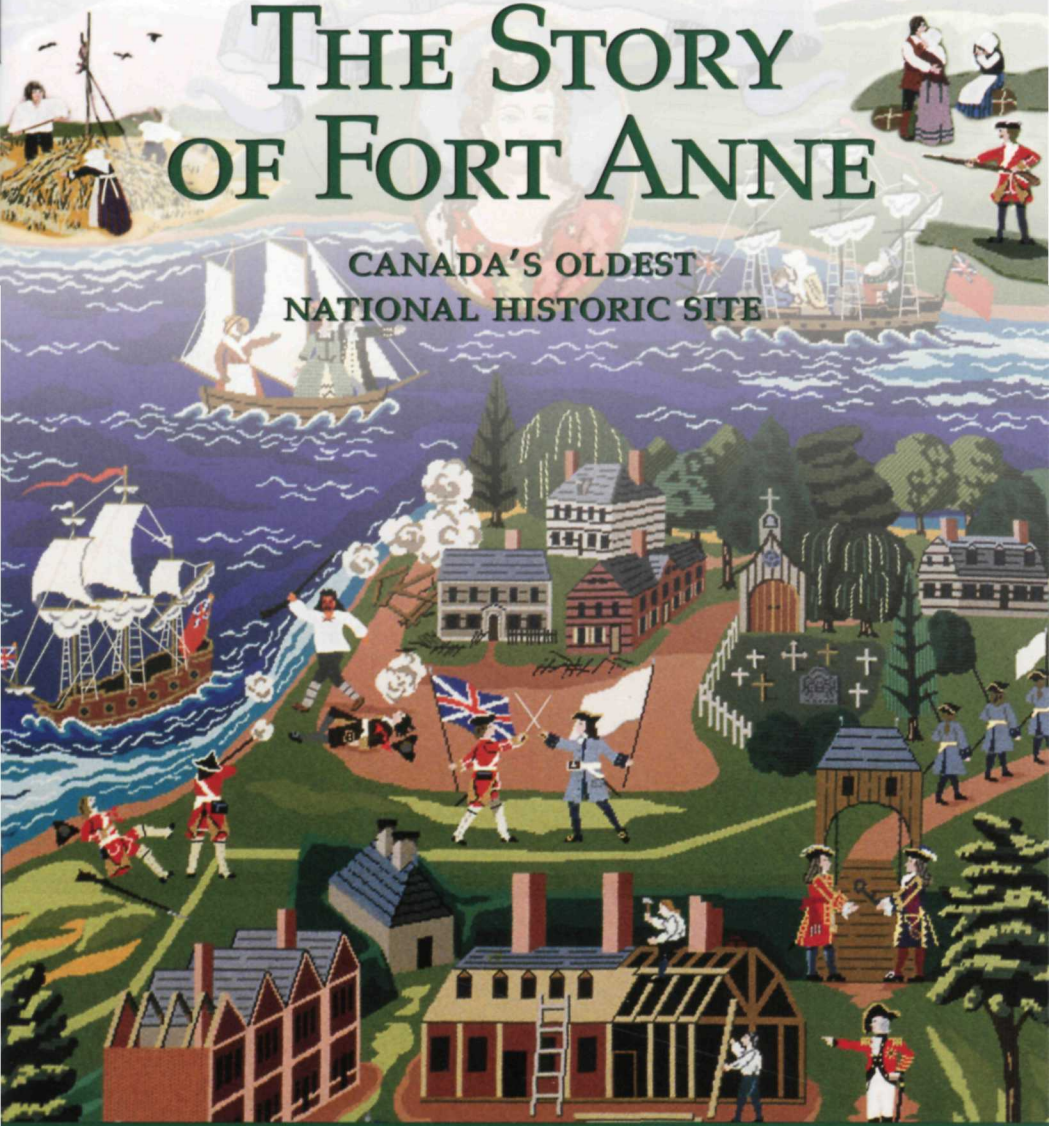




Capital, Colony and Bastion:

THE STORY OF FORT ANNE

CANADA'S OLDEST
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



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The story of how our country became what it is today is told through the national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas of Canada. Parks Canada works to protect and present our natural and cultural heritage so that it may continue to be enjoyed by present and future generations of Canadians.



A prospect of Annapolis Royal in NS, 1751, by J. Chamberlain
Public Archives of Canada (PAC) C9765

A NATIONAL TREASURE

Fort Anne is an extraordinary place. Its story reaches back more than 3,000 years, weaving together a tapestry of history that includes the First Nations, French, Scots, English and other peoples. Over the centuries, the place has been a camp site, farmland, seat of government and battlefield, and it remains an outstanding example of a Vauban-style fortification. A culture was born here and so was Canada's system of national historic sites. The story of this site spans centuries and touches people in Nova Scotia, across North America and in many parts of the world.

FIRST COLONISTS

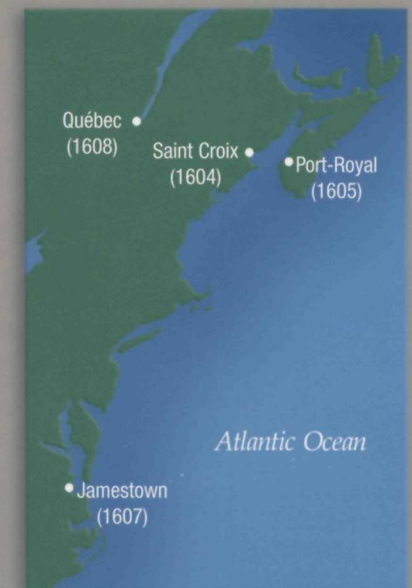
Although European colonization in the Americas started in the 1500s, it was not widespread until the next century. Early in the 1600s, before the English were at Jamestown and before the French landed at Québec, there was a French settlement on the shores of the Annapolis Basin.

In 1604, a French trading company sent an expedition, led by Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons, to this corner of North America to explore and colonize the French territories and to trade for furs. The colonists settled on an island in the St. Croix River. The winter was disastrous, with roughly half the men perishing from cold and scurvy.

In the summer of 1605, the expedition relocated to the Annapolis Basin. They established their fur-trading post near where Port-Royal National Historic Site of Canada stands today. The French traders learned to survive in this new environment with the help of the Mi'kmaq. They planted wheat where today we find Fort Anne and Annapolis Royal.

In 1613, an expedition from Jamestown, Virginia, burned the settlement of Port-Royal. This attack marked the beginning of 150 years of conflict between Britain and France for control of the region.

Early European settlements in North America
Parks Canada; Digital cartographic data compiled by
Tim Daly; Cartographic Design



THE MI'KMAQ

Long before Europeans sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, the Mi'kmaq lived throughout much of the Maritime Provinces of Canada. They called their land Mi'kma'ki. Archaeologists have found artifacts in Nova Scotia dating from shortly after the last ice age (around 11,000 years ago). Aboriginal use of the Fort Anne site goes back at least 3,000 years.

Traditionally, the Mi'kmaq lived in harmony with the natural world. They moved between the coast and the interior to take advantage of seasonally available resources from the sea and the land. The Mi'kmaq lived in what are now Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, eastern New Brunswick and the Gaspé peninsula.

The French maintained a generally close and positive relationship with the Mi'kmaq. The two nations were military allies and trading partners. The relationship between the British and the Mi'kmaq was often turbulent.

Today, the Mi'kmaq live on and off reserves throughout the Atlantic Provinces and in the Gaspé region of Quebec. The closest Mi'kmaq reserve to Fort Anne is the Bear River First Nation, located at Bear River. Bear River is also called Usetkuk.



Aboriginal artifacts
excavated at Fort Anne
Parks Canada

A Mi'kmaq family travelling by canoe
*Learning Resources and Technology,
NS Dept. of Education*



NEW SCOTLAND

Just as there was a New France and a New England, there was also a New Scotland. In 1621, James I of England issued to Sir William Alexander the charter of New Scotland – *Nova Scotia* in Latin – and granted him the land that is today Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé Peninsula.

Sir William Alexander's son, Sir William Alexander the Younger, led a group of Scottish colonists to the shores of the Annapolis River in 1629. The spot they chose for their fort and settlement was the site where Fort Anne stands today. Although the Scots' settlement was short-lived, it left an enduring legacy. The name, flag and coat of arms of Nova Scotia are all derived from this venture. In 1632, the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye returned the area to France.

THE FRENCH RETURN

Immediately following the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, an expedition led by Isaac de Razilly sailed to *Acadie*, or what is now Nova Scotia.

Madame de Brice teaching Mi'kmaw girls at Port-Royal
Parks Canada; Artist: Terry MacDonald, Fort Anne NHSC (1998)



Razilly was the Lieutenant-General of New France and Governor of *Acadie*. He and the colonists settled at La Hève, known today as LaHave, on Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast.

BIRTH OF A PEOPLE

After Razilly died in 1636, his first lieutenant, Charles de Menou d'Aulnay, assumed command and moved his base from LaHave to Port-Royal (today's Annapolis Royal), where he took over and modified the Scots' fort. D'Aulnay's fort and settlement were located on the grounds of present-day Fort Anne.

More settlers from France joined D'Aulnay's settlement after 1636. Eventually the people of *Acadie* developed an identity independent of France – they became *Acadiens*. In the 1670s, Acadians, as they are called in English, also lived in settlements in the Chignecto region and, in the 1680s, at Grand Pré, Pisiquid, Cobequid and other locations.



Nova Scotia Coat of Arms
Nova Scotia Museum;
Carving: Azor Vienneau

SALT-MARSH FARMING

Shortly after D'Aulnay arrived at Port-Royal, Acadians spread out along the *Rivière Dauphin*, today called the Annapolis River. They soon started the practice that became a defining characteristic of most Acadian settlements: dyking and reclaiming tidal salt marshes. This process turned marshes into productive farmland.

The salt marshes were flat, treeless and fertile – ideal for farming if they could be protected from tidal flooding and cleansed of salt. The French at Port-Royal built dykes to keep the salt marshes from being inundated by the tidal surge of the river. Over a two- to three-year period, rainfall washed the salt from the soil in dyked areas.

Initially, small areas were enclosed, then larger and larger areas were reclaimed. The first Acadian dykes were built along the Annapolis River. Later, the Acadians reclaimed and farmed salt marshes in other areas throughout the region.

ONGOING CONFLICT

The Acadians pursued their way of life regardless of whether the region was under a French or a British flag. Through the 1600s and into the mid-1700s, the Annapolis area was a military hot spot as France and Britain both sought control of northeastern North America.

Port-Royal was the military centre and seat of government for *Acadie*. Typically, whenever war broke out between the two mother countries, New England launched attacks against Port-Royal. They captured it in 1654, 1690 and 1710.

A BASTIONED FORT

In the early 1700s, Pierre-Paul Delabat, a French engineer, planned and supervised the construction of a new fort at the junction of the Annapolis and Allain rivers. The new fort was star-shaped and designed according to the principles of Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban, the French master of fortification design. Today, the ruins of that fort

are known as Fort Anne National Historic Site of Canada. The colony of *Acadie*, and later Nova Scotia, was governed from this fort.

A FINAL CHANGE OF HANDS

A British expedition led by Francis Nicholson took Port-Royal from the French in 1710 for the last time. A fleet of 35 ships from Britain and New England brought more than 2,000 men to besiege the fort. Poorly equipped and greatly outnumbered, the French offered little resistance. After eight days, Governor de Subercase surrendered the fort and an area of five kilometres around the village.

Acadie “with its ancient limits” was formally ceded to the British in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. The British changed the name of Port-Royal to Annapolis Royal and reinstated the name “Nova Scotia” for the territory. The so-called “ancient limits” were never defined.

The British governed Nova Scotia from the fort at Annapolis Royal until Halifax was founded in 1749. Civil disputes were brought before

the governing council at the fort for resolution. Acadian deputies, elected by the people, came to the fort to receive orders from the council, and to make representations on behalf of their communities. In 1726, some Acadians came to the fort to swear a conditional oath of allegiance to the British Crown. The matter of oaths was complex; for more than 30 years it was the central issue in the strained relationship which developed between the British authorities and the Acadians.

CONFLICT IN THE 1720s

The Mi'kmaq relationship with the British was much different than it had been with the French. In the 1720s the Mi'kmaq joined with other First Nations in a war against the British. Although attacks happened on land, such as one on Annapolis Royal in 1724, most conflicts occurred at sea. Mi'kmaw seafarers captured dozens of English trading and fishing vessels and their cargoes. When the conflict ended, Mi'kmaw and other chiefs came to the fort at Annapolis Royal in 1726 to ratify the treaty signed in Boston in 1725.

WHERE EXACTLY IS PORT-ROYAL?

Port-Royal was the name given by Samuel de Champlain in 1604 to the Annapolis Basin. The name came to cover an area that included today's Annapolis Basin and Annapolis River and their shores up to Paradise. Beginning in the 1630s, Port-Royal was also the name of the village that grew up around D'Aulhay's fort; this is present-day Annapolis Royal.

Port-Royal is today the name of the national historic site located about 10 km beyond Annapolis Royal.

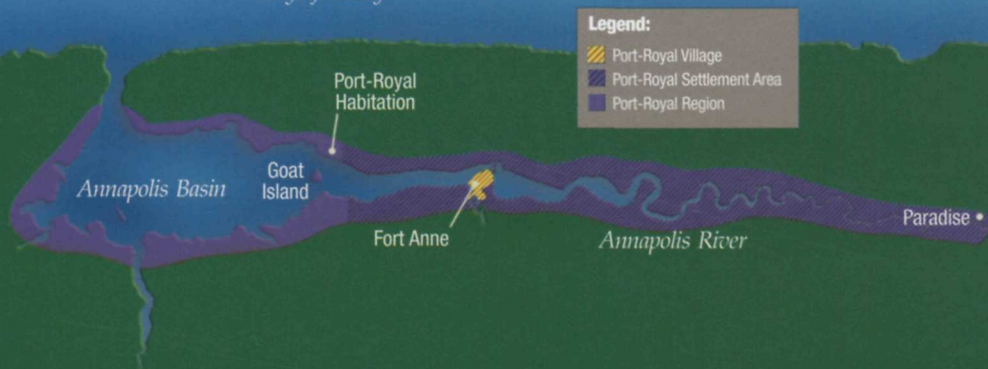


MAJOR ACADIAN AREAS, 1750



Parks Canada. Digital cartographic data compiled by Don Bonner

Bay of Fundy



FRENCH ATTACKS ON ANNAPOLIS ROYAL IN THE 1740s

After 1710, the British kept a garrison at Annapolis Royal yet did not maintain the defences well. The French retained their colonies of New France, which included Canada (an area along the St. Lawrence River), Île Royale (Cape Breton Island) and Île Saint Jean (Prince Edward Island). They also kept their ambition to regain Acadia. Intending to retake Annapolis Royal and re-establish *Acadie*, the French launched attacks in the 1740s.

One attack came in 1744 when Captain François Du Pont Duvivier of Louisbourg led a combined force of French soldiers and First Nations warriors in a prolonged siege of the fort. For about a month, Duvivier's force attacked at night under cover of darkness and harassed the British garrison. The defenders became fatigued and dispirited but the commandant, Paul Mascarene, rallied his officers. The fort was saved when reinforcements arrived from New England.

THE GREAT UPHEAVAL

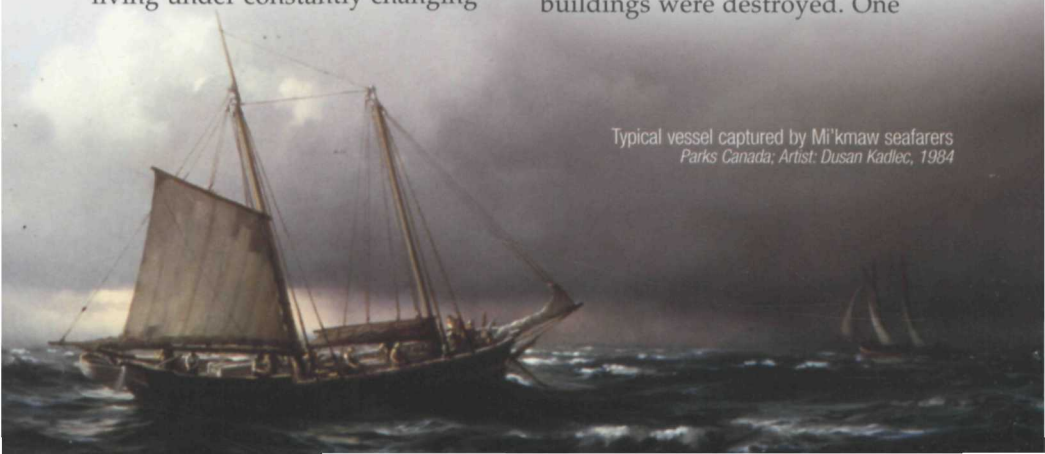
After 1713, the Acadians lived under British rule much as they had under the French. Ongoing tensions between France and Britain prompted the Acadians to seek a position of neutrality. After generations of living under constantly changing

governments, they were wary of committing to either side. In 1755, with war looming between France and Britain, acting Governor Charles Lawrence and the Nova Scotia Council demanded that representatives of the Acadians come to the new capital of Halifax to swear an unconditional oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Twice in July 1755, the Acadian deputies refused, insisting on their neutrality.

In the late summer and early autumn of 1755, thousands of Acadians in Beaubassin, Grand Pré and Pisiquid were brought into detention centres to await deportation. All their buildings were burned, all their animals and all their crops were seized. In Annapolis Royal, however, the situation was different. There was a long-standing relationship between the Acadians and the British garrison, formed through 45 years of co-existence. Consequently, the people remained briefly at liberty. Meanwhile, Annapolis Royal was a port of call for military and transport vessels active in the Deportation elsewhere in the region.

In early December 1755, the Acadians of the Annapolis Royal area were rounded up and crowded onto seven transport ships. On the eighth of December 1755, over 1600 Acadians of the Annapolis Royal area were transported to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and South Carolina. Once they were gone, their homes and out-buildings were destroyed. One

Typical vessel captured by Mi'kmaw seafarers
Parks Canada; Artist: Dusan Kadlec, 1984





Detail of Fort Anne Heritage Tapestry showing the ratification at Annapolis Royal, in 1726, of the treaty signed the previous year in Boston *Parks Canada; Artist/designer: Kiyoko Grenier-Sago*

transport vessel, the *Pembroke*, bound for North Carolina was taken over by Acadians, who then escaped up the Saint John River.

8

The Deportation lasted eight long years, completely disrupting the lives of all Acadians, who numbered between 12,000 and 14,000. As in other locations, some from the Annapolis Royal district managed to evade deportation. Approximately 300 fled to areas still controlled by the French. The loss of life among Acadians on the ships, in the woods and in the prisons was high.

For those who survived the tragedy, the banishment of the Acadians was not permanent. In 1764, with war over, the British removed the prohibition against Acadians returning. Most who came back could not resettle their former properties. Their lands had been granted to English-speaking "Planters" from New England. The returning Acadians were forced to settle in scattered, marginal areas away from the fertile lands they had once farmed.

MILITARY OUTPOST

When Halifax became the capital and stronghold of Nova Scotia in 1749, the fort and civilian community at Annapolis Royal diminished in

importance. The fort became an outpost with a relatively small garrison. It was a quiet period for the fort. During the American Revolution, the British strengthened their defences throughout Nova Scotia and Fort Anne was one of the renovated posts. The threat from the former Thirteen Colonies was real. In 1781, American privateers attacked Annapolis Royal, capturing the fort and the town. This was the last time the fort was involved in an actual combat.

There was a brief revival in the late 1790s, when the British constructed a new Field Officers' Quarters. This building still stands, an impressive heritage structure that houses interpretive exhibits and the Fort Anne Heritage Tapestry, which tell the story of the fort and town.

It was in the 1800s that the old fort became known as Fort Anne. It continued to play a military role until 1854. Its buildings gradually deteriorated or were destroyed by fire until the Officers' Quarters was the only remaining barracks. Attempts to keep the sandy ramparts from collapsing into the ditch were abandoned.

Unlike the fort, the town of Annapolis Royal prospered during the 1800s. Businesses grew during Nova Scotia's golden age of ship-

FORT ANNE TODAY

The fort was originally constructed of earth with wooden retaining walls as necessary. The mounds of earth that ring the parade square are the original ramparts of the fort, much diminished through erosion.

From the late 1600s to the 1800s, forts with similar design features were built at many locations throughout Europe and North America.

Legend:

- 1 A ravelin is a triangular defensive work built in the ditch in front of the curtain wall.
- 2 The glacis is a slope of land approaching a fortification which is shaped so all areas are exposed to cannon and musket fire from the fort.
- 3 The covered way is a path that runs around the ditch and is protected by the slope of the glacis. Often an earthen step was located on the covered way for soldiers to stand on and fire down the glacis.
- 4 The ditch is a trench around the fortifications that slows the advance of attacking troops.
- 5 Bastions are defensive works that project beyond the main walls of the fort allowing troops to more easily defend the curtain walls.
- 6 A curtain wall is a long, defensive wall that joins two bastions.
- 7 Officers' Quarters / exhibits
- 8 Powder magazine
- 9 French powder magazine, also called "Black Hole" when it served as a prison
- 10 Location of Scots Fort

Aerial photo of the fort
Parks Canada; Photo: Jocelyn D'Entremont

Fortification cross-section

Parks Canada; Illustration: Herb MacDonald



Star-shaped forts create areas of crossfire and allow the land surrounding the fort to be more easily defended.
Parks Canada; Illustration: Herb MacDonald

building. The town's wealthier residents built large homes along upper St. George Street. Those picturesque and handsome buildings help create Annapolis Royal's distinct charm.

A HERITAGE TO SHARE

In 1854, the British withdrew the garrison from Annapolis Royal and the state of the fortifications deteriorated. The fort's blockhouse was torn down in the 1880s without any prior notice being given to the people of Annapolis Royal. A group of outraged citizens successfully petitioned the Government of Canada for support in protecting Fort Anne. They embarked on a series of works aimed at improving the site. In 1917, the site was made a Dominion Park, the earliest historic site in today's Parks Canada system of national historic sites.



Destinations of Acadians deported from Annapolis Royal in 1755

Parks Canada; Digital cartographic data compiled by Tim Daly; Cartographic Design

British soldiers defending the fort, 1744
Parks Canada; Artist: Herb MacDonald



COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT FORT ANNE

1. *How many forts have been built on the site of today's Fort Anne?*

There have been five, beginning with Charles Fort, now called Scots Fort, built in 1629.

2. *How many times was Port-Royal/Annapolis Royal attacked?*

There have been at least 13 occasions. The list below was compiled from the detailed history of the community authored by Brenda Dunn, *Port-Royal/Annapolis Royal, 1604-1800* (Halifax: Nimbus Publishing, 2004).

3. *Have there ever been any archaeological excavations at Fort Anne?*

Archaeological research has been undertaken on several occasions, most recently in the 1980s and 1990s. Parks Canada archaeologists found evidence of the Scots' fort of 1629 as well as the D'Aulnay fort of 1643. Within the parade square, the governor's residence was excavated. Some artifacts found in the excavations are on display in the site's main exhibit.

ATTACKS ON THE FORT

1643	La Tour attack on D'Aulnay (French attack French)
1654	Sedgwick attack and capture (English attack French)
1690	Phips capture of Port-Royal (English attack French)
1704	Church blockade of French port (English blockade French)
1707	(June) John March attack (British* attack French)
1707	(August) John March attack (British attack French)
1710	Nicholson siege and capture (British attack French)
1724	Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) attack (First Nations attack British)
1744	(June) Mi'kmaw attack (First Nations attack British)
1744	(September) Duvivier attack (French attack British)
1745	Marin attack (French attack British)
1746	De Ramezay blockade, with skirmishes in vicinity of British fort (French blockade British)
1781	American privateers attack and capture of the British fort and town (Americans attack British)

* Scotland and England united as Great Britain in May 1707; after that, the term "British" is used.

4. *Are the cannon original to the site?*

None of the cannon are original to the site although some are typical of the guns used in the 1700s and 1800s. Since the establishment of this historic site, many guns have been brought to the fort to create a military ambience.

5. *What are the slits in the walls of the gunpowder magazine?*

The openings in the walls of the magazine are part of a ventilation system that allowed air to circulate and keep the gunpowder dry.

6. *What was the exhibit building used for?*

It was originally constructed as an Officers' Quarters by the British. Its construction was ordered by Prince Edward, later Duke of Kent, in 1797.

In the late 1800s, the former Officers' Quarters became tenement housing. Among the occupants were poor families of African descent. Slaves and free Blacks had come to the Annapolis Valley with the Planters in the 1760s and with the Loyalists in the 1780s.

The Planters were people from New England who settled in Nova Scotia after the Acadians were deported. The Loyalists were refugees loyal to the British Crown who settled in Nova Scotia after the American Revolution.

7. *After the British garrison was closed in 1854 there was a period of about 60 years before the site became a national historic site. What happened to the site in that time?*

During the last half of the 1800s, the site was no longer

After Fort Anne became a national historic site, plaques were erected to commemorate significant people and events associated with the fort.
Parks Canada



maintained as a military installation. The earthen walls deteriorated, the site was leased to private interests, and the grounds were used to graze animals.

Early in the 20th century there was a movement by private individuals to preserve the ruins of the fort.

8. *Why were the Acadians deported?*

There were many factors. One common interpretation maintains that in 1755, the British thought that war would soon break out between France and Britain and their respective allies. The Nova Scotia Council demanded that the French-speaking inhabitants of the colony, the Acadians, swear an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. When the Acadians

refused, insisting on their own neutrality, the Council resolved to deport them.

9. *Where are there large concentrations of Acadians and people of Acadian descent today?*

There are concentrations of Acadians and people of Acadian descent in Canada's Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island), Quebec, France and Louisiana. Although no Acadians were deported to Louisiana, the Cadiens* are descended from Acadians who subsequently migrated there beginning in the 1760s. There are also people descended from the Acadians along the eastern seaboard of the United States. Small pockets of Acadians can be found in various other

places around the world.

**The Cadiens are the French-speaking people of Louisiana. They are also called "Cajuns."*

10. *What religion were the Acadians?*

In the 1600s and 1700s, all Acadians were Roman Catholic.

11. *Where are the Acadians of Port-Royal buried?*

Port-Royal was part of the Roman Catholic parish of St. Jean Baptiste. By the mid-1600s, a parish cemetery was well established near the fort at Port-Royal. The parish comprised the Acadians from the Port-Royal area and the French soldiers and administrators from the garrison along with their families.

After 1710, the British garrison established a Church of England

cemetery in the same area as the Acadian cemetery. This led the Acadians to bury in other locations in the community of Port-Royal.

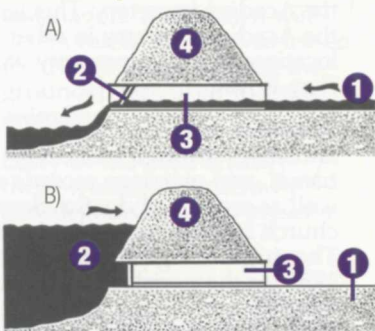
Acadians can trace their ancestries through birth, baptismal, and marriage records as well as records of deaths. Some church records have survived. The original registers for 1702-1755 for the parish of St. Jean Baptiste are located at the Centre acadien at the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia.

12. *Why are there no Acadian grave markers?*

The early French graves were marked with wooden crosses, which rotted away over time, leaving no visible indication of specific graves.



13 What is a dyke and an aboiteau?



Legend:

- A) Aboiteau at low tide
- 1 Flow of fresh water from the marsh
 - 2 Clapper valve opened by the pressure of the flow of the fresh water
 - 3 Sluice
 - 4 Dyke
- B) Aboiteau at high tide
- 1 The drained marsh is below sea level
 - 2 Clapper valve closed to prevent salt water from entering the dyked area
 - 3 Sluice
 - 4 Dyke

A dyke is an earthen bank built to prevent land from being flooded. Acadians built dykes to reclaim salt marshes for cultivation. These dykes, usually three to four metres high, stopped salt water from flooding the marshland being reclaimed. They were wide at

the base and narrowed at the top; the top was sometimes wide enough to use as a road for walking or travelling by ox cart.

The aboiteau is the main working part of the dyke. The term refers to the sluice and to the section of dyke that covers it. Aboiteaux are located where there are marsh creeks. The clapper valve allows rain water to drain off the marshland, yet prevents the tidal sea water from entering the dyked area. Over a two- to three-year period, rainfall washes the salt from the soil, making it suitable for farming.

14 What does Annapolis mean?

"Polis" is the Greek word for "city", so Annapolis Royal means "the royal city of Anne." Queen Anne was monarch of Great Britain in October 1710 when Colonel Francis Nicholson and his New England troops captured Port-Royal. Colonel Nicholson changed the name to Annapolis Royal to honour his queen. Queen Anne was the last monarch of the House of Stuart. In 1695, Nicholson had named Annapolis, the capital of Maryland, to honour the then Princess Anne.

Depiction of the 1745 period
Parks Canada; Artist: Ivan Murphy, 2001





Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal *Parks Canada*; Photo: Ron Garnett



Unveiling of memorial tablets at Fort Anne, 1921 *Parks Canada*

For more information:

Fort Anne National Historic Site of Canada

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www.pc.gc.ca

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