



# Les Nouvelles du Fort

## The Fort News

### **Battle of the Thousand Islands: The End of the French and Indian War**

By Michael Whittaker, largely as published in Smoke and Fire News October 2010

## **Outpost on the Oswegatchie**

**Fall 2010**

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The re-enactors portraying the defenders of New France came from across North America to participate in the Battle of the Thousand Islands at Founder's Day Weekend.

Photo by Christine Crawford

New York State's final 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the French and Indian War brought re-enactors from across North America to Lighthouse Point in Ogdensburg, NY July 16-18, 2010. The two-part Battle of the Thousand Islands in August 1760 opened the upper St. Lawrence River, led to the capitulation of Montreal and the end of New France.

"Hosting the final 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration was an honor and a challenge for the Fort La Présentation Association," said Fort Association President Barbara O'Keefe. "Despite being the smallest organization in the state and with minimum resources to host an F&I War Signature Event, our planning committee and membership accomplished a first-rate event for re-enactors and the public."

More than a dozen boats joined the anniversary action. The Schooner La Revenante stood in for the 10-gun French corvette L'Outaouaise to be captured by English row galleys. Friday afternoon three cutters sailed across the St. Lawrence River from Prescott, Ontario to goad the French into action. At dusk Saturday boats took to the river and joined shore batteries, including the guns of Prescott's Fort Wellington, in a dramatic artillery *son et lumière* leading to a crescendo of fireworks.

Logistics dictated the siege of Fort Lévis on Île Royal be portrayed as a field action on the approximately six-acre battlefield. As with the river action that led to the land battle, the public thrilled to the movements of the opposing forces. The *milice* debouched from the French redoubt to meet their ►

Provincial counterparts in a seesaw action culminating in the commitment of all forces, including artillery. The entire field was alive; troops spread the width using open space and cover to their respective advantages. However, history cannot be denied, and Sunday afternoon the French forces struck their colors. A memorial service followed; the re-enactors honored the fallen of long ago, and a lament was piped.

"I think it was an awesome event. There was a real camaraderie among the forces français and the British never looked better," said Edward Harper of Compagnie LeBoeuf. "The water battle on Saturday was spectacular. This was a great finish for New York State's commission, and I think everyone had a wonderful time."



Allies from two cultures share the experiences of the day's action.  
Photo by Christine Crawford

More than 30 sutlers and exhibitors created a colonial trade fair. Musicians paraded. Dancers practiced the latest 18<sup>th</sup>-century steps. Visitors sampled period foods. A blacksmith, basketmaker, gunsmith, seamstresses and other trades provided educational glimpses into the past.

"This event was one of the most beautifully organized I have ever attended, well on par with the other 250<sup>th</sup> events at the other larger and better known sites," said Micheline Béluse, owner of Toison de Ville. "Everything was meticulously planned and worked out to assure a maximum amount of comfort for the re-enactors and the merchants."

Also on hand were VIPs and special guests. Actor and Ogdensburg native Mark Valley joined the French ranks for the Saturday battle. Before the battles the armies paraded in review. Among the dignitaries taking the salute were New York State Senator Darrel Aubertine, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, County Administrator Karen St. Hilaire and Legislators Vernon (Sam) Burns and Dave Forsythe, Ogdensburg Mayor William Nelson, Prescott Mayor Suzanne Dodge, Marc Martin delegated by Bourg-en-Bresse, France (birthplace of Fort de la Présentation founder Abbé François Picquet), and in uniform representing the militaries of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand were Lt. Col. Bobby Noone, Lt. Col. Jamie Patten-Richens and Group Captain Shaw James.

"From the camp, with its absence of any sight of 21<sup>st</sup>-century debris, gave such a palpable sense of time ►

and place, to the weapons and accoutrements of the various contingents of soldiers, it was evident how much work had gone into getting things right," said Lt. Col. Bobby Noone, the Queen's Royal Hussars.

Regrettably, many public figures and military representatives had to decline their invitations. However, the much-rumored wedding did happen early Saturday evening in the navy camp's willow grove. The bride, groom and wedding party wore their 18<sup>th</sup>-century finest, as did many of their guests; some called Ghana and Hong Kong home.



Sunday afternoon re-enactors stood in silent reflection to honor the memory of those who served their countries 250 years ago.  
Photo by Christine Crawford

The commemoration of the Battle of the Thousand Islands was by far the largest event hosted by the Fort La Présentation Association in the 10 years the organization has sponsored Founder's Day Weekend as a tribute to Ogdensburg's French colonial history. Re-enactors who hadn't come to Founder's Day Weekend before made the trip for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration and were won over by our commitment to being the best hosts possible.

Many members of the Founder's Day Weekend Planning Committee and weekend volunteers are re-enactors who know the important essentials: fresh, accessible water; readily available ice; dry and ample firewood; and clean port-a-potties. Having experienced the shortcomings of other events, the Fort Association lives the example of being a welcoming and attentive host to our guests.

Founder's Day Weekend has won converts who plan to return. The businesses of Ogdensburg deserve credit, too. Re-enactors who bought meals, groceries, gas and more felt welcomed by local merchants. At the next Founder's Day Weekend, July 23-24, 2011, we can expect guests to return for our hospitality. ◀

**French maps from 1666 or earlier mark the Oswegatchie River, and on many colonial-period maps it is the only river shown entering the St. Lawrence from the New York shore. There may have been a seasonal mission on the east bank of the Oswegatchie River as early as 1719.**

## Our New Logo and Tagline

The new Fort La Présentation Association logo, representative of the southwest bastion of the original fort, characterizes our strong organization, the protection of our history and our steadfast enthusiasm for our heritage. The bastion has been simplified from its literal representation, yet retains enough visual elements that refer to the original design. The central element of the logo, a sentry box called a *gérite*, is an architectural feature not common to historic forts still standing in North America.



Contemporaries of Fort de la Présentation with French and Indian War histories, Fort Chambly (1711) in Quebec and the Fortress of Louisbourg (1719) in Nova Scotia, have these elevated sentry boxes built into their walls. Further south, the Spanish-built Castillo de San Marcos (1672) in Florida has them.

Given the rarity of this significant feature, we believe the *gérite*-and-bastion logo will soon be the recognized icon of the Fort La Présentation Association and all our endeavors.

Regarding the colors, blue is associated with trustworthiness and peace, while yellow is hopeful and active. Both indicate wisdom.

Our tag line “Outpost on the Oswegatchie”, as appears on the front cover, is unique, describes and locates Fort de la Présentation and suggests something interesting, out of the ordinary and invites exploration. Oswegatchie has an exotic connotation to those not familiar with the word.

The logo, the colors and tag line are the visual components of Fort La Présentation Association brand.

A brand is more than a logo. A brand is the image people have of us, what people think of us. The Fort Association has a brand we want to nurture and expand. We have learned we have certain Brand Assets that we can leverage into Brand Attributes. The Brand Assets we have acquired over the past decade. The Brand Attributes are the beliefs or concepts people have about the Fort Association. Our logo and tag line will remind people of our organization’s attributes. ►

### Brand Assets

>>>>>

### Brand Attributes

Long history  
Multiculturalism  
Fort reconstruction  
Site cleanup  
Community commitment

Authority  
Diversity  
Authenticity  
Effectiveness  
Understanding

The concept of Authority derives from our organization’s long history, in jump-starting the reconstruction project on Lighthouse Point and also the significant history of the site. The concept of Diversity comes from the our commitment to tell the story of the nations and individuals connected to the fort’s long history. The concept of Authenticity stems from our commitment to use the actual French fort plans and to our strategies to authentically interpret the site. Effectiveness springs from our success challenging what were perceived as insurmountable odds, while Understanding relates to our investment in the heritage and economy of the St. Lawrence Valley regions .

Our Brand Attributes are at the core of our identity. The Fort La Présentation Association will build on our Brand Attributes in all our undertakings. ◀

## The Papers of Dr. Peter MacLeod

As was announced in the last issue of *Les Nouvelles du Fort / The Fort News*, Dr. Peter MacLeod of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa granted the Fort Association permission to print his nine unpublished papers. Dr. MacLeod is perhaps Canada’s foremost historian on Amerindians at the time of the French and Indian War.

Dr. MacLeod curates the permanent exhibits on the Seven Years’ War and the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at the Canadian War Museum. His latest book *Northern Armageddon* plunges the reader through the campaign, siege and battle at Quebec in 1759, and then surveys the battle’s impact on Canada, the United States and Amerindians into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The series began in the last issue with the first part of “Parallel Warfare and Amerindian-European Alliances in the Seven Years’ War.” Unfortunately the length of his papers adds significantly to the cost of printing our newsletter. Therefore, we will regularly summarize Dr. MacLeod’s informative and scholarly papers, and provide a link to their online source.

“Parallel Warfare and Amerindian-European Alliances in the Seven Years’ War”, presented at the War College of the Seven Years’ War in May 1999 at Fort Ticonderoga, examines European war as practiced by the French and Amerindian war as practiced by the Canadian Iroquois, and parallel war, which occurred when these styles of war came together in the same campaign, and the cultural conflicts and accommodations produced by parallel warfare.

The online version of Dr. Macleod’s paper is at [www3.sympatico.ca/donald.macleod2/ticon.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/donald.macleod2/ticon.html). ◀

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**THE FORT LA PRÉSENTATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER**

**Friday, October 29, 2010, Freight House Restaurant, 20 Market Street, Ogdensburg  
Social Hour/Auction 5:30 - 6:30      Dinner - 6:30**

The annual dinner is the Fort La Présentation Association's major fundraising event of the year.

The fundraising includes a silent auction of quality items and a number of door prizes for which tickets can be purchased at the dinner. The premier item is a double-signed, framed print by Robert Griffing. "Fragile Trust" depicts a surprise encounter of the people of the forest with visitors in their land. Paramount Press donated the print. Griffing is noted for his realistic scenes of the 18th-century frontier. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00.

Other items include: a brain-tanned deer skin prepared and donated by Bill Filkins; a multi-colored Assumption Sash hand-woven by Gene E. Valk, donated by Theresa Gage; and two beautiful quilts. Tickets for these items are \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. There are distinct tickets for each prize.

The dinner is a colonial buffet featuring: Village Forge Entrée (Roast Beef & Roast Pork); Tory Salad (Tossed Salad with Choice of Dressings); Royal Irish Artillery Potatoes (Roasted Red Rosemary Potatoes); Oxen Yoke Vegetables (Green beans with Shallots & Apples and Onions); Ship's Bread (Crusty White Rolls with Butter); Patriot Surprise (Apple Crisp); and Tice's Accompaniment (Coffee or Tea With Cream & Sugar).

The evening also honors individuals and organizations that have given significant support to the Fort Association. The Persis Yates Boyesen Award will be presented to the City of Ogdensburg for outstanding contribution toward the historically accurate reconstruction and ongoing presence of Fort de la Présentation. Mayor William D. Nelson and City Manager Arthur J. Sciorra will accept the award on behalf of the city.

In recognition of his outstanding commitment of time and effort dedicated to Fort de la Présentation, Manley Nipe will be honored with the David Dickinson Award. Manley has been a long time supporter of the fort project and is a past president of the Fort Association.

**The dinner costs \$35.00 per person. Tickets are available from the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce, the Freight House Restaurant and members of the Fort Association Board.**