

# FORT WELLINGTON & THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

## *Management Plan*

*April, 2001*



## **FOREWORD**

The Government of Canada is committed to the protection and presentation of our human heritage. As Minister of Canadian Heritage responsible for Parks Canada, it is my responsibility to safeguard the integrity of our national historic sites. It is in the spirit of this mandate, which was entrusted to me by the people of Canada, that I approve the Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Sites of Canada Management Plan, an example of our commitment to the protection of our historic places for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Sites of Canada, located in and adjacent to the Town of Prescott, Ontario were designated as being of national significance shortly after the end of World War I at a time when there was growing interest in preserving Canada's past.

Both sites played an important role in the defence of Canada. Fort Wellington played an important role in defending the St. Lawrence River during the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837. The Battle of the Windmill site was the location of a victory of a British force over an invading force of Americans and Canadian rebels in November 1838. They stand as a testament to the time when relations with our southerly neighbour led to open hostilities.

Parks Canada has the responsibility to preserve these places and to inform Canadians of their national historic significance. This management plan helps set the direction for Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Sites into this century with particular emphasis on ensuring the commemorative integrity of the sites, the development of partnerships, quality service to visitors, and contributing to tourism in the community. In recognition of their importance to the community, the plan was prepared in collaboration with representatives of a variety of community interests and the residents of Prescott and area.

National historic sites represent a means for Canadians to learn and share the story of our country. As places where we can commemorate our history and our diverse heritage, they contribute to an understanding and collective sense of Canada's national identity.



Sheila Copps  
Minister of Canadian Heritage

**FORT WELLINGTON and THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This plan has been recommended for approval by:



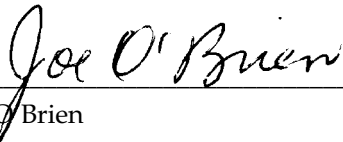
---

Tom Lee  
Chief Executive Officer  
Parks Canada



---

Christina Cameron  
Director General  
National Historic Sites, Parks Canada



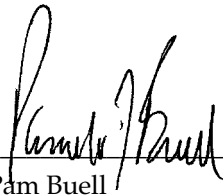
---

Joe O'Brien  
Director General  
Eastern Canada, Parks Canada



---

Doug Stewart  
Field Unit Superintendent,  
Eastern Ontario, Parks Canada



---

Pam Buell  
Area Superintendent  
Fort Wellington and Laurier House National Historic Sites of Canada



## Table of Contents

Foreword	i
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Policy Direction	5
3.0 Commemorative Integrity of Fort Wellington	8
4.0 Commemorative Integrity of the Battle of the Windmill	17
5.0 Fort Wellington: Current State of Commemorative Integrity and Issues	21
6.0 The Battle of the Windmill Site: Current State of Commemorative Integrity and Issues	25
7.0 Operational Issues	27
8.0 Vision and Guiding Principles	28
9.0 Actions to ensure the Commemorative Integrity of Fort Wellington	30
10.0 Actions to ensure the Commemorative Integrity of the Battle of the Windmill	32
11.0 Heritage Presentation and Outreach	35
12.0 Marketing	38
13.0 Environmental Assessment	40
14.0 Implementation	40
15.0 Management Plan Review	40
Appendix A: Commemorative Integrity Statement for Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada	41
Appendix B: Cross Section through the earthworks of Fort Wellington Illustrating the 19th Century Fortification	54
Appendix C: Glossary of 19th Century Fortification Terms as they apply to Fort Wellington	55
Appendix D: Commemorative Integrity Statement for the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada	57

*Note: The photos in the plan are by Parks Canada unless otherwise noted.*



*Bird's eye view of Fort Wellington and the waterfront lands.*



*Bird's eye view of Battle of the Windmill Site.*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Sites of Canada, located in and adjacent to the Town of Prescott, were designated as being of national historic significance shortly after the end of World War I. Their designation was indicative of a growing desire by Canadians in the years following World War I to commemorate important places, events and persons in the history of Canada. The Fort was acquired by the Department of the Interior in 1923 and was one of the first national historic sites owned and operated by the National Parks Branch, the forerunner of Parks Canada. This important event heralded the formation of the system of national historic sites now consisting of over 800 national historic sites, 132 of which are owned by Parks Canada.

Today, both the Fort and the Battle of the Windmill sites are a highly visible presence in the 'Fort Town' as Prescott is known. Far from being forgotten relics of our past, they are places where Canadians can recapture the spirit of pre-Confederation Canada.

### **1.1 Purpose of a Management Plan**

The purpose of a management plan is to ensure the commemorative integrity of a national historic site and the application of cultural resource management principles and practices. The management plan establishes the long range direction for a national historic site and is a commitment by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada that the site will be protected and presented to the public. A management plan applies the policies of Parks Canada to a specific site incorporating public knowledge, expertise and suggestions.

The direction established in a management plan for a national historic site responds to Parks Canada's fundamental responsibilities to ensure the protection and presentation of cultural resources and messages of national significance, to provide quality service to visitors, and to use funds in a wise and efficient manner. As well, the plan provides direction for greater community involvement, marketing, revenue generation, the resolution of operational issues and a framework to assess the merits of any future use or development proposals.

### **1.2 Local and Regional Context**

Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill site are located in and adjacent to Prescott, a town of 4,000 situated along the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Montreal. The town is south of Highway 401, the main east-west artery through Ontario. The Fort is situated immediately east of the downtown area along Leeds and Grenville County Road 2 (formerly Highway 2). The Windmill is 1.5 km east of the Fort and south of County Road 2. A CNR spur line, used on a daily basis by the local grain elevator, bisects the site. Both properties front on the St. Lawrence River.

Fort Wellington is situated on a 5.1 ha. parcel of land surrounded by residential, open space and recreational land. The former CPR lands, acquired by Parks Canada in 1982 consist of 11.3 ha. of open space between County Road 2 and the river. These lands protect the historic values of the fort by ensuring that the views towards the river remain unimpaired. Located only a few hundred metres from the centre of the town, the Fort is the predominant feature in a town well endowed with heritage buildings of considerable significance. Indeed, the Stockade Barracks built in 1812 and



commemorated by an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque is located immediately west of the Fort. The Town has done much in recent years to attract tourists and has used the Fort as an emblem, promoting itself as the 'Fort Town'.

The Windmill site is located on a steep embankment overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The windmill is located on 2.18 ha. of land between the river and the CNR railway line. An additional 2.2 ha. is located north of the railway and the access road.

The dominant landscape feature is the St. Lawrence River. The river accounted for the location of Prescott, Fort Wellington and the Windmill. Ogdensburg, located directly opposite Prescott is the nearest American community and was fortified as well during the War of 1812. Access to the United States is via the bridge at Johnstown approximately 6 km east of Prescott. Ottawa is less than one hour away via the new four-lane Highway 416.

The region offers a variety of complementary tourism, recreational and heritage appreciation opportunities. St. Lawrence Islands National Park is 45 minutes to the west. Upper Canada Village is 30 minutes to the east. Eastern Ontario is well known for its heritage communities which include places like Brockville, Merrickville and Kingston. The St. Lawrence River and the Rideau Canal are both popular boating routes.

Within the Town of Prescott, there are three Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaques, one for the fort, one commemorating Sir Richard Scott, and one for the Grand Trunk Railways. The Town contains a remarkable collection of domestic and commercial buildings from the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. The degree of integrity of the buildings and street scapes is quite high resulting in a generally pleasing heritage ambience. The town has an active heritage community and many buildings have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Its historic character has not however been widely appreciated but could form the base for a strong economy if measures are taken to protect and manage it wisely.

### **1.3 National Context**

Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill are part of a family of over 850 national historic sites nation-wide. Fort Wellington commemorates the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837, while the Battle of the Windmill site commemorates the four-day battle which took place there during the Rebellion. Canada's military history is strongly represented at many national historic sites across the nation; other sites in Ontario which are "sisters" to Fort Wellington include Fort Henry in Kingston, Fort York in Toronto, Fort Malden in Amherstburg, Fort George in Niagara on the Lake, and Fort Erie near Niagara Falls. At this time, only Fort Malden and Fort George are also administered by Parks Canada. Through the family of national historic sites, visitors can appreciate the richness and diversity of our military past.

The national programme of historical commemoration is comprised of several distinct yet interlocking parts. In addition to the over 850 national historic sites, over 360 persons and 300 other aspects, including such categories as events in Canadian history, have been commemorated as being of national significance. Most commonly, the method of commemoration is by a plaque or simple marker. Places that have been designated as



national historic sites may also be commemorated through their acquisition by the federal government for preservation and presentation to the people of Canada, as is the case with the Fort and the Windmill site. All such designations are made by the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Parks Canada now administers 145 national historic sites across Canada, and has contributed to over 60 more through cost-sharing agreements.

#### **1.4 Public Programming**

Fort Wellington is open to the general public from the Victoria Day weekend in May until the end of September. During this period the Fort operates an active costumed interpretation and animation programme, with the help of students through federal youth employment initiatives. The Heritage Day Camp brings younger children on-site in costume. The summer months are punctuated with special events, including *Canada Day*, *Kids Day*, and the annual spirit walk, *Shadows of the Fort*. The Fort grounds have been used in recent years to stage special events organized by the town, including *Shakespeare at the Fort*.

In the off-season, the Fort's interpretive efforts are concentrated on educational programmes

and outreach. Extension visits to schools offer curriculum-linked presentations based on the historic resources of Fort Wellington. A Barracks Christmas programme held at the Fort in December has also proved popular with local schools. Seasonal special events and workshops are offered periodically year-round.



*Enjoying the fort in peace time.*

The Battle of the Windmill site is operated by the Friends of Windmill Point, with technical support from Fort Wellington. The site is open to the public from mid-May until mid-October and staffed by a Site Manager (hired by the Friends), Young Canada Works students (hired by the Fort), and volunteers from the Friends organization. At present there are *limited* special events or school programmes, though educational tours at the Fort occasionally involve a segment at the Windmill site.



*Children's program at the fort.*

Attendance at Fort Wellington was 16,989 in 1998 which included 3,824 people in 104 groups, 2,008 at special events, and 3,102 reached through extension programmes in the schools. This level of visitor use represents the reversal of a steady decline from an average of about 40,000 visitors per year before the





introduction of fees. The number of visitors to the Windmill was 5,000 in 1998.

### **1.5 Site Operations**

Fort Wellington is operated by a year-round staff of six. In addition to their responsibilities at the Fort and Windmill, this staff also oversees the operation of four other National Historic Sites owned by Parks Canada in Eastern Ontario, including Laurier House in Ottawa. The permanent staff is supplemented by a number of students during the summer months. The Fort also benefits from a considerable amount of volunteer service.

Site operations are currently divided amongst several locations. The administrative offices were recently (1998) relocated to the Coast Guard Building on King Street in Prescott, where all permanent staff have their offices in the winter months. During the visitor season, the visitor activities staff are accommodated in the Visitor Reception Building and the Maintenance Compound. The Maintenance Compound, located west of the Fort on Vankoughnet Street is used for a wide range of activities. It contains areas for staff change rooms and washrooms, a staff kitchen, artifact storage and weapons storage, as well as being the workshop and base for all general works vehicles and equipment.

### **1.6 Friends of Windmill Point**

The Friends of Windmill Point are a not-for-profit charitable organization which works in co-operation with Parks Canada to :

- preserve and present the Battle of the Windmill Site, the historic windmill structure and historic objects related to the site's significance through research, interpretation and operation of the site;

- increase awareness of the site and the story of the Battle of the Windmill.



*Kids love to dress up.*



## 2.0 POLICY DIRECTION

### 2.1 National Historic Sites Policy

Canada's national historic sites preserve and present tangible and symbolic aspects of our nation's cultural heritage. As provided for in the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, the Government of Canada is dedicated to ensuring that a full range of Canada's human history is represented within a system of national historic sites. The Government of Canada's objectives for National Historic Sites are:

- to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national programme of historic commemoration;
- to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented at these places and their associated resources;
- to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

The cornerstones of the National Historic Sites Policy are historic commemoration and commemorative integrity.

Commemoration focuses on what is nationally significant about a site, and includes protection as well as presentation. The National Historic Sites Policy states that "...protection and presentation are fundamental to commemoration since without protection there can be no historic site to be enjoyed, and without presentation there can be no

understanding of why the site is important to our history and, hence, to all Canadians."

The policy also indicates that commemoration will possess four qualities:

- it will formally be approved by the Minister;
- it will communicate the national significance of what is being commemorated;
- in the case of resources of national historic significance administered by Parks Canada, it will represent the legacy that these resources represent; and,
- it will be enduring.

### 2.2 Commemorative Integrity

*The National Historic Sites Policy* notes that commemorative integrity describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site.

A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public, and;
- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

*A commemorative integrity statement (CIS)* is a management tool and is intended to:

- articulate what is of national historic significance about the site, including both resources and messages, in one comprehensive statement and thus provide direction for all decision-making regarding the site;



- identify the other historic values of the site, the whole and the parts that make up the whole, and so provide a means to ensure commemorative integrity.

A commemorative integrity statement provides input into decision making by managers but does not, in itself, make decisions. The statement provides information on where value lies and can be used as a framework to assess the impact of proposed action or lack of action. As such, the commemorative integrity statement is a fundamental consideration in the decision-making process. Nonetheless, the statement needs to be considered along with other factors in arriving at the most appropriate decision for the national historic site.

The Commemorative Integrity Statement identifies all cultural resources and messages at the historic site. It provides objectives against which to measure the health or wholeness of the site and learning objectives to help determine the effectiveness of the heritage presentation programme. Level 1 resources are those which are specifically identified in or directly related to the Board's recommendation, and are thus of national historic significance. They may include the historic site and associated buildings, cultural landscape, built heritage, archaeological resources and collections of moveable objects. Level 2 cultural resources are those which have historic value but are not of national historical significance.

Sections 3 and 4 of this plan identify the reasons for the national significance of the two sites (commemorative intent), their cultural resources and values, and the messages to be conveyed to the public. Sections 5 and 6 present the objectives for determining the ideal

state of the commemorative integrity of both sites, and identifies the current state of conservation and presentation. Sections 8 and 9 present actions which need to be carried out to ensure the long term commemorative integrity of the Fort and the Windmill site.

The complete commemorative integrity statements are located in Appendices A and D of this plan.

### **2.3 Cultural Resource Management**

To ensure that the cultural resources of a national historic site are protected and presented appropriately, Parks Canada has developed a Cultural Resource Management Policy. Cultural resource management is based on five guiding principles: value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. In practice, this requires that cultural resources are identified and evaluated and that their historic value is duly considered in all actions which might affect them. Such actions include preservation and protection, public understanding, enjoyment and appropriate use of them. The principles of cultural resource management have been used to prepare the plan and will continue to guide management decisions which affect the development and operation of the Fort and Battle sites. Any activity that compromises the commemorative integrity of a National Historic Site will not be permitted.

### **2.4 Federal Heritage Buildings Policy**

The Minister of Canadian Heritage is responsible for the development and implementation of the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy, providing for the designation and evaluation of the heritage character of all federal buildings 40 years or older. A building determined to be a heritage



building is either “classified” - the highest designation, or “recognized” which is a secondary level. The policy also provides for case-by-case review of proposed interventions that might affect the heritage character of buildings. Evaluation of a building assists managers in each government department in determining how these cultural resources should be protected and used.

As suggested in the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy, heritage character statements have been prepared for all buildings at Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill site, to assist site managers in decision-making when interventions to the buildings are proposed. Consideration of heritage character will continue at both the fort and the windmill.

The blockhouse and the windmill are classified buildings; while the officers’ quarters, the latrine and the caponnière are recognized buildings. All proposed interventions to classified buildings must be reviewed by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office while Parks Canada staff are authorized to review interventions for recognized buildings. In addition, as the federal department which administers the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy, Parks Canada has developed a Code of Practice for all building managers which discusses the policy framework, heritage character and guidelines for interventions.

## **2.5 Agreement for the Sale of Waterfront**

### **Lands to the Town of Prescott**

A 1.6 ha. parcel of land at the west end of the CPR lands was sold to the Town of Prescott for commercial development in 1986. The zoning for this land is Highway Commercial which allows for a hotel. The sale agreement provided for site plan and development

approval by Parks Canada and, height and land use restrictions on the property to protect views and to ensure that any proposed use is compatible with the historic character of the Fort and the views from the Fort to the river.

Submerged archaeological resources such as wharf pilings, load spills and other cultural resources are known all along the river in the waterlots in front of the fort. The commemorative integrity statement for the Waterfront Property details the importance of these underwater resources and the measures which must be taken to ensure their protection and presentation to the public. For the land and waterlot which was transferred to the town of Prescott, Parks Canada set out the measures which must be followed if interventions are proposed. Recording, mitigation and salvage of archaeological resources must accompany development. In addition, an Environmental Assessment must examine potential impacts of activities on federal lands and in federal waters.



### 3.0 COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY OF FORT WELLINGTON

#### 3.1 Commemorative Intent

**Fort Wellington is a place of national historic significance because:**

- it was the main post for the defence of the communication line between Montreal and Kingston during the War of 1812;
- at this place troops assembled for the attack on and defeat of the forces at Ogdensburg, New York, 22 February 1813;
- when rebellion threatened Upper Canada, the fort again assumed an important defensive role;
- it was the assembly point for the troops that repelled the invasion at Windmill Point, November 1838.



*Soldier in period dress.*

#### 3.2 Historical Background

Through the late eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries, Prescott was a key transshipment point on the St. Lawrence River transportation system. Along the 200 kilometers between Montreal and Prescott, the river was marked by a series of extensive rapids that posed a major obstruction to vessels travelling west against the current. Because of the rapids, supplies and people destined for Upper Canada traveled to Prescott overland or on small bateaux which could be poled or manhandled up the rapids. Prescott was the eastern terminus for large lake schooners, and later steamers, traveling from Lake Ontario; here cargo was loaded aboard the larger vessels to continue the journey west.

With the outbreak of war between Britain and the United States in 1812, Prescott became vulnerable to attack from the south. Its importance as a transshipment centre in the military supply line to Upper Canada was well-known to the Americans. Its location, separated from Ogdensburg, New York by less than a kilometer of water which froze into an ice bridge in the winter, left the town exposed to invasion. In the summer of 1812, the local militia occupied two buildings owned by Major Edward Jessup and erected a stockade around them. In October, they constructed an advance battery along the river front armed with two 9-pounders. In December 1812, Sir George Prevost, commander of the British forces in North America, decided to build defensive works along the river supply route, beginning with the construction of a blockhouse - subsequently enhanced with the addition of a substantial earthworks - at Prescott.



Harassment of the frontier towns by American troops stationed at Ogdensburg threatened the peace of these small towns early in the war. In retaliation for a successful American raid on Brockville in February 1813, Lt. Colonel "Red" George Macdonnell, the commander at Prescott, led a combined force of Glengarry Fencibles and regulars across the frozen St. Lawrence. The destruction of the post at Ogdensburg ended the threat of an attack on Prescott by American troops based in Ogdensburg.

The construction work on Fort Wellington was completed December 1814, the same month that the Treaty of Ghent was signed, officially ending the war. At that time the fort consisted of a substantial log, one-storey, splinter-proof blockhouse enclosed by a casemated earthen redoubt plus several support buildings outside the core defensive work, including the stockade barracks to the west. In the years following the war, Fort Wellington's garrison was gradually reduced and the blockhouse and earthworks allowed to deteriorate. The fort was finally abandoned in 1833.

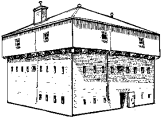
The uprising in western Upper Canada in 1837 had little impact on the inhabitants of the eastern districts, who remained loyal to the Crown. However, subsequent border incidents, and small scale invasions by Canadian rebels and American sympathizers from bases in the United States, raised fears in communities such as Prescott about the possibility of raids across the border. Secret "Hunter's Lodges" organized American sympathizers into armed bands to support the rebels with the intent of attacking border towns and "liberating" the "oppressed" Canadians. In May 1838, one such group led

by the self-styled "Admiral of the Patriot Navy", Bill Johnston, captured the steamer *Sir Robert Peel* while it stopped to pick up wood on its journey upriver from Prescott. As a result of this event, Sir John Colborne, Commander-in-Chief for the Canadas, ordered a series of "Revolt Stations" constructed at strategic locations to house the militia and their weapons.

Colborne ordered that Fort Wellington be repaired and a new blockhouse be built to accommodate 100 men and a 1,000 stand of arms. Work commenced on the blockhouse in late summer of 1838. In November, an invading force of Hunters and exiled rebels landed at Windmill Point about 1.5 kilometers down river from the fort. Fort Wellington was the assembly point for British regulars and a large contingent of militia that were called in to confront and defeat the attackers.

While the military crisis in November disrupted the contractor's work on the blockhouse, the new building was ready for occupancy by February 1839. In addition to the blockhouse, the new fortification contained a guardhouse, cook house, latrine and an officers' quarters. The earthen redoubt was refurbished and modified in 1838-39, but the trace and material from the original structure was retained. Several buildings in Prescott were taken over by the military, including a house near the former stockade barracks, which was renovated for use as a hospital.

Tensions provoked by the uprisings and the fear of invasion lingered until 1842. The post continued to be garrisoned by units of the Incorporated Militia until the spring of 1843 when they were replaced by a small detachment of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment. The RCRR's maintained garrison



## FORT WELLINGTON & THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

### Commemorative Integrity of Fort Wellington

*Management Plan*

duty at Wellington until October 1854 when they were withdrawn and the fort was once again left vacant.



*Soldiers at their post.*

During the American Civil War, Fort Wellington witnessed a brief reoccupation by the militia. Following the Fenian attack at Ridgeway in June 1866, the Canadian government launched a massive militia call up. By early summer the troop strength at Fort Wellington numbered some 1200 militia and 182 regulars. Most of the militia units were disbanded within a few months but the detachment of the RCRRs remained until 1869 when they were withdrawn. This ended Fort Wellington's active military use.

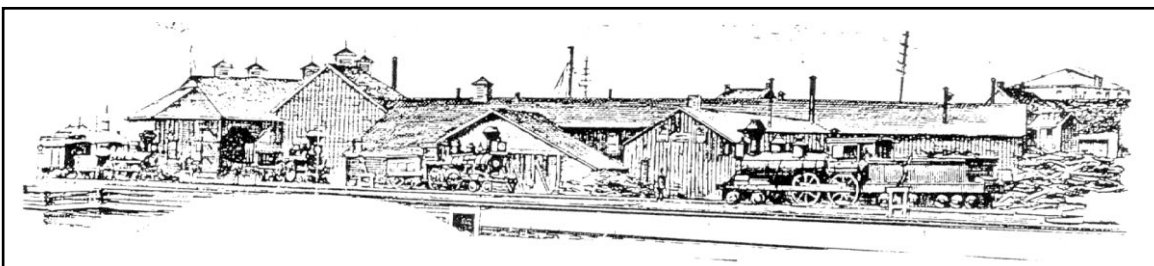
As early as 1852, the river front property at Fort Wellington experienced dramatic change. Unable to obtain permission to construct a railway line on the ordnance lands along the shore, the Prescott Railway Company built a trestle out in the river in front of the fort in

order to provide rail access in and out of Prescott. In 1859, the Ordnance Department sold the shore land south of the road (Hwy. 2) to the railway. Over the next 40 years the contours of the shore were re-profiled and through infill the shore was extended out to the trestle in order to accommodate the growing network of rail yards that were built in front of the fort.

Fort Wellington remained a property of the Department of Militia and Defence into the twentieth century. In 1925 the fort was identified as a place of national historic importance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. At the request of the Board in 1923, management of the property was transferred to the Department of the Interior. As such, Fort Wellington became the first National Historic Site in Ontario to be managed by the federal government because of its historic value. Walter Webb was appointed the site's first caretaker, later superintendent, a position he held until 1956. In the 1980s, the railway lands were acquired by Parks Canada.

### 3.3 The Designated Place

While not applicable to all national historic sites, "designated place" locates and describes the site - its resources and values - in broader contextual terms regardless of current ownership or jurisdictional boundaries.



*Waterfront property in 1878.*



*Based on the site's commemorative intent and the historic use of the post, Fort Wellington as a designated place consists of:*

- its current site property lines bounded by Dibble Street (north) and Russell Street (east);
- the stockade barracks and former garrison hospital building on East Street west of the site;
- the historic river shoreline south of Highway #2 but not including the filled lands which now comprises much of the waterfront property;
- built structures, features and archaeological sites within the current property boundary (see details of these resources below).

*Fort Wellington as a designated place is valued for its association with:*

- defence of the St. Lawrence River communication and transportation link between Montreal and Kingston in colonial Canada;
- the capture of Ogdensburg in February 1813;
- the Battle of the Windmill in November 1838.

### 3.4 The Site

The site is described below under the following cultural resource components: cultural landscapes, built heritage, archaeological resources, and collections of historic objects.

#### *The Cultural Landscape*

Fort Wellington is a cultural landscape comprised of both natural and built features visible on the landscape. (The significant built features are dealt with separately below.) While the site's landscape has experienced

change and overlay through the past century and a half, it retains much of its nineteenth-century military character. The fortification is built atop elevated ground which dominates its surroundings, with the ground beyond the ditches contoured into a sloping glacis. Except for the east and west boundary lines it remains cleared of tree cover.

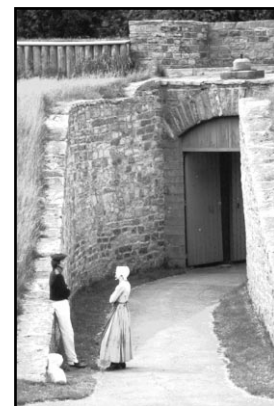
While not all features on the site's landscape can be considered cultural resources, the cultural landscape itself carries enough historic integrity from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period to be evaluated as a level 1 cultural resource.

*The cultural landscape of Fort Wellington is valued for its:*

- open ground and physical profile surviving from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period which reinforces the military character of the site and provides visual evidence of the design and purpose of the site.

#### *Built Heritage*

The built heritage resources that symbolize or represent the national significance of Fort Wellington National Historic Site (level 1 cultural resources) includes the fortification and those additional surviving structures dating from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion



*Gateway exit from the fort.*





period that were integral to the operation of the site.

Today the Fort Wellington fortification comprises: the earthen redoubt, the remnants of the casemates, the redoubt ditches including the scarp, the traverses, the palisade, the fraising, the caponniere, the gateway entrance and the glacis. The fortification is considered as a single resource and is evaluated as a level 1 cultural resource. While the blockhouse is recognized an integral component of the fortification it is treated separately below.

*The fortification is valued for its:*

- association with the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- association with the attack on Ogdensburg, N.Y., February 1813;
- association with the Battle of the Windmill, November 1838;
- design, scale, fabric and completeness of fortified elements which survive in a remarkable state of preservation from the first half of the nineteenth century;
- trace of the redoubt and the remnants of the casemate on the inner face of the redoubt which bear witness to the first fortification dating to the War of 1812;
- design elements which show the improvement and evolution of the fortification - the traverses and the caponniere;
- trace of the redoubt, conveying a sense of symmetry and enclosure;
- siting facing the river, conveying the sense of threat;
- utilitarian design elements which speak to its purpose, e.g. the caponniere;

- imposing size and elevation which speaks to the importance of Prescott as a military and commercial centre in the early nineteenth century.

*The blockhouse is valued for its:*

- association with the Rebellion period and the invasion threat which lasted until 1842;
- symbolic qualities reflecting British determination to defend the border region;
- completeness and evolution of a type of military design - the self-sufficient design of a fort within a fort;
- craftsmanship and materials;
- original interior finishing, fittings and elements such as doors, door frames, hinges, window openings, the well, the armoury, the guard room purpose of the structure.

*The officers' quarters building is valued for its:*



*View of Blockhouse from ramparts*

- association with the Rebellion period;
- surviving form and fabric dating from the Rebellion period;
- non-defensive nature which conveys aspects of military life;



- representative military design of the period - single story, hipped-roof, and loop-holed style windows.



*Officers' Quarters*

*The latrine building is valued for its:*

- association with the Rebellion period;
- surviving form and fabric dating from the Rebellion period;
- non-defensive nature which conveys aspects of military life - functionality, hierarchy and social structure;
- rarity;
- representative military design of the period - single story, hipped-roof, clapboarded design.

***Archaeological Resources***

For archaeological resources at Fort Wellington, the approach is to treat all those with potential association with the commemorative intent as level 1 cultural resources. Examples of known archaeological resources from the 1812-1814 period include: the first blockhouse, parade, revetment, casemates and the casemate drainage system. Examples of resources from the 1838-1842 period include: the guardhouse, the cookhouse, latrine cesspit and drains; parade,

fraising and palisade. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*The archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its construction, design operation, evolution and social life from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- surviving physical elements.

***Collections (moveable objects)***

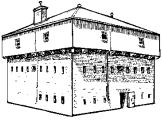
Only a few historic objects which are directly related to the commemorative intent of Fort Wellington (level 1 resources). These include: a coatee from the 65th Regiment, a shako plate, the Hospital Register, a drinking cup, a ceremonial sword captured at the battle of Ogdensburg, an epaulette belonging to Von Schoultz and a document testifying to the authenticity of the latter. Stored in Ottawa, apparently, are several architectural elements salvaged from the former cook house and guard house, as well as site-related artillery tools and implements, documents, maps and plans. Ontario Service Centre staff have been asked to provide an inventory and provenance for the items stored in Ottawa.

*The Fort Wellington collection of level 1 objects is valued for:*

- its direct association with the site in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- the information it provides on the occupation and activities of the site;
- its association with individuals who are connected with the site.

**3.5 Messages**

Messages of National Significance are based on the reasons why the site was commemorated.



Effective communication focuses on the knowledge and understanding that as many Canadians as possible should have regarding the national significance of the site.

*Primary messages regarding the national significance of Fort Wellington are:*

- it was the main post for the defence of the communication line between Montreal and Kingston during the War of 1812;
- it was the place troops assembled for the attack on Ogdensburg, New York, 22 February 1813;
- when rebellion threatened Upper Canada, the Fort Wellington again assumed an important defensive role;
- it was the assembly point for the troops that repelled the invasion at Windmill Point, November 1838.

*Context messages of national significance include:*

- water transportation was vital for supporting the military forces in Upper Canada during the War of 1812;
- Prescott's location made it a crucial link in the water transportation system along the St. Lawrence;
- the American garrison at Ogdensburg posed a military threat to Prescott and the St. Lawrence transportation system in 1812-13;
- the attack on Ogdensburg eliminated the military threat from this town;
- the design and construction of the 1812-1814 fortification reflected basic military design elements in British North America of the time;
- the composition of the garrison, 1812-14, demonstrates how the British relied on a

small number of regular troops augmented by a large number of local militia;

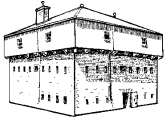
- Fort Wellington was part of a border defence system, 1812-14, and is related to other military national historic sites in Ontario such as Fort George;
- throughout the Rebellion period there was the threat of invasion or attack on St. Lawrence River border communities;
- Prescott continued to be an important post in the colonial transportation system even with the completion of the Rideau Canal;
- in 1838-1839 Fort Wellington was reconstructed with improved features and design elements;
- the composition of the garrison during the Rebellion period shows the reliance on small number of regular troops augmented by large contingents of local militia;
- Fort Wellington was part of a border defence system ("revolt stations"), 1838-1842, and with other military national historic sites in Ontario represents this system.

### **3.6 Other Heritage Values**

In addition to those resources and messages that are directly tied or represent the national significance of Fort Wellington, the site possesses other physical and associative values that contribute to the site's heritage character and heritage experience. The site's other heritage values are addressed under the following categories - the site, historic objects and archaeological resources.

#### *The Site*

In terms of broad themes, other historic values and themes associated with Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada include:



- the settlement of the Prescott area prior to 1812 with particular reference to the role of Edward Jessup;
- the militia's role in the transshipment activities along the St. Lawrence during the War of 1812;
- the composition and duties of the Fort Wellington garrison 1815-1837;
- the RCRR occupation, duties and garrison life 1843-1854 and 1866-69;
- the occupation and use of Fort Wellington during the Fenian period - 1866;
- the interaction of the Fort Wellington garrison with the town of Prescott - sporting events, social and recreational activities;
- the relationship of the site and the town - militia activities, recreational use, museum, symbol of the community and civic pride;
- the creation, acquisition and activities of one of Canada's earliest national historic sites, 1923-1956.

***Other Archaeological Resources***

Known archaeological resources at Fort Wellington that are not related to the War of 1812 or the Rebellion period consist mainly of evolutionary deposits from the 1815-1837 period and the post-1842 period. Such deposits include: latrine cesspit deposits from the RCRR period of occupation 1843-1853, the Fenian occupation period of 1866-1869 and the national historic site period post 1923. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*Other archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its occupation, operation, evolution and social life;
  - surviving physical elements.
- Other Historic Objects***
- There are only a few historic objects which are directly related to Fort Wellington's other heritage values (level 2 cultural resources). These include several articles of clothing, a shako plate, shakos and at least one piece of ordnance. There are also site-related documents, maps and plans.
- The Fort Wellington collection of level 2 objects is valued for:*
- its direct association with the site;
  - the information it provides on the occupation and activities of the site;
  - its association with individuals who are connected with the site.
- Other Heritage Messages***
- The area around Prescott was settled by United Empire Loyalists and Edward Jessup's promotion of the transshipment business gave rise to the town itself.
  - The local militia built the town's first fortifications - the stockade barracks (Jessup's Barracks).
  - One of the primary duties of the militia along the St. Lawrence frontier during the War of 1812 was transporting military supplies up the river.
  - The post was occupied from 1815 to 1837 and then fell into disrepair.
  - The RCRR occupation of the site 1843-1854 and 1866-69 provides a fascinating window into garrison life.
  - The interaction of the Fort Wellington garrison with the town of Prescott is an



important aspect of the community's history.

- The militia occupation and/or use of Fort Wellington 1866 through to 1920.
- The creation, acquisition and activities of one of Canada's earliest historic parks, 1923-1956.



*Period furnishings inside the Officers Quarters.*



## 4.0 COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY OF THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

### 4.1 Commemorative Intent

**The Battle of the Windmill is a place of national historic significance because:**

It was the site of a victory of a British force, comprised of imperial and colonial troops, over an invading force of American "Hunters" and Canadian rebels in November 1838.

### 4.2 Historical Background

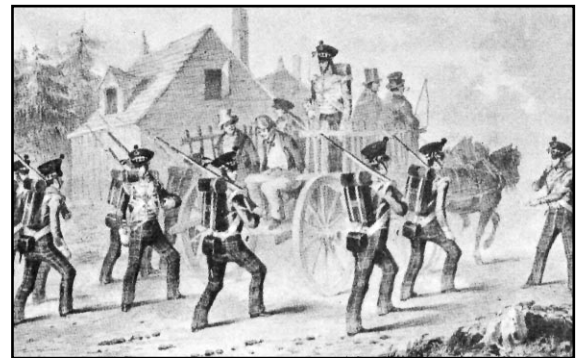
The uprising in western Upper Canada in 1837 had little impact on the inhabitants of the eastern districts, who remained loyal to the Crown. However, subsequent border incidents, and small scale invasions by Canadian rebels and American sympathizers from bases in the United States, raised fears in communities such as Prescott about the possibility of raids across the border. Secret "Hunter's Lodges" organized American sympathizers into armed bands to support the rebels with the intent of attacking border towns and "liberating" the "oppressed" Canadians. In May 1838, one such group led by the self-styled "Admiral of the Patriot Navy", Bill Johnston, captured and burned the steamer *Sir Robert Peel* while it stopped to pick up wood on its journey upriver from Prescott.

In November 1838, an armed force of over 200 exiled Canadian rebels and American "Hunters" sailed from Millen's Bay, New York with the intention of capturing Fort Wellington and rallying the local population to support their cause. On the night of 11-12

November, the landing at Prescott failed after the alarm was sounded. Part of the invasion force sailed 1.5 km down river and landed at Windmill Point at the village of Newport.

The following day the invaders, with two light field guns, had control of the windmill, the village of Newport and surrounding fields. Meanwhile a force of British regulars and a large contingent of militia from local communities assembled at Fort Wellington. On Tuesday, 13 November, the combined loyalist forces began a two-pronged assault on the village which forced the invaders, under the command of Nils Von Schoultz, back to the confines of the stone houses of Newport and the windmill. Both sides suffered casualties and the action was broken off in the late afternoon.

Through 14 and 15 November, more British troops arrived from Kingston including a contingent of Royal Artillery with several heavy guns. The British forces were deployed in a large arc around Newport. The British also had three armed steamers off shore thus encircling the small invading force. By mid-afternoon Friday, the 16th, the British field guns were in place on a rise of ground about 400 meters from the village. These guns, plus



*71st Highland Light Infantry escort prisoners to Kingston. (Public Archives of Canada)*



the armed steamers in the river, began pounding the village and the windmill. After several hours of bombardment all armed resistance was over and most of the invaders were prisoners.

NOTE: The dominant structure at Windmill Point at the time of the battle was a large stone windmill constructed circa 1832 by West India merchant, Thomas Hughes, as part of the development of the surrounding community of Newport. Fixed with two run of stone, the mill was not economically viable and had likely been idle for some time prior to the battle.

#### **4.3 The Designated Place**

The “designated place” locates and describes the site - its resources and values - in terms of what was designated nationally significant, regardless of current ownership or jurisdictional boundaries. Historical research indicates that the present property at Windmill Point owned by Parks Canada encompasses only about 10 per cent of the 1838 battlefield.

*Based on the site’s commemorative intent and the historic record of the battle, the Battle of the Windmill as a designated place consists of:*

- an area of land extending out from the windmill in a semi-circular arc in approximately a 400 metre radius;
- that part of the river bordering the windmill in a semi-circular arc in approximately a 400 metre radius.

*Battle of the Windmill as a designated place is valued for its association with:*

- the victory of loyalist forces over an invading force in November 1838.

*Battle of the Windmill as a designated place is valued for its physical attributes including:*

- its direct link to the battle’s actions;
- the surviving built heritage and landscape features - the trace of the roadway, the windmill and the stone house, the heights of land to the north of the site, the remaining open fields, the shore line and the river - all of which enhance understanding and appreciation of the events that occurred in November 1838;
- the open panoramic view scapes from the upper stories of the windmill south across the river, up and down river and north across the ground of the battlefield which provide visual linkages and so enhance understanding and appreciation of the events that occurred in November 1838.

#### **4.4 The Site**

For the purposes of this commemorative integrity statement, the site refers to the two hectares of land described as the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada.

The site is evaluated below under the following cultural resource components: built heritage and archaeological resources. For the cultural landscape component see the section on “designated place”, above. In regards to collections, there is only one item confirmed as being directly associated with the Battle of the Windmill and this is managed as part of the Fort Wellington collection.

##### ***Built Heritage***

*The Windmill Tower is valued for its:*

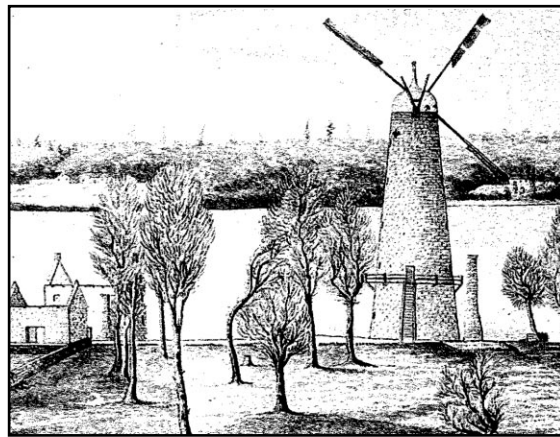
- symbolic importance of the loyalist victory over an invader;
- symbol as a memorial - Pro Patriae - for those who died in the battle;
- association with the battle;



- imposing physical form and fabric - height gives it landmark status and speaks to its military use and heavy masonry construction which withstood an artillery bombardment and served as a stronghold during the battle;
- design elements such as window and door openings which speak to its use during the battle;
- setting or immediate surroundings enhances its height and landmark status from both land and river approaches.

#### *Archaeological Resources*

For archaeological resources at the Battle of the Windmill the approach is to treat all those with



*View of the Windmill at Prescott, after the action.  
(Public Archives of Canada)*

direct association with the battle as level 1 cultural resources. Known level 1 archaeological resources include: the remains of buildings and other structures from the village of Newport destroyed during the battle and artifacts from the battle. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*The archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the events manoeuvres, material culture and the nature of the battle;
- surviving physical elements.

#### **4.5 Messages**

Messages of National Significance are based on the reason why the site was commemorated. Effective communication focuses on the knowledge and understanding that as many Canadians as possible should have regarding the national significance of the site.

*The primary message of national significance is:*

- It was the site of a victory of loyalist forces over an invading force in November 1838.

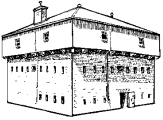
*Context messages of national significance include:*

- the Rebellions of 1837 were followed by a period of unrest when there was a threat of invasion or raids on St. Lawrence River border communities from the United States;
- a secret American organization known as the "Hunter's Lodge" was formed to support and foment rebellion in Upper Canada;
- the aftermath of the capture and burning of the *Sir Robert Peel* was important;
- the militia and the question of loyalty in and around the Prescott area;
- the composition of the militia units that participated in the action;
- the aftermath of the battle - the fate of the prisoners and continuing border tensions.

#### **4.6 Other Heritage Values**

In addition to those resources and messages that are directly tied or represent the national significance of the Battle of the Windmill, the





site possesses other physical and associative values that contribute to the site's heritage character and heritage experience.

### *The Site*

Other historic themes associated with the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada include:

- the design, construction and operation of the windmill which illustrates the rarity of this type of structure;
- the evolutionary elements of the structure, which speak to its use as a windmill, barracks, lookout station and lighthouse;
- the windmill's "classified" designation under the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy;
- the archaeological remains of the village, which speak to its fate after the battle;
- local connections to the site, and its significance as a local landmark;
- local connections to the site;
- the early interest of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in the battle site, which was designated a national historic site in 1920.

### *Archaeological Resources*

Known archaeological resources at the Battle of the Windmill that relate to the non-commemorated periods include: resources from the windmill construction, post-battle occupation, lighthouse conversion and occupation 1873-1923. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

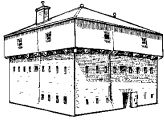
*The level 2 archaeological sites are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its occupation, operation, evolution and social life;

- surviving physical elements.

### *Other Heritage Messages*

- the Windmill is a national historic site;
- each heritage place is one part of a system of national and international heritage places;
- the cultural and natural heritage presented by these places is our legacy as Canadians and a very significant part of Canadian identity;
- the windmill is a federal heritage building;
- the mill's design and physical elements speak to its different functions over time;
- the once thriving village of Newport, marked by its stone houses and stone fences/walls never recovered from the destruction of the battle;
- there are local people with familial ties to the site - the militia, the battle, the lighthouse, etc.;
- the Battle of the Windmill attracted the early interest of the HSMBC.



## 5.0 FORT WELLINGTON: CURRENT STATE OF COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY AND ISSUES

### 5.1 The Designated Place

*The Designated Place will be conserved when:*

- the form and fabric of the extant built resources from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period are safeguarded and maintained according to the Department of Canadian Heritage's CRM Policy;
- the historic character of the two buildings (the former stockade barracks and hospital) on East Street are preserved through cooperation with, and encouragement of, the owners;
- the open view scapes from Fort Wellington looking south, southeast and southwest are maintained in order to enhance the understanding of the historic relationships and military purpose;
- the view scapes north from the road, shoreline and river up to the glacis, the earthworks and the third floor of the blockhouse remain free of visual intrusions;
- the sense of military enclosure within the redoubt are maintained or enhanced;
- future development north, east and west of the site respect the visible profiles of the site in order to enhance the understanding of the historic orientation and imposing physical presence of the fortification;
- decisions regarding the protection and/or presentation of nationally significant resources, values and messages are founded on thorough, site-specific knowledge.

*Current state of the designated place:*

- The nationally significant resources of the site are currently safeguarded and managed according to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy and the FHBRO Code of Practice.
- Since the waterfront is owned by Parks Canada, all significant view scapes towards the river are well protected from visual intrusions.

*Commemorative Integrity Issues:*

- Potential redevelopment north, east and west of the site in the predominantly residential area could detract from the visible profiles of the site if not carried out in a sensitive manner.

### 5.2 Cultural Resources

*The cultural landscape of the site will be conserved when:*

- the view scapes south to the road, shoreline and river remain free of visual intrusions;
- the existing open grounds of the glacis and the sloping terrain down to the shoreline is maintained to preserve the nineteenth-century military character and features;
- vegetation on the site is managed to enhance historic, visual relationships within and beyond the site;
- any proposed interventions or additions on the landscape respect the historic character and identified values.

*The built heritage will be conserved when:*

- the massing, form and fabric of the built heritage is safeguarded and maintained by technical and professional experts in accordance with the CRM Policy;



- a regular monitoring and maintenance regime is in place as an integral part of the conservation programme;
- original fabric in need of replacement is replaced in kind;
- the open spaces and circulation patterns are respected and maintained;
- original structural details - interior fittings, finishes and other elements - are safeguarded and maintained;
- any interventions are based on an adequate knowledge of the history of the structure;
- interventions to Federal Heritage Buildings adhere to the FHBRO Code of Practice.

*The archaeological resources will be conserved when:*

- the Fort Wellington collection is consolidated;
- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.

*The level 1 collection of the site will be conserved when:*

- the Fort Wellington collection records specifically identify level 1 resources, level 2 resources and other;
- the location and condition of site specific objects are properly inventoried;
- future acquisition efforts focus on the periods of commemorative intent.

*Current state of the cultural resources:*

- The cultural landscape is managed today in a manner which respects its historic character and values.
- The fort's built heritage resources are currently managed and conserved according to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy and the FHBRO Code of Practice. Deficiencies noted in the 1997 State of the Parks Report are being corrected in the normal business planning cycle. The caponnière is the subject of a capital project in 1999 to repoint it and replace the flooring and carry out archaeological mitigation. The latrine's roof is being repaired in 1999. The palisade - main gate area was repaired in 1998. A long term capital plan has been prepared and additional projects will come on-line as needed. Fort Wellington will continue to report on the condition of resources through the State of the Parks Report and Parks Canada's National Asset Review.
- The site's archaeological resources are protected and the associated records are complete. Further mitigation and salvage are planned whenever capital projects are proposed. Additional research has been identified for the War of 1812 period.
- The collection is properly managed according to the Cultural Resource Management Policy, and level 1 and level 2 resources have been identified.

*Commemorative Integrity Issues:*

- Although the Blockhouse is in a good state of repair, the interior has been modified in a manner that does not reflect its appearance during the Rebellion period. It does not therefore accurately portray its appearance during the commemorative period.



Improvements in furnishings and in interpretation to the public, for the Rebellion period, will be made as research information and capital funding allow. No major new modifications are proposed for the Blockhouse; its evolution will be respected.

- The Guardhouse was recorded and dismantled in the early 1970s because it was in a dilapidated state. For some years the components were stored on-site with the intention of the building being reassembled when funding permitted. The components can no longer be located; Ontario Service Centre staff have been tasked with determining if they exist, and if so, whether the guardhouse can be recreated.
- The Officers' Quarters was restored in the 1960s. Research conducted by the Federal Heritage Buildings Office in 1990 indicated that the restoration is not accurate in window and door details. Opportunities to correct visitors' impressions through more accurate interpretation and improved furnishings relevant to the Rebellion period will be sought, but the existing architectural design will be maintained to respect the evolution of the structure.
- The collection is deficient in objects relating to the commemorative period. The current scope of collections statement is outdated and needs to reflect the commemorative intent of the site.
- There is a need to complete the analysis and interpret the findings from previous archaeological investigations at the site. A suggestion was considered in the 1980s to recreate the parade surface within the fort, which was originally a pavé (composed of partly dressed cobbles and closely laid). This suggestion was not followed up since it was

determined that a grassy surface was better suited to daily use and met standards for physical access for the disabled. The original pavé surface of the interior parade square is intact under several soil layers and will be left there.

- Archaeological information about the War of 1812 period is incomplete. Opportunities to add to the database need to be followed up as projects arise.
- Archaeological resources located on the waterfront lands, particularly on that portion sold to the town, are not well-recorded and could be lost if investigations are not conducted prior to any development.

### 5.3 Messages

*Heritage communication programmes will be effective when:*

- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;
- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programmes;
- monitoring of programme content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - on messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.



*Current issues in presenting the nationally significant messages:*

- The presentation of garrison life of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment from 1843 to 1854 does not convey the primary messages of national significance for the Fort.
- The loss of two critical buildings within the Fort (Guardhouse and Cookhouse) severely hampers the ability of the site to present daily life during the Rebellion period in a comprehensive manner.
- The stories of the founding of Prescott, the evolving relationship between the town and the Fort and the establishment of the national historic site are not adequately presented.



## 6.0 THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL SITE: CURRENT STATE OF COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY AND ISSUES

### 6.1 The Designated Place

*The designated place will be conserved when:*

- the form and fabric of the windmill is preserved;
- the dominant physical presence (height) of the windmill tower over the surrounding battlefield is maintained through cooperation with and encouragement of the local community and private land owners;
- the view scapes from the upper stories of the windmill south over the river, southeast down river, southwest up river and north to the heights of land beyond Hwy. #2 are preserved;
- the historic character of the remaining off-site building is preserved through cooperation with, and encouragement of, the owner;
- the remaining open ground of the former village of Newport north to the heights of land of the historic battery positions is preserved in its pastoral state through cooperation with and encouragement of the community and private land owners;
- the historic shoreline remains free of visual intrusions - excessive vegetation growth or built interventions;
- future development on the battlefield respects the historic character of the place through cooperation with, and encouragement of, private land owners and the local community;

- decisions regarding the protection and/or presentation of nationally significant resources, values and messages are founded on thorough, site-specific knowledge.

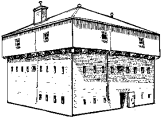
#### *Current State of the Designated Place*

- The open undeveloped nature of the designated place has been substantially compromised by recent residential and commercial development. Municipal zoning allowing for industrial development east of the Windmill has the potential for further erosion of the values of the designated place should these lands be developed.
- The presence of the road and railway line compromise the appearance of the site.
- The surviving, privately-owned stone house near the windmill tower has been altered recently.

### 6.2 Cultural Resources

*The Windmill Tower will be conserved when:*

- the massing, form and fabric of the tower are safeguarded and maintained by technical and professional experts in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy;
- original fabric in need of replacement is replaced in kind;
- a regular monitoring and maintenance regime is in place as an integral part of the conservation programme;
- any additions, repairs or interventions respect the identified historic values and the heritage character of the tower;
- its evolutionary changes are respected;
- the open spaces and circulation patterns are respected and maintained;



- original structural details are safeguarded and maintained;
- any interventions are based on an adequate knowledge of the history of the structure;
- interventions to this Federal Heritage Building adhere to the FHBRO Code of Practice.

*The archaeological resources will be conserved when:*

- any physical interventions to the site including the waterlot adjacent to the site, are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.

*Current state of the cultural resources:*

- The Windmill is in good condition.

- Archaeological resources on Parks Canada land are protected and managed according to Cultural Resource Management Policy. Underwater archaeological resources off Windmill Point have not been documented. Currents are very strong in the area and access to the water at this location is not encouraged. There is some potential for erosion.

*Commemorative Integrity Issues:*

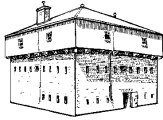
- Archaeological resources on private lands comprising the battlefield are not recorded. Neither are there records of any submerged archaeological resources offshore.

### **6.3 Messages**

There are currently no issues in messaging at the site. The Friends of the Windmill provide a summer interpretive programme and there are static outdoor exhibits available to the public when the tower is closed.



*The Windmill in 1878.*



## **7.0 OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- Washroom facilities and visitor services at the Windmill site are inadequate.

### **7.1 Fort Wellington**

Current operational issues at the Fort are:

- The visitor reception and orientation facilities at the Fort need to be monitored to ensure that they are adequate to present the messages of the site and meet the needs of the visitors.
- A programme of ongoing capital improvements will be required to upgrade the visitor reception facility and the maintenance compound so that they can function effectively. Work began in 1999 on this aspect.
- There is no running water nor washroom facilities within the Fort. This limits the ability of the site to offer a wider range of special programmes, since the distance from the parade square to the visitor reception centre is over 150 metres. Distance to escort children and senior visitors from the fort's interior to the visitor centre during special programmes, especially in inclement weather, inhibits registrations. Further, interruptions in programming are caused when people must be assisted to reach washrooms in time. Special events such as period dinners cannot be offered on a regular basis. Fire suppression measures cannot be put in place.
- There is no comprehensive strategy for the provision of visitor facilities and service on the waterfront lands.

### **7.2 Battle of the Windmill**

Currently one major operational issue exists at the Battle of the Windmill site:





## **8.0 VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **The Vision for Fort Wellington and The Battle of the Windmill National Historic Sites of Canada**

The vision for the two sites has evolved from a combination of Parks Canada's policies for the protection and management of national historic sites, and the ideas presented by the public through the public consultation programme. These vision statements describe the ideal states of the two historic places 10 to 15 years from now.

#### **8.1 Vision for Fort Wellington**

In the future, Parks Canada will still manage Fort Wellington, commemorating its role in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837. Its cultural resources will continue to be protected and visitors be able to learn about its national historic significance. The Fort will retain and expand its programme of costumed interpretation and animation, as well as its black powder programme. Educational programmes and summer activities for children will continue to hold their important place in the Fort's visitor services profile.

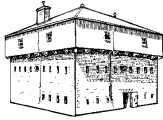
Fort Wellington will remain a principal tourist attraction in the area. It will broaden its appeal to visitors by focussing on special events. Promotion and presentation of the fort in conjunction with other heritage attractions and tourism services in Prescott and the surrounding area will be well-developed. The site will implement and regularly review a strategic marketing plan in consultation with the local community and the broader Parks Canada family.

The waterfront property will remain as primarily undeveloped open space. Opportunities to enhance its interpretive potential while respecting its aesthetic qualities - its openness, views of the river and Fort, and natural ambience - will be pursued. The concept of walking or biking paths along the waterfront property will be explored through working with community stakeholders. This could create a physical link between Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill site. A series of interpretive panels along the pathway could present the waterfront's history through the nineteenth century.



*Summer activities at the fort.*

The Prescott and area community will have a greater sense of involvement and commitment to the activities of the Fort. Active volunteer involvement will enhance the interpretive programme. Fort Wellington will retain a staff of skilled and dedicated heritage professionals.

**8.2 Vision for the Battle of the Windmill**

In the future, the Battle of the Windmill site will be a thriving small historic site run by a committed and visionary Friends organization. There will be some additional public programming and greater emphasis on accurate messaging as outlined in the Commemorative Integrity Statement and supported by on-going historical, material culture and archaeological research.

The site will be promoted in co-operation with other heritage attractions in the area. Enhanced visitor facilities, including better washrooms, will support greater numbers of visitors and encourage longer stays. Recreational access to the site by picnickers, walkers and others will be encouraged. Better signs and promotion, as well as a path linking the site to Fort Wellington, will make the location more accessible.

**8.3 Guiding Principles**

The following guiding principles are the link between the Visions and policies and actions. They have been used to develop the management plan and will continue to guide the management and future use of the site.

**Cultural Resource Preservation and Presentation**

Preservation of the cultural resources of the Fort and the Windmill and the presentation of their national historic significance are the paramount mission of the sites.

**Public Stewardship and Partnership**

Both sites will continue to be owned by Parks Canada for the benefit of all Canadians.

The protection of their historic values is a public benefit and will be borne by all taxpayers.

Parks Canada will develop partnerships to provide enhanced and complementary heritage programming.

Community stakeholders will play a vital role in the development and presentation of the sites through partners and in direct co-operation with site managers.

**Natural Resource Conservation**

Natural features and habitats including underwater environments will be protected and managed to ensure their long-term viability.

**Recreational Activities**

Recreational activities which respect the historic values of the two sites will be permitted.

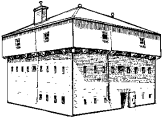
**Regional Integration**

Development and operation of the sites will contribute to tourism opportunities in Prescott and in the surrounding region.

**Revenue Management**

A solid revenue base for the operation and maintenance of the sites will be developed through innovative and financially sound business decisions and practices.

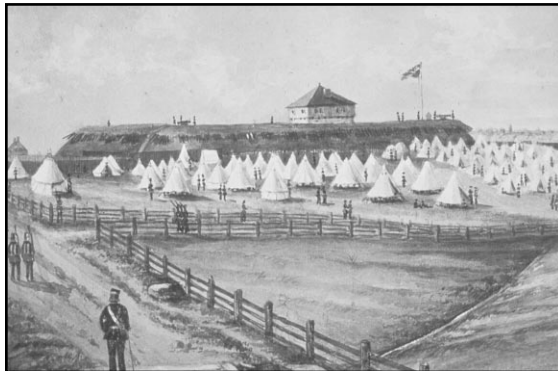
Any commercial development considered as a means of raising revenue will be in harmony with the achievement of commemorative integrity and appropriate public use.



## **9.0 ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY OF FORT WELLINGTON**

### **9.1 The Designated Place**

- The open undeveloped character of the Parks Canada lands surrounding the fort and the waterfront will be maintained.
- Parks Canada will work with the town and any developer of the waterfront lands sold to the Town of Prescott so that future development respects the terms and conditions set out in the sale of these lands to the municipality.
- Parks Canada will participate in the land use planning and development process for lands and waters adjacent to the Fort to encourage appropriate and compatible land uses.



*Historic sketch of encampment at the fort.*

### **9.2 The Site**

- Any tree planting within the designated place will respect the open views and vistas apparent from the Fort.
- The Blockhouse, Latrine, Officers' Quarters and Caponnière will be maintained in

accordance with the highest standards of conservation practice.

- A long-term capital plan will be implemented to monitor and maintain the built resources of the site.
- The cultural resources related to the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period will be maintained in accordance with the highest standards of conservation practice.
- Archaeological resources will continue to be protected and monitored according to the highest standards.
- Archaeological investigations of the War of 1812 period will be undertaken to improve the understanding and presentation of that aspect of the site's history.
- While major interventions are not anticipated, the interior of the Blockhouse will be changed gradually to more accurately reflect its appearance and function during the Rebellion period, through use of appropriate furnishings and exhibits and new interpretation programmes.
- As opportunities arise, historic objects related to the War of 1812 and the Rebellion periods will be acquired.
- The scope of collections statement will be revised to better reflect the direction provided by the Commemorative Integrity Statement.

### **9.3 Messages**

- The heritage presentation programme will be modified to place more emphasis on the role of the site during the War of 1812 and the Rebellion so that the nationally significant messages are conveyed to the visitor. This will require additional historical



research, new costumes and furnishings, new programming and additional archaeological analysis. An interpretation plan will be produced to direct the new focus on the nationally significant messages.

- The site will continue its efforts to determine the effectiveness of its heritage presentation programming.
- The site may investigate the desirability of recreating or symbolically representing the missing cookhouse and guardhouse should interpretive planning demonstrate the value of recreating one or both of these buildings to better convey the messages of national significance.

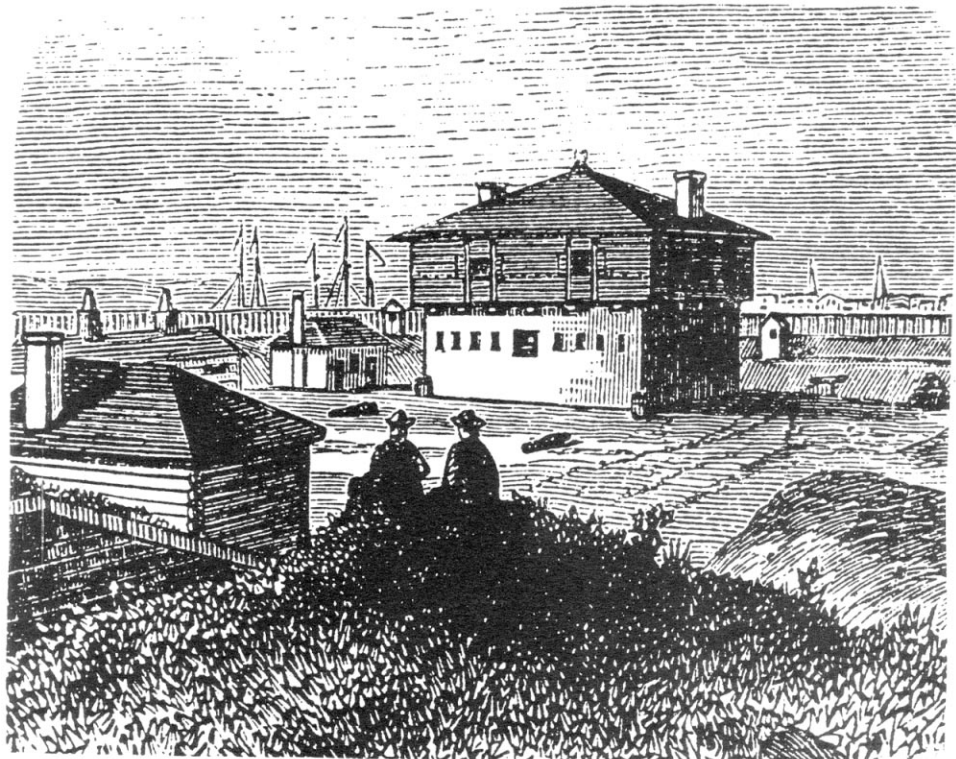
#### **9.4 Other Heritage Values**

- The heritage presentation programme will be structured to present the secondary heritage messages of the site more

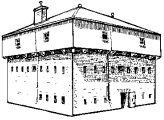
consistently within the context of the primary messages.

#### **9.5 Operational Issues**

- Develop partnerships which will advance our mandate, increase visitor use, and benefit the community
- Plan for and encourage compatible, low-impact activities on the Fort grounds and at the waterfront.
- Contribute to tourism objectives in Prescott and the surrounding area.
- Consider commemorative integrity when developing commercial products and services.
- Periodically review the desirability of installing washrooms on-site in support of public programming.



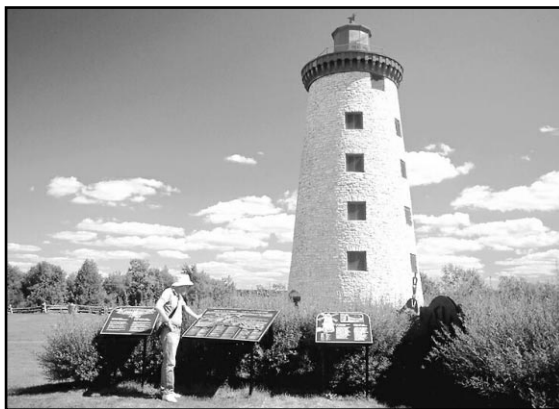
*Historic etching of the fort interior.*



**10.0 ACTIONS TO ENSURE  
COMMEMORATIVE  
INTEGRITY OF THE BATTLE  
OF THE WINDMILL**

**10.1 The Designated Place**

- Parks Canada will raise awareness of the values of the designated place among local landowners and encourage them to manage their lands in a manner which respects the values of the historic place.
- Parks Canada will encourage the Township of Edwardsburg to recognize the historic values of the historic place and adopt policies in the municipal official plan that would protect those values.



*Windmill and interpretation panels*

**10.2 The Site**

- Any plans for the site and the former lighthouse structure will be in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and public safety considerations.
- A long term capital plan will be implemented to monitor and maintain built resources of the site.

**10.3 Other Heritage Values**

- Encourage and support development of a trail connecting the Windmill with Fort Wellington.

**10.4 Operational Issues**

- Support the activities of The Friends of Windmill Point in their mandate for the protection, presentation and operation of the site.



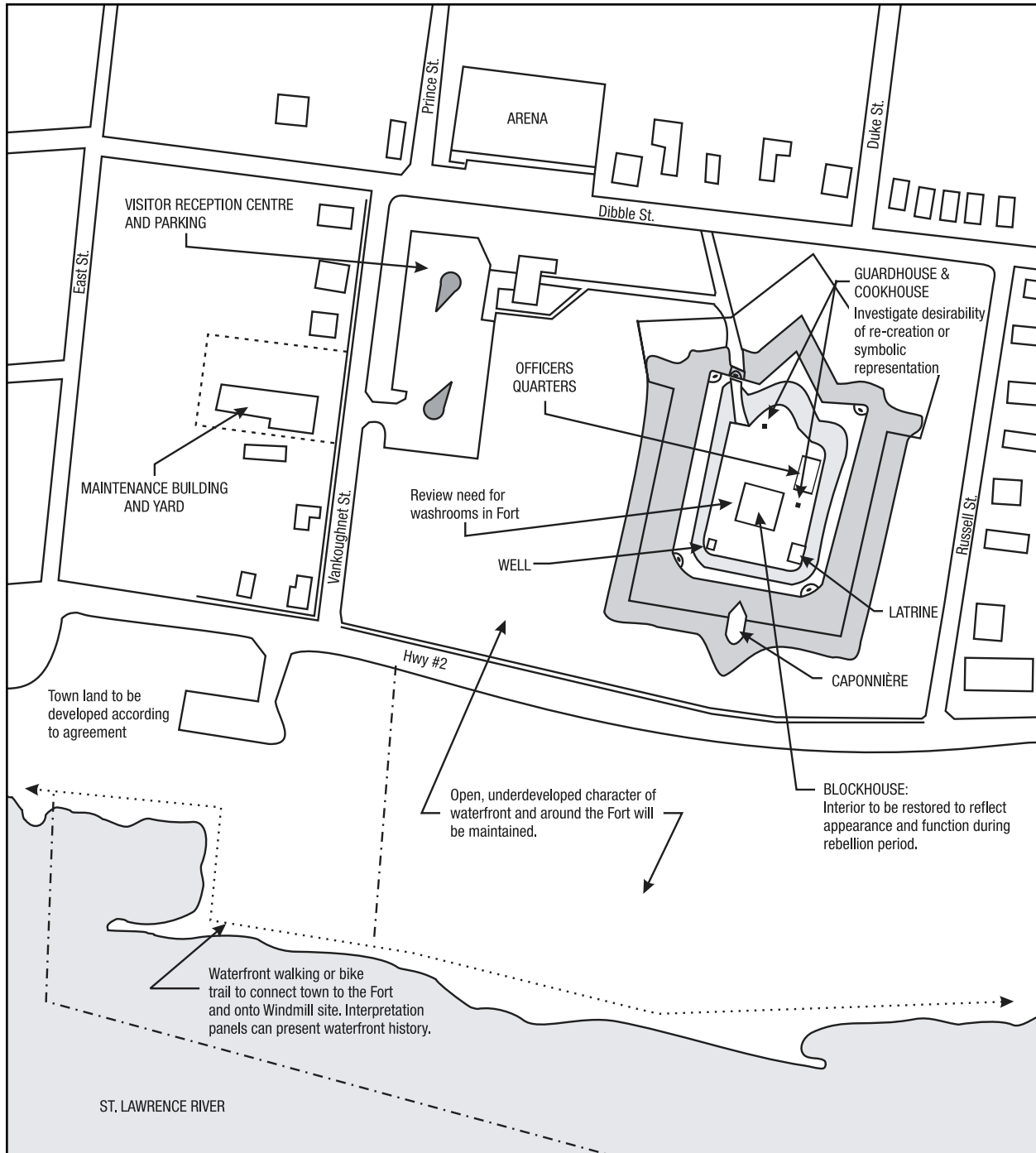
*Battle of the Windmill after the attack.*

- Plan for and encourage low impact recreational activities compatible with the site's historic character.
- Improve signage to the site and promote its unique niche among regional tourism attractions.
- Protect and manage natural features associated with the site.

# FORT WELLINGTON

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

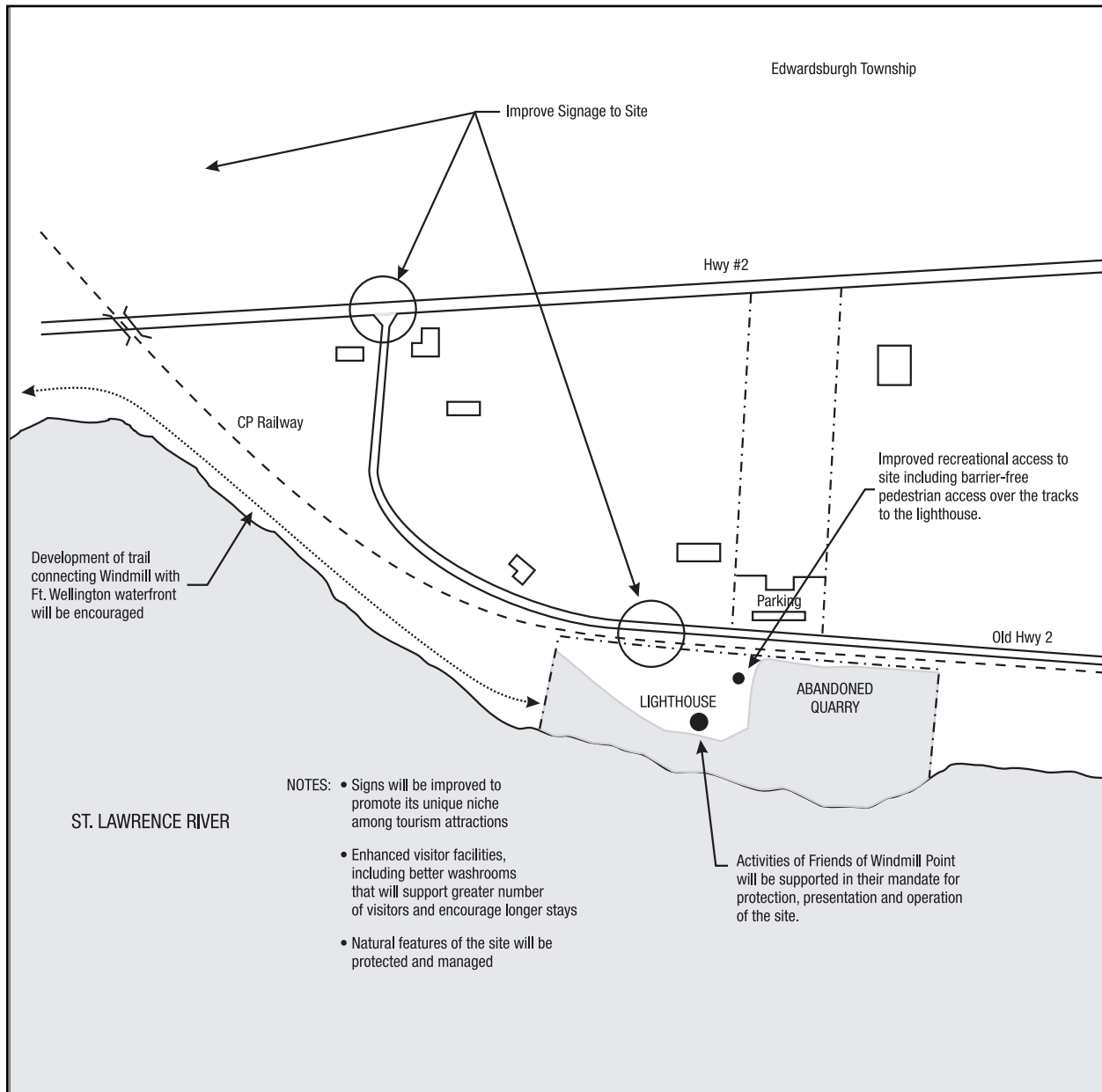
## Management Plan Site Initiatives



# BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

## Management Plan Site Initiatives





## 11.0 HERITAGE PRESENTATION AND OUTREACH

### 11.1 Fort Wellington

Fort Wellington focusses on providing site visitors and extension contacts with high quality heritage experiences. This is done through a variety of media including personal interpretation, exhibits, furnished historical interiors, period activity demonstrations and costumed animation, printed media, audio-visual presentations and a wide variety of special events scheduled from May - December. On-site presentation is designed to provide messages of national significance about Fort Wellington in an informal learning environment to groups of school children, senior citizens, special interest groups and casual visitors in small independent family groups. Extension programmes are offered to groups off-site through an active classroom programme geared to curriculum objectives.

#### Site Objectives

- Provide a high quality heritage experience to every visitor.
- Ensure that messages of national significance are delivered.
- Provide a variety of interpretive techniques so that a wide range of visitors experience and enjoy the site.
- Increase the number of extension programmes delivered throughout the region.
- Present special events throughout the season to draw local visitors back to the site.

- Complete a Web page for the site to present heritage messages to a wide national and international audience through the Internet
- Deliver Parks Canada policy and mandate messages as part of the Family of National Historic Sites.

#### Analysis of Target Markets

The Fort plans to meet the needs of the four target markets identified in its 1998 Marketing Plan through a number of initiatives.

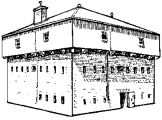
##### 1. Local Residents

Fort staff recognize that a positive and co-operative community is essential to the on-going viability of the site. To meet the needs of this group, special events are scheduled throughout the season to appeal to local residents. Seasons passes are sold at a low cost to encourage repeat visits by locals. A number of free days (*Canada Day, Kids Day*) are geared to local residents who may not be able to pay the regular admission fees. These days are sponsored by local service clubs. The *Heritage Day Camps* offer three sessions for children 7-13 years to become part of fort life by dressing in period costume and taking part in 19th century activities under the supervision of knowledgeable staff. Weekend drop-in sessions for children or *Junior Officers'*



*Re-enactment activities at the fort.*





*Afternoons* provide afternoon activities for children on a more casual basis. Staff attendance at local events and high visibility of all public programmes enhances the perception of the site and encourages support and attendance.

## **2. Educational Community**

The Fort has recognized this group as its most important client and will continue to develop and focus programmes to meet the special needs of the educational community.

Educational tours for school children from the local area and those on extended trips from other parts of Ontario, Quebec and the northern United States are offered and will be expanded. Visiting groups are provided tours of the historic site by costumed guides. Demonstrations and activities round out the visit.

Extension programmes have been designed with curriculum expectations in mind. Sessions feature a diverse range of activities and incorporate hands-on experience with period costumes and reproductions. Two-hour programmes are offered to schools within driving distance or can be offered as part of a site tour. Typical programmes include;

- Grade 1 - *A Soldier's Life* -
- Grade 3 - *Guarding the Frontier* -
- Grade 4 - *A Canadian Castle* -
- Grade 7 - *The War of 1812* -
  - *Rebellion on Your Doorstep* -
  - *Dig In! Discovery through Artifacts* -

A special *Barracks Christmas* programme is offered to young children at the site who learn about traditions and customs of the past through crafts, games and music.

The Fort is also making inroads in the adult educational market through the development and marketing of programmes to groups like Elderhostel, and with special adult and senior citizens' workshops.

## **3. Regional Tourists**

Regional tourists who do not live in the immediate Prescott area make up the greatest proportion of visitors to the site. For this audience, a typical one-time visit includes an orientation in the Visitor Centre including personal interpretation, an introductory audio-visual presentation and interactive exhibits. A walking tour brochure (available in six languages) guides them to the fort's interior where costumed interpreters engage them in conversation, interpret the period exhibits and provide animated demonstrations.

Special events aimed at this group include theatrical performances offered in the evening hours such as *Shadows of the Fort*, and *Voices from the Fort*, packaged with other local tourism attractions. Special weekend events, like *Military Heritage Days* are planned to bring people to the Prescott area.

## **4. Travel Trade**

A growing market for the site is the bus and boat tour operators who bring scheduled groups to the site. The interpretive offering is much the same as for the regional tourist with the exception that a costumed guide is assigned to the group and tours them through the site on a predetermined schedule. Group rate fees make a visit very reasonable for these groups.

### **11.2 Battle of the Windmill**

The Battle of the Windmill site is operated in partnership with the Friends of Windmill



Point, a co-operating association of Parks Canada, created in 1995. The site is open to the public on weekends in May, June, September and October and is open seven days a week in July and August. Staffing is by a combination of volunteer hours, a summer student manager and the Young Canada Works employment programme.

### **Site Objectives**

- Increase visitor use and awareness.
- Produce a publication for site visitors to augment the on-site messaging.
- Provide a quality experience to every site visitor.
- Ensure that messages of national significance are presented.
- Improve the quality and number of special events offered.
- Integrate more closely the site with operations at Fort Wellington.
- Complete a Web page for the site to present heritage messages to a wide national and international audience on the Internet.
- Work with the Friends to develop and deliver local school programmes.
- Deliver Parks Canada policy and mandate messages as part of the Family of National Historic Sites.

### **Analysis of Target Market**

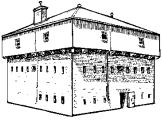
The Battle of the Windmill marketing plan identifies one target market.

#### **1. Regional Tourists**

The site has limited and challenging facilities for visitors. The interior is very small with the only access being up a flight of steep stairs. There are only seasonal portable washroom

facilities which are not accessible to the disabled. However, the site is located in a scenic rural aspect with an exceptional view together with access to the St. Lawrence River. Casual visitors may park at the site, enjoy the exterior exhibits which explain the Battle of Windmill Point, read the HSMBC plaques and picnic or enjoy the grounds year round. During operational hours, visitors are welcomed to the site by staff, encouraged to enter the main floor to view an audio-visual presentation highlighting the Rebellion period and the Battle of the Windmill, and may climb the steps where, at landing intervals, interpretive exhibit panels explain the historic events around the battle. The view from the top is breathtaking, and the interpretive staff explain the dramatic events of the battle from this vantage point. A small gift shop provides souvenir sales items.

The site offers special events throughout the season to attract regional tourists. Craft days, art shows, military re-enactments are planned by the Friends to increase awareness of the site and to encourage repeat visitors.



## 12.0 MARKETING

Fort Wellington and the Battle of the Windmill sites both offer a high quality, authentic heritage experience. Successful marketing will ensure that potential visitors are aware of what the sites have to offer and the nature of the visitor experience so that they can attract and satisfy a fair share of the potential visitor market. Both sites have the potential to increase the number of visitors. Both sites have recently completed (1998) a marketing strategy which provides direction for marketing activities.

### 12.1 Fort Wellington Marketing Direction

#### **Fort Wellington Site Positioning Statement**

Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada, built to protect against American attack in the War of 1812, was for much of the nineteenth-century guardian of the vital artery along the St Lawrence between Montreal and Kingston. Today, as part of a system of national parks, historic sites and canals, the site offers visitors the chance to step back into history. Preserving original elements of the fort built in 1812, as well as the blockhouse and outbuildings from the 1837 Rebellion period, the Fort recreates the life of soldiers and their families in the 1830's. Visitors can discover for themselves the exciting stories of that turbulent age brought to life by knowledgeable costumed guides, authentic period furnishings and engaging exhibits. Tours highlight the key role played by the fort in the War of 1812 and Rebellion of 1837, the fortifications, the social history of life in the garrison, and the way that recent archaeological excavations have changed our understanding of the past. Lying near the confluence of highways 401 and 416, the Fort is within easy reach of Ottawa, Montreal and Kingston. A visit to the fort,

perusal of the gift shop, a picnic on the lawns and a stroll along the waterfront make a great day away or part of a longer visit to eastern Ontario. Parks Canada has the responsibility to protect, preserve and present Fort Wellington thereby ensuring current and future generations of Canadians, as well as people from all over the world, experience this important testament to our turbulent past.

#### **Site Objectives**

- Increase visitor use and revenue.
- Develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders that advance the Parks Canada mandate.
- Increase local awareness and understanding of the heritage resources of the site.
- Continue development of group tours, especially school groups.

The Fort Wellington marketing plan identifies four target markets:

#### **1. Local Residents**

Developing a positive and co-operative working relationship with the local community is the key to the ongoing viability of the site. The Fort needs the local people to visit, to participate in programmes, to promote the site to their friends and visitors, to be good ambassadors to site users, and to co-operate in the development of events and promotional tools.

#### **2. Educational Tours**

Educational groups include school groups from the local region and those on extended trips from other parts of the country. Included are groups which come to the site and also those which receive extension programmes in the classroom. School children are keen and mentally agile learners. They appreciate the



historic site as a more “fun” way of learning than regular classroom work. When programmes are geared to curriculum, they are motivated both by the intrinsic interest of the material and by externally imposed objectives. They are also the heritage supporters of tomorrow. Prescott children also probably present the greatest threat to the site through vandalism.

### **3. Regional Tourists**

Regional tourists are people who do not live in the immediate Prescott area. This group includes both those who come on an extended stay in the region and those on day trips. Regional tourists traditionally make up the major portion of visitors. They are the classic tourist group. Marketing initiatives aimed at them will have trickle down effects in encouraging visits by local people and their visitors. Given the small local population, visitors from beyond the immediate area are necessary to fulfill our heritage presentation mandate.

### **4. Travel Trade**

The travel trade includes bus and boat tour operators who bring groups of visitors to the site. These are adults, and often include a high proportion of seniors. The travel trade represents an opportunity to increase numbers of visitors and associated income rapidly. Their requirements in terms of staff time and facilities are predictable and they are generally mature and receptive to the fort’s offerings. The visitors may recommend the site to friends or family planning a trip in the area. A single committed tour operator can deliver hundreds or even thousands of visitors.

## **12.2 Battle of the Windmill Marketing Direction**

### **Battle of the Windmill Site Positioning Statement**

The Battle of the Windmill site commemorates the site of the victory by a British force, comprised of imperial and colonial troops, over an invading force of American ‘Hunters’ and Canadian rebels in November of 1838. Today, as part of a system of national parks, historic sites and canals, the site offers visitors the chance to relive the drama and tragedy of that event. Located on a picturesque point on the St. Lawrence River, the imposing tower of the windmill, converted to a lighthouse in the 1870s, today receives visitors. See the video, climb the tower, and imagine the bloody litter of fallen soldiers across the battlefield. Lying near the confluence of highways 401 and 416, the Windmill is within easy reach of Ottawa, Montreal and Kingston. Visit the tower, peruse of the gift shop, picnic on the grounds or putter along the water’s edge. Parks Canada has the responsibility to protect, preserve and present the Battle of the Windmill site, thereby ensuring current and future generations of Canadians, as well as people from all over the world, can experience this important testament to our turbulent past.

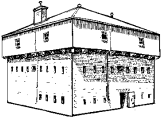
### **Site Objectives**

- Increase visitor use and revenue.
- Increase local awareness and understanding of the heritage resources of the site.

The Battle of the Windmill marketing plan identifies one target market:

#### **1. Regional Tourists**

Regional tourists are people who do not live in the immediate Prescott area. This group



includes both those who come on an extended stay in the region and those on day trips. The Windmill lacks the necessary infrastructure to receive large groups of visitors at a time as well as the necessary drawing power to attract people from outside the region. Casual visitors are, therefore, the primary market for the site. The objective is to attract people who have already chosen to visit the region, encouraging them to include the Windmill on their agenda.

### **13.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

In compliance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (C.E.A.A.) of the federal government, Parks Canada must appraise the effects of its own projects on the natural, socio-economic, and cultural environment. As Management Plans may propose actions or activities which could result in significant environmental implications, an environmental appraisal using this process is required.

All actions with environmental implications are subject to identification, measurement, and assessment procedures to the degree dictated by the magnitude of the potential for adverse effects. Not all potential adverse impacts can be resolved in the Management Plan stage; some must be dealt with at the level of more detailed design and park operation.

An environmental assessment has been conducted and is available upon request.

### **14.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Field Unit Superintendent, Eastern Ontario Field Unit is responsible for the implementation of the management plan. The three year business plan for the Field Unit and the annual work plans will provide details of

the activities to be undertaken to implement the plan. These plans will set clear objectives and priorities along with targets and clear indicators of performance. Timing of implementation will depend on funding and priorities at the Field Unit and National levels of Parks Canada.

### **15.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

The management plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure its continued relevance to changing economic conditions, legislation and policy. Adjustments as implementation occurs can be made as part of the Service Delivery Agreements with the Ontario Service Centre staff, the business planning cycle and asset reviews which contribute to the Long Term Capital Plan for the site.



## APPENDIX A

### Commemorative Integrity Statement for Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada

#### 1.0 Introduction

The following statement was prepared by a committee of cultural resource management specialists from Fort Wellington NHS, the Ontario Service Centre, and the National Office. Also participating was a representative from the *Friends of the Windmill NHS* and the Curator-Director of the *Stephen Leacock Memorial Home, Old Brewery Bay NHS*.

#### 2.0 Purpose and Definition of Commemorative Integrity

##### 2.1 Objectives of the *National Historic Sites Policy*:

- To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration.
- To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.
- To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

A statement of commemorative integrity is a management tool and is intended to:

- articulate what is of national historic significance about the site, including both

resources and messages, in one comprehensive statement and thus provide direction for all decision-making regarding the site;

- identify the historic values of the site, the whole and the parts that make up the whole, and so provide a means to ensure commemorative integrity.

##### 2.2 *The National Historic Sites Policy* notes that commemorative integrity describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site.

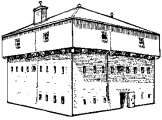
A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public, and;
- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

#### 3.0 Commemorative Intent

Commemorative intent identifies the reason(s) why the site was commemorated as being of national historic significance. While the authority to designate a National Historic Site rests with the Minister, it is on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada [the Board] that this authority is exercised. Commemorative intent, therefore, is based on the Ministerially-approved recommendations of the Board's deliberations.

Fort Wellington was first noted in an omnibus list of sites prepared by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1920; the minutes, however, provide no detail on the significance



of these sites. In 1923, the place was acquired by the Department of the Interior on the recommendation of the Board to join the department's other sites: Louisbourg, Fort Lennox, and Fort Chambly. In 1925, Fort Wellington officially became a National Historic Site and the following year the plaque was unveiled. The plaque text, written by E.R. Cruikshank then chair of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, provides some insight into the nationally significant values considered by the Board. It read:

**Constructed in 1812 and 1813 under direction of Lieutenant Colonels Thomas Pearson and George R. J. Macdonnell, as the main post for the defence of the communication between Kingston and Montreal, and named Fort Wellington in honour of the victory gained at Salamanca, 22 July 1812.**

**Here Lieutenant Colonel G.R.J. Macdonnell assembled the force that took Ogdensburg 22 February 1813.**

**Here also Lieutenant Colonel Plomer Young assembled the troops engaged in repelling the invasion at the Windmill, 11-13 November 1838.**

A new plaque was erected in 1981 and it read:

**The first Fort Wellington was erected on this site during the War of 1812 to shelter British regular troops and Canadian militia defending the vital St. Lawrence River transportation route. In February 1813 these soldiers crossed the ice to capture Ogdensburg, N.Y. When rebellion threatened Upper Canada in 1838 the fort was in ruins. Construction had scarcely begun on the present fort in November 1838 when a band of Canadian rebels and**

**American sympathizers attacked; they were defeated nearby at the Battle of the Windmill by troops assembled at the fort.**

**Based on the approved plaque texts, Fort Wellington is a place of national historic significance because:**

- it was the main post for the defence of the communication line between Montreal and Kingston during the War of 1812;
- at this place troops assembled for the attack on and defeat of the forces at Ogdensburg, New York, 22 February 1813;
- when rebellion threatened Upper Canada, the fort again assumed an important defensive role;
- it was the assembly point for the troops that repelled the invasion at Windmill Point, November 1838.

## 4.0 Historical Background

Through the late 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries, Prescott was a key transshipment point on the St. Lawrence River transportation system. Along the 200 kilometers between Montreal and Prescott, the river was marked by a series of extensive rapids that posed a major obstruction to vessels traveling west against the current. Because of the rapids, supplies and people destined for Upper Canada traveled to Prescott overland or on small *bateaux* which could be polled or manhandled up the rapids. Prescott



was the eastern terminus for large lake schooners, and later steamers, traveling from Lake Ontario; here cargo was loaded aboard the larger vessels to continue the journey west.

With the outbreak of war between Britain and the United States in 1812, Prescott became vulnerable to attack from the south. Its importance as a transshipment centre in the military supply line to Upper Canada was well-known to the Americans. Its location, separated from Ogdensburg, New York by less than a kilometer of water which froze into an ice bridge in the winter, left the town exposed to invasion. In the summer of 1812, the local militia occupied two buildings owned by Major Edward Jessup and erected a stockade around them. In October, they constructed an advance battery along the river front armed with two 9-pounders. In December 1812, Sir George Prevost, commander of the British forces in North America, decided to build defensive works along the river supply route, beginning with the construction of a blockhouse - subsequently enhanced with the addition of a substantial earthworks - at Prescott.

Harassment of the frontier towns by American troops stationed at Ogdensburg threatened the peace of these small towns early in the war. In retaliation for a successful American raid on Brockville in February 1813, Lt. Colonel "Red" George Macdonnell, the commander at Prescott, led a combined force of Glengarry Fencibles and regulars across the frozen St. Lawrence. The destruction of the post at Ogdensburg ended the threat of an attack on Prescott by American troops based in Ogdensburg.

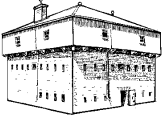
The construction work on Fort Wellington was completed December 1814, the same month

that the Treaty of Ghent was signed, officially ending the war. At that time the fort consisted of a substantial log, one-storey, splinter-proof blockhouse enclosed by a casemated earthen redoubt plus several support buildings outside the core defensive work, including the stockade barracks to the west. In the years following the war, Fort Wellington's garrison was gradually reduced and the blockhouse and earthworks allowed to deteriorate. The fort was finally abandoned in 1833.

The uprising in western Upper Canada in 1837 had little impact on the inhabitants of the eastern districts, who remained loyal to the Crown. However, subsequent border incidents, and small scale invasions by Canadian rebels and American sympathizers from bases in the United States, raised fears in communities such as Prescott about the possibility of raids across the border. Secret "Hunter's Lodges" organized American sympathizers into armed bands to support the rebels with the intent of attacking border towns and "liberating" the "oppressed" Canadians. In May 1838, one such group led by the self-styled "Admiral of the Patriot Navy", Bill Johnston, captured the steamer *Sir Robert Peel* while it stopped to pick up wood on its journey upriver from Prescott. As a result of this event, Sir John Colborne, Commander-in-Chief for the Canadas, ordered a series of "Revolt Stations" constructed at strategic locations to house the militia and their weapons.

Colborne ordered that Fort Wellington be repaired and a new blockhouse built to accommodate 100 men and a 1,000 stand of arms. Work commenced on the blockhouse in late summer of 1838. In November, an invading force of Hunters and exiled rebels





landed at Windmill Point about 1.5 kilometers down river from the fort. Fort Wellington was the assembly point for British regulars and a large contingent of militia that were called in to confront and defeat the attackers.

While the military crisis in November disrupted the contractor's work on the blockhouse, the new building was ready for occupancy by February 1839. In addition to the blockhouse, the new fortification contained a guardhouse, cook house, latrine and an officers' quarters. The earthen redoubt was refurbished and modified in 1838-39, but the trace and material from the original structure was retained. Several buildings in Prescott were taken over by the military, including a house near the former stockade barracks, which was renovated for use as a hospital.

Tensions provoked by the uprisings and the fear of invasion lingered until 1842. The post continued to be garrisoned by units of the Incorporated Militia until the spring of 1843 when they were replaced by a small detachment of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment. The RCRR's maintained garrison duty at Wellington until October 1854 when they were withdrawn and the fort once again left vacant.

During the American Civil War, Fort Wellington witnessed a brief reoccupation by the militia. Following the Fenian attack at Ridgeway in June 1866, the Canadian government launched a massive militia call up. By early summer the troop strength at Fort Wellington numbered some 1200 militia and 182 regulars. Most of the militia units were disbanded within a few months but the detachment of the RCRRs remained until 1869 when they were withdrawn. This ended Fort Wellington's active military use.

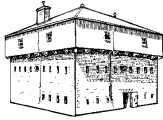
As early as 1852, the river front property at Fort Wellington experienced dramatic change. Unable to obtain permission to construct a railway line on the ordnance lands along the shore, the Prescott Railway Company built a trestle out in the river in front of the fort in order to provide rail access in and out of Prescott. In 1859, the Ordnance Department sold the shore land south of the road (Hwy. 2) to the railway. Over the next 40 years the contours of the shore were re-profiled and through infill the shore was extended out to the trestle in order to accommodate the growing network rail yards that were built in front of the fort.

Fort Wellington remained a property of the Department of Militia and Defence into the 20th century. In 1925 the fort was identified as a place of national historic importance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. At the request of the Board in 1923, management of the property was transferred to the Department of the Interior. As such, Fort Wellington became the first National Historic Site in Ontario to be managed by the federal government because of its historic value. Walter Webb was appointed the site's first caretaker, later superintendent, a position he held until 1956. In the 1980s, the railway lands were acquired by Parks Canada.

## **5.0 Resources that Symbolize or Represent the Site's National Historic Significance**

### **5.1 The Designated Place**

The "designated place" locates and describes the site - its resources and values - in terms of what was designated nationally significant, regardless of current ownership or jurisdictional boundaries.



The ordnance lands acquired for Fort Wellington in 1812 extended well beyond the current site boundaries to the east, north and west. In the mid-19th century, these perimeter lands were sold and over the ensuing years developed as residential properties. To the south of the fort, the shoreline experienced considerable alteration due to infill through the latter half of the 19th century. The trace of the historic shoreline, however, is still marked by the embankment south of the road which is the foot of the glacis.

*Based on the site's commemorative intent and the historic use of the post, Fort Wellington as a designated place consists of:*

- the outline of the glacis which adheres to the current property lines bounded by Dibble Street (north), Vankoughnet Street (west), and Russel Street (east);
- the historic river shoreline south of Highway #2 but not including the filled lands which now comprises much of the waterfront property;
- built structures, features and archaeological sites within the current property boundary (see details of these resources below).

*Fort Wellington a designated place is valued for its association with:*

- defence of the St. Lawrence River communication and transportation link between Montreal and Kingston in colonial Canada;
- the capture of Ogdensburg in February 1813;
- the Battle of the Windmill in November 1838;

*Fort Wellington as a designated place is valued for its physical attributes including:*

- its strategic location and elevated siting on the river front facing the American shore opposite - this siting is enhanced by the absence of any visual intrusions;
- its physical and visual linkage to the town of Prescott which speaks to the military importance of the town;
- the survival of the site's fortifications (dating from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period) remarkably intact which speaks to its design and military purpose (see details below);
- the survival of the site's other built heritage linked to the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period.

*The designated place will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the form and fabric of the extant built resources from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period are safeguarded and maintained according to Parks Canada's CRM Policy;
- the open views from Fort Wellington looking south, southeast and southwest are maintained in order to enhance the understanding of the historic relationships and military purpose of the fort in defending the river frontier;
- the views north from the road, shoreline and river up the glacis, the earthworks and the third floor of the blockhouse remain free of visual intrusions;
- the sense of military enclosure within the redoubt is maintained;
- future development north, east and west of the site respect the visible profiles of the site in order to enhance the understanding of the



historic orientation and imposing physical presence of the fortification;

- decisions regarding the protection and/or presentation of nationally significant resources, values and messages are founded on thorough, site-specific knowledge.

## 5.2 The Site

For the purposes of this commemorative integrity statement, the site refers to those lands defined as Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada which are administered by Parks

The historic site is evaluated below under the following cultural resource components: cultural landscapes, built heritage, archaeological resources, and collections of historic objects. The maintenance building and the maintenance compound on Vankoughnet Street are not considered cultural resources and therefore not included in this evaluation.

### 5.2.1 The Cultural Landscape

Fort Wellington is a cultural landscape comprised of both natural and built features visible on the landscape. (The significant built features are dealt with separately below.)

While the site's landscape has experienced change and overlay through the past century and a half, it retains much of its 19th century military character. The fortification is built atop elevated ground which dominates its surroundings with the ground beyond the ditches contoured into a sloping glaciis. Except for the east and west boundary lines it remains cleared of tree cover.

While not all features on the site's landscape can be considered cultural resources, the cultural landscape itself carries enough historic integrity from the War of 1812 and the

Rebellion period to be evaluated as a level 1 cultural resource.

In addition to the viewscales noted under *Designated Place, Section 5.1*, specific landscape features within the site linked to the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period include:

- the remaining cleared/open ground within the boundaries of the site;
- unobstructed sightlines within the boundaries of the site.
- the profile of the glaciis and natural terrain;
- the historic shoreline of the river;
- the trace of the King's Highway (formerly highway #2) crossing the southern section of the glaciis.

*The cultural landscape of Fort Wellington is valued for its:*

- open ground and physical profile surviving from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period which reinforce the military character of the site and provide visual evidence of the design and purpose of the site.

*The cultural landscape of the site will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the viewscales south to the road, shoreline and river remain free of visual intrusions;
- the existing open grounds of the glaciis and the sloping terrain down to the shoreline are maintained to preserve the 19th century military character and features;
- vegetation on the site is managed to enhance historic, visual relationships within and beyond the site;



- any proposed interventions or additions on the landscape respect the historic character and identified values.

### 5.2.2 Built Heritage

The built heritage resources that symbolize or represent the national significance of Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada (level 1 cultural resources) include the fortification and those additional surviving structures dating from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period that were integral to the operation of the site.

#### 5.2.2.1 The Fortification

Today the Fort Wellington fortification comprises: the earthen redoubt, the remnants of the casemates, the redoubt ditches including the escarp, the traverses, the palisade, the fraising, the caponniere, the gateway entrance and the glacis. The fortification is considered as a single resource and is evaluated as a level 1 cultural resource. While the blockhouse is recognized an integral component of the fortification, it is treated separately below.

The evaluation team recognized that certain structural elements of the fortification had undergone repair and reconstruction work, including the introduction of new material, over the years. While there was no attempt to impose a specific quota of original fabric in the evaluation process, the team noted that several features of the fortification - particularly the palisades and the fraising - consisted entirely of new material (20th century) yet their trace is original and their presence enhances the character and understanding of the site.

*The fortification is valued for its:*

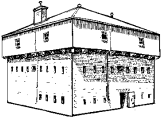
- association with the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- association with the attack on Ogdensburg, N.Y., February 1813;
- association with the Battle of the Windmill, November 1838;
- design, scale, fabric and the completeness of fortified elements which survive from the first half of the 19th century;
- trace of the redoubt and the remnants of the casemate on the inner face of the redoubt which bear witness to the first fortification dating to the War of 1812;
- design elements which show the improvement and evolution of the fortification - the traverses and the caponniere;
- trace of the redoubt, conveying a sense of symmetry and enclosure;
- siting facing the river, conveying the sense of threat;
- utilitarian design elements which speak to its purpose, e.g. the caponniere;
- imposing size and elevation which speak to the importance of Prescott as a military and commercial centre in the early 19th century.

#### 5.2.2.2 Buildings

##### The Blockhouse

*The Blockhouse is valued for its:*

- association with the Rebellion period and the invasion threat which lasted until 1842;
- symbolic qualities reflecting British determination to defend the border region;
- scale - it was the largest blockhouse built in British North America;
- completeness and evolution of a type of military design - the self-sufficient design of a fort within a fort;



- original interior finishing, fittings and elements such as doors, door frames, hinges, window openings, the well, the armoury, the guard room purpose of the structure.

#### The Officers' Quarters

*The officers' quarters building is valued for its:*

- association with the Rebellion period;
- surviving form and fabric dating from the Rebellion period;
- representative military design of the period - single story, hipped-roof, and loop-holed style windows.

#### The Latrine

*The latrine building is valued for its:*

- association with the Rebellion period;
- surviving form and fabric dating from the Rebellion period;
- representative military design of the period - single story, hipped-roof, clapboarded design.

*The built heritage will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the massing, form and fabric of the built heritage are safeguarded and maintained by technical and professional experts in accordance with the CRM Policy;
- original structural details - interior fittings, finishings and other elements - are safeguarded and maintained;
- a regular monitoring and maintenance regime is in place as an integral part of the conservation program;
- original fabric in need of replacement is replaced with like materials and detailing to the greatest extent possible;

- the open spaces and circulation patterns are respected and maintained;
- any interventions are based on an adequate knowledge of the history of the structure;
- interventions to Federal Heritage Buildings adhere to the FHBRO Code of Practice.

#### 5.2.3 Archaeological Resources

For archaeological resources at Fort Wellington, the approach is to treat all those with potential association with the commemorative intent as level 1 cultural resources. Examples of known archaeological resources from the 1812-1814 period include: the first blockhouse, parade, revetment, casemates and the casemate drainage system. Examples of known resources from the 1838-1842 period include: the guard house, the cook house, latrine cesspit and drains; parade, fraising and palisade. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*The archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its construction, design, operation, evolution and social life from the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- surviving physical elements.

*The archaeological resources will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records and assemblages of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.



### 5.2.4 Collections (moveable objects)

Only a few historic objects which are directly related to the commemorative intent of Fort Wellington (level 1 resources). These include: a coatee from the 65th Regiment, a shako plate, the Hospital Register, a drinking cup, a ceremonial sword captured at the Battle of Ogdensburg, an epaulette belonging to Von Schoultz and a document testifying to the authenticity of the latter. Stored in Ottawa are several architectural elements salvaged from the former cook house and guard house, as well as site-related artillery tools and implements, documents, maps and plans.

*The Fort Wellington collection of level 1 objects is valued for:*

- its direct association with the site in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion period;
- the information it provides on the occupation and activities of the site;
- its association with individuals who are connected with the site.

*The level 1 collection of the site will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the Fort Wellington collection records specifically identify level one resources, level two resources and other;
- the location and condition of site-specific objects are properly inventoried;
- they are properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes;
- future acquisition efforts focus on the periods of commemorative intent.

## 6.0 Reasons for the Sites's National Significance Are Effectively Communicated to the Public

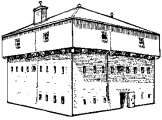
Messages of National Significance are based on the reason(s) why the site was commemorated. Effective communication focuses on what knowledge and understanding as many Canadians as possible should have regarding the national significance of the site.

### 6.1 Primary messages regarding the national significance of Fort Wellington are:

- it was the main post for the defence of the communication line between Montreal and Kingston during the War of 1812;
- it was the place troops assembled for the attack on Ogdensburg, New York, 22 February 1813;
- when rebellion threatened Upper Canada, Fort Wellington again assumed an important defensive role;
- it was the assembly point for the troops that repelled the invasion at Windmill Point, November 1838.

### 6.2 Contextual messages of national significance include:

- water transportation was vital for supporting the military forces in Upper Canada during the War of 1812;
- Prescott's location made it a crucial link in the water transportation system along the St. Lawrence;
- the American garrison at Ogdensburg posed a military threat to Prescott and the St. Lawrence transportation system in 1812-13;



- the attack on Ogdensburg eliminated the military threat from this town;
- the design and construction of the 1812-1814 fortification reflected basic military design elements in British North America of the time;
- the composition of the garrison, 1812-14, demonstrates how the British relied on a small number of regular troops augmented by a large number of local militia in times of crisis;
- Fort Wellington was part of a border defence system, 1812-14, that included other fortifications, several of which are now national historic sites;
- throughout the Rebellion period there was the threat of invasion or attack on St. Lawrence River border communities;
- Prescott continued to be an important post in the colonial transportation system even with the completion of the Rideau Canal;
- in 1838-1839 Fort Wellington was reconstructed with improved features and design elements;
- the composition of the garrison during the Rebellion period shows the reliance on small numbers of regular troops augmented by large contingents of local militia;
- Fort Wellington was part of a border defence system (“revolt stations”), 1838-1842, that included other fortifications several of which are now national historic sites;

**6.3 Learning objectives for messages of national significance include:**

*Why Fort Wellington was the main post for the defence of the communication line between*

*Montreal and Kingston requires an understanding that:*

- prior to the completion of the Rideau Canal in 1832, the St. Lawrence River was the only means to transport bulk cargo from Montreal to Kingston - and hence into Upper Canada;
- Prescott, with its wharves and warehouses, was the transshipment centre because of its location at the head of the last rapids that reached down river to Cornwall;
- Prescott was a border town and in 1812-13, Ogdensburg was the only fortified spot the Americans had along the entire river and Fort Wellington was a counterpoise to it.

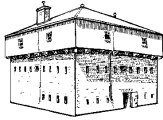
*Why Fort Wellington again assumed an important defensive role during the Rebellion period requires an understanding that:*

- Fort Wellington’s blockhouse and earthworks from 1812 were in disrepair but it was still a fortified place owned by the military;
- the opening of the Rideau Canal had lessened Prescott’s importance as a transshipment centre but it still carried on this function for down-river traffic;
- Canadian rebels and their American supporters were active at several points along the St. Lawrence near Prescott.

**6.4 Planning and Measuring Communication Programs and Services**

*Planning and design of heritage communication programs will be effective when:*

- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;
- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programs;



- monitoring of program content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - of messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.

## 7.0 The Site's Other Heritage Values Are Respected

In addition to those resources and messages that are directly tied to or represent the national significance of Fort Wellington, the site possesses other physical and associative values that contribute to the site's heritage character and heritage experience. The site's other heritage values are addressed under the following categories - the site, historic objects and archaeological resources.

### 7.1 The Site

In terms of broad themes, other historic values/themes associated with Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada include:

- the settlement of the Prescott area prior to 1812, with particular reference to the role of Edward Jessup;
- the militia's role in the transshipment activities along the St. Lawrence during the War of 1812;

- the composition and duties of the Fort Wellington garrison 1815-1837;
- the RCRR occupation, duties and garrison life 1843-1854 and 1866-69;
- the occupation and use of Fort Wellington during periods of military crisis;
- the interaction of the Fort Wellington garrison with the town of Prescott - sporting events, social and recreational activities;
- the army's use of local (civilian) buildings for military needs during the periods of occupation, i.e. the stockade barracks and the hospital;
- the relationship of the site and the town including- militia activities, recreational use, museum, symbol of the community and civic pride;
- the creation, acquisition, presentation and preservation activities at one of Canada's earliest national historic sites, 1923-1956;

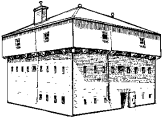
### 7.1.1 Other Archaeological Resources

Known archaeological resources at Fort Wellington that are not related to the War of 1812 or the Rebellion period consist mainly of evolutionary deposits from the 1815-1837 period and the post-1842 period. Such deposits include: latrine cesspit deposits from the RCRR period of occupation 1843-1853, the Fenian occupation period of 1866-1869 and the national historic site period, post 1923. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*Other archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its occupation, operation, evolution and social life;





- surviving physical elements.

*Other archaeological resources will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological input in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.

#### **7.1.2 Other Historic Objects**

There are only a few historic objects which are directly related to Fort Wellington's other heritage values (level 2 cultural resources). These include several articles of clothing, a shako plate, shakos and at least one piece of ordnance. There are also site-related documents, maps and plans. Reproduced objects in the collection are not considered cultural resources. Additional objects in the collection with no provenance to the site must be evaluated by a curator to determine if value exists beyond their presentation support value.

*The Fort Wellington collection of level 2 objects is valued for:*

- its direct association with the site;
- the information it provides on the occupation and activities of the site;
- its association with individuals who are connected with the site.

*The level 2 objects will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the Fort Wellington collection records specifically identify level one resources, level two resources and other;
- the location and condition of site specific objects are properly inventoried.

- they are maintained according to professional standards and are accessible for research and presentation purposes.

#### **7.2 Heritage Messages**

- This is a national historic site.
- Each heritage place is one part of a system of national and international heritage places.
- The cultural and natural heritage presented by these places is our legacy as Canadians and a very significant part of Canadian identity.
- The Prescott area was settled by United Empire Loyalists and Edward Jessup's promotion of the transshipment business gave rise to the town itself.
- The local militia built the town's first fortifications - the stockade barracks (Jessup's Barracks).
- One of the primary duties of the militia along the St. Lawrence frontier during the War of 1812 was transporting military supplies up the river.
- The post was occupied from 1815 to 1837 and then fell into disrepair.
- The RCRR occupation of the site 1843-1854 and 1866-69 provides unique insights into garrison life.
- The interaction of the Fort Wellington garrison with the town of Prescott is an important aspect of the community's history.
- The militia occupation and/or use of Fort Wellington 1866 through to 1920.
- The creation, acquisition and activities of one of Canada's earliest National Historic Sites, 1923-1956.



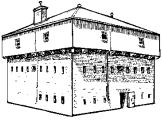
### **7.3 Planning and Measuring Communication Programs and Services**

Planning and design of heritage communication programs will be effective when:

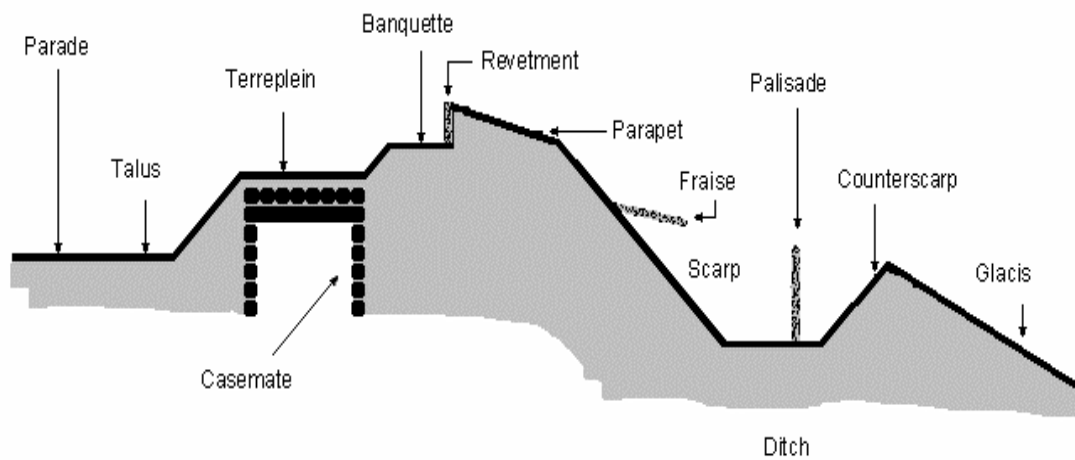
- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;
- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programs;
- monitoring of program content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - of messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.



**APPENDIX B**



**Cross-section Through the Earthworks of Fort Wellington Illustrating 19th Century Fortification Terms**



## APPENDIX C

### Glossary of 19th Century Fortification Terms As They Apply to Fort Wellington

**Banquette**

A raised ledge, sometimes stepped, at the base of the parapet of the rampart on which troops stand when firing upon attacking forces [also known as the fire-step].

**Battery**

An emplacement for two or more cannon or mortars. Usually consisting of a parapet and a defensive ditch.

**Blockhouse**

A small fortified work constructed of heavy timber or masonry and consisting of one or more rooms fitted with loopholes in its sides to permit defensive fire in various directions. Normally situated to guard some isolated point against raids.

**Caponniere**

A casemated work projecting perpendicularly across a ditch for the purpose of delivering flanking or enfilade fire.

**Casemate**

A bombproof chamber, built into the thickness of the ramparts, used as barracks, stores, or gun positions.

**Counterscarp**

The outer face or slope of the ditch. The side of the ditch closest to 'the country' and the besieging force.

**Ditch**

A wide, deep trench surrounding a defensive work, either wet or dry.

**Enfilade Fire**

Fire directed along the length of a fortification or a body of troops [also known as flanking fire].

**Epaulement**

A parapet which protects troops or guns against enemy enfilade fire [also known as a traverse].

**Escalade**

An attack made by climbing over a wall or rampart, usually with the aid of a ladder.

**Fraise**

A palisade of pointed posts planted on the scarp face of the rampart, and projecting horizontally or slightly downwards toward the attacking force. The fraise functioned as an obstacle against escalade [also known as storm-poles].

**Fortification**

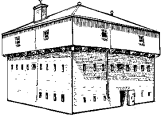
The art of fortifying a town, or other place; or of putting it in such a posture of defence, that every one of its parts is defended by some other parts, by means of ramparts, parapets, ditches, and other outworks; to the end that a small number of men within may be able to defend themselves for a considerable time against the assaults of a numerous army without.

**Glacis**

A natural or man-made slope descending from the crest of the ditch to 'the country', the purpose of which was to provide defenders with a clear field of fire.

**Loophole**

A long narrow opening in a parapet or wall to provide for vision and muskets and small arms to be fired.



**Palisade**

A series of wooden posts, close-set and pointed, driven into the earth and used as a barricade about a defensive position. Normally positioned within a defensive ditch.

**Parapet**

A stout wall or bank of earth, placed on top of the rampart to provide shelter and protection to defending troops.

**Rampart**

A thick wall of earth forming the main defence of the fortification. By increasing the elevation of the place, it provided defenders with greater command of 'the country' and approaches to the work [also known as a breastwork].

**Redoubt**

A closed, detached work, without bastions. It usually had little or no means of flanking defence.

**Revetment**

A retaining wall.

**Scarp**

The slope or face of the rampart from below the parapet to the bottom of the ditch. The face of the rampart which faces the attacker [also known as an escarp].

**Talus**

The rearward slope of the rampart. It can also apply to any earthen slope.

**Terreplein**

The top or wide horizontal surface of the earthen rampart, stretching from banquette to the edge of the talus. Use to support infantry movement and gun positions.

**Trace**

The ground plan or foot print of the defensive work.

**Work**

A general term for a work of defence.



## APPENDIX D

# Commemorative Integrity Statement for Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada

### 1.0 Introduction

The following statement was prepared by a committee of cultural resource management specialists from Battle of the Windmill NHS, the Ontario Service Centre, and the National Office. Also participating was a representative from the Friends of the Windmill NHS and the Curator-Director of the Stephen Leacock Memorial Home, Old Brewery Bay NHS.

### 2.0 Purpose and Definition of Commemorative Integrity

#### 2.1 Objectives of the National Historic Sites Policy:

- To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration.
- To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.
- To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

#### 2.2 A statement of commemorative integrity is a management tool and is intended to:

- articulate what is of national historic significance about the site, including both resources and messages, in one comprehensive statement and thus provide direction for all decision-making regarding the site;
- identify the historic values of the site, the whole and the parts that make up the whole, and so provide a means to ensure commemorative integrity

#### 2.3 The National Historic Sites Policy notes that commemorative integrity describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site.

#### A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public, and;
- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

### 3.0 Commemorative Intent

Commemorative intent identifies the reason(s) why the site was commemorated as being of national historic significance. While the authority to designate a National Historic Site rests with the Minister, it is on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada [the Board] that this authority is exercised. Commemorative intent, therefore, is based on the Ministerially-approved recommendations of the Board's deliberations.



The Board included Windmill Point in the list of sites under review in 1920. It was included in the list of recommended sites with the brief notation: "Victory over invading force of Filibusters 11-13 November 1838." The first HSMBC plaque listed the regiments that participated in the battle and the officers and men killed.

**PRO PATRIAE**

**IN MEMORY OF Lieut. William S. Johnson 83rd Regiment Captain George Drummond and Lieut. John Dulmage Grenville Militia and the Non-Commissioned officers and men of the 83rd Regiment, Royal Marines, Glengarry Highlanders, 9th Provisional battalion, Dundas Militia, Grenville Militia and the Brockville and Prescott Independent companies killed in this action.**

In 1971 a new bilingual inscription from the Battle of the Windmill site was approved, but it was never cast. It read:

Here was fought a fiercely contested engagement of the Rebellion of 1837-38 in Upper Canada. About 150 Americans and a handful of Canadian rebels seized this sturdy windmill and nearby buildings. With the assistance of units of the Upper Canada militia, the 83rd Regiment from Fort Wellington and Kingston and a Royal Navy detachment dislodged and captured them."

It was not until 1981 that another approved inscription was erected at the site. It read:

**After the 1837 Rebellions, many rebels fled to the United States where a few joined American sympathizers in a new attempt to overthrow British rule in Canada. On 13 November 1838 they landed 190 men here and seized this windmill and nearby**

**buildings. The local people remained loyal, reporting to their militia units; in a few days 2,000 militia and regulars, supported by naval vessels, besieged the mill. Although British guns did little damage to the mill, the insurgents, seeing no escape, surrendered on the 16th. Eleven were later executed and 60 exiled to Australia.**

Based on the above, Windmill Point is a place of national historic significance because:

- It was the site of a victory of a British force, comprised of imperial and colonial troops, over an invading force of American "Hunters" and Canadian rebels in November 1838.

### 4.0 Historical Background

The uprising in western Upper Canada in 1837 had little impact on the inhabitants of the eastern districts, who remained loyal to the Crown. However, subsequent border incidents, and small scale invasions by Canadian rebels and American sympathizers from bases in the United States, raised fears in communities such as Prescott about the possibility of raids across the border. Secret "Hunter's Lodges" organized American sympathizers into armed bands to support the rebels with the intent of attacking border towns and "liberating" the "oppressed" Canadians. In May 1838, one such group led by the self-styled "Admiral of the Patriot Navy", Bill Johnston, captured and burned the steamer *Sir Robert Peel* while it stopped to pick up wood on its journey upriver from Prescott.



In November 1838, an armed force of over 200 exiled Canadian rebels and American “Hunters” sailed from Millen’s Bay, New York with the intention of capturing Fort Wellington and rallying the local population to support their cause. On the night of 11-12 November, the landing at Prescott failed after the alarm was sounded. Part of the invasion force sailed 1.5 km down river and landed at Windmill Point at the village of Newport.

The following day the invaders, with two light field guns, had control of the windmill, the village of Newport and surrounding fields. Meanwhile a force of British regulars and a large contingent of militia from local communities assembled at Fort Wellington. On Tuesday, 13 November, the combined loyalist forces began a two-pronged assault on the village which forced the invaders, under the command of Nils Von Schoultz, back to the confines of the stone houses of Newport and the windmill. Both sides suffered casualties and the action was broken off in the late afternoon.

Through 14 and 15 November, more British troops arrived from Kingston including a contingent of Royal Artillery with several heavy guns. The British forces were deployed in a large arc around Newport. The British also had three armed steamers off shore thus encircling the small invading force. By mid-afternoon Friday, the 16th, the British field guns were in place on a rise of ground about 400 meters from the village. These guns, plus the armed steamers in the river, began pounding the village and the windmill. After several hours of bombardment all armed resistance was over and most of the invaders were prisoners.

NOTE: The dominant structure at Windmill Point at the time of the battle was a large stone windmill constructed *circa* 1832 by West India merchant, Thomas Hughes, as part of the development of the surrounding community of Newport. Fixed with two run of stone, the mill was not economically viable and had likely been idle for some time prior to the battle.

## **5.0 Resources that Symbolize or Represent the Site’s National Historic Significance**

### **5.1 The Designated Place**

The “designated place” locates and describes the site - its resources and values - in terms of what was designated nationally significant, regardless of current ownership or jurisdictional boundaries. Historical research indicates that the present property at Windmill Point owned by Parks Canada encompasses something around 10 per cent of the 1838 battlefield.

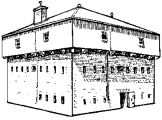
*Based on the site’s commemorative intent and the historic record of the battle, the Battle of the Windmill as a designated place consists of:*

- an area of land extending out from the windmill in a semi-circular arc in approximately a 400 metre radius;
- that part of the river bordering the windmill in a semi-circular arc in approximately a 400 metre radius.

*Battle of the Windmill as a designated place is valued for its association with:*

- the victory of loyalist forces over an invading force in November 1838.





*Battle of the Windmill as a designated place is valued for its physical attributes including:*

- its direct link to the battle's actions;
- the surviving built heritage and landscape features - the trace of the roadway, the windmill and the surviving stone house, the heights of land to the north of the site, the remaining open fields, the shore line and the river - all of which enhance understanding and appreciation of the events that occurred in November 1838;
- potential level 1 marine resources which resulted from the battle;
- the open panoramic views from the upper stories of the windmill south across the river, up and down river and north across the ground of the battlefield which provide visual linkages and so enhance understanding and appreciation of the events that occurred in November 1838;

*The designated place will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the form and fabric of the windmill is preserved (see details below);
- the dominant physical presence (height) of the windmill tower over the surrounding battlefield is maintained through the cooperation with and encouragement of the local community and private land owners;
- the views from the upper stories of the windmill south over the river, southeast down river, southwest up river and north to the heights of land beyond Hwy. #2 are preserved;
- the historic character of the off-site building extant at the time of the battle is preserved through the cooperation with and encouragement of the owner;

- the remaining open ground of the former village of Newport north to the heights of land of the historic battery positions is preserved in its pastoral state through the cooperation with encouragement of the community and private land owners.
- the historic shoreline remains free of visual intrusions - excessive vegetation growth or built interventions;
- future development on the battlefield respect the historic character of the place through the cooperation with, and encouragement of, private land owners and the local community;
- decisions regarding the protection and/or presentation of nationally significant resources, values and messages are founded on thorough, site-specific knowledge.

## 5.2 The Site

For the purposes of this commemorative integrity statement, the site refers, not to the larger battle field, but to the two hectares of land described as the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada.

The historic site is evaluated below under the following cultural resource components: built heritage and archaeological resources For the cultural landscape component see historic place above. In regards to collections, there is only one item confirmed as being part of the Battle of the Windmill and this is managed as part of the Fort Wellington collection. Future acquisition efforts will focus on objects specifically related to the commemorated event.

### 5.2.1 Built Heritage

#### The Windmill Tower

*The Windmill Tower is valued for its:*



- symbolic importance of the loyalist victory over an invader;
- symbol as a memorial - Pro Patriae - for those who died in the battle;
- association with the battle;
- imposing physical form and fabric - height gives it landmark status and speaks to its military use and heavy masonry construction which withstood an artillery bombardment and served as a stronghold during the battle;
- design elements such as window and door openings speaks to its use during the battle;
- setting or immediate surroundings enhances its height and landmark status from both land and river approaches.

*The Windmill Tower will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- the massing, form and fabric of the tower are safeguarded and maintained by technical and professional experts in accordance with the CRM Policy;
- original fabric in need of replacement is replaced with like materials and detailing to the greatest extent possible;
- a regular monitoring and maintenance regime is in place as an integral part of the conservation program;
- any additions, repairs or interventions respect the identified historic values and the heritage character of the tower;
- its evolutionary changes are respected;
- the open spaces and circulation patterns are respected and maintained;
- original structural details are safeguarded and maintained;

- any interventions are based on an adequate knowledge of the history of the structure;
- interventions to this Federal Heritage Building adhere to the FHBRO Code of Practice.

### **5.2.2 Archaeological Resources (marine and terrestrial)**

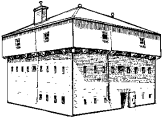
For archaeological resources at the Battle of the Windmill the approach is to treat all those contained within the historic place and with a direct association with the battle as level 1 cultural resources. Known level 1 archaeological resources include: the remains of buildings and other structures from the village of Newport destroyed during the battle and artifacts from the battle. Plus, potential level 1 marine resources which resulted from the battle. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*The archaeological resources are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the events manoeuvres, material culture and the nature of the battle;
- surviving physical elements.

*The archaeological resources will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.



## 6.0 Reasons for the Sites's National Significance Are Effectively Communicated to the Public

Messages of National Significance are based on the reason why the site was commemorated. Effective communication focuses on the knowledge and understanding that interested Canadians should have regarding the national significance of the site.

### 6.1 The primary message of national significance is:

- It was the site of a victory of loyalist forces over an invading force in November 1838.

### 6.2 Contextual messages of national significance include:

- the Rebellions of 1837 were followed by a period unrest when there was a threat of invasion or raids on St. Lawrence River border communities from the United States;
- a secret American organization known as the "Hunter's Lodge" was formed to support and foment rebellion in Upper Canada;
- the aftermath of the capture and burning of the steamer, *Sir Robert Peel* had serious consequences;
- the militia in and around Prescott remained loyal;
- militia units that participated in the action were mainly local;
- the wake of the battle the prisoners were punished and border tensions continued;
- although militarily unsuccessful, the Rebellions played a significant role in the evolution of Canada's political life.

### 6.3 Learning objectives for messages of national significance include:

*Why the Battle of the Windmill is a place of national significant requires an understanding that:*

- the battle that took place there in November 1838, was an important event in Canadian history;
- there were real political grievances that led to rebellion in 1837;
- from a strategic perspective, colonial authorities were concerned that the Canadian rebels and their American supporters could destabilize the border area which could invite involvement by the United States;
- Canadian rebels and their American supporters were active at several points along the St. Lawrence near Prescott which raised fears along the Canadian border.
- the invasion at Windmill Point was not a raid but a concerted effort to spread rebellion on the north shore of the St. Lawrence;
- only a handful of Canadian residents joined the "Hunters" in November 1838, and it was the active role of the local militia which prevented the invaders from spreading out from their enclave at Windmill Point;
- while an invasion threat remained high for several years after the battle, the defeat of the invading force and subsequent punishment of the prisoners acted as deterrent to any subsequent attack.



#### 6.4 Planning and Measuring Communication Programs and Services

Planning and design of heritage communication programs will be effective when:

- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;
- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programs;
- monitoring of program content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - of messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.

#### 7.0 The Site's Other Heritage Values Are Respected

In addition to those resources and messages that are directly tied or represent the national significance of the Battle of the Windmill, the site possesses other physical and associative values that contribute to the site's heritage character and heritage experience.

##### 7.1 The Site's Other Heritage Values include:

- the design, construction and operation of the windmill which illustrates the rarity of this type of structure;

- the evolutionary elements of the structure, which speaks to its use as a windmill, barracks, lookout station and lighthouse;
- the windmill's designation under the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy;
- the archaeological remains of the village, which speak to its fate after the battle;
- local connections to the site, and its significance as a local landmark;
- the early interest of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in the battle site, which was designated a national historic site in 1920.

##### 7.2 Other Archaeological Sites

Known archaeological resources at the Battle of the Windmill that relate to the non-commemorated periods include: resources from the windmill construction, post-battle occupation, lighthouse conversion and occupation 1873-1923. A complete inventory of known archaeological resources is available.

*The archaeological sites are valued for their:*

- tangible remains and research value which contribute to an enhanced understanding of the site regarding its occupation, operation, evolution and social life;
- surviving physical elements.

*The archaeological sites will be unimpaired or not under threat when:*

- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.



### 7.3 Heritage Messages

- this is a national historic site;
- each heritage place is one part of a system of national and international heritage places;
- the cultural and natural heritage presented by these places is our legacy as Canadians and a very significant part of Canadian identity;
- the windmill is a federal heritage building;
- the mill's design and physical elements speaks to its different functions over time;
- the once thriving village of Newport, marked by its stone houses and stone fences/walls never recovered from the destruction of the battle;
- there are local people with familial ties to the site - the militia, the battle, the lighthouse, etc.;
- the Battle of the Windmill attracted the early interest of the HSMBC.

- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programs;
- monitoring of program content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - of messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.

#### 7.3.1 Planning and Measuring Communication Programs and Services

Planning and design of heritage communication programs will be effective when:

- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;



*Guarding the fort.*