

Dine with Re-enactors and Help Support Our History

OGDENSBURG, NY March 27, 2012 — If you have wanted to sit down with some of the re-enactors who bring history to life in Ogdensburg at the Battle of Ogdensburg in February or July's Founders Day Weekend, there is an opportunity.

The Canadian Friends of Fort de La Présentation are hosting a \$30-a-plate dinner for re-enactors and friends at the Freight House Restaurant, Saturday, April 7 as a fundraiser for the Fort La Présentation Association's War of 1812 lectures.

The War of 1812 lectures, April 27-28, feature eight expert speakers — four from Canada and four from the United States. They have talks on strategy, battles and battlefield surgery, sunken schooners, Indian alliances, archaeology and the challenges of teaching about the war.

From the \$30, \$8 goes to the 1812 lectures. The balance covers the a-la-carte menu from salad to dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. The tip is also included.

"I have hosted a dinner for re-enactors and friends for more than 10 years as a gathering, not only for people those interested in history, but for those committed to preserving our heritage," said Michael Whittaker, President of the Canadian Friends of Fort de La Présentation. "I believe it is important that those of us spout about history being worth remembering to put our money where our mouth is."

In 2011, money raised helped purchase a commemorative park bench to honor Mr. Robin Morris of Morrisburg, Ontario, who introduced War of 1812 re-enacting to Northern New York and Eastern Ontario. The vandal-resistant bench will be installed to overlook the St. Lawrence from Lighthouse Point this year.

More than 25 years ago, before there was an annual winter Battle of Ogdensburg, Mr. Morris led the re-enacted Regiment of Canadian Fencible Infantry to make a show of redcoats on the Ogdensburg waterfront. This February invasion of Ogdensburg spurred the creation of Forsyth's Rifles and inspired the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Ogdensburg

"The dinner has helped build relationships between individuals and groups that believe in creatively commemorating the history shared by both sides of the St. Lawrence River," said Mr. Whittaker. "Events like this help open the border to the flow of people and ideas that help cement the friendship and understanding between Northern New York and Eastern Ontario."

Those who want to attend the fundraising dinner should make a reservation by calling the Freight House Restaurant at 939-9088 by noon Wednesday, April 4.

The dinner has previously patronized restaurants in Prescott, Merrickville and Oxford Mills, Ontario.

- 30 -

For more information, media may contact:

Michael Whittaker

President, Canadian Friends of Fort de La Présentation

613-773-1543

For more information visit www.fort1749 and www.cfflp.ca.