



Planning for the Future

Consultation on The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site



An invitation to take part

The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site is planning its operations for upcoming years. To this end, we will be holding public consultations from May 15 to June 23, 2017. I encourage you to take part in this process by sharing your thoughts and suggestions.

The purpose of this consultation is to give the partners, community stakeholders and general public an opportunity to get involved in the decision-making process related to managing this national historic site.

The official document, which is to become a resource for managing the historic site over the next ten years (2017–2027), will be a "management statement," and will provide direction for the protection of cultural and natural resources, visitor experience, outreach and educating the public.

The management statement will also inform the site's operational activities for the coming years.

This national historic site belongs to you! Join the Parks Canada team in developing a common vision and in protecting this national historic site, while encouraging visitors to discover this unique place.

Nadine Blackburn
Superintendent
Mauricie and Western Quebec Field Unit

Parks Canada's Mandate

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.



The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site

The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site was designated as having national historic importance in 1970, as illustrated in the following commemorative statement:

"The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site commemorates the fur trade in the Montréal area."

The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site is located in Lachine, a borough in the western part of the island of Montréal, near the Lachine Canal and Lac Saint-Louis.

It reflects the significant part the Montréal region played in Canada's fur industry. This site was the departure and arrival point for Great Lakes trading expeditions.

The hangar was built in 1803 and served as a repository for trading furs and goods. The former Lachine fur repository, which was renovated at the beginning of the 1980s by Parks Canada, became an interpretation centre for the history of the fur trade in Canada.



Overview

- The site is open to the public during the summer months. However, the spring and fall seasons see the most traffic due to the increased number of guided tour groups.
- In 2016, the site drew 7,200 visitors, more than half of whom came as part of a group.
- Visitors can walk through the museum's permanent exhibition on the height of the fur trade and view a short film on the voyageurs who worked for fur merchants and companies. Visitors can also touch different animal pelts as well as the clothing and hats made from them.
- To support its reach and activity, the historic site works with several educational, municipal and museum community partners, including: Montréal Museums, Tourisme Montréal, the Musée de Lachine, the Lachine borough and the Commission scolaire de Montréal.



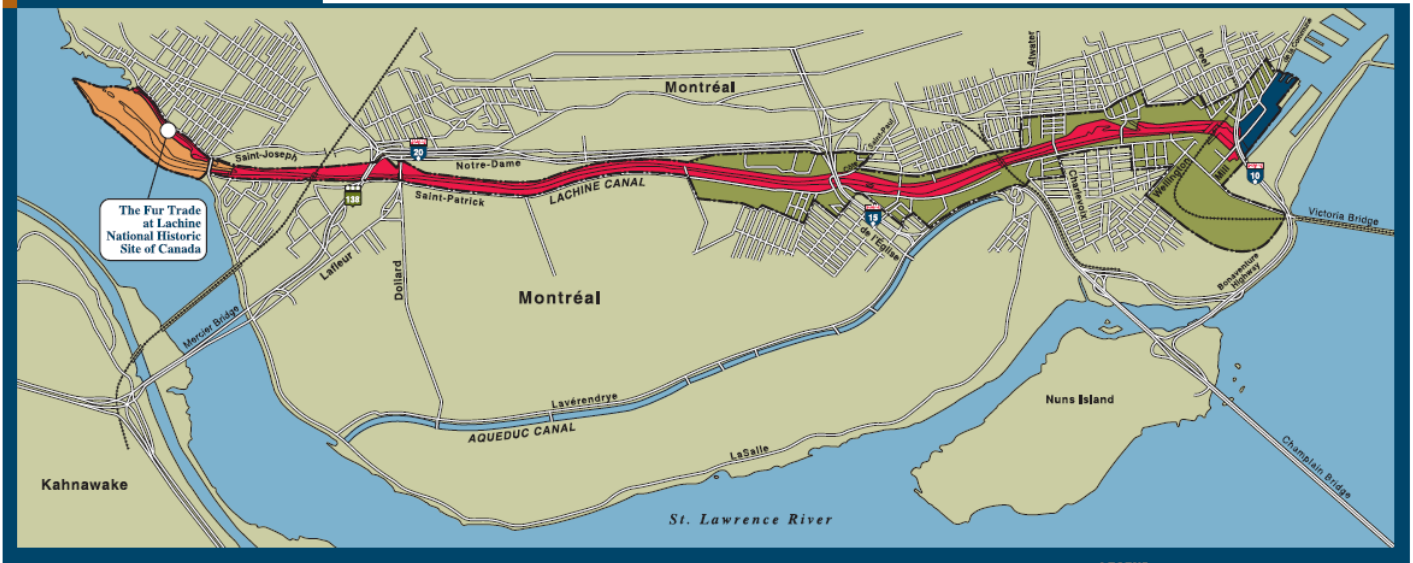
The Fur Trade at Lachine
National Historic Site

LOCATION



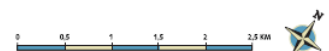
The Fur Trade at Lachine
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Location of the Site



LEGEND

- THE FUR TRADE AT LACHINE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
- LACHINE CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
- PARKS CANADA
- OLD PORT OF MONTRÉAL CORPORATION INC.
- CITY OF MONTRÉAL AND QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT
- CITY OF MONTRÉAL, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS



Key achievements since the implementation of the 2007 Management Plan

- Excellent preservation of the heritage building through regular maintenance (integrity score of 9/10).
- Restoration work on the building's original components.
- Development of new interpretation tools, including a mobile app and Xplorers booklet.
- Installation of a new video surveillance system
- Participation in Montréal Museums Day.
- Renewal of the agreement with the Lachine borough to maintain the promenade Père-Marquette.
- Renewal of the education program (this year)

Main challenge

- In 2013, attendance to the site went down by 55% from levels reached between 2006 and 2011 (the annual average of 12,500 visitors dipped to 5,600 visitors in 2013) This is due to a decrease in the number of groups visiting, in addition to the site's shorter operating season.
- Since 2013, the site revised its procedures by adjusting its operating season and its activities to cater to its primary clientele: groups. Their efforts paid off, as attendance improved, rising by 30% from its 2013 attendance level to 7,200 visitors in 2016.



Proposed approach to management

Parks Canada's goal is to continue on the management path established for The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site in 2014. This approach has been a successful one, as evidenced by the following: a 30% increase in attendance from 2013, the retention of a 9/10 score for commemorative integrity, a 96% visitor satisfaction rating and a 30% increase in revenue.

The location will remain a protected heritage site dedicated to the discovery and knowledge of the fur trade's place in Montréal's history. Parks Canada will also continue to work in partnership to expand the historic site's reach.

Management goals

Preservation of cultural resources:

Parks Canada protects the cultural resources of heritage sites in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. To maintain the site's commemorative integrity, The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site's purpose is to preserve cultural resources for current and future generations.

- ✓ Engage in set actions to preserve the building's budget
- ✓ Safeguard the most significant objects in the collection
- ✓ Monitor cultural resources on an ongoing basis to avoid major deterioration

Public understanding and appreciation:

Parks Canada aims to effectively transmit the topic of the Lachine and Montréal fur trades by welcoming visitors both on-site and online. To best respond to the expectations of recurring clienteles (school and tourist groups) and to increase attendance, the site will maintain efforts to adjust its activities and operating schedule.

Actions:

- ✓ Maintain the ability to welcome groups off season
- ✓ Maintain a relationship with school boards to offer interpretation programs adapted to the needs of teachers
- ✓ Ensure ongoing promotion targeting groups

Relationships with local and regional partners:

The National Historic Site would like to strengthen existing partnerships and periodically participate in upcoming Montréal museum and tourism initiatives to take advantage of opportunities to increase group visits. This will allow a greater number of Canadians to enjoy the site and will further its promotion within existing networks.

Actions:

- ✓ Participate annually in Montréal museum and tourism initiatives
- ✓ Maintain a partnership with the Lachine borough
- ✓ Continue to work in collaboration with The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site to improve the educational offering within the sector

Maintaining the site

Parks Canada maintains the property it manages to support the site's heritage value, to present a positive image to the public and to affirm the Parks Canada brand.

- ✓ Extend agreements to maintain and operate the site.
- ✓ Pursue Parks Canada initiatives to preserve national historic sites.

What do you think?

The present document summarizes and presents the site and its challenges, along with its managerial goals and approach. Now, it's your turn to take part in the discussion. Here is your chance to add to the conversation and help us develop The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site's management statement. Your knowledge of the area, combined with your experience of the historic site and the future you envision for it are important to us.

How can I take part?

There are two ways to share your opinion:

- Send your comments by email to: sebastien.bachmann@pc.gc.ca

Or

- By mail to:

Public Consultation on The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site
Parks Canada Agency at Fort Chambly
2 De Richelieu Street, Chambly, Quebec, Canada J3L 2B9

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information on the public consultation.

Visit the Parks Canada website:

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/qc/lachine/index>

You have until June 23 to share your opinions, comments or ideas with us, or to submit a memory.

Thank you for your participation!

