



# HISTORY

CANADA'S HERITAGE SITES

# LANDS

From the Plains of Abraham in Quebec, to Old Town Lunenburg in Nova Scotia and Dawson City in the Yukon, HistoryLands documents fifty-two of Canada's most compelling National Historic Sites. The series travels across the country bringing to life both the prehistoric and recorded history of Canada's most famous landmarks; from the ancient Blackfoot Buffalo Jump, Head-Smashed-In in Southern Alberta, to the Diefenbunker, a chilling relic from the Cold War. To fully understand where we are today, it is vital for us, as Canadians, to understand our past. HistoryLands will offer Canadians a window into some of the most important events and sites in Canadian history.

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## Season I Episodes:

### **#1 - Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Alberta**

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, in southern Alberta, is the largest, oldest, and best preserved example in the world.

### **#2 - Kingston Penitentiary, Ontario**

Kingston Penitentiary is a unique window on Canada's social history; our changing sensibilities, attitudes and perspectives.

### **#3 - Chilkoot Trail, British Columbia**

The "stampede" of the Klondike Gold Rush described the Chilkoot as the "meanest 32 miles in history".

### **#4 - "Diefenbunker" Nuclear Shelter, Ontario**

The year is 1959 and with the uneasiness of the Cold War looming, PM John Diefenbaker orders an underground bunker to be built.

### **#5 - Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres, Ontario**

Toronto's grand Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres are not only an accurate chronicle of the evolution of theatre, but of the development of urban Canada.

### **#6 - Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta**

The magnificent Banff Springs Hotel has been a wilderness palace for people from around the world.

### **#7 - Green Gables House, P.E.I.**

At the turn of the century, a young Canadian writer named Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote a book that put P.E.I. on the map.

### **#8 - Batoche Settlement, Saskatchewan**

It was here that Prime Minister John A. Macdonald and the Metis leader, Louis Riel went head to head in battle.

### **#9 - Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia**

In the 1700's, Louisbourg was one of the main mercantile shipment points between Europe and the New World.

### **#10 - Grosse Ile Immigration Station, Quebec**

Grosse Ile is best known as a tragic memorial, because of the 5500 Irish who died here of "ship fevers" at the time of the potato famine.

### **#11 - Red Bay Whaling Station, Newfoundland**

In the mid-1500s, the first large scale industrial complex in the New World was located on the south coast of Labrador. Basque whalers had come from Europe to bring back liquid gold - Whale Oil.

### **#12 - Victoria's Chinatown, British Columbia**

Behind the restored facades of the city are the remains of secret passageways and alleys built by a community trying to escape from racism.

### **#13 - Fort Conger, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut**

For most of history, Fort Conger has been the most northerly base camp in the world. This was the base of Admiral Robert E. Peary.

## Season II Episodes:

### **#14 - Death of an Empress, Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse, Quebec**

On May 29th, 1914, the Empress of Ireland collided with the Norwegian coal carrier Storstad. The Empress sank in 14 minutes and 1012 people perished.

### **#15 - The Front Line of the Fur Trade War, Old Fort William, Ontario**

For 200 years, the top hat was a fashion must - this created a huge market for beaver under felt and propelled the fur industry in Canada

### **#16 - Bluenose Spirit, Old Town Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**

The last recognizable example of the British military's "Model Town Plan" still enhanced by unique wooden buildings dating back to 1800.

### **#17 - Tin Cans and Iron Chinks, Gulf of Georgia Cannery, British Columbia**

The Gulf of Georgia is one of the last surviving nineteenth century salmon canneries on the west coast.

### **#18 - A Gathering Place, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatchewan**

This area contains 19 prehistoric archaeological sites representing some 250 generations of the Northern Plains Indians.

### **#19 - Muskets and Mayhem, Quebec City, Quebec**

The Plains of Abraham became famous as the location of the final outcome of the struggle between the British and the Americans.

### **#20 - Heart of the Klondike, Dawson City, Yukon**

Dawson City is a living community, where historic structures are preserved to commemorate the Gold Rush.

### **#21 - Voyage to Vinland, l'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland**

The earliest known location of a European settlement (a Norse settlement led by Leif Erickson) in the New World.

### **#22 - Saving Men and Sinking Ships, HMCS Haida, Ontario**

The Haida sank more enemy tonnage than any other ship in the Royal Canadian Navy and was, in her time, outfitted with the most up to date and technologically advanced equipment.

### **#23 - Skoki Ski Lodge, Alberta**

Skoki Ski Lodge, build in the 1930s, has remained essentially unchanged and is still accessible only by foot or horseback.

#### **#24 - Algonquin Park, Ontario**

First established in 1893, this was the country's first provincial park, intended from its inception for multi-purposes.

#### **#25 - Death of a Nation, Village of Nan Sdins, B.C.**

The decaying mortuary poles of the Village of Nan Sdins are a poignant reminder of the once rich and thriving sea-faring culture of the Haida people.

#### **#26 - Bar U Ranch, Alberta**

In 1891, the Bar U had the largest population in the region. While most of the large ranches are long gone, the Bar U has survived and thrives to this day.

### **Season III Episodes:**

#### **#27 - Cradle of Confederation - Province House, Prince Edward Island**

Charlottetown has long been dubbed 'The Birthplace of Confederation', but few people know how it all began. It was a week of parties, dinner and champagne, cocktails and balls, an atmosphere in which bitter enemies could get together.

#### **#28 - Money to Die For - Royal Canadian Mint, Ontario**

When the Royal Canadian Mint opened its doors in 1908, it was a period of burgeoning gold production in the west, and a golden opportunity for Canada to take control of its own finances.

#### **#29 - Crossroads of Courage - Battle Harbour, Labrador**

For an outpost fishing community, Battle Harbour has a surprisingly auspicious and colourful history. For many years it was the acknowledged capital of the Labrador coast.

#### **#30 - Power to the People - Queenston-Chippewa Hydro Plant, Ontario**

Built between 1917 and 1921, Queenston-Chippewa was, for many years, the largest Hydro-electric project in the world. Its design was a marvel of engineering and imagination.

#### **#31 - Path to Freedom - Buxton Settlement, Ontario**

The Elgin settlement at Buxton, Ontario was established in 1849, by Reverend William King, who brought 15 former slaves to Canada. He developed a model community in which freed and refugee slaves could thrive and retain their freedom.

#### **#32 - The Great Connection - Trent-Severn Waterway, Ontario**

The Trent Severn Waterway, designed to bypass Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, started out with a small wooden lock at Bobcaygeon in 1833. The full system of locks and canals wasn't complete until 1920, by which time the railway had all but replaced shipping as an effective means of transportation.

#### **#33 - Fortifications of Quebec - Quebec City**

To explore the Fortifications of Quebec City is to peel back the layers of history. Archaeologists and historians take viewers on an intriguing journey back over three centuries, and provide a window onto fascinating cultures and personalities.

#### **#34 - Boom & Bust - Fort Steele, B.C.**

Fort Steele was the most sophisticated town in British Columbia in the 1890s; the ladies wore fashions from Paris, and the residents could watch the New York Opera perform. When the new main railway line connected to nearby Cranbrook instead of Fort Steele, it became a ghost town within a year.

#### **#35 - Motherwell Homestead, Saskatchewan**

William Richard Motherwell was the fourth son of a Lanark County farmer in Ontario. Like many young men, he was lured west by the prospect of free land. He staked his claim in the Pheasant Hills district north of Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

#### **#36 - Grain & Glory - Exchange District, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

At one time referred to as the "Chicago of the North", the banks, warehouses, and early skyscrapers of Winnipeg's Exchange District recall the city's dominance in the fields of finance, manufacturing, distribution and the international grain trade.

#### **#37 - Through the Northwest Passage - St. Roch, B.C.**

Sailing from Vancouver in 1940, a modest wooden schooner, named the St. Roch made the first ever west to east crossing of Canada's north, although it took more than two years to complete the voyage.

#### **#38 - Abbott Pass Refuge Cabin - Alberta**

In 1922, the Canadian Pacific Railway commissioned Swiss Guides to build a stone hut on the narrow col between Lake Louise and Lake O'Hara. It was named after Philip Abbott and continues to be a refuge for mountain climbers attempting the summits of Mount Victoria and Mount Lefroy. The cabin, and its many guests, has been documented in photographs, and in climbers' stories from the last hundred years.

#### **#39 - Deline - Northwest Territories**

At the southwestern tip of Great Bear Lake at a place called Deline, there is one section of water that does not freeze over, allowing for fishing to continue throughout the winter months. The Deline fishery has existed for thousands of years providing winter sustenance for the Sahtu Dene, the people of Great Bear Lake. The fishery and the Sahtu Dene were also instrumental in the survival and relative success of Franklin's second expedition to map out the arctic.

## **Season IV Episodes:**

### **#40 - Vimy Ridge - The Soldiers' Story - France**

The Vimy Ridge memorial is one of only two National Historic Sites outside of Canada - the land donated by the French government houses a massive sculpture memorial, preserved underground trenches, a burial ground for Canadian soldiers and a park created to resemble the woods and forests of Canada.

### **#41 - Church Hill Research Range - Rockets Across the Tundra - Manitoba**

From 1954 to 1970 the Churchill Research Range successfully launched over 3500 rockets. It became the world's most advanced, and confidential, upper atmosphere research centre. In 1985 the last rocket was launched but over 50 buildings stand as a testament to a time when technology was in its infancy and Canadians played a leading role in its development.

### **#42 - Montreal Main - Boulevard of Dreams - Montreal, Quebec**

It was the boulevard of dreams - The Montreal Main represented hope and a new life to wave after wave of distinct immigrants. It would become "the Zipper" of Montreal separating the English and French. The Main is Canada's most famous ethnic melting pot. A living, breathing tapestry of fine architecture, and city slums, high-end fashion and low-end art.

### **#43 - Minister's Island - A Forgotten Shrine - New Brunswick**

This island is described as New Brunswick's "best-kept secret". It is the only surviving shrine to the father of Canada's national railway Sir William Van Horne. Van Horne was voted Canada's businessman of the 20th century. The island is also a burial ground of aboriginal peoples dating back 2,500 years.

### **#44 - Fort Battleford - A Crossroad of Conflict - Saskatchewan**

In 1873, the North West Mounted Police were created to bring law and order to the Prairies. Three years later they built Fort Battleford and it was named the new capital of the North. But the fort's authority was soon challenged by Poundmaker's Cree, starving ever since they had been forced onto reserves by treaty No.6 and the bison herds had been hunted to extinction.

### **#45 - Signal Hill - A Special Place - Newfoundland**

For almost 300 years Signal Hill has dominated the skyline above St. John's, Newfoundland and today stands as Canada's second-largest national historic park. But the people of St. John's call the Hill part of their "home"....a thread running through everyone's lives in wartime, epidemic, hard times and history.

### **#46 - Moravian Missions - A Culture Divided - Labrador**

In the 1750s, Moravian Missionaries from Germany arrived at the islands of Hopedale, Nain, and Hebron. The Inuit quickly adopted German customs and inter-wove them with their own music, design and language. Hebron, is now a historic site - Hopedale and Nain are the last living communities in the area.

### **#47 - Women's College Hospital - A Legend of Caring - Toronto, Ontario**

Founded in 1883 by Dr. Jenny Trout and Dr. Emily Stowe, Women's College Hospital was the first medical teaching facility for women in Canada. Its existence would mark two major social movements in Canada - the suffragist movement - and the push for universal Health Care. The story of Women's College Hospital is one of medical breakthroughs - and social upheaval.

### **#48 - CFB Esquimalt - Ready Aye Ready - Vancouver Island, B.C.**

Perched on the south-eastern tip of Vancouver Island, Esquimalt was guarding the Pacific coast a decade before Canada was born. It has played a pivotal role in the history of the country ever since. Some of Canada's newest naval recruits start their basic training on the country's oldest commissioned ship, the Oriole.

### **#49 - McLean Mill - Steam Power - B.C.**

The MacLean Mill wasn't just a lumber camp, it was a way of life and helped to forge the new frontier of Canada's Pacific Coast. It was the small bush sawmills like McLean's that built cities like Vancouver and Port Alberni. Founder, R.B. McLean's daughter-in-law Muriel, whose husband Arnold actually ran the mill while R.B. was the traveling salesman, relives the early days.

### **#50 - Dundurn Castle - Trials and Triumphs - Hamilton, Ontario**

These hills hold a history over 9000 years old. They've borne witness to murders, hangings and cholera epidemics as well as princely visits, political coups and almost unseemly extravagance. Dundurn Castle in Hamilton rises above steel refineries as a testament to both the struggles and triumphs of early life in Upper Canada.

### **#51 - York Factory - The Most Respectable Place - Manitoba**

Established in 1684, York Factory was the most important of the Hudson Bay Company posts, and called "the most civilized place in the Territory." It is the oldest permanent settlement in Canada, and had, at its peak, over 50 buildings. For over a century, every person entering Canada passed through here first.

### **#52 - Rogers Pass - Avalanche Country - B.C.**

In 1881 the search began for a CPR route through the Selkirk Mountains. Major A.B. Rogers would discover Rogers Pass - which he penetrated both east and west before CPR would believe that the Selkirks were breachable. Construction began in 1885 - hundreds of lives would be lost as the railway struggled with new technology that might make the pass, well, passable.

## **Season V Episodes:**

### ***#53 - Turner Valley Gas Plant, Alberta***

It was here in the prairies southwest of Calgary that Alberta's legendary oil and gas industries were born. On May 14, 1914, A.W. Dingman struck gas, and the era of the Wild West changed forever.

### ***#54 - Central Experimental Farm, Ontario***

This is the only farm within a city in Canada but it is no ordinary working farm. The Central Experimental Farm has played a leading role in Canadian agricultural history since it was created in 1886. Scientists discovered the Marquis wheat strain.

### ***#55 - Beaumont Hamel, France***

On July 1st, 1916, the men of Newfoundland stormed into battle in a small field outside the village of Beaumont Hamel, northern France. The 801 men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment advanced point blank into the German machine guns. After just 30 minutes of fighting, there were only 68 men left to answer the regimental roll call.

### ***#56 - Hatley Park, BC***

Tucked away behind a wall of trees on the outskirts of Victoria is the grand Edwardian estate of Hatley Park, built at the dawn of the last century, complete with baronial turreted castle and 600 acres of gardens, forests and waterfalls.

### ***#57 - Saint John Old City Market, New Brunswick***

The oldest covered market in Canada still brings together fisherman, farmers, bakers and butchers under one roof. Sitting in the centre of Saint John's historic district, the old market is quite literally the heart and soul of the New Brunswick port city.

### ***#58 - Neubergthal Street Village, Manitoba***

Neubergthal is less than one kilometre long, its main street is part of Highway 421 in southern Manitoba. Blink and you'll miss it if you're driving through. But if you stop the car and walk around, you'll discover a slice of living history.

### ***#59 - Methye Portage, Saskatchewan***

It was the longest portage in the fur trade. Twenty kilometres of trail hacked out of a rough and unforgiving terrain. The men who worked this route performed Herculean feats of strength.

### ***#60 - Stanley Park, BC***

It has inspired famous artists, defied axe-wielding industrialists and provided secluded shelter for smallpox victims. This land, steeped in the mythology of the Squamish and Musqueam Nations, has witnessed years of controversy over its use.

### ***#61 - Rideau Canal, Ontario***

Today it's rated as one of the world's great engineering feats. The Rideau Canal is 202 kilometres long with 45 locks, all built in only five years from 1826 to 1832. Hundreds of workers died from malaria and injuries during the epic construction.

### ***#62 - Fort Anne / Port Royal, Nova Scotia***

The town of Annapolis Royal is home to Fort Anne, Canada's oldest national historic site. Nearby Port Royal, the first historic reconstruction ever attempted by Parks Canada, is the touchstone of the Acadian community. But in 1755, the Acadians were expelled from their homeland by the British in one of the most tragic deportations ever witnessed in this country.

### ***#63 - Marysville, New Brunswick***

Travelling to the small town of Marysville on the outskirts of Fredericton is like stepping back in time. This is a perfectly preserved 19th century industrial company town with workers' tenement houses and the original cotton mill all perfectly in tact. Many of the people living in the red-bricked houses are in fact direct descendants of original mill workers.

### ***#64 - Union Station, Ontario***

In the first half of the 20th Century, much of this country's history was played out on the tableaux of Toronto's elegant Union Station. In the age of train travel, Toronto's grand railway station actually handled more people and parcels than New York's famous Grand Central.

### ***#65 - Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia***

More than just a national park, Kejimikujik is also the touchstone for the Miikmaq First Nation of Nova Scotia. The Miikmaq can trace their presence at Kejimikujik back more than 5,000 years, thanks to ancient petroglyphs carved into the rocks on the lake's shoreline.