

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: Sean Kelleher
Phone Number: 518-698-3210

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**FRENCH & INDIAN WAR 250TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION COMMISSION SETS 2008 EVENTS**

Albany, New York-Visitors and area residents alike will have many opportunities to witness battle reenactments, learn about 18th century life and explore local history this year at family-friendly events planned throughout New York State. The French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commission is pleased to announce a comprehensive listing of events scheduled in 2008.

Last year's French and Indian War 250th Anniversary commemorative events schedule was named one of the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America and proved a 3.5 million dollar economic boon for the local upstate economy.

"We expect to build on last year's success in 2008. There are so many exciting events planned, including this year's signature event, a Grand Encampment at Fort Ticonderoga," says Sean Kelleher, Commission Marketing Chairman. "That event alone is expected to draw about 2,000 reenactors and 20,000 visitors."

The Grand Encampment at Fort Ticonderoga will be held June 24 to July 8. Highlights of this event will include a performance by Les Petits Chanteurs Boys Choir from Montreal in the New Mars Education Center as well as a Parade of Arms and skirmish in Ticonderoga Village, battle reenactments, a Day of Scots to commemorate the loss of British troops and French Victory Day.

The 2008 French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration schedule includes the following events. Please plan ahead as some events require pre-registration.

2008 French and Indian War
250th Anniversary Commemoration

MARCH

March 15-16
War Trails South Living History Commemoration, Museum Exhibit Opening and Lecture

A reenactment of the French deLery Raid on Fort Bull, March 1756, hosted by the Fort La Présentation Association and 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum.

Contact:
Fort Drum Heritage Center
Building P-10502
South Riva Ridge Loop
Fort Drum, NY

315-774-0355
www.drum.army.mil/sites/about/museum/

APRIL

April 26-27
War College of the Seven Years War

Leading authorities on military history of the period present their latest findings in a series of lectures and demonstrations. Participation is by pre-registration only. Call for information and registration form. The War College takes place in the Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center.

Contact:

Fort Ticonderoga
Ticonderoga, New York

518-585-2821

www.fort-ticonderoga.org

April 27

250th Anniversary of the April 30th, 1758 Raid on German Flatts

An 11:00 am church service will be held at the Fort Herkimer Church. Light refreshments will be served following the service at Fort Herkimer Church, German Flatts, NY.

Contact:

Northern Frontier Project

315- 699-2072

hrc1777@yahoo.com or mdmpres@msn.com

MAY

May 3

French & Indian War British Reenactor Training

British reenactors will be converging on Rogers Island to drill and train their troops on the commands for the military Manual of Arms, learning the commands for executing evolutions as British troops during the French & Indian War. Stop by to see what it takes to coordinate their military tactics on the field. 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center

Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693

www.rogersisland.org

May 24-25

Native American Living-History Weekend on Rogers Island

Join Native American reenactors to learn more about this area's first inhabitants - how they lived, what they ate and how they adjusted to the coming of the Europeans. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center

Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693

www.rogersisland.org

May 24-25

250th Anniversary Encampment

Living historians gather at Fort Stanwix to remember the people who served here before the American Revolution on this special 250th year anniversary of the construction of Fort Stanwix during the French and Indian War.

Contact:

Fort Stanwix National Monument

315-338-7730

www.nps.gov/fost

JUNE

June 7-8

18th Century Market Fair

An event that carries on the tradition of fairs and markets, set by Sir William Johnson. 18th century sutlers [vendors] and a domestic encampment bring the site alive amidst performances of magic, Punch & Judy, period music, longways dancing, children's games, fencing demonstrations and much more.

Contact:

Johnson Hall State Historic Site
Johnstown, NY 12095

518-762-8712

www.friendsofjohnsonhall.org

June 24-July 8

Grand Encampment of the French & Indian War

Reenactors depicting French, Canadian, British, Provincial, and Native American forces come together in this once-in-a-lifetime recreation of the Battle of Carillon. The 250th Anniversary highlights begin with a performance by Les Petits Chanteurs Boys Choir from Montreal in the New Mars Education Center and will include a Parade of Arms and skirmish in Ticonderoga Village on June 27th; battle reenactments at Fort Ticonderoga the 28th and 29th; a Day of Scots, July 5th, to commemorate the loss of British troops and French Victory Day on July 8th. Adults \$15; children 7-12 \$7; children under 7 free; seniors \$13.50.

Contact:

Fort Ticonderoga
Ticonderoga, New York

518-585-2821

www.fort-ticonderoga.org

JULY

July 4-6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily

French & Indian War Encampment

Siege demonstrations at 3 p.m. each day.

Contact:

Old Fort Niagara Historic Site
Youngstown, NY

716-745-7611

www.oldfortniagara.org

July 7 - August 15

Archaeological Field School

Weekday lectures for Adirondack Community College's Archaeological Field School are open for the public to attend. Visit with the diggers and enjoy their lunchtime talks on various historical and archaeological topics. 12:30 pm each day

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center
Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693
www.rogersisland.org

July 8
250th Anniversary of the Battle of Carillon Commemoration

Join a procession from the Fort to the French Lines for a wreath-laying ceremony led by the Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum. Adults \$15, children 7-12 \$7, children under 7, free, seniors, \$13.50.

Contact:
Fort Ticonderoga
Ticonderoga, New York

518-585-2821
www.fort-ticonderoga.org

July 12
1758-Focus on Fort Carillon bike trip

This 35-mile trip provides a scenic, pleasant and reflective 250th anniversary experience for the time traveler as he or she visits the period when this bicycle path was used as a road to transport military troops and supplies from Fort Edward to Lake George, NY. Registration deadline is June 12. Cost per person is \$75 with optional dinner cruise, \$36 without dinner cruise.

Contact:
American Heritage Bicycle Tours
13B Woodcliffe Drive
Clifton Park , NY 12065

518-373-0988
www.americanheritagebicycletours.com

July 12

250th Commemoration of the deaths of Lord Howe and Major Duncan Campbell and the defeat of Abercromby's Army.

Join with reenactors as we remember the ultimate sacrifices given by the defenders of this country 250 years ago! In late June 1758 approximately 16,000 British troops marched out of Fort Edward heading northward to attack the French at Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga). July 6th at Lake George the majority of the troops continued their journey up the lake in a flotilla of more than 1,000 boats. Two days later they engaged the 3,500 French troops, but the British were resoundingly defeated with thousands dead or wounded. Among the dead was Lord Augustus Howe, General Abercromby's second in command, who was much loved by his troops. His remains were returned to Fort Edward where they were then shipped down the Hudson to Albany where he was interred in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Major Duncan Campbell of the 42nd Regiment of the Black Watch from Scotland was among the wounded sent to the hospital on

Rogers Island at Fort Edward where he died on July 17 from wounds received at Ticonderoga. Today Campbell's remains are interred in Union Cemetery on Route 4 in Fort Edward beneath the oldest headstone in Washington County.

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center
Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693
www.rogersisland.org

July 19-20
Founder's Day Weekend

French & Indian War Re-enactment and Colonial Trade Fair
Take a step back in time to the mid-eighteen hundreds in the St. Lawrence River Valley.

Contact:
Fort La Présentation Site
Lighthouse Point
Ogdensburg, NY

315-393-3260, 877-228-7810
www.fortlapresentation.net

AUGUST
August 2-3

The Great Carrying Place "Coming Home" Pow Wow

Come and experience a Native American PowWow! Enjoy the sounds of the drums and singers, and the sight of proud, energetic, colorful dancers, as they step and sway, or kick up their heels in their particular style. There will be two dance sessions each day, as well as native vendors with a variety of crafts and gifts available. Plan to arrive early and stay late, and please bring a chair or blanket.

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center
Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693
www.rogersisland.org

August 9-10
French and Indian War Encampment Weekend

Military camps near the ruins of the French and British forts; tactical weapons demonstrations.

Contact:
Crown Point State Historic Site
739 Bridge Road
Crown Point, NY, 12928

518-597-4666
www.nysparks.com

August 22-24
French & Indian War Encampment

18th Century drills, living history and tactical weapons demonstrations, cohosted by New York State Parks and Schroth's Rogers Rangers. Adults \$4, seniors \$3, students 13 - college (with ID) \$3, children 12 and under free.

Contact:
Fort Ontario State Historic Site
1 E4th St.
Oswego, NY 13126

315-343-4711
www.fortontario.com , www.nysparks.com

August 23
1758-Focus on Fort Carillon bike trip

This 35-mile trip provides a scenic, pleasant and reflective 250th anniversary experience for the time traveler as he or she visits the period when this bicycle path was used as a road to transport military troops and supplies from Fort Edward to Lake George, NY. Registration deadline is July 23. Cost per person is \$75 with optional dinner cruise, \$36 without dinner cruise.

Contact:
American Heritage Bicycle Tours
13B Woodcliffe Drive
Clifton Park , NY 12065

518-373-0988
www.americanheritagebicycletours.com

SEPTEMBER

September 8-13
Annual Lake George Area Restaurant Week

Participating restaurants throughout the region will offer three-course meals for \$17.57, in honor of the French & Indian War. List of participating restaurants, menus and additional information available on the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce website.

Contact:
Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce

518-668-5755
director@lakegeorgechamber.com
www.lakegeorgechamber.com

September 12-13
Festival of Nations & Birthday Party for the Crown Point Lighthouse, 1858-2008

National heritage presentations, music, crafts, food, dance, games and family activities celebrate the five cultures that permanently impacted Crown Point during the 1700s: Canada, France, Great Britain, Woodland Indian tribes, and the United States.

Contact:
Crown Point State Historic Site

739 Bridge Road
Crown Point, NY, 12928

518-597-4666
www.nysparks.com

September 20-21
The End of the Campaign French & Indian War Encampment

Join us as reenactors re-create life in a 1758 French & Indian War camp on Rogers Island at Fort Edward. Enjoy the smells as meals are prepared over open campfires and listen to stories of 18th century camp life. Hear the musket fire as work parties are attacked beyond the fort and watch as the British and Provincial soldiers, along with their Native American allies, hurry to their defense. 10:00am- 4:00 pm

Contact: Rogers Island Visitors Center
Fort Edward, NY

518-747-3693
www.rogersisland.org

Because activities are coordinated among many groups and volunteers, times are approximate. It is suggested that visitors should check the event Web site or contact the event to confirm the information.

Fought from 1754 to 1763, the French and Indian War was the precursor to the fight for America's independence. The conflict, now gaining recognition for its important role in shaping this country and Canada, was a fierce contest between the British and American colonists against the French and Canadians, with Native American allies on both sides. The strategic waterways in New York-the Hudson-Champlain corridor, the Mohawk Valley and the St. Lawrence-made the state a focal point of the war.

For more information about the Commemoration, visit <http://fiw250.iloveny.com>.

MEDIA ADVISORY
Media Contact: Sean Kelleher
Phone Number: 518-698-3210

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2008

**FRENCH & INDIAN WAR 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES CONTACTS FOR EVENTS**

The French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commission was created by the State Legislature in 2005 for the purpose of educating New Yorkers on the enduring historical legacy of the French and Indian War, the war that was in many ways the preamble to the American Revolution. It was the first true world war as control of North America was contested between France and Great Britain, both of which were aided by Native American and colonial allies. It was also largely New York's war, as many important battles were fought here.

By organizing, promoting and implementing a major commemoration to recognize New York State's historic contribution to the war's outcome, the Commission is working to promote a greater understanding of the conflict and bring significant tourism dollars into New York State. Since 2005, the Commission has generated over 5.6 million dollars of new tourism income. The Commemoration series was named one of the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America for 2007.

Organized events include French and Indian War reenactments and other activities through 2010. The Commission recognizes the following as contacts for upcoming Signature Events: June 28-29, 2008: Grand Encampment through July 8, 2008: 250th Anniversary of the French Victory Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY Contact: Nicholas Westbrook 518 585-2821 nick@fort-ticonderoga.org

July 3-5, 2009: Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY Contact:
Robert Emerson 716-745-7611 ofn@oldfortniagara.org

July 17-18, 2010: Fort La Presentation, Ogdensburg, NY Contact: Barbara O'Keefe 315-393-3315 jokeefe@twcny.rr.com

In addition, the Commission's marketing chairman-Sean Kelleher 518-698-3210 skellehe@nycap.rr.com-is the Commission public information officer.

For more information about the Commemoration, visit <http://fiw250.iloveny.com>.