

THE WINTER PARTY, APPLEBY COLLEGE, OAKVILLE SAT. MAR. 6 6:30PM

To get to this event, travel to Dorval Rd. on the QEW in central Oakville. Go south on Dorval to Lakeshore Blvd. where it deadends. Go right, ie. west, about 2Km and look for Appleby on your left. Enter the driveway and proceed straight ahead. Look for Grenadier Sentries on the third building, left side. They will direct you to parking. Don't be late - the meal is being served promptly at 7:00.

This is a regimental function. You are asked to wear your 1 or 2Bn Regimental uniform, or 18C civilian dress. Ladies may wear any degree of 18C clothing; but, please try to come in kit. Guests may wear any casual style of clothing that they wish.

Prices for the meals are as follows:

Adults	\$17.00
less than 12	8.50
less than 5	free (no Malcolm, I mean age less than 5)

The group from Fort York who performed so well last year as our Dance Master & musicians will again be in attendance for after dinner entertainment. Rumours have it that Fort York's DMjr/Mjr Ken Purvis will attend to offer his blend of satirical advice and scatological humour. Mr. Purvis will interpret for the assembled throng the results of Michael LeBlanc's intimate doctoral thesis which studied in depth the blocked bowels of the reenactment units of the Museum of Applied Military History. This landmark study contains no less than 22 graphs of Portajohn utilization from Fort Ligonier to St. Jean sur Richelieu. Grass samples taken at Fort Stanwix and Johnson Hall reveal fascinating deposits of trace elements. Several startling photographs of related activities will enhance this slide presentation which Muskettman LeBlanc is too modest to deliver himself.

Commissioned Officers will advise the Colonel of their attendance and the number in their party by Monday March 1. Section Commanders will phone a Troop Return to the SjtMjr providing details of the total attendance by their Section members and their guests, again by March 1, without fail. Don't allow us to risk financial embarrassment!! We are currently committed to 110 meals.

PROMOTIONS IN THE REGIMENT

Effective February 17

John Moore is promoted to Ensign in the Col's Coy, vice Haase resigned.

John has been a member of the regiment since 1982 and has served as Sjt of No.2 Section Col's since 1988. He is a stalwart in the organization of many local events including the big money-maker at Oshawa. In the absence of a Commissioned Officer at the Simcoe Landing, John carried the Battalion Colour with panache and very much enjoyed the role. The requirement for his services occurred again later in the year. Having been featured on the LtGov's Christmas card, he has been easily persuaded to accept this duty on a permanent basis.

Dave Putnam is promoted to Serjeant of No.2 Section Col's Coy vice Moore promoted.

Dave joined in 1987 and had a meteoric rise to Cpl the next year. Perhaps his service as SjtMjr of the Fort Henry Guard helped. He has lots of practice leading No.2 Section and composite Sections from the other Coys. A dedicated soldier who is an example to all of efficiency and cleanliness no matter how dirty he got at the previous event, we can expect lots of punishment parades in the Battalion as he whips his many defaulters into shape.

Ron Atkins is promoted to Corporal of No.2 Section Col's Coy vice Putnam promoted.

Ron joined in 1989 with his family of four. Travelling everywhere with 2 tents and his mob, his perseverance has been admirable. However, if he thinks he's had challenges in the past, wait til he gets a dose of Phillips, Everingham & Hunt. Wiping the noses of your kids is one thing...

EIGHT MOUNTED CONTINENTAL DRAGOONS

There was a great article in the last Brigade of the American Revolution 'Dispatch' about the duties and proper utilization of dragoons. The author, himself a dragoon, was making several points about the incorrect deployment of this type of soldier, as he has so often experienced at events. He was illustrating how vulnerable mounted dragoons are when put into action on their own in close quarters attacks. He used the following story.

"The requirement for an integrated force of mounted and dismounted light dragoons - a Legion - is illustrated by events at a major 1991 tactical. Eight mounted Continental dragoons attacked the rear of the British line without the support of dismounted dragoons. A small force of British specialty troops swung in behind the horse and routed them, driving them out of the action for the duration of the battle. Had the American field commander employed legion tactics, he would have had dismounted dragoons with the mounted dragoons to protect their vulnerable rear and flanks from enemy specialty troops. The sad part is that there were 26 American dismounted dragoons unused in the rear for the entire battle."

Now just who were those British "specialty troops"? Yep, you guessed it. Mixed detachments of the King's Royal Yorkers who slipped in behind the subject dragoons and drove them into an out-of-bounds area where the umpire called them 'out' of the action for the duration.

Was the umpire's call a good one? Not likely. Giving them a penalty is one thing; but, putting them out of the rest of the fight which raged on for at least another 45 minutes was certainly too severe.

Could dismounted dragoons have prevented our success? Maybe...

THE VIEWPOINT OF A CONTINENTAL SERJEANT FROM THE 2NY

I know the guys in the 2Bn who were at Erie Canal Village will remember bugging out and, in so doing, running smack dab into a volley from the 2NY. That was just before Col Ford gave us a lecture on how to suck eggs. Maybe some of the 1Bn can remember the incident.

Well, their Sjt saw it from a different viewpoint and he reports - "A platoon of Torys in red jackets stopped us from closing on their right and we withdrew to the safety of a larger barn". These were the guys who had waded through the creek up to their navels, so perhaps their powers of observation were as small and tight as their gonads. We were dead meat; we couldn't have stopped a shopping buggy from "closing on the right".

SOME MORE STUFF FOR SALE

1. Excellent quality video tapes from the Channel 9 TV Special on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Simcoe Landing. Here's your chance to have for posterity the Royal Yorkers making their unforgivable error at Fort George! If they want, members in NOTL can get these from Mrs. Alexander. Contains a few brief scenes not included in the TV airing.
\$9.50 + taxes = \$11.50
2. Super Audio Tape of the Fifes & Drums of the King's Royal Yorkers who are posing as their alter ego so that someone else pays for the recording - 41 Foot, War of 1812 - The Official Fife & Drum Corps of Fort George.\$13.75
3. The excellent poster of Simcoe, Mrs., John Butler, etc.. in living colour, suitable for framing or laminating. Will look very good in your WC. \$6.85

NB: For those of us who ordered them, the Fort George/Simcoe Landing Sweat Shirts are out of stock!!

SOME MORE SUPER TIDBITS FROM JON WANNAMAKER'S INDEFATIGABLE RESEARCH
From Chester B. Kevitt, ed., *General Solomon Lovell and the Penobscot Expedition 1779* (Weymouth, MA: 1976) p.87. We tend to believe that Grenades were never used during the Rev War. This quotation from rebel BGen Lovell to Jeremiah Powell suggests otherwise -

"That with the Troops which now constitute my Army it is not practicable to gain a Conquest by a storm [of the British works at Penobscot Bay in Maine close to the New Brunswick border] and not probable without length of time to reduce them by a regular Siege. - To Effect the First I must request a few regular disciplined troops [Continental] and Five Hundred hand Grenades[.] If [only] the latter at least four Mortars of Nine Inches or as near to that as your Ordnance will admit with an ample supply of Fire Shells.

The hand grenades in either case ready fixed will be probably serviceable."
I don't believe that similar requisitions for grenades for Crown Service have been uncovered, but more research will tell.

From Frederic R. Kirkland, ed., *Journal of Lewis Beebe - A Physician on the Campaign Against Canada, 1776* (Philadelphia, 1935) pp.17&18. These diary entries appear to have been made after the American Army had been forced from Canada. Their army was riddled with disease and dissension - their losses were tragic.

Surgeon Beebe leaves us a quite bitter picture of the American General officers, who were trying to rebuild the army after its disastrous failure.

"The afternoon our Genls. meet to Consult matters; Schyler, Gates, Sullivan, Arnold & Woelck. And the devil begins to appear once more in orders; as he ever has done since I came into this department; and I fear ever will unless some of our Genl. officers are removed from their Station. It appears in after orders, that all the Artillery, & Stores are to be shipped on board batteaus tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock, for Ticonderoga; consequently, the army must soon follow; and Crown Point, which Nature formed for defence must be deserted. By giving up this post, we give up the key of the whole Country, and leave thousands of Inhabitants, to make their Escape, or share the mercy of Britons & Savages; which is cruelty. My Sentiments respecting some of our Genl. officers, have been invariably the same...; this Conduct hath been all of a piece; and hath spoke Villany, treason & murder; let their Characters be represented with all those Stains and blots with which they are Blackened; and may all future Generations Read their treachery, and Load them with Execrations.

From William A. Evans, ed., *Detroit to Fort Sackville, 1778-1779 - The Journal of Normand MacLeod* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1978) p.95. This took place in the western Great Lakes region at a conference with the Lake Indians, ie. Miami, Chippawa, Pottawatami, etc...

"8 December 1778... It began to Snow at one oClock and at three began to Freese very hard. We were obliged to make fires in the Tents in order to thaw them before we embarked which was not be fore ten oClock".

Oh boy, you gotta think about that one!

BLACK CREEK POLICY CHANGE

Perhaps this appears somewhat precedent setting; however, Black Creek is asking all reenactors to pay \$3.00 per head as an entry fee. Some units are completely up in arms about this. I phoned Tim Foster, the Coordinator, and he advised that either he implemented an entry fee or there wouldn't be an event. Costs at historic sites are rising dramatically; revenue from visitors is falling off; if they need to charge a small fee so that we get to stage one of our best events - what's the squawk?? Well, our friends from the Mohawk & Schoharie feel that they already spend enough money getting to the event and in the Village stores without having to pay for the privilege. Psychologically, their opinion is that it would be far better to charge \$3.00 for the meal rather than an entry fee. Sure, it's all semantics - but, you do see their point.

You know, when you go to lots of places to be entertained it costs bucks just to get through the gate and then when you want to play a few games it costs some more bucks. Often, you gotta spend money just to get parked. Try the Skydome sometime. Gill and I went to the Metro Toronto Home Show last month. It cost \$8.00 to park and \$18.00 to get in. No, it wasn't worth it.

Back to reenacting. Yeah, I know that we all think that we provide the various sites with a tremendous drawing card, virtually for free. All they gotta do is lay on some staff to take care of us, buy some straw, sometimes rent a few portajohns, provide some food, da da da da. If the site doesn't advertise the event well enough, then it's their damn fault that the public doesn't attend in big numbers. Of course, they could ask the question - "Are these reenactors really a big drawing card?" At most Canadian events, you wouldn't know it. Look at all the advertising that Napanee and Penetang put out - newspapers, cable TV, posters, radio, and still, not much public interest. Could it be that we don't have the great appeal that we chose to think we have. Maybe we need to reassess just what we offer versus what the sponsor gets.

As to Black Creek, we could cut off our noses to spite our faces and say "no", and simply not attend. Yep, we could all stay at home for the weekend. Or maybe go to a movie for \$7.50 or rent a video for \$3 - 4.00. Or BBQ a steak for \$8.00. Or, we could drive 5 hours to go fishing, buy the permit, the bait, maybe rent a boat and just maybe come home empty handed. Know what I mean?

A BRIEF PREVIEW OF OUR ALL-UP CANADIAN EVENT - TORONTO 200 - FORT YORK

I am sure that many of you are asking whether the tight rules against black powder that this site has been known for will be enforced. The answer is 'no', opposing lines' tacticals are back as well as sensible BAR Artillery rules.

This is not a multi-era event, only Rev War. The Simcoe Landing 1992 units have been invited, except 'short-fuse' Palley & his Gun Crew who showed as Fusiliers and the 1st Michigan Fife & Drum who can't be persuaded to leave their Michigan banner in their truck. A few new units from the Brit Bde have been asked. Returns are just coming in now and it looks good. The Fort will field a 6 pdr with Ed Anderson as CO and some ex-Yorkers as crew.

There are two relatively controlled tacticals. An action for the public against the south-west bastion and south wall. It will have to be contrived to play right, but should be lots of firing for the artillery and infantry alike. The second one will occur mostly for ourselves on Sunday morning on the west end of the Garrison Common, just to warm us up.

We camp outside the fort on the north-east corner of the Common. Good area. Good access to parking and excellent washrooms in the daytime w/portajohns during the night. They are feeding us throughout and there's a period dance and musical entertainment on the Saturday night with Senator Molson flexing his muscle.

Best of all, there's a Wargame Tactical planned for High Park. Ed Anderson and I reconned the ground. Super! The public is cordoned off quite naturally along a roadway. They're on a height of land with an amphitheatre-style outlook, ie. they're out of our way. The land slopes gently down to Grenadier Pond which is really a lake. The ground has mature trees and some underbrush with trails running north & south, our axis of advance. At the north end is a height of land where the 6 pdrs can be prepared for defence & outworks of deadfalls can be erected strategically in front. The Pond will be used by our Royal Navy boats for a flanking attack supplemented by 'Marines' if required. This should be super!

