

On Parade

WINTER, 2010 MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

All members, and those interested in learning more about the Friends of Fort George, are cordially invited to attend

***Annual General Meeting
Navy Hall at 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 25, 2010***

Our guest speaker will be **Barbara Leskovec, Archaeologist, Parks Canada**, who will present an overview of the exciting results of this past year's digs at Fort George. Stay on and meet Barb, our Board Directors, Parks Canada staff and review opportunities to participate this summer and in 2012. For more information, please call Erika at 905-468-6621

We would also welcome your participation as a Director on the Friends' Board. Jim Alexander and Crispin Bottomley are currently seeking interested individuals. Jim can be reached at 905-468-7681 or contact Crispin @ crispinb@hotmail.com

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE

We celebrated the arrival in 2010 with a very large crowd and much anticipation for an exciting year as we quickly approach 2012 and the bicentennial celebrations. Dr. Wes Turner was our honorary cannoneer. He took on his duties in the persona of Ralfe Clench who was born in 1762 and had served King George III during the War of Independence. After leaving the army, he settled in town and joined the Lincoln Militia serving under Major General Sir Isaac Brock and Major General Sir Roger Sheaffe. In the summer of 1813 he was taken prisoner by the Americans and spent the rest of the war in captivity. If you are interested in taking on a persona during the Bicentennial Celebrations, contact the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake @ lwallace@notl.org - who can then direct you to those who can help with the research for your persona



THE OLYMPIC TORCH

On December 20, 2009, Parks Canada hosted a public reception to cheer on the Olympic torch relay as it followed the Niagara Parkway. The Friends were setup to offer hot refreshments, while the crowds waited in the chilly winds for the procession to arrive. Runners were greeted with the firing of a cannon and official musical salute by the Fife and Drum Corps. Bystanders were also delighted to receive complimentary Olympic mementos from Parks Canada which included pins, water bottles and medallions to commemorate the Canadian games.





*I am standing by the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the
morning breeze
and starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength,
and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a
peck of white cloud just where the sun and sky
come down to mingle with each other.
Then someone at my side says - 'There she goes!'*

*Gone where?
Gone from my sight - that is all.*

*She is just as large in mast and hull and spar
as she was when she left my side
and just as able to bear her load of living freight
to the places of destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.
And just at the moment when someone at my side
says: - 'There she goes!'*

*there are other eyes watching her coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout
- 'Here she comes'*

*by Henry Van Dyke
1852 - 1933*

Remembering . . Bill Lindsay

In August, 2009, yet another of our Directors and strong supporters left us. Bill Lindsay, who served on the Friends' Board of Directors from 2003- 2009 passed away. Bill was an avid supporter of the Friends' activities and he and Ann were involved in many of our special events - honing their skills on Canada Day and the various summer gatherings organizing food services. Bill was a longtime supporter of Scouting in Niagara-on-the-Lake and maintained an interest in recognizing the contribution made by Scouts Canada, particularly the world jamboree.

In Memoriam

Remembering . . Robert Malcomson

We were saddened this past July, 2009, to lose our mentor, historian, teacher, author and friend, Robert Malcomson. Our hearts and thoughts continue to be with Janet, Melanie, Carrie and their families. Bob served on the Friends' Board in 1992 and continued thereafter to volunteer his time, enthusiasm and support until his illness prevented his involvement. He was pivotal in starting the bateau project, gave his time in the artificers' shop, mastered the art of burger flipping and "oh yah", authored a bevy of books on the War of 1812. "A Very Brilliant Affair, The Battle of Queenston Heights" has become our key reference source in developing the school and public tours at the Heights, modelled after Bob's own tours which he conducted in the Fall as fundraisers for the Friends. We remember Bob most affectionately talking about the site's history at the base of Brock's Monument and so we will continue to remember our good friend with a memorial bench at the site's entrance. *If you would like to help with our project, please send your donation and help us to remember our own hero.*

Remembering . . Edgar Lemon

In April, 2009, another of our mentors, teacher and friend passed away. Through a series of bureaucratic twists, Edgar Lemon was able to link our historic site to a unique environmental project, The SWAMP - the treating of sewage waste through cattails in cold weather climates. Over the years our newsletters, numerous scientific papers and newspaper articles highlighted Ed's tenacity and investigative spirit, proving that nature will clean up after herself - given the proper chance. The experiment received funding and approval from Environment Canada, the U.S. EPA, as well as being published in several scientific journals. Ed served on the Friends of Fort George Board of Directors from 1990-1997 and during that time organized an international symposium on wetlands in cold weather climates and received acclaimed recognition for his work. We miss our "yankee" friend and our long and spirited debates on all topics - from the environment to politics to history to religion and more. Our thoughts are with Donna, their sons and families - he was a truly nifty gentleman

PARANORMAL CONFERENCE

For our ghost tour followers, there will be a tour of Fort George and/or Fort Mississauga as part of a Paranormal Conference & Trade Show being held at the Parkway Convention Centre May 14 to 16, 2010. For more information about the conference visit www.ghostsconference.com. Margaret Byl, an organizer of the conference, is a member and supporter—extraordinaire for the Friends of Fort George. It looks like an interesting and intriguing conference!

EARLY 19th CENTURY PERIOD COSTUME & PERSONA WORKSHOP

The Niagara-on-the-Lake 2012 Bicentennial Committee is organizing the 2nd Costume Workshop to be held in the late Spring – probably May. In the meantime, paper patterns are available at the Friends of Fort George gift shop as well as reference books providing information on accessories, deportment and styles for men, women and children. We also have a selection of beautiful hand-embroidered shawls, stockings and will be bringing in period bonnets.

Dr. Wes Turner, Co-Chair of the Bicentennial Committee & Past Chair and current Director with The Friends of Fort George, has taken on the persona of Ralfe (Ralph) Clench (Clinch) who was a militiaman during the war. He and others, as well as their families, provided invaluable support, particularly the women, in dangerous times. Research from local archives revealed that Ralfe Clench served as an army officer and volunteer in Butler's Rangers 1780–84 during the American Revolution; he settled in Niagara in 1784 and married Elizabeth Johnson (granddaughter of Sir William Johnson); he held several government offices including clerk of the District Court, clerk of the peace in Niagara District, clerk of Niagara Township, judge of the District, commissioner of customs for Upper Canada. In 1792 he was captain & adjutant in the militia and by 1806 Colonel of 1st Lincoln. He fought at Queenston Heights & was mentioned in dispatches. In March, 1813 assistant



Fort Mississauga
National Historic Site
Photo by Margaret Dunn



QMGM to militia in Niagara. He was taken prisoner in May by the Americans & spent the rest of the war as prisoner. Ralfe Clench was a charter member of Masonic Lodge No.19, Member of the Niagara Agricultural Society, the Niagara Library, the Turf Club, and the local Presbyterian Church. He was elected to the House of Assembly in 1800, and re-elected 1804, 1812–16, 1817–20. His orchard "the largest and finest in Niagara" was destroyed during war. It had 114 trees, 6 types of peaches, 5 kinds of plums as well as quinces, apricots and nectarines. His fine home burned probably in February 1820 and his second one built soon after.



It's time to start creating your 1812/ 2012 wardrobe and be ready for the celebrations. Watch for the upcoming workshop on the website:

www.1812niagaraonthelake.ca

April weekends
May - October
May - June
(Sunday evenings only @ 8:30 pm)
May - September Labour Day
July (@ 8:30 pm)
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sun evenings
July 17-18
July 31 / Aug 1
August (@ 8:30 pm)
(Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sun evenings)
August 14-15
September
(Sunday evenings only @ 7:30 pm)
September 18-19
October 15-17; 22-24; 29-31
November weekends

Fort George open
Fort George open daily
Ghost Tours

Brock's Monument open daily
Ghost Tours

Echoes of Niagara's Past *(event to be confirmed)*
Loyalists & The American Revolution
Ghost Tours

Fife & Drum Muster & Soldiers' Field Day
Ghost Tours

Scout Brigade at Fort George
Hallowe'en Ghost Tours *(members can purchase tickets June 1)*
Fort George open *(to be confirmed)*

2010 FORT GEORGE EVENTS



www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca

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