

financing fell to \$31,771,000 from \$33,119,000, the passenger car total declining to \$27,261,000 from \$28,690,000 but the commercial vehicle total increasing to \$4,510,000 from \$4,429,000.

January-March financed sales of used passenger and commercial vehicles decreased to 71,996 units from 81,099 a year ago, comprising fewer passenger cars at 63,470 units versus 71,637 and commercial vehicles at 8,526 units versus 9,462. Amount of financing involved declined to \$78,344,000 from \$82,768,000, the passenger car total dropping to \$66,081,000 from \$71,380,000 but the commercial vehicle total advancing to \$12,263,000 from \$11,388,000.

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HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

The Niagara Parks of Ontario are particularly rich in historical landmarks, according to the "Ontario Government Services." Since the Niagara Parks Commission was formed in 1887, its members have pioneered in the preservation of historical sites, believing that they had as much responsibility to preserve this heritage for future generations of Canadians as to protect the scenic beauty of the Niagara River.

Perhaps the least-known landmark maintained by the Commission, is Butler's Burying Ground, a tiny cemetery on the outskirts of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a town at the junction of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Here, it is believed, are buried Col. John Butler and some of his Rangers. During the American Revolution the Loyalist Rangers led their savage allies, the Iroquois, on destructive raids against their former neighbours in New York State's Mohawk Valley, the granary of General Washington's army.

After the war, as exiles in a wilderness, the Rangers crossed the Niagara River, and founded Niagara-on-the-Lake, or Butlersburg as it was then known, the first United Empire Loyalist settlement in Upper Canada. As Newark, the town was the first capital of Upper Canada from 1792 to 1796, where Legislatures laid the foundation-stones for the new Province, including the first law in North America against the purchasing of slaves.

After the capital moved across Lake Ontario to York (Toronto), Niagara—as it then became known—was the most prosperous town in Upper Canada. It was the busy Lake Ontario terminal for the portage road, which followed the lower Niagara River, wound up the towering Niagara Escarpment at Queenston Heights and cut across country to Chippawa, above the Falls. Since it was the vital link to western posts and settlements, the portage road was guarded at Niagara by Fort George and at the Niagara River and Lake Erie by Fort Erie. This portage road was the scene of action in the War of 1812.

Here on October 13, 1812, General Sir Isaac Brock, Provisional Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, fell mortally wounded while leading his troops in a charge up Queenston Heights against the Americans. His memory is perpetuated in a 185-foot column surmounted by his statue. This imposing monument stands on the Heights overlooking the plain below, with the broad Niagara River winding through steep banks to the distant, ocean-like expanse of Lake Ontario.

While Brock's column is the dominant feature of Queenston Heights, another interesting monument is that in memory of Laura Secord. She was the wife of a militiaman, who on June 24, 1813, overheard American officers billeted in her house discussing plans for an expedition to surprise a British outpost at Beaver Dams. Throwing a shawl over her shoulders, she walked twenty miles over muddy roads with Indians and American soldiers lurking in the woods, to warn the British. Her warning enabled Lieut. Fitzgibbon to ambush the column and capture 550 Americans with only 250 British Regulars, Militiamen and Indians.

The well-kept lawns, shady walks and fine scenery of the Park at Queenston Heights make it a popular stop for tourists. Each year some 50,000 climb the 235 stairs inside Brock's Monument to gain a panoramic view of the surrounding country-side. For their convenience the Commission maintains a restaurant on the brow of the Heights, where visitors can look down at the best-known battlefield of the War of 1812.

From 1937 to 1940 the Commission restored Fort George and Fort Erie, both of which had fallen into ruin through years of neglect. Their restoration required research and careful workmanship to ensure authentic reproduction. Both forts are typical frontier posts, with earthen ramparts for cannon, pointed log palisades, and hand-sawed log barracks slitted for musketry. Many of the rooms in both forts have been furnished with furniture of the period, such as old rope beds and hand-made cabinets, tables and chairs.

On the Niagara River, near Fort George, is another historic building restored by the Commission. This is Navy Hall, a long, shed-like building, which in early days was one of several supply depots at Fort George for the British fleet on Lake Ontario. Navy Hall is believed to have housed the first Parliament of Upper Canada in 1792, when Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe lived in one end of it. A monument to him stands in the courtyard.

At Queenston, a little town snuggling under the brow of Queenston Heights, the Commission has restored the Niagara frontier home of William Lyon MacKenzie, the fiery reformer. MacKenzie's troubled career began here; it was in this house that he published the first edition of "The Colonial Advocate", in which his stinging editorials against the abuses of