small buildings which may have been workshops or had other special functions. One of the other discoveries



Sculptured semi-arid landforms of Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta.

made by the Ingstads was iron slag in close association with charcoal that has been radiocarbon dated to between A.D. 860-890 and A.D. 1060-1070.

L'Anse aux Meadows Historic Park and Dinosaur Provincial Park are among the 57 natural and cultural heritage sites which have been named to the World Heritage Convention, adopted in 1972 as a treaty among nations concerned about the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage areas. Kluane National Park in the Yukon and Nahanni National Park in the Northwest Territories are other Canadian sites named to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Coal to fuel conversion studied

The British Columbia government is initiating a feasibility study on producing liquid fuels from coal deposits in the interior of the province.

The study on producing liquid fuels from the Hat Creek coal deposit will be undertaken by the provincial Energy Development Agency, which will soon issue contracts for engineering studies to determine the costs associated with liquefaction of coal.

"If the economics look right, a number of other studies into the environmental, social and economic implications of such a project would have to be undertaken," said Bob McClelland, the province's energy minister.

The liquefaction process under consideration is similar to one used in South Africa. Products from that process range from synthetic liquid fuels to industrial chemicals.

The Hat Creek formation is a large, low-grade coal deposit located 120 miles northeast of Vancouver. The coal reserve is estimated at from five billion to 20 billion metric tons.

The British Columbia government estimates a liquefaction plant in the area could cost between \$3 billion and \$5 billion and produce 30,000 to 50,000 barrels of synthetic fuels a day.

British Columbia Hydro currently is developing plans for using a portion of the coal deposit as a fuel for a thermal electric generating unit.

The provincial government estimates that the Hat Creek deposit could provide between 15 billion and 100 billion barrels of oil through existing coal-conversion technology.