

# The Sentry Post

## Friends of Fort Malden Newsletter

July – August, 2017

Issue 5

### Introduction

In June 2017, the Friends of Fort Malden held their Annual General Meeting in the Soldier Barracks. We encourage both old and new members to attend the meeting, and we held elections for the Board of Directors of 2017. Please join us in congratulating the following people for being elected to the Friends of Fort Malden Board:



Jeremy Warnock (President)

Mark Feltoe (Vice President)

David May (Secretary)

Peter Wright (Treasurer)

Directors: Margaret Bondy, Patti Perreault, Jeff Mellow, Rhonda Bencosme, Randy Hall.



We would like to thank to Peter Wright for his hard work in leading the Friends of Fort Malden, as our President for the last three years. This year he has stepped down from this role, but will continue remain

involved by acting as treasurer for year of 2017. We welcome Jeremy Warnock as our new President for the 2017 season! The Friends have received a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs program to hire 12 high school students to support the Fort this year!



These students will be providing much of the animation on site. This includes being members of the Fort's Drill Squad, Cannon Crew, and interpreting the buildings. They also help with events at the Fort including the Murder Mystery, Plays and Escape Rooms.

### From The Fort

- Construction of the new administration building is ongoing. It is expected to be completed in early July.
- The Living History theatrical event was presented by the touring group "Living History". It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. We will offer it again next year.

- Visitation at the site has increased this year because of Canada 150<sup>th</sup>.
- 15 University Students started work in May. They are learning their roles and creating memorable visitor experiences. 6 of these students are new 9 are returning.



- One wedding ceremony is booked to take place on the ground in June.
- We are busy preparing for special events, such as The Murder Mystery, multiple Plays, weekly Escape Rooms and our event in August "Raiders, Rebels and Redcoats".

### Fort Facts and Finds

The Commissariat Office is a one – story building that is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building. It stands at the north end of the King's Navy Park and was built in 1831 as the office for the

Commissariat Department for Fort Malden. It was placed near the government wharf and storehouses.



In the British Army, the Commissariat was a uniformed civilian service until 1869. This office administered local service contracts to the military and was in charge of purchasing such things as flour, beef, straw, firewood and other staples for the garrison at Fort Malden. They purchased from local contractor and farmers in Essex County. It also managed the finances of Fort Malden, including the soldiers' pay, which was issued daily from the Commissariat Office.



The Commissariat Officer at Fort Malden was a man named Robert Reynolds. The Commissariat Office was a large contributor of the economic development of Amherstburg from 1830 – 1850.

Around 1920 the building was purchased and converted into a house by the Callam family who built several addition including a veranda and garage. In 1983 Parks Canada purchased the Commissariat Office and restored it to its original 1831 appearance.



In August 2002 the Commissariat opened as an Interpretive Centre for the Provincial Marine Amherstburg Re-enactment Unit, thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Today, it is open to the public. It helps to explain the life and time of the Provincial Marine, Pioneer Life, the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. The hours are Monday, Wednesday – Friday from 11am – 4pm also Saturday – Sunday 12pm – 5pm.

### Hands on History

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to fire a Brown Bess musket or touch-off a six-pounder cannon or mortar?



Travel thought time to 1812 and join the ranks on the Parade Square

at Fort Malden! If you're 16 years or older, enlist in the Fort Malden artillery (an hour will do it!) and learn to fire a musket, cannon or mortar. Safety comes first, so you'll begin with instructions from a uniformed guide on operating and loading the weapons properly. Then it'll be time to put on your own uniform, take your stand and fire away!



Available Wednesday through Sunday, \$18.40 for a musket firing; \$76.60 for a mortar firing; \$110.40 for a six-pounder cannon firing or \$205.40 for all three.

### Soldier Stew Days

Hungry? Fort Malden's is cooking up a piping hot soldier's meal, straight from the 19th century in the Soldier's Cookhouse.



After a bracing stroll around the grounds of Fort Malden, during

which your guide will fill you in on all the history, pull up a chair in the Cookhouse and enjoy a delectable bowl of stick-to-your-ribs soldier's stew and a hearty chunk of local bread to go with it. Bolster your morale with a sweet bit of dessert and wash it all down with a draught of iced tea. Pick up your Solider Stew ticket, every day from May to September at the Visitor Centre or Museum at \$4.90

## Upcoming Events

### Escape Room

*July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

*August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017*



Are you cunning enough to escape the Fort's Barracks? Can you solve the mysterious death of a British Officer? Participate in Fort Malden's weekly escape room or try new daily escape room! See if you can decipher the riddles to break out of the Soldier's Barracks or the Officers Marquee!



Please call 519 – 736-5416 for more information and to reserve your ticket. Soldier's Barracks: Time: 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Cost: \$24.50 per person. Officer's Marquee: Last admission will be at 4:15 pm Cost: \$11.70 per person.

### Fort Malden Murder Mystery

*July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017*

Channel your inner detective as you help uncover a murder in a classic "who done it" with a historical twist!



Explore the Fort to uncover clues and interview suspects with hopes of finding the guilty party. Prizes to be awarded for some and fun to be had by all! Please call Fort Malden at 519 – 736 – 5416 to reserve your ticket today. Time: 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Cost: \$12.10 per person.

### Raider, Redcoats and Rebels

*August 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

Join Parks Canada and Fort Malden in commemorating the

180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rebellions of 1837. Essex County was once again the scene of battles over twenty years after the War of 1812.



Come watch as historical re-enactors transform Fort Malden along with the Town of Amherstburg into a village on the cusp of rebellion! Time: 10 am – 5 pm Tavern at Fort, Saturday evening: 8 pm to 11 pm (19 and over). Cost: A special event rate of \$1.90 per person applies (Children 6 and under FREE).



### Art by the River

*August 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

Art by the river, which is held annually the weekend before the Labour Day is the major fundraiser for the Gibson Gallery. This Arts and Craft Festival, which was first held in 1967, is Essex County's original Arts & Crafts Show. It has grown into an end of summer tradition in Amherstburg, attracting 150 artists and artisans from across

Ontario. 2017 will be the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this event!

### **Voyager Rendezvous**

**September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**M**aidstone and Area Museum, in partnership with the Town of Amherstburg and Parks Canada, are hosting a traditional Voyager Rendezvous with fur traders, canoes, encampment, demonstration and interactive activities.



This new event for Canada 150 will entertain and enlighten visitors about some of Windsor - Essex's first settlers.

### **Fort Malden by Candlelight**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**V**isit Fort Malden in the evening during one of the spookiest times of the year. Tour through candlelit building and listen to stories of the soldiers that lived here over 180 years ago.



This evening is an opportunity for visitors to explore the fort at night. Cost: \$4.90 per person.

### **Fort Hours**

#### **Summer Hours**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Open Daily, 10 am – 5 pm.
- Last Musket Demonstration at 4:15 pm.

### **Fort Fees**

**P**arks Canada is inviting Canadians and visitors from around the world to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our national treasures from coast to coast to coast.



To mark this special year, we are offering free admission to all Park Canada locations. Come join us for the celebration. Pick up your 2017 free Discovery Pass today at the Visitors Centre. Excluded special event noted above.

### **What is Free?**

- Admission to all national parks, national historic sites and national conservation areas operated by Parks Canada
- Lockage at Parks Canada's historic canals and waterways.



### **Website/Facebook**

**P**lease feel free to check out the Fort Malden website, as well both Facebook pages. Friends of Fort Malden or the Parks Canada Fort Malden National Historic Site, for any upcoming events or photos we post.

#### **Fort Malden National Historic Site.**

Website

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/malden/visit.aspx>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FortMaldenNHS>

#### **Friends of Fort Malden.**

Website - Coming soon

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoffortmalden>



**God Save the Queen!!**