

National Historic Parks and Sites

The work of preserving and marking historical sites of outstanding national importance in Canada was inaugurated over twenty-five years ago, and is entrusted to the National Parks Bureau of the Lands, Parks and Forests Branch. The Bureau is advised in this important work by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body whose members, resident in various parts of the country, are historians of recognized standing.

Since the inception of this work the Board has studied the historic background of over 1,000 sites and of these, more than 350 have been selected for marking and maintenance. Many of these are associated with stirring events in the Dominion's early history and include Indian earthworks, villages, and portages; French trading posts, forts, and mission enterprises; sites connected with British exploration, and naval and military operations in the long struggle for the possession of Canada; and others relating to the economic, industrial, and political development of the country. The Board has also selected the names of over 150 outstanding personages in Canadian history for commemoration by the erection of tablets at their birthplaces.

An artistic design of bronze tablet is used for the marking of these sites and each bears a different inscription. The tablet in most cases is affixed to a field-stone cairn or a special design of monument, but in some instances it is placed on an existing permanent structure located on or near the sites being marked.

Among the important items of work proposed for this year, which have been approved by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board are the following:—

1. *Prince Edward Island National Park*—Cut stone monument with tablet to the memory of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of "Anne of Green Gables" and other novels, which had their setting in this locality.
2. *Saint John, New Brunswick*—Cut stone monument with tablet to commemorate the events connected with the early history of the lumber industry in Canada.
3. *Quebec City, Quebec*—Cut stone monument with tablet to the memory of Louis Jolliet, joint discoverer and explorer of the Mississippi.
4. *Owen Sound, Ontario*—Cut stone monument with tablet to commemorate the work of those who carried out the survey of the Great Lakes 1814-25.
5. *Welland, Ontario*—Secondary tablet to be affixed to the County Court House commemorating the public services of Brigadier-General Ernest A. Cruickshank, former member and Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
6. *Emerson, Manitoba*—Cut stone monument with tablet to mark the site of Fort Dufferin, headquarters of the Boundary Commission of 1872.
7. *Gleichen, Alberta*—Cut stone monument with tablet to commemorate the public services of Crowfoot, Chief of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

A tabulation of National Parks expenditures and revenue since the establishment of the first National Park in 1886 to the present, showed that the parks apart from their inestimable value as tourist and recreational centres, are making a tangible return on the moneys invested. Moreover in attracting travellers they benefit many places the visitor patronizes on his way to and from the parks.

The total expenditures on parks from 1886 to March 31, 1947, amounted to \$48,042,484.82, with a total revenue in the same period of \$7,775,151.04.

The amount in the main estimates for National Parks for 1946-47 is \$1,821,626. In addition, we have asked for a supplementary vote for the following purpose: