

Royal



Yorkers

*With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick*

## NEW CAMPAIGN SEASON STARTS WITH A "BANG"

### Howse School of Tactical Operations Westfield Village ~ May 17 & 18

Yes, the winter of 2003 is finally over, and the new campaign season is about to begin. The first event of the year is the Howse School of Tactical Operations, which takes place on the long weekend in May. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us (Grenadiers, Lights and Duncans') to get together with our friends in the Northern Brigade, to work on our drill and tactics. Captain Chris Cameron, the School commander, writes:

*Once again, the Northern Brigade will sponsor the Howse School of Tactical Operations at Westfield Village. This year, the school will concentrate on soldier skills and woodcraft. We will have classes on house to house fighting (no pun intended) with supporting wargames, as well as setting and maintaining a defended post, operating on patrol and on sentry, and other goodies. Expect several wargames, a good deal of time in the bush, as well as classroom work and a great party. Sunday will see competitions, with prizes. Isn't it time to find out who really is the fastest shot?*

*As last year was such a success, we hope everyone will consider keeping their kit handy and getting back in the car Monday morning for the Queen's Birthday Parade in Toronto, as a graduation exercise for the school. I look forward to seeing you all there.*

**Directions:** Last year Sjt Mjr Moore and Sjt Putnam went out to Hwy 6 to pull the Westfield Village road sign out of the ditch and prop it up against a post. Hopefully, the sign will now be back in place.

*From Hamilton - Follow Hwy. #8*

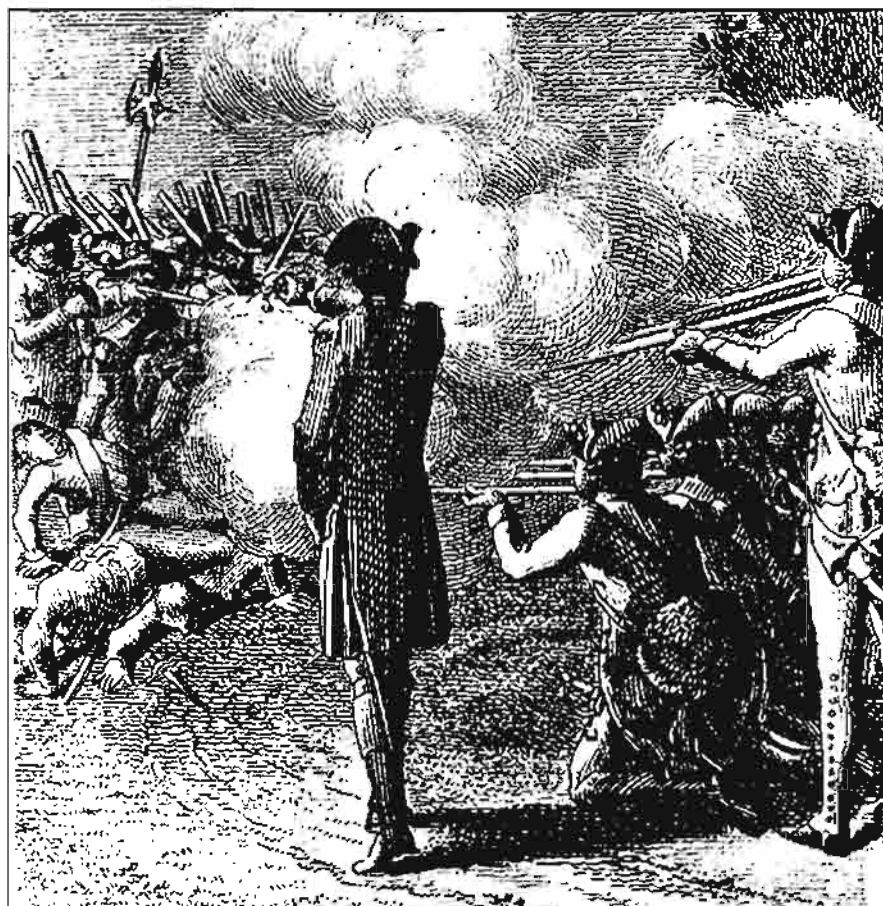
north-west through Dundas, cross Hwy. #5 and continue to Regional Road 552, just past Rockton. Turn right and follow 1.5 kilometres. *From Toronto - Take QEW west to Hwy. 403. Turn north on Hwy. #6 to Hwy. #5. Turn left on Hwy. #5 and then right on Hwy. #8 to Regional Road 552 just past Rockton. Turn right and follow 1.5 kilometres. From Cambridge - Follow Hwy. #8 south-east to Regional Road 552. Turn left and follow 1.5 kilometres.*

### Queen's Birthday Parade ~ Monday, May 19 ~

*Again this year the Queen's Birthday Parade will take place in Toronto on Victoria Day. Those who attend the Tactics School on Saturday and Sunday can make this a "two for the price of one" weekend, by heading for Toronto after the event at Westfield. Sjt. Mjr. Dave Moore provided the following instructions:*

I assume that the parade will be the same as always, starting at Queen's Park and forming by 11:00 a.m.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## COMING EVENTS

Will you be at home with your spinning,  
or soldiering for the King?



*The Wife turns Soldier, & the Husband spinning*

Saturday, April 5 – Winter Party, Fort York

Wednesday, April 16 – Drill, Fort York Armories

Wednesday, May 14 – Drill, Fort York Armories

May 17/18 – Howse School of Tactics, Westfield

May 19 – Queen's Birthday Parade, Toronto

May 31/June 1 – Lansing Manor, Cobleskill NY  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Only)

June 7/8 – Johnson Hall Raid, Johnstown NY  
(All-Up Event)

June 14/15 – Black Creek, Toronto

### Drill Date Correction

For those of you who took the February newsletter out of the envelope and immediately went to your calendar to mark down all the upcoming Drill Nights, please take note of this correction. The April Drill Night is **Wednesday, April 16, NOT Thursday, April 17** as previously stated.

Note: The Editor assumes no responsibility for gas, mileage or beer costs associated with showing up on the wrong night.



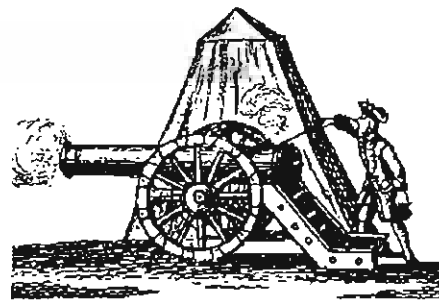
*(Continued from page 1)*

Therefore, get there by 10:00 a.m. to find a parking spot behind the Parliament buildings. The Victoria Day Parade is one of the oldest traditions of our Regiment. We have supported this public expression of loyalty since its earliest days. As this year's parade will be within a few weeks of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's coronation, it is entirely fitting that every member of the unit, men, women and children, all come and parade in honour of Her Majesty's official birthday. God Save the Queen and her Great-Great-Great Grandfather, King George the Third!

## Crysler's Farm Update

### July 12 & 13

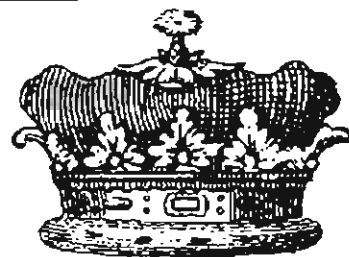
This year our second All-Up event will be at Chrysler's Farm near Morrisburg, Ontario. The Friends of Chrysler's Farm are organizing the event, which will take place on July 12-13. On that weekend we will take part in three battles, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon, on the grounds of Chrysler Memorial Park.



The goal of this event is to pay tribute to Ontario's Loyalist beginnings. Eastern Ontario's first permanent European settlers, were members of the disbanded Loyalist regiments who fought for the Crown during the Revolution. They received land grants in this area in recognition of their service. Many of the residents of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry can trace their heritage to these soldier-founders.

Upper Canada Village, immediately adjacent to the Battlefield Memorial, is a re-creation of a typical settlement along the shores of the St. Lawrence at the time of Confederation, and in 2000 was named the top visitor attraction in Canada. The site also includes a memorial to the Loyalists.

The organizers have put together an excellent webpage, which gives more details about this event. <http://www.cryslersfarm.com/re-enactment.htm>





## Winter Party Reminder

The Kings Royal Yorkers Remember the

### Meschianza of 1778

Date: Saturday, April 5

Location: Fort York, Blue Barracks

Price: \$24/Adult, \$15/Child under 12



- 6:00 pm Reception (Cash Bar)  
Promenading of Meschianza Headwear
- 7:00 pm Soldier's Dinner
- 8:00 pm Toasts, Speeches and Presentations
- 9:00 pm Music & Singing with *Gin Lane*

*Ticket requests must be made no later than Friday, March 28*  
RSVP to Section Leader or Sjt Dave Putnam - [yorker@interlynx.net](mailto:yorker@interlynx.net) (905-648-4786)

### For Sale by Public Auction

Various Items of Property From the Estate of

Lt. George R. P. Howse Jr.,

Late of the Kings Royal Reg't. of N. Y.

Sale to be Held on

Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2003

This will be a Silent Auction Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Final Bids will be Talked At 9:30 p.m.

In Keeping with 18<sup>th</sup> c. Custom,

All Proceeds from the Sale shall

Be Rendered to the Howse Family.

The Sale shall be Conducted Under the Direction of  
O. Cp'l Michael Martin & Has Been Authorized by the

Estate of Lt. Howse.

Payment Terms: Cash or Cheque

Large Items may be Placed on the Purchaser's Regimental Debt at  
the Colonel's Discretion.

All Items will be Open for Inspection on the Evening of the Sale,

A Catalogue for which will be Available.

Some Sundry Items from the Regimental Stores shall also be Made Available.

Said Items shall be Distinguished From the Estate Sale.

Also Available on the Evening of the Sale Will Be an Extensive Selection of  
the Photographic Work of Lt. Howse.

Said Works will be Available to any Interested Party.

No Price shall be Attached to the Photographic Material,

However, Donations shall be Accepted.

God Save the King!

### Meschianza Hat Contest

As you know, the Meschianza took place in Philadelphia in the Spring of 1778. This was a party thrown by the British army to honour General Sir William Howe. Although we could in no way recreate the grandeur of this extravaganza, we would like to remember the biggest bash in 18<sup>th</sup> century America in some small way. At the Winter Party this year we will have a *Meschianza Headwear Contest* (Stupid Hat Night). At the original Meschianza, guests came dressed as *knights and ladies in the time of Henry IV of France*. On the evening of the Winter Party you are invited to don headwear suitable for that era - the more glamorous / outrageous the better. Before dinner all entries will be viewed, and the best headdresses selected, both knights and damsels. Can't wait to see your *stupid* hat.



## Battle of Cobleskill (2nd Battalion Event)

~ May 31 & June 1 ~

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, KRRNY under the command of Capt Jeff Paine and Sjt Todd Girdwood, will be going to war on May 31 and June 1 at the Battle of Cobleskill. The promotional material for this 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary event gives the following details:

On the New York frontier of 1778, the American War of Independence was very much a "civil" war, conducted among former neighbors and estranged relatives. In the three year period from 1778 to 1781, a little over two-thirds of the Schoharie, Mohawk, and Upper Hudson valleys were burned to the ground and almost one-third the civilian population was carried away or killed, in the period that came to be known as "the Destructives". [*Destructives - that must be us*]

On May 31, 1778, a party of Loyalists and their Native allies descended on the Albany County frontier settlement of Cobuskill, attempting to capture George Warner, a member of the Schoharie District Committee of Safety. While Warner was not taken, the raiding party engaged Continental and Militia troops in what has become

known locally as the "Cobuskill Massacre", and most of the settlement was destroyed. This raid, along with the Wyoming Valley raid in July, and Cherry Valley and German Flatts raids in the fall, provided the motivation for the Clinton-Sullivan campaign of 1779.



The Burning of the Valleys Military Association, in conjunction with the Continental Line, and the British Brigade (invited) will be sponsoring a 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Cobuskill on May 31, and June 1. In addition to the 225<sup>th</sup> Anni-

versary commemoration of the Cobuskill raid, the weekend will include war-gaming between the forces of the Continental Line and British Brigade.

The event will be hosted by the New York Power Authority, and conducted at the historic Lansing Manor, in North Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York. Lansing Manor was the estate of John Lansing, a New York delegate to the Constitutional Convention. The Manor is part of a complex of educational, recreational and conservation facilities developed by the Power Authority at its Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project. The site includes approximately 400 acres of open field, scrub and woodlands that are available for wargaming throughout the weekend.

The usual amenities (wood, straw, water, sanitary facilities) will be provided. In addition, a chicken barbecue will be offered on Saturday (for a fee). Arrangements are being made for use of shower facilities at Minekill State Park.

In addition to military activities, civilian activities include an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Country Dance on Saturday evening.

### Directions:

Historic Lansing Manor is located 40 miles southwest of Albany in N. Blenheim on State Route 30. Visit the Power Authority's web-site at [www.nypa.gov](http://www.nypa.gov) for directions.

## Memories of Ens. Syl Haase

It was with the deepest regret that I learned of the passing of Ensign Syl Haase, late of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

Syl was senior to me in the unit in a bizarre way. In 1979 my original number was A42 and Syl was A39, because he'd bought a hat and intended to join. Syl must have had one of the longest recruitment times in history. He didn't get all his kit and field until 1981. Once he did join, we all came to appreciate his steady presence on parade and his strange sense of humour.

Syl was one of the nine Second World War veterans we had in the unit over the years. He was unusual in that he had served with the German army

on the Eastern Front. He grew up in Berlin and used to joke that he hadn't gone to the war, the war had come to him. He had wild stories of fighting through downtown Berlin in the last days of the war. One of my favourite stories was the time he knocked out a Russian tank, single handed, with the Panzer Faust. When he reported back to the officer that he had taken out the tank, the officer's reaction was, "Oh, you're back." The story of his escape from a Russian prisoner column marching towards Siberia was unforgettable.

Syl was quite a character. For example, he wore the *Order of the Black Eagle* under his coat. He had written to the present Prince of Prussia for

permission to do so. Who can forget the bottle of red wine that he carried in his haversack to keep himself "nourished"?

Syl was eventually promoted to Ensign and carried off that position with dignity and grace. On occasions when he was given command, his common sense prevailed. He would say to the Sergeant, "Sergeant, bring the men forward", and not attempt to give the commands himself.

Ensign Haase was a dedicated reenactor in Royal Yorkers and in units from other time periods. He was a real addition to our unit over many years. When I think of him, I think of the old German barrack room song, "I Had a Kamerad".

Sjt Mjr David Moore UE

# JOHNSON HALL RAID ~ ALL-UP EVENT

## Johnstown, N.Y. ~ June 7 & 8

Did someone say that 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary events have moved south, out of driving range? Well, not entirely. On June 7 & 8 Johnson Hall State Historic Site will recognize the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a month long scouting expedition that took place in the Fall of 1778. A Royal Yorker detachment, under the command of Lieutenants William Byrne and William Redford Crawford, ventured into the heart of the Mohawk Valley to recruit and take prisoners. Sir John Johnson wrote:

*I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency [Gov. Haldimand] that the Detachment of my Regiment that was sent to Johnson Hall from Sorel is returned; they brought off the Ruins of my Papers, none of which are legible; my loss in consequence of the destruction of my Papers at the lowest computation [is] twenty thousand Pounds, which is all the Intelligence I have been able to obtain.*

In retaliation for the loss of Sir John's papers, the Northern Brigade will assemble at Johnson Hall to do battle with the troops of the BVMA. Arrangements have been made for a couple of offsite tacticals during the weekend.



The organizers at Johnson Hall will also be holding their annual Market Days event on that weekend. Participants may set up booths or blankets to sell / trade period goods and crafts. There is a \$25 setup fee for those who wish to sell their wares. A coffee or public house is planned, where there will be some lively political discussions, as well as gaming. There will also be a variety of entertainments including puppet shows, magicians,

medicine shows and footraces. A dance will be held on Saturday evening on the carriage front of the mansion. Participants are encouraged to wear their best, as "it will definitely be an opportunity to see and be seen".

Speaking of "seeing and being seen", the Yorker 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion is planning to celebrate Polly Johnson Day on Saturday, June 7. As you will recall from Nancy's article in the February Newsletter, Janice Lang will be on hand to capture the occasion on "canvas", and there is the possibility of an afternoon tea in the mansion where Lady Johnson once walked.

All in all, this event should be a good one. Final details will be provided in the next Newsletter. In the mean time, make sure you have this All-Up event on your calendar.

**Volunteer Service Agreement** – The organizers require that all participants complete a Volunteer Service Agreement form in advance of the event. A copy of the form is enclosed. If you plan to attend, or think you might attend, it is important that you fill out this form and return it to the Colonel by May 1 (85 Fog Rd., King City, ON, L7B 1A3). All forms will be forwarded to Johnson Hall Historic Site by *Himself*.



JOHNSON HALL.

# Yorkers Staged Sit-Down Strike in July, 1778



## John Pulinski

Cpl. Sean Jeffrey has advised that John Pulinski, our popular American in the Yorker Lights, will be deployed in the near future for overseas service. John is a resident of New York State and a member of the 914<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Forces. Anyone who would like to keep in touch with John should address correspondence to:

485AEW/328EAF  
APO AE 09364



On June 27, 1778 (another 225<sup>th</sup>), Major General Frederick Haldimand succeeded Sir Guy Carleton as Governor-In-Chief and Captain General of the Province of Quebec. His first concern was the strengthening of the defenses on the most exposed frontiers. He gave orders for detachments of the KRRNY to proceed to posts on Lake Ontario to begin restoration work. In particular, Captain MacDonell's Coy was dispatched to Fort Oswegatchie to work as artificers. On July 22, Colonel Watson Powell, who commanded the Montreal District, wrote:

*Captain MacDonald of Sir John Johnson's Corps informed me this morning that the detachment under his Command refus'd to a man to go to Oswegatchie. I spoke to them and found their objection proceeded from their being sent without their Regiment and two or three other circumstances which I have adjusted and sent them off.*

The Colonel dug into his research to provide some clarification about this unusual event. He wrote:

"Remember, this is immediately after the failure of the Burgoyne and St. Leger Expeditions, and there was a great deal of anguish and unrest. The companies of Captains Daly, Alexander McDonell, Sam Anderson's Light Company, Angus McDonnell and John McDonell (before he commanded the Grenadiers) all participated in this, preparing and signing petitions to Governor Haldimand, requesting to be recognized as volunteers rather than private men, and to be sent to New York City where they had a much better opportunity to confront their enemies and regain their families and properties. The latter two companies signed their petitions in a circle so that no one man could be singled out as a ringleader, as the commission of this act was very close to a mutiny. It doesn't appear that every man in each company signed the document. Here's the count:

Daly's - 30  
Alex McD's - 29  
Sam Anderson's - 31  
Angus McD's - 24  
J McD's - 28  
Total - 142

The Colonel's, Major's, Duncan's and Munro's Coys did not participate. The total strength of the regiment was 308 at this time, so just under half of the regiment was involved in this 'strike'."



## A Night at the Opera with the Queen's Rangers

I know, I know, when we associate active culture with the Queen's Rangers, the general consensus is that it's either the yeast in their home brew, or the mould on their kit. But everything in life is not quite so simple. As guests of the Rangers, John Jordan and I had the pleasure of attending *Taptoo!*, an opera by John Beckwith and James Reaney, at the MacMillan Theatre, University of Toronto.

This production of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music opera students, was quite entertaining. While fans of grand opera (you know - buxom blondes, brass bras and helmets) might be somewhat disappointed with the light opera style (no Serjeant Major, not all opera was written by Wagner), the students put on a creditable show of their talents. There were some difficulties with the staging: the acoustics were poor; the costumes and drill looked as if Mr. Dressup had turned over the contents of his "tickle trunk" to a group of buckskinners for a weekend; and there were some miscues. Mind you, the tavern scenes looked very much like Saturday night at Black Creek (complete with a pompous Colonel), so I really can't cast too many stones. As a student production it was a very good rendition of what may become a very important piece of the Canadian cultural identity. *Taptoo!* is certainly worth checking out for yourselves.

The opera tells the tale of Seth, a young Quaker boy from Pennsylvania, who's family is burned out of their home by a mob of "patriots" and flees. Separated from his parents and driven by despair and hunger, the boy attempts first to join the Continental forces under Colonel (later General) "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Rebuffed, when identified as a traitor by a boyhood "friend", Ebenezer (played as an adult later in the piece by an old friend of the Yorkers, Eric Shaw), Seth flees and has the good fortune to



run into Colonel John Graves Simcoe and his Queen's Rangers. He is enlisted as a drummer. Seth faces many difficulties as a drummer, but he cannot bring himself to harm others. Act I ends with him being released from the regiment by Simcoe to rejoin his family.

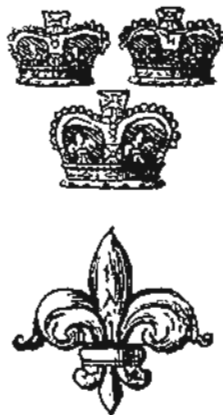
Act II begins with the post-war Loyalist trek to Canada. In a rather confusing jump, it fast-forwards to York c.1810, where we meet an adult Seth with his parent, his native wife and his son. It talks about his fear for the future of Canada on the eve of

War, then flashes back to the events surrounding Simcoe's founding of Upper Canada, founding Parliament and Newark, being forced because of American perfidy and aggression to found York and, finally, returning to England. The scene then moves forward to 1810 where the characters wonder what the future will hold, as we see a montage of images of the future York and Toronto, and ends with the hope for the future.

Cpl. Mike Martin

## A Report From The Winter Tactical

Cpl Cliff Nyenhuis attended the Winter Tactical last February at Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons. He reported:



I arrived about 8 o'clock in the morning. There were about 18 men per side. Chris Doedens was also there, though dressed as a marksman. I fell in with the marksman and away we went. We were on the opposite side of the river where there was some bush and open trail. The going was good in the morning, but as the day progressed the snow became wet and a little harder to move through. Everyone was on snowshoes. It was a good day over all. We did give the French a taste of a British *whacking*. A few didn't like it, so put on the kevlar underwear. It was a good time, as the temperature was not cold and everyone stayed warm. It was a nice winter exercise.

Cpl Cliff Nyenhuis

## Border Crossing Update

As we continue to hear news reports about heightened border security, there may be some nervousness about passing through US Customs with black powder. Capt. Allan Joyner is keeping his finger on the pulse of this issue. A new piece of legislation, called the *Safe Explosives Act* has raised some questions. Allen forwarded this piece of correspondence from Doug DeCroix at Old Fort Niagara.

"I have done some quick checking on this new explosives legislation that has everyone up in arms, and from what I have read so far, it is the tempest in a teacup that I imagined it would be. Here are the basics. The Safe Explosives Act is designed to apply to COMMERCIAL traffic in explosives. It is designed to close a loophole which previously had allowed non-immigrant aliens to transport explosives into the US via commercial truck or ship. The act encourages firms which engage in this type of importation to use "American" transporters, rather than sneaky foreigners who we haven't checked out yet.

OK-- so that is what the act does.

Here is what it does NOT do . . .

Under Chapter 40, section 845 of the United States Code (Chapter 40 is the chapter which regulates all this stuff, by the way) "commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed fifty (50) pounds, percussion caps, safety and pyrotechnic fuses, quills, quick and slow matches, and friction primers, intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms" are exempt from all of this. This exemption has not been altered by the Safe Explosives Act! Therefore, if no one brings over 50 pounds of black powder to an event, in a semi-truck or commercial ship, we should have no problems. Having said that, it makes sense to employ logical precautions, as we all know the *dweeb* in the booth at bridge "X" on day "Y" may not be as up on all of this as we are. So, I will be strongly suggesting to any units that plan on attending an event from Canada, make sure all of their members have a copy of the [event] invitation."

## Thunder On The Reach

~ August 30 - 31 ~

From the Cayuga settlement of Ganneious, to the escape of the Royal George, Adolphus Reach of the Bay of Quinté has been silent witness to Ontario's marine history. The Yorkers have been invited to participate in Thunder-on-the-Reach, on August 30-31, 2003. The plan is to *break that silence* with the roar of armed boatmen and the revelry of the bartoemen's camp. Throughout the Revolution bartoemen were used to move corps of men to battle, and their families to safety. Make sure you put this end-of-summer event on your calendar.



## This Winter Was So Cold...

...It would freeze the balls off a brass monkey. What the heck does that mean? Ken Taylor explains.

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon, but how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution



to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey". And all this time, you thought that was a rude expression, didn't you?

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