

# 41st Regiment of Foot (Military Living History Group) JOURNAL



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## As the 2004 Season Comes to a Close...

The 2004 Season of reenacting has been a memorable one for the Forty First Regiment. Early May saw the Regiment in the line at **Longwoods**, for the traditional opening event of the Canadian season. At the end of the month the Crown Forces



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The Journal and the Military History Group are dedicated to the life and work of the British soldier during the War of 1812, especially those who served in the 41st Regt. in the Canadas from 1799-1815

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Grand Tactical was held at **Fort Meigs, Ohio**, with one of the largest encampments of 1812 reenactors in evidence. The newly devised battle tactics with cavalry, artillery and infantry working in harmony to outwit the enemy, were thrilling. The British line has perfected the infantry square in the presence of cavalry, and both spectators and US forces alike commented on the look and effectiveness of the manoeuvre.

The following week-end, June 5-6, the annual **Battle of Stoney Creek** was held in Hamilton. Unfortunately, the occurrence of the Grand Tactical the week-end before cut into the numbers at Stoney Creek, but it

was nevertheless a good event. One month later, July 2-4, a new site was tried for an 1812 reenactment. Niagara Falls hosted the British and US encampments and close to the original site of **Lundy's Lane** skirmishes were held on the Saturday. On the Sunday the two armies were bused to the original battlefield at **Chippewa** where a short memorial service was held. This was followed by a reenactment of the Battle of Chippewa on the actual site of the battle one hundred and ninety years before. For all participants this was a thrill. This was the second Crown Forces event of the season.



On a recent visit to Amherstburg I discovered this memorial tile in the Naval Yard Park. How appropriate! Thank you, Jim and Family for remembering the original Regiment in this way.

Rowan/Long Point, Ontario on Sept. 11th. A few will also be attending the siege at **Fort Niagara** on Sept. 25th. Some will be venturing to the US to attend the event at **Mississinewa** on Thanksgiving week-end in October.

In addition to the regular 1812 events scattered around the Province and border states, several members attended the 10th anniversary day at the **Brantford Military Museum**, Brantford, Ontario. They added colour to the event, and introduced many present to the life of an 1812 soldier. The attendance of the 41st at this event was most appreciated. While some were at Brantford, others were at the "Timeline" event at **Fort Malden**, Amherstburg.

On reflection the season has been an excellent one. Our new recruits are settling in well, and acquiring their full kit as quickly as possible. Well done all who have made the year a good one. Several members go the extra mile to transport material, cook our meals, and a host of other things behind the scenes.

## Newest Members

2004 has been a period of growth, which is always a welcome position to be in. Last year we welcomed Kimball Toderian and Todd Webber to our ranks, and their partners, Carole Jerroll and Amy Webber to the roles of "soldiers' women". Kimball and Todd have both been out to events this year, and are obviously thoroughly enjoying themselves as rankers in the 41st. Both have shown their commitment by rapid purchase of their kit. They have learned basic drill fast and are a credit to the Regiment. Well done!

We also welcomed an 'old campaigner' to our ranks. Don Zorniak and Marie have enthusiastically entered into the ranks of the Regiment. Don's experience as a soldier, and Marie's experience as a woman (and COOK!!!) will serve us extremely well. Don looks spiffy in a 41st redcoat.

This year we have also had several serious inquiries about joining the Regiment. To date we have spoken to two couples from Hamilton, a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, a potential recruit from Simcoe and a couple from Buffalo. We are being noticed, and the standards we have set for ourselves have been a great magnet of interest from spectators.

On August 6-8 the **Siege of Fort Erie** (Crown Forces Event) was held on site, and most present will mark this one down as the best ever. The numbers were well up this year with approximately one hundred and fifty in the British line, and close to one hundred in the US line. The weather was perfect, the battles spectacular and the camaraderie in the camp superb. Our guest from the UK, Pte. Des Buckley of the 88th (Connaught Rangers) was overwhelmed by the discipline of the 41st and the British line, the welcome he and his wife, Hilda, received, and the fellowship offered by the camp.

August 21-22 saw the Regiment once again active, this time at the new event of the "**Battles of Presqu'ile**", held at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, near Bright, Ontario. The 41st comprised a major part of the British line, and during the skirmish at the Cow Pasture landing was designated the main column by the Commanding Colonel! The site was beautiful, and the fun enjoyed by all. It was good to see our 'new man', Todd Webber, and his wife, Amy, at the event with their two children, Trista and Avery.

As August passes into September there are a few smaller events left on the calendar. Several will be attending the event at **Backus Mill**, near Port



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Unit's Annual General Meeting this year will be held at Fort Erie, Ontario. We have the use of the facilities of the fort, including the opportunity to stay overnight in the barracks.

With this in mind the day will be devoted to drill, and it provides us with an opportunity to meet several potential new recruits who will join us for the drill. We will supply muskets (wooden), and barracks jackets for them to use in the drill. The schedule for the day has a muster at 10.00am. Drill will take place before lunch, and after lunch. The meeting will be held at 4.30pm, followed by an evening dinner and the Annual Mess.

Full kit should be brought, plus sufficient cartridges to defend against a threatened attack by US forces on the Saturday. It should be a fun time.

Items for the agenda should be sent to the President as soon as possible.

## Winter Activities

The work of the Regiment does not stop with the end of the "campaign season". Winter is a time for "polishing" in more than one way. First, drill is always in need of improvement. Many of us drill once a month and once at every event we attend. The British soldier of 1812 drilled for several hours per day, six days a week. Sedentary Militia regiments of Upper and Lower Canada at the same time drilled, or, at least reported for drill, once a month. This suggests that our standards of drill are just slightly higher than those of the sedentary militia. Our drill schedule is being developed, and will be posted on the chat group soon.

Second, kit should always be kept in good order over the winter, and not be stored away dirty. The Bible says that "moth and rust corrupt" - as true two thousand years ago as it is today, especially when you have iron instruments, like muskets and bayonets, and wool or linen clothing.

Make sure that kit is well-looked after during the winter. Keep black leather polished, and therefore supple, so that it does not crack with the central heating. Always keep your canteen filled with liquid. Replace it once every two weeks.

This stops the wood from shrinking, and leaking like a sieve when you fill it for the first event next year. Further, old, worn out kit, and items missing should be replaced.

Also over the winter arrangements are being made for special events next year. In recent months we have established good relationships with several historic sites and local museums. This is done on a *quid pro quo* basis. they offer us support, publicity and a home. We offer them support at special events, and a bit of colour. You will hear more of this over the next while.



A leap across time. Jim and Kevin are standing with a reenactor from the late Victorian 24th Regiment. Together, the 24th and 41st currently comprise the Royal Regiment of Wales