

1. THE ALL-UP CANADIAN EVENT OF 1993 - 200TH ANNIVERSARY, FOUNDING OF YORK (TORONTO) AUGUST 7 & 8 HISTORIC FORT YORK

While this isn't our next event on the schedule, it's so important, I'm putting it at the front of this newsletter. This will be your only notification regarding this event.

As the turnout for our all-up US event at Bath, NY was quite poor, Himself certainly hopes that everyone will respond to this big one. Every effort has been made to obtain maximum support for the reenactors and we've got it! Now, we've got to deliver. For all those late 1992 recruits who have been oddly absent this campaign, you need to make this one. Ditto, all you old soldiers who seem to think business and cottage are more important than service to your regiment and King.

Our cantonment will be placed on the east side of the Garrison Common. Secure parking will be close by in the garrison, gravelled lot. Pls park there as compactly as possible and don't park in the paved visitors' area. Overflow parking is at the Armouries. A small modern camp is located to the west of the gravelled parking area.

Four firepits will be available for cooking or 'sit-arounds' and straw for tents & palliases. Portajohns at the camp and access to running water washrooms & showers in the Fort. A standpipe for potable water will be right at the camp.

All meals are supplied! There will be a replenishment issue of black powder for troops and artillery on Sunday morning. Please arrive with all your cartridges prepared and then take home a replacement powder issue. No preparation of cartridges in the camp please. Also, no distasteful cartridge paper please, ie. the only printed matter should be 18C in form.

Participation: Currently registered are:

Small Boat Flotilla - all period boats representing the Royal George; Loyal Convert; Lord Nelson & the Bouchette Hydrographic Launch. S/Master Dick Price NCOIC
Artillery Battery of 4 guns - 6 Pdr Fort York; 6 Pdr 4Bn RA; 3 Pdr KRR; 3 Pdr Royal George; 1½ Pdr HMS Lizard - A/Maj Ed Anderson OC.
Regular Brigade - 16th LtDragoons; 1st Foot Guards; 64th Regt; 84th Regt; Brunswick LtInf Bn and 1st Bn, Delancey's Corps. A/LtCol Mike Grenier OC
Ranger Brigade - 2 X LtInf Coy, Q'sRang's; 2Bn, K'sRang's. LtCol Gary Corrado OC
Northern Brigade - Drums, Gren's, LtInf, Col's & Maj's, KRR NY; McD's Coy B'sRang's. A/LtCol Reg James OC.

Total reenactors - 450; sailors & troops about 350.

Here's a rough Schedule:

- Saturday AM Breakfast in Fort York
 Admin & Safety Inspections
 Board buses for Simcoe's Landing Mk III at Harbourfront in the shadow of the CN Tower & the Skydome.
 LtGov Simcoe lands - suitable ceremonies (the sailing ship will be the beautiful, 'Pride of Baltimore')
 Lunch in Fort York
- Saturday PM Public Tactical Demonstration - an Assault against the SW bastion and south wall of Fort York w/massed artillery bombardment.
 Volunteer visits to Queen's York Rangers' Messes, Museum & Tuck Shop at Fort York Armoury and/or tours of Fort York displays. The fort's Museum Shop is offering a 10% discount to all 18C clothed persons (food/drinks excepted)
 Dinner in Fort York
 Grand Musicale - Folk singing group "Tanglefoot" and period music & nonsense trio "Three Big Dummies" (that's Ken Purvis, Pete Alexander & wee Gavin) and contra dancing called by the "Fort York Regency Dancers". All of this accompanied by Molson's refreshments.
 Grand Finale - Roast Pig on Buns.
- Sunday AM Breakfast in the Armoury
 Strike Camp and pack up Vehicles keeping uniform, accoutrements & arms handy. (we've scheduled this early striking so that everyone who has a long drive can afford the time to stay for the afternoon tactical)
 Informal parade to issue participants' Medals & issue powder.
 Formal Parade for Founding Ceremonies (close copy of the record found in Elizabeth Simcoe's diaries)
 Short route march to Ferry Boarding Point @ foot of Bathurst St. (small boats & artillery take separate routes)
 Lunch aboard sidewheeler ferry 'Trillium'. (this will offer a super view of Toronto's harbour and Islands. Pleasantly surprising if you haven't seen it before)
- Sunday PM Landing at Hanlan's Point, Toronto Islands. Finish lunch & deploy.

Free-form Tactical (ie. there's public viewing of it; but, we get to compete and play tactical games. The ground is large mature trees & obstructions on one flank and mixed, heavy scrub-bush and trees on the western beach flank. There will be bombardments by the small boat flotilla & landings by Marines & Bluejackets. Artillery is fully used (BAR regulations) on both sides. The battle terminates near the oldest building in Toronto - the stone Lighthouse at Gibraltar Point, which strangely wasn't destroyed by the Yanks in 1813 or 14)
Re-embark, short march back to Fort York and disperse.

2. A REGIMENTAL BIRTH

Mrs. Sjt Ann and Sjt Glen Smith are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter Lydia, discharged into this world on June 17th as a 6½ Pdr going on 7. As Glen states in his announcement, "Let the guns thunder forth".

3. NEXT EVENT: THE BAR GRAND ENCAMPMENT & 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT SPRINGFIELD, OHIO JUL 24,25

This is an entirely new venue for the Royal Yorkers, so estimates of timing to get there are varied. I see it as a 8 - 9 hour ride from Toronto (an hour further than Schoharie); from Niagara-on-the-Lake it looks about 7. From points east, it's likely 8 - 9 going down to I-81 & then west on I-90.

You would approach the drive very differently depending on where you're starting from. Out of London, Mississauga, Guelph, Toronto, Newmarket and close points east - take the 401 through Windsor, crossing at Detroit. I'd stop there and get a map of Michigan and Ohio. You go south from Detroit on super highways to just west of Springfield and cut east. Springfield is 25 miles west of Columbus.

Out of St.Kitts/NOTL, go across at Queenston or Fort Erie and pick up I-90 West past Erie PA to Ohio. Get a map!

What's going to be special about this event? The campsite is at George Rogers Clark Park which commemorates Clark's raid in 1780 against our allies, the Shawnees. Being a Grand Encampment, there will be lots of Sutlers and lots of troops & followers. There are three public tacticals, one of these being a dusk effort on Sat night after supper after which there will be refreshments. On Sunday morning there's a non-public, free-form or wargame type effort. So, that's four in total.

During the free time, there are a great number of other historic sites close by. For instance, within a half hour drive, is the US Air Force museum - a free entry, extra special place for afficienados. Also, if you're taking an extra day, you could stop at Greenfield Village in Detroit en route.

As our unit is having trouble registering by names those who will actually attend, we're unable to guarantee tickets for the Banquet. (the one at Fort Stanwix was superb; however, we bought a block of 'un-named' tickets and lost money) So, we are advising them that we will purchase tickets for \$10 US on site if any are left over. If they aren't, we'll simply drive outside for a Yorker dinner.

4. NEW EVENT, SUNDAY AUGUST 1, SKYDOME, TORONTO

Oh lordie, now we have some more! For those of you who have pointed out that there is hardly anything on the calendar in July & August for the 1st Bn, we have now added a new one. We get to perform for the adoring public at the Skydome as the opening entertainment for the Jays/Detroit Tigers game. Why?? Well, as support for the Queen's York Rangers in their Toronto 200 event. Why us? - well cuz we can actually do something to entertain the crowd by displaying some Line tactics and a Bayonet Charge. The QYR can't drive their Jeeps and Trucks onto the astro-turf.

"Jazuz! another dog & pony show!!! And, Watt's going to tell us that we're obligated to attend." Yes, you're right; I am going to tell you that we do owe the Queen's York Rangers a great debt (through thick and thin, for 17 years they've sponsored our use of Fort York Armouries) and when they ask us to help them, we are obligated to do our best - especially, but not exclusively, all of you who have trained at the Armoury.

Of course, there's a price to be paid for this joy. 1. It's a long weekend. 2. It's the weekend immediately before the All-Up event at Fort York. Life is not a rose garden!

What do we need? We must field the Colours. As we will not be able to field the Gun, the crew can be co-opted by the Lights. We need every Drummer that has ever walked Yorker earth and who isn't working the weekend at Fort George. We need a solid Section of Light Infantry, 8 bodies, all with Coatees & slouch hats. So, if some borrowing is necessary - get organizing. We need a solid Section of Grenadiers, 8 minimum. We need two 8 man Sections of Colonel's Coy. SjtMjr and Sjt Putnam will attempt to co-op the local Major's Coy guys like Maybee, Gutteridge & Hooper as Hatmen to provide a Guard to the Colours.

Our job is to provide a 10 minute battle demonstration which will thrill the crowd beyond speech. So, when they don't cheer, we'll know we've been successful. We know how all baseball fans are avid historians.

3.

Our scenario will go as follows. We will skirmish the 18C Queen's Rangers and our Lights. The Colours, Grenadiers and Colonel's will deploy onto the field covered by the skirmishers. Once the line is formed, the skirmishers will retire to the flanks of the line and we will commence Alternate Firings by Sections. We will advance an appropriate distance and fire alternately by Wings, advance again and fire a General Volley; Fix Bayonets and mount a determined Charge with the Drums growling in the background.

We will have to tuck away our used cartridges as the field must be left free of debris. This means no ramming. What do you need? All of your Yorker kit with 20 rounds of blank. No questionable cartridge paper Johan!! You should make an effort to look sharp with washed trousers, clean buff leather and blackened shoes, scabbards and pouch flaps. Your firelocks should be scoured and your bayonets shining!!

The QY Rang understand that this little appearance represents quite a sacrifice on our part considering how many of the guys have to drive a couple of hours just to get to the Armoury. After the little show is over, we go back to the Armoury for a beer bust and BBQ.

Timing: Arrive at Fort York Armoury at 1000 hours Sunday morning. You will park in the Armoury lots or over the bridge on the gravel parking up above. Be warned, you take your chances if you park on the road as it is prohibited. That doesn't mean 'don't', it just means you might get fined.

At Noon we are bussed to the Skydome and the ceremonies go ahead at 1300. It's over by 1330 and we get on the buses to return to the Armoury for the BBQ lunch. You're free to go anytime after the return.

5. TODMORDEN MILLS, AUGUST 1, 1993 - A SMALL MONEY MAKER

Also, not on the calendar - Ensign John Moore has a little event slated for the same day in Toronto at Todmorden Mills. He needs a small (3-4 bodies) band of volunteers to fulfill our commitment to this site and, wouldn't you know it, it's the same day as the Skydome. Somehow we gotta pull off both of these events.

6. NIAGARA PEACH FESTIVAL & OLD FORT NIAGARA, AUG 14 & 15, 1993

We have a mega-tactical wargame slated for next year in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Armed Forces Training grounds where we've never played before. To pay our dues for that upcoming event, Cpl Eric Henry, LtCoy, has organized an appearance this year on Saturday, Aug 14 in the town during the Peach Festival celebration. Arrival at Niagara-on-the-Lake is at 1100 hrs; the parade steps off at 1130 and after lunch there will be a series of tactical demos & parade of soldier type stuff in Simcoe Park. The Light Coy is looking forward to support from the Grenadiers, Col's Coy & local guys from the Maj's for this show & tell. This event will finish around 1530 hrs and you can then return home or go across to Old Fort Niagara for the event there. Many of the Lights will then celebrate Pte John 'Thumper' Murray's nuptials.

To get to the free, reserved parking for this Niagara-on-the-Lake event, go in on Hwy 55 til it dead ends. Turn right on the town's main drag; go past the clock tower & cenotaph to the 4-way stop sign. Go through one more block and turn left. Look for Traffic Yorkers.

The annual Old Fort Niagara mid-summer encampment is on this same weekend. Guys & gals who are intending to visit the fort can support this Yorker event by coming across from the fort if they go over on Friday to set up their tents, or can delay arriving at Fort Niagara, go to the appearance at NOTL and then go over for the Sat night festivities at the fort. Either way, here's a variation on Ft Niagara.

7. A TERRIFIC EVENT - ANCASTER

Sjt Putnam illustrated that he really knows what makes a good event. Super camping area; terrific meals; an ungodly march; spectacular wargame ground - the best ever said many - and crowds of interested folk. Want to do that wargame again Dave?

8. BLACK CREEK REVISITED

Just a few wet words. For those of you wussies who didn't want to get wet, the whole weekend came off as per schedule. We battled both days in a misting drizzle. There was a good crowd - about 60% of the norm - watching on Saturday and as Sunday threatened to be worse, about 20% of the norm that day. The opposition was the largest ever for this event. Even though we had large turnouts of the 64th & Butler's and a good showing of Brant's Volunteers and Queen's Rangers, we didn't have to give anyone over to the rebels!! Amazing.

The Grenadier dinner provided to all participants was excellent and very appreciated. The 15th Albany, 3rd & 4th Tryon took up a collection of \$92 to help offset costs and Ken & Cecile Paterson sent in a gift of \$100 to also help. Many thanks to all those folks for their help. And big thanks to Tom Jovanovic for purchasing such a tasty array of foodstuffs; to Mrs Captain Ann James for her quartermaster duties so ably performed; to Bruce Grundy for his delightful, prepared-to-your-order service of the steaks and to all the other Grenadiers who slugged it out in the food trench. Many words of thanks have come in from Butler's; Hoisington's; Albany & Tryon County militias, etc... A really nice letter from the Assist Curator thanking the Yorkers for all the effort.

9. A COLOURS CEREMONY FOR THE 10 REGT OF FOOT

News has been received from LtCol Richard Amsterdam OC that the original silk colours of the 10th, which have been laid up in England since 1979, are being returned to the unit. A Presentation ceremony will be conducted in Bedford, Mass with MGen Richard Gerrard-Wright, Colonel of the Regiment and President of the Royal Lincolnshire Association, officiating. Many dignitaries from Britain and the USA and a number of honoured guests are being invited. Our regiment was amongst the latter.

I have sent a reply offering our best wishes and regards and advising that we will be on campaign on the frontier (Schroon Lake Grand Tactical) that same weekend. For those of you who don't know of the relationship between the Yorkers and the 10th - The latter was the first British regiment to be recreated in America. At our founding in 1975, I corresponded with their CO, Vincent J-R Kehoe, who, for that time period, had recruited a very large unit starting with the flank companies, moving to a Colour Party, Fifes & Drums and a Battalion Coy. His research was wonderfully extensive and he was a great believer in sharing his findings. Kehoe returned my correspondence, answering many questions and providing his extensive drills and regulations manual developed from many original sources. He had also written two books on the Lexington/Concord confrontations which marked the first actions of the revolution. The 10th had been prominent in those frays. These books provided tremendous insights into the commencement of the rebellion, the one from the British point of view, the other from the rebel's. They are undoubtedly amongst the best works on this topic. (Before being transferred to Boston, the old 10th had served on the frontier in Canada and garrisoned Forts Oswegatchie [Ogdensburg], Oswego, Niagara, Detroit, etc... and had been replaced by the 8th in 1774)

On the 200th anniversary of war's end, LtCol Kehoe disbanded his recreated unit and sent the Colours to England for lodging with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, the unit which perpetuates the old corps. The recreated 10th had developed an excellent relationship with their British counterpart. However, many of the reenactor/members in the 10th disagreed with Col Kehoe's decision and refused to disband as they saw the hobby continuing; these men continued with the unit and a rift developed between Col Kehoe and themselves.

Happily, many, many years later, this rift has been healed and Col Kehoe has rejoined his unit. The return of their first set of reproduction colours marks this reunion.

During our visit to England in 1987, I unwittingly created an unfortunate scene with some members of the 10th which threatened to brew up into a major fiasco. Fortunately, I was able to patch up this misunderstanding and have enjoyed superb relationships since. This year, LtCol Amsterdam, invited the Royal Yorkers to join with the 10th Regt at Ticonderoga for an exclusive weekend of drills and wargames. He was most complimentary regarding our unit. I had to decline as we were heavily engaged over the time period he had anticipated.

The 10th Regt makes no bones about their representation being of a garrison regiment and they correctly, and with understanding, view ours as being a campaign representation. While the turnout of their unit, arms, uniforms & accoutrements, is superb, as we have witnessed many times, they are unafraid of getting themselves dirty when the need arises. For us scruffy Provincial bumpkins, it is often embarrassing to be seen amongst their glittering officers who appear to purchase new kit every other year.

10. 2BN, CAPT CRAWFORD'S COY: "WYOMING MASSACRE & CRAFT SHOW" REVISITED Need any more be said?

Well... yes. Crawford's had a good turnout and was the largest unit in the field. Captain Jeff Paine made his first appearance - bold, debonair & raffish some might say. Much worthwhile work done to improve our tactical drills even tho the heat was 95 - 100. Cameo appearances in the ranks by George Howse & Christian Cameron greatly assisted our efforts.

11. ITEMS FOR SALE

- a) Knapsacks - current pattern w/adjustable shoulder straps - \$80.00
- b) Blankets - a couple left, white w/blue stripes - good as singles - \$18.00 ea
- c) Musket Tools - Triangular, hand forged or 1759 type - \$10 ea
- d) Whisk & Pick - brass cylinder type - \$5.00 ea
- e) Rawle Pouches - the definitive cartouche - \$108.00

12. SOME THOUGHTS ON A STRANGE MYTH

There seems to be a legend running in the Light Infantry that no one needs to carry a canteen cuz they make too much noise in the bush. Come on guys!! All those super tough Light Bobs didn't need to drink on campaign, eh?? Oh sure, I guess they licked the dew off the leaves.

Sure, not having a canteen saves a few bucks and they are a nuisance, especially in decent weather when you don't need any water handy. And, they clank and they rust. But, let's not kid ourselves about being accurate. The Light Coy carried canteens just like any other soldier. Sure, they may have been very conscious about muffling any noise production and covered the canteen with cloth; but, they sure as hell drank water on campaign and they for sure carried their canteens into combat just like any other human being.