



Photo: C. Reardon, 2003 Halifax Citadel National Historical Site of Canada



EXPERIENCES

Parks Canada's Newsletter – Autumn 2005

October 2005 Issue 1, Vol. 1

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WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of *Experiences*, Parks Canada's newsletter for stakeholders, partners and anyone who is interested in Parks Canada's mandate to protect and present Canada's natural and cultural heritage.

Designed with you in mind, every issue will feature articles of interest for stakeholders and partners on various aspects of the Agency and its work to achieve our exciting mandate.

The lead story in this issue of *Experiences* details how the federal budget of 2005 will affect the Agency. As a whole, Budget 2005 provided Parks Canada with additional funds totalling \$315 million over the next five years, followed thereafter by an ongoing permanent increase in Parks Canada's budget of \$98 million per year. Combined with the provisions of Budget 2003, this represents an increase of 42% in Parks Canada's base budget. The Government of Canada's commitment to our shared natural and cultural heritage is stronger than ever as demonstrated in this most significant single infusion of cash into Parks Canada since Confederation. With these new resources, there is no doubt that our dedicated team of employees, with the essential help of our partners, will succeed in maintaining and enhancing Canada's reputation as a world leader in heritage conservation.

Also in this issue, you will find information on the follow-up to the 2005 Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada, new tools for exploring Canada's historic places, our work with partners, Parks Canada's contribution to Canada's Kyoto Protocol commitment and much more.

Experiences is designed as an electronic document complete with hotlinks so click away for more information.

Enjoy!

Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada Agency



FEATURE STORY

BUDGET 2005

Parks Canada in Better Financial Position to Achieve its Mandate

Years of fiscal restraint had left Parks Canada facing many challenges in the fulfillment of its mandate to protect and present our shared natural and cultural heritage. With the passing of Budget 2005, the greenest budget ever tabled by a minister of Finance, the Government of Canada has provided the Agency with most of the tools needed to successfully confront these challenges.

Asset Recapitalization

Parks Canada manages assets all across the country worth over \$7 billion. According to Treasury Board of Canada guidelines, such an amount requires an annual investment of \$140 million just to conserve, rebuild and undertake major capital repairs of these assets. In recent years, however, the Agency's ongoing annual capital budget had only been \$40 million. Although the women and men of Parks Canada made outstanding efforts to fight the ravages of time and the harsh Canadian climate, such a shortfall only allowed us to address the most pressing cases, or forced us to close some places altogether to ensure staff and public safety.

In Budget 2005, to put an end to such a deficit, the Government of Canada provided Parks Canada with \$209 million in new funding over five years, to be followed thereafter by ongoing annual funding of \$75 million, to restore national historic sites, recapitalize visitor service facilities, update interpretive programs and displays, and renew critical infrastructure. The remaining amounts needed for maintaining Parks Canada's assets will be drawn from the Agency's other revenues, such as visitor fees.

Please visit www.pc.gc.ca to find out more on our asset recapitalization projects.

The Historic Places Initiative

Budget 2005 also allocated \$46 million over the next five years, followed thereafter by an ongoing annual amount of \$8 million, to continue the work we have been doing with partners in built heritage conservation through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). This Canada-wide program has been developed in conjunction with all provinces and territories, and has their unanimous support as well as that of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Big City Mayors' Caucus.

This new funding will help the Agency and its partners implement the various components of the HPI, such as the Canadian Register of Historic Places, which will eventually list all places of historic significance designated by the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments; the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a sort of "Building Code" for the rehabilitation of Canada's historic places; and the certification process for commercial built heritage conservation projects. Budget 2005 provides full funding for these projects.

Ecological Integrity

Building on Budget 2003, which provided a phased-in annual allocation that will eventually reach \$25 million in response to the report of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks, Budget 2005 provides an additional \$60 million over five years with continuing annual funding of \$15 million thereafter. By fiscal year 2009-2010, annual new investments in ecological integrity will total \$40 million. This represents a 50% budget increase since the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks submitted its report. Many valuable projects have already been undertaken to increase Parks Canada's capacity to monitor the health of our magnificent national parks.

Please visit www.pc.gc.ca for more on these ecological integrity projects. ♦

Proposed New National Park Reserve of Canada in Labrador

Torngat Mountains



Photo: Parks Canada, 1977

Key agreements have been signed by Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Labrador Inuit Association that will lead to the establishment of Canada's 42nd national park.

The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada will encompass roughly 10,000 km² at the northern tip of Labrador.

This national park reserve will protect an area of spectacular Arctic wilderness, with towering mountains, breathtaking fjords, gentle river valleys and rugged coastal landscapes — a land that has been home to the Inuit and their ancestors for thousands of years. The area is also home to a variety of wildlife including caribou, polar bear, wolf, arctic fox, peregrine falcon and golden eagle.

There is even a unique population of tundra-dwelling black bears.

The official establishment of the national park reserve will occur on the date that the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement comes into effect. In the interim, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador must transfer the land to Parks Canada, which has set up an office in Nain for administration. ♦

Torngat Mountains and the Iron Strand coastline area located in Labrador

National Historic Sites of Canada

Enhancing the System

One of the federal government's key objectives is to ensure that the system of national historic sites reflects the country's evolving history and heritage. The system of national historic sites can never be considered either finite or complete. Parks Canada is working with others to create a more representative system — one that truly reflects the rich history and heritage that defines Canada.

To be recommended for designation, a site, person or event will have had a nationally significant effect on, or illustrate a nationally important aspect of, the history of Canada. Designations are made by the Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), an advisory group with representatives from all provinces and territories. Canadians are invited to make submissions to the HSMBC by contacting its Executive Secretary. For more information, please visit: www.pc.gc.ca.

The Minister of the Environment recently approved the June 2004 recommendations of the HSMBC and designated the following new national historic sites, persons and events:

National Historic Sites of Canada:

- Saint Sulpice Seminary and its Garden National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC), Montréal, Quebec
- The Atwater Library of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal NHSC, Montréal, Quebec
- Argyle Township Court House and Jail NHSC, Tusket, Nova Scotia
- The Studio Building NHSC, Toronto, Ontario
- Saskatchewan Legislative Building and Grounds NHSC, Regina, Saskatchewan
- Motor Vessel BCP 45 NHSC, Campbell River, British Columbia
- Beaubassin NHSC, Fort Lawrence, Nova Scotia

National Historic Persons:

- The Honourable Cairine Reay Mackay Wilson (1885–1962), Ottawa, Ontario
- Philip Louis Pratley (1884–1958), Montréal, Quebec
- Harriet Tubman (1820 or 1821–1913), St. Catharines, Ontario
- Reverend William King (1812–1895), South Buxton, Ontario
- Nescambiouit (1660–1727), Odanak, Quebec
- Reverend Richard Preston (1791 or 1792–1861), Halifax, Nova Scotia

National Historic Events:

- Canada and the South African War, London, Ontario
- The Establishment of the Polymer Corporation, Sarnia, Ontario
- The Founding of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Montréal, Quebec
- The Franco-Aboriginal Alliance of 1603, Baie Sainte-Catherine, Quebec
- The Building of the Canso Causeway, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia ♦

WORKING WITH OTHERS

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA HELPS PROTECT NATIONAL PARKS

Parks Canada has recently entered into a formal agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to jointly invest \$7.5 million to expand and protect Canada's national parks. The two organizations will cooperate over the next four years to acquire and conserve lands that are crucial to maintaining the ecological integrity of selected national parks. In some cases the lands will be added to the parks, and, in others, they may be held as buffer or corridor lands by NCC and conservation partners. Lands may also be acquired to establish new national parks.

Parks Canada and NCC have a long history of cooperation going back to the 1980s, working together to add lands to, or create buffers around, several national parks of Canada for conservation purposes. In 1988, NCC negotiated the relinquishment of mineral rights within the boundaries of Grasslands National Park of Canada, enabling over 5,000 acres to be added to the Park. In 1999, NCC and Parks Canada worked together to secure Middle Island, Canada's most southerly point, as an addition to Point Pelee National Park of Canada.

The acquisition of crucial properties within or adjacent to existing national parks is key to maintaining or restoring their ecological integrity. Under the umbrella of this agreement, Parks Canada and NCC will work together to secure lands, increasing the ability of both organizations to protect Canada's natural heritage. ♦

MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS

From February 20th to 23rd 2005, over 70 people attended the Minister's Round Table (MRT) on Parks Canada at the Château Laurier National Historic Site of Canada in Ottawa. Organizations and individuals who are passionate about Canada's protected heritage areas, including Aboriginal partners, environmental, heritage, academic and tourism stakeholders, were brought together to review key issues affecting Parks Canada. The two main discussion themes were *Towards a Culture of Conservation* and *Facilitating More Memorable Visitor Experiences*. Participants brought considerable personal expertise to the meeting and clearly focused on how to achieve these larger goals. This group crafted fifteen recommendations for the Minister of the Environment.



The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment

Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, the Minister of the Environment had to respond publicly to any recommendations within 180 days of the MRT. His response is available at www.pc.gc.ca. The recommendations made, as well as the response of the Minister, will influence the direction of Parks Canada at a corporate and operational level. Progress in responding to the recommendations will be provided at the next Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada, tentatively scheduled for Fall 2006. ♦

Parks Canada's Climate Change Actions

Parks Canada helps achieve Canada's Kyoto Protocol Commitment

As part of Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, Parks Canada is required to reduce its annual output of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5.2% from 1998 levels by 2010. GHG reduction has been identified as a priority in Parks Canada's Sustainable Development Strategy (2001-2004). The reduction target is based on Parks Canada's ability to increase energy efficiency. The GHG reduction strategies focus specifically on improving the energy efficiency of Parks Canada's buildings, facilities and fleet and increasing employee awareness of GHG issues.

photovoltaic arrays, solar heating systems, wind and hydro turbines, and advanced building control systems. Some ongoing projects that promote GHG reduction are:

- Riding Mountain National Park of Canada (NPC) is currently implementing a bio-diesel transportation fuel pilot project. This bio-diesel project is a partnership between Riding Mountain NPC and the Clear Lake Golf Course. Waste vegetable cooking oil is collected and refined into useable bio-diesel. The golf course is burning B100 in their equipment (100% bio-diesel), and Riding Mountain NPC is burning B20 (20% bio, 80% normal petroleum diesel) in its equipment. Bio-diesel is not totally replacing the park's diesel fuel, but it is supplementing the fuel with a cleaner alternative.
- Fort Battleford National Historic Site of Canada has partnered with the Town of Battleford to build a Visitor Reception Centre and museum. Maximum energy conservation designs have been included in the plans for these new facilities. The main components will include a solar photovoltaic power source and three wind turbines for all electrical components of the building. A ground-source heat pump is being used for heating and cooling.



Photo: Kevin Bachewich, 2005

- Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada already has a 10kW wind turbine that provides 100% of the electricity requirements to the Cavendish Campground. This year, the park will install a 50kW wind turbine that will provide the necessary power for a "grid-free" new administration building and compound. ♦

Riding Mountain NPC has purchased three electric vehicles for use in the townsite of Wasagaming.

Parks Canada, 2004



Photovoltaic cells being installed on the new visitor reception centre at Fort Battleford NHSC.

Parks Canada has many innovative projects under way that employ technologies with increased energy efficiency such as ground-source heat pumps,

WORKING WITH OTHERS – GUEST EDITORIAL

by Randy Williams, President and CEO Tourism Industry Association of Canada

National Parks at the Heart of Sustainable Tourism

Congratulations to Parks Canada for its initiative in launching a stakeholder newsletter — an innovation that will no doubt contribute to the Agency's successful stewardship of Canada's national parks and historic sites. As no sector has a greater stake in that success than tourism, I am honoured, on behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC), to participate in the first issue.

This is an excellent opportunity to review the important role of our national parks — places for both nature and people — in the Canadian approach to sustainable tourism, which grew out of the relationship between TIAC and Parks Canada. We were able to resolve the conservation-experience dichotomy that had long governed relations between conservation authorities and private-sector interests, recognizing that these objectives are, in fact, inextricably linked: conservation enables experience and experience generates appreciation, which, in turn, reinforces conservation.

A milestone was the 2001 signing of the *TIAC-Parks Canada Accord for Sustainable Tourism*, in which our two organizations committed to a collaborative course of action to foster sustainable tourism, "tourism that is viable over the long term because it results in a net benefit for the social, economic, natural and cultural environments of the area in which it takes place."

Canada's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism, spearheaded by TIAC in the early 1990s, provided the foundation for this precedent-setting agreement, which has, likewise, served as a framework for multi-faceted action. For example:

- Parks Canada sponsored an addition to the TIAC National Awards for Tourism Excellence presented by *The Globe and Mail*. The Parks Canada Sustainable Tourism Award also includes a scholarship component.
- TIAC was instrumental in persuading the federal government to expand Canada's system of national parks and national marine conservation areas, and helped secure a substantial increase in the Agency's budget.
- Parks Canada worked with TIAC on a year-long update of *Canada's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism*, and provided support for its February 2005 Sustainable Tourism Issue Forum.

Canada's ability to ensure the sustainability of its tourism industry owes much to the strong and growing partnership between Parks Canada and TIAC and is now poised to go well beyond its scope. ♦

Photo: Auyuituq NPC

Inset Photo: Sirmilik NPC

TOURISM AND TRAVEL TRADE

Working with Tourism and Travel Trade Partners

As the federal agency responsible for Canada's largest network of attractions, Parks Canada works closely with the tourism industry and travel trade sector. Our dedicated Travel Trade Website www.pc.gc.ca/traveltrade provides updated business information for our partners, highlighting schedules, fees, new programs and profiling our systems of national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas.

Parks Canada also meets with travel trade partners at industry trade shows across North America. We meet face to face with operators to explore opportunities, present new, enhanced experiential programs (such as *Soldier for a Day* at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada and the various theatrical programs offered in the Mountain Parks) and to resolve any issues.

Our travel trade team will be at the following shows or conferences and would be delighted to meet with you:

- Bienvenue Québec, Québec, QC, October 18 and 19, 2005
- TIAC Tourism Leadership Summit, Québec, QC, October 23 to 25, 2005;
- Ontario Motorcoach Association Marketplace Toronto, ON, October 23 to 26, 2005;
- National Tour Association Marketplace, Detroit, MI, November 4 to 8, 2005;
- Canada West Marketplace, Victoria, BC, November 28 to December 1, 2005;
- Educational Travel Conference, Washington, DC, February 21 to 24, 2006;
- SeaTrade Cruise Shipping Convention, Miami, FL, March 13 to 16, 2006;
- Spotlight Canada, London, United Kingdom, March 13 to 15, 2006; and
- Rendez-vous Canada, Toronto, ON, April 22 to 26, 2006.

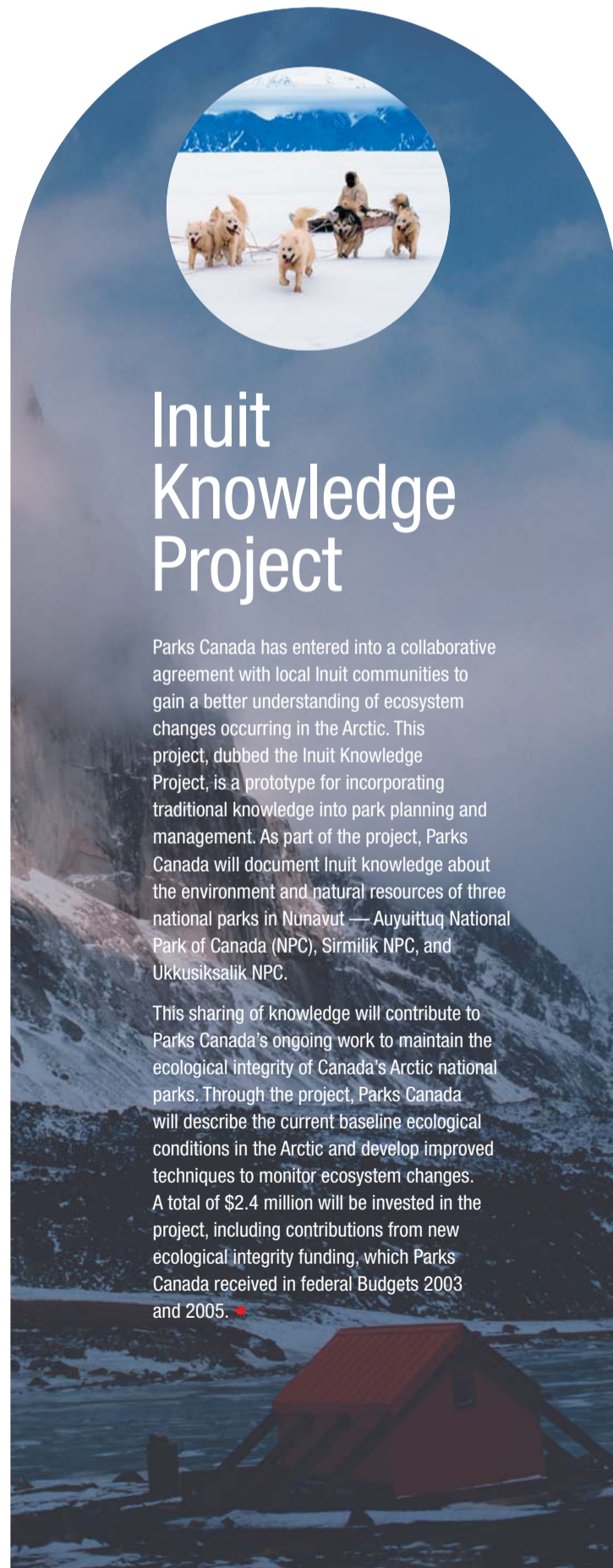
Be sure to look for us at your next travel trade or tourism conference. ♦

Inuit Knowledge Project

Parks Canada has entered into a collaborative agreement with local Inuit communities to gain a better understanding of ecosystem changes occurring in the Arctic. This project, dubbed the Inuit Knowledge Project, is a prototype for incorporating traditional knowledge into park planning and management. As part of the project, Parks Canada will document Inuit knowledge about the environment and natural resources of three national parks in Nunavut — Auyuituq National Park of Canada (NPC), Sirmilik NPC, and Ukkusiksalik NPC.

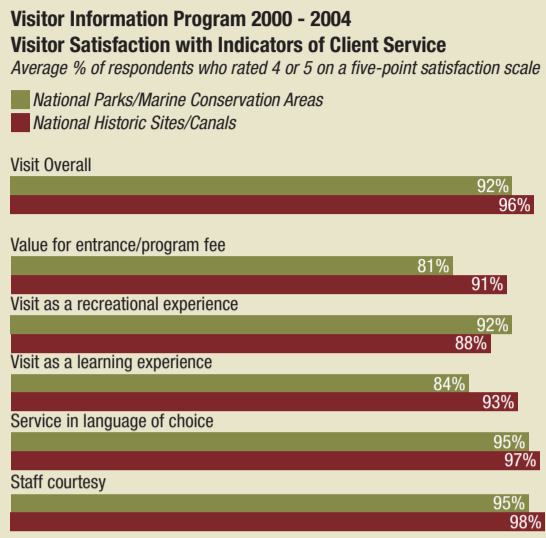
This sharing of knowledge will contribute to Parks Canada's ongoing work to maintain the ecological integrity of Canada's Arctic national parks. Through the project, Parks Canada will describe the current baseline ecological conditions in the Arctic and develop improved techniques to monitor ecosystem changes. A total of \$2.4 million will be invested in the project, including contributions from new ecological integrity funding, which Parks Canada received in federal Budgets 2003 and 2005. ♦

Photo: M. Beaudet, 1987
Inset Photo: W. Lynch, 1996



Knowing our Customers – the Visitor Information Program

Parks Canada receives over 21 million person visits annually to national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas of Canada. To better understand current and potential visitor needs and satisfaction, we conduct on-site interviews with visitors. This research allows us to monitor visitor markets, visitation history, the quality of service provided and socio-demographic profile. By better knowing our visitors, we can continue to deliver quality programs, activities and services, facilitating memorable visitor experiences. For more information on the VIP survey results, contact Sean Murphy at sean.murphy@pc.gc.ca.



Parks Canada National Public Opinion Poll 2005

Parks Canada conducted its second national public opinion poll during the spring of 2005. This was accomplished by a telephone survey of a sample of 6,086 Canadians from across the country. This research helps us better understand public sentiment, attitudes and beliefs, which will, in turn, help us improve communications with Canadians.

The poll results are currently being compiled and compared with the findings from a similar poll conducted in 2002. The report will be available before the end of the calendar year at www.pc.gc.ca.

CONSERVING CANADA'S BUILT HERITAGE

At Your Fingertips...

The Canadian Register of Historic Places

For years, much of the documentation that describes the significance of Canada's recognized historic places has not been readily available; it has been stored away in filing cabinets and inaccessible databases across the country. With the new Canadian Register of Historic Places, this information is now at your fingertips at historicplaces.ca.

The Canadian Register is an online searchable database that includes listings of historic places that are important to communities, cities, provinces, territories, and to the nation. The Canadian Register is part of the Historic Places Initiative, a national program through which Canada's local, provincial, territorial and federal governments are enabling Canadians to learn about, value, safeguard and enjoy our country's historic places.

Working together, Canada's various levels of government have created a national register that is flexible enough to work with the range of heritage programs across the country, while being uniform

enough to make searching for any one of Canada's 17,000 recognized historic places possible.

Historic places listed on the Canadian Register can be structures, buildings, groups of buildings, districts, landscapes, archaeological sites or other places in Canada that have been recognized for their heritage value. A historic place may have a range of values associated with it, including aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual values.

Currently, the Canadian Register includes about 2,000 historic place listings. Over the next few years this number will grow to over 17,000, and it will continue to increase as Canadian jurisdictions recognize more and more of our valuable cultural heritage.

Special Features – Mapping and Monthly Themes

The Canadian Register features a mapping tool to assist travellers, students and researchers in locating individual historic places. The mapping tool is interactive; you can zoom in to street level or zoom out to see the distribution of historic places from coast to coast to coast. This feature will be enormously helpful for those wishing to visit Canada's historic places and experience them first hand.

A second feature allows Canadians to tell stories about the places that matter to them. This monthly

feature, called Past/Present, presents two or three personal stories within the context of a theme, such as gardens, post offices and homes. If you have a story that you would like to share about a recognized historic place in Canada or if you would like to propose a monthly theme, please email us at historicplaces@pc.gc.ca.

Building Canada's Culture of Heritage Conservation

The rich content of the Canadian Register of Historic Places and the innovative features of historicplaces.ca give Canadians the opportunity to learn about and appreciate our country's recognized historic places like never before. This marks a new era in heritage conservation in Canada, an era in which we will be better able to understand, safeguard and enjoy the places that illustrate our history, define our communities and enrich our lives.

For more information about the Canadian Register of Historic Places or the Historic Places Initiative, please contact us at historicplaces@pc.gc.ca or at 1-866-632-6183.

PARKS CANADA PEOPLE

Changes in Parks Canada's Senior Executive

There have been two recent departures from Parks Canada's Executive Board. Mr. Nik Lopoukhine recently retired as Director General of National Parks, a position he had held since 2001. He is now serving as the chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas. After the successful completion of a competitive search, Mr. Doug Stewart has been appointed Director General of National Parks.

After thirty-five years of distinguished service, Dr. Christina Cameron has retired as Director General of National Historic Sites. In addition to providing direction for Canada's historic places, Dr. Cameron has headed Canada's delegation to the World Heritage Committee since 1990. Dr. Cameron has accepted the Canada Research Chair in Built Heritage at the Université de Montréal. Ms. Margaret Archibald has accepted an acting appointment as Director General, National Historic Sites.

Parks Canada is fortunate to have benefited from the guidance of these two outstanding executives; we wish them every success in their future endeavours.



Dr. Christina Cameron

Mr. Nik Lopoukhine

Parks Canada Employee Appointed to Order of Canada

Robert Grenier, Manager of Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology section, has been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada. A world leader in archaeology and underwater conservation, Robert has, among his many other achievements, discovered North America's oldest heritage wreck off the coast of Labrador. The innovative methods he developed at Red Bay made the site an international model for scientific research. A great communicator and renowned consultant, Robert has been associated with a number of films and projects, particularly the protection of the *Titanic* and the *Empress of Ireland*. Through his many commitments, such as the chairmanship of an international UNESCO committee, he has helped us understand the importance of preserving our underwater heritage.

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