



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES ON CAPE BRETON ISLAND
LIEUX HISTORIQUES NATIONAUX DU CAP-BRETON

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Canada's First Astronomical Observatory 1750

To celebrate the International Year of Astronomy, the Fortress of Louisbourg has recently opened an exhibit featuring three exhibit panels commemorating the establishment of Canada's First Astronomical Observatory.

Chabert's Mission - It was because of the imprecise nature of longitudinal measurements in North America that the Marquis de Chabert, a respected French astronomer, was commissioned in 1750 to go to North America to correct the maps of the coasts of Acadia, Ile Royale and Newfoundland. Chabert had to determine the longitude of Louisbourg but he also recorded observations on the stars and the moon, as well as the tides and the climate. Within two years of his return to France, the French Royal Academy published Chabert's book documenting his findings in Ile Royale (Cape Breton.)

Canada's First Observatory - Canada's first observatory for viewing the planets and stars was built here on the left flank of the King's Bastion in 1750. A well-constructed timber-frame cabin, the observatory had windows, doors, locks and board siding. The instruments

included eight telescopes. Six were refracting telescopes with focal lengths between three and 18 feet. There was also a Gregorian reflecting telescope with a focal length of three feet as well as a telescope for measuring angles. The observatory also had a seconds clock, terrestrial globes, maps of the stars and an octant.

Why the Observatory Constructed at Louisbourg - Louisbourg was selected as the principal site for astronomical observations because of its critical geographical location for French Atlantic shipping and its proximity to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the gateway to Canada's hinterland.

An Observatory was Essential for Accurate Maps - Unlike today's navigators, those in the eighteenth century did not have sophisticated instrumentation for determining latitude and longitude. While computing latitude in the mid-eighteenth century was an accurate procedure, the same could not be said for the means of determining longitude, a measurement east or west of the prime meridian. By the 1750's navigators did not know how to obtain an accurate reading of longitude at sea. So desperate were such



seafaring nations as England, France, Holland and Spain to render navigation an exact science, that they passed legislation offering substantial rewards and prizes to astronomers and navigators who could devise a proven method for calculating longitude. *Submitted by Ken Donovan*

of the role we play in protecting these places and facilitating their discovery.

Parks Canada Brand Statement:

Parks Canada will be recognized as the leading organization that engages Canadians and people around the world through personal moments of inspiring discovery of our treasured natural and historic places because we combine exemplary conservation practices, higher quality services and programs, welcoming staff and a capability to share knowledge.

Reflecting our brand consistently will reinforce our position as a world leader in the management of protected heritage places and increase our relevance to Canadians by strengthening their appreciation and support for the work that we do to achieve the Parks Canada Vision:

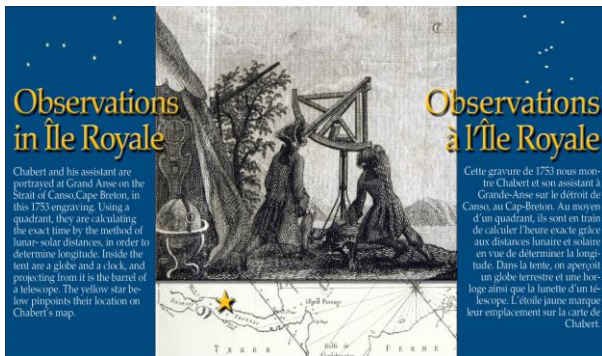
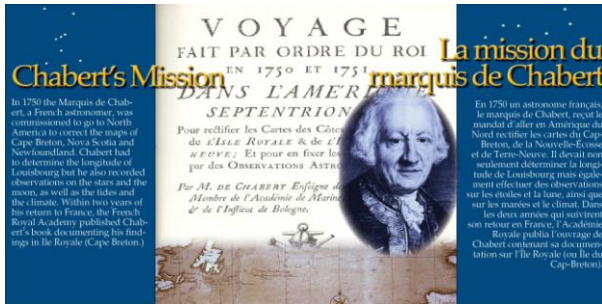
Canada’s treasured natural and historic places will be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada.

Real. Inspiring.

Long Service & Retirees Awards

Long Service Awards were presented to a number of employees on September 28th in the Bigot Theatre. Chip Bird, Field Unit Superintendent welcomed all in attendance and talked about the importance of their work. Managers presented the awards and gifts to the recipients. See pictures on last page.

Loretta Andrews, who retired this past summer, was also honoured at this event. Chip spoke of her contributions over the 30 years of her service to Parks Canada



Parks Canada – Branding

The Parks Canada brand is our means of building greater awareness of the unique places that define our country and fostering a stronger, deeper understanding

and in particular to the Fortress of Louisbourg and Alexander Graham Bell sites. Pictures of Loretta are also on last page.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN 2009

It's that time of year again when I'll be calling upon you for your continued, generous support of the United Way. As always, this can be done either by cash or payroll deductions. I thank you on behalf of The United Way of Cape Breton. Please contact me at Local 3501 if you have any questions. *Anne Marie Coutinho*

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS 2009/2010

This year's campaign will soon be underway. Anyone wishing to purchase a bond for the first time please see Anne Marie Coutinho before October 26th. If you already have a bond and want to make changes such as increase or decrease the amount you now pay, the toll free number to call is **1-877-899-3599**.

Anne Marie Coutinho

News from AGB

Harvest Home at Beinn Bhreagh

We were delighted that the Bell family descendants offered the grounds of Beinn Bhreagh Hall as the venue for our 2009 Harvest Home celebration. Almost 300 visitors took advantage of the opportunity of attending with either the 10 a.m. morning event or the afternoon 1:30 p.m. event. They paid regular admission fees at AGBNHSC and travelled by motorcoach to the Warehouse at Beinn Bhreagh where they went by tractor drawn wagons to Beinn Bhreagh Hall. Everyone enjoyed music, the BBQ canteen service provided by the Alexander Graham Bell Museum Association, Bubbles the Clown, the

Shriner Clowns and old style games, folks dressed in the fashion of the early 1900's and more.



Beinn Bhreagh Hall and Harvest Home.



Shriner Clowns at Harvest Home with guess who?



The 562 Cabot Squadron at Beinn Bhreagh on Harvest Home day with A. G. and Mabel Bell's great grandson Grosvenor Blair.

St. Peters Canal and St. Peters National Historic Sites of Canada

FSWEP student Janine Ferguson is on staff until October 30th and is providing a daily tour at 2pm Monday to Friday.

The new walkway linking the look-off by the Nicolas Denys Museum with St. Peters Canal is nearing completion. Passage of boats continues as weather permits.

Marconi National Historic Site of Canada/ Canso Islands National Historic Site of Canada

Among the visitors in September were the Canadian Coast Guard Cadets who came to the Site to learn about the origins of wireless communication. Their visitor experience prompted their accompanying instructors to write a letter of deep appreciation to Parks Canada and its staff with special mention of Sydney Amateur Radio Club operator Jim Charlong who, as Jim does on a daily basis during visitor season as a volunteer, shared his experiences as an amateur radio operator and provided a Morse Code wireless demonstration.



Jim Charlong explains the scale model to Canadian Coast Guard Cadets at Marconi National Historic Site of Canada.

Before closing, Janine Ferguson had the opportunity for a FAM tour of Canso Islands NHSC. Both Marconi and Canso sites are now closed for the season and will reopen June 1, 2010.

Safety Information

The following tips have been submitted by our Watchmen section and will become a monthly part of our newsletter.

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, test it monthly and change the battery yearly.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Never leave candles unattended.
- Stub cigarettes out completely and dispose of them safely.
- Never store gasoline indoors.
- Prevent arson by keeping your property clean of trash and flammables.
- Keep flammable materials such as curtains and furniture at least one metre away from space heaters.
- Store matches and lighters in a child-proof drawer or cabinet.
- Create and practice a fire escape plan with your whole family. Get out, stay out and call 911.

Excerpts from 3minutedrill.alberta.ca (Government of Alberta).

Did you know.....

John Johnston, Historian officially retired September 29/09 after 35 years of service with Parks Canada. John spent many years at the Fortress and we all wish him the best of retirements!

Dayna Coffin-Murray, our HR Assistant gave birth to a 6 pound baby girl, Sarah Genevieve, on Saturday, September 26th. Dad, Steven and big brother Nathan are very pleased with this new addition. The delivery came a bit sooner than anticipated but both mother and daughter are doing well.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, please contact Donna MacNeil at donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca or telephone 733-3551.

All newsletters since 1999 are available at <http://fortress.cbu.ca/parksproject/nhscbnews.htm>.



Allison MacIntyre receiving his 25 year service award from Dan Baldwin



Sandy Anthony receiving her 25 year service award from Greg Joyce



Margaret Perry receiving her 35 year service award from Dan Baldwin



Barb Kelly-Landry with her 25 year service award.



Michael Bagnell receiving his 25 year service award from Dan Baldwin



Chip Bird presenting Loretta Andrews with her retirement certificate



Brian Harpell is all smiles with his 35 year service award



Chip giving Loretta a gift from the park – a period lantern