



Les Nouvelles du Fort

The Fort News

Accomplishments and Initiatives

Winter 2009

Fort La Présentation
Association
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This newsletter is to inform and entertain, to provide an historical background to Fort de La Présentation and to keep our readers current with the activities of the Fort La Présentation Association.

We value your comments, questions and contributions. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us. We want to hear from you. Write to us at fortlapresentation@ymail.com.

The Fort La Présentation Association has challenges ahead in 2009. That said, we should look at our accomplishments and initiatives with pride. Some of these points were covered by Association President Barbara O'Keefe and Communications Chairman Michael Whittaker in their addresses at the annual dinner last October.

Most importantly, the Association owns 21 uncontaminated acres, free and clear, adjacent to the original fort site on Lighthouse Point.

To celebrate the successful eight-year struggle to remove the petroleum contamination the Board of Directors commissioned a one-time medal. At a Founder's Day Weekend ceremony last July, the decoration was presented to the re-enactors for keeping the vision alive during our lengthy campaign and the individuals who helped us achieve this goal.

With the cleanup of Lighthouse Point came the rediscovery of Fort de La Présentation under four feet of landfill. The archaeology by the NYS Museum bolsters our application to the National Register of Historic Places and provides opportunities for future research and funding.

On our clean site, we completed the topographical and land surveys necessary for the load-bearing-soil samples that are prerequisites to the construction of the Fort. Our planning and development committee continues to refine the Association's business plan. As we progress toward our construction goal, we have projected operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources to insure the project is viable.

The return of the Abbé Picquet Monument to Lighthouse Point will begin this year. Designs for some of the five interpretive plaques have been approved for the interpretation kiosk that will stand by the monument. In a related move, the Association has applied for a 2009 Recreational Trails Grant. If we are successful, a walking trail with interpretive signage will loop along the west side of Lighthouse Point and link to the Remington Museum via Ogdensburg's trail system.

May 2, we will inaugurate our first annual War of 1812 War College which we will host at the Freighthouse Restaurant. Experts and academics from New York and Ontario will present five seminars related to the war's impact our region. We will also become involved in War of 1812 bicentennial activities.

Plans are underway for the NYS French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration's final signature event in 2010 which we will host in conjunction with Founder's Day Weekend. We will memorialize the last major battle of the war at Fort de Lévis which was located on Chimney Island. As many as 2,000 re-enactors and 20,000 tourists are expected, based on attendance at previous signature events.

See Accomplishments, page 2

Accomplishments

We are advanced in professionally defining the Fort La Présentation Association brand. Our brand is our organization's personality, what we stand for and for what we are known by the public. Branding uses design and language to attract the right audience and gain their loyalty, differentiate us from other organizations, and establish and reinforce our reputation.

This work includes establishing a logo, colors, symbols and typefaces for our mailing label, correspondence, Power Point template, press kit folder, hardcopy and electronic newsletter templates and our website. We will also identify an effective, non-generic motto.

When this work is complete, we will institute a major fundraising campaign. The Board of Directors is confident we will have nearly \$2.5-million in our account once we begin the first phase of the fort's reconstruction, targeted for 2010. To move the fort project forward, we have already won commitments of almost \$500,000. We aim to achieve a further \$1-million. Given the nature of matching grants, we believe we can leverage this into another \$1-million.

By opening with the habitation Abbé Picquet first built at Fort de La Présentation, we can start attracting tourists to our part of St. Lawrence Valley. We will phase in the additional fort structures as financing permits, and we will go after that financing.

We have consulted leading historians, Canadian and French archives, and historic and tourist sites to develop projected figures and plans. Together with like-minded institutions and individuals, we can make Ogdensburg and the St. Lawrence Valley a tourist destination.

Cultural and heritage tourism is an increasingly important component of economic development. Improvements such as the trail, and interpretive elements, and the reconstruction of the Fort ultimately attract tourists, a very important segment of Ogdensburg's economy.

The Fort's projected direct economic impact to St. Lawrence County is more than \$4-million a year. Using the area's economic multiplier, the indirect impact is almost \$11-million.

Developing the Fort is not only about recreating and interpreting our multinational history. This is about community pride, quality of life, and economic development.

A donation to the Fort project is an investment in the future. ◀

250th Events in 2009

Old Fort Niagara

July 3-5, Old Fort Niagara hosts 2,000 re-enactors portraying British and French forces and Native American warriors. The recreation of the July 1748 siege is a signature event for 2009 according to the New York State French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commission. The event features battles, a night-time artillery bombardment, naval forces, artisans and camps of 18th-century soldiers.

In 1759, an Anglo-American army of 5,500 with as many as 1,000 Iroquois allies laid siege to Fort Niagara. After 19 days, the fort's walls were breached. July 25, the French surrendered the fort, giving Britain strategic control of the Great Lakes. For information, <https://oldfortniagara.org>.

Quebec City

July 30 to August 2, Quebec City marks the 250th anniversary of the 1759 Battle of the Plains of Abraham, and commemorates the 1760 Battle of Sainte-Foy. The battle re-enactments and associated activities will help visitors understand the historic importance of these engagements. Over the four-day event, as many as 3,000 re-enactors will bivouac in period camps on the Plains. A significant draw is the walled city; the only one in North America and steeped in the 18th century down to the cobblestone streets.

The Battle on the Plains of Abraham was the culmination of the three-month British siege of Quebec. This pivotal battle of the French and Indian War engendered events impacting the development of the United States and Canada. For information, www.quebec09.com.

Halifax

July 17-19, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Naval Dockyard will be celebrated and the Canadian Navy Centennial celebrations launched. Naval reenactors with two dozen long-boats, Royal Marines, a Royal Navy shore battery, the 40th Regiment and dockside characters are involved. About 70 tall ships will be in port as they race to Ireland.

The dockyard established in 1759 in an ideal inner bay. A fleet was unobservable from the Atlantic. The harbor witnessed the forces of General Wolfe and Admiral Saunders make for Quebec, General Howe's armada bound for New York rendezvous in 1776, War of 1812 flotillas sail to harass the American coast and convoys for Europe assemble during WWI and WWII. ◀

Quebec: A Jacobite* Reunion By Ron Holla

When day dawned outside the walls of Quebec City September 13, 1759 and the Marquis de Montcalm saw the thin red line of British troops arrayed in battle order on the Plains of Abraham, he witnessed a reunion of sorts.

Some of the actors in the drama to play out in the fall of Quebec City had met in battle 13 years before, April 16, 1746, on a lonely moor of Scottish heather called Culloden. Culloden, the last battle on mainland Britain, was the failed, final attempt of Charles Stuart, known to history as Bonnie Prince Charlie, to retake the throne of Great Britain for his father and family.

The combatants who were to fight again outside the walls of Quebec included a once-junior British officer, Major-General James Wolfe, commanding the British army ordered to capture Quebec, and the Chevalier de Johnstone, a former aide-de-camp to Bonnie Prince Charlie, now aide-de-camp to Montcalm.

In an 18th-century irony, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands, the Jacobites who had supported Bonnie Prince Charlie, were now fighting under the British flag against French forces led in part by the Chevalier de Johnstone. National loyalties during the 1700s were fluid.

The Scots and Irish opposing English domination often joined the French army. James Johnstone had a more personal reason to escape to France in 1746. He would have been a welcome addition to the traitors the British captured following their victory at Culloden.



General Wolfe may have also noted the irony of commanding troops raised from the clans he had faced at Culloden. And whose homes and farms he had burned in the terror campaign launched in the Scottish Highlands by his commander the Duke of Cumberland. He had learned the lessons of terror from Cumberland. During the siege of Quebec, Wolfe had his Rangers burn the farms and buildings of the Canadiens along the St. Lawrence River in the summer of 1759.

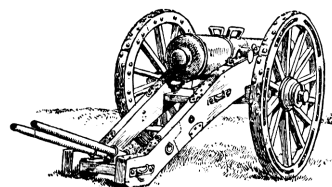
Perhaps the most ironic twist to the 1759 battlefield reunion was many of the clansmen, victimized by Wolfe and the British forces in 1746, answered the call of Colonel Simon Fraser to form the 78th Regiment, the Fraser Highlanders, under Warrant for George II.

A senior government official reportedly questioned Wolfe on his use of the Frasers because they had been rebels only 13 years before. Wolfe replied, "Once a Highlander gives his oath, he can be completely trusted."

Setting Highlanders, against the aide-de-camp of Bonnie Prince Charlie under whom these clansmen once served, exemplifies convoluted 18th-century politics.

*A Jacobite supported the claim to the British throne by the deposed James II and his son James, the Old Pretender. Bonnie Prince Charlie was the son of James. Pretender comes from the French word *pretendre* meaning *to claim*. ◀

Sources: Encyclopedia of Quebec
<http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/index>



Three Worthy Leaders

Canadian-born military officers synonymous with the history of New France came to La Présentation to entreat the warriors to join expeditions against British. Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry and François-Marie Picoté de Belestre are two leaders worthy of mention.

In March 1756, **Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry** led 360 Indians, Canadiens, and French on snowshoes from La Présentation to destroy Fort Bull, the British supply depot on the Oneida Carry.



The victory at Fort Bull gave Montcalm time to prepare for the capture of Fort Oswego in August 1756. At Oswego, Léry commanded the left flank of the Canadian and Indian advance party.

Léry became a cadet in the colonial regular troops when 12-years-old. In 1739-40, he took part in Pierre-Joseph Céloron de Blainville's expedition against the Chickasaws in Louisiana. In August 1746 he joined the raid to capture Fort Massachusetts. In October 1747, he led 50 Indians and French soldiers on a ranging raid into New England.

As was his father and grandfather, Léry was a military engineer. Although his work on Fort Saint-Frédéric in 1748 was criticized, he was sent to map the Chignecto Isthmus in Acadia and build stockade forts in 1750-51. After taking dispatches to France, he traveled the territory from Forts Niagara and Detroit to Fort Duquesne building fortifications between 1753 and 1756.

He was promoted captain in 1757 and that summer he oversaw improvements to the fortifications of Quebec. In July 1758, he accompanied Paul-Joseph Le Moyne de Longueuil to secure the support of the Six Nations Confederacy. Léry was presented the cross of Saint-Louis in January 1759.

At Plains of Abraham in September 1759 he was wounded and confined by the British in the Hôpital Général. Following a brief sojourn in France, he returned to Quebec in 1764. Under the British Governor, General Sir Guy Carleton, he served on the Legislative Council and Executive Council of Quebec.

Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry was buried 14 December 1797 in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Quebec City, the city where he was born 20 July, 1721.

François-Marie Picoté de Belestre, following his participation in the siege of Fort William Henry in August 1757, terrorized the north bank of the Mohawk River at German Flats with militia and warriors from La Présentation. The two-month autumn expedition counted 40 dead and 150 prisoners among the German colonists in New York.

Belestre was a newlywed in 1739 when he joined the Chickasaw campaign. Seven years later from June to October 1746, Ensign Belestre fought in Acadia, and in 1747 traveled to the *pays d'en haut* with Chevalier de La Corne to invite the Indians to Montreal. His popularity with them contributed to his appointment as commandant at Fort Saint-Joseph (Niles, Mich.), the following August.

Early in 1756, Belestre with Shawnees and Miamis took 300 prisoners when they burned and looted a Carolina village.

Until the final British victory in 1760, Belestre, along with his military responsibilities, operated a fur-trading business as was common for French officers. As the last commandant, he handed Fort Detroit to Robert Rogers in November 1760 following the capitulation of New France. He was sent to Europe and did not return to Canada before 1764.



When Fort Saint-Jean on the Richelieu River was threatened by American forces in 1775, 100 Canadian volunteers went to the defense; Belestre was one. Following a 45-day siege, the defenders surrendered November 2. Belestre was taken prisoner and paroled a year later. In 1790 he was awarded the provincial rank of lieutenant-colonel in recognition of his services during the American invasion.

At the age of 76 François-Marie Picoté de Belestre died, 30 March, 1793. ◀

Source:
Dictionary of Canadian Biography online
<http://www.biographi.ca/>

Three Remarkable Women

In New France, three women stand out for their commitment to the health, welfare and education of the community. Their lives spanned the length of the French Regime. Their contributions live on.



Jeanne Mance (1606-1673), born in Langres, France, founded and managed Montreal's (Ville-Marie) Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, the first hospital in the New World, until her death in 1673. During the Thirty Years' War, she acquired nursing skills tending the wounded. Her faith moved to serve in the New France.

She was co-founder of Ville-Marie (Montreal) with Maisonneuve. Mance never took vows. Nonetheless, the hospital was staffed nuns of *Les Religieuses Hospitalières de Saint-Joseph*. Founded in 1642, Hôtel-Dieu Hospital is the oldest in North America.



Marguerite Bourgeoys, born in Troyes, France in 1620, founded the Congrégation de Notre-Dame de Montréal. In Troyes she joined a congregation of teachers associated with a convent directed by the sister of Governor Maisonneuve of Ville-Marie. She sailed for Canada in 1653 and in 1658 opened a girls' school in a stable on the Island of Montréal.

Bourgeoys recruited young French and Canadian women to be teachers, organized a girls' boarding school in Montreal, a school for native girls at the Sulpician reserve at La Montagne. Her acolytes were soon teaching in rural parishes, and in Québec City founded a domestic arts school and a primary school.



Marie-Marguerite d'Youville, born in Canada, was educated by the Ursuline Sisters of Québec, and in 1722 married François d'Youville of Montréal, who died in 1730. She had a moving religious experience in 1727, withdrew from society, but raised two children and continued the family business.

In 1737, she and three companions dedicated their lives to the poor. They assumed the administration of the Hôpital Général (then a hostel for destitute men) and its large debt in 1747. They restored the buildings. Their hospice served veterans, the elderly, orphans, the mentally ill and more. They retired their debt by sewing anything required, selling building materials and managing a cartage business. In 1755, the women were recognized as the Sisters of Charity of the Hôpital Général, the Grey Nuns. Marie-Marguerite d'Youville, died in 1771. ◀

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online
<http://www.biographi.ca/>

First French Settlement

The first French attempt to form a settlement in New York was Sainte-Marie-de-Ganentaa in Onondaga territory. Six Jesuits and 50 workmen began construction of a residence July 17, 1656. Their mission was to resemble the fortified Sainte-Marie-Among-The-Hurons on the southeastern shore of Georgian Bay that the Jesuits abandoned and burned seven years earlier during a Mohawk invasion. Ultimately, the missionaries at Ganentaa learned they had been lured there to be massacred along with their converts. March 20, 1658, the fathers and workmen successfully slipped away and arrived in Quebec a month later. ◀

Trade Silver

In North America, trade silver originated in the 1500s when European seamen exchanged personal effects such as brooches, pins or crosses for pelts with the First Nations.

France and England gave silver to the Indians as a means of ensuring alliances and loyalty. Cardinal Richelieu had silver medallions crafted in 1631 as gifts to the First Nations located in French-claimed territories. Louis XV presented silver to native leaders through his colonial administrators.

Purposely trading silver began around 1750 with the jewelry coming from European silversmiths. This fabrication later moved to Quebec City and Montreal, also Detroit, New York and Philadelphia. The First Nations had a preference for high-grade silver, hence trade items were often formed from coin silver.

Gorget, pendants, brooches, earrings, noserings and rings were popular with northeastern tribes as components of a warrior's costume.

They were often fashioned as clan-related or totemic animal shapes such as the beaver and turtle familiar to First Nations. However, the dragonfly was commonly identified in native communities with the "Croix de Lorraine" or the "Cross of Lorraine." Crowned hearts and Masonic images were also accepted as cultural icons.

The great demand for silver trade-jewellery had Montreal silversmiths producing pieces between 1780 and 1820. Many of these items were hallmarked by Robert Cruickshank, Charles Arnoldi and Pierre Hugué dit Latour.

The Hudson's Bay Company began trading silver in 1796 when its Montreal competitor, the North West Company, was dominating the fur trade. In 1821, on merging with the North West Company, the HBC removed trade silver from its trade goods. ◀

Sources:

The Hudson's Bay Company,
<http://www.hbc.com/hbcheritage/>

The Bank of Canada,
<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/review/>



**An 18th-century gorget
marked with a beaver**

Founder's Day Weekend

You read the title and thought the weekend is a long way off, but you'd be surprised how quickly the next months will fly by for the Founder's Day Weekend Committee.

Planning for the 2009 weekend started before last event finished.

The re-enactment and colonial trade fair have grown into a significant event over the past decade. We've added to the schedule at the request of our visitors. We've added children's activities, heritage trades and crafts, guest speakers, more displays and separated the water and land battles.

The numbers of participants and visitors have increased.

Tim Cryderman who chairs the committee has got the organization of the weekend down to a fine art. That does not mean, we don't need help.

More hands sharing the load would reduce the responsibilities and burden for everyone. There are many individual tasks that amount to a great load overall. A new volunteer to take on one task would be a great relief.

There are many small arrangements to be made before the event: water; power; portable toilets; signage; dumpsters; promotion; fire wood; straw; ice; and more.

During the weekend, varying tasks begin with registrations. Participants will be looking for information. Errands will need to be run and trash bins to be emptied. And there is the post-event clean up. There are a number of mundane issues and jobs that arise that can be accomplished by volunteers.

We have volunteers come from Ottawa and Lake George because they believe in the benefits of Founder's Day Weekend to the community.

We are seriously looking for more volunteers this year.

In 2010, we will need even more. The Fort La Présentation Association is hosting the final New York State 250th anniversary commemoration of the French and Indian War.

Assisting this year and next will be an opportunity to help make Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County a destination in the eyes of tourists and re-enactors.

No effort will be considered too small. Donations will also be accepted.

Please e-mail fortlapresentation@ymail.com or call the fort association at 315-394-1749.

We'll be very thankful.

War of 1812 War College

The Fort La Présentation Association is sponsoring a War of 1812 War College Saturday, May 2, 2009.

The day-long series of five seminars will examine aspects of the war on the upper St. Lawrence River, eastern Lake Ontario, Sackets Harbor and Ogdensburg.

Speakers from Ontario and New York will present on British strategy, naval operations on Lake Ontario, the archaeology of the war, life of the American soldier and the war in Ogdensburg.

There will be displays on 1812 Marines, 1812 archaeology, and by the Fort La Présentation Association. The Excelsior Cornet Band will play early 18th-century music during a midday concert.

The cost of \$55 includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The speakers are Dr. Timothy Abel of the Jefferson County Historical Society; Dr. Gary Gibson of the Sackets Harbor Historical Alliance; Major John Grodzinski of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario; Mr. Donald Graves, historian, author and heritage consultant, from Carleton Place, Ontario; and Mr. James Regan, Managing Editor of the Ogdensburg Journal.

The war college will be held at the Freighthouse Restaurant in Ogdensburg.

For more information call 315-394-1749 or go to www.fortlapresentation.net. ◀

Schedule

- 0700- ----- Exhibitors set up
- 0800- ----- Doors Open for Public,
Continental Breakfast,
Meet and Greet
- 0900 ----- Greetings - Opening Remarks,
Mr. Douglas Cubbison
- 0915 ----- Keynote Address,
Major John R. Grodzinski
- 1015 ----- War of 1812 Archaeology,
Dr. Tim Abel
- 1115 ----- War of 1812 on Lake Ontario,
Dr. Gary Gibson
- 1215 ----- Buffet Lunch
- 1245 ----- Music of War of 1812,
Excelsior Cornet Band
- 1345 ----- Forgotten Soldiers,
Mr. Donald Graves
- 1345 ----- Optional Visit to Remington
Museum, Ogdensburg
- 1445 ----- War in Ogdensburg,
Mr. James Regan
- 1545 ----- Tour of Ogdensburg Battlefield,
Mr. James Regan
- 1745 ----- Evaluation - Closing Remarks,
Mr. Douglas Cubbison
- 1800 ----- Sit Down Supper (no program)
- 1900 ----- Adjournment

Seminar Registration First Annual War of 1812 Seminar

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending: _____ Cost: \$55 per person payable in US dollars

Fort La Présentation Association Members, \$50 per person. Canadians please pay in US funds with international money orders.

Please send check or money order to: Fort Présentation Association,
Attn. War of 1812 Seminar, Box 1729, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

St. Catherine's Taffy A Traditional Treat in French Canada

St. Catherine is the patron of unmarried women. Her feast day is November 25.

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) molasses
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) corn syrup
- 250 ml (1 cup) brown sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) white sugar
- 65 ml (1/4 cup) butter
- 1 tbsp. white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/8 tsp. baking soda

Method

Place the molasses, corn syrup, brown sugar, white sugar, vinegar, cream of tartar and half the butter in a pot.

Bring to a boil over low heat until the mixture reaches 140° C (260° F).

Stir 5 to 10 minutes. The mixture has to reach the

the "ball" stage, meaning it's ready when you drop a little of it into a small bowl of cold water and it forms a ball.

Mix in the baking soda.

Pour into buttered dishes and let cool slightly until you can pick the taffy up without burning your hands.

Butter your hands well and begin pulling: pull, fold in half, and repeat the process until the taffy is pale golden, and almost white. If it sticks to your hands, put a little more butter on them.

Pull one last time and twist up tightly in small lengths. Cut into pieces with scissors, place on a buttered plate or wrap in waxed paper.

Marguerite Bourgeois is said to have made taffy to attract the attention of her pupils. Her first school was opened Nov. 25, 1658. In Quebec, St. Catherine's day is known as "taffy day." Young women traditionally made taffy for eligible young men.

The sweets became known as kisses. ◀

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