

present.

Parks Canada on behalf of the Department of External Affairs has been engaged for some three years in the restoration of Bethune House, previously the Gravenhurst United Church manse, which was purchased by the Federal Government in 1973. The decision to purchase the house was based on an appreciation of Norman Bethune's personal qualities as a medical innovator and early advocate of universal public health care in Canada and ^{his unique role in the history of Canadian Relations with} the People's Republic of China. This act of commemoration by the Federal Government marks a significant step in the development of Canada-China relations.

Restoration, circa 1890 the year of Bethune's birth, has been carried out by the technical and historical experts of Parks Canada. Bethune House will be permanently administered and maintained by Parks Canada as a part of its historical sites programme.