



# BATTLE OF THE CHÂTEAUGUAY

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

## *Management Plan*



Parks Canada    Parcs Canada

Canada



# BATTLE OF THE CHÂTEAUGUAY

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

## MANAGEMENT PLAN



*The Battle of the Châteauguay*

by H. De D. Holmfeldt de Dirckinck, 1896, Château Ramesay Museum

**Western Quebec Field Unit**

**October 2007**



# Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and fun where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors unique opportunities to experience Canada. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians - they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that each of these special places is conserved.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baird". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**John Baird**  
*Minister of the Environment*



**Battle of the Châteauguay  
National Historic Site of Canada**

**M A N A G E M E N T   P L A N**

**APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY:**



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**Alan Latourelle**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Parks Canada



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**Francine Émond**  
Superintendent  
Western Quebec Field Unit  
Parks Canada



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# 1. Introduction

The vast network of national historic sites of Canada is made up of places that represent and reveal the many facets of our national history, character and identity. Designated by the Minister of the Environment upon the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, our national historic sites provide a rich overview of how history has left its mark on Canadian soil. They are part of our personal past and the heritage of all our fellow Canadians. Parks Canada's commemorative program applies to places, but also to persons and events of national historic significance.

The Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada commemorates the importance of the feat of arms that took place on October 26, 1813, and the role played by the combatants in defending Canada against the United States during the War of 1812-1814. It is part of the network of national historic sites and specifically sheds light on Canada's military history and defence of the country. The site's historical foundations constitute its *raison d'être* and the main objective for presenting it.

The Battle of the Châteauguay was part of the armed conflict that marked Canadian-American relations at the beginning of the 19th century, commonly referred to as the

"War of 1812". In the summer of 1813, the United States set out on a military expedition to invade Lower Canada, seeking to take Montreal in order to cut the supply lines to Upper Canada. The army in the northern United States was divided into two. The first, commanded by Wilkinson and coming from Lake Ontario, was to reach Montreal via the upper Saint Lawrence Valley. The second, under Hampton, was to take the route along the Châteauguay River and join up with Wilkinson's forces at Île Perrot where the attack on Montreal would begin. Their strategy was thwarted, however, because Hampton's forces were stopped on its march toward Montreal by some 300 Canadian soldiers commanded by Charles-Michel de Salaberry. The confrontation took place on the banks of the Châteauguay River near Allan's Corners on October 26, 1813. British troops taking part in the battle were made up of Voltigeurs,<sup>1</sup> Fencibles,<sup>2</sup> Selected Embodied Militia,<sup>3</sup> Sedentary Militia<sup>4</sup> and Aborigines. Some 200 Amerindians from various nations also took part in the Battle of the Châteauguay. Among them were Mohawks whose descendants live today on the Kahnawake and Kanesataké reserves in the Montreal area. Nicolas Vincent, war chief of the Huron-Wendat nation recognized as a figure of national historic significance, took part in the battle with several of his compatriots.

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1. The Canadian Voltigeurs were a light infantry corps formed by a group of volunteer soldiers. Raised by Charles-Michel de Salaberry during the War of 1812, this corps of militiamen enlisted recruits for the duration of the war.
  2. The Canadian Fencibles were a light infantry regiment composed of regular soldiers (as opposed to militiamen), recruited in British North America.
  3. The Selected Embodied Militia was created on May 28, when Governor George Prevost ordered the enrolment (drafting) of 2,000 militiamen, who were chosen by the drawing of lots. These militiamen were to aid the regular army.
  4. The Sedentary Militia were men who enrolled each year in the local militia for military drills and training. In time of war, they were called on to aid the mobilized regulars.

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Algonquins and Abenakis also fought alongside Salaberry's troops. The victory was considered a national triumph in Lower Canada and Salaberry, as its hero, became the symbol of the military value and loyalty of the French Canadians.

## **1.1 Overall view of the process of developing the management plan**

This Management Plan is the fruit of the labour of a multidisciplinary team composed of Parks Canada staff. It began with an assessment of past management practices, a review of the present-day situation and the identification of issues that needed to be resolved. Each of the issues were then analyzed in detail, according to directives contained in legislation, policies and priorities set in view of developing proposals to submit for public consultation.

In May 2006, the team issued an information bulletin that described the management planning process and reported on the management options proposed in view of resolving the issues involved. The public was invited to air their opinions and suggestions regarding the direction taken in the management plan. All comments expressed were compiled, analyzed and taken into account in the drafting of the management plan. Following the public consultation, a provisional version of the management plan was submitted to an environmental assessment to ensure that the management measures proposed would not lead to negative environmental impacts at the site. The plan was then reviewed and presented to the Minister of the Environment for assessment and approval. Once it had been approved, the document was tabled in Parliament.

## **1.2 Parks Canada legislative and policy framework for managing national historic sites**

### **Legislation**

The Government of Canada ensures that all aspects of Canadian history are represented in the network of national historic sites. As prescribed by the terms of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* (1985), the minister responsible for national historic sites is mandated to designate "historic sites". The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the minister on the commemoration of such sites.

The process of drafting a management plan is set in motion in accordance with section 32.1 of the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998). Section 32.2 of the same act stipulates that the management plan must be reviewed and tabled in Parliament every five years.

### **National Historic Sites Policy**

The Government of Canada's strategic objectives relating to national historic sites are the following:

- To foster public knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historic commemoration.
- To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- To encourage and support initiatives designed to protect and present other places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

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## Cultural Resource Management Policy

In order to guarantee the proper protection and presentation of national historic sites, Parks Canada has drawn up a Cultural Resource Management Policy. Management of cultural resources is based on five main principles: value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. In practical terms, application of these principles means that cultural resources are inventoried and assessed and their historical value is taken into consideration each and every time there are interventions that may have a negative impact on them. Such interventions include activities designed to preserve and protect the resources, as well as those designed to enhance public awareness and enjoyment of the resources and ensure that they are used in a sound manner.

Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy is an integrated and holistic approach. It applies to all activities that have an impact on cultural resources, whether it be protection, maintenance, enjoyment or use. The five main principles are not mutually exclusive; on the contrary, they give more conclusive results if they are seen as a whole. Cultural resource management practices play a vital role in the sound management of sites and all joint or shared management activities undertaken by Parks Canada staff or partners. Cultural management resource principles have been applied in the drafting of the present management plan and will continue to serve as a framework in supporting management decisions that involve the development and operation of this national historic site. No activity that could compromise the commemorative integrity of a national historic site will be authorized.

## 1.3 Parks Canada strategic objectives

It is Parks Canada's mandate to protect and present representative examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage in a way that ensures its ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations. In order to carry out its mandate, Parks Canada has adopted a set of strategic objectives that will guide the Agency's activities over the next five to ten years. The strategic objectives that will guide the management of the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site are the following:

- Ensure that the commemorative integrity of this national historic site is maintained.
- Make Canadians and international visitors aware of Canadian heritage so they have a better understanding of the value of commemorative integrity and a greater appreciation of the network of national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas in Canada.
- Provide visitor services that are conducive to the discovery and enjoyment of this national historic site, while at the same time ensuring that the impact of visitor traffic is kept to a minimum.
- Improve Parks Canada management by adopting, in particular, a management system based on effective decision making and results.
- Manage human resources in a manner that is sound and conducive to providing Parks Canada personnel, who are highly qualified and representative of the Canadian population, a stimulating work environment.



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## 2. A Fundamental Concept: Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity is a concept used at Parks Canada to describe, plan and monitor the state and integrity of national historic sites. When a site's commemorative integrity is measured, the following three aspects are evaluated separately: the state of its resources, the effectiveness in which its national importance is conveyed and the management practices used at the site.

### 2.1 Measuring commemorative integrity

A commemorative integrity statement was drafted for the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site. Approved in 1999, the statement includes the site's commemorative intent, describes its cultural resources and assigns them a value, and identifies messages relating to its designation as a place of national historic significance. The commemorative integrity statement also sets objectives to be met in terms of the protection of cultural resources and the communication

A state of commemorative integrity is said to exist at a national historic site when:

- the resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public;
- the site's heritage values are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

of messages of national historic significance. The commemorative integrity statement is a reference framework that establishes what constitutes the desired state of the site; the difference between the desired state and existing site conditions determines specific management measures aimed at preserving and presenting the site.

The commemorative intent for the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada is as follows:

***The Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada commemorates the importance of the feat of arms that took place on October 26, 1813, and the role played by the combatants in defending Canada against the United States during the War of 1812-1814.***

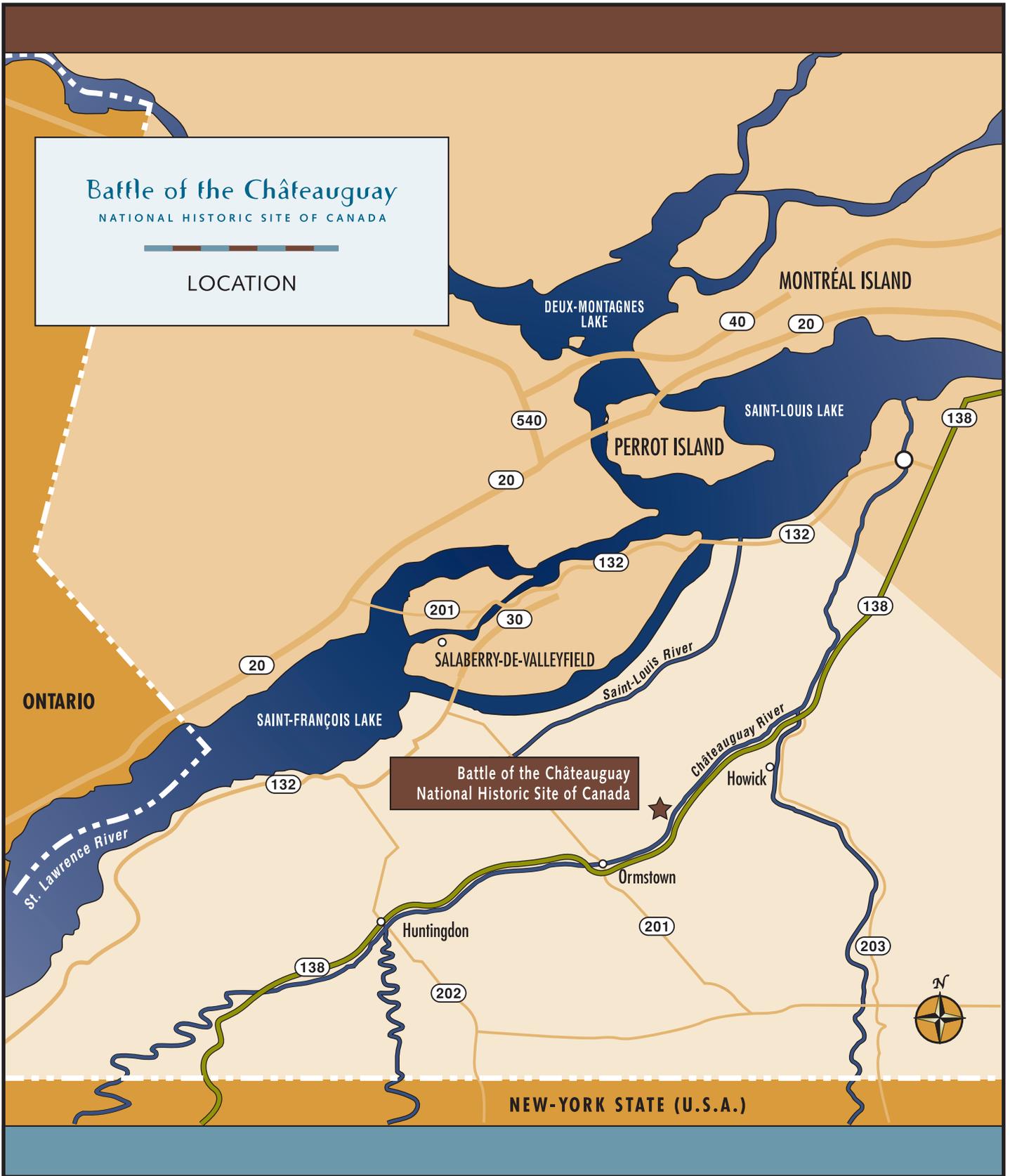
In 2002, a multidisciplinary team made up of experts in the management of natural and cultural resources and the people most familiar with the running of the site evaluated the commemorative integrity of the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site. This approach was aimed at reviewing the site's resources, the effectiveness of communication of messages, and management practices. A summary of the results of this evaluation appears in the appendices of the present document. The conclusions of the evaluation are highly important because they are incorporated into the objectives and management measures discussed in section 5 of the present management plan. Elements rated as "red" during the evaluation involved mainly the identification and protection of cultural resources and archaeological remains, as well as the need for historical research.



# Battle of the Châteauguay

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

LOCATION





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## 3. Analysis of the Situation

The Parks Canada property – the administered place – is located on the north bank of the Châteauguay River in the town of Howick, 50 kilometres south-west of Montreal. Covering a 1.56-hectare area, the site is located almost at the centre of battlefield, which at the time extended some fifteen kilometres and covered an area of about 202 hectares. The battlefield is located between the present-day towns of Très-Saint-Sacrement d’Howick and Ormstown. The area designated as having national historic significance corresponds, however, to the entire area of the battlefield; the designated place or commemorative site is therefore much larger than the historic site administered by Parks Canada.

The reception and interpretation centre, a building of contemporary architectural design, has been open to the public since 1978. Inside are an entrance hall, two exhibit rooms, an amphitheatre for audio-visual presentations, as well as various service areas. An indoor lookout at the top of the building offers a panoramic view of a part of the battle site. A scale model enables visitors to visualize the battlefield and the various moments that marked the victory of the British forces over the Americans. Interpreters provide a number of interpretation activities aimed at conveying messages of national historic significance to the different clientele who come to the site.

The grounds surrounding the interpretation centre are presently landscaped as a rest area for site visitors. Also found on the grounds is a house of squared log (*pièce-sur-pièce*) construction whose cultural value

is unknown. In addition, Parks Canada owns a small piece of land (24 m by 48 m) situated 300 metres to the west of the interpretation centre, where a stone obelisk, erected in 1895, commemorates the battle.



*Main grounds of the national historic site  
administered by Parks Canada  
Parks Canada / Jacques Beardsell*

### 3.1 Cultural resources

The value of a cultural resource is calculated based on its relation to a site’s commemorative intent. At the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site, the following cultural resources have been recognized as resources of national historic significance (referred to as level 1 resources):

- the historic site of the battle and the meaningful landscape;
- the *in situ* resources composed of presumed archaeological remains of abatis, blockhouses, trenches, Morrison Ford defence works and logistic installations;
- the ethnological collection.

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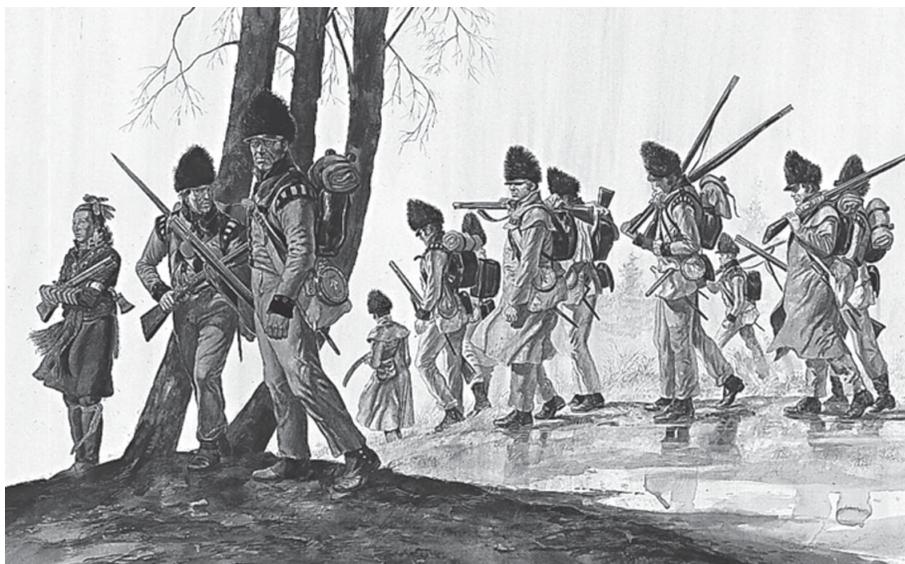
The map on page 21 shows the area covered by the battlefield and indicates the presumed location of the battle installations.<sup>5</sup> It is easy to see that the commemorative site (or the designated place), which corresponds to the entire extent of the battlefield, covers a much larger area than the historic site administered by Parks Canada. Numerous cultural resources that are directly associated with the commemorative intent are therefore found on private property that is either residential or farmland and consequently not under Parks Canada jurisdiction. As a result, the protection and presentation of these designated resources depends on how the land is currently being used, and on the awareness of the owners involved and their willingness to collaborate.

Parks Canada is directly responsible for the protection and commemoration of the resources it administers. The only Level 1

resources found on Parks Canada property consist of a small part of the battlefield and meaningful landscape, part of the presumed archaeological remains of the blockhouse, a small portion of the presumed remains of the abatis where the main episode of the battle took place, and a musket. All other existing or presumed Level 1 cultural resources are found on property not owned by Parks Canada.

### 3.2 Presenting our heritage

The Battle of the Châteauguay Historic Site conveys its messages through the heritage experience it offers to visitors, which at the present time is built around a visit to the interpretation centre and activities organized by the interpreters. The main parameters of the experience – discovery of the site and learning about history – have been defined



*Voltigeurs on patrol*

Drawing by G. A. Embleton, Parks Canada

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5. Information taken from a map by J. Bouchette: "Sketch of the River Châteauguay (sic) from la Fourche to the advance of Outard", February 18, 1816, Library and Archives Canada, NMC0011462.

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by the interpretation concept developed for the historic site.<sup>6</sup> A visit to the interpretation centre begins in the entrance hall and takes visitors through the chess room and the amphitheatre, to the lookout and then back down to the main museum:

- The entrance hall contains an exhibit that conveys messages of national historic significance to visitors. The Battle of the Châteauguay, the symbolic hero, the military forces present, the myth surrounding the battle, the European context of the War of 1812 and a map of land operations in Canada in 1812 are presented here in brief.
- The chess room was designed to encourage visitors to reflect on warfare in general by comparing it to a game of chess, with the various positions, strategies and combatants. Soldiers and their weapons

through the ages are presented, as well as the reasons for war, various battles and how the techniques of warfare and the power of destruction have changed over time.



**The interpretation centre**  
Parks Canada / Jacques Beardsell



**Charles-Michel de Salaberry**  
Engraving by A. B. Durand,  
based on a painting by Dickinson, 1826,  
Library and Archives Canada, C-9226



**Interpretation module in the entrance hall**  
Parks Canada / Jacqueline Bélanger

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6. Interpretation modules, interactive exhibits, artefacts, costumes, life-size mannequins, weapons, a scale model, a film, DVDs, video presentations, soundtracks and headphones are among the media used in the various exhibits to convey messages of national historic significance.



*Exhibit modules in the museum*  
Parks Canada / Jean Audet

- A 30-minute film produced by the National Film Board in 1978, *The Battle of the Châteauguay*, can be shown in the amphitheatre. As he dines with friends, Charles-Michel de Salaberry tells of the events surrounding his victory on October 26, 1813. The film familiarizes visitors with the context in which the Battle of the Châteauguay was fought, using cartoons, role-playing by actors and a re-creation of the battle scenes. A 1995 videotape illustrating how the battle unfolded, hour by hour, is also shown in the amphitheatre. The video tape was produced as part of the Universal Access Program so that physically challenged visitors who cannot go up to the lookout can still get an idea of what the battlefield was like.
- Located at the top of the building, the lookout gives visitors a panoramic view of part of the battlefield and the beautiful landscapes of the surrounding region. In particular, visitors can see the site where the main action of the battle took place. A scale model of the battlefield is used to explain the movement of the troops, the strategies used by both sides and the battle itself.
- The museum shows the daily life of a common soldier during the War of 1812 from recruitment to combat. The hall also presents Charles-Michel de Salaberry, hero of the battle. A mural illustrates what the Battle of the Châteauguay means to our cultural heritage.

The main strength of the heritage experience offered to visitors at the historic site lies in the fact that they are provided with considerable historic content that will encourage them to reflect on the messages of national historic significance. However, the visit is limited to the inside of the interpretation centre, since visitor access to the battlefield and its resources have not yet been developed.

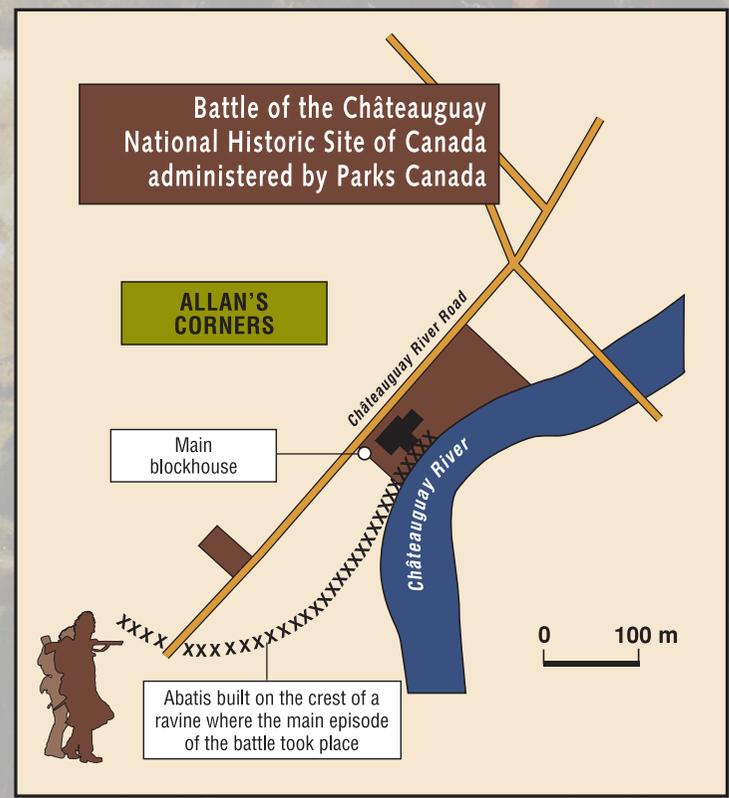
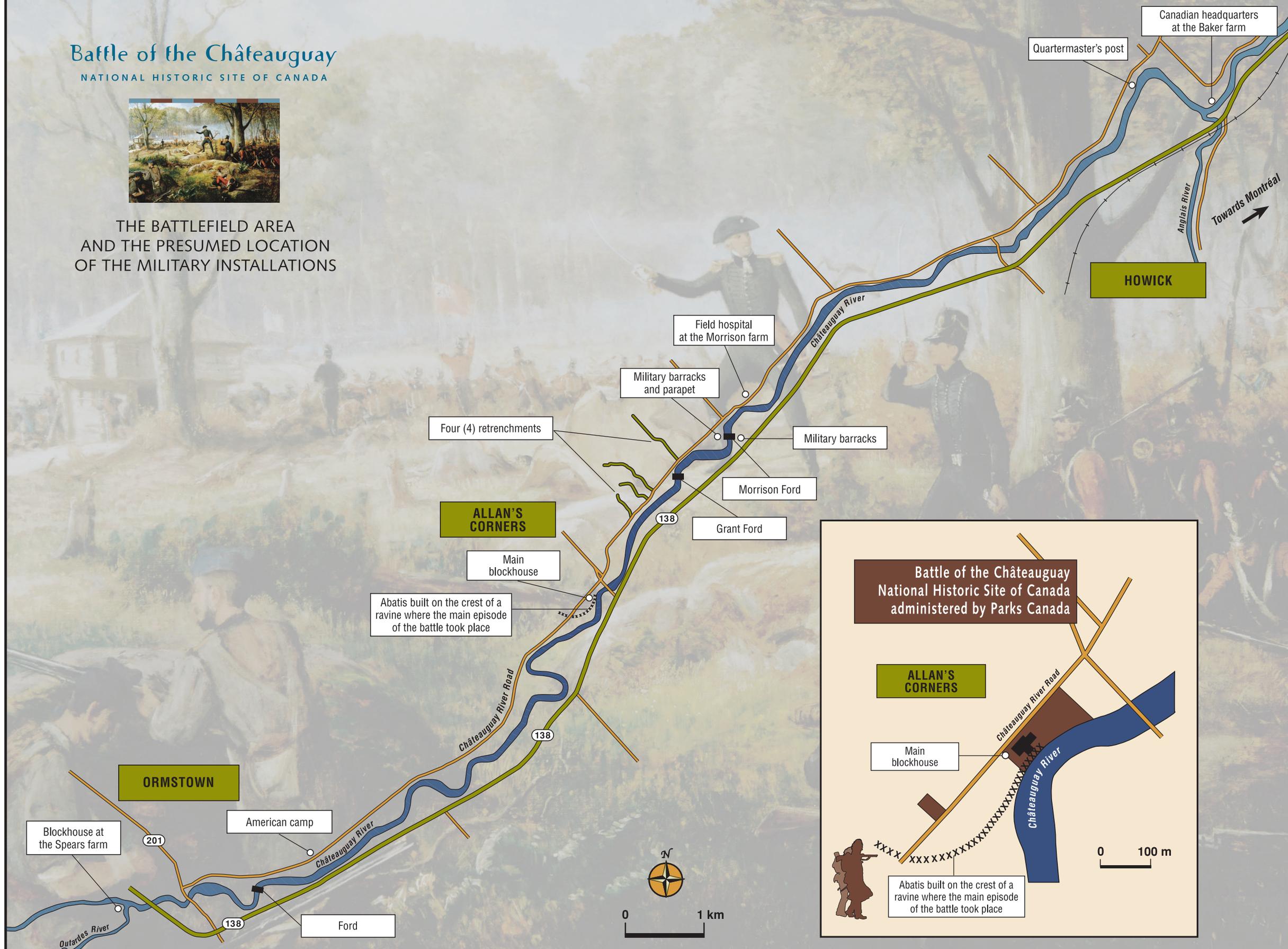
Since the opening of the reception and interpretation centre in 1978, the exhibits in the entrance hall and at the lookout have been renewed several times. The exhibits in the chess room and the museum, however, have not undergone any changes since they were set up over 25 years ago, with the exception of some elements. The exhibit in the chess room goes well beyond the content of the messages of national historic significance that we wish to convey to the public, but it enhances the presentation of the site. The exhibit in the museum fits well with the messages of national historic significance, but the information could be updated, better documented and better organized. The quality of the content presented is commensurate with the historical, ethnological and archaeological documentation available at the present time. The film, *The Battle of the Châteauguay*, has a number of significant technical problems and is now considered obsolete.

# Battle of the Châteauguay

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



THE BATTLEFIELD AREA  
AND THE PRESUMED LOCATION  
OF THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS





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A rather limited historical research program was conducted thirty years ago when the exhibits were initially prepared. The content of these exhibits has never been updated and does not take the commemorative integrity statement sufficiently into account, nor does it reflect recent historiography. Since some of the exhibit rooms have changed very little since the opening of the historic site in 1978, these exhibits, once considered very creative, have not evolved as new historical information and new technologies have become available. Additional historical research is necessary to update and enhance the content of the exhibits by putting to use the latest techniques in museography. Presentation of the site also suffers because of the lack of authentic objects for public display. A more extensive ethnological collection and the display of such a collection in the exhibits would reinforce the authenticity of the site and would illustrate the feat of arms and life in general at the time of the battle. There is no doubt that the presentation of the archaeological remains of the battlefield would also enhance the site's authenticity.

### 3.3 Other heritage values

This section deals with resources and values that, while not recognized as having national importance, are historically meaningful. These other heritage values (referred to as Level 2 values) consist of moveable resources (ethnological and archaeological), commemorative plaques, the fact that the site is part of a national and regional network of historic sites, and its ties to the local and regional community.

The Level 2 ethnological collection includes 64 original objects dating back to the time of the battle that were found in the surrounding area.<sup>7</sup> These objects are used for conveying messages of national historic significance and are kept at the interpretation centre. The collection is in a good state of conservation.

### 3.4 The visitor experience

The Battle of the Châteauguay Historic Site is open to the public Wednesday to Sunday from mid-May to the end of August, and Saturdays and Sundays from the end of August to October. Since 1995, there has been an admission fee to visit the interpretation centre. All services are available in both official languages and the building meets universal access standards.

Individual visitors are greeted by an interpreter in the entrance hall where all the messages of national historic significance are presented in relation to each of the rooms in the interpretation centre. Individual visitors go around to the various rooms on their own.

Generally speaking, adult groups go around the interpretation centre in approximately the same way, except that they are accompanied by an interpreter. Specific thematic activities are incorporated into the group visit, depending on the group's expectations and the amount of time they have available.

The site has a special interpretation program adapted to school children. Three programs that include a range of recreational and educational activities have been developed for

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7. They include a chest for military documents, a canteen, a drum, two muskets, a flintlock, a bullet mould, a cross belt plaque from the 2nd Battalion of the Canadian Militia, a medicine chest, a surgical kit, coins, tokens and a cast-iron pot. The Level 2 ethnological collection also includes two sabres and their cases, a pair of epaulets and a medal of the Order of the Bath, objects that belonged to Charles-Michel de Salaberry, and three medals engraved with the names of Châteauguay combatants.

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each elementary school cycle. Each program targets the skill level and objectives set by the Quebec department of education. A special program has been set up for day camps that includes activities that are more specifically recreational.

In addition, there is an outreach program that enables elementary and high school students to learn about the historic site's messages of national historic significance through presentations given at their school. Other off-site outreach activities are available to adults. An Internet site ensures that the messages of national historic significance reach the "non-visitor" clientele.

Special thematic activities aimed at individual visitors are held on weekends in July and August.<sup>8</sup> Along with these activities, a special program is presented in collaboration with various regional partners.<sup>9</sup>

Because of the numerous services and facilities at the interpretation centre, the historic site is also used as a meeting place for groups in the region. Two halls can be rented for meetings and other types of gatherings. There is a souvenir counter where visitors can purchase various products and promotional articles supplied by regional producers and partners.

The grounds around the interpretation centre include a picnic and rest area for visitors,<sup>10</sup> where they can enjoy a scenic view of the Châteauguay River as it winds its way through the region's beautiful farmland. A landing is provided by the *Société de conservation et d'aménagement des berges de la rivière Châteauguay* (SCABRIC) [Châteauguay Watershed Management Agency], for those who want to canoe down the river. The parking area can accommodate thirty cars and two buses. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century house of squared log (*pièce-sur-pièce*) construction is found on the site. While not open to the public, it is used by regional groups for special activities. At the present



**Log house built using  
the "pièce-sur-pièce" construction technique**  
Parks Canada / Sophie Grenier

- 
8. Two activities take place at set times: one focuses on the role of military music at the time of the battle and includes drum, bugle and fife demonstrations; the other presents military uniforms and equipment used by the various Canadian militia units that participated in the Battle of the Châteauguay.
  9. Held annually are: Canada Day celebrations; the *Descente de la rivière Châteauguay*, a canoe trip organized in August with SCABRIC; the *Circuit du Paysan*, a tourist circuit in the surrounding countryside, organized in collaboration with the *Centre local de développement du Haut-Saint-Laurent*, that takes place on weekends from Labour Day to Thanksgiving; and a genealogy workshop and conferences held in September by local historical societies that give visitors the chance to learn about the genealogical and regional history of the Upper Saint Lawrence. The last weekend in July there is also Militiamen's Days, where visitors see the living conditions of militiamen and society at the time. The 4th Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Châteauguay) takes part in a ceremony commemorating the October 26 battle.
  10. Park benches, picnic table, a fountain and a bike rack are available for public use. Numerous trees enhance the landscape and provide a shaded area for visitors.

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time, if visitors simply use the outdoor facilities and do not visit the interpretation centre, they will not be made aware of the historic value of the site's resources and the messages relating to them. However, two panels that give ecological and environmental information on the Châteauguay River have been installed by the SCABRIC.



**Outdoor rest area**  
Parks Canada / Sophie Grenier

A second parcel of land belonging to Parks Canada is found near the interpretation centre. In 1895, the Canadian Parliament erected an obelisk to remind visitors of the feat of arms that took place there – the Battle of the Châteauguay – emphasizing the role played by the Lower Canadian militia. There are several park benches near the obelisk, encouraging visitors to stop a moment to contemplate the monument, but there is no parking area, which can lead to public safety problems since visitors have to park along a very narrow road.



**Obelisk**  
Parks Canada / Luce Savard

### 3.5 Visitor traffic and use of the site

Visitors who come to the historic site fall into three categories: school groups, other organized groups and individual visitors. From the opening of the site in 1978 until 1983, the number of visitors increased considerably every year (except in 1981). In 1983, as a result of an advertising campaign that targeted certain clientele, the number of visitors to the national historic site, which at the time was open all year round, reached a record high of 18,283. Human resources working in management and visitor services have been reduced several times, beginning in 1984, due to reorganizations and budget cuts. Consequently, the historic site has gone from being open all year round to being open five months a year for only five days a week. In addition, promotion of the site has decreased because of a lack of financial resources. An entrance fee was introduced in 1995; the number of visitors went from 7,245 in 1994

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to 5,494 in 2005.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, while 77% of visitors in 2001 who stopped at the historic site also took the time to visit the interpretation center, that percentage has continued to drop, and reached 47% in 2005.<sup>12</sup>

Other factors have also contributed to the decrease in visitor traffic, including the fact that the exhibits in several rooms have not been renewed and that the site is relatively isolated insofar as there are no major highways nearby. The lack of an expressway is a substantial handicap for the region, which is isolated from the rest of the Montérégie region and poorly integrated into Montreal's economic space.<sup>13</sup> In addition, although the site looks for ways to work with other cultural and tourist sites, including the Lac Saint François National Wildlife Area, the interpretation centre at the Droulers-Tsiionhiakwatha Archaeological Site and the Pointe-du-Buisson Archaeological Park, it has to compete with the recreational, tourist and cultural attractions in the greater Montreal area, where more appealing or more spectacular possibilities are offered.

In 1999, a survey was conducted to measure visitor satisfaction, specifically individual visitors. As a result, the following profile was drawn up of visitors, their visit around the site and the type of trip they were on when they came to the site.

Individual visitors:

- Twenty-two percent of individual visitors came from the area immediately surrounding the historic site (the Suroît region), 21% were from the Island of Montreal, and almost an equal percentage (21-22%) from elsewhere in the

Montérégie region or the province. Seven percent of visitors came from the rest of Canada and 6% from outside of Canada, mainly the United States.

- Eighty-one percent of visitors spoke French and 19% spoke English.
- For 83% of the visitors polled it was the first time they had come to the historic site.
- The average size of a party of visitors was 3.1 persons.
- The average duration of their visit was 1 hour 26 minutes.
- Twenty-three percent of individual visitors were children under the age of 17, 17% were 17-34 years of age, 30% were 35-54 years of age, and 30% were 55 or over.

Their visit to the site:

- Beginning with the most frequent response, visitors heard about the historic site through road signs, tourist guides or brochures, friends or family, tourist information centres and, far behind the other responses, newspapers or magazines, radio or television, and the Internet.
- The visitors polled said they were very satisfied with the friendliness and courtesy of site personnel and the communication skills of the interpreters. They were also very satisfied with the educational aspect of the visit, the price-quality ratio and their visit in general.
- As for the exhibit rooms, the museum, the scale model of the battlefield and the entrance hall, visitors were very satisfied;

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11. Of the 5,494 visitors, 3,942 were individual visitors, 1,381 were part of school groups and 171 were part of other organized groups.

12. Statistical Report, 2005, Parks Canada

13. PLANTE, Jean-Paul, consultant working in collaboration with Claude Huot and Bruno Goulet, *Diagnostics, orientations et opportunités de développement des MRC Beauharnois-Salaberry et le Haut-Saint-Laurent*, Final report presented to the Suroît-Sud SADC, Summary, p.3.

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however, some dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the chess room and the film *The Battle of the Châteauguay*.

- When asked about any improvements that could make a visit of the site more enjoyable, 59% of visitors polled indicated no improvements. Of the 41% who felt there was room for improvement, 50% mentioned the exhibits (mainly the film and the quality of the soundtrack), 33% mentioned the facilities and services (food and beverage services, defective equipment), 10% mentioned the contact with personnel and animation, and 7% mentioned various other points.
- Fifty-three percent of visitors polled saw the national historic site as an interpretation site, 48% as a commemorative site, 37% as a military museum, 31% as a battlefield, 8% as a genealogical information centre and 6% as a place to relax.
- Visitors were asked six questions relative to the messages of national historic significance to test if they had retained the site's commemorative messages. Nearly 65% responded correctly to at least four questions, which is below the norm of 75%.

### 3.6 Partnerships and public participation

The national historic site is located within the boundaries of the Suroît tourist region in the Montérégie. The Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area, the Beauharnois hydro-electric plant, the Pointe-du-Buisson Archaeological Park, the interpretation centre at the Droulers-Tsionhiakwatha Archaeological site and the

Coteau-du-Lac National Historic Site are among the region's main tourist attractions. This agricultural region is dotted with orchards, market gardens, grain farms, live-stock farms, vineyards and maple groves. The Suroît region also has heritage resources, including historical buildings, historic sites and museums that illustrate a past that is rich in French, English and Amerindian culture. To sum up, the tourist supply of this region is centred around water, the beauty of its landscapes, its rural character, farm tourism, bicycle touring, in addition to there being a cultural and heritage dimension.

Tourisme Montérégie, the Suroît Tourist Bureau and the *Centre local de développement du Haut-Saint-Laurent* are comprised of members involved in some aspect of regional tourism. They work together to develop tourism and promote the products offered by the region in various markets. They have demonstrated their willingness to use this development to make tourism an important component of regional development. According to a January 2006 diagnostic report, "The Montérégie Ouest region (which includes the regional county municipality (RCM) in which the Battle of the Châteauguay historic site is located) has a significant and diverse historical and cultural heritage, particularly in certain RCMs, which contributes to the region's identity. The development centred around this heritage and public awareness of it is often under-estimated, poorly recognized and not fully presented."<sup>14</sup> [translation] Another recent study that provides a documented diagnosis of the Suroît-Sud region in which the Battle of the Châteauguay Historic Site is cited states: "In no way does the region use its

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14. L'état du tourisme en Montérégie ouest: portrait et diagnostic.

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proximity to Montreal to its advantage. Suroît-Sud is a low-growth zone surrounded by RCMs that are much more dynamic [...]. The two RCMs in the Suroît-Sud region share last place with the Bas-Richelieu RCM among the 15 Montérégie RCMs in terms of growth and development.”<sup>15</sup> [translation] During the public consultation that took place in May 2006 as part of the preparation for the present management plan, regional players expressed the hope that the national historic site would act as an important component in the dynamics of regional tourism.

For several years now the historic site has been part of a regional tourist route called the Circuit du Paysan<sup>16</sup> that encourages tourists to discover the rural surroundings and enjoy the quality and diversity of local products. The presence of the national historic site enhances the historical, heritage and cultural attraction of the Haut-Saint-Laurent RCM.

At the present time, the national historic site plays a role in the regional tourist industry through the services it offers, joint publicity and promotions, its participation in tourist packages and through the joint organization of socio-cultural events and activities.

### 3.7 Administration and operations

#### 3.7.1 Sustainable development

The Government of Canada is committed to sustainable development.<sup>17</sup> It is working toward preventing pollution and protecting the

environment as it carries out all its operations. The *Sustainable Development in Government Operations* (SDGO) initiative supports this commitment by:

- incorporating sustainable development principles into all federal government operations;
- coordinating and reporting the federal government’s effort to green its operations;
- sharing knowledge on sustainable development tools.

Parks Canada is one of the 25 departments and agencies targeted by the *Sustainable Development in Government Operations* initiative and is required to draft Sustainable Development Strategies.<sup>18</sup> The intent of the strategies is to ensure that complying departments and agencies take environmental, economic and social considerations into account systematically in their decision making. They are also intended to lead to changes in policies, programs and operations that further sustainable development. This ensures that every government department meets or exceeds environmental laws and regulations, follows best environmental practices, and develops and implements a sound environmental management system that enables it to green its operations. Parks Canada must report to Parliament on its progress in fulfilling its environmental responsibilities.

Parks Canada is a leader in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Stakeholders and the public recognize this and expect that Parks Canada’s own operations and facilities will be managed in ways that do

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15. PLANTE, Jean-Paul, consultant in collaboration with Claude HUOT and Bruno GOULET, *Diagnostics, orientations et opportunités de développement des MRC Beauharnois-Salaberry et le Haut Saint-Laurent*, Final report presented to the Suroît-Sud SADC, Summary, p.3.

16. The *Circuit du Paysan* won the *Grand prix du tourisme de la Montérégie 2005* in the tourist services category.

17. Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

18. [www.greeninggovernment.gc.ca](http://www.greeninggovernment.gc.ca)

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not compromise stewardship values. Parks Canada therefore has a special responsibility in how it manages the facilities at its parks and historic sites and its commercial operations.

The Western Quebec Field Unit has an environmental management system in which some of the measures advocated apply to the historic site. Given the area covered by the site and its infrastructures, the historic site has few environmental and sustainable development-related challenges, except for the fact that the interpretation centre is an architecturally contemporary building situated in a rural setting and that its heating and air-conditioning systems are relatively energy-consuming.



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## 4. Future Outlook

Based on the laws and policies that govern Parks Canada, the agency and its partners have a vision for the site's future where commemorative integrity is intact, where visitors will have a memorable experience and where the public is aware of the site, thanks to its educational services and outreach activities. The management measures and objectives proposed below are ways of concretely achieving that vision.

Below is our fifteen-year outlook for the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site.

- **The national historic site remains a protected place whose cultural resources are in an excellent state of integrity and bear witness, in the heart of the former battlefield, to the importance of this feat of arms and the role played by the combatants in defending Canada against the United States in the War of 1812-1814.**
- **The national historic site has established mechanisms for governance and collaboration with the private owners involved in view of protecting and presenting the cultural resources found off Parks Canada property.**
- **The national historic site is a place of discovery and learning that highlights a significant page in the history of Canadian military and defence. It reveals the important moments of the battle, its players, its heroes, and its place in the events of the War of 1812-1814.**
- **The national historic site is a friendly place where there is a good balance between visitor traffic and visitor capacity. It maintains high standards in terms of the visitor experience it offers. Furthermore, the visit offered at the historic site meets visitor expectations. The involvement of partners in the regional community enhances the activities and services it offers. Collaboration with its regional partners means that the site can offer a concerted regional tourism product.**
- **The national historic site is well established at the heart of the regional tourist industry, the network of battlefields and the network of military museums. It is known as a leader in the protection of regional cultural heritage and the communication of historical knowledge in that field.**
- **The national historic site has implemented an overall strategy that complies with the direction taken by the Canadian government in terms of sustainable development and particularly the environmental management of its operations. It influences the community through its environmental leadership in promoting a healthy environment for humans, biophysical resources and cultural resources.**



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## 5. Strategic Objectives and Management Measures

Thanks to the objectives and measures described below, Parks Canada will be able to achieve the vision proposed for the Battle of the Châteauguay Historic Site, guarantee its commemorative integrity and offer a quality visitor experience and effective outreach program. It will achieve this through its own efforts and through collaborative efforts and partnerships.

### 5.1 Protection of heritage

Protection of cultural resources is one of the fundamental components of Parks Canada's mandate. Protecting historic sites is vital to their commemoration. Without proper protection, cultural resources would not be able to withstand the effects of time and the general public would no longer have access to sites and be able to enjoy them. Cultural resource management applies to the overall management of sites as well as to each of their cultural resources.

The proposed objectives and measures apply to the entire Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site. The management measures proposed must ensure that cultural resources are neither damaged nor threatened and that their heritage value is respected. Furthermore, they are aimed at strengthening the historical character and spirit of the site.<sup>19</sup>

#### 5.1.1 Objectives

- Preserve components that characterize the landscape of the site commemorated and maintain spatial and visual relationships between the various components.
- Ensure that contemporary installations take into account the spatial arrangement of the site historically and respect its heritage character.
- Raise awareness among the private owners and encourage them to protect and present meaningful elements of the landscape and possible archaeological remains found on their property.
- Ensure that the archaeological remains of defence works and logistical installations are identified and located and that their integrity is safeguarded.
- Protect the physical integrity of the ethnological collection.
- Identify the collections and objects that relate to the commemorative intent and make the owners aware of their historical value.
- Protect the other ethnological and archaeological resources in accordance with cultural resource management principles and practices in effect at Parks Canada.

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19. The spirit or the meaning of a place is the site's ability to stimulate the emotions of visitors even before they know anything about it. In other words, the spirit of a site is what the resource itself communicates to visitors.

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## 5.1.2 Management measures

### The cultural resources administered by Parks Canada

- Carry out archaeological research on Parks Canada properties in order to identify and protect the cultural resources that may be found there.
- Identify both the cultural resources that are under Parks Canada jurisdiction and those for which other partners or owners are responsible.
- Install a continuous monitoring system for the remains of cultural resources.
- Document the historical value of the squared log (*pièce-sur-pièce*) house that was acquired from the Châteauguay Valley Historical Society, and in doing so determine the heritage value of the house. Ensure that it is kept in good condition and regular maintenance is done.
- Ensure that the commemorative monument and present moveable resources are properly maintained in accordance with cultural resource management principles and practices.

### Cultural resources located on private property

- Draw up a list of private owners whose property is located within the perimeter of the former battlefield, indicating the properties that may contain archaeological remains linked to the defence works and the presence of troops.
- Raise awareness among private owners of the presence and value of meaningful landscape elements and archaeological resources that may be found there, and the importance of safeguarding them. If

necessary, come to collaborative agreements for managing these resources, such as providing technical support.

- Ensure that views from the lookout over the southern part of the battlefield and the Châteauguay River are protected. To that end, make the municipal authorities and neighbours aware of the importance of protecting the cultural resources of the battlefield and the physical and visual environment, particularly that which can be seen from the lookout.
- Assess the archaeological potential of the battlefield that is off Parks Canada property by working with private land owners and other groups.
- Seek to ensure the integrity of the ravine in which the main episode of the battle took place, i.e. the area included in the quadrilateral formed by:
  - 1) the southern boundary of the property where the interpretation centre is located,
  - 2) the river,
  - 3) the southern crest of the ravine and
  - 4) the road.

## 5.2 Presenting heritage and educating the public

Presenting the public with the heritage value and historical meaning of the site's cultural resources is done through the heritage experience offered to visitors. At the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site, the main points of the visitor experience are presently determined by the interpretation concept developed for the site when it was originally created, broadly outlined in section 3, Analysis of the Situation. It is important

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to note that the management measures relating to the review of Aboriginal themes will be carried out in collaboration with the First Nations involved.

### 5.2.1 Objectives

- Communicate the historical value of all the cultural resources to the public.
- Effectively convey the messages of national historic significance to the public by:
  - promoting the optimal use of cultural resources that symbolize and characterize the national significance of the site and by helping the public understand the links between these resources, the site's history and its national importance;
  - presenting these messages as a whole, based on rigorous documented data;
  - presenting them to visitors in a way that they are well understood;
  - using measuring methods and instruments to determine how effectively the messages are being conveyed.
- Communicate to the public that the site is part of a national and regional network of heritage sites.

### 5.2.2 Management measures

- Complete or update the historic, ethnological and archaeological research program. The following are only a few examples of subjects that should be reviewed or documented to put the messages of national historical significance into their proper context:
  - presentation of the militiamen – the main actors in the battle and the society they lived in at the time (including the role of women in the war effort);
  - presentation of a simple soldier;

- the life, training and military career of Charles-Michel de Salaberry;
  - the political context at the time (relations between Upper Canada and Lower Canada, between Upper and Lower Canada and England, between Upper and Lower Canada and the United States, between England and the United States);
  - the War of 1812, its causes and consequences;
  - the American strategy and characteristics of their troops;
  - the part played by Aboriginals in the battle.
- Update the interpretation concept and renew the exhibits displayed in the interpretation centre based on the commemorative integrity statement and new data that has become available through historical, ethnological and archaeological research, and based on the needs, interests and expectations of target audiences. This would particularly involve regenerating ageing exhibits, replacing some now-obsolete equipment and enhancing the displays of objects relating to the battle or the time period.
  - Begin researching and taking the steps needed to enhance the collection of ethnological objects that relate to the battle or the time period.
  - Promote a greater understanding of the area covered by the battlefield and how it was used by the combatants, and emphasize the links between period landscape elements that are still visible today (the river, the ravines, the road) and the strategy used in the battle:
    - by giving visitors access to the ravine, where the main episode of the battle took place, enabling them to set foot on one of the battlefield's firing zones;

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– by reminding visitors of the cultural resources that are no longer visible today in the landscape, i.e. defence works built up at the crest of the main ravine and the main blockhouse;

– by evoking a military ambience on the grounds adjacent to the interpretation centre;

- Ensure that visitors who limit their visit to the outdoor rest area get a basic understanding of the site's commemorative messages.
  - Make the site of the obelisk more accessible to visitors by revitalizing it as a commemorative symbol within a broader commemoration of feats of arms, military exploits and battlefields.
  - Communicate the results of historical research conducted on the squared log (*pièce-sur-pièce*) house to the public.
  - Redesign the historic site's program of activities, including the school program, based on messages of national historic significance and new data made available through research.
  - Develop the outreach program to make "non-visitor" clientele aware of the presence and value of the historic site. For example, update the Internet site and produce publications that convey the messages of national historic significance.
  - Identify the Aboriginal groups involved in the battle and seek their collaboration in telling the story of the role played by their ancestors in the battle.
- Evaluate indicators of the visitors' understanding of messages of national historic significance. Take the appropriate corrective measures where needed.

## 5.3 The visitor experience

The presence of visitors at the site is essential to the presentation of cultural resources and the communication of messages of national historic significance. Having them visit the site is the ideal way of making them aware of the value of the site's cultural resources and the messages of national historic significance relating to those resources.

Parks Canada will seek to increase and optimize visitation of the site. The Agency will use the strengths that characterize the site, i.e. the personalized reception, the guided tour, animation, discovery, knowledge, exchange of ideas and enjoyment.

### 5.3.1 Objectives

- Offer the various clienteles a meaningful and high-quality visitor experience that corresponds to their needs and specific fields of interest.
- Get a better understanding of the needs, fields of interest and expectations of current and potential clienteles.
- Promote the involvement of the regional community in enhancing the national historic site's service offer.
- Take the necessary measures to increase and optimize visitation of the national historic site, while at the same time maintaining the quality of the visitor experience and the integrity of the site.

- 
- Provide a meaningful visitor experience for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

### **5.3.2 Management measures**

- Conduct a study of the site's visitor capacity and a market study that includes a strategic action plan that will provide scenarios in terms of the period that the site is open, the basic service offer, desired visitor traffic, visitor needs and expectations and the site's position in the tourist market, according to the various operating budgets available.
- Ensure that the service offer is renewed and maintain the interest of visitors by developing, with the help of collaborators and partners in the community, activities that would meet the needs and expectations of a range of clientele and correspond to their specific fields of interest. Special events to develop would also include marking important anniversaries, such as the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.
- Provide visitors with safe access to the site of the 1895 obelisk.
- In harmony with the historical character of the site, renew outdoor installations and landscaping, including the trees and flower beds, and ensure that visitors have physical and visual access to the river from the interpretation centre.
- Assess visitor use and enjoyment of the services offered using visitor satisfaction surveys and visitor traffic statistics. Take appropriate corrective measures, if necessary.
- Evaluate the visitor experience. Take appropriate corrective measures, if necessary.
- Prepare and update public safety and law enforcement measures.

## **5.4 Partnerships and public participation**

The historic site is part of a well-known network of historic sites. It is located in the heart of a tourist sub-region that is seeking to make the development of tourism an important component of regional development. The Battle of the Châteauguay Historic Site will seek to increase its visibility and visitor traffic and enhance its reputation by positioning itself among the regional tourist attractions, within both the Parks Canada network and the networks of battle sites and military museums.

### **5.4.1 Objectives**

- Work with the regional and American tourism industry (given the history we share with Americans and the site's proximity to the border), with other battlefield sites and military museums and with the Parks Canada network to ensure good visibility of the historic site and make it more well-known.
- Position the site at the heart of the regional tourist industry as a key player in the protection of cultural heritage in the region and the on-site communication of historical knowledge.
- As a national historic site, participate in the development of local and regional socio-cultural life and the development of local and regional cultural heritage.

### **5.4.2 Management measures**

- Develop integrated actions in line with the last regional diagnosis and the regional tourism strategy to make the historic site better known and to seek out and develop tourist and school clientele.

- Pursue and increase collaborative efforts with regional tourist groups in order to share clientele and improve the service offer.
- Develop a sense of belonging and ownership of the site among members of the local community, particularly by getting involved in regional tourist development projects that reflect the mission of Parks Canada and by promoting the availability of meeting facilities at the historic site.
- Participate in the development of new tourist circuits by creating ties with other sites that present common themes (history, genealogy, military strategy, interpretation), both nationally and internationally.
- Explore possible avenues for working with other organizations to finance the renewal of assets and interpretation programs.
- Initiate a working committee with members of the community and other historic sites to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and to organize special activities for that event.

## 5.5 Administration and operations

To reduce the environmental impact of its operations, Parks Canada has adopted a structured and consistent method called an environmental management system<sup>20</sup>. The National Environmental Management Systems Framework targets 14 environmental aspects, such as ozone depleting substances, solid waste management and water conservation.

### 5.5.1 Objective

To adopt environmentally sound practices in all its operations and work continuously to improve the historic site's environmental performance.

### 5.5.2 Management measures

- Conduct an environmental audit of the site to analyze how well it is being environmentally managed, particularly an evaluation of the energy consumption of the main building.
- Update the site's environmental management plan and apply the directions adopted in the historic site's programs and operations.
- Make staff members aware of the potential repercussions of climate change.
- Conduct an inventory of the natural resources found on Parks Canada property. Take appropriate measures to protect the natural resources and ecosystems identified in the inventory.
- After obtaining permission from the private owners involved, conduct an inventory of the natural resources found on the battlefield. Take appropriate measures to protect the natural resources and ecosystems identified in the inventory.

20. The environmental management system is a tool to help organizations and businesses use the principles of environmental stewardship in their decision-making process.

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## 6. Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment

The review of the Management Plan for the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada was carried out in accordance with the *1999 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals*. Implementation of the management measures in the Management Plan promotes the commemorative integrity of a site and protection of its cultural resources. All of the above is in accordance with the site's *Commemorative Integrity Statement*.

The strategic environmental assessment was carried out based on the preliminary version of the management plan in order to be able to incorporate the mitigation measures proposed before a final decision was made as to the environmental impacts of the management measures. This enabled us to adjust the preliminary management plan accordingly.

The environmental assessment showed that the majority of sources of stress have little or no impact. However, the rapid variation of the level of the Châteauguay River poses a considerable risk of property damage. Furthermore, we would need to examine the impact of the proximity of farmland on local drinking water as a potential source of stress. Management measures appear in the management plan in order to control such situations.

The potential negative impacts that give the greatest cause for concern can be mitigated by applying known technical measures or other means that have proven effective in the past. These potential impacts are, however, few in number. A more detailed environmental assessment of each project will have to be conducted prior to the planning stage, when sufficient details are available of what the project entails.

Results of the strategic environmental assessment lead us to conclude that based on the information available, the management measures adopted for the site are acceptable. Overall, the strategic measures presented are in keeping with Parks Canada's mandate and management practices. The environmental assessment concluded that the Battle of the Châteauguay Management Plan will renew and improve the site's commemorative integrity. Many of the negative effects can be mitigated by applying appropriate strategies and measures.



## 7. Implementation

The present document proposes management guidelines and parameters based on Parks Canada's mandate to ensure the protection and commemoration of the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada, to ensure an enriching visitor experience and to maintain a dialogue with the site's visitors and partners.

Over the coming years, the Western Quebec Field Unit that manages the historic site will make every effort to implement the priority management measures using its own budgets or through partnership agreements. The other measures will be implemented in the longer term when the necessary financial resources are available or when circumstances permit. The table below indicates the management measures that are deemed priority and the year projected for their implementation.



*Interpretation activities with children*  
Parks Canada / Luce Savard

### ***Protection of Heritage***

|   | <b>Year 1<br/>2007-2008</b> | <b>Year 2<br/>2008-2009</b> | <b>Year 3<br/>2009-2010</b> | <b>Year 4<br/>2010-2011</b> | <b>Year 5<br/>2011-2012</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ensure that proper maintenance is done on the commemorative monument and the moveable resources.  | X                           |                             |                             |                             |                             |
| Draw up a list of owners whose property is within the perimeter of the former battlefield.  | X                           | X                           |                             |                             |                             |
| Make the municipal authorities and neighbours aware of the importance of protecting cultural resources and the physical and visual environment. |                             |                             | X                           | X                           | X                           |

**Presenting Heritage and Educating the Public**

|  | <b>Year 1<br/>2007-2008</b> | <b>Year 2<br/>2008-2009</b> | <b>Year 3<br/>2009-2010</b> | <b>Year 4<br/>2010-2011</b> | <b>Year 5<br/>2011-2012</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Identify which Aboriginal groups were involved in the battle and seek their collaboration by having them recount the role played by their ancestors in the battle. | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Enhance the collection of ethnological objects that relate to the battle and the time period.  |                             | X                           | X                           |                             |                             |
| Ensure that visitors to the rest area get a basic understanding of the commemorative messages.   |                             | X                           | X                           |                             |                             |
| Improve our knowledge of the historic site's cultural resources (historical and archaeological research).  |                             | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Assess the visitors' understanding of the messages of historic significance.   |                             |                             |                             | X                           |                             |
| Develop the outreach program.  |                             |                             |                             | X                           | X                           |
| Improve the exhibits.  |                             |                             |                             | X                           | X                           |
| Renew the school programs based on the messages of national historic significance and research.  |                             |                             |                             | X                           | X                           |

**The Visitor Experience**

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Renew the service offer and maintain the interest of visitors by holding special activities developed with partners. | X | X | X | X | X |
| Evaluate the visitor experience.   | X |   |   |   |   |
| Conduct an analysis of the optimal service offer.  |   | X |   |   |   |
| Evaluate visitor satisfaction.   |   |   |   | X |   |
| Prepare and update public safety and law enforcement measures.   |   |   |   | X | X |

### **Partnerships and Public Participation**

|  | <b>Year 1<br/>2007-2008</b> | <b>Year 2<br/>2008-2009</b> | <b>Year 3<br/>2009-2010</b> | <b>Year 4<br/>2010-2011</b> | <b>Year 5<br/>2011-2012</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Develop actions that are incorporated into the regional tourism strategy to seek clientele and publicize the renewed cultural product.                                   | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Pursue and increase collaborative efforts with regional groups in order to exchange clientele and improve the service offer.   | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Develop a sense of belonging and ownership of the site among members of the community.   | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Participate in the development of new tourist circuits by creating ties with other sites.  | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Form a working committee with people in the community and at other historic sites to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 by holding special activities. | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |
| Explore possible avenues for working with other organizations to finance the renewal of assets and interpretation programs.  | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           | X                           |

### **Administration and Operations**

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conduct an environmental audit of the site.                                  | X |   |   |   |   |
| Update the environmental management system and apply the directions adopted. |   | X |   |   |   |
| Make staff members aware of the potential repercussions of climate change.   |   | X | X | X | X |
| Conduct an inventory of natural resources on Parks Canada property.          |   |   |   | X |   |



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## Appendix A: Studies, Research Reports and other Reference Material

Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada, *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*, Supply and Services Canada, 1994, 127 pages.

Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada, *State of the Parks 1997 Report*, 1998, 211 pages.

Canadian Park Services, *La Bataille-de-la-Châteauguay parc historique national, Thèmes et objectifs*, July 1983, 10 pages.

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## Appendix B: Commemorative Integrity Evaluation

### Summary

The *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998) states that it is in the national interest to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites and that Parks Canada must report on a regular basis to Parliament on the state of protected heritage areas under its jurisdiction. The evaluation of the state of commemorative integrity of the Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site of Canada meets this requirement, in addition to providing the site director with information on its strengths and weaknesses in terms of commemorative integrity.

The evaluation was carried out by a multidisciplinary team on October 22-23, 2002. A list of the team members appears at the end of the summary.

According to the evaluation, the site's main strengths are the following:

- The known cultural resources are in good condition;
- The communications program targets the reasons for justifying the site's designation as a national historic site;
- For the designated place, there are management systems in place for maintaining the cultural resources and ensuring that the messages are communicated.

According to the evaluation, the site's main weaknesses are the following:

- The in situ archaeological resources, which are scattered along the battlefield, have not been inventoried. These resources, which belong largely to private owners, cannot be effectively managed in the absence of sufficient knowledge. Involvement of the owners was initiated during the public consultations prior to the management plan.
- Some of the communications equipment is old and its physical condition diminishes its usefulness as a means for conveying messages.

Below are the results of the evaluation:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Legend:</b> |   |
| <b>Green</b>   | good, effective or presently with no shortcomings. A green indicator means that there is no threat to the site's commemorative integrity. |
| <b>Yellow</b>  | fair, or slight to moderate shortcomings. Improvements are needed.  |
| <b>Red</b>     | poor, ineffective, with serious shortcomings or the absence of an important attribute.  |
| <b>N/A</b>     | not applicable  |
| <b>N/R</b>     | not rated or not reported because the information is unavailable.   |
| <b>+ or -</b>  | The present state of the site is at the upper or lower limit of the colour rating.  |
| <b>↑ or ↓</b>  | Indicates a tendency toward improvement (↑) or deterioration (↓).   |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <b>STATE OF THE RESOURCES</b>  |         |
| <b>General</b>   | green   |
| Resources relating to national significance                              | green   |
| Other cultural resources   | green   |
| Types of cultural resources:   |         |
| . Designated place   | green   |
| . Buildings, structures  | N/A     |
| . Archaeological sites   | N/R     |
| . Objects  | green   |
| Other heritage resources   | N/A     |
| <b>EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION</b>                                    |         |
| <b>General</b>   | yellow  |
| National significance  | yellow  |
| Other heritage values  | green   |
| Effectiveness of media   | yellow  |
| Audience comprehension   | yellow  |
| Extent and complexity of perspectives presented                          | yellow  |
| General values of national historic sites                                | green   |
| <b>MANAGEMENT PRACTICES</b>  |         |
| <b>General</b>   | red     |
| Inventory and assessment of cultural resources                           | red     |
| Respect for the principles and practices of cultural resource management | red     |
| Archives and records   | green   |
| Maintenance programs   | green   |
| Monitoring and corrective measures                                       | yellow↑ |

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# Participants

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- Lorraine Neault, Superintendent, Battle of the Châteauguay National Historic Site

## Quebec Service Centre

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