

Atlantic Provinces

Three national historic parks and sites are located in Newfoundland. At Castle Hill are the ruins of harbour fortifications built by the French in the 1660s. Signal Hill at the entrance to the harbour of St. John's is the site of numerous early fortifications and the last battle during the Seven Years' War. Cape Spear is the first major lighthouse built in Newfoundland. Negotiations are nearing completion with the province for the transfer of L'Anse aux Meadows, the site of an early Viking settlement, and Port-au-Choix, a 4,000-year-old prehistoric burial-ground in Gros Morne National Park, to the Department for development as national historic parks.

Across the harbour from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is Fort Amherst, site of a French settlement of 1720 that was captured by the British in 1758. Pope House, the home of William Henry Pope, one of the Fathers of Confederation, is in Charlottetown.

In 1961, the Federal Government embarked on a \$19.7-million program to reconstruct and restore the Fortress of Louisbourg on the rugged coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. By the late 1970s, restoration of 30 to 40 buildings and a series of defences to their appearance before the first British siege of the French fortress in 1745 will be completed. The Governor's wing of the King's Bastion Barracks was opened to the public in 1969, since when further areas have been made available to visitors.

Also in Nova Scotia are the Halifax defences, consisting of the Citadel, York Redoubt, Fort Charlotte and the Prince of Wales Martello Tower. The remains of Fort Anne, built by the French between 1695 and 1708 and later enlarged by the British, was the first national historical park. Near Granville Ferry is the reconstruction of Port Royal, site of a settlement established in 1605 by Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain, and occupied by a fur-trading colony of several dozen Frenchmen until 1613, when it was destroyed by raiders from Virginia.

Preserved as a historic site since 1908 by the Nova Scotia government, Grand Pré was deeded to the Federal Government in 1957. This park, which is adjacent to the site of a former Acadian village, illustrates the life of the descendants of early French colonists before their expulsion in 1775.

The Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Park at Baddeck commemorates a man best known to the world as the inventor of the telephone. But the museum in the park illustrates his work in other fields, such as communications, medical science and aeronautics, and his research in marine navigation. For example, a hydrofoil Bell helped develop reached a speed of 62 knots in 1919, a record that was to stand for 50 years.

In New Brunswick are four national historic parks and sites -- Fort Beauséjour, the Carleton Martello Tower, St. Andrews Blockhouse and the site of Fort Gaspereau.