



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

The National Battlefields
Commission

Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

250th Anniversary of the Battles of Québec **The Plains of Abraham welcome a new memorial dedicated to the combatants**

Québec City, September 13, 2009 – This morning, the chairman of the National Battlefields Commission, Mr. André Juneau, unveiled a brand new memorial dedicated to the military and civilian combatants who participated in the battles of 1759 and 1760. Mr. Juneau invited the 75 or so descendants present on the actual site of the confrontation to honour the memory of their ancestors, on this historic day of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

A short ceremony tinged with solemnity and a spirit of reverence was held in the presence of descendants, mostly patronymic, of the combatants and their companions, who were taking part in a day of commemorative activities. For the most part, these descendants live in Canada (72, including 62 in Quebec), but three of them travelled from the United States. Their ancestors fought with the French (54), and the British troops (6), or the militia (19). Some descendants are even featured in the lineage of two ancestors!

“The memorial we are unveiling today is dedicated to all the civilian and military men who fought in the battles of 1759 and 1760. It is also a tribute to the courage shown by the civilian population of Québec City and its surroundings, who endured the trials of this war and who fought with determination for the survival of their colony”, said Mr. Juneau, himself a descendant of Nicolas Juneau dit LaGrenade.

For his part, Mr. Joseph Marsolais, the descendant of Militia Captain Joseph Lemire dit Marsolais, was entrusted with the mission to uncover the monument paying tribute to all the French, British, Canadian militiamen, Acadians, Americans and Amerindians. The bugle resounded around 10:00 a.m., the time when the attack was launched by the Marquis de Montcalm 250 years earlier. A minute of silence followed.

Designed by Claire Lemieux and Jean Miller, the memorial is made up of three interpretation panels. Built in the form of a three-sided stela, the monument “In honour of the soldiers” recalls the three events the combatants lived through: the Seven Years’ War (1756-1763), generally considered as the first world-wide conflict in history, which includes the Battle of the Plains of Abraham (September 13, 1759) and the Battle of Sainte-Foy

(April 28, 1760). In order to respect the sobriety and continuity of the park's monuments, grey and black granite was chosen and the copper tip is in harmony with the signs posted in the park. At the top of the stela sits an engraved aluminium parchment that symbolizes a page of our history and adds a contemporary touch.

As for the interpretation panels, they essentially put in context the Seven Years' War in America and in Québec, as well as a chronology of the main events. The two other panels are devoted to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the Battle of Sainte-Foy respectively; each showing the context in which these confrontations occurred, the opposing armies, the battle lines, and the sequence of the battles.

- 30 -

Source: Joanne Laurin, Communication Officer
National Battlefields Commission
418 649-6251, joanne.laurin@ccdn-nbc.gc.ca
www.theplainsofabraham.ca

