



# FORT DE LA PRÉSENTATION

## Outpost on the Oswegatchie

FALL 2011

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### **BREAKING NEWS**

The Canadian Friends of Fort de la Présentation (CFFLP) now have charity status from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Once the minor CRA-recommended changes are made to the group's constitution, the Canadian Friends should be ready to issue tax receipts to Canadian donors by early December 2011.

The CFFLP looks forward to building a Canadian membership to support Fort La Présentation Association projects. ◀

# Les Nouvelles du Fort

# The Fort News

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT SERVICES SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN FOR FORT DE LA PRÉSENTATION INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Community Investment Services Incorporated (CISI), a subsidiary of Community Bank, has provided a lead, financial institution gift of \$2,500 for the first phase of the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation.



Eric Brunet, CISI Vice President/Financial Consultant, holds a framed print of the Piquet Monument presented by Barbara O'Keefe, Fort Association President, as a token of thanks for CISI's donation.

CISI's contribution will help Fort La Présentation Association construct an Interpretive Center for the Lighthouse Point property in Ogdensburg which the group owns and is developing as a major heritage tourism site.

"CISI has watched this project grow from the dream of a few to gaining national recognition," said Eric Brunet, CISI Vice President/Financial Consultant. "We've provided a good deal of support through the years, and are pleased to now step forward with a capital contribution that will help Fort leaders build the first permanent structure on the project site."

Similar to the Service Group Challenge initiated by the Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club (see page 2), CISI is inviting financial institutions to join them in making a donation to this phase of the Fort project.

"We encourage other financial institutions to join in, and to match or top what we are giving," said Brunet. "By working together, we can create a year-round venue for events at the Fort's beautiful waterfront property and a first-class museum to showcase the significant history that unfolded right here in our backyard."

"We're grateful that CISI has chosen to make a capital gift to our Interpretive Center project as an extension of their long-time support of the Fort Association," said Association President Barbara O'Keefe. "Financial institutions joining them in support can pick from one of many individual naming opportunities, or support a group business challenge underway to raise \$50,000 for the administrative suite that will provide offices for the Ogdensburg Chamber as well as the Fort Association."

Campaign leaders will be contacting area financial institutions in the coming months to discuss the project and invite their support. ◀

## **OGDENSBURG KIWANIS CLUB MAKES FIRST \$5,000 INSTALLMENT**

Ogdensburg Kiwanians have donated their first \$5,000 of the club's three-year commitment of \$15,000 to the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation.

Kiwanians and fort members have a presentation for groups interested in learning more about the progress the Fort Association has made and about the plans for the Interpretive Center.

To schedule a presentation, accept the challenge or find out more, go to: [www.ogdensburgkiwanis.com](http://www.ogdensburgkiwanis.com). ◀

### **FOUNDER'S DAY WEEKEND 2011**

The July 27-28 weekend was hot, almost too hot, but the weather did not discourage the die-hard French and Indian War re-enactors nor the visitors dedicated to experiencing our history on the original site of Fort de la Présentation.

As important as the re-enactors and visitors are to Founder's Day Weekend on Lighthouse Point, the re-enactment and colonial trade fair would not have been a success without the financial and in-kind support from across the community

"I love the community spirit of Founder's Day Weekend – from being part of the Seaway Festival, the local and member sponsorships to help cover the \$15,000 budget, donations of in-kind support, the volunteers and the cooperation of every department of the City of Ogdensburg," said Barbara O'Keefe, President of the Fort La Présentation Association.

Visitors came from as far away as Florida and California. Apart from New York, they also came from all of the New England States, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Virginia. More came from Eastern Ontario than previous years; the same is true for West Quebec.

More than 100 admission discount coupons, made available in tourist publications, online and through radio promotions, were presented at the gate.

"We are very pleased by how far the positive visitor experience will be carried," said O'Keefe. "We also have a good reputation in the re-enactment community for being friendlier and better organized than some established sites."

The large number of re-enactors at last year's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Thousand Islands was not expected. Nonetheless, there was a good representation of 18<sup>th</sup>-century army, navy and Indian re-enactors from New York, Pennsylvania, New England, Ontario, and Quebec, and further afield, this year.

"The re-enactors are part of our community, providing suggestions, pitching in to help where needed, and giving lectures and heritage demonstrations, as well as creating the battle scenarios on land and water," said O'Keefe. "This active involvement contributes to them coming back year after year, where on the hottest days they can enjoy the refreshing breezes from Oswegatchie and St. Lawrence Rivers."

"The comments from re-enactors this year were positive, and we will continue to follow their recommendations to refine the event for their enjoyment and that of our visitors," said Tim Cryderman, Chair of the Founder's Day Weekend Planning Committee. "We look forward to them joining us at next year's re-enactment and colonial trade fair."

The planning committee will work to ensure Founder's Day Weekend July 21-22, 2012 continues the successes of the previous years. ◀

## **PUBLIC SPIRITED ZONTA DONATION**

The Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club has donated \$2,510 to the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation. We are grateful for the club's generosity.

The Ogdensburg club is a known supporter of local major fund-raising campaigns such as nursing home expansion and cancer center expansion. Zonta's local project support includes: the food pantry; the free lunch program; awards at a local elementary schools; scholarships for graduating seniors and non-traditional students; domestic violence agencies; medic alert programs; and more.

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. ◀

### **HOIST THE COLOURS CHALLENGE**

The Hoist the Colours Challenge was presented to the French and Indian War re-enactors at Founder's Day Weekend.

They have led the way for the people of our region to discover our history and rallied to bring history to life on Lighthouse Point, first commemorating the War of 1812 and later the French and Indian War.

Now we have dared ask more of them.

The challenge is to have the re-enacting community raise \$50,000 for the Interpretive Center. We are not soliciting donations from their coffers nor have we recommended how they should proceed. We have suggested, should they take up the challenge, to decide among themselves how funds can be raised.

When their financial goal is met, we plan to dedicate to re-enactors a Heritage Garden and Flagpole Court at the entrance of the Interpretive Center.

We look forward to the day when we can hoist the colours of the people and nations that lived in and around the fort from 1749 to 1813. ◀

### **HONORING ROBIN MORRIS**

The Fort La Présentation Association is dedicating to Robin Morris a vandal and weather-resistant bench, which will overlook the St. Lawrence from Lighthouse Point.

More than 25 years ago, Robin became the driving force behind re-enacting the War of 1812 in Eastern Ontario. In fact it was Robin who initiated the "invasion" of Ogdensburg by the Canadian Fencibles one snowy February in the mid-1980s when there were no Forsyth's Rifles to defend the city.

The bench was Robin's idea in response to the Fort Association's interest in commemorating his significant contribution to re-enacting in Eastern Ontario and Northern New York. Robin, who is ill with COPD, requested the bench have a prime view of his beloved St. Lawrence River. The bench will feature a plaque highlighting Robin's active promotion of our common history.

Robin was a prime mover in the development of Loyalist Days' first years in Prescott, Ontario and more recently the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Chrysler's Farm at Upper Canada Village.

The \$2,500 raised for the bench came in donations from the Board of Directors of the Battle of Chrysler's Farm, the Canadian Fencibles, Forsyth's Rifles, a re-enactors' dinner, and from Paul Fortier, who donated his speaking honorarium from our 2011 War of 1812 Symposium. Paul, like Robin, was a founder of the re-enacted Canadian Fencibles. ◀

## FORT LA PRÉSENTATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FUND-RAISING DINNER HONORS DEDICATED SUPPORTERS

The Fort La Présentation Association is presenting a hat-trick of awards at its annual fundraising and awards dinner at the Gran-View Restaurant Friday, October 28.

Marijean Remington, chair of the association's fundraising committee, and Horst Dresler and Daniel Roy, long-time participants and advocates of Founder's Day Weekend, are the three honorees.

Ms. Remington will be presented the Persis Yates Boyesen Award for her outstanding contribution toward the historically accurate reconstruction and ongoing presence of Fort de la Présentation.

Mr. Dresler from Vermont and Mr. Roy from Quebec are to receive the David L. Dickinson Award for their outstanding commitment of time and effort dedicated to Fort de la Présentation.

"We are honoring these people for their enthusiastic, long-term faithfulness to the Fort de la Présentation project," said Barbara O'Keefe, President of the Fort Association. "Without the dedication of Ms. Remington, Mr. Dresler and Mr. Roy, we would not have had Lighthouse Point cleaned of petroleum contamination nor witnessed the growing success of Founder's Day Weekend."

Ms. Remington is the President, CEO and majority owner of Canton-based Atlantic Testing Laboratories (ATL). More than 10 years ago, the state was able to ensure the remediation the Fort Association's Lighthouse Point property thanks to ATL accurately tracing the spread of the subsurface pollution. Since her earliest involvement, Ms. Remington has been a keen supporter of the fort project.

Mr. Dresler and Mr. Roy are French and Indian War re-enactors who have brought their troops year after year to the Fort Association's July re-enactment and colonial trade fair. Although Mr. Dressler often commands the English forces, squaring off against the French commanded by Mr. Roy, their shared physical and moral support has contributed significantly to the development of Founder's Day Weekend.

Mr. Dresler heads the 110-member Quebec Historical Corp, which is involved in many events at historical sites, and providing demonstrations of 18<sup>th</sup>-century military and civilian life.

Mr. Roy, descended from a French marine who arrived in New France in 1720, portrays Captain Lacorne, the marine commander of the Compagnie de Lacorne.

"The Fort Association annual dinner is our major fundraising event with a silent auction and prize draws of goods and services donated by local businesses and individuals who back our efforts," said Mrs. O'Keefe. "The dinner also celebrates the commitment of every member of the Fort La Présentation Association for the success and progress of our activities: the Fort de la Présentation project; Founder's Day Weekend; the War of 1812 Symposium; Living History Day; and our annual dinner."

Dinner, at the Gran-View on Rte. 37, is at 6 p.m. The tickets at \$35 per person are the same price as last year. They are available from the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce and members of the Fort Association board of directors.

The menu is a historic cornucopia: Molly's Corn Chowder; Amherst's Salad with Pouchot's Dinner Rolls; Lorimier's Sirloin Tournadours or Oswegatchie Baked Stuffed Chicken or Forsyth's Cracker Crumb Haddock or Seven Fire's Vegetarian Dish; Tecumseh's Acorn Squash; Macdonnell's Red-Skinned Potatoes with Parsley Butter; Laura's Coffee or Tea; and Dolley's Apple Crisp. ◀

## THE ANNUAL DINNER MENU WHO'S WHO

These historic figures and events represent the "Four Flags" (France, the Iroquois Confederacy, England and the United States) associated with Fort de la Présentation and its successors, Forts Oswegatchie and Presentation, 1749-1813.

**Molly Brant** (c.1736 – 1796) was a prominent Mohawk woman in Canajoharie providing food and assistance to Loyalists fleeing New York. With the American invasion of Iroquoia in 1779, she joined Iroquois refugees at the British post on Carleton Island.

**General Jeffery Amherst**, (1717 – 1797) led an Anglo-American army down the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario and captured Montreal on September 8, 1760, ending French rule in North America.

**Captain Pierre Pouchot** (1712 – 1769) was the officer commanding at Fort Lévis in 1760. On August 21, he had fighting force of 316 to delay Amherst's 10,000-man army's descent of the St Lawrence.

**Claude-Nicolas-Guillaume de Lorimier** (1744 – 1825) and his large party of Indians were instrumental in May 1776 in securing the capture of Fort Cedars (Les Cédres, Quebec) from Continental soldiers by a company of the British 8th Regiment of Foot stationed at Fort Oswegatchie.

**The Treaty of Oswegatchie** has its roots in assurances given in February 1760 to the Iroquois from Oswegatchie, Kanesatake and Kahnawake by the Six Nations Iroquois that they would not take up arms against their Iroquois brethren in the final battles of the French and Indian War.

**Captain Benjamin Forsyth** (d.1814) from Stokes County, North Carolina, commanded a company of the U.S. First Rifle Regiment at Ogdensburg. Forsyth's Rifles withdrew to Sackets Harbor following the Battle of Ogdensburg February 22, 1813.

**The Seven Fires of Caughnawaga**, also known as the Seven Nations of Canada, was an Indian alliance organized by the French composed of the Iroquois missions on the St. Lawrence (Caughnawaga, Kanesatake, Oswegatchie, and St. Regis); the Abenaki at St. François and Bécancour; and the Huron at Lorette.

**Tecumseh** (1768 – 1813), a Shawnee chief, led the people of his Indian confederacy opposed to American encroachment into the west to join the British at Fort Malden. He was killed at the Battle of the Thames in October 1813 as the British withdrew toward Burlington Heights.

**Lieutenant Colonel George Macdonnell** (1780 – 1870), commonly known as Red George, commanded the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles and detachments of reinforcements in the successful attack from Prescott against the U.S. First Rifle Regiment in Ogdensburg February 22, 1813.

**Laura Secord** (1775 – 1868), born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is a Canadian heroine of the War of 1812 for trekking through forest and swamp to warn the British of a planned American attack.

**Dolley Madison** (1768 – 1849) was the wife of President James Madison. As the invading British approached Washington in August 1814, she ensured the safety of valuables from the Presidential Mansion, including Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington, and original drafts of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

To learn a little more about these people and events, you'll have to attend the annual dinner. ◀

**Fort La Présentation Association**  
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**FOURTH ANNUAL WAR OF 1812 SYMPOSIUM**  
**April 27-28, 2012**

We have begun planning the Fort Association's 2012 War of 1812 Symposium to be held at the Freight House Restaurant in Ogdensburg. As in previous years, Friday evening will be a meet-and-greet. The seminars and related activities are on Saturday, including dinner speaker Major John Grodzinski.

Seven of the eight speakers have confirmed their attendance; there will be eight presentations.

At this time our scheduled seminars are:

- 1) Research leading to the discover of Pike's Encampment on the Saranac River; Mr. Keith Herkalo;
- 2) The Archaeology confirming the location of Pike's Encampment, Mr. Tim Abel;
- 3) The Battle of Queenston Heights and the role of Fort George in the War of 1812, Mr. Ron Dale;
- 4) Teaching the War of 1812 as a civil war, Prof. Melissane Shrems;
- 5) Medical practices during the War of 1812, Greg Baran, MD;
- 6) The discovery, investigation and preservation of the schooners Hamilton and the Scourge, Nancy Binnie (TBC);
- 7) Abbé Piquet and the legacy of Indigenous/Mohawk alliances during the War of 1812, Prof. Scott Stevens; and
- 8) Planning for and Conducting of War in North America, 1808-1815, Major John Grodzinski.

Registration fees, biographies and seminar outlines will soon be available at [www.fort1749.org](http://www.fort1749.org) and distributed through our email network.

For information contact, [fort1749@yahoo.com](mailto:fort1749@yahoo.com).