

## News Bulletin

## ENGLISH CHALLENGE OUR FUR TRADE

## Summer 1670

## Quebec, New France

For years, the Iroquois have been threatening our settlements and intercepting our furs. Now New France faces a new problem. The English are competing for our fur trade.

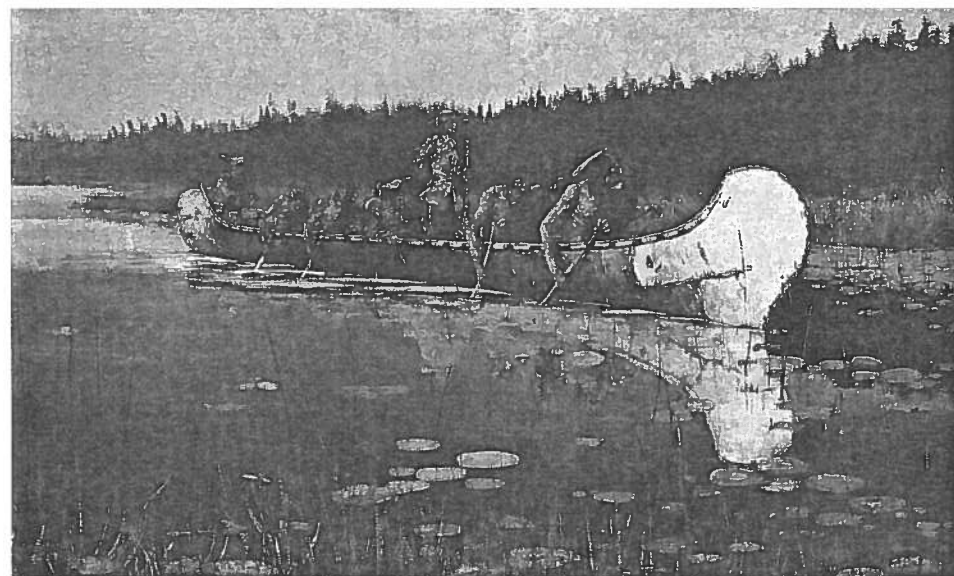
An English company has been granted the right to trade for furs around Hudson Bay. They call themselves the Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson Bay. King Charles II of England has given them a

monopoly on the fur trade in Rupert's Land. This huge territory covers all the lands that are drained by rivers flowing into Hudson Bay.

Two French traitors, Radisson and Groseilliers, are even helping the English develop their posts. These disgruntled Frenchmen, whom the English call "Mr. Radishes" and "Mr. Gooseberry," have sold out New France! Now the English are building small forts all around Hudson Bay and James Bay. The Hudson Bay

posts are log houses roofed with grass or bark and surrounded with pointed log stockades.

Already, hundreds of Cree are paddling to these forts with excellent furs. Ships loaded with furs are sailing directly out of Hudson Bay to England. New France is losing business. This threat posed by the English must end! The competitors must be stopped before they destroy our fur trade!



Radisson (standing) and Groseilliers (seated) seek furs and explore North America.

## Predicting

1. What might a British newspaper have said about this issue?
2. Both France and Britain have a lot at stake. What do you think each country will do to preserve its interests?
3. What advice would you give each country about how to resolve these differences?

## Rivals: France vs. Britain

France and Britain are friendly neighbours today. They both belong to the European Union. Both French and English people travel back and forth between the two countries all the time. Britain and France have been allies since early in the 20th century. They fought side by side in two world wars. Engineers from both countries recently worked together on a giant project—a tunnel under the English Channel. Now the "Chunnel" links the countries by rail.

However, relations between the two neighbours have not always been friendly. In earlier days, France and Britain were bitter enemies and often at war. They were rivals for colonies in different parts of the world such as the West Indies and North America. Each country wanted to become the colonial "superpower." They were also rivals for military and naval power. Whenever the two countries were at war, their colonies were usually affected too.

In North America, France and Britain were in conflict in three main areas.

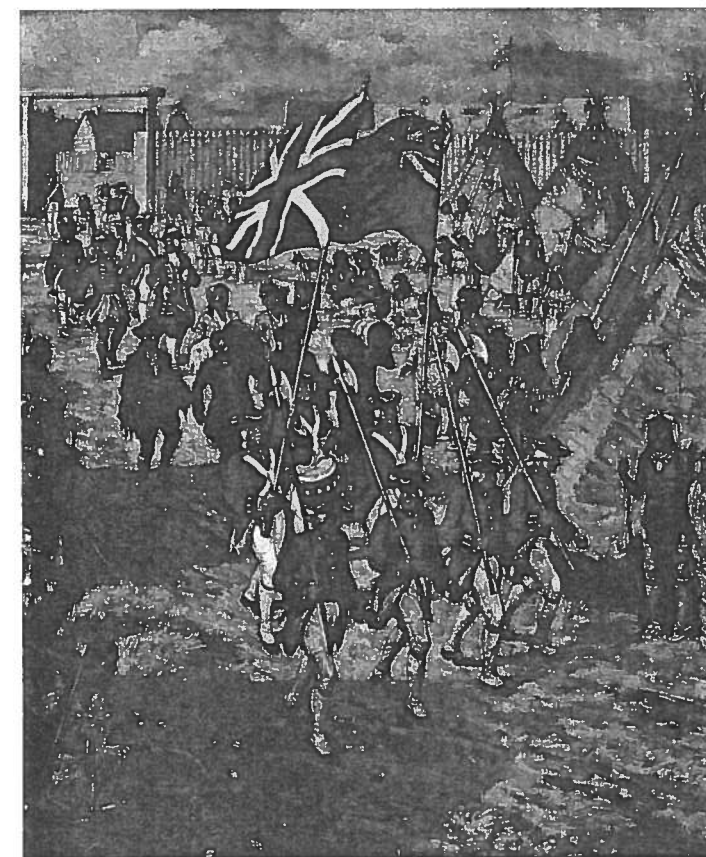
## Trouble Spot #1: Hudson Bay

In 1670, the British founded the Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson Bay, more commonly known as the Hudson's Bay Company. They built forts where major rivers flowed into Hudson Bay and James Bay. The British hoped to tap the rich source of furs in the northwest. The Chipewyan and the Cree were important trading partners for the Hudson's Bay Company.

The French responded to the threat of British traders at Hudson Bay. They made a series of successful armed attacks on the British posts. But in the end, Britain continued to control the Hudson Bay area.

The French tried another strategy. They built a series of forts along the chain of the Great Lakes, starting at the east end and moving westward. By 1688, they had reached Rainy Lake, near the northwest end of Lake Superior. A few years later, Pierre, Sieur de La Vérendrye, and his sons pushed even further into Aboriginal territory in search of furs. They built posts on

Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan River. French traders met the Cree on their way to trade at the Hudson Bay forts and persuaded the Cree to trade with them instead of with the British. In this way, the French were able to choke off much of the flow of furs to the Hudson Bay posts and gain many of the furs for themselves. Cargoes of furs travelled down through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to Montreal.



Aboriginals trade furs with the Hudson's Bay Company at York Factory. The trading was accompanied by gun salutes, parades, speeches, feasting, and gift-giving. This picture shows red-coated British soldiers parading the chiefs up to the fort.

## Differences Between the French and the British in the Fur Trade

### French

- French traders go right to the source of the furs. They travel into Aboriginal territory to trade.
- The French government controls the fur trade.
- Settlement is important.
- The French want to convert the Aboriginal peoples to Christianity.

### British

- British traders stay at their Hudson Bay forts. They wait for Aboriginal people to bring their furs to them.
- Private individuals invest in the Hudson's Bay Company.
- There is not much interest at first in establishing settlements.
- The British do not try to convert the Aboriginal peoples to Christianity.

## Fast Forward

### The Hudson's Bay Company

On 2 May 1670, King Charles II of England granted a charter to the Company of Adventurers of England (The Hudson's Bay Company). The trading area granted to the Hudson's Bay Company was known as Rupert's Land. There was a condition in the charter. It said that if the reigning monarch ever visited the area, he or she must be given a tribute of two black elk and two black beaver skins. This photograph shows the Company making good on its promise.



His Majesty King George VI and Queen Elizabeth received their traditional gifts when they visited Winnipeg in 1939.

**Netsurfer**

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/hbc>

Visit this website to see some artifacts of the fur trade that were collected by the Hudson's Bay Company. You can see beaver hats, trade goods, and tomahawks.

## Trouble Spot #2: Nova Scotia and Newfoundland

France and Britain often clashed in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. These regions had been exchanged like pieces on a chessboard during various peace talks. In a 100-year period, control of Nova Scotia had changed hands nine times. In a peace treaty signed in 1713, France surrendered Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Hudson Bay territory. Along the Atlantic coast, France only kept Ile Royale (Cape Breton), Ile St.-Jean (Prince Edward Island), and fishing rights along Newfoundland's north shore. No wonder the colony along the St. Lawrence River felt surrounded by the British. It was being squeezed from the north, the east, and the south.

### The Fort at Louisbourg

The French responded by trying to stop any spread of British influence. In 1720, they decided to build a huge fortress at Louisbourg on the shores of Ile Royale. It was built on a natural harbour as a naval base to protect the French fishing fleets on the Grand Banks. Louisbourg would also guard the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The St. Lawrence River was the lifeline from New France to France, so it had to be kept open at all costs.

The stone fortress was built like a European castle. No expense was spared. Hundreds of

workers were sent out from France. The walls were 10 m high and 3 m thick. The fortress was surrounded by a moat and bastions protected the walls. There were placements for 148 cannon. King Louis XV complained about the skyrocketing building costs, but France was determined to defend its last bit of territory in the Atlantic region.

By the 1840s, this fortified town was the centre of the cod fishing industry. Large quantities of fish were dried and salted here and then sent to Europe. Ships from France, the West Indies, and Canada docked at the many wharves. This was the busiest seaport in New France and one of the busiest in North America. Canada's first lighthouse was built at Louisbourg.

Louisbourg society was different from that of the communities along the St. Lawrence River. There was no seigneurial system; the fur trade was small; the Church had less power, and non-French people (Basques, Germans, and Swiss) lived and worked alongside the French majority. Louisbourg was a complete town, home to government administrators, artisans, fishermen, and innkeepers. There were a number of wealthy residents such as the governor, who lived in the Château St.-Louis. There were also some members of the clergy such as the Brothers of Charity who ran a hospital and the nuns who had a convent and a school. A large portion of the



Ships large and small were always in the Louisbourg harbour. They came from many different countries to fish, to trade, or for military reasons.

population was single young men. Soldiers stationed with the garrison and men in the fishery lived and worked at Louisbourg. It is said that morale among the soldiers was generally low. They complained about the poor food, the cold and barren location, and the uncomfortable living conditions.

The town had stores, homes, straight streets, and its own market. There were many inns and taverns in the harbour area. However, despite the variety of people and occupations at the fort, many supplies had to be imported because the surrounding inland areas were not developed. Nevertheless, Louisbourg became an impressive base that would draw the interest of the English colonies to its south.



## Netsurfer

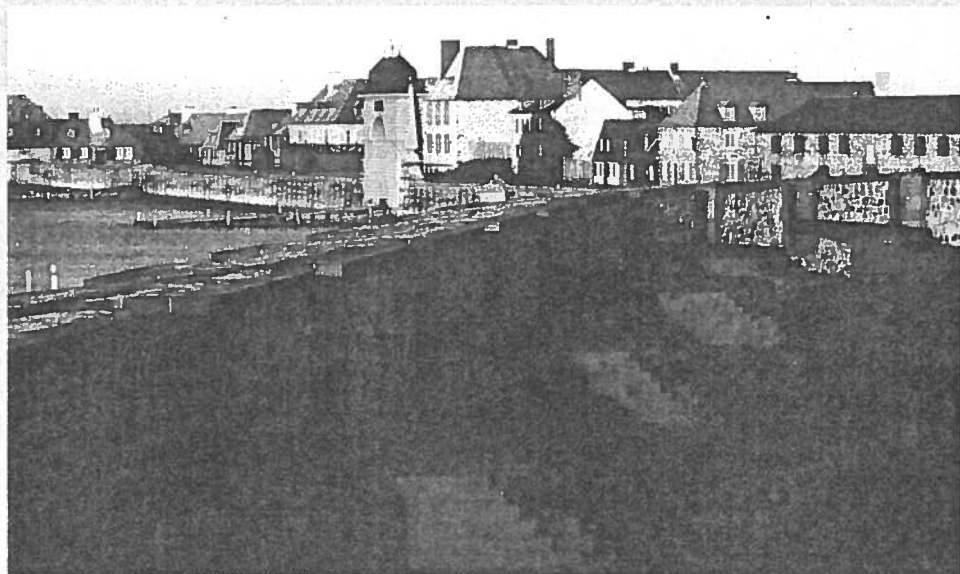
This Parks Canada website lists all the historic sites in Canada. You can find out much more about Louisbourg. You can even take a virtual tour of this reconstructed fortress.  
<http://parksCanada.pch.gc.ca>  
 You can find information about life in Old Louisbourg in words and pictures at this site:  
<http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/behind/html>

## Fast Forward

### Louisbourg Today

In 1961, the Government of Canada began a reconstruction of part of the original town and fortifications of Louisbourg. They recreated what was there in the 1740s. This photograph shows the reconstructed fort.

In the summer, many students work here as interpreters. They dress in authentic costumes of the period to try to recreate the way soldiers and other inhabitants of the fort may have looked.



The original fort at Louisbourg had placements for 148 cannon. Some cannon can be seen here in the reconstructed fort.

### Trouble Spot #3: The Ohio River Valley

The third area of French-British conflict was in the Ohio River valley. Both countries saw this area as the key to dominating North America. They raced to see who could be the first to successfully establish themselves and develop the region.

Coueurs de bois had explored this area extensively and had established a chain of forts from the St. Lawrence to New Orleans. This made the English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard feel quite hemmed in. The English colonies had a rapidly growing population of over a million people. By 1750, they needed more farmland. The only possible direction to expand was westward over the Appalachian Mountains. The lands of the Ohio valley were fertile and would attract many settlers. Land companies were formed to divide the land into plots and sell them to settlers. British fur traders, too, set up shop in the area. They built trading posts and made alliances with the local Aboriginal peoples.

The British American colonies wanted the French out of the Ohio area and they were prepared to drive them out by force if necessary. But the French had no intention of withdrawing from the Ohio valley. Just as it did in New France, the British fur trade in the Ohio valley threatened to cut into the profits of France's fur-trading operations. Also, if the English continued to expand southward, they would cut off the main route between New France and Louisiana. This would make communication between the two French colonies difficult.

Governor Duquesne of New France sent troops to reinforce the area. A group of 500 French workers arrived to build Fort Duquesne on the Ohio River. The Aboriginal people in the area joined the French side. There were a number of clashes between French and British. When George Washington moved into the area with British troops in 1754, the government at Quebec acted quickly. A large force was sent to intercept Washington and drive the British out

of the Ohio area. Washington surrendered and he and his men were marched eastward, back over the mountains.

The French appeared to be in control of the Ohio valley. However, they had to work hard to keep their Aboriginal allies supplied with trade goods. They also had to feed and support all the French troops stationed in the forts along the Ohio River. It was a long way to bring supplies from the St. Lawrence River to the Ohio River. This became a great drain on the resources of New France.

### The Seven Years' War in North America

The French assembled a force of 3000 to send to North America. In June 1755, off the coast of Newfoundland, the British navy attacked and captured two French ships carrying troops. The French were furious and would not continue to negotiate with the British until the ships were returned. Britain refused. On 18 May 1756, Britain declared war on France. On 9 June 1756, France declared war on Britain. In their formal declarations, each country listed its reasons for going to war. Each country blamed the other for the outbreak of war and tried to make it seem like the other country had caused all the conflict. The war that resulted lasted for seven years. But even before the declaration of war, shots had already been fired in North America.

#### Britain said that

- French attacks in the West Indies and North America had violated the peace treaty
- Britain had to protect its colonies from French expansion

#### France said that

- the British had violated the terms of the peace treaty
- the British refused to return the two captured ships

## 9 July 1755

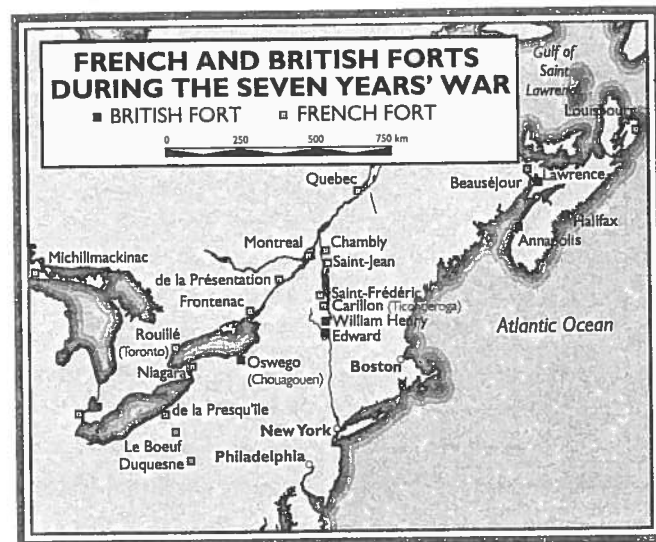
Lieutenant General Edward Braddock was sent from England with two regiments of disciplined soldiers who knew how to fight. His orders were to sweep the French out of the Ohio valley and seize Fort Duquesne. Another army would attack Fort Niagara and cut the supply lines between the St. Lawrence River and all the French forts in the Ohio valley.

What followed for the British was a disaster. Braddock managed to get an army of 2200 men and supplies over the Appalachian Mountains. At first, even the French believed that Fort Duquesne was doomed. Braddock marched his soldiers along in lines as they did in Europe. But 200 French and their 600 Aboriginal allies used guerrilla warfare tactics. They hid behind trees and ambushed the red-coated British troops as they stood in the open. French sharpshooters picked off British troops. The British soldiers panicked, broke ranks, and fled. It was a decisive French victory.

One thousand British soldiers were killed, and Braddock himself was mortally wounded. Only a third of the army escaped death or capture. The survivors retreated to a British



General Braddock's British forces were an easy target for the French and their Aboriginal allies. Why did the British suffer so many casualties?



base in Virginia. The French captured their guns, wagons, and supplies. Braddock's secret papers fell into French hands. The papers provided valuable information about British war plans. Among the French and their allies, only 23 were dead and 20 wounded.

In the Atlantic region, however, the situation was reversed.

## The Expulsion of the Acadians

Charles Lawrence, the British governor of Nova Scotia, was worried. In 1755, the British had captured Fort Beauséjour on the Acadian border. He was concerned about what he called "the Acadian problem." He found himself in the midst of 10 000 French Acadians. Could he trust the Acadians at a time when Britain and France were at war? Were they a serious security problem? What would happen if a French fleet appeared off the coast of Nova Scotia? Would the Acadians rise up against the British? If they did, there was

no way that Lawrence and a few British troops could hold Nova Scotia.

The Acadians were generally peaceful and hard-working farmers. They had been living quietly, refusing to get involved on either side of the struggle between Britain and France. Lawrence decided to demand that the Acadians swear an **oath of loyalty** to the British king:

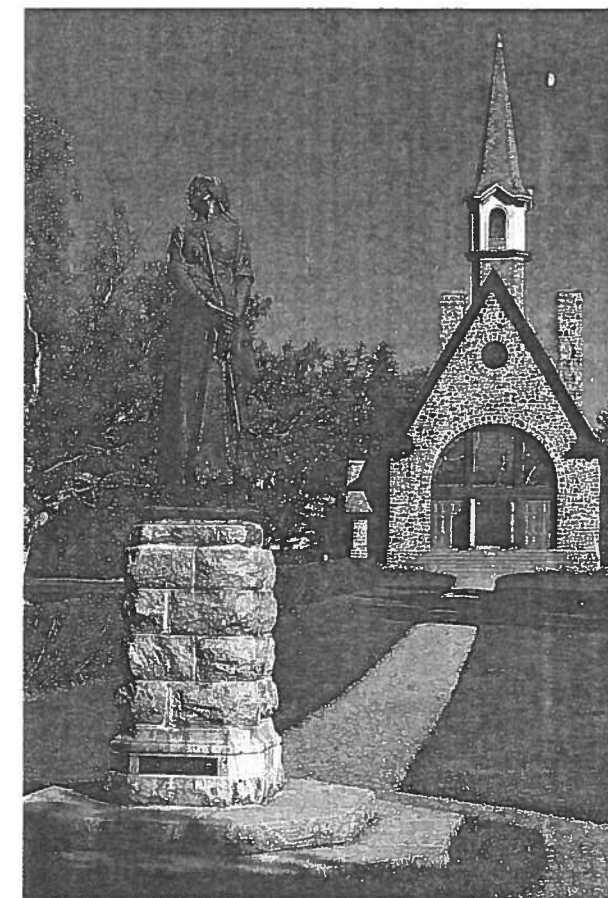
**I solemnly swear as a Christian to be faithful to and truly obey His Majesty the King George II, whom I acknowledge to be the Sovereign Lord of Nova Scotia and Acadia. So help me God.**

When most of the Acadians refused to take the oath, Lawrence announced that they would be **expelled** from Nova Scotia. They would be moved, by force if necessary, to other British colonies.

British soldiers moved into Acadian villages. They took homes, land, and most possessions from the Acadians. Men, women, and children were herded onto British ships. Many families were separated. When the broken-hearted Acadians looked back, they saw that their houses and barns were in flames.

Ships carrying the Acadians made their way to Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and other English colonies. Some passengers died when their ships sank on the high seas. Those who survived found themselves among strangers who did not speak their language. They often found themselves living in misery and poverty.

A few Acadians fled into the woods and made their way to Cape Breton and Louisbourg. Some went south to Louisiana, where their descendants are known today as "Cajuns," from "Acadian." Some ended up in France or Quebec. Others stayed in the English colonies and started a new life. Six to eight thousand Acadians had been expelled.

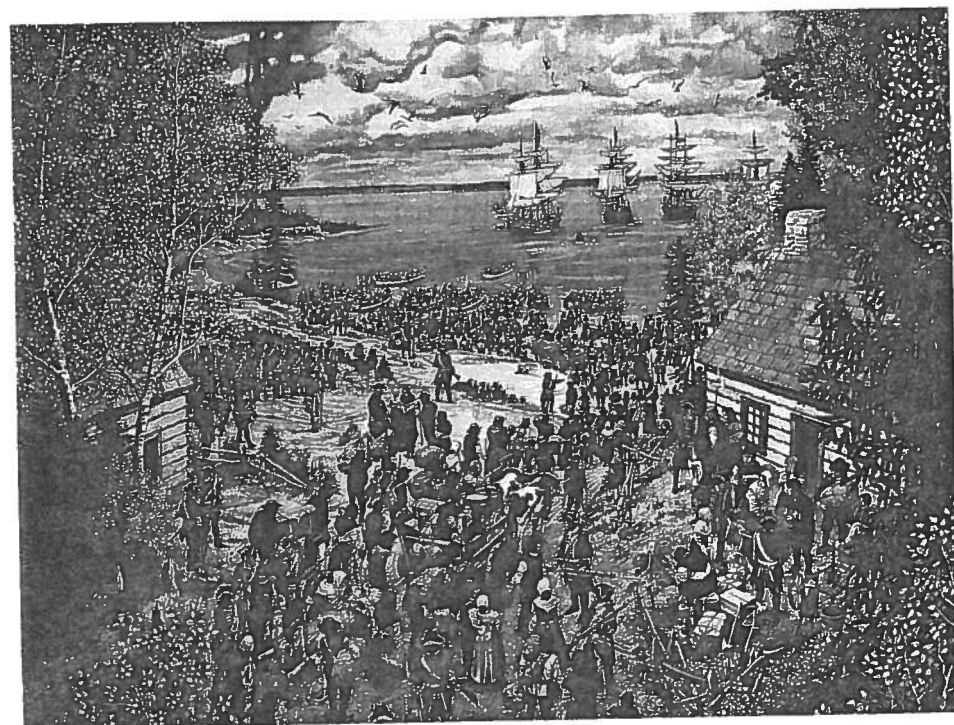


Evangeline Bellefontaine became a heroine of Acadia thanks to a poem written about her life. In 1846, the American poet H.W. Longfellow published a long poem called "Evangeline." It tells how, during the deportation, Evangeline, "a maiden of seventeen summers," was separated from her lover, Gabriel Lajeunesse. She found him again only when he was an old and broken man. He died in her arms.

Today, a bronze statue of Longfellow's heroine stands outside a chapel in the historic park at Grand Pré, in Nova Scotia.

**Netsurfer**

Find out more about the Acadians at this site:  
[www.schoolnet.ca](http://www.schoolnet.ca)  
 Choose Digital Collections, then Social Studies to find The Acadian Odyssey.



The Acadians were escorted from their homes by soldiers and put on ships bound for the English colonies.

## Fast Forward The Return of the Acadians

After the Seven Years' War, about 2000 Acadians were allowed to return to Nova Scotia. They found that English-speaking strangers had taken over their farms. The British would not allow them to form large settlements. So, they gradually settled in remote coastal regions, as far away from their enemies as possible. Some settled in the west of Nova Scotia and on Cape Breton. Others preferred to locate east and north of the Saint John River in New Brunswick. Many Acadians also returned to Ile St.-Jean. Today, more than 20 000 people of Acadian descent live on the island.

Some of the Acadians had been put in prison in England. Eventually, they made their way to France. Twenty years later, in 1785, some Acadians accepted the invitation of the Spanish government to settle in Louisiana. About 1500 crossed the Atlantic to join the others who had settled in the bayous along the Gulf of Mexico.

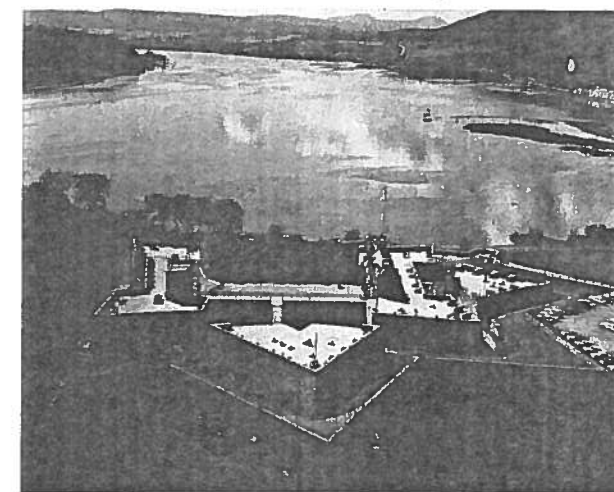


The British attempt to assimilate or absorb the Acadians was a tragic failure. In spite of great suffering, the French-speaking Acadians never gave up their cultural identity. Today, these proud, independent people have increased in population in the Atlantic provinces. The Acadians have chosen their own flag and national anthem. The flag is similar to the French flag to show they remember their roots in France. They value their French language, their Roman Catholic faith, their families and communities, their work, and their culture.

## Montcalm's Victories

In 1756, the Marquis de Montcalm arrived in New France. He was a highly experienced professional soldier who had just been appointed commander-in-chief of the French forces. Montcalm wasted no time. He quickly wiped out the powerful British fort at Oswego on Lake Ontario. Four British warships, 200 small boats, 70 cannon, and huge stores of military supplies fell into French hands. The capture of Fort Oswego let the French breathe a little easier because the military route to their western French forts was secure.

The next year, Montcalm took an army up the Richelieu River to the French Fort Carillon. From there, he attacked the British Fort William Henry and won a brilliant victory. Things were not looking good for Britain in North America.



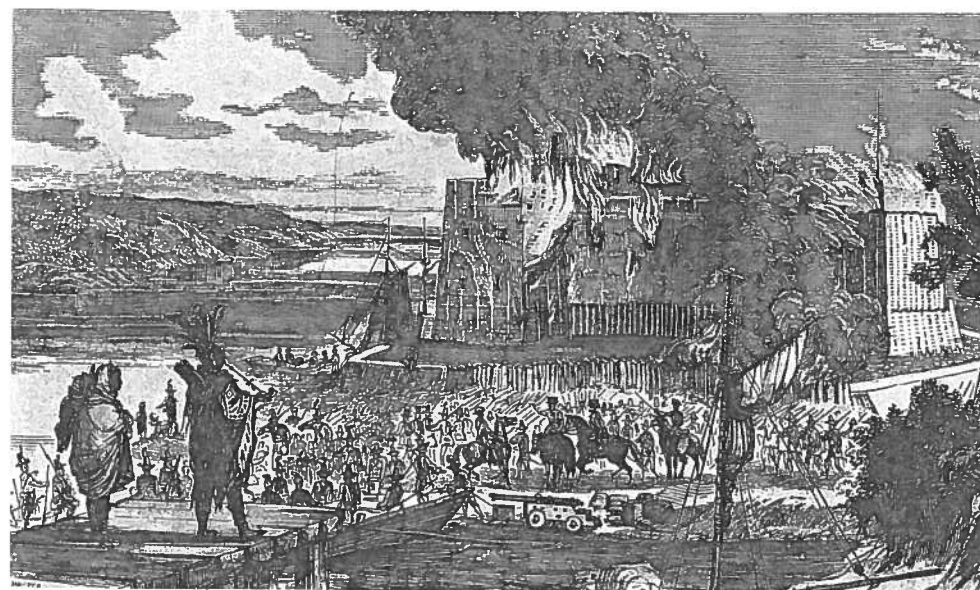
An aerial view of Fort Ticonderoga. Originally named Fort Carillon by its French builders, it controlled the portage route between Lakes George and Champlain. The fort has been rebuilt and restored as a museum.

## The British Change Strategy

The British forces were in trouble in North America. Britain needed a new war plan. British Prime Minister William Pitt believed that the best strategy was to attack France's colonies. Fifty thousand fresh British troops were added to the war in North America. New generals were appointed. One was the young James Wolfe.

- Pitt ordered three plans of attack:
- capture Fort Duquesne and the Ohio valley
  - destroy the forts along Lake Champlain, then break through to Montreal
  - destroy Louisbourg and move down the St. Lawrence River to capture Quebec

The British plan began to work. In 1758, Fort Duquesne was captured. It had been a symbol of French dominance in the Ohio River valley. When the French commander saw that



The burning of Fort Duquesne in 1758. The burning of this fort meant the loss of one of the most important French strongholds in the Ohio River valley.

all was lost, he gave orders to blow up the fort. The British built a stockade on the ashes and named it Pittsburgh after William Pitt.

At about the same time, a large British army surprised Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario. Tons of winter supplies intended for the western fur posts fell into British hands. The gateway to the St. Lawrence was open. The British were in a position to move from the west toward Montreal and Quebec.

Another huge British army was marching toward Montreal from the south. They were slowed down by Montcalm and the French at Lake Champlain. But French troops were forced to fall back to try to protect Montreal.

### The Fall of Louisbourg

One hundred sixty British warships appeared off the coast of Cape Breton in June 1758. French warships sitting in the harbour at Louisbourg were sunk. The British bombardment of the French fortress began.

The British ships cut off all French lines of reinforcements. No food, soldiers, or supplies could get to the defenders of Louisbourg. Ammunition and supplies dwindled within the fortress. Then, British soldiers and their

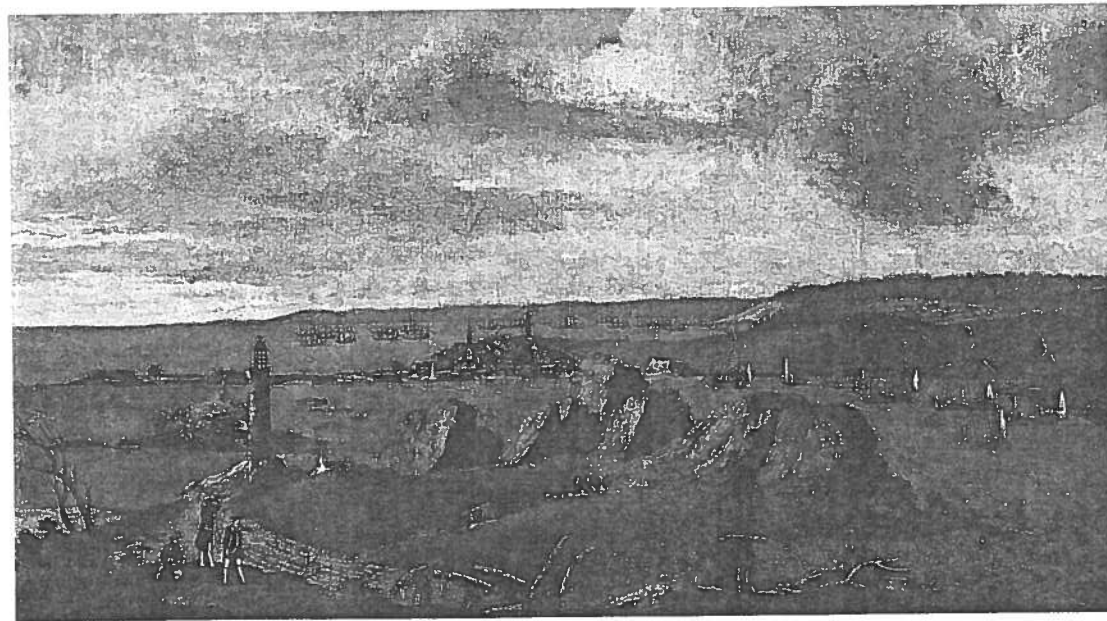
cannons landed on the shore. One of the first to leap ashore was James Wolfe.

It took seven weeks of bombardment to convince the French to give up. The people inside the fortress were starving. The walls were crumbling under daily cannon fire. The French fleet had not arrived to relieve them. There seemed to be no chance of rescue. On 26 July 1758, Louisbourg surrendered to the British.

### Quebec in Danger

The destruction of Louisbourg was a catastrophe. It was the beginning of the end for the French. The Gulf of St. Lawrence was wide open to the British navy. Quebec was in grave danger. Some British generals thought they should attack Quebec immediately. But it was too late in the year to attack Quebec before winter set in. The British decided to wait until spring.

Quebec was doomed, unless the French fleet arrived first in the spring with soldiers and reinforcements. But the French navy did not arrive; a British fleet appeared on the St. Lawrence River first. In June 1759, James Wolfe arrived with 39 000 soldiers and 25 warships. The British were prepared to capture Quebec, but it would be September until they saw their opportunity.



The weather was stormy and the sea was rough when James Wolfe led soldiers ashore at Louisbourg. Because of his courage and luck at Louisbourg, Wolfe was promoted to lead the British attack on Quebec the following year.

## The Siege of Quebec

**Thursday, 13 September 1759**

It was well past midnight and most of the citizens of Quebec were asleep. However, along the river west of the town, something suspicious was happening. Twenty-four British soldiers had landed at the foot of the steep cliffs. These cliffs were high and so steep that the French believed no army would ever scale them.

All summer long, General Wolfe had bombarded Quebec with cannon fire from across the river. But the city had not surrendered. Winter was coming and Wolfe was desperate. He decided to make one more attempt to capture the fortress.

Wolfe had noticed French women washing clothes on the riverbank. Later, he saw the clothes drying at the top of the cliffs. Wolfe

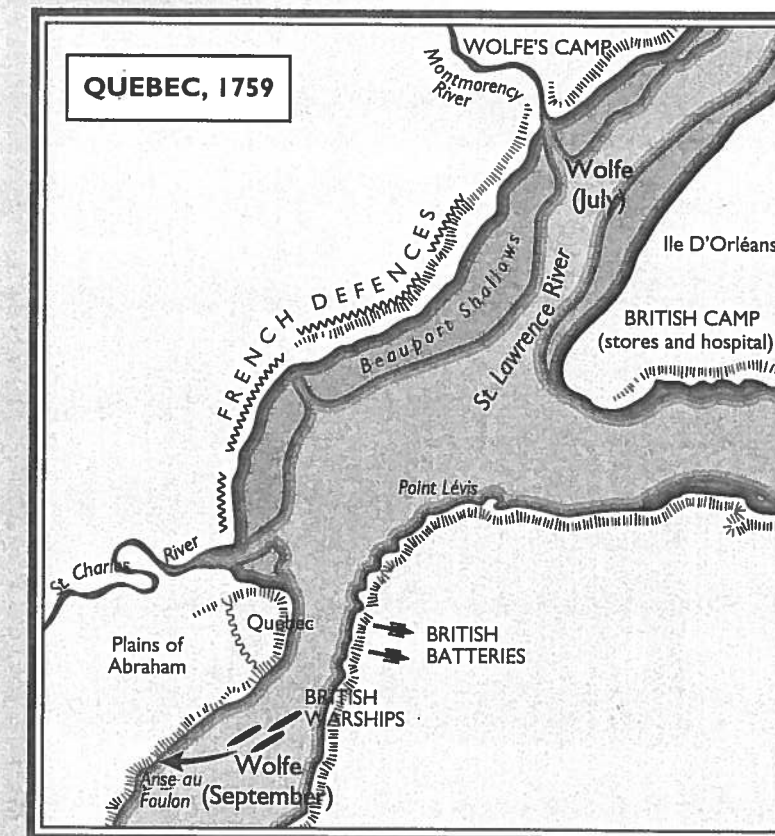


Taking Quebec. The events shown actually took place over a period of about 12 hours, from late at night until noon the next day. The battle on the Plains of Abraham was not the last battle in the British conquest, but it was the decisive one.

guessed that there must be a way up those cliffs. In the darkness, British soldiers started to scale the cliffs. The attack depended upon darkness, silence, and complete surprise.

Only 30 French sentries were guarding the heights at the top of the cliffs. A sentry called out, "Who goes there?" A British soldier replied in perfect French, "Provisions from Montreal." With quick blows to the head and muffled cries, it was done. No shots had been fired. The British were in control at the top of the cliffs.

A signal light was flashed to the river to the hundreds of British soldiers who had been waiting silently in boats. The troops started scrambling up the cliffs. The place where they climbed up is now called Anse au Foulon. By dawn, more than 4400 British troops were on the heights. They gathered in an open field called the Plains





British guns and mortars battered Quebec's Lower Town from across the river. One hundred fifty-two houses were reduced to dust and the church of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires was destroyed.

of Abraham. They were about 3 km from the town of Quebec.

The French general Montcalm was taken by surprise. He knew that he had finally been outwitted. Instead of waiting in the fortress for reinforcements that were nearby at Beauport Shallows, he decided to attack immediately. At eight o'clock in the morning, Montcalm led his army out of the gates and onto the Plains of Abraham.

At ten o'clock, the French army advanced. The British held their fire until the enemy was within musket range. Then, Wolfe ordered his soldiers to fire and British muskets rang out. Before the smoke had cleared, the British reloaded and fired again. French soldiers fell in heaps. When Wolfe ordered the British to charge, the French army retreated into the town.

By noon, the most important battle in Canadian history was over. General Wolfe was one of the 655 British soldiers killed. General Montcalm was also hit by a bullet. As he lay dying, Montcalm said, "I am glad I shall not live to see the surrender of Quebec." A few days later, Quebec was handed over to the British.



The death of General Montcalm



The death of General Wolfe

## Profile

### Louis-Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm 1712–1759



Montcalm orders his French troops to report to the battlefield and defend Quebec.

**M**ontcalm was born into a noble family in the south of France. He was well educated. In 1736, he married Louise Angélique Talon and later became the father of five children.

Montcalm entered the army in 1727. Two years later, at the age of 17, he was promoted to captain. He served in many battles in Europe and was wounded several times. On one occasion, he was captured by the Austrians, but was returned to France in an exchange of prisoners.

Soon after returning to Paris, Montcalm was given an audience with King Louis XV, who promoted him to the rank of brigadier.

In 1756, Montcalm was sent to New France as a major general. In 1758, after his stunning victory at Carillon, he was promoted to lieutenant general and commander of all French forces in North America.

All during the summer of 1759, Montcalm and his troops withstood Wolfe's attacks on Quebec. Montcalm knew that he would not have to fight to

win. If the French could simply hold on, avoiding an all-out fight, the freezing of the rivers in winter would drive the invaders away. It was at this point that Wolfe and the British managed to scale the cliffs at Anse au Foulon.

In the short battle on the Plains of Abraham, Montcalm was wounded. He was riding among his soldiers, trying to rally the troops, when two bullets passed through his body. He asked two soldiers to hold him up in the saddle so his injuries did not create more panic among his men. In this way, he rode through the St. Louis Gate to the surgeon. Marquis de Montcalm died early the next morning. He was buried in the convent of the Ursuline nuns, in a hole made by a British shell.

1. If Montcalm had lived, what might he have said about the results of the battle?
2. Do you think Montcalm was a successful military leader? Why or why not?
3. What epitaph would you put on Montcalm's gravestone?

## Profile

### James Wolfe 1727–1759



James Wolfe's bold plan and his rigorously trained army won Canada for Britain. Detail from painting by George Townshend.

James Wolfe was born in England into a military family. Both his father and grandfather were officers in the army. From an early age, he was determined to have a military career. Wolfe joined his father's regiment at age 14. He transferred to the army the next year and saw service in Germany, the Netherlands, and Scotland.

By 23, Wolfe was a colonel. He earned a reputation as a leader and trainer of soldiers. He was a superb battleground commander. After his heroism at Louisbourg, Prime Minister Pitt made the young, ambitious Wolfe the commander of the Quebec expedition.

James Wolfe was a tall, lanky man. Sometimes he wore a wig while at other times he showed his own hair. He was highly emotional and was said to have a very hot temper. His regiment was always one of the best and he never spared himself. Although he was not well liked, Wolfe was respected by all who knew him.

During the summer of 1759, Wolfe and the British camped

beside the St. Lawrence River, looking for a way to capture Quebec. Time was running out for the British. The Canadian winter was coming and they couldn't stay anchored indefinitely in the St. Lawrence. Wolfe's officers were getting impatient and they pressured him for a plan of attack. Finally, in September, Wolfe decided to act. His bold idea to strike at the Plains of Abraham saved his reputation but cost him his life.

As Wolfe lay dying on the battlefield, it is said that he heard a messenger cry, "They run. They run." "Who runs?" the general whispered. "The enemy runs away," came the reply. Then, General Wolfe turned on his side and murmured, "I die happy." Wolfe died at the young age of 32. His body was returned to England on the warship *Lowestoft*.

1. Do you think Wolfe was a successful military leader? Why or why not?
2. What epitaph would you put on Wolfe's gravestone?

## The End of French Rule

The battle on the Plains of Abraham was over in a morning. Within a week, the city surrendered. Quebec had fallen. The French tried to hold on for a year at Montreal. However, the British controlled the Atlantic and that meant that any help from France was almost impossible. The next spring, 18 000 British troops closed in on Montreal. They burned the farms along the river as they advanced. The French prepared for a last stand. But Governor Vaudreuil recognized that the French could not win. On 8 September 1760, at Montreal, Vaudreuil surrendered New France to the British. On 9 September, the British marched into the town. The French turned over their guns. The war was over. The fleur-de-lys, which had flown over Quebec since the days of Cartier and Champlain, came down.

The colony was no more. French rule in North America had ended.

## After the British Conquest

Can you imagine how the people of New France were feeling in September 1760? They had lost their homeland. Quebec lay in ruins. There were British soldiers in the streets. They would have felt sad, angry, frustrated, and disappointed. But they were also worried. What would become of them? Many of their leaders had returned to France. It seemed like France had abandoned them. They sensed that things were going to be very different for them from that point on. For the French Canadians, the British victory was the worst possible disaster.



French forces surrender Montreal to the British without a shot being fired.