



Fort La Présentation
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New Logo and Tagline

The Fort La Présentation Association Board has adopted a new logo. The Fort design at the top left of this page is based on the Fort as modeled by Jim Boyle. The tagline, *Where History Comes To Life*, expresses the vision which the public will associate with Fort La Présentation.

Name Change

Readers may noticed the newsletter name change from *Le Courier Frontière* to *Le Courier de la Frontière* to reflect correct French. The name means "frontier messenger."

**Photos courtesy of
Bob Downey**

Founders Day Weekend 2007

The 2007 Founders Day Weekend was the most successful with military, navy, civilian and native re-enactors and demonstrators coming from Quebec, Ontario, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New Jersey.

The bateau race, new this year, was well received by the reenactors and the public. Assemblyman Darrel Aubertine kicked off the race by firing an artillery piece. The *General Arnold* under Scott Padeni of Balston Spa, NY won the Fort La Présentation Commemorative Bateau Race trophy. The names of the crew and boat will be engraved on the trophy donated by Carvel Ace Hardware.

The fur trade demonstration was again popular and narrated by Rick Salazar. Hide tanning was shown, and there was a display of early medical instruments, a gunsmith, blacksmith and other interesting presentations.

The children's muster attracted recruits keen to drill with wooden muskets. NCOs from Les Marines de La Présentation instructed them in forming a line and firing muskets.

New to the battle scenario was the taking of British military captives by the Indians allied with the French. They were released unscathed. The public enjoyed their view of the battle. The reenactors were close to the spectators. Robin Morris narrated the battle with his informed commentary.

Eight boats scrummed in the water battle. The sailors had a good time, but

they were out sight for most of the public because the water skirmish took place the same time as the land battle. This will be corrected next year.

A shadow box with six signature-event medals with a print of "Le Canon Rouge" by Stephen Chambers of Ogdensburg was a thank-you gift for Senator Wright on behalf of the 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commission for the French and Indian War and the Fort La Présentation Association.

A visitors' exit survey conducted in an effort to improve future Founder's Day Weekends revealed many things. We are on the right track, but have some improvements to make. Among other things, 90 percent of those polled rated the event excellent or very good, with people showing the most interest in the battles and in the heritage trades. There is a summary of findings on page 6.

For a glimpse of Founder's Day 2007, see pages 3 and 4. For online photographs visit our Web site www.fortlapresentation.net. Canada's Army News spent Saturday at Founder's Day on land and on the water. Check www.army.forces.gc.ca/LF/English/6_1.asp

The voluntary efforts of many individuals and organizations made Founder's Day Weekend successful. Their work is much appreciated. They deserve more thanks than we can give. Thank you very much!

Lighthouse Point Cleanup Report

Department of Environmental Conservation

Cleanup on Lighthouse Point by Nature's Way Environmental Consulting and Contracting began in late September 2006 and after a few months' winter break resumed in May 2007. Crews worked until July 19 when they temporarily suspended cleanup for Founder's Day Weekend. During this phase, 63,465 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil were removed from the Fort La Présentation and ExxonMobil properties - the majority removed from the Fort property. All contaminated soil was trucked to two regional solid-waste landfills; the Development Authority of the North Country in Jefferson County and the Franklin County Solid Waste Authority.

The eastern-portion cleanup of the Fort property has been completed. Laboratory test of soil samples were reviewed for constituents which might warrant additional excavation. Confirmation test pits were dug at selected locations. No field indicators of petroleum contamination (odor, staining, or measurable organic vapors) were detected. Remediation was judged complete, and the site was top dressed and seeded. The amount of soil removed was 8,016 tons.

By July 19 cleanup was almost complete on western portions of the Fort property bordering the ExxonMobil property. The only known petroleum contamination remains beneath the pavement of the Albany Avenue entrance, extending eastward in a less-than-10-foot-wide strip for approximately 67 feet along the City of Ogdensburg combined sanitary/storm sewer. On the north side, the contractor has excavated contaminated soil to within five feet of the sewer. Test pits on the sewer's south side revealed no petroleum contamination. Remediation of this area is on hold pending consideration of remedial options and discussions with the City regarding possible sewer replacement. In order to preserve the paved entrance for truck traffic, these areas will likely be addressed in the project's final stages.

Preliminary test results on confirmation soil samples obtained in June 2007 from the western portion of the Fort property have been received from the laboratory, and are being reviewed to determine

areas warranting follow-up measures. Test pits will be dug at selected locations to spot-check lab results. The area will be restored upon confirmation that no areas warranting additional excavation remain.

The NYS Museum recently conducted an initial archaeological study on the Duffy property, the site of the 18th-century Fort La Présentation. The field study is headed by Ogdensburg-native Aaron Gore, an archaeologist at the NYS Museum. The study will identify constraints to be placed on the cleanup due to archaeologically significant features or artifacts. The initial work with ground-penetrating radar (GPR) by geologist Andrew Kozlowski of the NYS Museum helped locate the original-fort footprint.

Subsurface features revealed by the GPR study will be the basis for locating trenches targeting the 18th-century-soil horizon buried beneath two to five feet of 19th- and 20th-century fill. When the NYS Museum study results are available, a cleanup plan for the Duffy property will be developed according to the constraints identified by the archaeological

Fort La Présentation Association Annual Dinner

The October 26 annual dinner at the Gran View Restaurant is our fundraiser.

Silent Auction

Many items and services up for bid

Special Presentations

Volunteer of the Year
The Persis Yates Boyesen Award

Father LaValley will give the blessing.
Marijean Remington will emcee.

For information contact Marsha Hough:
(315) 393-3201 or cme@twcnv.rr.com

Founder's Day Weekend 2007 Photos



Registration



How wet it was on Friday



Canada's Army News in the French camp



Fun for the whole family



Bateaux under way for the battle



Native allies assembled before the land battle

Founder's Day Weekend 2007

Photos



The chaos of battle



The French colors and musicians



British colonial troops captured



A section of the navy camp



The bateau race winners with Darrel Aubertine



And a toast to all who came to play

The Militia of New France: La Milice canadienne

As a way point on the route to the interior of North America, Fort La Présentation hosted the leaders of New France, unnamed soldiers and bush-ranging militia.

The tradition of the militia of New France trekking off on wilderness expeditions began in the early decades of the colony.

The rivalry amongst the militias of the various parishes and the towns of Montreal, Quebec and Trois Rivières was embellished by their adventures and engendered an esprit de corps. Those from Montreal, perhaps because they were on the edge of the wilderness and closest to the marauding Iroquois, acquired a reputation for living on the land and fighting like their native foes.

Between 1694 and 1706, the militiamen who accompanied d'Iberville on expeditions against the Hudson's Bay Company, Newfoundland, and Cuba, supplied their own muskets, powder horns and clothing. They expected plunder.

However, during Frontenac's second tenure as governor, which began in 1689, the militia had no chance for booty during the campaigns against the Iroquois. In lieu of pay, Frontenac had distributed to each man a capote, breechcloth, leggings, two shirts, moccasins, a blanket and a knife. They were expected to furnish their own arms.

As early as 1684, some muskets were distributed to the militia, but six decades later about 30 percent of the men mustering for duty claimed to have no firearms. Of course, by the mid-18th century, some townsmen had no need for a musket. Nonetheless, colonial officials seemed to turn a blind eye to men hiding an old musket in order to receive a new one or having traded a musket for furs. But what commander would begrudge his usually excellent marksmen the opportunity to carry new .56 calibre Tulle hunting muskets?

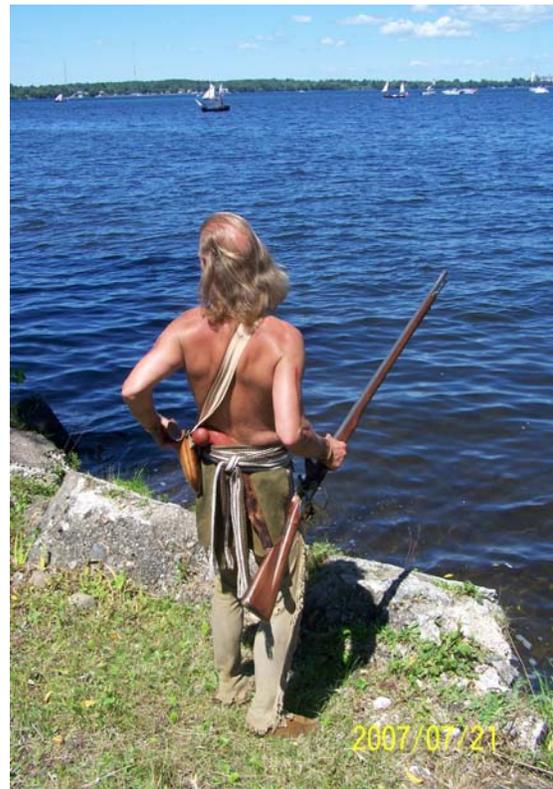
These men were guerrilla fighters for whom set-piece battles were not their stock-in-trade. They

preferred the ambush. They were unfamiliar with European drill. Their preference was to blind-side their enemy, fire a volley, and charge with tomahawks. They also carried three knives: one at the waist, another by the leggings and one around the neck by a cord.

The militia of New France were tough, confident and conducted raids in all seasons. They were not always successful; their efforts often beat them down physically; and once home, their recovery could be slow. Nonetheless, none may have failed as badly or suffered as much as Roger's Rangers' ill-fated raid on St-François.

Source:

Canadian Military Heritage Gateway;
www.cmhg.gc.ca. Volume I, Chapter 5,
The Compagnies Franches de la Marine of Canada



Founder's Day Weekend Visitor Survey

The seventh annual Founder's Day Weekend July 21-22 went off without a hitch, and because the Fort Association wants to continually improve the event, a professionally administered exit survey was conducted at the main gate.

Visitors completed 274 questionnaires. According to Harry Needham, who devised and analyzed the survey, a sample of this size is accurate to a margin of error of ± 5 or 6 percent 19 times out of 20. Mr. Needham, who for many years conducted surveys for the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa said, "While this is a significant margin of error, the data trends are so strong that I believe it can generally be disregarded."

The survey indicated Founder's Day visitors came largely from St. Lawrence County, with significant numbers from elsewhere in New York State, other states and Ontario. All ages were represented, but were concentrated in those age groups with children. Therefore, they visited in small family groups. Visitors learned of the event primarily from newspapers and word of mouth. They tended to be history/museum buffs, stayed for at least an hour and were generally very satisfied with their visit.

The visitors enjoyed the naval and military aspects, but were less enthusiastic about the sutlers (period merchants) and the display on the proposed Fort. They were not enthusiastic regarding the USMCR canteen.

With respect to the new fort, they wanted emphasis placed on the buildings, furnishings and equipment, exhibits, educational programs and activities, further re-enactments and a period Iroquois village.

Based on the survey, Mr. Needham recommended the general pattern of the event be maintained and advertising be concentrated in newspapers, radio and TV, particularly to attract visitors from elsewhere in New York State and central Canada. This promotion would increase awareness not only of Founder's Day, but also of the Fort Association.

Offering group rates and special activities for families, especially children, is important to help hold visitors on site. Installation of signs directing

them to the different areas and activities is also important to their satisfaction. Likewise, the naval component has to become more visible and related activities more interesting.

In regard to overall visitor satisfaction, more effectively advertised timings for the naval and land battles will help people plan their visits. The timing and sequence of other activities should be considered in light of visitor interests, and more, easily located historic trades people would be an asset.

The Fort Association and the Founder's Day Committee are acting on Mr. Needham's recommendations.

The detailed survey results and recommendations can be found on the Fort La Présentation Web site at www.fortlapresentation.net.

Amherst Flotilla 2010

The Colonial Sailor Program of the Canadian Navy plans to sponsor the 250th-anniversary re-enactment of the 1760 Amherst Flotilla when British forces descended the St. Lawrence River in the final major campaign of the French and Indian War.

Longboats, whaleboats and bateaux will be offered attractive contracts to undertake the voyage. Crews will wear period-correct clothes and encamp in 18th-century style. The Flotilla will commence at Kingston, Ontario and voyage a history-rich course through the hidden channels and passages of the Thousand Islands.

The Amherst Flotilla will likely shove off July 10, 2010 and put in at Founder's Day Weekend Saturday, July 17, 2010 as part of the final French and Indian War 250th-Anniversary Commemoration in New York at the Fort site.

Flotilla Commander will be Mark Pergunas of the Thousand Islands River Heritage Society, an experienced riverman and capable longboat commander.

Captain (N) Victor Suthren CD, a former member of the Fort La Présentation Board is Project Head of the Colonial Sailor Program, an element of the Canadian Naval Centennial Project, 1910-2010.

One Bateau, Two Bateaux

Bateaux are becoming an increasingly important feature of historical interpretation at Founder's Day Weekend. Therefore, these historic craft should have a few words of description.

In the days before trains, planes, buses and transport trucks, bateaux were the way for armies and civilians traveled distances in the unsettled interior of North America. They were the workhorses of transportation carrying goods along the waterways. Pointed at both ends and flat bottomed, they had a fish-like shape with fuller bows and slender sterns.

A bateau was usually built of white oak framing and white pine planking. Some river bateaux had oak bottoms for durability against rocks. These flat-bottomed planks were butted edge to edge with cross cleats inside and the seams caulked.

Oak frames were either grown or sawn. The former was part of naturally curved branches or roots. When there was not enough curve, two pieces of oak were assembled with an overlapping joint with one piece joined to the bottom and the other to the side. Sides were built by overlapping planks, called lapstrake or clinker-built, or similar to the bottom construction with butted and caulked planks.

The smaller bateau, sometimes called an Albany bateau, was about 24 feet long. The larger bateau, or a Schenectady bateau, constructed for use on the Mohawk River and the Great Lakes, may have been as long as 45 feet. Bateaux were rowed; sometimes sailed in open water; and often poled in shallow stretches. An additional oar was used as a rudder for steering.

Although these craft were craft of many lengths, they were often armed with a swivel gun in the bow.

Before, during and after the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812, thousands of bateaux traveled the rivers and lakes of North America.

Sources:

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum,
www.lcmm.org/our_fleet/perseverance.htm
New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Centre, www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/articles/bateau.htm



The Wooden Bateau of the Fur Traders



A Schenectady Bateau at Founder's Day Weekend

FORT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Fort La Présentation Association launched its first annual membership drive in Ogdensburg the week of August 27, 2007.

Every household received an update on the Fort project and an invitation to join the Fort Association.

“The time has come to build on the Fort Association’s base of 100 members who have been early supporters of the project,” said Association president Barb O’Keefe. “Now that the reconstruction effort is gaining momentum, we are inviting the community-at-large to come forward and join.”

For 2010, Fort La Présentation has been officially designated by the New York State Legislature as the host site of the final event in the 250th Anniversary Commemoration of the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

The official designation is a measure of the state’s confidence in the Fort Association and of the importance of the Fort in New York history. But, Ogdensburg is the only community in the commemoration plans without an operational historic site.

“The commemoration is going to put an international spotlight on Ogdensburg and it is vital that the community help complete the Fort by July 2010,” O’Keefe said. “Legislative funding and support has come from federal and state officials, including Congressman McHugh, Senator Wright, and Assembly members Aubertine and Scozzafava.”

“Most importantly, we have succeeded in getting ExxonMobil to take responsibility for cleaning the site of petroleum contamination and reimburse the Association for related legal and engineering costs,” O’Keefe continued

There are challenges ahead, but the land and professional expertise needed to reconstruct the Fort has been obtained. A conceptual site plan is in place, and copies of original drawings of the Fort have been secured from Canada and France as guides its reconstruction. A project budget and timetable have been developed.

Fort La Présentation will be rebuilt on a 22-acre site at Lighthouse Point adjacent to the original Fort site.

For more information contact the Fort Présentation Association at 315-394-1749.

Membership Categories

Adult

Sergeant \$25
Lieutenant \$50
Captain \$75
Major \$100

Youth (under 18)

Private \$5
Corporal \$10

Family/Business/Group

Scouting Party (up to 10) \$50
Platoon (11-25) \$100
Colonel \$500
General \$1000
Regiment (25-50) \$500
Brigade (50 or more) \$1000

Memberships are for a one-year period based on the date of joining and are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Souvenirs Support the Fort

You can support the Fort La Présentation project by purchasing Fort souvenirs from the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce. See www.ogdensburgny.com/souvenirs.htm

Fort merchandise can also be purchased at the Riverfront Resort, 119 W River Street, Ogdensburg.

Fort La Présentation should stand again as a symbol of the United States of America’s deep historical roots and growth into a Great Nation. Become a member of the Fort La Présentation Association or purchase souvenirs to show your pride in our remarkable heritage.