

• (1340)

I might add, honourable senators, that tourism is close to a billion dollar industry in Nova Scotia, and accounts for close to 35,000 jobs. On Cape Breton Island, this translates into about \$200 million in revenues and 7,000 jobs. With the collapse of the fisheries, Parks Canada has become the single largest employer in the area, and Louisbourg is, of course, critical to the big picture.

Today, entering the site is much like entering a time machine. Extensive historical and archaeological research has allowed authentic reconstruction of the principal buildings of the French fortress once proudly designed to protect all of New France.

The capital costs to successive federal governments involved in the almost two decades of restoration have amounted to over \$27 million. The replacement value of the present reconstruction is estimated at \$71 million, of which \$30 million is accounted for by the fortification walls alone.

As part of the festivities this summer, a Grand Encampment will showcase authentic 18th century military camp life, and over 1,400 re-enactors, representing individual regiments from Canada and the United States, will participate. A spectacular Atlantic flotilla of tall ships —

The Hon. the Speaker: I apologize for interrupting the honourable senator, but his time is up. Is leave granted that he may continue?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Graham: A spectacular Atlantic flotilla of tall ships will provide an extraordinary and spectacular backdrop in the port and at sea.

Festival organizers have planned a rich tapestry of Cape Breton local colour, outdoor theatre, and unsurpassed musical accompaniment.

I remind all honourable senators that we are pulling out all the stops for Louisbourg '95 this summer. I would invite you to come to our part of the world and have a real holiday for a change. In so doing, enjoy a special taste of the incomparable world-famous Cape Breton hospitality.

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, may I be permitted to say a word in support of what Senator Graham has just said?

I am, and have been for many years, a frequent visitor to Louisbourg. It is one of the greatest examples of restoration to be found anywhere in the world, and it is well worth a visit. I should also point out that there are, in the files of the historic parks department, plans for further expansion of that beautiful site, and there is no shortage of unemployed people in Cape Breton these

days to undertake the work. Indeed, it has often occurred to me that it would be a far more useful expenditure of public moneys to expand that site than some of the other expenditures we are called upon to examine from time to time.

What we have in Louisbourg is a precious national asset. It is worth a visit by anyone, if only because it is well run by the historic sites and historic parks people and by the local people who are employed there during the summer.

Finally, I reassure all honourable senators that you can get there from Sydney and you do not have to wait for the reconstruction of the Fleur-de-lis Trail.

WEBER-MALAKHOV ARCTIC EXPEDITION

TRIBUTES

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, one of the most endearing characteristics of Canadians is that they do not stand up at the drop of any hat, massage the left breast and swear allegiance to the flag. We are not given to waving flags too much. We are modest. However, we sometimes forget to sing the praises of our genuine heroes.

Today I should like to draw your attention to one who, on June 15, while we were otherwise busy, completed an amazing feat. I am referring to Richard Weber, who, with a partner from Russia named Mikhail Malakhov, skied from the northern end of Ellesmere Island to the North Pole and back. They were back on June 15, carrying all their own equipment.

To give you a comparison of what it means to accomplish such a feat at 58 below, which was the temperature they faced in February when they started, Reinhold Messner, who has climbed all the major peaks of the Himalayas without oxygen, tried it and had to give up after 11 kilometres.

Richard Weber and his Russian partner skied 2,000 kilometres, and then, because it was late in the year and the ice was breaking up, had to rush in order to make it. The last 16 miles took 40 hours, and during the last eight days they slept a total of 18 hours. They stayed in communication with legions of school children via satellite, sending bursts of 64 characters per day so the school children could follow their progress. There was no helicopter to rescue them; no plane to drop them supplies. It is a feat that is superior in human endurance and courage to the first climb of Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary.

Russia is honouring Mikhail Malakhov; we are not honouring Richard Weber. I regret this. This speech is a small substitute for a national honour. He deserves that one lone senator should rise to say that this is a man of great courage, fortitude, strength, and determination. He has honoured our country, and we should all be proud of him.