



Les Nouvelles du Fort - The Fort News

Fort de la Présentation Association

Winter 2016

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2015 Wrap-up at Fall Social

The Fort de la Présentation Association continues its goals “to educate, to collect, to preserve or maintain, to develop, to research, to document, to interpret and to recreate educational or historical ventures of interest to Ogdensburg, NY and the St. Lawrence Region.” The Association also well as to continues to raise funds to build an historically accurate reconstruction of Fort de la Présentation and related structures.

Association President Barbara O'Keefe addressed the membership and friends at the annual fall social at the Sherman Inn, Ogdensburg, on October 23. She outlined the previous year and recognized award winners.

Work is continuing on the Abbé Picquet Monument Plaza and the War of 1812 Peace Garden design by Chanzen Companies. It is expected to be in construction in the spring of 2016. The work was made possible by a member item from Assemblywoman Addie Russell in the amount of \$25,000.

In addition to the plaza, the Association is in the process of selecting an architectural and engineering firm for the

Abbé Picquet Trail, which is an approximately one-mile, handicapped-accessible trail that will be open to the public and eventually connect to the Maple City Trail.

There will be picnic areas, benches, interpretive signage highlighting the rich history of Van Rensselaer Point, parking and a paved access road to the St. Lawrence River shoreline and the Lighthouse.

Funding was made

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Hough, Kelly, and Ramsey Honored

Marsha Hough and Charles “Chuck” Kelly both of Ogdensburg, were honored at the Association’s annual Social in October.

Hough, a board member and long-time volunteer and supporter of the Fort project, was bestowed the David L Dickenson Award for her years of volunteering and commitment. She and her husband Jim, who passed away in 2014, have been committed to the mission for more than a decade. Marsha continues to work tirelessly on keeping the Fort grounds in usable shape, and preparing them for the Founder’s Weekend event, as well as educating students about the history of the Fort.

The David L Dickinson Award is given to individuals or organizations

who/which have made an outstanding commitment of time and effort to support Fort de la Présentation.

Kelly received the Persis Yates Boyesen Award, which is presented to individuals or organization that have made outstanding contributions to the mission of the Association. Kelly is the previous editor and general manager of the *Ogdensburg Journal* and *Advance*, and a long time supporter of the Association’s efforts. He said he remember having long conversations with Yates Boyesen about the history of Ogdensburg.

The Persis Yates Boyesen Award is given to individuals or organizations who/which have made out-

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Condolences

Our sympathies to the Cryderman family with the passing of Sherry Cryderman, wife of Association Board Vice President Tim Cryderman. Sherry passed away on November 5. She was a member of Forsyth Rifles, enjoyed time with her family, crafts, gardening traveling, and reenactments. Her presence will be sincerely missed.



Special Guests — (L-R); James Regan representing Senator Pattie Richie, Board member and St. Lawrence University History Professor Melissane Parm Schrems, PhD., and featured speaker for the Fall Social, who spoke about David Parish, his role and the area’s importance during the War of 1812; Assembly-woman Addie Russell; and Ogdensburg native, actor and director Mark Valley.

Photos from the Fall Social



Membership Dues Renewable in January

Please remember to renew your membership. They can be paid online at the website www.fort1749.org, or by check made out the Fort la Présentation Association and mailed to PO Box 1749, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Membership Levels

Adult:

- Sergeant \$25
- Lieutenant \$50
- Captain \$75
- Major \$100
- Colonel \$500
- General \$1,000

Youth (Under 18)

- Private \$5
- Corporal \$10

Family/Business/Group

- Scouting party up to 10 members \$50
- Platoon 11-25 \$100
- Regiment 25-50 \$500
- Brigade over 50 \$1,000



Winter Battle, February 19 & 20 in Ogdensburg.

2016 Snowshoe Biathlon Set for March 5 & 6

The Fort La Présentation Association and Forsyth's Rifles will hold its 4th annual Snowshoe Biathlon on March 5 and 6, from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm at the St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman's Club. The Sportsman's Club is located off State Highway 37 at 25 Sportsman Club Road, Ogdensburg, NY.



The Snowshoe Biathlon is based on the highly successful Smuggler's Notch Snowshoe Biathlon; participants traverse the mile and a three quarter mile long trail on old fashioned wood snowshoes and fire a muzzleloader twice at each of the five firing stations. At the sixth and final station, participants throw a tomahawk. Runs are timed and for each target hit five minutes are deducted from the running time.

The divisions this year include: primitive rifle (flintlock or percussion), primitive smoothbore, and modern in-line. Classes include:

- Elder's
- Men and Woman's
- Youth

Many of the participants regularly run in snowshoe biathlons held in New England during the winter months and created a competitive atmosphere for the event; most participants however use a much more leisurely pace referred to as a "woods-walk". The 2015 event drew

participants from St. Lawrence County, western and central New York and the Tug Hill as well as New Hampshire, Vermont and Pennsylvania.

The 2016 event is anticipated to expand its geographic reach. Inquiries have been received from potential

participants from Indiana as well as New England.

For more information or to register for this year's event, please contact the event coordinator, Fred Hanss at (315) 212-6213 or by email at fhanss@twcny.rr.com.

Honorees

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standing contributions to the Association's endeavors to recreate Fort de la Présentation. Persis was the longtime historian for the City of Ogdensburg.

The Association also recognized Wayne Ramsey of Ogdensburg for his service to the Association during its events for numerous years. Ramsey works in the technology department at the Ogdensburg City School District.

2015 *Wrap-up at Fall Social*

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possible from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the River Valley Redevelopment Authority, a member item from Assemblywoman Addie Russell and individual contributions. Additional donations from foundations and individuals are still being sought and Naming opportunities are available.

O'Keefe said it is the Association's plan to christen the plaza and break-ground on the Trail next year during Founder's Weekend in July.

She also noted that the property has been open to the public for walking and fishing. Membership dues help to cover the cost of insuring the property and land maintenance. She also thanked the City of Ogdensburg's staff and elected officials for working to bring the projects to fruition.

The City of Ogdensburg has also applied for a grant on behalf of the Association for a feasibility study for the proposed museum/interpretive center. A committee will be formed to work on the study, as the first steps in development on the site.

Highlighting some of the events from 2015, O'Keefe noted that the Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon in March attracted participants from Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania as well as those from across Northern New York.

The Living History Day in May was marked with the education of about 350 4th and 7th graders. It is just part of the outreach that board members do in reaching out to students in classrooms and at community events.

The Founder's Weekend in July continues to be a highlight for the Association. Securing another NY Council for the Humanities grant allows a wide range of colonial-era craftspeople, musicians and re-enactors to take part in the annual event.

In September the Association partnered with St. Lawrence University, the St. Lawrence Historical Association and the NY Council for the Humanities to present the War of 1812 Heritage Talks. Scholars from across the U.S. and Canada presented on subjects ranging from the participation of Native Americans in the war to the dilemma faced by enslaved people when faced with service in the American or British military forces.

She noted that Board members spent more than 3,500 volunteer hours on the events, upkeep and maintenance of the Fort grounds. Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated as the Association continues on its mission to rebuild an historically accurate Fort de la Présentation.

Post Script: Chazen Engineering, Land Surveying & Landscape Architecture, Co. D.P.C. Has been selected as the architect for the Abbe Picquet Trail.

The Kettle

By Ellen Nesbitt

After Thanksgiving, and the left overs were consumed, my husband made an incredible venison dish. My thought turned to early settlers, who very well may have made a version of this.

Venison steak cubed
2 T butter
2 c cream/milk
1/3 c sour cream
1 c diced onions

Melt butter in a skillet. Add onions and cook to translucent. Add Venison steak and sauté about 3 minutes to medium rare. Remove from pan and add cream and sour cream to simmer. Add onions/venison back to pan and heat through. Salt and pepper to taste.

Serve over bread, egg noodles or other pasta.

The meat was tender and cream took on the wonderful venison flavor.

(Also great with venison sausage)

Fort de la Présentation Association
PO Box 1749
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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Looking Forward Events in 2016

As the winter starts to take hold we can certainly look forward to another year of great re-enactments.

Kicking of the new year in February is the **Battle of Ogdensburg on February 20 and 21** in the streets of Ogdensburg and at the Fort grounds at the intersection of the Arterial and Commerce Streets.

Then in March is the return of the **Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon on March 5 and 6**. This was a great event held at the St. Lawrence Sportsmen's Club near Lisbon. The days include good competition on a challenging course, as well as a hot lunch to keep everyone fueled up.

Then we move to the warmer months with the **Founder's Week-**

end slated for July 16 and 17 at the Fort grounds.

Details will be posted on the Fort website and the Facebook Group as the dates get closer. You can find us at www.fort1749.org, or on Facebook at Fort La Presentation Friends.



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