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The National Battlefields
Commission

Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

Press Release

For immediate release

250th Anniversary of the Battles of Québec Welcome on the site of the archaeological digs

Québec, June 10, 2009 – The call made a few weeks ago to dig into the rich past of the Plains of Abraham proved productive. The list of participants in the archaeological digs is now complete, and the National Battlefields Commission delights in the population's infatuation with this unmatched activity. From Monday to Friday until next June 19, visitors who haven't the opportunity to participate in the digs are still welcome on the site of Murray's Blockhouse to watch the team of archaeologists and volunteers at work, and exchange with the archaeologists about what could be the first British structure built since the taking of Québec.

For a fourth consecutive year, the National Battlefields Commission conducts a series of exploration works on Cap Diamant, a location identified in the context of a study on the archaeological potential of the Plains of Abraham, and the Commission has called upon the population to investigate the grounds. Led by archaeologist Philippe Picard, the budding scientists will be working with a team of professionals for half a day and enjoy a unique excavation experience in an authentic historic site.

At the tip of Cap Diamant, British officer James Murray built a Blockhouse (1759-1783) because he questioned the invulnerability of the cape in this area. This location was to allow some domination over strategic points. Later on the building was integrated into the construction of the temporary citadel. Amerindians possibly occupied this site at some time in the past. To know more about Murray's Blockhouse you can visit the Brown Basin, free of charge, from June 24 to September 7, 2009.

Battlefields Park is the first national historic park in Canada, it includes, among others, the Plains of Abraham and Des Braves Park. To mark the 250th anniversary of the confrontations that occurred on its site, the National Battlefields Commission has at its disposal a budget of approximately \$30,000 to carry through the archaeological digs and, beginning in September, it plans to develop the excavation site.

www.theplainsofabraham.ca



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