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Gouvernement du Canada

The National Battlefields
Commission

Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

Press Release

For immediate release

250th Anniversary of the Québec Battles Participate in the archaeological digs of Murray's Blockhouse

Québec City, April 23, 2009 – Dig into the rich history of the Plains of Abraham by participating in the genuine archaeological digs to be held from May 19 to June 26 on the site of Murray's Blockhouse. For a fourth consecutive year, the National Battlefields Commission will carry out a series of exploration works on Cap Diamant, the location identified as part of the Plains of Abraham's archaeological potential, and is calling on the population to probe the soil.

Under the supervision of archaeologist Philippe Picard, enthusiasts will enjoy a unique experience by exploring an authentic historic site. These budding scientists will be supervised by a team of professionals and work with them for half a day. Please note that participants will not be paid, but that the necessary tools will be put at their disposal.

At the tip of Cap Diamant, British officer James Murray, who had some doubts about the invulnerability of the cape in this location, decided to build a Blockhouse (1759-1783). The site would ensure some hold over key points. Later on, this structure was incorporated into the construction of the temporary citadel. Amerindians may also have occupied this site at some time in the past. To learn more about Murray's Blockhouse you can visit, free of charge, the scale model exhibit *Military Witnesses*, a history of now vanished constructions. This exhibit will be presented at Brown Basin from June 24 to September 7, 2009.

The Battlefields Park is the first national historic park in Canada. It notably includes the Plains of Abraham and Des Braves Park. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the confrontations that took place on its site, the National Battlefields Commission has a budget of some \$30,000 to be used for the archaeological digs, and from September on, the Commission plans to show off the excavation site.

Those who are interested must register in advance. Places are limited to two people per day (from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.), Monday to Friday. This activity is free and not intended for children.

Information and registration: 418 648-3506
www.theplainsofabraham.ca



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