



Port-la-Joye– Fort Amherst National Historic Site



Walking Trails

1 Old Harbour Path

This paved and accessible 0.3 km interpretive trail shares the stories of Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst. Learn about its role in early European settlement during the Franco-British struggle for imperial dominance.

2 DePensens Path

This 0.2 km path connects the Old Harbour Path to the Skmaqan Trail. Named for Jacques d'Espriet de Pensens, esquire, officer of the colonial regular troops in Acadia, Placentia (Plaisance), and Isle Royale (Cape Breton Island); councillor of the Conseil Supérieur de Isle Royale; king's lieutenant and commandant of Isle Saint-Jean; knight of the order of Saint-Louis, who was instrumental in the early development of the French colony.

3 Farmscapes Trail

This 3 km trail boasts previously inaccessible landscapes, where historic farm properties dating from 18th century French and Acadian settlement era, and 19th century British settlement era, that were later established when cannon gave way to plough.

4 Alliance Alley

This 0.5 km path connects the Old Harbour Path and the Skmaqan Trail, and refers to the historic political alliance once formed between the Mi'kmaq and French officials.

5 Rangelight Row

This 0.6 km trail highlights two range lights, beacons of navigation that allow for safe entry to and exit from Charlottetown Harbour.

6 Skmaqan Trail

This 0.8 km trail, meaning "waiting" in Mi'kmaq, is named for the annual practice whereby Mi'kmaq leaders and Elders would assemble at Port-la-Joye to renew their political and military alliance with the French. Grand ceremonies of feasting, as well as speeches and presentation of French gifts would take place in the area along this trail.

7 Coastal Forest Path

This 0.3 km wood chip trail connects the Skmaqan Trail to the Visitor Reception Centre and weaves through a forested area along a section of Prince Edward Island's south shore coastline.

8 Survey Lane

This 0.3 km path is named for the fact that Samuel Johannes Holland began his survey of the British possession in North America from this small island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. His home and base command was located just adjacent to Fort Amherst.

9 Warren Farm Path

This 0.6 km gravel path is named Warren Farm after Walter Patterson's wife's family name. Patterson was St. John's Island's first Governor (appointed in 1769), and acquired farmland in this area.

Services and Facilities

- Exhibit
- Hiking
- Lookout
- Washroom
- Range Light
- Monument
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Accessible Trail



Spend the day at Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst National Historic Site

Pack a picnic basket and savour lunch atop the footings of the old British fort, as you take in panoramic views of Charlottetown Harbour. Spend the day surrounded by history and nature as you explore over 6 km of scenic trails. Bring a kite and ride the wind as it rushes over lush green fields and rolling meadows.

Services for Visitors with Disabilities

The Old Harbour Path interpretive trail and portions of the grounds are wheelchair accessible.

Pets

Only pets on a leash are permitted on the grounds.