



Welcome!



Cultural Crossroads

*Step back in time to an era when
England and France were caught up
in a tug-of-war for supremacy in Acadia.
Learn about the origins and history
of the area's inhabitants.*

Star-shaped Fort-Beauséjour, overlooking the Bay of Fundy, was built by the French in 1751 to defend their interests in the isthmus of Chignecto. The Fort fell to the British in 1755 and was renamed Fort-Cumberland. In 1776, it repulsed an attack from sympathizers of the American Revolution. Reinforced for the War of 1812, it was abandoned in 1835 and declared a national historic site in 1920.



A Storied Past

Immerse yourself in the 18th century history of the Fort through the interpretive paintings of Lewis Parker. Imagine what everyday life in Siknikt /Chignecto was like for the Mi'kmaq, the Acadians, the British and French soldiers, and later the Planters and the Yorkshire settlers.

Enjoy the picnic sites along the dykes of the Tantramar Marshes and view a freshwater marsh. Explore the underground casemates and admire the panoramic view of the Bay of Fundy from the Fort's bastions.

Plan to spend an hour and a half touring the visitor centre, the museum and the historic features of the Fort. We hope you enjoy your visit with us.

History of Fort-Beauséjour – Fort-Cumberland

Though only one fort, Fort-Beauséjour has had two names, served two empires, and is a place with countless tales to tell.

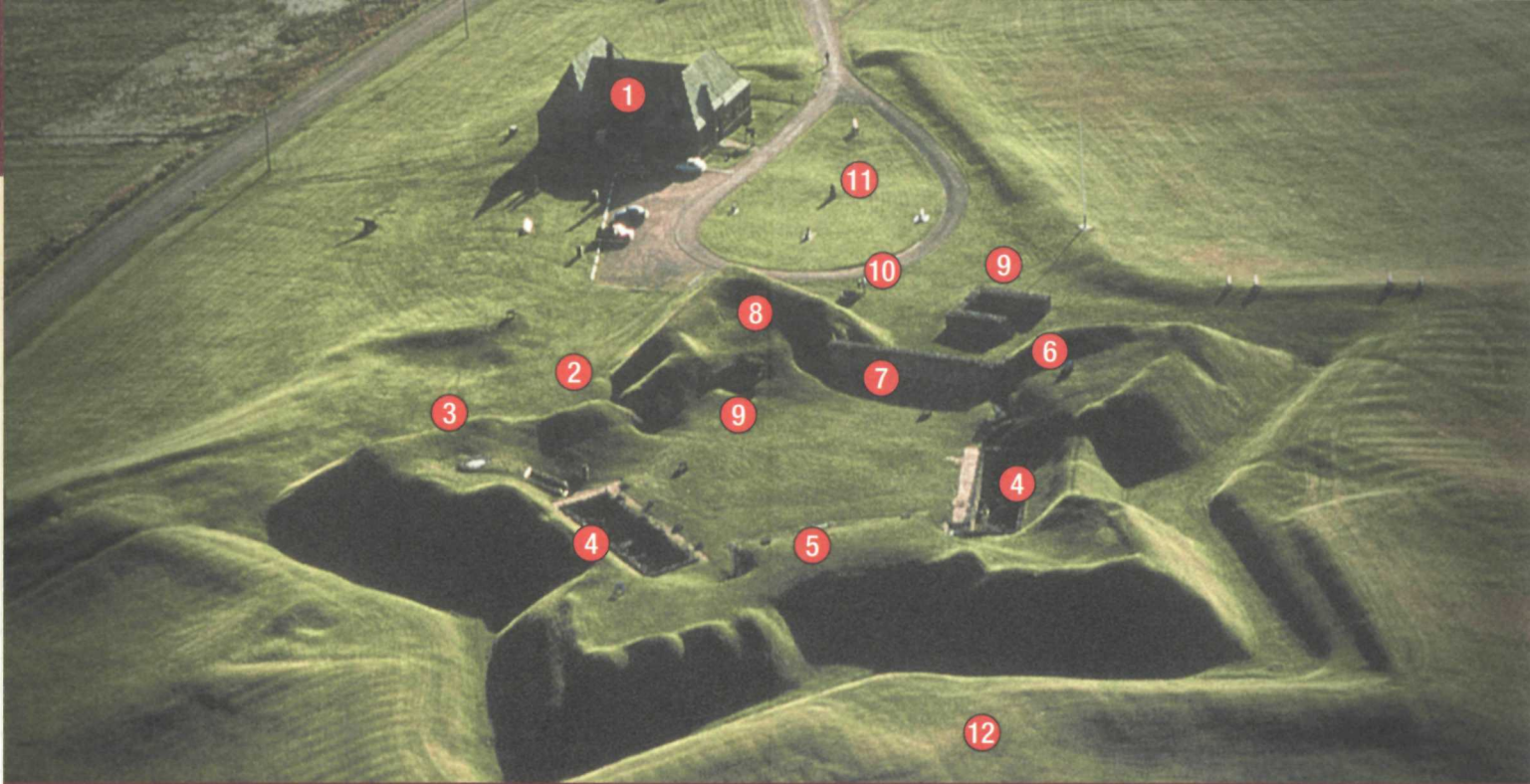
Here are the basic elements of the story:

- The Isthmus of Chignecto lays within Siknikt, one of the districts of Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people
- Acadians first settled in the region in the 1670s
- The French erected a fort atop Beauséjour ridge in 1750-51, to protect strategic interests in the Chignecto isthmus.
- British and New England troops captured the Fort from the French after a siege in June 1755.
- The Nova Scotia Council used the limited Acadian participation in the defence of Fort-Beauséjour as one of the reasons to begin a Deportation of Acadians in the Chignecto region in 1755. The Fort was used as the initial headquarters and prison for the Deportation.
- Under the name of Fort-Cumberland, this same fort witnessed a British garrison rout a rebel force from the United States under Jonathan Eddy in November 1776.



The Fort's History

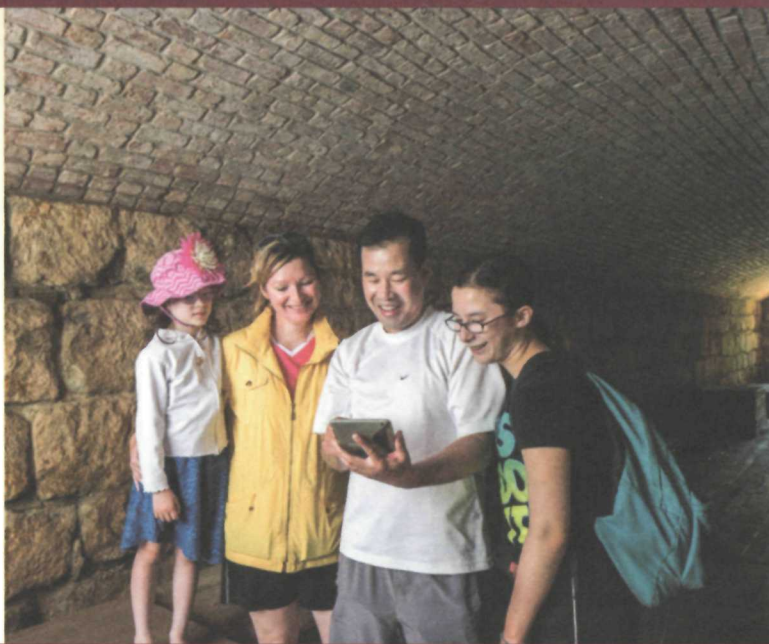
Fort-Beauséjour – Fort-Cumberland is one of Canada’s oldest forts. Constructed by the French in 1751 following a design by the famous military engineer, Vauban, the Fort today consists of the remains from both the French and the British periods, a pentagonal bastioned earthwork, including the glacis (the slope of earth extending downward from the fort wall) and spur (the British extension to the fort). Located just outside the fort are the still-visible remnants of the British entrenchments.



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| 1. Visitor Centre and Museum | 4. Barracks Foundations | 7. British Stone Curtain Wall | 10. British Well |
| 2. Main Entrance British Gateway | 5. British Stone Casemate and Officers Barracks, Former French Entrance | 8. British Sallyport | 11. Spur |
| 3. French Well and Stone Casemate | 6. French Wooden Casemate | 9. British Powder Magazine Foundations (18 th and 19 th centuries) | 12. British Encampment and Trenches |

Why a star-shaped fort?

The star-shaped Fort-Beauséjour reflects European engineering of its era. The type of fortification, perfected in the 17th century by Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban and taught to all French military engineers, has low profile walls protected behind long sloping earthworks, glacis, which deflected or absorbed cannon-fire. The star shape allowed guns mounted on the angled walls of the bastions, the points of the star, to cover the attackers’ approaches, more efficiently through the use of cross fire.



Where land, sea and sky meet

The Tantramar marshes form one of the largest tidal salt marshes on the Atlantic coast of North America. Barely above mean sea level, the marshes sit on deep silts deposited by centuries of tidal flooding. For at least 5,000 years prior to European contact, Indigenous peoples harvested the plants, wildfowl, small mammals and fish that abounded where the fresh and the saltwater meet.

The marshlands are also located on one of the major lanes of the Atlantic migratory bird flyway. In July and August, migrating shorebirds pour into the upper Bay of Fundy. This has had an influence on use of the lands surrounding the site. In the dykeland areas, a shift has occurred, particularly since the 1980s, from agriculture to wildlife conservation. Much of the land in front of the Fort is still used for cattle grazing, while some has been converted to wetlands and waterfowl habitat.

Bird watchers may also be rewarded with a sighting of a wide variety of marsh birds, including northern harriers, bald eagles, short-eared owls, red-winged blackbirds, a wide assortment of sparrows and many other small meadow birds.

Parks Canada

While in the area, watch for the Parks Canada beaver symbol on highway signs. These signs will lead you to the Monument-Lefebvre National Historic Site, and Kouchibouguac and Fundy National Parks.

How to Reach Us

Fort-Beauséjour – Fort-Cumberland
111 Fort Beauséjour Road
Aulac - New Brunswick, Canada - E4L 2W5
Tel: 506-364-5080
fortbc@pc.gc.ca
parks.canada.ca/beausejour

