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colonial wars. In addition, Louisbourg still existed as a naval base for French privateers and warships to raid New England's shipping. This conflict was broader than just the colonial rivalry of two different nations. New England and Isle Royale (Cape Breton) were also economic competitors in the fishery. Both areas exported dried fish to Spain, for example. Religious bigotry further fired the issue, for New England was Protestant while Isle Royale was Catholic. So, although Annapolis Royal was not captured, it aroused New England's fears that this would eventually happen. Despite this feeling, there was plenty of opposition in the New England colonies to a plan to capture Louisbourg. By North American standards, Louisbourg's fortifications were impressive, and certainly her southern neighbours had nothing comparable. The merchants of New England had been trading with Louisbourg. Its fortifications were known. The fortress had a large garrison of regular soldiers. The New England colonies did not have the necessary cannons to conduct a siege and they remembered the difficulty Massachusetts had in raising the relief forces (which numbered under 200) for Annapolis Royal. Nevertheless, prominent New Englanders, such as Governor Shirley of Massachusetts and William Vaughan, a merchant, supported the scheme. These men, and others, conducted a propaganda campaign over the fall and winter of 1744-45 to convince the colonies, particularly Massachusetts, that such a plan was not only feasible but practical. They listened to John Bradstreet, who had been a prisoner at Louisbourg. He told about mutiny, that troop morale was low. He told of the poor state of the fortifications. The Dauphin demi-bastion today is protected with wood revetment. That's because the masonry in 1745 was so poor the French had to board it in. Bradstreet knew this. He probably knew not all the cannons were mounted and that, of the ones that were mounted, none were pointing inland. All the cannon either protected the harbour or swept along the walls. By playing on the regions' political, economic and religious rivalries, combined with promises of plentiful loot and descriptions of the fortress' weakness, the propagandists waged a close but successful campaign. On 5 February, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved a plan to attack Louisbourg in conjunction with the other British colonies. Under Massachusetts initiative, the colonies raised a land force of 4,000 men and gathered the vessels necessary to transport them to Louisbourg. Massachusetts, the Maine district (then affiliated with Massachusetts), New Hampshire and Connecticut raised most of the men and vessels. Rhode Island and New York contributed a warship and artillery respectively. William Pepperrell, a well-known and popular merchant, politician and militia officer from Maine, was selected as the expedition's commander. Support from Britain was expected in the form of a naval squadron under the command of Peter Warren. The expedition sailed from New England's ports early in April for a rendezvous at Canso (Arrow #9). Colonial warships had already been dispatched in late March to blockade Louisbourg. Journal Entry; This day our Vessel was A Very Hospital, wee were all Sick, in a Greater or lesser Degree. Wee Sail'd a good pace all Day,



Towards Night, the Wind Began to rise, it also Grew foggy and Something rainy. So That wee Could not be Upon Deck, as the Night before • But was Shut down in the hold; and a Long, Dark and Teadious night wee had, Such a one I Never See before; Wee was also Much Croud- ed, even So as to Lay, one on Another. Sick etc. My Friends, you can Scarsely think What Distress wee were in. By the end of the third week in April, most of the expedition had arrived at Can- so. Pepperrell still had to wait for War? ren's squadron to arrive from the West In? dies and also the Connecticut detachment which had sailed later. Perhaps more im? portantly, Pepperrell had to wait until the drift ice left Gabarus Bay • the fleet's intended anchorage off Louisbourg. On 10 May, with the lagging detachments having arrived and the drift ice departed, the expedition sailed for Louisbourg (Ar? row #10), A much smaller attack was also directed towards Port Toulouse (St. Pet? er's • Arrow #11) and yet another and later one towards Niganiche (Ingonish • Arrow #12). Although Port Toulouse and Niganiche were the focal points, the object of these raids was to destroy the French fishing Complete Supplies for the Camper and We Specialize in Fresh Fish LOUISBOURG 733-2060 Stevens General Store "Tires Our Specialty" SYL'S SERVICE CENTRE 295-2911 295-2911 Located in Downtown Baddeck 24-Hour Towing Service Cape Breton's Magazine/33