

# The Fur Trade in Canada

The following timeline gives an overview of the history of the fur trade in Canada. This timeline spans from our country's earliest inhabitants to the present. Both fur-trading companies are discussed, but there is a greater focus on the *Hudson's Bay Company*.

Throughout this timeline you will find bolded text which links to a nearby image. In the timeline you will find *Red Lake's* role in the fur-trade in **red text**. Enjoy!

**8000-6000BC**

Plants and animals move into Northwestern Ontario as the Wisconsin Ice Sheet retreats northwards.



**4000BC**

Archaic people (decedents of Plano) spread throughout the northwest. Hunters and gatherers use stone tools and copper.

**AD1000**

**Leif Ericson** becomes the first European to land in North America. A colony is established in what the Vikings described as Vinland, identified in 1963 as being on the northern most tip of Newfoundland.



**1534**

**Jacques Cartier** sails these same routes on an official exploring expedition. Upon returning to the French king, Cartier reports about the lands he has seen and the people he has met. Cartier leads two subsequent expeditions down the St. Lawrence, the last being followed by a party of colonists.

**6000-5000BC**

First human inhabitants the Plano people move into Northwestern Ontario.

**500BC**

Evidence of widespread trade in and out of Northwestern Ontario. Copper (tools and jewelry) from the southeast, flint and obsidian weapons from the southwest.

**AD985**

Norse seamen sailing from Iceland to Greenland are blown far westward off their course. They sight the coast of what must have been Labrador. Explorations continue by Norse colonists from Greenland.

**1497**

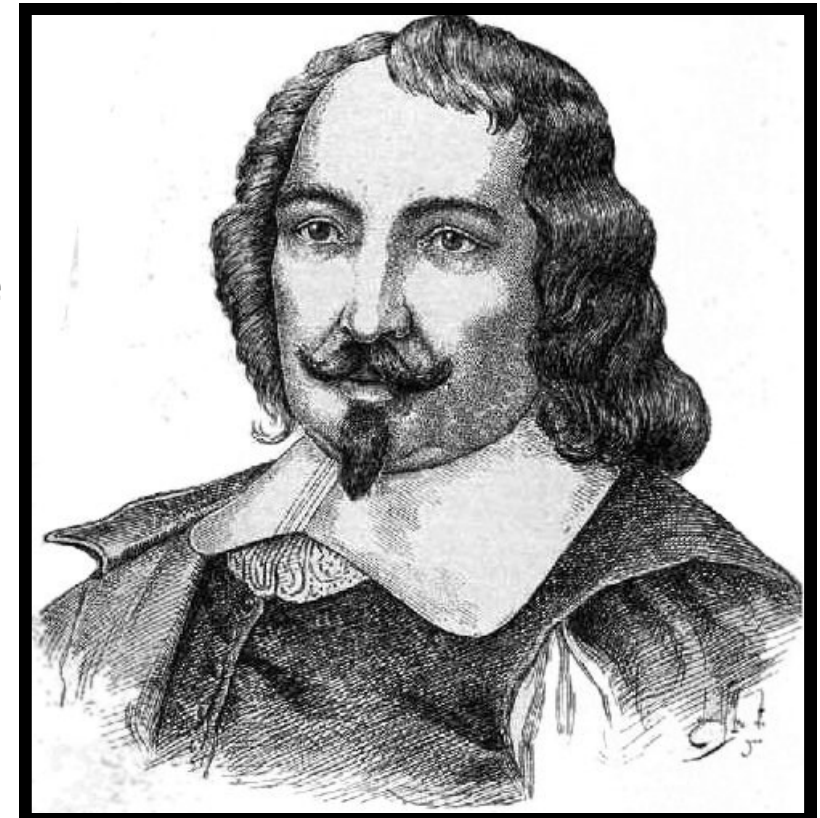
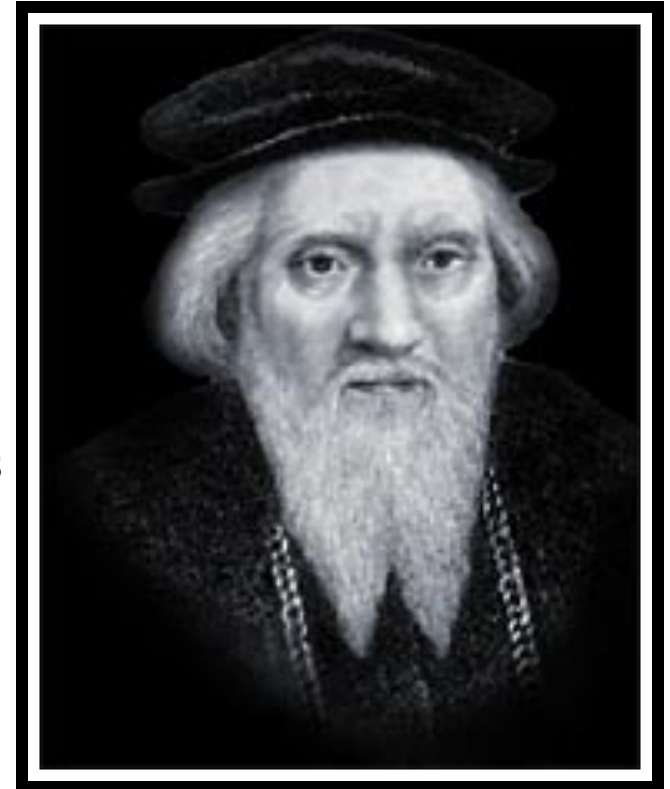
Italian **John Cabot** sails west from Bristol, England, to find a new trade route to the Orient for his patron, King Henry VII of England. This voyage leads to the rediscovery of the eastern shores of Canada.

**1600**

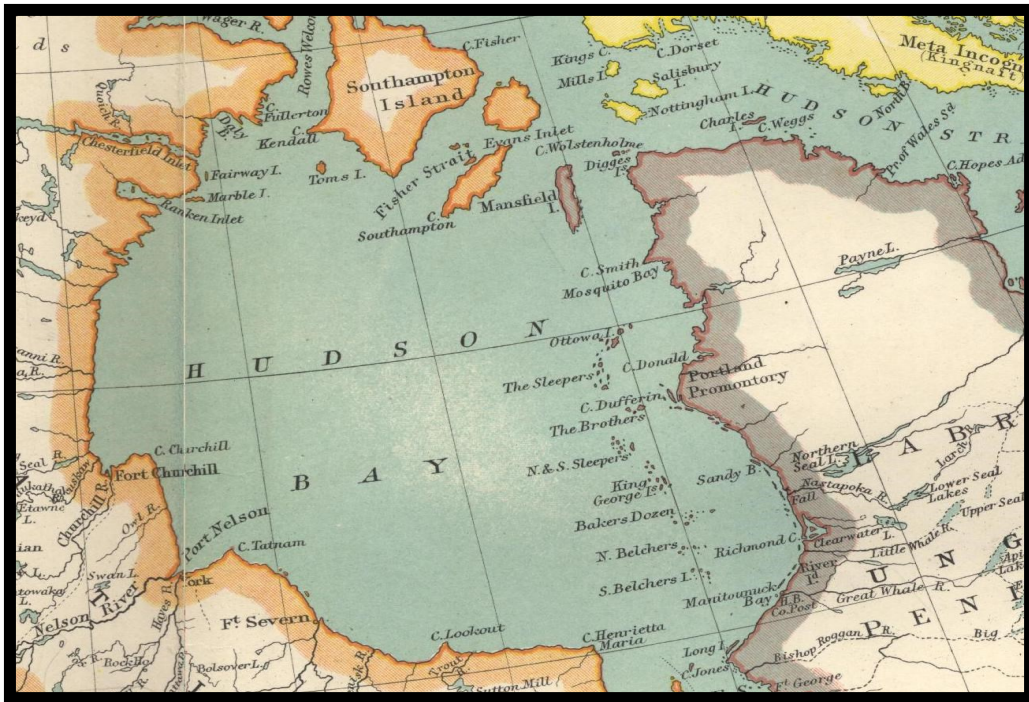
Pierre Chauvin establishes a trading post at Tadoussac, on the St. Lawrence River. This post survives for about three years.

**1608**

**Samuel de Champlain** establishes France's first Permanent Canadian colony, Quebec.





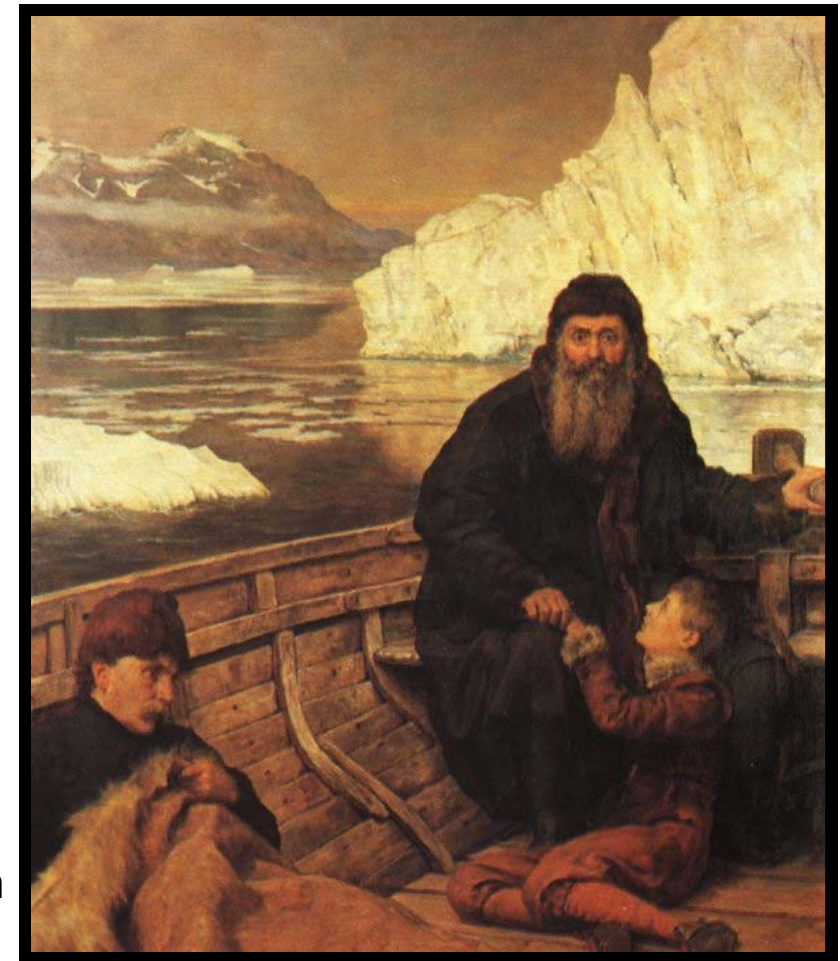


**1610**

Henry Hudson enters the strait and **the bay** which now bears his name and trades for furs with Indians on the shores of James Bay.

**1611**

**Henry Hudson's** crew becomes mutinous aboard the *Discovery* and sets him and several others adrift in Hudson Bay in a sailing dinghy; their fate is unknown.



**1612-1632**

Exploration of Hudson Bay by several others (**Thomas Button**, William Baffin, Jens Munk, Luke Foxe and Thomas James) shows it to be landlocked.

**1629**

Champlain suffers the humiliation of having to surrender his almost starving garrison to an English fleet that appears before Quebec. He is taken to England as prisoner. Peace, however, is restored between England and France before the surrender, and New France (Quebec) is restored to the French.



**1642**

Montreal is established.



**1659**

Radisson and des Groseilliers travel among the tribes of the Great Lakes, returning to Montreal with a rich

load of furs; they propose exporting pelts via Hudson Bay but are arrested and fined because their journey been 'unauthorized'.

**1662**

Radisson and des Groseilliers announce their departure for Hudson Bay from Quebec but sail to New England instead.

**1665**

**Bubonic plague** sweeps London (one hundred thousand perish and many flee).





**1666**

Radisson and des Groseilliers travel to London, where they receive sponsorship from Prince Rupert and meet his cousin, **King Charles II**.

**1667**

The Hudson Bay adventurers organize their first test voyage under the encouragement of Radisson and des Groseilliers.

**1668**

A speculative voyage leaves London. A storm damages the *Eaglet* which is forced to turn back but the ***Nonsuch*** reaches Hudson's Bay intact.



**1669**

June 14<sup>th</sup> the *Nonsuch* leaves Rupert River for England with £1,380 worth of furs, which induces Charles II to prepare a royal charter for the founding of the Company of Adventurers.

**1670**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, King Charles II grants the initial group of investors-the 'Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson Bay'- a Royal Charter allowing them the monopoly to trade in the Hudson Bay drainage basin.

**1670s**

The HBC establishes several posts at the mouths of the major rivers flowing into James and Hudson Bay. These include: Fort Charles (Rupert House) at the mouth of the Rupert River in present-day Quebec, Moose Factory at the mouth of the Moose River, **Fort Albany** at the mouth of the Albany River in present-day Ontario and York Factory in now northern Manitoba.

**1672**

The Company's first public sale of lots -27 lots- is held at **Garraway's Coffee House** in London.







**1673**  
**Moose Factory** is established.

**1676**  
The HBC exports British goods worth £650 and returns a profit of £19,000.

**1679**  
The first French Fort is established at present-day Thunder Bay on the banks of the Kamanistiquia River. Albany Fort is established.



All Aboriginal in Northern Ontario have direct access to French or English trade goods. Severn House is established. Most Aboriginal now devote their time either to traveling in order to trade or to trapping fur bearing animals. The concentration on hunting beaver for the fur trade take a number of Aboriginal away from their normal subsistence of hunting and fishing.

**1680s**

**1684**  
**York Factory** is established.

**1686**  
Pierre de Troyes, captain in the French army captures a number of Hudson Bay forts by surprise. They include Charles Fort, Moose Factory and Albany Fort.



**1690**  
Henry Kelsey penetrates the interior to south-eastern Saskatchewan. This makes him the first white man to see **buffalo** herds on the Prairies.

**1696**  
The English recover all the James Bay forts, and the men of the captured garrisons are taken prisoner to England; **Pierre Radisson** dies.



**1714**  
James Knight, director and explorer for the HBC reclaims York Factory.

**1713**  
By the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, France relinquishes all claims to Hudson Bay, which again becomes a British possession. Forts lost to the French in 1697 are again under British control.



**1717**

A new French fort is built at the Kaministiquia River and at Lac la Pluie (Rainy Lake). The Rainy Lake fort was quickly abandoned due to Sioux hostilities in the area.



**1734**

Construction on **Fort Prince of Wales** begins at the mouth of the Churchill River.

**1745**

British Parliament offers £20,000 for discovery of the **North West Passage** and £5,000 for reaching the North Pole.



**1763**

The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years' War resulting in the withdrawal of French government from Quebec.

**1731**

French forts are established on Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods.

**1736**

A Sioux raiding party from the west kills 21 voyageurs at Lake of the Woods. It is believed the voyagers were most likely killed in retaliation for trading with a rival tribe.



**1743**

The **Hudson's Bay Company**

establishes its first inland

post, Henley House, located at the junction of the Albany and Kabinakagami rivers.

**1754**

Anthony Henday travels inland from York Factory to attract those tribes to trade. He travels via the Saskatchewan River as far as the foothills and is the first to meet the Blackfoot tribes. He becomes the first white man to see the Rockies.

**1756**

The Seven Years' War begins. This power struggle involved all major powers of the period including Prussia, Great Britain, Austria and France.

**1760**

Independent Trader (called peddlers by HBC) Ezekiel Solomon controls much of the early trade in the near North (Red Lake-Bloodvein-Berens River area) until the 1780s.



1767

Hearne finds the remains of the James Knight's expedition on Marble Island. This expedition, lost over 40 years ago, was dispatched from York Factory to find copper and gold.

1771

After two attempts, Hearne finally reaches the Coppermine River and the Arctic at Coronation Gulf. He realizes this is not the North West Passage.



1772

The HBC sends Matthew Cocking from York Factory to check on the pedlars who are dominating the **fur trade** by using tobacco and liquor as trade items.

1774

The HBC begins to develop an inland trading post network, the first being **Samuel Hearne's** Cumberland House, on the Saskatchewan River.

1777

George Sutherland of the HBC travels inland along the Albany River. He passes through Lac Seul and Red Lake areas.



1768

Author and HBC clerk John Long gives an account of the origin of the name Red Lake in one of his books. Merchants are allowed to trade in the North West but not in Rupert's Land; huge decline in HBC trade due to the competitiveness of the **Montreal-based 'pedlars'**.

By now both the Cree and Ojibwa have moved to the North and north-west of the upper great lakes, an area they occupy at present.



1776

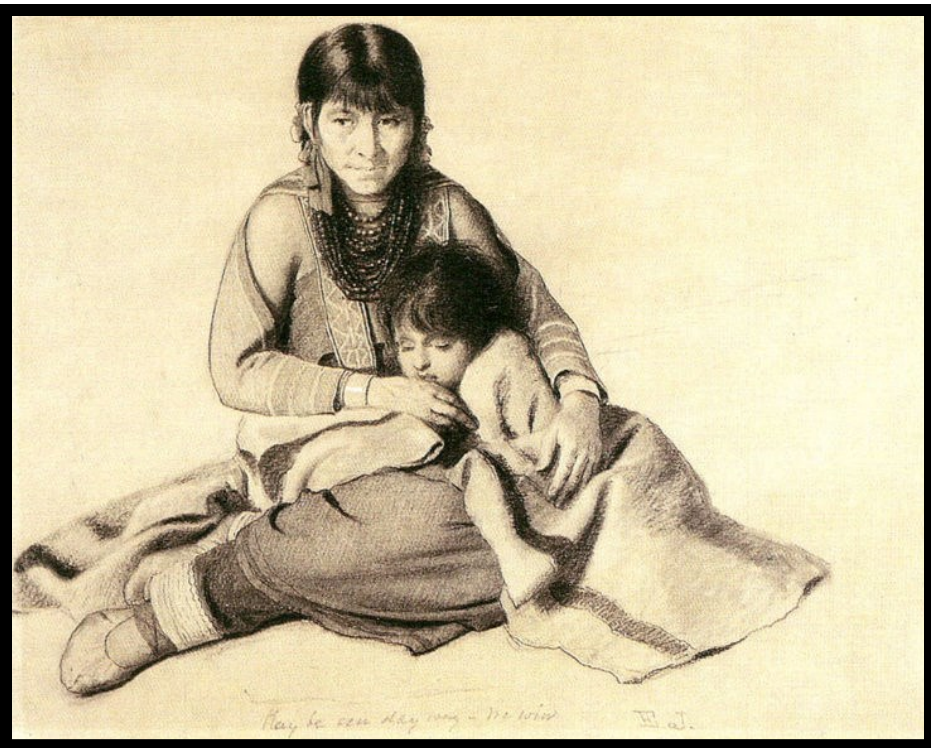
The 'pedlars' regroup in Montreal, sometimes using the name North West Company; they establish their main supply base at Grand Portage on Lake Superior.

1779

The 'pedlars' in Montreal form a sixteen-share partnership of merchants, but the **North West Company** is restructured three times before emerging in 1783 as a permanent entity.







**1780**

Thomas Empson makes the first **point blankets** for the HBC, each 'point' a small, dark mark woven into the wool, representing the value of one beaver pelt. Both the HBC and NWC begin establishing inland posts in fierce competition for the fur trade. Also at this time European disease begins to spread quickly

among the Aboriginal populations which have no resistance.

The Bloodvein River was an important link between the interior Shield country of present day Ontario and Lake Winnipeg. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Ojibwa who lived there were skilled hunters and trappers, and the region produced an abundance of high quality furs.

**1791**

John Best replaces Sutherland at the HBC's Red Lake Post. A NWC clerk establishes a summer trading post located at Bad Lake (possibly present Barclay Lake) near the headwaters of the Bloodvein River.

**1794**

Magnus Birsay takes over Red Lake Post. Intense feuding surfaces between Alexander Mackenzie and Simon McTavish; Mackenzie wants merger of NWC with the HBC. John Best arrives at the mouth of the Bloodvein and finds two Canadian traders. Best intends to cross the lake to build but is persuaded by the Aboriginal to build on the same side.

**1782**

In the winter a devastating Smallpox epidemic spreads through the Bloodvein area and all the way to Alberta claiming thousands of lives among the Aboriginal groups.

**1786**

The North West Company establishes Red Lake House. The HBC establish Osnaburgh House on present Lake St. Joseph.

**1790**

James Sutherland pushes beyond Osnaburgh House to Red Lake and establishes an **HBC** post. McTavish, Forbisher & Co. dominates the newly formed North West partnership, with Simon McTavish holding controlling interest.



**1793**

Alexander Mackenzie, NWC partner, sets out on May 9<sup>th</sup> to find a river route to the Pacific; he reaches the ocean July 21<sup>st</sup> at Dean Channel. The Nor'Westers now control 78 percent of Canadian fur sales.

**1795**

Fort Edmonton is founded. HBC Red Lake Post is abandoned in favour of one at Escabitchewan (on Ball Lake) located west of Ear Falls. Best witnesses the gathering of over 30 canoes of warriors at the mouth of the Bloodvein. At this time the HBC is greatly outmatched in the fur trade and for this reason they abandoned the Red Lake quarters.





**1797**

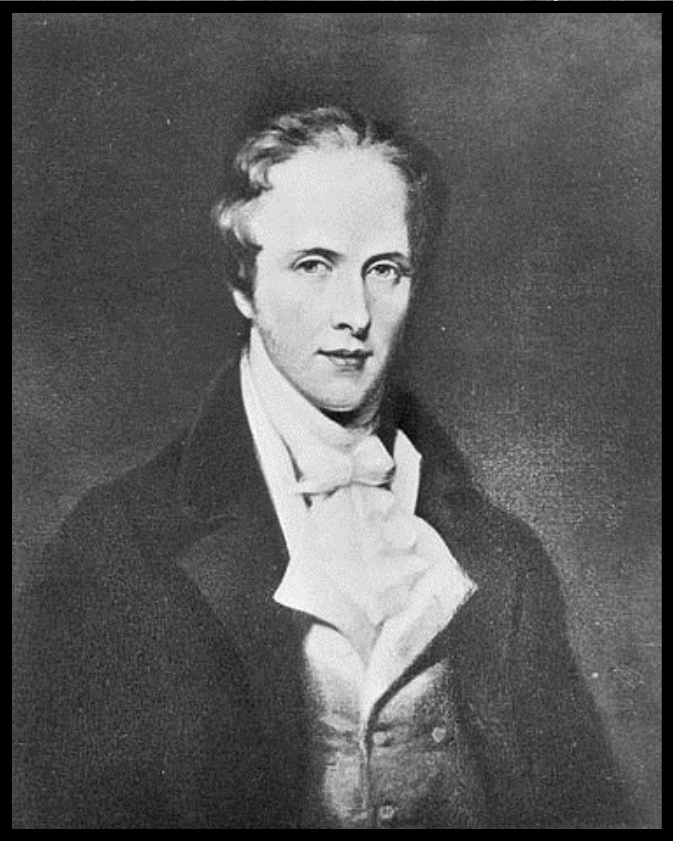
**David Thompson**, famed map-maker of western Canada and northwestern United States, defects from the HBC to the NWC.

**1802**

Thomas Vincent builds a new HBC post in Red Lake. The fierce competition at this time between the HBC, NWC and XY Company benefited the Bloodvein Indians in the short run but proved disastrous in the long run as the ecological balance was destroyed by extreme hunting and trapping pressure brought on by the fur traders.

**1804**

William Thomas goes to Red Lake to find the HBC house burned, and rebuilds a mile away. During this year the Nor'Westers, the HBC and the XY Company are all trading in Red Lake. US President Thomas Jefferson dispatches the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific Coast. Lord Selkirk visits Montreal. NWC and XY agree to merge, Nov 5.



**1811**

**Lord Selkirk** purchases 74 million acres to establish a settlement at Red River; The NWC consistently ships more furs than the HBC, yet both sides suffer losses and low profits due to increased costs, overtrapping and fierce competition.

**1798**

A group of Montreal traders formally of the North West Company, band together and are dubbed the XY Company.

**1799**

The HBC has only 498 men posted in North America. Magnus Birsay returns to Red Lake to re-establish the HBC outpost. He finds his old house occupied by the Nor'Westers and builds a new one.

**1800**

Alexander Mackenzie joins the XY Company, which becomes popularly known as 'Alexander Mackenzie & Co.' The Red Lake Post is abandoned.

**1803**

North West Company headquarters is moved from Grand Portage, which has become US territory, to Fort William. Laws are passed aimed at regulating lawless conflict between HBC and NWC.



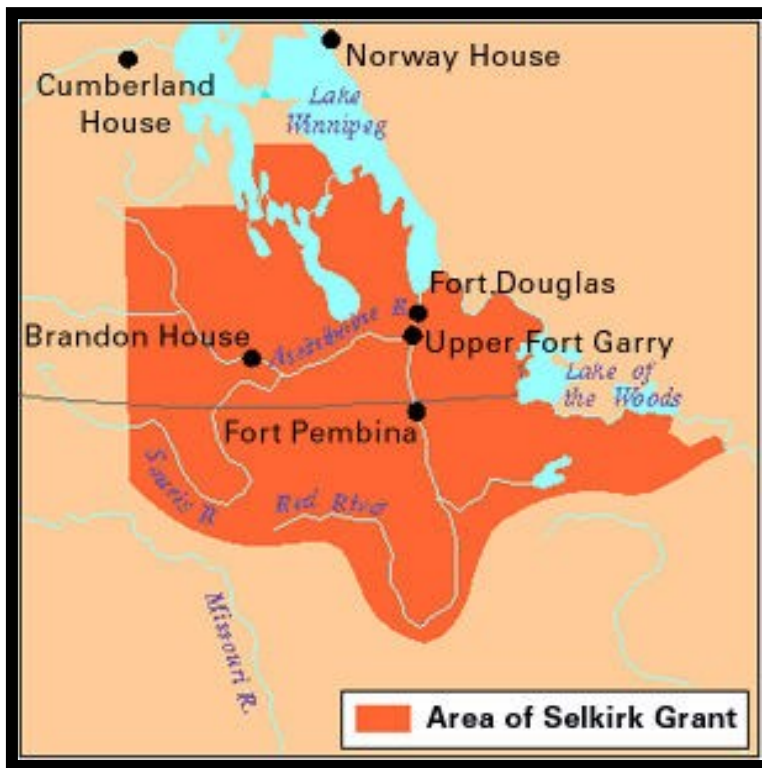
**1805**

Red Lake and the Bloodvein's fur resources reach a climax.

**1806**

Violence erupts due to the dwindling fur resources which has caused great tension between the rival fur traders. At Red Lake, the NWC men threaten to kill the HBC men, burn their post and destroy their goods if they dared to go to an Indian encampment for fur during the winter. This was a method of securing furs all companies used. The decline in furs, the lack of manpower and the bullying tactics of the NWC were just a few reasons the HBC withdrew from the Red Lake quarter.





**1812**

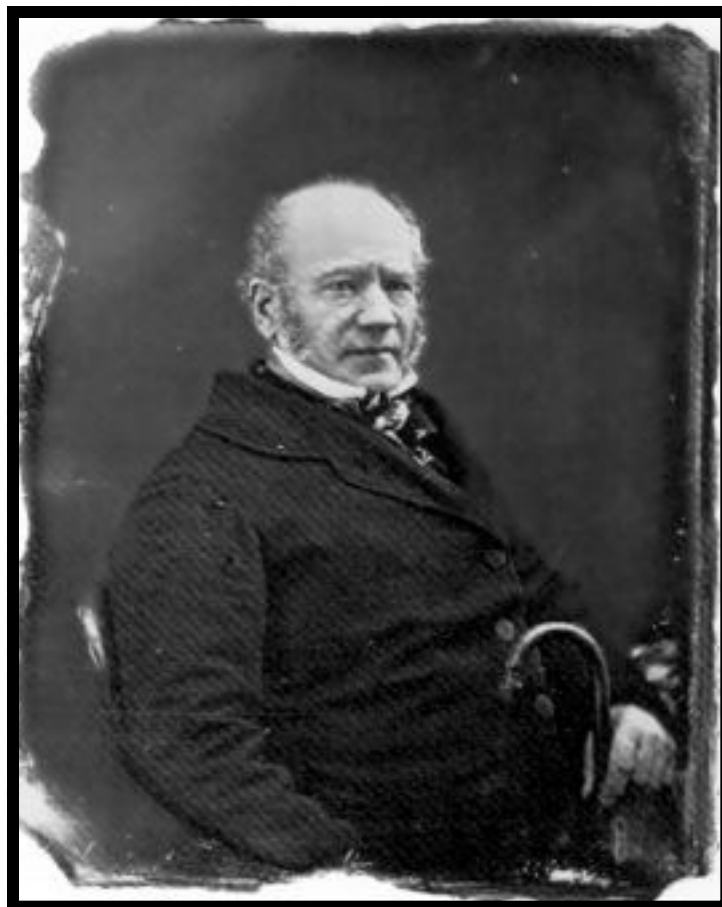
The Red River's first group of colonists arrive from Scotland and Ireland. This colonization is seen as a direct threat by the North West Company.

**1815**

Red Lake peaks interest again for fur trading companies.

**1819**

Lengthy court battles cripple the North West Company and split the unity of the wintering partners. In Red Lake, reports from the HBC state Beaver is almost extinct. A measles epidemic sweeps through the Bad Lake area killing up to 70 Aboriginal. In Red Lake it was less severe killing 12.



**1821**

The amalgamation agreement between HBC and NWC is signed; **George Simpson** oversees the merger and then becomes Governor of the new Northern Department. HBC now controls more than 3 million square miles of land. Merger of the of the companies' 173 posts begins. This year is also the last report of any fur trading activity at Red Lake found in the HBC files.

**1814**

To conserve food in the colony, Governor Miles Macdonnell forbids the export of pemmican (a mixture of dried meat, berries and fat) which was sold to the HBC and NWC fur brigades. This proclamation leads to the destruction of two forts in the Red River settlement and foreshadows the coming Battle of Seven Oaks.

**1816**

Tensions rise between the HBC and NWC resulting in a massacre of 21 Red River settlers at **Seven Oaks** (Winnipeg). Lord Selkirk takes Fort William and arrests the NWC officers. After settling the unrest in the Red River valley he returns to Montreal with the NWC 'criminals' for trial. The Red Lake District is formed by the HBC. Its post at Red Lake is under the direction of James Slater.



**1821-1822**

As the HBC now monopolizes the fur trade, there is no need to waste resources by keeping smaller posts alive. All temporary outposts established for strategic purposes, such as the Red Lake post, are abandoned. By this time, due to the intense fur trade competition, the Bloodvein has become virtually exhausted of the principal fur bearing species, particularly the beaver.

**1824**

Due to overtrapping the HBC instruct traders to tell the Aboriginal people not to hunt furs during the summer. Two years later, traders in the Severn district forbid Aboriginal people to trap beaver.





**1825**

**Fort Vancouver** is founded on the Columbia River to serve as the Pacific headquarters of the Company.

**1831**

Construction begins on Lower Fort Garry. Simpson moves into the fort the following year.



**1836**

The **S.S. Beaver** becomes the first steamship in the Pacific Northwest. She is in service for the HBC until 1863, when she is leased to the government for surveying. She is wrecked off Stanley Park in 1888.

**1841-42**

Upper Canada is renamed Canada West; Lower Canada becomes Canada East. Limits are imposed on the **beaver** catch in the interests of conservation.



**1826**

George Simpson is officially named Governor of both the Northern and Southern departments. Severe flooding occurs at Red River.

**1827**

Fort Langley is established, the first HBC post off the coast of British Columbia.

**1830**

Big game has practically disappeared from the country and beaver has been greatly reduced in numbers. As the Aboriginal shift to a subsistence strategy based upon small game, they no longer range as widely in search of food and furs.

**1835**

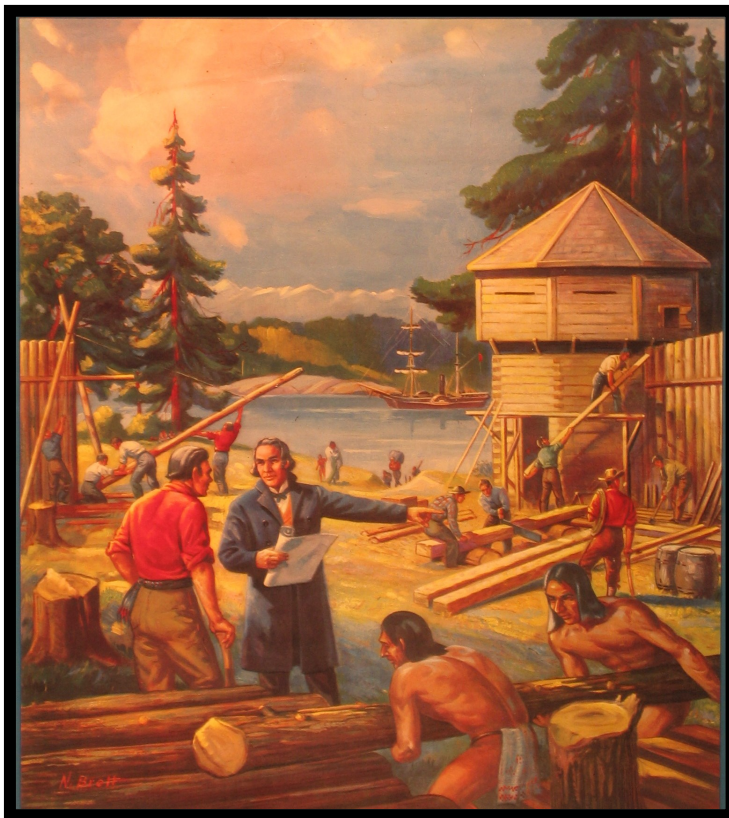
**Upper Fort Garry** construction starts in 1835 to replace an older fort damaged in the 1826 flooding. Smallpox epidemic on the Plains; by 1837 an estimated three-quarters of the Plains Indians die. An influenza epidemic devastates Aboriginal populations in Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Peace River Districts.

**1840**

Red River's population has increased from less than 300 in 1818 to 4,369. Puget Sound Agricultural Company (PSAC) is formed to develop agricultural businesses and settlement in Oregon country. PSAC's stockholders are HBC directors and senior officers. **It becomes common to send traders from Lac Seul to gather furs from the Indians at Red Lake. They were regarded by Charles McKenzie (the trader at Lac Seul) as some of the best hunters.**





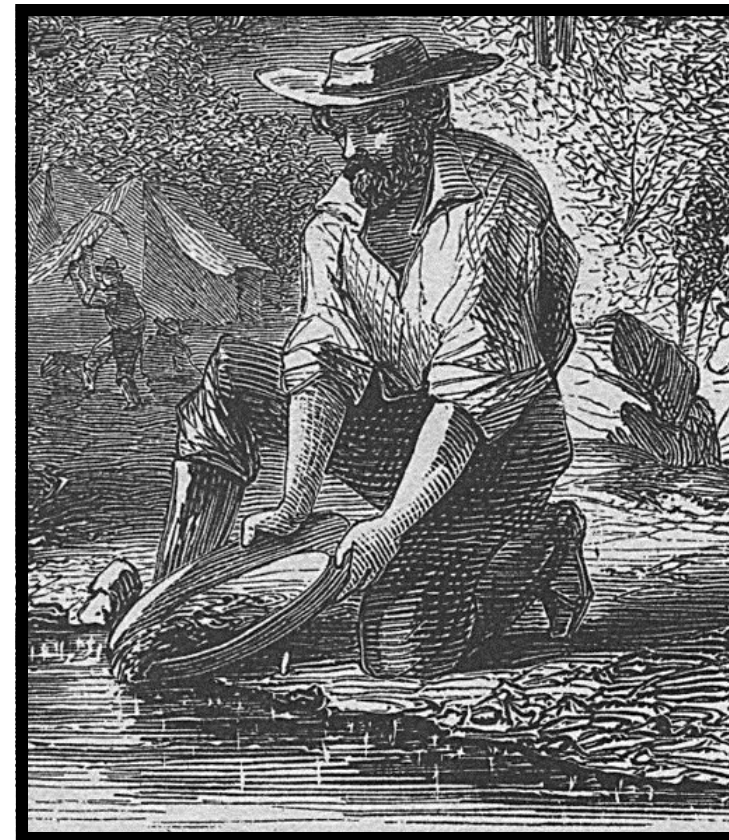


**1843**

Final HBC anti-liquor regulations are approved by Council at Red River on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Attempts made by Americans to lure fur trade from Fort Garry to US Post at Pembina. **Fort Victoria** is built.

**1849**

HBC Pacific headquarters moved from Fort Vancouver to Fort Victoria, since the former is now in U.S. Territory.



**1857**

Colony of British Columbia is created. Discovery of **gold** on the Fraser River attracts a rush of Americans into British territory.

**1860**

United States has 30,000 route-miles of rail track. Gold fever pulls miners to Caribou Country. George Simpson dies.

**1867**

The British North America Act creating Canada is enacted at Westminster on March 29<sup>th</sup>; Clause 146 makes terms for the admission of Rupert's Land and Northwest Territories into the new Confederation.

**1846**

Oregon Treaty establishes the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel as the boundary between American and British territory west of the Rockies, with Vancouver Island to be British. A measles epidemic sweeps along the Winnipeg River. It does not appear to affect those at Red Lake or the Bloodvein River.

**1854**

HBC man, **Dr. John Rae** maps the final section of the Arctic coastline, discovering both the missing link of the North West Passage and the fate of the Franklin expedition.

**1859**

HBC retains its territorial rights but loses its license to exclusive trade. First major Canadian rail project, the Grand Trunk, is completed between Lévis, opposite Quebec City, and Sarnia.

**1864**

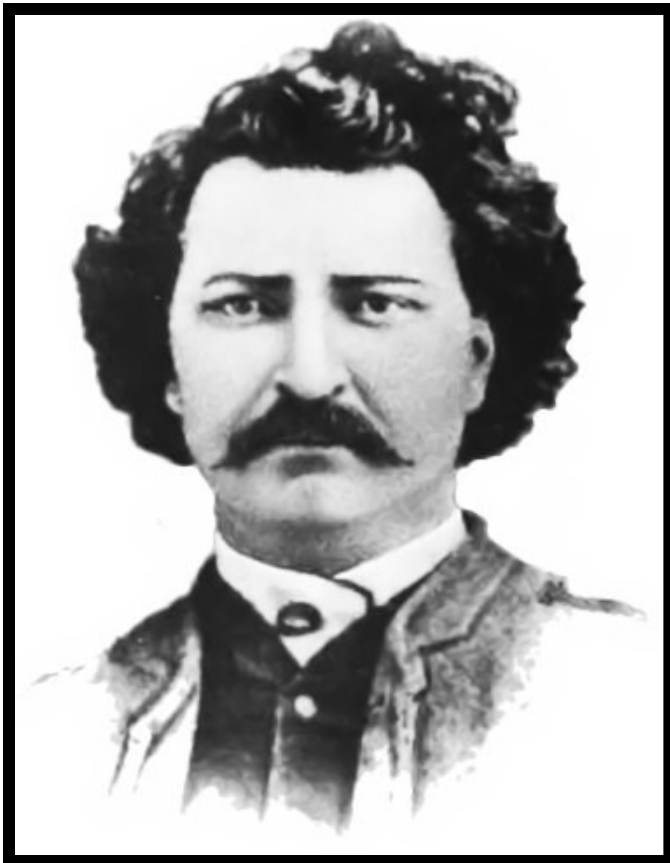
Negotiations towards **Confederation** of Canada take place in Quebec City and Charlottetown.





**1868**

The Earl of Kimberley is appointed Governor of the HBC. Canadian delegation arrives in London to begin negotiations for HBC lands.



**1870**

**Louis Riel** leads a rebellion at Red River against the government. The goal, to preserve Métis rights and culture. The HBC re-establishes a post on the Bloodvein. From its closure in 1821, the Bloodvein Indians are forced to travel great distances to trade. Many gravitate to the Berens River, Sandy Narrows, Fort Alexander and also Lac Seul.

**1881**

First HBC Mail Order catalogue.

**1882**

The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) is completed throughout Northwestern Ontario. Three years later the **last spike** is driven into the CPR at Craigellachie, British Columbia.



**1887**

Earliest known date for HBC's operation of steamship transportation of goods and people in the major waterways of Western Canada.

**1893**

**D.B. Dowling (Geological Survey of Canada) surveys Red Lake and area and reports on possible ore deposits.**

**1869**

HBC signs Deed of Surrender on November 19<sup>th</sup>, agreeing to surrender Rupert's Land to the Crown. HBC keeps its 120 posts and land concessions. William McDougall (Lieutenant-Governor of Rupert's Land) sets out for Red River and is turned back by armed **Métis**.



**1875**

Upper Fort Garry becomes the headquarters of the Northern Department.

**1880**

HBC begins to sell farm lots in Western Canada.

**1885**

Louis Riel is hung at Regina for high treason after the Northwest Rebellion of that year.

**1886-1887**

During the winter, tribes starve in the Northwest 'owing to the destruction of game'

**1889**

HBC, CRP and the Federal Government push land sales in the West. Sir Donald Alexander Smith becomes 26<sup>th</sup> Governor of HBC.

**1890**

Powder, shot, axes and nets are considered indispensable' goods. Many Aboriginal now rely on flour, pork, tallow, wool clothing and blankets. Traders at Osnaburgh House express fears that the beaver has declined. The traders attribute this to the fact that the Native people, constantly driven back by the encroachment of hunters from elsewhere, no longer spare a few animals for breeding which had been their custom.





**1907**

HBC establishes the **Wholesale Department** to sell liquor, tobacco, coffee, tea, confectionery and blankets.

**1910-1914**

HBC rushes to

expand and build department stores in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Victoria, the first of six downtown stores planned in response to the Burbidge inspection tour. Over 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people fight for Canada in the First and Second World Wars and in Korea.

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the fur trade way of life for both Indian and trader changed dramatically. The arrival of missionaries, geologists, miners, loggers, and government agents would alter a way of life that had existed for hundreds of years. Although many Aboriginal held strongly to old beliefs and customs, changes were inevitable. Seasonal movements were replaced by fixed reserves and government built homes, and the intimate relationship between Indian and fur trader was replaced by the often cold hand of government bureaucracy.

**1922**

Silver finds prompt claim staking in East Bay of Red Lake.

**1925**

Construction of Beaver House, the world's largest fur auction house, begins. The role of the Red Lake post changes due to the influx of prospectors following the Howey brothers' gold discovery. Red Lake Post becomes a supply depot and is given full-post status. It is moved closer to the Howey operation.

**1900-1914**

More than three million immigrants settle the Prairies. The old HBC posts evolve into sale shops in growing western cities.

**1909**

Richard Burbidge of Harrods Department store, joins HBC Director Leonard Cunliffe on an Inspection tour of HBC stores in Canada. His report recommends the division of operations into 3 separate departments: Fur Trade; Land Sales; Retailing.

**1915**

HBC participates in the war effort, chartering 300 vessels to transport foodstuffs, fuel, lumber and munitions as agents for the French Government.



**1918**

HBC establishes an out post for Pine Ridge located at **Post Narrows**. It was reopened because a free trader had established himself near Gullrock Lake and trappers were bringing furs to him rather than the post at Lac Seul Post.

**1920**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HBC.

**1921**

HBC enters into agreement with Imperial Oil Company to exploit HBC mineral rights on all lands sold since 1910 in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**1923**

As part of a strategy to develop a fur collection outside of Canada, the company obtains under license, the monopoly to buy furs collected in Siberia.



**1926**

Temporary buildings are erected nearer the mining activities on **Johnson's Point in Howey Bay**. HBC partners with Marland Oil Company of America and forms Hudson's Bay Marland Oil Company. Hudson's Bay Company Overseas Settlement (Limited) is formed to facilitate immigration. HBC signs agreement with Paris-based fur trading operation Revillon Frères, becoming the majority shareholder of the company with 51% of shares.

**1929**

Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company is formed.

**1930**

Beaver in northern Quebec are disappearing and the Cree are starving as a result. **Maud Watt**, wife of Rupert House post factor Jimmy Watt, travels to Quebec City and convinces the provincial government of the need for a beaver preserve. She returns with a lease to cover 7,200 square miles. The Canadian Committee's power is extended to oversee all day-to-day operations of the Company in Canada.



**1943**

A record 30,000 arctic **fox** pelts are exported by HBC from the North.



**1951**

Donation of Lower Fort Garry to Canada as a National Historic Site.

**1927**

Red Lake's HBC out-post at **Johnson's Point** obtains Post status at its new location.



**1932**

HBC introduces airplanes to deliver goods to Northern Canada, reducing ocean vessels to one steamer and several costal and river vessels. HBC hires Professor Coupland of Oxford University and Mr. Hilary Jenkinson of the Public Record office to review the archival collection, and prepare catalogues. *The Beaver* magazine emerges to become the 'Magazine of the North'.

**1933**

At **Red Lake**, a new HBC store is established in town. Red Lake officially goes modern.



**1944**

HBC manages beaver sanctuaries in Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories. They cover over 43,000 square miles. (110,000km<sup>2</sup>)

**1945**

First HBC Scholarships awarded (2 in England and 2 in Canada) to commemorate 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary and encourage education in administrative and commercial subjects.



**1953**

At Balmertown an HBC store is established and officially opens in 1954. HBC becomes the supplier of Inuit art to the Canadian Handicrafts Guild.

**1964**

HBC introduces the Bay banner, converting its retail stores to the new brand.

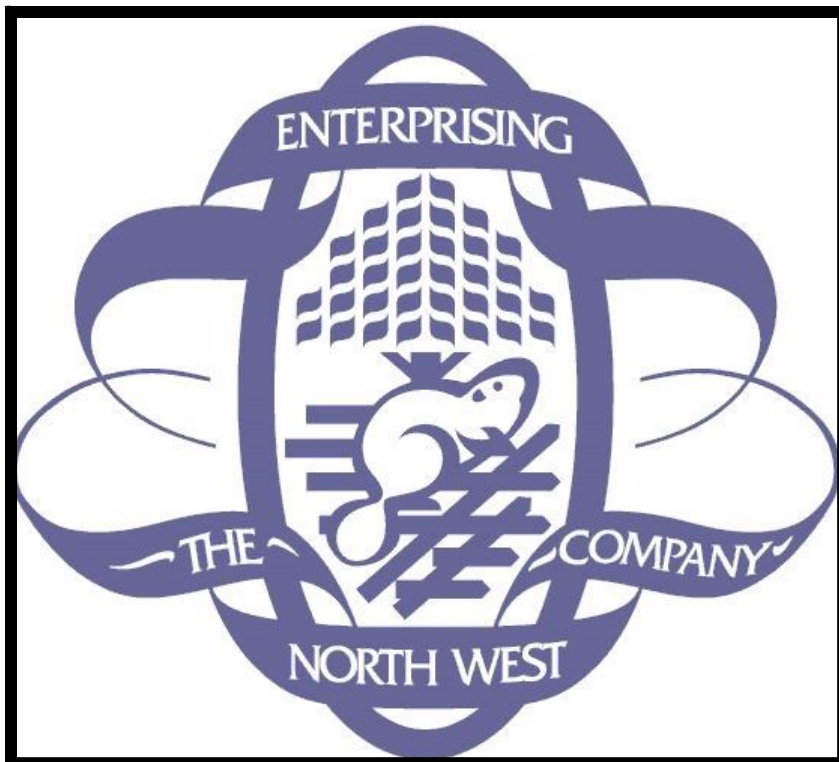


**1970**

300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. A replica of the *Nonsuch* is shipped from England to Canada where it tours in the east and west coasts in 1971. Afterward the replica becomes the first significant donation by the Company to the **Manitoba Museum**. HBC becomes a Canadian company and head office is moved from London to Winnipeg.

**1987**

Northern Stores Division is sold to a group of investors including 415 employees. HBC ceases to deal in the acquisition of pelts. Three years later, the new company revives the **North West Company** name. HBC sells its Wholesale Division.



**1955**

First parking garage of any HBC store built in Edmonton.

**1959**

Fur Trade Division renamed Northern Stores Department.

**1969**

**York Factory** donated to Canada as a National Historic Site.



**1974**

Opening of the 260,000 sq. ft. store and 35 storey office tower at Yonge and Bloor. Head office relocates to Toronto.

**1977**

The Company starts installing computerized cash registers in stores.

**1978**

HBC takes over **Zellers** and Simpson's department store chains.





**1994**

Donation of HBC records to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, of the Manitoba Archives, and artifacts to the Manitoba Museum. Publication of The Beaver Magazine is taken over by Canada's National History Society (CNHS). Hudson Bay History Foundation is established.

**2002**

HBC introduces redesigned contemporary coat-of-arms as part of new branding strategy. New web-based shopping site, Hbc.com, is launched.

**2005**

October, Jerry Zucker, of South Carolina announces a takeover offer for HBC. The board rejects his offer as being too low.

**1999**

HBC launches new **Home Outfitters** store chain.

**2003**

HBC shares begin to drop, allowing American businessman Jerry Zucker to buy up shares.

**2006**

January, Zucker makes another offer and the board agrees. A deal worth \$1.06 billion.





## Sources for timeline:

[www.linksnorth.com/canada-history/early.html](http://www.linksnorth.com/canada-history/early.html)

An Illustrated History of Hudson's Bay Company by Peter C. Newman

Timeline "Notes from History" created by JJ Richhammer

## Images:

1. Leif Ericson-<http://www.monarchyfreecanada.org/canadians.htm>
2. John Cabot-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Cabot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cabot)
3. Jacques Cartier-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques\\_Cartier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Cartier)
4. Samuel de Champlain-[http://af.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beeld:536px-Samuel\\_de\\_champlain.jpg](http://af.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beeld:536px-Samuel_de_champlain.jpg)
5. Hudson's Bay Map-[http://www.bouletfermat.com/backgrounds/canada\\_circa\\_1900/](http://www.bouletfermat.com/backgrounds/canada_circa_1900/)
6. Henry Hudson-[http://www.classicartrepro.com/data/large/Collier/Last\\_Voyage\\_of\\_Henry\\_Hudson\\_Tate\\_1881.jpg](http://www.classicartrepro.com/data/large/Collier/Last_Voyage_of_Henry_Hudson_Tate_1881.jpg)
7. Thomas Button-<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/plaques/plaq0178.html>
8. Bubonic Plague-[http://www.scienceclarified.com/everyday/images/scet\\_03\\_img0265.jpg](http://www.scienceclarified.com/everyday/images/scet_03_img0265.jpg)
9. King Charles II-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Charles\\_II\\_of\\_England.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Charles_II_of_England.png)
10. Nonsuch-[http://www.civilization.ca/vmnf/Explor/chou\\_e4.html](http://www.civilization.ca/vmnf/Explor/chou_e4.html)
11. Fort Albany-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Fort\\_Albany%2C\\_Ontario%2C\\_1886.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Fort_Albany%2C_Ontario%2C_1886.jpg)
12. Garraway's Coffee House-<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=45088>
13. Moose Factory-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Moose\\_Factory%2C\\_Ontario%2C\\_circa\\_1868-1870.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Moose_Factory%2C_Ontario%2C_circa_1868-1870.jpg)
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16. Pierre Radisson-<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/hexaquad/photo-ck43f.htm>
17. Fort Prince of Wales-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Churchill\\_Fort\\_Prince\\_of\\_Wales\\_1996-08-12.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Churchill_Fort_Prince_of_Wales_1996-08-12.jpg)
18. Hudson's Bay Post Sign-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hudsons\\_Bay-Logo-Old.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hudsons_Bay-Logo-Old.JPG)
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22. Samuel Hearne-Hudson's Bay Company Calendar Image "Hearne builds Cumberland House" by George Franklin Arbuckle
23. North West Company-[http://canadawiki.org/index.php/Canadian\\_Business\\_History](http://canadawiki.org/index.php/Canadian_Business_History)
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25. HBC Flag-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hudsons\\_Bay\\_Company\\_Flag.svg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hudsons_Bay_Company_Flag.svg)
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30. Seven Oaks-[http://canadawiki.org/index.php/Manitoba\\_History](http://canadawiki.org/index.php/Manitoba_History)
31. George Simpson-<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0007413>



32. Fort Vancouver-Hudson's Bay Company Calendar Image "Fort Vancouver Erected, 1825" by J.E. Schaflein
33. Upper Fort Garry-Hudson's Bay Company Calendar Image "Troops at Upper Fort Garry, 1846/48" by Adam Sherriff Scott
34. S.S. Beaver-<http://www.westvanlib.org/Historical/Front%20Page%20Webs/WVML/HISTORY/pages/2278SHIP.HTM>
35. Beaver-[http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife/virtual\\_news/images/beaver/index.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife/virtual_news/images/beaver/index.htm) Photographer: David Westphalen/Painet Inc.
36. Fort Victoria-Hudson's Bay Company Calendar Image "Founding of Fort Victoria, 1843" by Newton Brett
37. Dr. John Rae-<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/historicalfigures/johnrae/>
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39. Confederation-<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Fathersofconfederation.jpg>
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43. Victoria Department Store-<http://web.uvic.ca/~hist66/Quantz/douglas1.gif>
44. Post Narrows, Red Lake-Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre and Archives
45. Group Shot at Johnson's Point, Red Lake-Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre and Archives
46. Maud Watt- "The Long Trail" by Maud Watt, March 1943, The Beaver, Canada's History Magazine
47. Red Lake HBC Store-Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre Archives
48. Fox Pelts-[http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/PrinceEdwardIslandHarvest/fox\\_e/gallery/FX00265.JPG](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/PrinceEdwardIslandHarvest/fox_e/gallery/FX00265.JPG)
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50. Manitoba Museum-<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Manitobamuseum.jpg>
51. Zellers-<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:ZellersStore.jpg>
52. The New North West Company logo-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Northwest\\_Logo.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Northwest_Logo.JPG)
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