



Press Release

For immediate publication

## **The Acadian Remembrance Day ceremony will take place on December 13th, 2016**

**SUMMERSIDE (P.E.I.) – November 17, 2016** – The *Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin*, in collaboration with *Parks Canada*, is holding the ninth Acadian Remembrance Day ceremony on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016. The ceremony will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the historical national park, Port-la-Joye – Fort Amherst.

History tells us that it was in 1758 that the Acadian people suffered their greatest loss of life as a result of the Expulsion. In fact, it was on December 13, 1758, that the British ship Duke William, which was carrying 360 Acadians deported from Isle-Saint-Jean, sank near the shores of England. All the Acadians on board, except four, died from drowning. Three days earlier, on December 10, the ship Violet also sank, bringing 300 more Acadians to the bottom of the sea. Overall, of the 3,000 Acadians who were deported from the Island, only 38 per cent survived.

The Prince Edward Island Acadian and French community commemorates this event every year at the national historic site Port-la-Joye – Fort Amherst. This site was the entryway for French people coming to P.E.I., as well as the point of departure during the Expulsion.

The historian Georges Arsenault will be the Master of Ceremonies for this commemoration. A word of welcome and speeches will be followed by testimonies, commemorative songs as well as the processional reading, at the Acadian Odyssey monument, accompanied by traditional Acadian characters Évangéline and Gabriel. The reception will end with a lunch.

In case of storm, the national radio will announce the cancellation of activities. In these circumstances, the *Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin* undertakes to lay flowers on the *Monument de l'Odysée* by the return of good weather.

*La Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin is the official spokesperson of Acadians and Francophones on Prince Edward Island. It is their mandate to assure that all Acadians and Francophones can live and thrive individually and collectively in French on Prince Edward Island.*

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