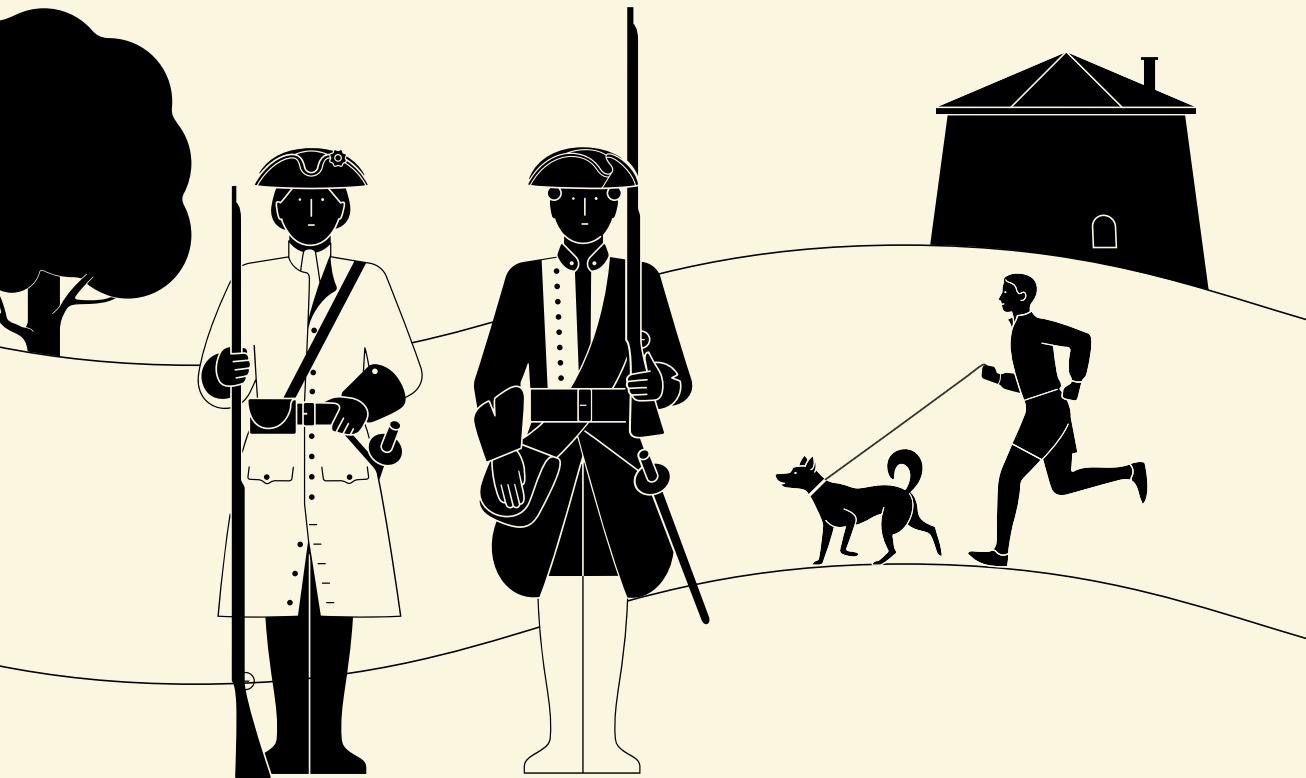


PLAINS OF ABRAHAM



Activity Report

The National Battlefields Commission

2023 — 2024



The National Battlefields
Commission

Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

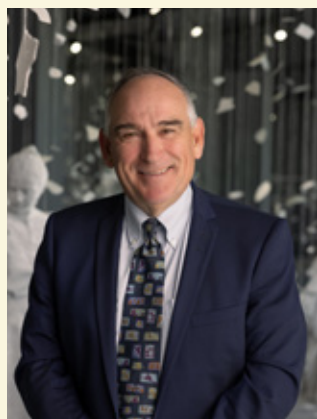
Canada

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A Word from the Chairperson of the Board



laughing. I'm lucky to see the outcomes that have progressively resulted from the Commission's actions to make this park a welcoming, inspiring, and inclusive space. Such outcomes include the restored park entrances, the signs and posters displaying the new brand image of the Plains, and the redevelopment work to improve accessibility!

I am proud to see these improvements that are contributing to the wellbeing of park users, especially the residents of Quebec City. The Commission wishes to provide the local community with quality services in a park that has become a poster child for their city.


I also take pride in the installation of two works of art on Cap Diamant by Indigenous artists, a project to be carried out in autumn 2024. As a federal entity, the Commission is committed to dialogue with Indigenous peoples, and this project is the culmination of successful collaboration with, among others, the Huron-Wendat Nation. I consider ourselves privileged to have been supported in this project by the great Canadian philanthropist Michael Audain, who commissioned one of the works. On the Plains, the last such large-scale work to be installed was the the Joan of Arc statue in 1938. So this is a significant step forward for the Commission!

The year 2023-2024 began with the good news that my term has been renewed as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Battlefields Commission. This term, which was granted by the Governor in Council, has given me an opportunity to speak about the many benefits of the park and, above all, to work with a team dedicated to preserving and promoting this unique spot in downtown Quebec City. That team includes the Board of Directors. With the arrival of a new board member at the end of the year, André Simard, it has become even stronger in its mission to provide the Commission with good governance.

On my daily walks in the park, I always find it inspiring to see strollers smiling and hear children

Nor can I leave unmentioned our acquisition of the Tricentennial Collection, which includes over five hundred items from Jean François Leclerc. This major addition to the Commission's heritage bears witness to the very beginnings of our organization.

The Commission is on track to achieve the objectives of its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. This success would not be possible without the precious support of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Pascale St-Onge, whom I thank sincerely. Special thanks for support also go to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, to the Member of Parliament Joël Lightbound and to the Mayor of Quebec City, Bruno Marchand. Finally, my thanks go to all the members of the Board of Directors for their dedication, to our Secretary and CEO for her outstanding work, and to the entire staff of the Commission.



Jean Robert
Chairperson of the Board

A Word from the Secretary and CEO



we broadened our cultural program to take into better account the diversity of our communities, and we maintained accessibility to our sites while redeveloping De Bernières Avenue with the Quebec City municipal government. The same care will be taken in 2024 during redevelopment of the lane that links the Plains of Abraham Museum to the park.

We are continuing to deploy the Plains of Abraham brand image, and I feel enthusiastic in seeing it come to life. The new website, which we began to redesign in January 2024, will be a key showcase of the park and provide a major improvement to the user experience. This platform will also help increase the Commission's own-source revenues, notably at the Plains of Abraham Museum. In addition, I would like to point to the very good attendance at the Museum, which had a large increase in visitors during the holiday season. This is promising for the temporary exhibition *Québec 1775: Blizzards and Battle*, to be opened in June 2024.

The various monuments are a physical reminder of the park's rich heritage, and the Commission is their guardian. In 2023-2024, we completed work on the Wolfe Monument and the Cross of Sacrifice and began work on the Des Braves Monument. We also acquired an incredible collection of items from Quebec City's tricentennial celebrations which attest to the events surrounding the creation of the Commission. On this point, I sincerely wish to thank collector

As the saying goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In this activity report, you will discover how outstanding teamwork has enabled the Commission to go farther by bringing excellence to the experiences of park users, by creating meaningful partnerships, and by developing and enhancing the magnificent heritage of the Plains.

The pillars of our strategic plan are not empty words, and we seriously intend to achieve the objectives we have set for 2022-2025. The new space for dialogue on Cap Diamant, which will display two works by Indigenous artists, is a major step forward for the pillar of reconciliation. In autumn 2023, the External Accessibility Advisory Committee was formed to support our ambition to improve the park user experience. During the summer,

Jean François Leclerc for entrusting the NBC with these items. Our staff will carefully conserve them for posterity.

I never miss an opportunity to highlight the skills and dedication of the Commission's staff, and today is no exception. Among the noteworthy achievements of the past year, which required the efforts of all our work teams, let us note the award of excellence from the Société des musées du Québec for the temporary exhibition *Aeria*, as well as the architectural temporary installation and ethnographic survey that brought Cove Fields back to life.

In 2023-2024, additions to our management team brought new talent, and our partners remained precious allies. From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank our chairperson for his unwavering support and the commissioners for their precious work. My thanks also go to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and her staff for their constant collaboration and to my colleagues from the other portfolio organizations of the same department for their encouragement.

Enjoy your read!



Annie Talbot ASC, c. Dir.
Secretary and CEO

Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors

Chairperson



Jean Robert
 Consultant,
 McGill University
*Member of the Finance
 and Audit Committee*

Commissioners



Ellen Yifan Chen
 JD, CIPP/C, CIPP/A
 General Counsel and Chief
 Privacy Officer
 Audiokinetic Inc.



Sophie Gagnon
 Vice-President, Public Affairs
 and Road Safety
 CAA-Québec



André L. Potvin
 Ex-diplomat, Active retiree
*Member of the Finance
 and Audit Committee*



Nathalie Letendre
 M.A.P., ASC
 SSO Inspections & Risk
 Management, Naval Reserve
 Headquarters, Royal Canadian
 Navy, Canadian Armed Forces



Jean Vincent
 CSM, FCPA, FCA, GFAA
 (Quebec)
 President and CEO, Native
 Commercial Credit Corporation
 (NCCC)
*Member of the Finance
 and Audit Committee*



André Simard
 Consultant – Engineer

Members

The National Battlefields Commission is directed by a board of directors that ensures its good governance. The commissioners that make up the board of directors, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Governor in Council.

Values

The National Battlefields Commission is an agency of Heritage Canada. It adheres to the values of equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, justice, climate change action, and truth and reconciliation put forward by the Government of Canada.

2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Vision

With its park, which is a key location for get-togethers, the NBC is renowned for its openness and sensitivity toward all communities. Its committed and effective team has been making the NBC and all its components a source of pride and is elevating it as a respected and indispensable player in the development of Quebec City, of Quebec, and of Canada.

Values

- Creativity
- Respect and benevolence
- Team spirit
- Environment
- Rigour

Strategic pillars

- Developing our human capital and cultivating talent
- Affirming our unique positioning and improving customer experiences
- Improving and diversifying our financial capacity significantly
- Committing ourselves actively to a process of reconciliation
- Making sustainable development central to our actions

Mission

As guardians of a historic urban park, with a unique heritage, we are striving to make it a welcoming, inspiring, and inclusive space.

A Unique Heritage



Located in downtown Quebec City, the Battlefields Park notably includes the Plains of Abraham (98 hectares) and Des Braves Park (5 hectares). The two sites were the theatre of battles between the French and British empires during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), a conflict in which Indigenous peoples took part.

Since 1908, the NBC has been preserving and developing this historic urban park. There are four monuments (Wolfe monument, Des Braves monument, Cross of Sacrifice, and Joan of Arc monument) and over 70 heritage features, including 50 cannons dating from the 18th to 20th centuries, busts, commemorative plaques, archaeological remains, and an old well. The park also has seven heritage buildings: the three Martello Towers; the Plains of Abraham Museum; the Louis S. St-Laurent House; and 390 De Bernières Avenue. Furthermore, the park has a remarkable natural heritage, with 4,995 trees belonging to 130 different species, not to mention another estimated 15,000 trees in non-inventoried forest.

The park has been the scene of many key events, such as the first public presentation of *O Canada* (1880), Charles Lindbergh's landing in Quebec City (1928), and *Superfrancofête* (1974). Over the years, it has had an astronomical observatory (1864-1930), the Quebec Skating Club arena (1891-1918), and army barracks that would later become civilian homes (1940-1951).

A Dynamic Space



The Battlefields Park is an ideal place for enjoying nature downtown, thanks to its green spaces dotted with urban furniture (lampposts, water fountains, tables, benches) and its magnificent landscaping, especially at the Joan of Arc Garden. Visitors can also enjoy exhibitions at the Plains of Abraham Museum, organized or independent activities, walking trails, pétanque pitches, cross-country ski trails, the skating oval (in partnership with the Quebec City municipal government), and sliding areas for downhill sledding.

The walking trails particularly include the Plains of Abraham Trail (1 km) and the Nature Trail (2 km). The first one is near Gilmour Hill and is designed for pedestrians and cyclists. It runs from the Promenade Samuel-De Champlain to Quebec City's upper town, and along the way it offers interpretive panels that recount local history. The second trail runs along the cliff through a wooded area of the Plains. The athletically inclined may wish to try the multi-purpose outdoor track on the sports field (1.4 km).

The Plains of Abraham are linked to the Parc du Bois-de-Coulonge by a staircase, which was built by the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec in conjunction with the NBC. The Plains are thus a point of convergence for a web of nature and heritage trails that interlink the Parc du Bois-de-Coulonge, the Promenade Samuel-De Champlain, and the Old Québec.

A PARTNER IN DEVELOPING OUR HERITAGE

Preserving and promoting the heritage
and history of a unique space



Acquisition of a Collection about Quebec City's Tricentennial Celebrations

“The collection reflects both the popular and prestigious character of Quebec City's tricentennial celebrations.” [Traduction]

Evaluation Report, Christian Denis, ethno-historian

The NBC archives were enriched with over 500 items relating to Quebec City's tricentennial celebrations in 1908. The celebrations were organized by the NBC as part of its initial mandate, which also included creation of a public park at the site where the battles of 1759 and 1760 took place.

The collection was acquired from Jean François Leclerc and is considered to be the largest one about the event. It includes a wide variety of objects and works relating to the festivities, such as lithographs, postcards, a bronze, commemorative plaques, pins, and books. Many of the items are unique, like a vase by Paul Beau offered to the mayor of Quebec City Georges Garneau and a watercolour by painter Charles Huot.



Board of Directors visiting the collector's residence

An Award for the Exhibition *Aeria*

“This year's recipient is distinguished by an exhibition that combines art, multimedia storytelling, and digital apps to put into images and words some of the figures who were linked to a key historic site of Quebec.” [Traduction]

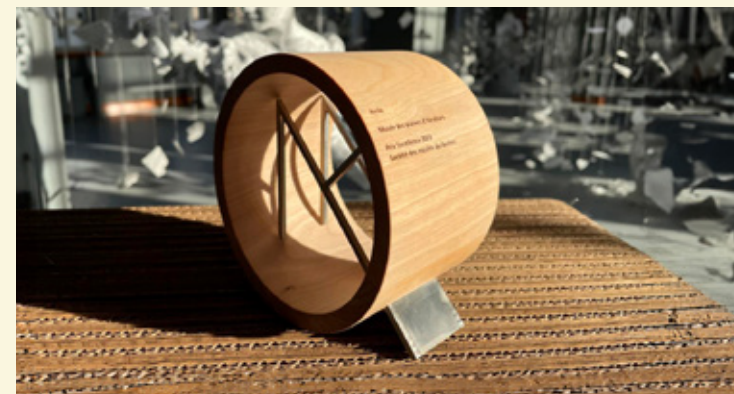
Société des musées du Québec

The NBC and the Plains of Abraham Museum received an Excellence Award from the Société des musées du Québec (SMQ) for the exhibition *Aeria*, which closed on January 7, 2024. The award was presented during the Gala des Prix SMQ and is intended to honour museum projects that proved to be outstanding during the year.

The SMQ notably mentioned the various technologies used by artist Jérôme Trudelle, such as photogrammetry and 3D imagery, sound design by a local designer, and project research that benefited from contributions by specialists in the Huron-Wendat community.

Opened on June 15, 2022, *Aeria* merged art and history to highlight eight characters from the history of the Plains. Those people were brought to life by artist Jérôme Trudelle in the form of astonishingly lifelike sculptures that were both realistic and poetic. Visitors were provided with an interactive tablet app that took them on a deep dive into the world of these women and men through explanatory videos, games, and archival photos.

The NBC thanks the artist for sensitively portraying these witnesses to the history of the Plains with such poetic realism. A second life is now beginning for the sculpture of Marguerite Langlois, the wife of Abraham Martin, which has been installed in the entrance to the Plains of Abraham Museum, and for the sculpture of La Corriveau, which has been given to the Marie-Joseph Corriveau library in Saint-Vallier.



Homes of Cove Fields

The memory of Cove Fields preserved by an ethnographic survey and a temporary architectural installation



AN ETHNOGRAPHIC SURVEY

With the support of the Faculté des lettres et des sciences humaines of Université Laval and La Horde patrimoine appliqué, the NBC conducted an ethnographic survey of people who used to live in Cove Fields between 1945 and 1951. Recollections were gathered to preserve the material and nonmaterial heritage of this episode of park history.

The survey was done by Hélène Dupont-Hébert, a professional in ethnology and the project leader, and Caroline Ricard, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Archives and Collections, at the NBC. Vintage photographs were collected, as were recollections from around ten people. The recollections will be kept in the NBC archives in the form of video and audio recordings.

A TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL INSTALLATION

To make use of the area behind the Plains of Abraham Museum, once known as Cove Fields, the NBC has set up temporary installations over the past three years. Through these initiatives, we have broadened our use of the site beyond the hosting of major events while promoting the area's often poorly known heritage.

From August to October 2023, structures were erected to recall the presence of the hundred or so families who used to inhabit the area from 1945 to 1951. This was a time when Quebec City was suffering a severe housing shortage, and former army barracks were used as a temporary solution at mayor Lucien Borne's request.

Designed by Groupe A / Annexe U, the wooden structures were inspired by those of the army barracks. Archival photos were posted on them.



History Brought to Life

YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES

All year long, a variety of activities gave visitors a chance to explore the park and its rich history. In the summer, families could take a guided bus tour of memorable sites on the Plains of Abraham. Three outdoor escape games (*The Challenge of the Great Wars*, *The Masters Tournament*, and *The Forgotten Ones*) and an indoor one at Martello Tower 4 (*The Tormentor*) challenged the abilities of participants while taking them deep into the past.

In the autumn, the program offered organized activities to celebrate Halloween and reveal the park's mysteries. New this year, the family activity *Arachnophobia and More* presented large macro-photographs of insects by photographer Luc Lapointe, as well as live specimens of small, intriguing creepy-crawlies. Once again,

people came in droves to see *Raptor Talons* a fascinating demonstration of birds of prey in free flight.

In the Martello Towers, participants could interactively discover different facets of the 19th century. They were able to experience its dark side at the evening activity *Tales of the Bad Old Days*, and its tavern life by sampling beer at *Convict's Last Drink*. Cold shivers and goose pumps were provided by *Ghoulish Walk* and *Stories to Wake the Dead*.

Each season, a treasure hunt combined fun surprises with amusing puzzles for children and their parents (*The Landscape Architect and the Hidden Treasure*, *Abacadabra*, *Shoot, Score!*).

SUR LES TRACES DE LA CORRIVAUX

In partnership with the municipality of Saint-Vallier, the theatrical performance *Sur les traces de la Corrivaux* was presented for a tenth year on August 26, 2023. This event, which played to a full house, drew on the true facts of the trial, the execution, and the legends that persist to this day in folk memory.



BATTLEFIELDS

For its second edition, the event *Battlefields* highlighted the reality of women during the Seven Years' War. It was presented for free on September 9 and 10 near Martello Tower 1 and drew a crowd of over 5,000 people.

Spectators could meet reenactors from different groups: Garnison de Québec; Compagnie des Canoniers-Bombardiers; Régiment de Béarn; Régiment de Languedoc; Compagnie de Lacorne; Détachement de la colonie; Habitants du Fort; Régiment de La Sarre; 78th Highland Regiment

(Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, Parks Canada); and Fraser Highlanders.

At all times, the whole family could enjoy an organized activity about the historical background. They could talk with such people as a washerwoman, an innkeeper, a lace maker, and a sash weaver. They could also learn about the wartime reality of the First Nations, through the presence of the Huron-Wendat Museum, Nicole O'Bomsawin and Lysane O'Bomsawin.



Organized Group Activities



Among the NBC's activities, a major category includes the ones organized for groups of schoolchildren or adults. Over the last year, more than 1,400 groups took part in an organized activity led by a historical character, be it in a classroom, at the Plains of Abraham Museum, by videoconference, or in a Martello Tower. We welcomed around twenty groups with special needs, notably groups for special education or francization.

The organized activities were adapted to the educational program requirements of elementary and secondary schools and dealt with different themes about the Plains of Abraham, such as New France, the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, army life in the Martello Towers, and factory life in the 20th century. To improve the participant experience, the NBC created historical decors for the activity rooms. In 2023, the NBC transformed the room *The Redoubt* to make it look like a temporary fortification from 1759.

Restoration of Heritage Elements



Preservation of the park's heritage features is integral to the NBC mission. In 2023, the four main park entrances were given a masonry facelift, having been originally designed by Frederick G. Todd—the landscape architect who had drawn up the plans to create this public space.

In December 2023, the Des Braves Monument was dismantled for a complete restoration. It was inaugurated in 1863 and stands an impressive 22 metres in height. For the repairs, its column was temporarily removed from its base. Other restoration work was done for the Cross of Sacrifice and completed in October.

The cannons on Cap Diamant and beside Martello Tower 1 were likewise rejuvenated through repairs to their gun carriages by the NBC carpenters.



Montcalm Entrance

Cross of Sacrifice

Permanent Exhibition worth Discovering

At the Plains of Abraham Museum, the exhibition *Battles 1759-1760* takes visitors back to the time of the Siege of Quebec and the battles of the Plains of Abraham and Sainte-Foy. These events, which were decisive in the country's history, are brought to life through an immersive projection, scale models, and interactive games.

The park's rich heritage is also revealed through the artefacts at the exhibition *Identities* and the mini-exhibit *Traces*, the latter being accessible for free in the Museum entrance. The artefacts come from the park's archaeological collection and show how people from various walks of life once lived on the park's territory.

In the summer, Martello Tower 1 opens its doors for the exhibition *Attention!*—a unique, virtual, and visitor-friendly experience. By using a tablet, a visitor can explore the history of Quebec City's Martello Towers: their architecture; the military engineering that went into them; and the living conditions of the soldiers who lived inside.

Exhibition *Battles 1759-1760*



SPRING BREAK SPECIAL

During the spring break, March 2-17, 2024, children 17 years old or younger were asked to show their worth by filling out a rally questionnaire. They could thus test their abilities to defend the colony while visiting two exhibitions: *Battles 1759-1760* and *Identities*. They were given free admission to the Plains of Abraham Museum during that period.

PARTNERSHIPS

To make it easier for more people to discover the heritage of the Plains and to establish ties with other cultural organizations of the region, the NBC has entered into different partnerships for the Plains of Abraham Museum. Visitors can now get a discount on admission by presenting a proof of admission to the Musée Royal 22e Régiment (Citadelle de Québec) or the Huron-Wendat Museum. A discount is also given to Archéo-Québec members, and admission is free for people who have newly become Canadian citizens or permanent residents, under the Canoo program of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

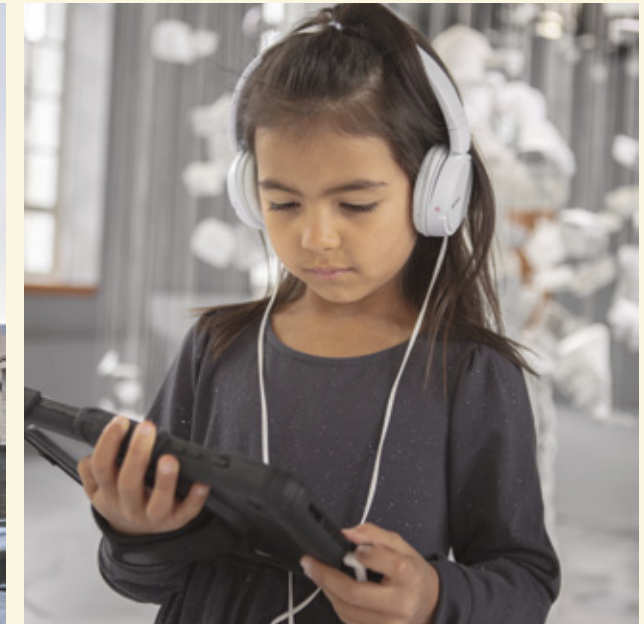
The Plains of Abraham Museum also participates in the *Empruntez un musée!* program of the Bibliothèque de Québec, which lends its members a pass to visit a museum.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

During the summer period, visitors to the Plains of Abraham Museum can admire replicas of historical objects made by high school students. They are displayed in an area that is accessible for free and called *Student Showcase*.

This project has been made possible by the staff at the Centre de services scolaire de la Beauce-Etchemin, who are keenly interested in Canadian history and in promoting the country's heritage.

Nutcrackers were installed in the entrance to the Plains of Abraham Museum during the holiday season.



An Exceptional Natural Heritage



A person walking through the park can admire up to 4,995 trees belonging to 130 different species. Non-inventoried forest is estimated to have another 15,000 trees.

A large proportion of the Plains is covered by mature trees that are rated high for their landscape value. Among them, 17 have been classified as “remarkable.”

The arboreal heritage of the Plains is notably distinguished by the presence of small-leaved lindens (a non-native species), broadleaf hawthorns, and wych elms. The NBC ensures their healthy regeneration. The protected trees include around 700 elms and many ash trees. The latter make up 8% of the total tree population.

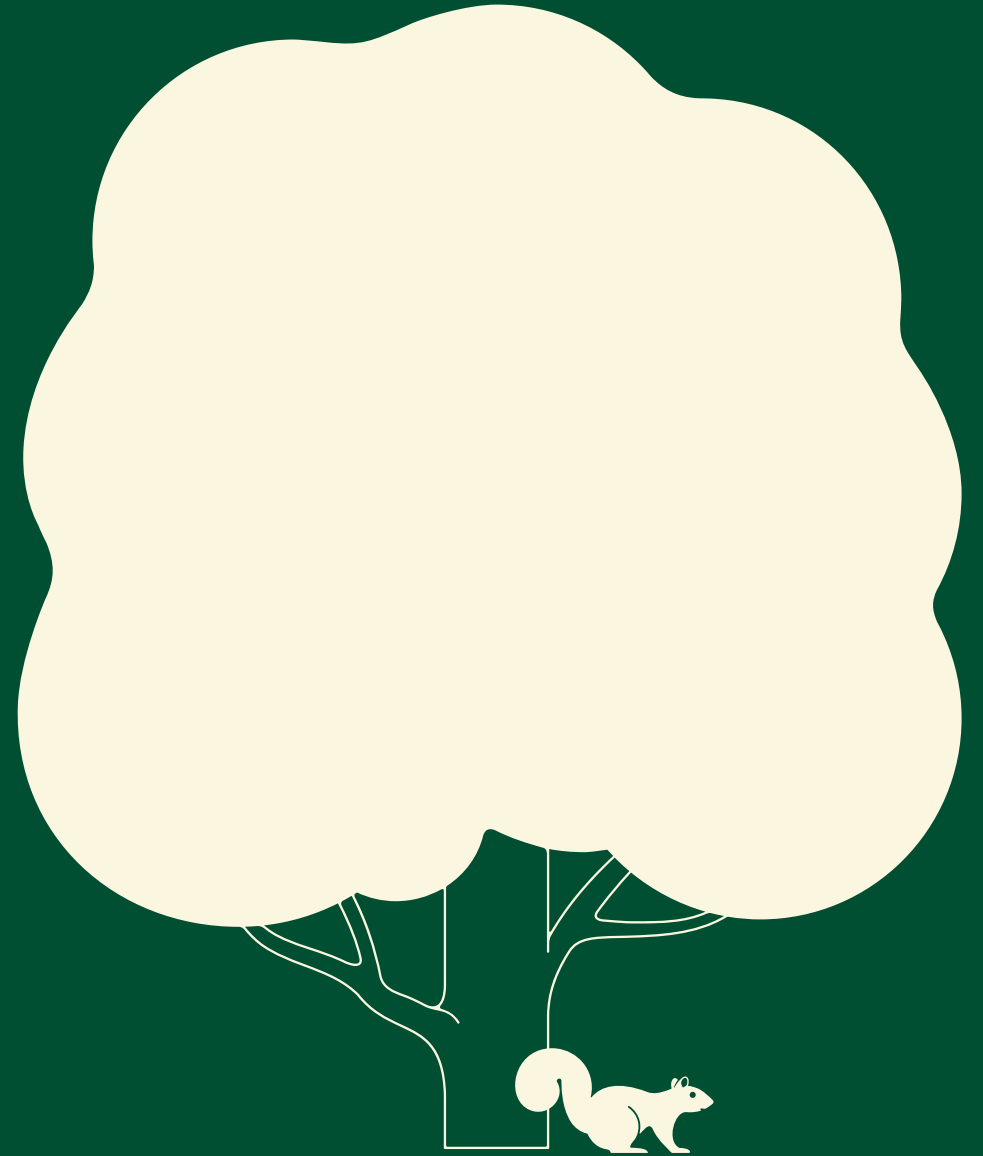
The NBC is preparing a canopy management plan to facilitate maintenance and development of the tree canopy. It is also continuing to take actions to fight Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer, notably by taking part in a study on parasitic wasps and use of fungus traps.

Built in 1916, the Plains greenhouse is among the oldest still used in Quebec. This year, 80,000 plants (3,000 perennials and 77,000 cuttings and seedlings) and 100 trees were produced for summer 2024. The plants are used to create the floral arrangements and mosaicultures that beautify the entire park, notably the Joan of Arc Garden, Des Braves Park, and Avenue Ontario. In addition, over 36,000 bulbs are planted to adorn our flowerbeds with magnificent tulips that bloom each spring.



DIALOGUING WITH FIRST NATIONS

Ensuring a place for Indigenous peoples
in our activities and actions



Training Sessions and Partnerships at the Plains of Abraham Museum

Over the last year, the Museum Services Department undertook different initiatives so that it could better represent the reality of Indigenous peoples in its historical mediation activities. The staff notably called on Mohawk historian Gilbert Desmarais to review the contents of the exhibitions at the Plains of Abraham Museum and make recommendations.

There were also training sessions, including a talk by Gilbert Desmarais on the First Nations' participation in the Siege of Quebec and a visit to the Musée des Abénakis in Odanak. The Abenaki are an Indigenous people who were closely involved in the Seven Years' War.

In 2023, the Museum Services Department established a partnership with the Huron-Wendat Museum to exchange good practices and knowhow and to share visitors. For the second aim, the *Barter and Trade* duo was created for students in the 2nd cycle of elementary school (Grades 3 and 4). These students take part in the activity *The Voyageur* at the Plains of Abraham Museum in the morning and then go to the Huron-Wendat Museum in the afternoon for *Barter: from the Longhouse to the Wigwam*.

An outreach and training partnership was also established with Indigenous Tourism Quebec. It led to a map of Quebec's Indigenous nations being placed in the entrance to the Plains of Abraham Museum.



Board of Directors
visiting the Huron-Wendat Museum

Left to right:
André L. Potvin, Nathalie Letendre, Annie Talbot,
Jean Robert, Sophie Gagnon, Ellen Yifan Chen
and Jean Vincent

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On the occasion of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, on September 30, 2023, the NBC hosted the unveiling of a work of art by the Musée ambulant at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand. This mediation activity was on the theme of dialogue and took place in the presence of artists Andrée Levesque Sioui and Jeffrey Poirier. It showcased one of their creations: an arrowhead sash symbolizing dialogue between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples.

Participants could also appreciate a work of art by Wendat artist Ludovic Boney and take part in a textile creation workshop for the whole family.



Work of art by Andrée Levesque Sioui
and Jeffrey Poirier

Works of Art by Indigenous Artists on Cap Diamant

“The beauty of Ludovic Boney and 7IDANsuu James Hart’s artworks will reflect the exceptional viewpoint of the site.”

One of the pillars of the NBC’s strategic plan is about Indigenous peoples: “Engage actively in a process of reconciliation.” It is a statement of our intention to make a place for them in our organization, our activities, and our actions. A big step forward was taken with the acquisition of two works of art created by leading Indigenous artists and intended for the Cap Diamant area. The new installation will be dedicated in autumn 2024 with a view to creating a space for dialogue around the two works of art.

The work *The Three Watchmen* by artist 7IDANsuu Chief James Hart, of the Haida Nation, evokes the sentinels who stand guard at the entrance to a Haida village. This work was offered to the NBC by the great Canadian philanthropist Michael Audain.

The work *Remembering through Beads* by artist Ludovic Boney, of the Huron-Wendat Nation, is composed of a series of hollow rings that represent wampum beads, a strong cultural and historical symbol for the Wendat.



Scale model by Groupe A /
Annexe U of the Cap Diamant
art installation



A PARTNER IN YOUR DAILY LIVES

For your athletic, recreational,
and cultural activities



A Turning Point for the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand

Each year, the NBC presents shows on the outdoor stage of the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand. Here, in the heart of the Plains of Abraham, the public can enjoy cultural events for free. In 2023, organized family activities, historical presentations, and movies were added to the musical performances already appreciated by the public. The Bandstand also hosted a station of the *Circuit opéra*, the *Brigade opéra*, and the *Brigade opérette* for the Festival d'opéra de Québec.

Around thirty events, drawing crowds of up to a few thousand people, were provided during the summer. These performances included a double bill from *Révélation*s 2023-2024 (Joseph Sarenhes and Waahli) and the Band à Boivin, which were presented in partnership with Société Radio-Canada.

The shows were highly varied: from children's theatre to Cuban music, with a fascinating range in-between: Quebec folklore, country music, Indigenous cultures, and jazz!



Evening of storytelling

Toward Universal Accessibility

During the last year, the NBC submitted its 2023-2026 Accessibility Plan, which sets forth its accessibility objectives and how to reach them. Progress this year included: 1) adding subtitles on demand to the video projection of the exhibition *Battles 1759-1760*; 2) providing disabled people with personalized accompaniment for visits to the Plains of Abraham Museum; and 3) creating a short video that offers a visual tour of Martello Tower 1—a historic building that is not accessible to everyone.

The NBC also formed the External Accessibility Advisory Committee. Its members are Simon April, co-chair (Kéroul), Mélanie Beaudoin (Adaptavie), Jean-Michel Bernier (Regroupement des personnes handicapées visuelles (régions 03-12)), Maritza Côté (Comité d'aide aux Femmes Sourdes de Québec), Jacques Laberge (Association régionale de loisir pour les personnes handicapées de la Capitale-Nationale), Nicole Laveau (Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale), Véronique Vézina (Regroupement des organismes de personnes handicapées de la région de la Capitale-Nationale), Doriane Angers, co-chair (NBC), and Vanessa-Mayura Jain-Fecteau (NBC).

The committee notably has the following objectives: help find solutions and prevent obstacles to accessibility; communicate research or initiatives on accessibility; propose improvements to planned activities, tasks, and redevelopment projects; and provide feedback on implementation of the accessibility action plan.



Interior of Martello Tower 1

Winter Activities for All Tastes



The public can enjoy many winter activities for free on the Plains, thanks to a refrigerated skating oval (in partnership with the Quebec City municipal government), the five cross-country ski trails (for classic or skate skiing), the two sliding areas, the warming station, and the walking trails. Equipment rental is available at the Skaters Chalet (skis, snowshoes, and skates) and at the Plains of Abraham Museum (snow carpets).

In 2023, the new signage for cross-country skiing was fully installed to improve user safety and trail sharing. Cross-country skiers now also have a well-equipped and renovated waxing room and a second heated cabin with lockers.

The NBC also acquired a lightweight snow-grooming machine for optimal maintenance of cross-country ski trails. Operations can be tracked in real time on the app Web Nordic Pulse, which cross-country skiers have greatly appreciated since its adoption in 2021.



A New Food Service on the Plains

Food and drink services are making a comeback on the Plains of Abraham. Smith Café will open a permanent branch at the Central Pavilion in addition to providing service via the Smith Mobile and an espresso bike.

The numerous park users will be able to enjoy locally roasted coffee, refreshing drinks, and a range of healthy foods. The café will be open year-round. During the peak tourist season, it will align its opening hours with the events scheduled at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand and on the Plains.



New layout of the Café La Maison Smith at the Central pavilion, by Lanterne architectes

A PARTNER IN YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Vast green spaces, ideal for getting
in touch with nature



Joan of Arc Garden



Illuminated Joan of Arc Garden



Folk art sculpture by Patrick Lavallée

All year long, the Joan of Arc Garden charms the visitor with its magnificent flowerbeds and the Joan of Arc Monument standing in their midst. As night falls, it is lit up softly and enchantingly to reveal every detail. This lighting is made to vary with the atmospheric conditions through a system connected to the Quebec City weather station. It is altered to match the mood of different events over the year, like the holiday season, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and Canada Day.

Since 2021, the garden has hosted 16 works of folk art by artist Patrick Lavallée during autumn. These large coloured sculptures are used to illustrate legends and stories about the Plains, like the white lady of Cap Diamant or duels in Quebec City. Each work is accompanied by explanatory texts and videos.

When the sculptures were being made, two Quebec City filmmakers, Jocelyn Langlois and Nicolas Léger (Ciné-Scène), followed artist Patrick Lavallée to document the process. The resulting film, *Le gosseux des possibles* (the dabbler in the realms of the possible) was screened at several festivals in Quebec over the last year: Festival International du Film sur l'Art; Festival de cinéma de la ville de Québec; and Festifilm de la Beauce.



Sidewalk Art

Artist Laurence Petit, alias *La Fée des trottoirs* (the sidewalk fairy), created 18 mosaics on the sidewalks of the Plains of Abraham. The drawings and colours evoked items from the Plains of Abraham Museum or the history of the park. For instance, a little cup of tea was drawn on the Grey Terrace—a sly reference to the tea of the same name. The terrace owes its name to Sir Albert Henry George Grey, 4th Earl Grey, who helped create the park in 1908, the tea being named after one of his ancestors.



New Improvements

DE BERNIÈRES AVENUE

The NBC worked with the Quebec City municipal government to redevelop De Bernières Avenue. This redevelopment has opened up the park by removing the fences, by adding green spaces, and by bringing the points of access into line with accessibility standards.

DES BRAVES PARK

For the first time, the NBC cleared the snow from a pedestrian trail in Des Braves Park. We thus ensured winter access to a route that runs through the park and to the lower town.

URBAN FIXTURES

A second pétanque pitch was created near the sports field. Work was also completed to install new multi-use water fountains to improve accessibility for people with a mobility impairment and to provide all users with water for their pets and water bottles. Finally, 100 picnic tables and 75 benches were made and added to the park.

DIGITAL TERMINALS

A digital terminal was installed on the sports field, near the Montcalm entrance. This terminal, which is in addition to the one in the Joan of Arc Garden, informs users about the activities that are or will be happening on the Plains.



Digital terminal in the Joan of Arc Garden



De Bernières Avenue

A PARTNER IN YOUR OUTREACH

A First-Rate Host
for Great Events



Events on the Plains of Abraham

Performance by the Cowboys fringants on July 17, 2023



Work of art by Christophe St-Onge at the Grey Terrace

Each year, the NBC hosts cultural and sporting events of different magnitudes on its territory. The year 2023 was notable because the Festival d'été de Québec (FEQ) was extended to include a memorable performance by the Cowboys fringants—a night that will remain engraved in the memories and history of the park.

For the first time, a “aVélo” parking area was installed on the Plains during the FEQ in partnership with the Réseau de transport de la Capitale and Capitale Mobilité. Festival-goers thus had more options for getting around the park on their own.

In September, it was the turn of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec to appear on the Plains of Abraham. For that occasion, the NBC teamed up with artist Christophe St-Onge to produce a temporary work of art on the cobblestones of the Grey Terrace. This initiative, which became known worldwide, was inspired by messages left by fans on the circuits of the European Grand Prix.

Over the last year, the NBC also hosted many other major events: Pentathlon des neiges; Fête nationale du Québec; Canada Day; Je cours Québec (Marathon de Québec and Défi des Escaliers); and a commemoration of Remembrance Day at the Cross of Sacrifice.



Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec

Public Exposure for the Plains

FILM SHOOTING

There were several film and photo shoots in the magnificent setting of the Plains of Abraham. At times, some of the staff took part to talk about the park's rich heritage. In an episode of the program *La face cachée* (MATV), the historical interpretation coordinator, Luc Nicole-Labrie, explained the ties between Napoleon and the park's history. He also spoke in a capsule on the history of Quebec City's prisons (Ici Radio-Canada).

MEDIA PRESENCE

The NBC and the Plains of Abraham enjoyed good press coverage over the past year. In particular, the media's attention was caught by the cultural events at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand and by the exhibition *Aeria*, as well as by the temporary installation about Cove Fields. In the latter case, a media launch was organized to unveil this art installation and publicize the ethnographic survey.

There was also interest in cross-country skiing on the Plains, in particular the trail-grooming operations. In January 2024, journalist Mireille Roberge (Ici Radio-Canada Première) met the trail-grooming team on site for radio segments about the new machinery and the conditions needed to maintain the trails.

DEPLOYING THE BRAND IMAGE

The NBC continued to deploy the *Plains of Abraham* brand signature, both on the park grounds and in its communications. New signs have thus been put up to welcome visitors to the Plains.

The brand signature was also integrated into different promotional tools, such as leaflets (summer, autumn, and winter programs), a banner on the Adrien-Pouliot

overhead walkway, over the Laurentienne highway (lineup of winter activities), and streamers on the Grande Allée (lineup of cultural activities at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand).



A Committed and Mobilized Team

General Management

General management ensures the overall management of the NBC mission, in addition to overseeing human resources and institutional affairs. It also ensures preservation and conservation of the Battlefields Park archives and collections.



Annie Talbot
Secretary and CEO

Museum Services

This service promotes the park’s rich heritage through exhibitions, organized activities, and mediation activities. It is devoted to offering a quality customer experience. With this aim in mind, it administers group and individual reservations and welcomes visitors to the Plains of Abraham Museum.



Stéphane Roy
Director

The team

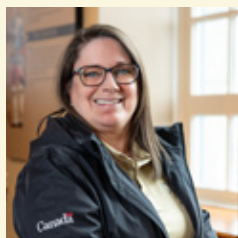
- Executive Assistant
Marie-France Lévesque
- Senior advisor to the CEO, Archives and Collections
Caroline Ricard
- Assistant Director for Institutional Affairs
Anne Chouinard
- Assistant for Institutional Affairs
Vanessa-Mayura Jain-Fecteau
- Human Resources Senior Advisor
Dania Duguay
- Compensation Assistant
Annie Lavoie
- Human Resources Assistant
Andréanne Tremblay

The team

- Assistant Director, Exhibitions and Visitor Services
Isabelle Lussier
- Program Manager, Outreach Activities
Virginie Arsenault
- Assistant, Museum Services
Christine Blackman
- Reservations Agent
Catherine Vachon
- Historical Interpretation Coordinator
Luc Nicole-Labrie
- Outreach Activities Coordinator
Andréanne Picard
- Visitor Services and Hospitality Coordinator
Mathieu Murray
- Interpreter Guides
Claudia Bellavance, Amy Bergeron (also reception officer), Mariano Bianco-Beaulieu, Nathalie Boudreau, Anne-Catherine Couillard, Maude Demers, Matthieu Dufour (also reception officer), Amélie Geoffroy (also bus driver-guide), Marie-Noël Grenon (also bus driver-guide), Raphaëlle Harouni-Carrière, Charles-Olivier Jean, Jérémie Lambert, Jennifer Landry Tremblay, Geneviève Roy, Joanie Roy, Katia Thibault Rochefort (also reception officer and bus driver-guide), Louis Vézina (also reception officer)
- Reception Officers
Nancy Bélanger, Coralie Bouchet, François Genesse, Aurore Jacob, Catherine Picard, Antoine Ruelland

Operations and Sustainable Development

This service preserves and maintains immovable, horticultural, and forest assets, as well as all of the NBC facilities. The Operations and Sustainable Development staff also make their expertise available for restoration of heritage assets, for grooming operations on cross-country ski trails, and for implementation of the green space sustainable development plan.



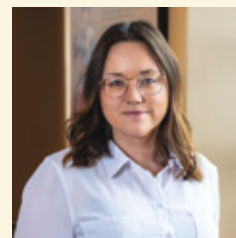
Nathalie Rhéaume
Director

-
- The team
- **Outdoor Activities and Events Coordinator**
Sébastien Ménard
 - **Operations and Sustainable Development Coordinator**
Stephen Ferland
 - **Forest Engineer**
Marc Pelletier
 - **Arborist**
Cédric Gobeil (also operations support coordinator)
 - **Labourers**
Julian Caruana
Samuel Cormier (electricity) (team leader)
Hugo Leblanc (also grooming operations on cross-country ski trails)
David Lessard
David Tremblay (landscape management and grooming operations on cross-country ski trails) (team leader)
 - **Carpenters**
Francis Labbé
Jean-Guy Tremblay (Team Leader)

- **Painters**
Christian Langlois
Marc Tremblay (Team Leader)
- **Welder-Mechanic, team leader**
Daniel Gobeil
- **Welder-Assistant Mechanic**
Alain Labbé
- **Horticulturists**
Dominique Bernard (team leader)
Nancy Boisvert
Jimmy Bouchard (also labourer for grooming operations on cross-country ski trails)
Sarah-Christine Déry
Paskale Fortin
Sophie Plante
Frédéric Tremblay
- **Maintenance Attendants**
Nathalie Boily
Jessy Laurinaitis
Denis Perron (Team Leader)
Hekmet Rezai
Micheline Routhier

Marketing and Development

This service develops innovative marketing programs to promote the NBC mission and transform the customer experience. It implements actions to communicate and advertise with a view to marketing park activities and services and displaying the brand signature to local customers and tourists.



Katherine Laflamme
Director

The team

- **Senior Advisor, Marketing**
Doriane Angers
- **Communications and Marketing Officer**
Valérie Gignac
- **Development and Marketing Officer**
Benoit Gilbert
- **Digital Marketing and Product Development Officer**
Valérie Lehoux
- **Administrative Agent**
Lila V. Sciacca

Finance

This service is responsible for properly managing the NBC's financial resources and meeting its information technology needs. It also oversees supplies, material resources, and parking management. Finally, it provides advice on strategic directions and risk management.

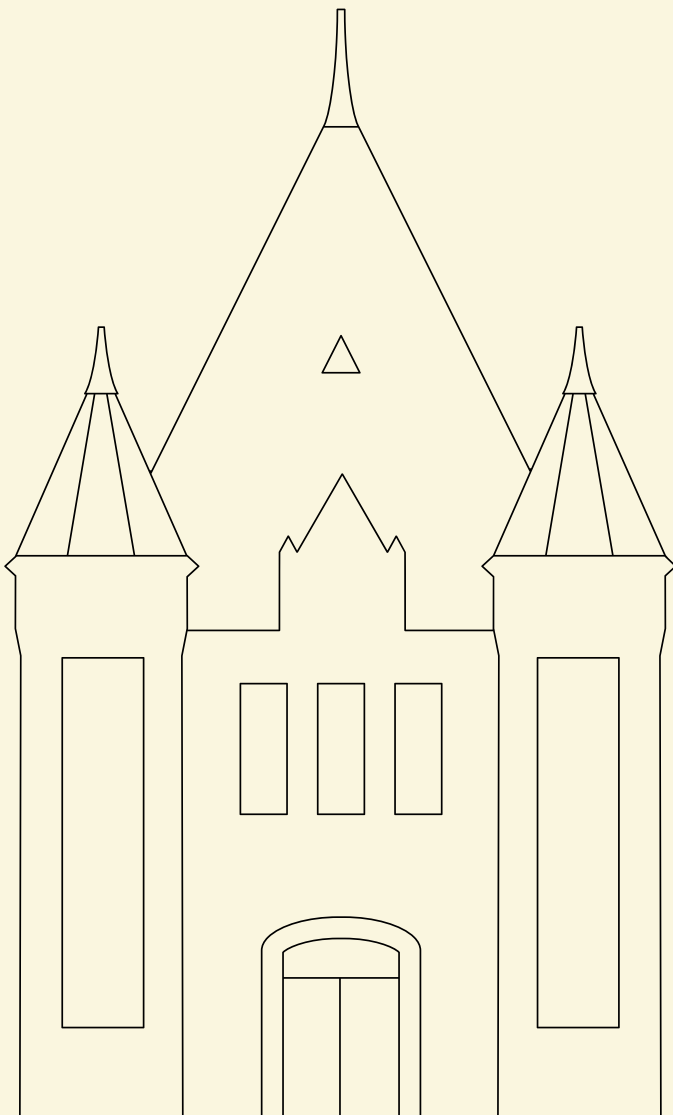


James Haberlin
Chief Financial Officer

The team

- **Assistant Director of Finance**
Julie Carignan
- **Supply, Material Resources and IT Assistant**
Philippe Lafrenière
- **Finance Officer**
Brigitte Bradley
- **Parking Assistant**
Vincent Doyon
- **Attendants for Parking and Parking Fee Collection**
Suzanne Jenkins
Gilles Lemieux
Hugues Turcotte





The Commission wishes to thank its main institutional partners: the Privy Council Office; Canadian Heritage; the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; Public Services and Procurement Canada; the Department of National Defence; Parks Canada; Société Radio-Canada; Ville de Québec; Bureau des grands événements; Destination Québec cité; Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec; and the many non-profit organizations with which it works.

National Battlefields Commission

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