

Black Powder Biathlon Fundraiser for Fort de La Présentation

OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK , January 28, 2012 – Boomers who grew up watching the Walt Disney Show on Sunday evenings are familiar with Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. When these American folk heroes sighted a target, it was going down. Here's an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to see how they stack up against the legends.

The St. Lawrence Valley Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon, organized by the Fort La Présentation Association and Forsyth's Rifles and hosted by the Massena Rod & Gun Club, is March 3-4, 2012.

"In our primitive biathlon, competitors on snowshoes run or walk a measured course," said Fred Hanss, an event organizer. "They must load and fire two shots from a muzzle-loading firearm at five targets set at well-spaced stations and throw an axe at the sixth station."

Two of the three classes reflect the organizers' mission to educate the public about the colonial and early American history of the St. Lawrence River Valley. In the first two classes, competitors using smoothbore muskets or rifles (flintlock or caplock) must cover the course on wooden snowshoes. In the third category, participants with in-line rifles may wear wooden or modern snowshoes.

The advance registration fee is \$20. Registration on the day of the event is \$25. After paying the initial registration fee, a re-entry fee of \$5.00 will be charged each time that a participant runs the course.

Within the competitive classes, there are men's, ladies', and youth divisions. Awards will be presented to the top three participants in each division at a ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

"To add to the fun, a blanket shoot will be held and door prizes will be available Saturday and Sunday," Mr. Hanss said. "Net proceeds from the primitive biathlon will go to the Fort La Présentation Association for the construction of an Interpretive Center and the reconstruction of historic Fort de la Présentation on Ogdensburg's Lighthouse Point."

Participants are encouraged to wear historic clothes covering 1750 to 1812 because Fort de la Présentation was one of a handful of French colonial forts in New York State. Forsyth's Rifles from Ogdensburg re-enacts a U.S. Army regiment posted in Northern New York during the War of 1812. From the French and Indian War period, they portray a unit of French marines.

The Fort La Présentation Association appreciates the support of its Ontario neighbors who participate in the association's annual War of 1812 symposium in April and attend the July Founder's Day Weekend commemorating the French and Indian War. Forsyth's Rifles host the annual War of 1812 Battle of Ogdensburg re-enactment in February.

More information is online at www.fort749.org.