

Symposium

The Fortress of Louisbourg, 1758
The Final Siege: Consequences and Commemorations
September 26-27, 2008, Sydney and Louisbourg, Nova Scotia

<http://culture.cbu.ca/louisbourg/2008/index.html>

Overview:

In 1758, two of Europe's mightiest powers – Britain and France – fought for control of North America on the coast of Cape Breton Island. Pitting one-third of the British navy against France's most powerful colonial fortification, the siege of Louisbourg was a critical moment in the Seven Years' War – a conflagration that Winston Churchill called the “real first world war”.

In this shifting context, the lives of North America's indigenous, European, and African populations changed radically as new political regimes were instituted, new patterns of immigration unfolded, and new perspectives on land ownership and settlement, freedom and oppression, empires and colonies, were debated and acted upon – both locally and globally. The final siege of Louisbourg was a critical and defining moment in this bigger historical drama, and the opening of the reconstructed fortress are watersheds in history and our commemorations of the past.

For this reason, as part of the commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the fall of Louisbourg, the Louisbourg Institute (a joint body of Cape Breton University and the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada) and the Centre for Cape Breton Studies at Cape Breton University will host a symposium in September of 2008. From a wide range of perspectives, invited scholars will present new work that examines the siege of Louisbourg, and its impact on patterns of historical change in North America and beyond.

In addition to exploring the historical significance of the final siege of Louisbourg, the symposium will address the importance of the Fortress of Louisbourg as an aspect of material culture and heritage of preservation,

and its influence on our interpretation and presentation of the colonial past.

Bringing together scholars, educators, teachers, and the public in order to examine critically “1758” and its many legacies, the symposium will enhance the teaching and learning of Canadian history and social studies.

The three-day symposium begins on Thursday night at Cape Breton University's Beaton Institute. Open to the public, this French-language event will explore the history and genealogy of Acadian settlers and French soldiers before, during, and after the events of “1758”. A reception featuring 18th-century desserts will follow the presentations.

The second day of the symposium – Friday – will be held in English, in conjunction with a “professional development day” for teachers belonging to the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board; students enrolled in CBU's Bachelor of Education program will be attending as well. The day's events, which will take place at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, will involve more than 100 attendees, and include a range of activities designed to illustrate the pedagogical benefits of “using” the fortress in the classroom.

The third and final day of the symposium – Saturday – will take place at the Fortress of Louisbourg. Open to teachers, students, and the public, Saturday's programming will include panel discussions on the military and civilian consequences of 1758, as well as tours of siege-related sites. The presentations will be in English, however tours will be available in both English and French. A dinner of 18th-century food and wine at the Fortress will mark the end of the day's events and the symposium as a whole.

<http://culture.cbu.ca/louisbourg/2008/index.html>

Several exciting and stimulation speakers will join the discussions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, including:

- Marcel Fournier and Luc Lepine, Project Montcalm, Société généalogique canadienne-française.
- Bruce W. Fry, retired archaeologist and former head of publications, Parks Canada; author of “An Appearance of Strength”: The Fortifications of Louisbourg (Ottawa, 1984).
- A.J.B. Johnston, historian with Parks Canada Agency; author of *Endgame 1758: the Promise, Glory and Despair of Louisbourg's Last Decade* (CBU Press).

- Willis Stevens, cultural resource manager, Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada.
- Nicholas Westbrook, executive director, Fort Ticonderoga, New York.
- Stephen White, Centre d'études acadiennes, Université de Moncton.
- William Wicken, associate professor of history, York University; author of *Mikmaq Treaties on Trial: History, Land and Donald Marshall Junior* (Toronto 2002).

Call for Submissions

Appel à communications

Call for Submissions:

Material Culture Review invites submission of new research from the field of material culture including, cultural history, public history, art history, geography, archaeology, anthropology, architecture and intangible cultural heritage. The editors encourage submissions from graduate students and scholars at any phase of their professional career, professionals and historians from the art and museum world and from independent scholars with an interest in material culture.

The editors are currently interested in developing theme issues around the following topics:

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- Religious Material Culture
- Needle Work: Knitting, Embroidery and Crocheting
- Material Culture of Agriculture
- First Nations Material Culture
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
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- Cultural Tourism
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- Vernacular Architecture

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