

RECORD HISTORIC SITE VISITS

The National and Historic Parks Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development recently released figures that show a total increase of 36.55 per cent in attendance at historic sites in Canada from April 1 to July 31.

The largest increase occurred at the Citadel of Halifax, where 313,673 visitors were recorded, compared to 109,066 last year - an increase of 187.59 per cent. Signal Hill, in Newfoundland, recorded a 60.75 percent increase; Fort Rodd Hill on Vancouver Island increased its attendance by 61.06 per cent; Fort Wellington, Ontario by 46.73 per cent; Fort Lennox, Quebec, and Fort Beauséjour, New Brunswick, by 19.89 per cent and 21.85 per cent respectively; Batoche Rectory, Saskatchewan, by 35.74 per cent; and Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba, 28.33 per cent.

In all, 1,299,670 visits had been made to National Historic Sites in Canada up to the end of July. Renewed interest in history during centennial year and a new approach to historical presentation at the various sites have been cited as reasons for the increase.

FOREST-FIRE DAMAGE

According to estimates by the Department of Forestry and Rural Development there were 1,704 forest fires throughout Canada in July which caused damage to some 606,000 acres of woodlands. In comparison, there were 1,849 forest fires in July 1966, which damaged 126,000 acres.

During the first seven months of this year, there were an estimated 5,095 forest fires in Canada, damaging some 1,157,000 acres. During the same period last year there were 4,811 fires which damaged 370,000 acres.

PROVINCES HIT

Of the fires in July this year, 122 occurred in Newfoundland, where the area damaged totalled 487,576 acres. There were 657 fires in British Columbia, damaging 6,300 acres; 167 in Quebec affecting some 70,820 acres; 114 in Manitoba affecting 5,891 acres; and 272 in Ontario causing damage to 47 acres of forest.

In June this year, an estimated 446,000 acres were damaged by 2,068 forest fires throughout Canada.