

That is no less true in the twentieth century. Many of the challenges in Canada that face us today are ones of adaptation to economic and social progress. If, in the course of such changes, either one of the two founding peoples were to feel that it was less able to fulfil its legitimate aspirations, Canada would soon lose its personality, if not its complete existence.

Canadian Fact Matures

But that will not happen. The Canadian personality, the Canadian fact, will continue to grow in maturity and strength through the active and sincere co-operation of English and French Canadians, together with the contribution of more recent Canadians of other origins. I have every confidence that we will find the ways and means of achieving this overriding objective, in the tradition of our forefathers who found, in the years that followed the War of 1812, the ways and means of building the Canadian nation.

I am confident also that this nation will continue to live in friendship, based on mutual understanding and mutual respect, with its great neighbour. We two - as separate and free peoples - are joined together by the facts of geography and economics and by the dangers and necessities of contemporary history. Let no man try to put us asunder.

With these words, I have the great honour of declaring officially open the Battlefield Park, enlarged in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek.

S/C