



# FORT WALSH

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

## *Management Plan*



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada

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# Fort Walsh

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*Management Plan*

May 2005



## Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas represent the soul of our country. They are a central part of who we are and what we are. They are places of beauty and wonder and heritage. Each tells its own story. Together, they connect Canadians to our roots, to our future and to each other.

We see a future in which each of the national historic sites of Canada, whether federally owned or not, enjoys sound commemorative health, and in which our system of sites evolves as our country evolves. Our national historic sites will be places for all Canadians to experience and learn from. They will help our communities to be vibrant and creative, and contribute to our efforts to revitalize Canada's cities. Together, we will hold these places in trust for this and future generations, while ensuring they contribute to Canada's sustainable economy and environmental health.

Our vision is also for each of Canada's unique terrestrial and marine regions to be represented by at least one national park or national marine conservation area, for all national parks to be in sound ecological health, for all NMCAs to promote the ecologically sustainable use of our marine resources in a way that harmonizes conservation practices with human activities, and for both national parks and NMCAs to be places for all Canadians to experience and enjoy.

These principles form the foundation of the new management plan for Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada. May I offer my appreciation to the vast range of thoughtful Canadians who helped develop this plan. I am especially grateful to our very dedicated team from Parks Canada and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated such good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In that same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stéphane Dion". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Stéphane Dion  
*Minister of the Environment*



# Recommendation Statement

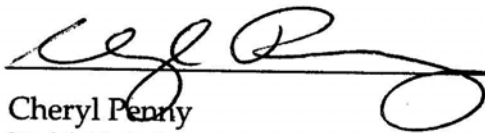
## Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan

Recommended for Approval by:



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Alan Latourelle  
Chief Executive Officer  
Parks Canada



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Cheryl Penny  
Field Unit Superintendent, Saskatchewan South  
Parks Canada

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## **Fort Walsh: A Place of National Historic Significance**

Established in 1875 Fort Walsh would quickly become the most important, largest and most heavily armed police post the North West Mounted Police garrisoned during their early years in Canada's North West Territories. In their time at Fort Walsh, the police would chase whiskey traders and horse thieves; counsel and control First Nation peoples dispirited by the disappearance of the buffalo, and supervise the thousands of Lakota refugees whose influx from the United States during the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 would stretch their resources, and the fragile resources of the Canadian prairies, to the point of crisis. The story of Fort Walsh is one of fascinating detail and larger-than-life characters. James Walsh, Sitting Bull, Jerry Potts, Big Bear, Crowfoot, James Macleod, Alfred Terry, White Bird, Little Pine, Chief Lucky Man, Sam Steele, Spotted Eagle, Rain-in-the-Face, Gall, Nelson Miles, Chief Joseph, Lief Crozier, John A. Macdonald, George Armstrong Custer - all these and more are part of the story of Fort Walsh.

*Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada was designated a place of national historic significance in 1924. The site was designated because the fort served from 1878 to 1882 as the headquarters of the North West Mounted Police; and the fort played a key role: in imposing Canadian law from 1875 to 1883; in implementing Canada's Indian policy; and in supervising the Lakota who fled to Canada under Tantanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull) after the Battle of the Little Bighorn.*

## **Cypress Hills Massacre: An Event of National Historic Significance**

In the spring of 1873, a group of Cree Indians stole horses from a party of wolf hunters while hunting in the Montana Territory. The wolfers attempted to follow the Cree, but lost their trail and ended up at the trading post of Abe Farwell where three bands of Nakoda were camped. The wolfers, fueled with alcohol, believed that the Nakoda had stolen their horses and on the morning of June 1 they attacked the camped Nakoda, killing between 25 and 80. The scene of the massacre, the Nakoda camp and Farwell's post are situated near the extreme southeast corner of Fort Walsh NHSC.

*The Cypress Hills Massacre was designated an event of national historic significance in 1964. This event was designated because the massacre hastened the recruitment and dispatch of the NWMP to the North West Territories.*

# 1. Introduction

Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC) is in the heart of the Cypress Hills, 55 kilometres southwest of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan (Figure1). It was designated a national historic site in 1924 in recognition of its role as headquarters of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) from 1878 to 1882, and administering Canada's laws and Indian policy in the early years of the North West Territories.

From 1942 to 1968 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) operated a remount ranch on the site of the original police post. The ranch was used for breeding and training police horses, including those for the famous RCMP Musical Ride. The RCMP's choice of location and the look of the ranch symbolized the force's bond to its history.

The NWMP post / RCMP remount ranch site and 650 hectares of land around it were acquired by Parks Canada in 1968 (Figure 2). Today, Fort Walsh NHSC is a protected area and an important tourism attraction. It is a magnificently scenic backdrop for telling the many dramatic stories about the Police, First Nations, Métis, and entrepreneurs in the Cypress Hills in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main goal of a national historic site management plan is to ensure a national historic site's commemorative integrity. A management plan also guides how people may use and enjoy a national historic site. Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998), a national historic site management plan must be reviewed every five years to ensure it remains relevant and effective as the main management tool for the site. This management plan for Fort Walsh replaces one dating to 1992. It is the result of a planning and consultation process begun in 2002.

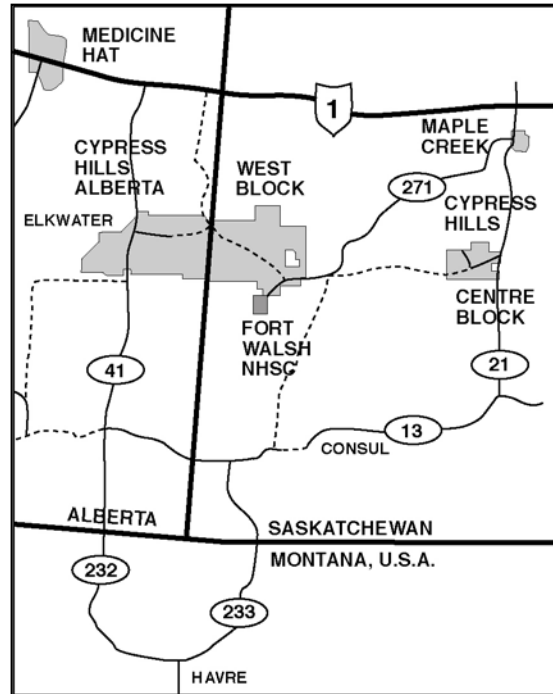


Figure 1 . Regional Setting Fort Walsh NHSC. (Parks Canada)

This plan provides strategic direction in a number of key areas:

- protection of the archaeological remains and artifacts of the historic police post;
- interim guidelines for protecting and presenting the Cypress Hills Massacre site;
- care and protection of cemeteries and burial sites;
- conservation of the RCMP remount ranch buildings;
- renewed heritage presentation about Fort Walsh;
- recreational use; and
- public involvement and partnerships.

The plan will guide Parks Canada and its partners as we protect and present Fort Walsh for all Canadians. While the plan should be effective for ten to fifteen years, Parks Canada will initiate a review in five years time for relevance and effectiveness.



Figure 2. Site of Fort Walsh NWMP post and the RCMP remount ranch. (E. Rohatensky)

### ***1.1 Fort Walsh and the Family of National Historic Sites***

Fort Walsh is one of more than 912 national historic sites nation-wide<sup>1</sup>. Within this “family” of national historic sites, Fort Walsh tells part of the story of security and law in the governing of Canada, particularly the role of the NWMP in the formative years of western Canada’s entry into Confederation.

Other national historic sites that relate to the story of the NWMP are Fort Dufferin (MB), Fort Battleford (SK), Fort Calgary (AB), Fort Livingstone (SK), Fort Macleod (AB) and Fort Whoop-Up (AB). Two national historic events are commemorated by plaque at Fort Walsh NHSC: the 1873 Cypress Hills Massacre (which influenced establishment of the NWMP), and the establishment of the NWMP.

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<sup>1</sup> The federal program of commemoration is made up of several distinct but interlocking parts. In addition to the more than 912 national historic sites of Canada (153 of which are administered by Parks Canada), over 587 persons and 360 events of our history have been commemorated as being nationally significant. The Minister of Environment designates places, persons and events of national significance on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

James Morrow Walsh, NWMP Superintendent from 1873 to 1883, is also commemorated by plaque at Fort Walsh as a person of national historic significance.

## 1.2 *Commemorative Integrity*

“Commemorative integrity” is the principal goal for national historic sites under Parks Canada’s care. It is used to describe the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site has commemorative integrity when:

- the resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public; and
- the site’s heritage values (including those not related to reasons for designation as a national historic site) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

“Commemorative intent” is the reason for a national historic site’s designation. It is also the basis for defining what commemorative integrity means for a site. Commemorative intent comes from the recommendations of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), approved by the Minister responsible for Canada’s national historic sites. Based on the Board’s recommendations,

**Fort Walsh is of national historic significance because:**

- **the police post served as headquarters of the NWMP from 1878 to 1882; and**
- **the police post played a key role in**
  - **imposing Canadian law from 1875 to 1883,**
  - **implementing Canada’s Indian Policy, and**
  - **supervising the Lakota who fled to Canada under Tantanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull) after the Battle of the Little Bighorn.**

The police post area enclosed by the palisade at the time of the post’s expansion in 1880 was identified by the HSMBC as the place of national historic significance (Figure 3). This area is referred to by Parks Canada as the “designated place”. This management plan applies not only to the designated place, but also the entire property administered by Parks Canada (see Site Boundary in Figure 4).

A Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) identifies the designated place, the cultural resources, the historic values, and the messages to be considered and accounted for in the decisions and actions that may affect the integrity of a national historic site. The Director General, National Historic Sites, approved the Fort Walsh NHSC Commemorative Integrity Statement in December 2000. This management plan is based on the commemorative integrity objectives in the CIS.

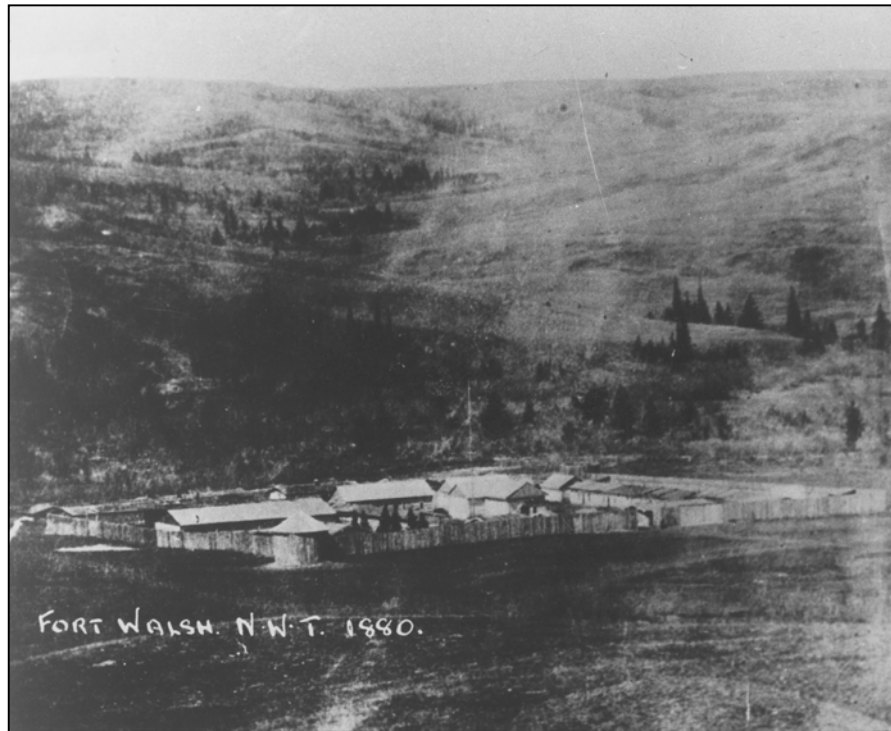


Figure 3. "Fort Walsh, NWT, 1880". (National Archives of Canada, C-17602A)

## 2. Fort Walsh 1992 - 2003

Until recently Fort Walsh NHSC has been guided by the 1992 management plan. Since the approval of the 2000 CIS, some changes have been introduced to the site's heritage presentation. Also, the RCMP remount ranch buildings are now considered cultural resources, whereas before 2000 most of them were not.

### 2.1 Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resource management involves generally accepted practices for protecting and presenting cultural resources<sup>2</sup>. It is practised by:

- inventorying resources at a national historic site;
- evaluating whether the resources are cultural resources and, if so, what are their heritage values;
- considering the heritage value in decisions and actions that may affect the protection and presentation of cultural resources; and
- monitoring cultural resources and our actions to ensure their conservation and protection.

Archaeological surveys show Fort Walsh NHSC has an extremely rich and diverse collection of cultural resources. Some date as far back as at least 4000 years. Except for the RCMP ranch buildings, all cultural resources at Fort Walsh NHSC are archaeological or landscape features (see Figure 4). There are also two cemeteries and some other burial sites at Fort Walsh NHSC.

Only the archaeological remains and artifact collection of the police post are Level 1 cultural resources. All others are Level 2 cultural resources<sup>3</sup>. Parks Canada values most highly those cultural resources of national historic significance, i.e., Level 1. However, Level 2 cultural resources must also be respected and managed for their heritage values.

The Parks Canada *1997 State of the Parks Report* identifies most cultural resources at Fort Walsh as in good condition (i.e., minimal requirements to repair or protect them). Some of the RCMP ranch buildings, however, are in poor condition due to moisture rot in the logs. They require conservation. Grass fires pose a threat to the ranch buildings. Bank erosion along Battle Creek has destroyed some building remains of the historic town site. Grazing by horses has led to some ground surface disturbance, but is now managed to reduce the impacts.

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<sup>2</sup> A cultural resource is a human work or place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and has been determined to have historic value according to municipal, provincial, or federal designation, or by community standards of what has cultural or spiritual meaning.

<sup>3</sup> A Level 1 cultural resource is any resource directly related to the reason(s) for designation as a national historic site. A Level 2 cultural resource is any resource not related to the reason(s) for national significance, but nonetheless has heritage value. A resource may be included in this category by virtue of its historical, aesthetic or environmental qualities.

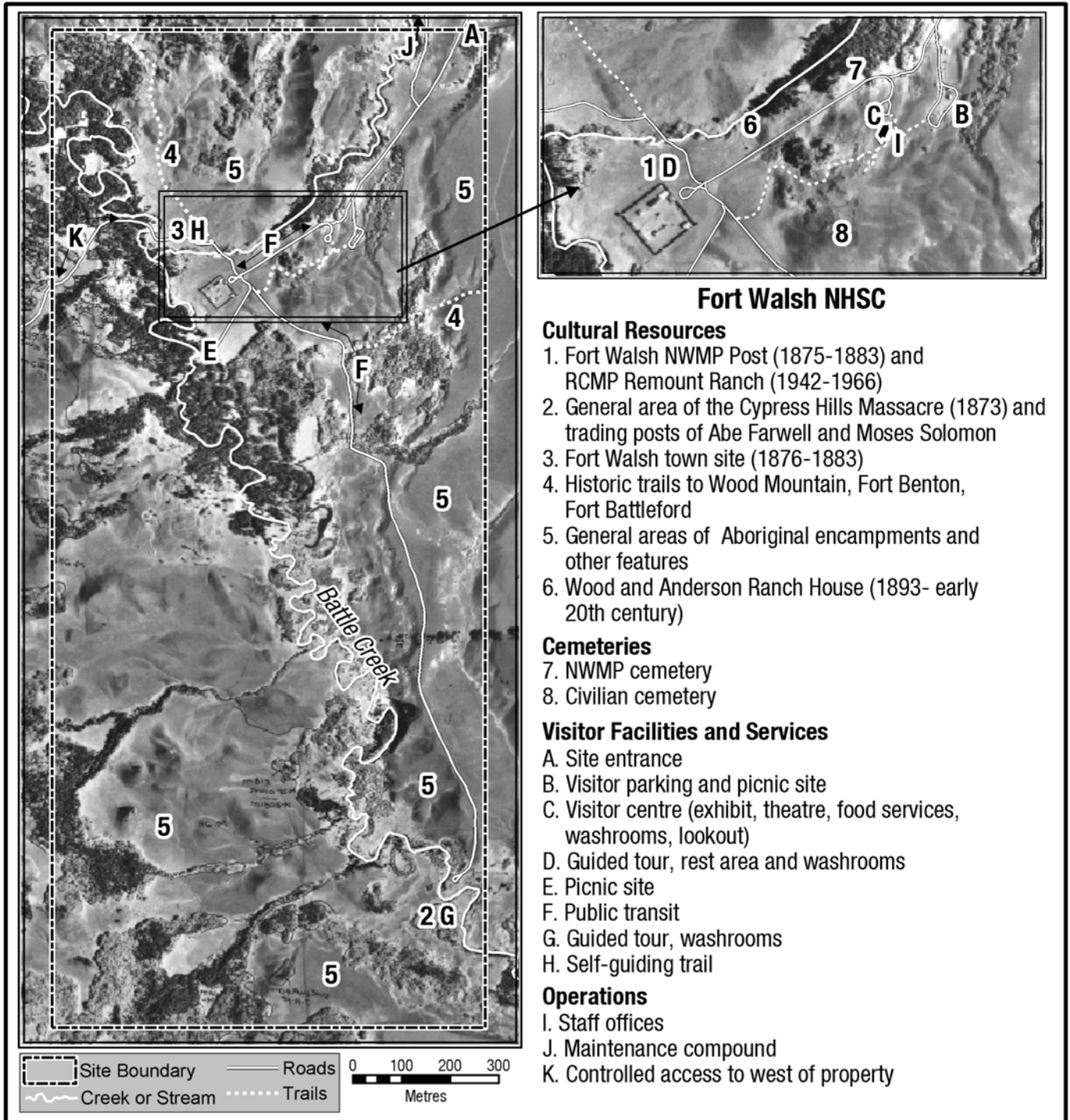


Figure 4. Resources, visitor facilities and services, and operations at Fort Walsh NHSC. (Parks Canada)



## ***2.2 Heritage Presentation Program***

Heritage presentation is how Parks Canada provides opportunities for enjoyment of and learning about its parks and sites. Such opportunities may be on-site for visitors or off-site – known as outreach – for interested Canadians. In Canada’s national historic sites, heritage presentation is a large part of the visitor experience.

The commemorative intent is the basis for a site’s heritage presentation. At Fort Walsh heritage presentation is built on the following main messages:

- the post served from 1878 to 1882 as the headquarters of the NWMP;
- the post played a key role in imposing Canadian law from 1875 to 1883;
- the post played a key role in implementing Canada’s Indian policy;
- the post played a key role in supervising the Lakota who fled to Canada under Tantanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull) after the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

We also communicate that:

- Fort Walsh NHSC is part of a family of national historic sites and one of many places commemorating the heritage of the RCMP;
- there are other commemorations at Fort Walsh, including the Cypress Hills Massacre, the establishment of the NWMP, and James Morrow Walsh; and
- Fort Walsh protects other cultural and natural resources.

The visitor reception centre (VRC), Farwell’s (a reconstruction of one of the trading posts near the site of the Cypress Hills Massacre), and the remount ranch are the main locations for heritage presentation (see Figure 4).

The VRC presentation, developed in the 1970s, is out-dated and too detailed for effective visitor orientation to the site and its history. Programming at Farwell’s is evolving to emphasize the story of the 1873 Cypress Hills Massacre. A submission from Carry the Kettle First Nation is before the HSMBC to have the massacre considered a place of national historic significance. Depending on the results of that submission, the story associated with the massacre may be elaborated and could lead to further changes at Farwell’s. Staff have been making changes to the presentation about the 1875-1883 Fort Walsh police post. The remount ranch buildings (some furnished to about 1880) provide a backdrop to costumed staff. Lucky Man Cree Nation, Little Pine First Nation, and Nekaneet First Nation have expressed their interest to Parks Canada to tell their histories associated with the site’s commemoration. Lucky Man Cree Nation and Little Pine First Nation are particularly interested in telling the story of their adhesion to Treaty Six made at Fort Walsh.

### ***2.3 Visitor Services and Facilities***

The facilities and services, including the parking lot, VRC, cafeteria, public transit service, picnic sites and washrooms, meet current demand (see Figure 4). A recent visitor survey (2000) indicated that visitors are satisfied with most facilities and services. Less than desirable visitor ratings for children's programming (lack of), picnic facilities (awareness and access) and the VRC videos (outdated) indicate improvements are needed for these. From the viewpoint of both visitor and staff, traffic flow and efficient use of space in the VRC can be improved.

### ***2.4 Visitors***

Annual visitor attendance was consistent for much of the 1990s (between 18,000 and 19,000 from 1995 to 1998), but has been on a general decline entering the new millennium (16,000 to 17,000). An increase in attendance can be accommodated by the site facilities and services.

### ***2.5 Environmental Stewardship***

Although the Canada National Parks mandate to maintain or restore ecological integrity does not apply to national historic sites, Parks Canada is a steward for the environment and Fort Walsh is valued for its natural features. In recent years Parks Canada has participated with the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments to develop approaches to managing the unique Cypress Hills ecosystem.

### ***2.6 Partnerships***

Fort Walsh is a partner of the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CHIPP), formed with the Saskatchewan and Alberta Cypress Hills Provincial Parks. The partnership was established to perpetuate the unique and significant resource base of the Cypress Hills and to encourage compatible experiences for visitors to the three parks. Fort Walsh is also partnered with the Old Fort Trails Association to promote sites within the association. Other partnering opportunities will continue to be undertaken, related to the interest of First Nations, local heritage organizations, Nez Perce National Historic Park, and the RCMP to work with Fort Walsh on programs of mutual benefit.

### ***2.7 Administration and Operations***

Fort Walsh NHSC is a seasonal operation, open seven days a week between the May and September long weekends, and part-time for the remainder of September. Parks Canada administers Fort Walsh under authority of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and Section 42 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. The Saskatchewan South Field Unit manages the site. The unit is responsible for Grasslands National Park of Canada and all Parks Canada-administered national historic sites in Saskatchewan.

Land use on the adjacent properties and the West Block of the Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Saskatchewan) complement Fort Walsh's commemorative integrity objectives. Owners and tenants of property immediately west of Fort Walsh NHSC have been permitted vehicular access through the site so they may reach their property (see Figure 4).

### 3. The Vision: Fort Walsh 2010

This vision describes the desired future for Fort Walsh NHSC. It is an inspirational view that helps to focus and guide the planning, management and operation while fostering cooperation among those who will enjoy, care for and use the site. Here is the vision.

Visitors will realize the intensity of the turbulent history associated with Fort Walsh. This history will be told in the authentic, historic setting of the Cypress Hills. They will sense the tensions and learn about the events that led to the Cypress Hills Massacre. They will find out how the massacre influenced the dispatch of the NWMP and the establishment of Fort Walsh. They will discover Fort Walsh's significant role in carrying out Canadian law and the Indian Policy, and the relationship between the police and the Aboriginal peoples in the Cypress Hills. The revitalization of programs and facilities at the historic site of Fort Walsh will continue and will focus public attention on why this place is nationally significant.

Parks Canada staff will serve as guardians, guides, partners, and storytellers and ensure Fort Walsh NHSC will be:

- a managed, protected place for the cultural resources of NWMP, Aboriginal, RCMP and ranching sites found on it;
- a well-known attraction in the Cypress Hills for history-based learning; and
- a place for those with a special connection to the site to strengthen that connection, to share their unique stories with Canadians, and to take pride and strength from their heritage.



Parks Canada staff will work with Aboriginal, RCMP, and local heritage organizations to present and protect the national historic significance of Fort Walsh and its other heritage values. Thus, commemorative integrity will be ensured for the benefit of present and future Canadians.

Community and partner support will result from our efforts to manage responsibly, consult, protect significant cultural and natural resources, and base a program on sound research, knowledge and respect.

This vision for Fort Walsh will evolve over time, taking into account such changes as the possible designation of the Cypress Hills Massacre as a national historic site.

## 4. The Management Plan

The goals, objectives, strategies and actions here will direct Parks Canada and its partners to achieve the Vision.

The goals are from the *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*. The objectives describe what will be evident when Parks Canada meets its goals at Fort Walsh. The strategies lay out the approach to managing and decision-making. The actions flow from the strategies and provide a work plan for Fort Walsh. These actions will provide a measure of progress in achieving the Vision for the next management plan review.

### 4.1 Heritage Protection

This section details Parks Canada's commitment to respect, maintain and protect the Level 1 and Level 2 cultural resources, and the cemeteries and burial sites.

#### Heritage Protection Goals

- The designated place and the cultural resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site (Level 1) are unimpaired or not under threat.
- The site heritage values (including those not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site, i.e., Level 2) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

#### Heritage Protection Objectives

- Level 1 and Level 2 cultural resources will be inventoried and monitored to enable effective management.
- Cemeteries and burials will be managed using Parks Canada *Management Directive 2.3.1, Human Remains, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds*
- The archaeological remains of the historic police post and its artifact collection will be protected.
- The RCMP remount ranch buildings will be protected for their own heritage values, not as "reconstructions" of the historic police post.
- For the interim, the archaeological sites of Farwell's and Solomon's trading posts and the Cypress Hills Massacre on Parks Canada property will be managed as Level 2 cultural resources pending the HSMBC's recommendation on whether Cypress Hills Massacre's should be designated a place of national historic significance.

#### 4.1.1 NWMP Fort Walsh

The 1875-1883 NWMP post is what the HSMBC has identified as the designated place of commemoration and will be given the highest consideration in the management of Fort Walsh NHSC. The archaeological remains of the police post within the 1883 era palisade are Level 1 cultural resources (those outside the palisade have been classified Level 2 cultural resources).

The 1970s were a period of intensive archaeological and historical research of the historic post (Figure 5). This work resulted in comprehensive mapping and documentation of all post buildings, including the excavation of 35 of the 46 structures built between 1875 and 1883, and the recovery of a large number of artifacts that are Level 1 cultural resources (see Section 4.1.10). The archaeological excavations removed evidence of some buildings. Remains of the post may likely be found under some remount ranch buildings.

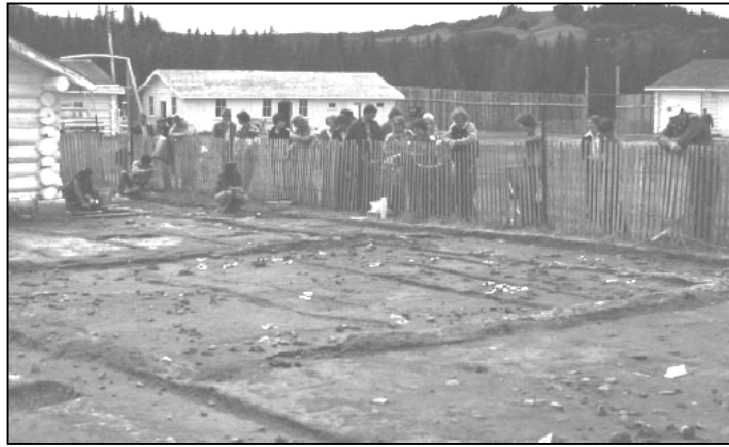


Figure 5. Archaeological excavation at the police post. (Parks Canada)

The protection strategy for the police post is to ensure that its remaining physical elements are given foremost consideration in all aspects of site management. This will be the case when designing and carrying out conservation of the RCMP remount ranch buildings, when conducting archaeological investigations, and when designing and providing heritage presentation and visitor services. Furthermore, cultural resources once a part of the post but outside the 1880 palisade (e.g., the parade ground, hospital), will be protected and presented as part of the historic post.

##### Key Action:

- Documentation of the 1875-1883 police post, its cultural resources (within and outside the palisade) and their condition will be improved. To help consider these cultural resources in planning and operations, a report of cumulative impacts to the historic post will be prepared and maintained<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Cumulative impacts measure the incremental effects to an area by past, present and future site developments and activities. The report is particularly useful in environmental assessments and for evaluating the potential, cumulative effects to a site's commemorative integrity by specific proposals.

#### 4.1.2 RCMP Remount Ranch

The original ten buildings of the RCMP remount ranch are Level 2 cultural resources (Figure 6). The commissioner's residence and the stable are also "Recognized" federal heritage buildings under the *Federal Heritage Buildings Policy*. Other cultural resources associated with the remount ranch are a couple of trash dumps. The museum building (also known as the non-commissioned officers' barracks) and the reconstructed palisade are not cultural resources.



Figure 6. RCMP Remount Ranch, 1975. (Parks Canada)

Only four of the ten buildings (the commissioner's residence, the foreman's quarters, the stable and the guardhouse) have been stabilized and are now

used for heritage presentation. The structural integrity of the granary and garage are threatened. The icehouse and meat house evidently need repair.

The protection strategy for the remount ranch buildings is to stabilize (where possible) those that are in poor condition, rehabilitate them for visitor programs and site operations, monitor them, and protect them from threat of fire. The buildings will be managed as per the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, the *Parks Canada CRM Policy* and, in the case of the commissioner's residence and stable, the *Federal Heritage Buildings Policy*. The site's fire management plan will ensure measures are identified to protect the remount ranch buildings from fire. Most important of all, no further attempt will be made to recreate the look of the 1875-1883 post by making structural or architectural changes to the remount ranch buildings or by reconstructing elements of the historic post.

##### Key Actions:

- A conservation and monitoring plan will be developed and implemented for the remount ranch buildings. In this plan:
  - The granary and garage will be stabilized. The interiors will be rehabilitated for use in heritage presentation.
  - The exterior of the icehouse and meat house will be stabilized and their current use retained (public washroom and storage respectively).

- In 2007, the museum building will be eligible for review under the *Federal Heritage Buildings Policy*. Prior to the next management plan review, Parks Canada will submit to the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) information for evaluating heritage designation of this building under the policy.
- A trash pit exposed by bank erosion will be monitored to determine whether it is under threat and whether there may be environmental threats from it. A decision on protection of the feature will be based on the monitoring results.

### 4.1.3 Cypress Hills Massacre Site

In 1967, the RCMP constructed representations of the 1870s Farwell's and Solomon's trading posts as a Canada Centennial project (Figure 7). Historical and archaeological research in the 1970s attempted, without success, to locate cultural resources associated with the Nakoda camp and the massacre. Archaeological evidence of the 1873 Farwell and Solomon trading posts was found. They are Level 2 cultural resources.



Figure 7. Reconstructed Farwell's trading post. (F. Cattroll)

Carry the Kettle First Nation (descendants of the Nakoda) has submitted to the HSMBC a proposal for the Cypress Hills Massacre to be designated a place of national historic significance.

Depending on the Board's recommendations, approved by the Minister, the Cypress Hills Massacre may become a national historic site with its own protection and presentation objectives.

A comprehensive strategy for the protection of the Cypress Hills Massacre site will not be developed until the HSMBC makes its recommendation. The first step in developing a strategy will be the preparation and approval of a commemorative integrity statement. If possible, this will be done before the next management plan review. As interim direction, the archaeological remains of the trading posts will be given foremost consideration when repairing and maintaining the Centennial reconstructions, and when designing and providing heritage presentation and visitor services in this area. The following actions will help ensure the interim protection of the known cultural resources associated with this area.

Key Actions:

- To help consider the cultural resources in planning and operations, a report of cumulative impacts to the trading posts area and the area of the Cypress Hills Massacre on Parks Canada property will be prepared and maintained.
- In 2007, the two reconstructed trading posts will be eligible for review under the *Federal Heritage Buildings Policy*. Prior to the next management plan review, Parks Canada will submit to FHBRO information for evaluating heritage designation of these two complexes under the policy.

#### 4.1.4 Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries at Fort Walsh, the NWMP cemetery and the "civilian" cemetery. The NWMP cemetery was used at the time of the police post and after. The civilian cemetery dates to the time of Fort Walsh. Both are administered by Parks Canada. There is little documentation on either cemetery. The strategy to caring for the cemeteries is to implement Parks Canada *Management Directive 2.3.1, Human Remains, Cemeteries and Burials Grounds*, which includes measures for appropriate documentation, consultation, protection and presentation.

Key Actions:

- An oral history of the civilian cemetery will be undertaken together with a non-intrusive archaeological survey to improve its documentation.
- Documentation will be completed for the NWMP cemetery and the individual burials within it.
- Grave markers in the cemeteries will be evaluated to determine whether they should be managed as cultural resources.

#### 4.1.5 Burial Sites

Outside of the two cemeteries, two known burials and 20 possible burial sites have been identified at Fort Walsh. One of the known burials is that of Ed Legrace. He was the only non-Nakoda killed at the Cypress Hills Massacre. His grave is at Solomon's trading post. The other known burial is believed to be that of a Métis woman. Her grave was found in the town site. Evidence points to the burial dating to before the town site.

Cairns, rock alignments, depressions or mounds indicate the possible burials. Most are found on the benches overlooking the Battle Creek valley and the police post. All are likely Aboriginal and probably date to the time of the post, or possibly before. None of these sites have been examined beyond recording their presence.



The strategy to caring for the burial sites is to apply Parks Canada *Management Directive 2.3.1, Human Remains, Cemeteries and Burials Grounds*, which includes measures for appropriate documentation, consultation, protection and presentation.

Key Action:

- First Nations involved with Fort Walsh and local Métis representatives will be invited to participate with Parks Canada in designing the direction for managing the burial sites. This will be done using *Management Directive 2.3.1* for guidance.

#### 4.1.6 Aboriginal Sites

In 1978, the entire Fort Walsh NHSC was surveyed for cultural resources observable on the ground surface. The survey identified thirteen sites that relate to historic Aboriginal use, some of which also contain evidence of earlier encampments. Three of the sites are believed to have been major camps. They are clusters of tipi rings on the main bench overlooking the police post and Battle Creek (Figure 8 and 9). Other Aboriginal sites documented include cellar remains from Métis winter camps and stone tool debris and fire-cracked rock from hearths dating to a period prior to the establishment of the 1875-1883 police post.

The Aboriginal sites are Level 2 cultural resources. The protection strategy for these sites is to monitor them for condition and potential threats. The nature and extent of these sites is approximate only. Therefore, no decisions or actions will be taken that may affect these sites without additional investigation and impact assessment.



Figure 8. "Fort Walsh - Headquarters of the Force from 1878-1882". Note tipis on bench overlooking the post. (National Archives of Canada, C-15281D)

Key Action:

- In consultation with First Nations' representatives, Parks Canada will develop a program that monitors the condition of and threat to the Aboriginal sites.

#### 4.1.7 Town Site

Shortly after the NWMP established Fort Walsh, a lucrative trading town by the same name sprang up next to the police post. The town had stores and warehouses, hotels, a restaurant, pool halls, a tailor, barber, laundress, and photography studio (Figure 9). The Indian Department had its stores and an agent there. At its peak, the town had a permanent population numbering in the hundreds. It grew to several thousand during trading and treaty payment times, making it the largest centre in Canada between Winnipeg and Vancouver. A very basic survey of the town site was done in the 1970s to record building foundations and cellar depressions. These are classified Level 2 cultural resources.

The protection strategy for the town site involves properly documenting the resources already located, and monitoring the site area.

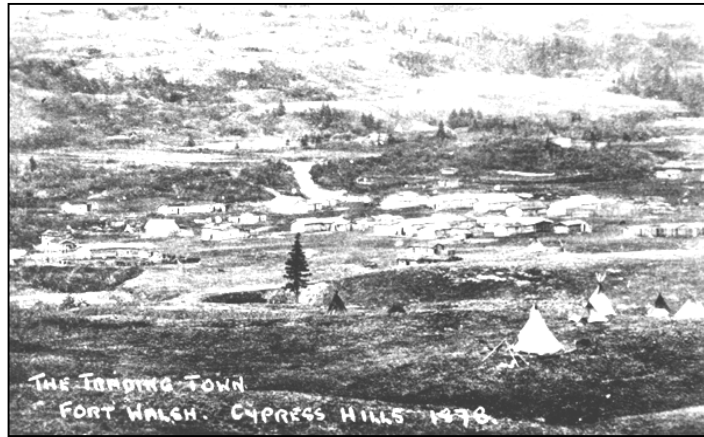


Figure 9. "The Trading Town Fort Walsh. Cypress Hills 1878. (National Archives of Canada, C-19081A)

#### Key Actions:

- Documentation of the town site will be improved by producing a map of its cultural resources<sup>5</sup>.
- The condition of the town site cultural resources will be monitored for impacts from grazing, creek bank erosion, and foot traffic on the hiking trail. In the event resources are threatened or impaired, corrective actions will be taken (ranging from stopping the threat to recording or salvaging the resource).

#### 4.1.8 Wood-Anderson Ranch

Around 1893, partners David Wood and Wellington Anderson established their ranching operation near the former site of the Fort Walsh police post. They and their families lived together in a two-story ranch house by Spring Creek. The stone foundation of the ranch house, pits from several outbuildings, the remains of a dam on Spring Creek, irrigation channels, and evidence of a large vegetable garden south of the house, are visible today. All are classified Level 2 cultural resources.

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<sup>5</sup> All future mapping and data for Fort Walsh should meet requirements for Geographic Information Systems.

The protection strategy for these remains is to eventually document them. Currently they are in stable condition and not under threat. Their condition and opportunities to present them to the public will be reassessed for the next management plan review.

Key Action:

- Cultural resources associated with the Wood-Anderson ranch will be documented and mapped.

#### **4.1.9 Landscape**

The Fort Walsh landscape has other cultural resources and heritage values to manage and respect. There are:

- the historic trails from Fort Walsh to places like Wood Mountain, Fort Benton, Fort Macleod, Medicine Lodge Coulee, Qu'Appelle and Battleford;
- the landforms and watercourses that influenced habitation and land use;
- the historic vegetation of fescue prairie, wooded coulees and lodgepole pines;
- the views from the police post to the surrounding benches and Aboriginal camps; and
- a historic-like setting with few modern-day intrusions.

The protection strategy for the landscape will be to maintain the landforms, vegetation patterns, views, and trail remnants as they are now. Landscape management will follow the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. This strategy will complement the ecosystem management objectives for the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

Key Action:

- Views, landforms, and trails integral to the commemorative integrity of Fort Walsh NHSC will be documented (including their heritage values) and mapped.

#### **4.1.10 Archaeological Collection and Historic Objects**

More than 100,000 artifacts have been found at Fort Walsh NHSC. Most artifacts came from excavations of the 1875-1883 police post. The police post artifacts are Level 1 cultural resources. Level 2 artifacts are from elsewhere on the property. The archaeological collection is stored at the Parks Canada Western Canada Service Centre in Winnipeg.

The protection strategy for these artifacts centers on the Fort Walsh Reference Collection, a sample of some 2000 artifacts representing the type of artifacts found. Artifacts in the reference collection will receive conservation treatment, if necessary (as of 2003, 58 percent of the reference collection is either stable or conserved; the remainder require conservation within the next five to six years). The reference collection is in storage cabinets for ease of access and is periodically monitored. The remainder of the Fort Walsh

artifacts will be managed according to Parks Canada collection management standards, but will likely never be conserved and ultimately some artifacts (such as nails, scrap and other metals) may disintegrate.

There are more than 1500 historic objects that were acquired for use in the site's presentation program. Only a couple of objects are believed to be original to the historic police post. These are Level 1 cultural resources to be managed by Parks Canada *CRM Policy*. The remainder of the objects will be managed by Parks Canada curatorial management standards.

Key Action:

- The reference collection will be evaluated and scheduled for conservation. In time, all artifacts in the reference collection requiring stabilization will be conserved.

## ***4.2 Heritage Presentation***

This section details Parks Canada's intent to improve visitor learning and enjoyment and the opportunities for learning through outreach. Partnerships will be key to many of these improvements.

Heritage Presentation Goal

- The Canadian public understands the national historic significance of Fort Walsh NHSC and supports the site's continuation.

Heritage Presentation Objectives

- The site messages will be the foundation for the stories told.
- The site of the police post will be a focal point for these messages.
- The trading posts will focus on the story of the Cypress Hills Massacre.
- The historical relationship between the Cypress Hills Massacre and Fort Walsh will be told.
- Partners will participate in the presentation of their history associated with Fort Walsh.

### **4.2.1 Site Messages**

Messages about Fort Walsh's national historic significance must be communicated to its on-site and outreach audiences. They are:

- Fort Walsh is nationally significant as it served as the headquarters of the NWMP from 1878 to 1882;
- Fort Walsh is nationally significant for having played a key role in imposing Canadian law from 1875 to 1883;
- Fort Walsh is nationally significant for having played a key role in carrying out Canada's Indian policy;
- Fort Walsh is nationally significant for having played a key role in supervising the Lakota under Sitting Bull in Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn; and
- Fort Walsh is part of a family of national historic sites across Canada.

A survey of staff and a review of their library and other resources revealed several areas for making improvements to a knowledge-based heritage presentation program. For example, staff wanted more information on Fort Walsh's particular role in carrying out the Indian Policy.

Key Actions:

- A heritage presentation plan for Fort Walsh NHSC, based on direction in this management plan, will be completed, approved, implemented, and evaluated for meeting learning objectives.
- Information gaps identified from the staff survey and library review will be addressed by historical research.
- Organization and content of the site's library will be improved.
- Consultations and partnering with First Nations will continue toward incorporating Aboriginal knowledge and stories related to Fort Walsh's national historic significance.

#### **4.2.2 Target Audiences**

Heritage presentation will be designed to be of interest to area residents, heritage tourists, vacationing families, schools, and Aboriginal peoples. Area residents tend to come to Fort Walsh with visiting family and friends and for special events (e.g., the RCMP Musical Ride, Canada Day).

Heritage tourism is a growth market regionally and nationally. This form of tourism occurs when a heritage activity is a significant factor for travelling. Heritage tourists will make Fort Walsh their destination when staying in the Cypress Hills. For this audience, seeking quality-learning opportunities in an authentic setting is fundamental.

Families with young children make up a large portion of vacationers staying in the Cypress Hills for more than one night. They are typically residents of southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta. Recently, Fort Walsh NHSC introduced a children's day camp. Promoting this and other children's programs through the Cypress Hills Provincial Parks will help parents plan their vacation and their visit to Fort Walsh.

Schools are a most important client of Fort Walsh. Parks Canada will continue to provide programs to meet school needs. May and June will continue to function as the main period for their programs.

First Nations peoples have been coming to Fort Walsh for several years to commemorate events in their history. Those from Carry the Kettle First Nation have returned yearly to remember their ancestors killed at the Cypress Hills Massacre. Members of the Nez Perce Tribe in the United States have come to Fort Walsh on America's Veterans' Day to remember their warriors. In 2004, Little Pine Cree Nation and Lucky Man First Nation held special events at Fort Walsh in recognition of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their treaty adhesion made at Fort Walsh. As the First Nations stories increasingly become part of the program, there will be more reason for Aboriginal peoples to come to Fort Walsh.

### 4.2.3 Visitor Experience

How will most visitors experience Fort Walsh NHSC and come to understand and appreciate its national historic significance? The intensity of the history and past events associated with Fort Walsh NHSC, combined with its beautiful setting in the Battle Creek valley, makes Fort Walsh a desirable visitor attraction. It will leave each visitor with a lasting memory of the place and its significance in Canada's history. The theme, *"This is a place --- tranquil today -- where turmoil and dramatic social change marked history of 19th century western Canada"*, will resonate throughout the presentation program.

The following approach recognizes the importance of the bus service, focuses the trading posts use on the Cypress Hills Massacre, and revitalizes heritage presentation at the historic police post. Although 'nodes' are used to describe the concept, the heritage presentation program will be one total experience.

#### *The Visitor Reception Centre: view of the valley*

The VRC introduces visitors to Fort Walsh NHSC. The centre includes a building and a lookout area (Figure 10). The building has reception, orientation media, food services and a gift shop. The lookout area (including an HSMBC plaque and a sculpture) will also serve to orient visitors who may come to the site outside of regular operating hours or season.

The exhibits, maps and other media at the VRC will answer:

- What is a national historic site and what is Parks Canada's role at Fort Walsh?
- What is Fort Walsh, why is it significant and what will I see?
- Why were the Cypress Hills and this valley an attraction to First Nations, Métis, Americans and Euro-Canadians?
- How do other national commemorations in the Cypress Hills region relate to the story of Fort Walsh?
- What happened here after 1883? What were the Wood-Anderson ranch and the RCMP Remount Ranch?
- How are the history and events associated with Fort Walsh relevant to Canada today?
- Where else can I learn about the heritage of the Cypress Hills?



Figure 10. Visitor reception centre building and lookout area with sculpture. (E. Rohatensky)

This introduction prepares visitors for the remainder of their stay at Fort Walsh. The VRC presentation should have the potential to engage a visitor's attention for up to 45 minutes. Within this time, the next available bus is available for their boarding.

***The Bus Ride: discovery beyond the tranquility***

The bus service is the main means to get to the Cypress Hills Massacre site and to the police post / remount ranch. (There is also a walking trail from the VRC to the remount ranch). The bus ride is an exciting and spectacular experience. Riders travel from valley bottom to bench, and down to the valley bottom again. Along the way historical and natural features will be brought to the riders' attention. Stories will be told of the Aboriginal people in the hills, the Métis, and the arrival of whiskey and fur traders. These stories will provide a context for understanding the Cypress Hills Massacre and why Fort Walsh came to be established in the Cypress Hills.

Poor road conditions after a heavy rainfall prohibit bus service to the Cypress Hills Massacre site. When this happens a program about the massacre will be done at the VRC.

***The Cypress Hills Massacre: volatility and tragedy***

The Cypress Hills Massacre of 1873 is important for portraying the conditions, dynamics, and tragic consequences of competition for limited resources and conflicting societies in 19th century western Canada. It was these conditions and the federal government's policies to address them that led to the establishment of the NWMP and the locating of Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills.

The general area of the Nakoda camp and the trading posts will form the focal point for interpreting the Cypress Hills Massacre (Figure 11). With Farwell trading post as a backdrop, visitors will realize the suspicions and tensions that underlay the hostilities of that fateful day in June 1873. They will leave knowing why the massacre is an event of national historic significance.

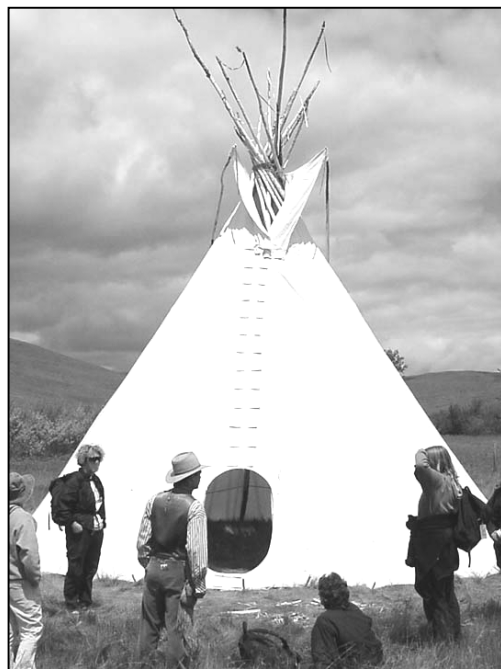


Figure 11. Tipi at the Nakoda campsite, Cypress Hills Massacre (R. Pettyjohn)

Carry the Kettle First Nation will participate in the design, development and delivery of heritage presentation here. A comprehensive strategy for the protection and presentation of the Cypress Hills Massacre site will not be developed until the HSMBC makes its recommendation. If the Board recommends designation, the first step in developing a strategy will be the preparation and approval of a commemorative integrity statement.

*Fort Walsh: maintaining order, imposing change*

While en route by bus from the massacre site to the remount ranch visitors will hear about the establishment of Fort Walsh. Fort Walsh was established to combat the whiskey trade in the Cypress Hills. By 1878, the post became the headquarters of the police and a pivotal place for implementing the federal government's laws and Indian policy. First Nations from both sides of the Medicine Line (49<sup>th</sup> parallel) sought refuge in the Cypress Hills, some from the American military, some to pursue the remaining herds of buffalo. Fort Walsh was a contradiction of mundane, daily military routine and intense periods of uncertainty and friction when the police were negotiating the return of American Indians to the United States and encouraging Canadian First Nations to settle on reserves. Surrounding the post was a town of frontier entrepreneurs and, at times, thousands of Aboriginal people seeking food, shelter and protection.



Figure 12. Costumed staff greets visitors. (E. Rohatensky)

Here, visitors will learn about Fort Walsh. They will find out about the police's role in bringing order and change to the Canadian west (Figure 12). They will learn about the relations between the First Nations, including the Lakoda and Nez Perce from the United States, and the police. The RCMP ranch buildings will house media supporting the delivery of these messages. The history of the RCMP ranch and its buildings will be told to the visitors so that they may understand these are not original 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings nor a planned reconstruction of the historic post. Costumed staff will continue to serve visitors here. The fort will provide opportunities for children's programs (Figure 13).



### *Trails: further discovery*

Visitors have opportunities to explore the historical richness and natural beauty of Fort Walsh on their own. They can choose a trail from the VRC to the cemeteries, or take a self-guided tour on the trail loop through the town site. Additional interpretive walking trails may be established in the future, but not as a priority. These trails are not for everyone. They are built and maintained as minor trails.

#### Key Actions:

- The messages and media in the VRC will be renewed to improve visitor orientation. Renewal will occur subsequent to the HSMBC recommendations on the Cypress Hills Massacre.
- Heritage presentation of the Cypress Hills Massacre will continue to evolve through collaboration with Carry the Kettle First Nation. A comprehensive presentation plan will be undertaken subsequent to a HSMBC's recommendations re the massacre site.
- Housed in the remount ranch buildings, messages and media about the Fort Walsh police post will be improved to focus on the commemorative intent (including an exhibit of archaeological and historical evidence of the 1875-1883 police post, and furnishings and exhibits about the history of the post and relations between the police and First Nations).
- Children's programs will be provided at the police post / remount ranch.
- Self-guided tours for the two cemeteries and the town site will be updated.



Figure 13. Children's day camp activity. (E. Rohatensky)

#### **4.2.4 Outreach**

Interested Canadians can learn about Fort Walsh NHSC without having to visit. This will be done through services provided by Parks Canada (e.g., web site, discovery centres), CHIPP and by working with others locally, regionally and nationally (e.g., exhibits, and publications, curriculum-based school programs).

#### Key Actions:

- Fort Walsh will explore opportunities with the Southwestern Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Association and the Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre to develop an outreach program for schools.

- Opportunities will be explored to have Fort Walsh exhibits at the CHIPP visitor centres, regional visitor centres and museums, the new RCMP Heritage Centre, and Parks Canada Discovery Centres.
- The Fort Walsh page on the Parks Canada web site will be improved to provide information on the site's messages, and its protection and management. This will include linking to relevant websites.

### **4.3 Visitor Services and Facilities**

This section describes how we will ensure a safe, sustainable, and enjoyable learning atmosphere.

#### Visitor Services and Facilities Goal

- Visitors enjoy and appreciate Fort Walsh NHSC in a manner and level of use that is safe for them and for the cultural and natural resources of the site.

#### Visitor Services and Facilities Objectives

- Visitor expectations and use will match Fort Walsh's purpose.
- Visitor opportunities will complement, not compete with those in the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.
- The services, facilities and products will meet or exceed visitor expectations.

#### **4.3.1 Basic Services**

Basic services support the heritage presentation program and ensure basic visitor comfort and safety. Basic services and facilities are in place for Fort Walsh visitors. The strategy is to maintain them at their existing level and locations. The principles and guidelines of the *Fort Walsh NHS Access Plan* for special needs visitors will be applied in site planning and design.

#### Key Actions:

- An emergency evacuation plan for the site will be completed.
- The bus service roadbed will be redressed to maintain it.
- The availability of picnic facilities, food services, washrooms and potable water will be identified at the pre-trip, enroute and arrival stages of site promotion.
- Visitor satisfaction surveys will be done periodically. Evaluations will be done of new programs and services.

#### **4.3.2 Special Events**

A special event is any special gathering involving a large group or crowd of people and an associated array of activities. It can take place over several hours to several days. An event's audience may be watching, participating, or both. An outside group provides the event in cooperation or partnership with Parks Canada.

Special events will continue to be an important part of Fort Walsh. They will add to the regular program and provide additional opportunity for people to connect with their heritage. We must ensure that special events are compatible with the site's purpose and do not threaten or impair its commemorative integrity.

**Key Action:**

- Parks Canada will prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which identifies criteria and guidelines for event proponents to use when submitting their requests. The assessment will be designed and used to identify: 1) whether a proposed event is consistent with the site's purpose and objectives, and 2) whether event activities and their locations ensure commemorative integrity and do not overtax normal site operations.

### 4.3.3 Recreation

Outside of heritage presentation, there will be limited recreational opportunities at Fort Walsh NHSC. Some of the recreational activities are provided as part of the Trans Canada Trail (the Old Battle Creek Road) that goes through Fort Walsh (see Figure 4). It joins a 32 kilometre section of the Trans Canada Trail in the Cypress Hills Provincial Park, on which hiking and cycling are permitted. Use of the Trans Canada Trail within Fort Walsh NHSC is subject to the site entry fee.

#### *Horseback Riding*

Horseback riding is permitted in much of the adjacent West Block of Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Saskatchewan). An equestrian campground operated by the park is located about the 3.5 km northwest of the Fort Walsh NHSC. Most riders enter the national historic site through the north gate (the Old Battle Creek Road / Trans Canada Trail entry point).



Figure 14. Riders near Battle Creek in Fort Walsh NHSC. (E. Rohatensky)

Horseback riding will continue to be permitted at Fort Walsh NHSC (Figure 14). The Field Unit Superintendent may restrict this activity where it is deemed to threaten public safety or commemorative integrity. Horseback riding is subject to the site entry fee during the site's operating season.

### *Hiking*

Excellent recreational hiking opportunities are available in the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. The few trails in Fort Walsh provide access by foot to the town site, the cemeteries, the police post / remount ranch, and the Battle Creek picnic area. The Trans Canada Trail segment in Fort Walsh is available for recreational hiking. The roads from the VRC to the police post / remount ranch and to the trading posts are not for pedestrian access.

### *Cycling*

The two provincial parks offer excellent cycling opportunities on their trail systems. Cycling will only be permitted in Fort Walsh to enable access between the VRC and the West Block. Cycling will be restricted to the Trans Canada Trail and the road from the remount ranch to the VRC.

### *Horse Drawn Wagons*

So to protect the site's cultural and natural resources and for reasons of public safety, horse drawn wagons will not be permitted in Fort Walsh NHSC, except in exceptional circumstances related to special events and site programs.

### *Fishing*

Fishing, in accordance with provincial regulations, will continue to be permitted. Hunting is not permitted on the site.

#### Key Actions:

- Parks Canada information on horseback riding in Fort Walsh NHSC, entry fees and rider etiquette will be made available to the equestrian campground, commercial operators and individual riders.
- The Trans Canada Trail segment in Fort Walsh NHSC will be marked to identify the trail and permitted uses.
- Information on permitted recreational activities will be identified in the site service offer for purposes of pre-trip planning and at site arrival points.

## **4.4 Environmental Stewardship**

This section identifies our approach to managing Fort Walsh for its natural heritage values.

#### Environmental Stewardship Goals

- Natural ecosystem features are valued in a manner that reflects the role of Parks Canada as an environmental steward.
- Fort Walsh demonstrates sound environmental practices.

#### Environmental Stewardship Objectives

- Ecological values of the Cypress Hills ecosystem represented at Fort Walsh will be sustained.
- Threatened and endangered species will be protected.
- Human impacts on the natural environment will be reduced.

Natural ecosystem features of special significance will be managed according to Section 1.1.7 of the Parks Canada *CRM Policy*. In keeping with the *Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park Memorandum of Understanding*, Parks Canada will continue to work jointly with Alberta Natural Resources Service and Saskatchewan Environment on matters of ecosystem-based management in the Cypress Hills while recognizing their own guiding principles and operational policies. This includes, for example, maintaining examples of the open landscape, conserving the native species composition of fescue prairie, a threatened and uniquely Canadian vegetation type, and managing elk.

In 2000, a Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) study commissioned by Parks Canada attributed the deterioration of the mixed and fescue grassland at Fort Walsh to the effects of horse and elk grazing. In response to the SRC recommendations, Parks Canada took two steps to lessen the effects of horse grazing. First, the horse grazing lease was changed to reduce the number of horses and the grazing period was reduced to protect the fescue grasslands during their critical emergent stage. Second, a monitoring program (using exclosures) has been initiated to measure the effect of grazing levels on the grasslands.

The Fort Walsh grasslands are a possible nesting area for Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguelyi*), a small, ground-nesting songbird found throughout the southern Prairies. Sprague's Pipit is listed as "threatened" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The use and management of the Fort Walsh grasslands must consider their importance as possible habitat for Sprague's Pipit.

An old garbage dump located more than 500 metres south of the historic fort/remount ranch has been identified as a contaminated site based on higher than acceptable limits of heavy metals. Regular water testing indicates that this site has not affected water quality in nearby Battle Creek nor local ground water, including the site's drinking water source. Parks Canada obtained direction from Health Canada, Saskatchewan Environment, and Environment Canada. Parks Canada will continue to work with these agencies to assess risks and remedy the problem. Parks Canada will continue to share new information with stakeholders, staff and visitors.

Key Actions:

- Parks Canada will continue to work jointly with Alberta Natural Resources Service and Saskatchewan Environment on matters of ecosystem-based management in the Cypress Hills.
- Fort Walsh NHSC will periodically monitor and manage for noxious weeds, particularly in disturbed areas and along roads and trails.
- Horse grazing will be monitored for detrimental impacts on the fescue grassland and archaeological features. The results from monitoring will be used to guide future grazing licenses.
- The contaminated waste site will continue to be monitored for impacts on the environment and water quality.

#### ***4.5 Public Involvement and Partnerships***

We will work with the public and our partners to enhance the promotion, presentation, and protection of Fort Walsh NHSC.

Public Involvement and Partnerships Goal

- The commemorative integrity of Fort Walsh NHSC is enhanced through public involvement and partnerships.

Public Involvement and Partnerships Objectives

- Key site policy, land-use and planning decisions affecting partners and stakeholders will be arrived at in a participatory manner.
- Partnerships will improve knowledge about the site.
- Partnerships will add to the experience of visitors.
- Public and partners will be kept informed of the state of Fort Walsh and the implementation of its management plan.

Public involvement is a cornerstone of Parks Canada's policy, planning and management practices. It helps ensure sound decision-making, build public understanding, and provide opportunities for Canadians to contribute their knowledge, expertise and suggestions. Public awareness and involvement at Fort Walsh NHSC will be maintained through regular dialogue between Parks Canada and the local community, visitor surveys and the 5-year management plan review.

Parks Canada works with a broad range of federal, provincial, territorial and municipal government agencies, the private sector, groups, individuals, and Aboriginal interests to achieve mutually compatible goals and objectives. Volunteers, adjacent landowners or tenants, Aboriginal peoples, universities, as well as other research and educational institutions, can all make fundamental contributions to the commemorative integrity and visitor experience of Fort Walsh.

Key Actions:

- Parks Canada will provide the interested public with the opportunity to annually review the state of Fort Walsh and implementation of the management plan.
- Parks Canada will establish and maintain ways to consult the public on site issues and the 5-year management plan review in a timely and effective manner.
- Parks Canada will continue to explore future partnering opportunities with First Nations and Métis who have historical ties with the site.
- Parks Canada will explore opportunities with the RCMP and local historical and cultural organizations to share in the presentation and protection of the remount ranch and the Wood-Anderson ranch.
- Fort Walsh NHSC will continue to explore future partnering opportunities with Nez Perce National Historic Park.

#### ***4.6 Administration and Operations***

Fort Walsh NHSC will continue to be operated by Parks Canada under the authority of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and Section 42 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. Parks Canada will operate Fort Walsh within current estimates of human and financial resources. Efficiencies will be sought in how staff provide visitor services. Working with partners will continue to be a significant part of how Parks Canada operates Fort Walsh.

Vehicle access through Fort Walsh to reach the west side properties will continue to be limited and controlled. This access road does not serve a site purpose, thus the site will not direct resources toward its maintenance, upkeep, or upgrading. Any proposal to change its type and level of use will be the responsibility of the proponent. This will include all costs related to the review and approval processes and costs to implement change.

Future administration and operations may be affected by whether or not the Cypress Hills Massacre becomes a national historic site. Its status will likely be the key consideration for the next management plan review.

Key Actions:

- Agreements between Parks Canada and access route users will be formalized.
- Parks Canada will consult affected landowners and tenants as to the long term future of the through access route, and will work with the adjacent Cypress Hills Provincial Park to identify opportunities for alternate access to the west side properties.
- A fire management plan will be developed for the site that addresses the needs for ensuring commemorative integrity, and the protection of significant natural resources and site assets.
- Site boundary fencing will be repaired and replaced where necessary.

#### **4.7 Environmental Assessment Decision Statement**

This management plan was subjected to an environmental assessment pursuant to *The 1999 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals* (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 1999). The environmental screening was conducted in the early stage of the planning process to ensure that the environmental effects of the initiatives contained in the plan were fully considered before any irrevocable decisions had been taken. The evaluation of environmental effects included a consideration of natural, cultural and socio-economic effects.

The provisions in the management plan monitor, protect and, where necessary, rehabilitate cultural resources at Fort Walsh. The management of access and activities will ensure impacts are minimal and focused on already impacted areas, while still providing quality visitor experience. Horseback riders will be provided with rider etiquette information, which should include information on reducing environmental impacts.

The plan includes provisions to monitor and adjust grazing management as necessary to ensure the impacts are not detrimental to the ecosystem. Sprague's Pipits, a threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act*, have been heard at Fort Walsh and must be protected. No actions described in the plan are expected to negatively impact Sprague's Pipits, however, if and when planning prescribed burns, clearing firebreaks, grazing and other projects, protection for Sprague's Pipits or their nests must be ensured.

Cumulative effects are not expected to be significant. Parks Canada will work with provincial governments to address large-scale issues in the Cypress Hills. Sprague's Pipits will be protected by following applicable directions in the Sprague's Pipit recovery plan, when developed.

Proposals which could result in adverse effects or raise public concern will be subject to project-specific assessments conducted under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)* or Parks Canada policy as the project develops from conceptual stage to design and implementation (e.g., stabilization and rehabilitation of the remount ranch buildings). The strategic environmental assessment of special events should include a consideration of environmental impacts and identify when environmental assessments will be necessary under *CEAA*.

The environmental screening has determined that actions in the management plan are not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

The complete environmental assessment report, from which this decision statement was derived, must be used in carrying out this management plan.



## **5. Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation**

The strategies and actions proposed in this management plan will be implemented through the site's business plan. While the management plan is envisioned as a strategic guide with a life span of ten to fifteen years (reviewed every five years), the annual business plan offers a picture of three years at a time. The business plan identifies which actions of the management plan will be realized during the next three years, and their timing and cost. Any changes to the three-year forecast are captured by the annual review and update of the business plan.

Execution of this management plan is the responsibility of the Saskatchewan South Field Unit Superintendent. Implementation of the strategies and actions depends on the reallocation of resources within the Field Unit. As well, cooperative initiatives with partners will be sought to identify, evaluate and pursue appropriate projects.

The key actions are identified and presented according to Parks Canada business plan service lines in the chart that follows. However, these may be reconsidered in response to new circumstances or information, or changing national priorities and decisions. Emphasis has been placed on those activities expected to occur during the first three years following management plan approval, but other activities to be pursued during the span of this management plan have been identified as well. No priority has been assigned to activities beyond identifying in which business planning period they will occur. Further prioritizing will occur during Field Unit Business planning.

Progress on the management plan implementation will be communicated through annual reporting and the Parks Canada State of the Protected Heritage Areas report, which is updated every couple of years. The management plan will also be subject to periodic review, and can be amended to reflect changing circumstances. The public will be consulted about major changes.

Business Plan Service Lines	Action	3-Year Business Plan Periods		
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Future
Heritage Resource Protection	Prepare cumulative impact reports for the police post (4.1.1) and the area of the Cypress Hills Massacre on Parks Canada property (4.1.3)	X		
	Develop and implement a conservation plan for the remount ranch buildings (4.1.2)	X	>	
	Prepare and submit research to FHBRO on the remount ranch museum building (4.1.2) and the reconstructed trading posts (4.1.3)	X		
	Develop and/or implement monitoring protocols for the remount ranch cultural resources (4.1.2), Aboriginal sites (4.1.6), town site (4.1.7), noxious weeds (4.4), grazing impacts on fescue grasslands and cultural resources (4.4), and contaminated waste site (4.4)	X	>	>
	Research, consult on, and document the two cemeteries (4.1.4)	X		
	Consult First Nations and Métis representatives re burials on Parks Canada property (4.1.5)	X	>	>
	Document and map the known cultural resources of the town site (4.1.7), Wood- Anderson ranch (4.1.8) and landscape features (4.1.9)	X	X	
	Conserve the artifact reference collection (4.1.10)	X	>	>
	Work jointly with Alberta Natural Resources Service and Saskatchewan Environment on matters of ecosystem-based management in the Cypress Hills.	X	>	>
Heritage Presentation	Complete, approve and implement heritage presentation plan (4.2.1)	X	>	>
	Research information gaps in the site's storyline (4.2.1)	X		
	Improve site's resource centre (4.2.1)		X	
	Consult and partner with First Nations (4.2.1)	X	>	>
	Provide children's programs (4.2.3)	X	>	>
	Update self-guiding tours of the police post, cemeteries and town site (4.2.3)		X	
Develop and implement outreach (4.2.4)	X	>	>	

Visitor Services	Complete a site emergency evacuation plan (4.3.1)	X		
	Redress road bed used for on site bus service (4.3.1)		X	
	Better promote visitor services and facilities at various trip stages (4.3.1)	X		
	Undertake periodic visitor satisfaction surveys (4.3.1)	X	>	>
	Develop and provide information material on horseback riding (4.3.3)	X		
	Identify and mark Trans Canada Trail (4.3.3)	X		
	Update site service offers on recreational opportunities (4.3.3)	X		
Management of Parks Canada	Prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment for special events (4.3.2)	X		
	Provide public the opportunity to annually review the state of the site and management plan implementation (4.5)	X	>	>
	Establish and maintain timely and effective means to consult (4.5)	X	>	>
	Continue to explore partnering opportunities (4.5)	X	>	>
	Formalize agreements between Parks Canada and access route users and consult stakeholders re future alternatives (4.6)	X		
	Develop a fire management plan for the site (4.6, 4.1.2)	X		
Repair and replace site boundary fencing (4.6)		X		

X denotes projects/activities that take place within one period

> denotes continuation of the same project/activity over more than one period