



Sault Ste. Marie  
Canal  
National Historic Site

# Annual Management Plan

## Implementation Update 2019-20



Management plans identify the long-term strategic direction and vision for Parks Canada places. Plans provide a framework for site management, aligning with the Agency's mandate, vision and strategic outcomes. Management plans are guiding documents for decision-making and planning.

This annual update serves as a progress report to partners, stakeholders, and the public outlining our work in implementing the key strategies from the management plan over the last year.

### **KEY STRATEGY 1: Infrastructure Improvements - The Foundation for the Future**

This strategy is focused on rehabilitating and revitalizing infrastructure to conserve the cultural resources and provide new experiences for visitors.

- Site staff rebuilt windows and doors in the single-story Blacksmith's Shop, and air conditioning and accessible door features were added to the Stores Building.
- The interior design was completed for the Stores Building exhibit area and new visitor reception space.
- New display panels and exhibits moved to the fabrication stage with installation to take place in late 2020.
- Colourful banners were created for the site entry road and on-site directional signage was updated.



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## WHERE *the* WATERS MEET

This is where the mighty St. Marys River rapids plunge downhill, connecting Lake Superior and Lake Huron. It has always been a meeting place — known as Baawaating by Indigenous people, who came here to fish and trade medicines and natural resources like copper. By the late 1600s, fur traders from New France arrived, pushing their trade routes west. Two centuries later, in 1895, the last link in Canada's east-west navigation chain was fully realized, when the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was opened.

Fishing at St. Marys River, 1901.

## Là OÙ *les* EAUX CONVERGENT

Voici l'endroit où les puissants rapides de la rivière Ste-Marie se déversent, reliant le lac Supérieur et le lac Huron. L'endroit a toujours été un lieu de rencontre, connu sous le nom de Baawaating par les peuples autochtones qui venaient y pêcher et troquer des médicaments et des richesses naturelles telles que le cuivre. Vers la fin du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle, les commerçants de fourrures de la Nouvelle-France ont fait leur arrivée, repoussant les voies de commerce plus à l'ouest. Deux siècles plus tard, en 1895, le dernier lien de navigation entre l'est et l'ouest s'ouvrait avec l'inauguration du canal de Sault Ste. Marie.

Des pêcheurs dans la rivière Ste-Marie, 1901.



### KEY STRATEGY 2: Working Together with First Nations and Métis Partners

The intent of this strategy is to strengthen relationships with First Nations and Métis partners to better tell the entire story of the site.

- We continued to work with our First Nations and Métis partners on the panel design and text for the new interpretive elements in the Stores Building.
- We received Stories of Canada and Métis Reconciliation funding for research and production of our new exhibits

### KEY STRATEGY 3: The Gathering Place for History and Culture in Sault Ste. Marie

This strategy aims to enhance the experience at the site to increase visitation and create a vibrant community space.

- We introduced a Summer Tea Series and welcomed over 500 guests at the Residence
- We completed a new Xplorers booklet with engaging activities for children ages 6-11
- Our website saw 7,300 new users and engagement with our social media posts increased by 45%!



For more information on the site's management plan and to read past implementation updates, please visit the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site's Plans and policies page at: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/ssmarie/info/index>