

## **Ogdensburg Community Gardening Project Links to History of Lighthouse Point**

**OGDENSBURG, NY MARCH 29, 2012** -- The Ogdensburg Community Gardening Project, returning vegetable gardens to Lighthouse Point, harkens back to the founding of Fort de La Présentation in 1749 when Abbé Picquet's small party of French Canadians and Iroquois allies arrived at the mouth of the Oswegatchie River.

The three sisters, corn, squash and beans, - a mainstay of the aboriginal diet - had become a major part of settlers' meals since the arrival of the French in Canada in 1608 and were without a doubt grown near the fort. Old maps show large fields on the shore and islands of the St. Lawrence where the Iroquois grew their traditional crops.

"As much as we look forward to seeing these traditional vegetables sprout along with many others in the new gardens, the re-enactors at Founder's Day Weekend in July will be pleasantly surprised to see crops once again on Lighthouse Point," said Barbara O'Keefe, President of the Fort La Présentation Association. "In the tradition of foods uniting people, the plots will put gardeners in touch with the source of their food and strengthen the sense of community."

The Fort Association is providing the land and is not involved in the management of the Ogdensburg Community Gardening Project.

According to Mrs. O'Keefe, the community cooperation that created and will sustain the community gardening project is identical to the unified effort necessary to build Fort de La Présentation on Lighthouse Point.

Fort La Présentation Association is pleased to share in this green initiative with the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce, the Ogdensburg Rotary Club, the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club, and the St. Lawrence Health Initiative.

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