

Host Community Project Number: HCSC-11-009

Date Submitted: _____

Host Communities Standing Committee Review Form

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION:

Name: Town of Lewiston

Mailing Address: 1375 Ridge Road

State: Lewiston NY **Zip Code:** 14092

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land or Water Public Access
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational/Interpretive
<input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront or Land Based Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Project Name: Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration & Reenactment: War of 1812 Reenactment

Location: Lewiston NY

Site Address: Commemoration & reenactment Academy Park and along Riverfront; Monument is planned for the public park at the corner of Center Street and Portage Road

State: NY **Zip Code:** 14092

Minor Civil Divison(s): Town and Village of Lewiston

County: Niagara

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):

Property is owned by Village of Lewiston

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Steve Reiter **Title:** Town Supervisor

Business Address: 1375 Ridge Road

State: Lewiston NY **Zip Code:** 14092

Telephone Number: 716-754-8213 **Cell Number:** ~

Fax Number: 716-754-2821

E-Mail Address: supervisor@townoflewiston.us

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Lee Simonson **Title:** Volunteer Director, 1812 Centennial

Business Address: Historical Association of Lewiston, PO Box 43

State: Lewiston NY **Zip Code:** 14092

Telephone Number: 716-754-8414 **Cell Number:** _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: lee@simonson.com

If you have any questions regarding this form, please call 716-278-8760 for assistance.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the follow five items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration and Reenactment

Purpose

The Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration will be the first major War of 1812 Bicentennial reenactment in both the United States and Canada. The event will prompt international attention and recognition for this area, and in particular the Niagara River region.



When

October 12-14, 2012

Lewiston, New York & Queenston, Ontario
October 12-14, 2012

Importance

This Bicentennial commemoration could be the largest joint cross-border event in history, involving hundreds of organizing volunteers on both the American and Canadian sides, and attracting hundreds of re-enactors and thousands of spectators.

Why so much interest in the Battle of Queenston Heights? Because it was the first major battle of the War, and the Americans killed the "Savior of Canada," Sir Isaac Brock. Had the Americans won the battle, Canadians believe that they would have lost their identity and become part of the United States. President Jefferson said that taking over Canada would be a "mere matter of marching," however, it was anything but that. American soldiers were killed and over 1000 were taken prisoners. The British repelled the attack with everything they had and drove the Americans off Canadian soil.

Some brief historical notes of interest:

- The Battle of Queenston Heights was the first major battle of the War of 1812, taking place on October 13, 1812.
- Half of the American Army was sent to Lewiston to invade Canada. There were a total of 6,000 American troops, including militia, stationed at Lewiston for the invasion.
- American troops were led by General Stephen Van Rensselaer, one of the wealthiest Americans at that time.
- Despite the American troops outnumbering the British by 4 to 1, the British won a decisive victory, when American militia troops refused to cross the Niagara River to participate in the invasion.
- British General Isaac Brock, the “Savior of Canada” was killed by an American sharpshooter as he and small group of British soldiers tried to retake the heights on the Niagara Escarpment.
- A young commander, Winfield Scott, led the American troops on the Canadian side and he was also taken prisoner. Col. Scott later became the longest serving American General in U.S. history and was nicknamed, “Old Fuss and Feathers.”

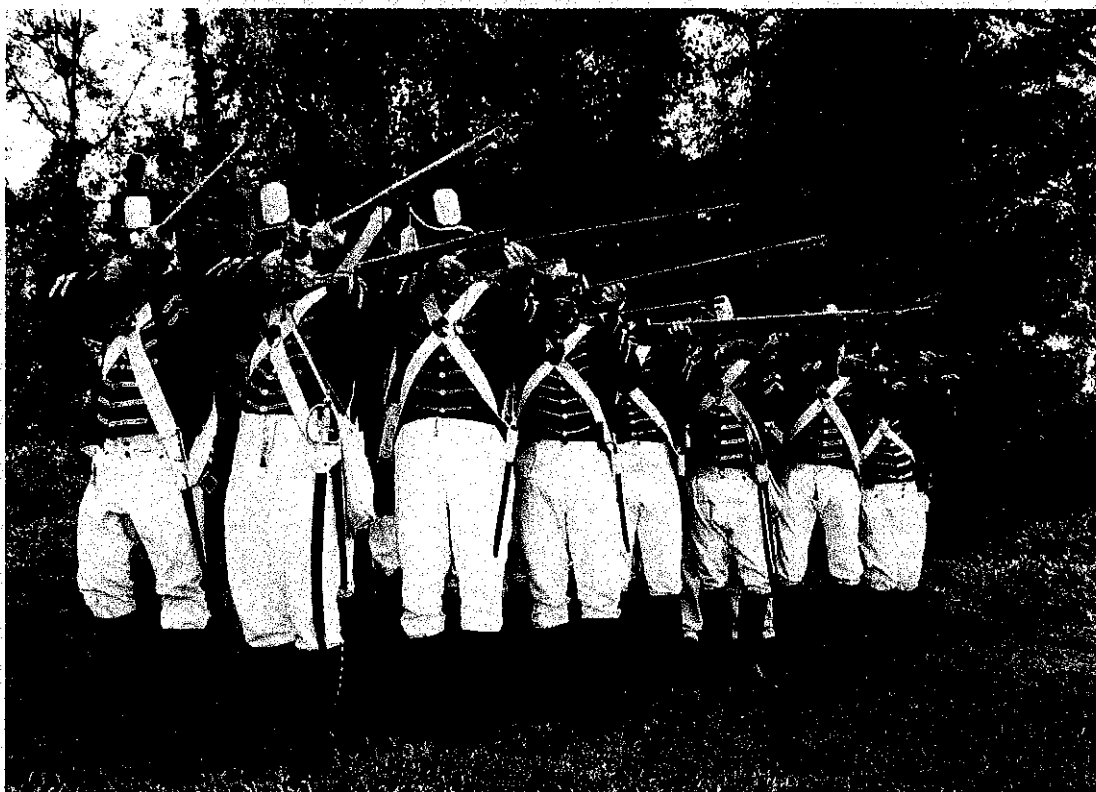
Highlights of the Commemoration

The Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration will be the first major War of 1812 reenactment in both the United States and Canada and the event will prompt international attention and publicity for this area, and in particular the Niagara River.

Hundreds of volunteers -- both reenactors and organizers -- will be participating to insure that this outdoor program is promoted to reach its potential as a major War of 1812 venue and destination.

Reenactors, sutlers (they supplied the troops), period craftspeople and artisans, will all come together in one place to commence the nation’s 1812 “field of battle” programs and activities -- all part of a “living history” demonstration that will attract thousands of tourists, visitors and students.

A key element in enhancing the “value” to this commemoration involves hundreds of school children from throughout Western New York who will visit Lewiston on October 12, 2012, to see and learn about their rich heritage. School preparations will begin during the Fall of 2011 by reaching out to WNY schools and lining up programs that students can participate in. This will be the first time that students, and even the general public, will get a chance to see first-hand how soldiers dressed and lived in the



Here is a U.S. Marine reenactment unit that will be attending Lewiston's Battle of Queenston Heights Bicentennial commemoration. It is the Brooks Detachment, U.S. Maine Brigade. The reenactors will set up their military camp in Academy Park in Lewiston and will use that as a home base while they are performing reenactment programs on both the American and Canadian sides during the weekend. A very important part of the commemoration will involve hundreds, if not thousands, of area school children who will visit as part of a huge field day venue on Friday, October 12, 2012.

early 19th Century -- an eye-opening experience about a relatively unknown era that most people are unfamiliar.

American troop reenactors will come from all parts of the United States, and even Canada, and those who have the proper period cannons will be invited to bring those cannons to Lewiston and participate in a huge nighttime bombardment of Canada from the Lewiston shoreline, very similar to what really happened 200 years ago. Following the deafening cannonade, visitors will be treated to a huge fireworks demonstration which surveys show is extremely popular in historical reenactment events.

ADVANCING THE NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY VISION

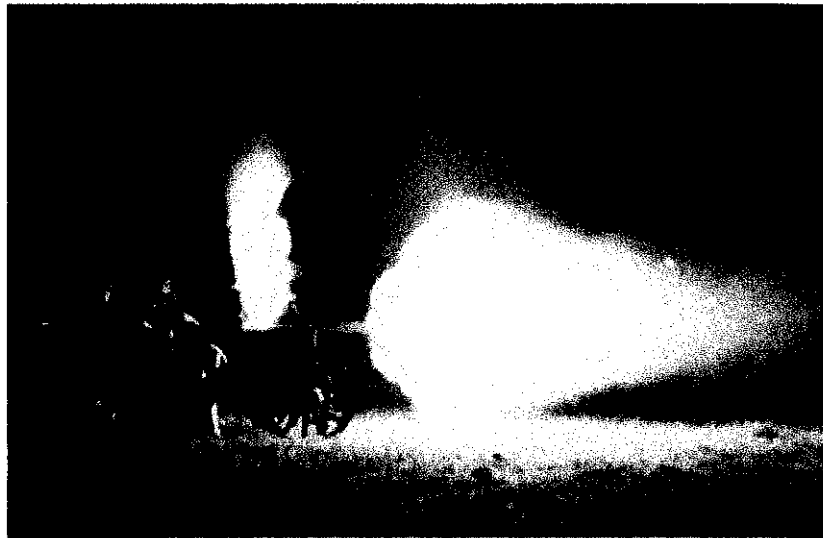
Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

“The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.”

The Niagara River was “ground zero” for many of the most important battles that occurred during the War of 1812 which would determine if freedom itself was to survive.

The Battle of Queenston Heights is one of the most important battles of the War, and is inexorably linked to the heritage of the area.

Over half of the nation’s casualties that took place during the entire War occurred within a 30 miles radius of Niagara Falls, and the most intense battles took place on both sides of the Niagara River. A number of historic battles took place throughout the region, invasions took place on both sides of the border and there were times when the Americans held Ft. George in today’s



Visitors to the Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration and Reenactment will be treated to a rare nighttime cannon bombardment of Canada. At least six large period cannons will be stationed on the Niagara River shoreline at Lewiston and the firing will begin. The loud cannons will create blasts that will be heard miles away. After the spectacular display of cannon fire, visitors will be treated to a huge fireworks display accompanied by music. The next morning, the action shifts to Queenston, Ontario where the American units will be in direct combat with British forces.

Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, and the British held Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York. Lewiston's Bicentennial commemoration of the Battle of Queenston Heights fits perfectly with the Niagara River Greenway vision as we continue to share our heritage resources with the world. Our future will be determined by our past and the unique value of our historical assets will become a centerpiece in the Greenway design.

Historian Michael Stretch says, "The War of 1812 demonstrated that the United States had the resolve and the ability as a nation to defend itself. American determination not only proved that a national spirit existed, but showed Britain and Europe that the United States was a viable power. Even in Federalist New England any lingering thoughts of secession were eradicated. The War of 1812 demonstrated that American independence was real. It legitimized all earlier attempts to draw distinctions between Britain and a people that called themselves "Americans." Americans reinvented their identities as a unique and separate people, called by providential forces to create an egalitarian Utopia. This was the most significant change brought about by the War of 1812 and the start of the so-called era of good feeling."

The Battle of Queenston Heights chronicles one of the most important historical and cultural aspects of the Niagara River, since the river also served as a political boundary between the Americans and British forces during what is known as the "Second American Revolution."

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to commemorate, celebrate and capitalize on a moment in history that propelled the Niagara River and bordering communities to international prominence. It is not an exaggeration to say that what happened here changed the course of world history.

The Bicentennial offers us a rare and unique chance to recognize and promote the Niagara River as a focal point in American history -- a heritage shaped by the sacrifices of our forefathers who spilled blood to protect a fragile country that was still considered something of fluke in the European spheres of influence.

Potential Market and Economic Impact

"Our nation's eyes will be upon us."
-- Steve Reiter, Lewiston Supervisor

Millions of 1812 enthusiasts have been waiting a long time for the commemoration to begin. The 1812 Legacy Council, a bi-national organizing committee, conducted scientific surveys in 2009 to gauge interest and ascertain the potential economic impact of the Bicentennial. (The complete report is included as an addendum to this application on page 19).

Bottom line: An estimated 2.2 million New York State residents said they would "definitely or probably" attend an 1812 event, with an enormous economic impact.

Better yet, this high level of interest is not the result of an artificial demand -- the fact that the Niagara River and the many 1812 battles that took place here, actually happened here! This is the REAL location and the place where history was made, which not only adds to the genuine purpose of the reenactments, but also bodes well for the economic opportunities it presents.

Here is a summary of the economic impact survey results:

- 11% of Americans and 23% of Ontarians who were aware of the War said they would definitely or probably would attend 1812 Bicentennial celebrations. Another 28 to 40% said they might attend.
- Interest in attending War of 1812 events is highest in the area of Toronto to Hamilton (28% or 1.3 million adults) said they would definitely or probably attend) and New York State (15% or 2.2 million adults). Within NYS, interest is highest in WNY and NYC. This is a definite advantage for sites on both sides of the Niagara.

BUDGET

3. Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration and Reenactment

Planning \$ _____

Construction \$ _____

Acquisition \$ _____

Administration \$ _____

Operation and
Maintenance/Year \$ \$80,000 one time cost

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$ \$80,000 (\$25,000 from Greenway)
\$25,000 in anticipated Greenway funds. An additional \$25,000 private contribution from the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission has been announced, and we are applying for additional support from the Niagara Heritage Commission. Other private sponsors will be solicited.

Line Item expenses (estimated):

20,000 Reenactor expenses including food/supplies, restrooms, buses
5,000 Artillery expenses inc. transportation and gunpowder
6,000 Fireworks
20,000 Music/artistic and professional interpretive services
15,000 Marketing, advertising, publicity, printed programs, literature
9,000 Hospitality tents for schools and reenactors, displays
5,000 Miscellaneous including period clothing, clean-up

Entire program will be volunteer driven, with personal and in-kind services donated from a variety of service organizations and local government resources.

We anticipate the Canadians will be spending about \$50,000 on their side of the border. The reason it will be less than the U.S. side is because they will be receiving in-kind services from the provincial and federal governments.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

Support for the Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration is coming in from all sectors of the local, regional and international community.

The Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., representing the residents of Lewiston and its members, is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees composed of community leaders who are keenly in tune with the thoughts and feelings of Lewistonians. Please see the resolution that was passed and signed unanimously by the Board supporting this Greenway application.

The Town of Lewiston unanimously supported the projects and Greenway funding on March 14, 2011. The Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees unanimously passed two resolutions, one as recently as March 7, 2011, stating, "the Board of Trustees strongly supports the 1812 Bicentennial plans, and encourages the Niagara River Greenway Commission to approve Lewiston's application with a strong endorsement."

The Historical Association of Lewiston is working collaboratively with volunteer organizations on the Canadian side, including the Friends of Fort George and the Queenston Resident's Association. On the American side, a number of groups, including two local Rotary Clubs have stepped up to the plate and have offered their assistance and support. The Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation (NTCC) has also called meetings to help organize the marketing of the event. The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce is also involved in promoting the event. Television marketing is planned.

Niagara University has also offered support, and discussions are commencing with the Drama Department to help with Reenactment programming, particularly short plays in period costumes aimed at school children who will visit the venue as part of field trips.

It is important to remember that this is being organized by volunteers exclusively -- not only by volunteers from the Historical Association, but also by volunteers of the Friends of Fort George and the Queenston Resident's Association. In addition, volunteers specializing in living history events have also offered their services to make this event a success.

Town of Lewiston Support Resolution

Town of Lewiston
RESOLUTION - 2011-4

For the Town of Lewiston War of 1812 Bicentennial: battle of Queenston Heights
Commemoration and Reenactment & Tuscarora Heroes Monument

I, Carole Schroeder, Deputy Town Clerk of the Town of Lewiston located at 1375 Ridge Road, Lewiston, New York 14092, do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town of Lewiston held on March 14th, 2011, and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

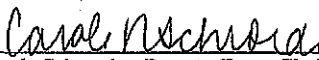
Resolved:

That the Town of Lewiston will submit to the Niagara River Greenway Commission a proposal for recommendation of the Town of Lewiston's; War of 1812 Bicentennial: battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration and Reenactment & Tuscarora Heroes Monument

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Supervisor Reiter - yes
Councilman Bax - yes
Councilman Marra - yes
Councilman Palmer - yes
Councilman Winkley - yes

This motion was carried



Carole Schroeder, Deputy Town Clerk



Village of
LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • P.O. Box 325
Lewiston, New York 14092
(716) 754-8271 • FAX (716) 754-2703



RESOLUTION

VILLAGE OF LEWISTON SUPPORTS 1812 BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS

Whereas: The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commemoration and Celebration provides Lewiston and Western New York an ideal and unique opportunity to capitalize on our rich heritage, and

Whereas: The Bicentennial will be an international event, attracting visitors from all over the United States and Canada, who will come to the area to learn about the first major battle of the war, the Battle of Queenston Heights, which was an invasion of Canada launched from Lewiston, and

Whereas: The Town of Lewiston and the The Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., are jointly applying for Greenway funding to prepare and execute two Bicentennial projects that will honor our important role in the "Second American Revolution," and

Whereas: The Historical Association plans to host a Reenactment on the weekend of October 12-14, 2012, which will take place from Academy Park to the Lewiston Landing; along with the construction and dedication of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument which will be unveiled on the morning of December 19, 2013, to give thanks and gratitude to the Tuscarora Nation for saving the lives of Lewiston's white settlers during a brutal British attack, exactly 200 years earlier.

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees strongly supports the 1812 Bicentennial plans, and encourages the Niagara River Greenway Commission to approve Lewiston's application with a strong endorsement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Village of Lewiston's preferred location for the proposed Tuscarora Heroes Monument is on the corner of Portage Road and Center Street, known as "Triangle Park," which is property owned by the Village and believed to be a location of honor, highly visible, and very suitable in giving praise and thanksgiving for the friendship and guardianship the Tuscarora Nation has given Lewiston for nearly 300 years.


TERRY C. COLLESANO, MAYOR

Dated 3-07-11

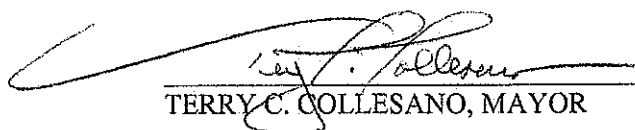
Village of
LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • P.O. Box 325
Lewiston, New York 14092
(716) 754-8271 • FAX (716) 754-2703



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 represents a seminal period in the process of nation building in both the United States and Canada; and
WHEREAS, the cross-border Niagara region was at the frontline of the War of 1812, with decisive battles both on land and lakes reporting the greatest number of casualties and the longest continual period of conflict; and
WHEREAS, the war of 1812 significantly effected civilian populations on both sides of the Niagara River, especially when the flames of war burned British-Canadian, American and Tuscarora settlements along the Niagara River in December of 1813; and
WHEREAS, this conflict involved and impacted the Native American/First Nations in both countries and throughout the Niagara region; and
WHEREAS, many citizens and soldiers acted with great gallantry and personal sacrifice to protect their homes and countries; and
WHEREAS, the Niagara region maintains many cemeteries that are final resting places for combatants and veterans of the War of 1812; and
WHEREAS, from the death and destruction of the War of 1812 was born a spirit of cooperation and a vision of Peace between the United States and Canada; and
WHEREAS, the unparalleled cooperation, prosperity and friendship that developed between the United States and Canada since the War of 1812 find their deepest roots and daily expressions in the cross-border Niagara region; and
WHEREAS, the history of Niagara is rich in stories of peace and freedom, bi-national exchange, cooperative endeavor and neighborly goodwill; and
WHEREAS, the bi-national coordination for this commemoration is being led by the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council; and
WHEREAS, the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 offers an exceptional opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the true and lasting legacy of 200 Years of Peace along the Niagara River between the United States and Canada; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees joins with the other Niagara 10 Legislatures to officially designate the cross-border Niagara Region as an International Corridor of Peace and Cooperation.


 TERRY C. COLLESANO, MAYOR

Dated 3-07-11

SEAL

March 9, 2011

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF LEWISTON, INC.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GREENWAY COMMISSION SUPPORT FOR 1812 BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS: The Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., has been established since 1973 and has faithfully represented the people of Lewiston and has consistently maintained its mission of preserving and protecting Lewiston's rich heritage, and

WHEREAS: The Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., is the lead agency in commemorating and celebrating the forthcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial, and

WHEREAS: The Bicentennial offers Western New York and Lewiston a rare opportunity to shine in the eyes of millions of 1812 enthusiasts across the United States and Canada, and

WHEREAS: The Bicentennial also offers us an economic opportunity to showcase the importance of how our area, and in particular the Niagara River, played a role in shaping – and saving – our democracy during the War of 1812, and

WHEREAS: The Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., in cooperation with the Town of Lewiston, is planning projects that fit perfectly with the Niagara River Greenway concept and philosophy, namely the Battle of Queenston Heights Commemoration and Re-enactment to be held in October 2012, and also the unveiling of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument to be dedicated on December 18, 2013,

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the volunteer Board of Trustees of the Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., strongly urges the Niagara River Greenway Commission to consider and endorse Lewiston's 1812 projects for the purposes of highlighting the Niagara River's unique role in "America's Second Revolution" and to help promote, educate, and foster appreciation for Western New York's important role in the War of 1812.

Ill Simonson

[Signature]

Stan T. Frey

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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Robert H. Welch

[Signature]

Timothy P. Henderson

[Signature]

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

Push 1812 Bicentennial

Editorial, July 8, 2010

We're having to play catch-up with our friends the Canadians, who have already poured millions of dollars into bicentennial observances of a time when they weren't exactly our friends.

The War of 1812 is probably the least-known of American wars, but in Canada ... which launched an invasion of Buffalo during that conflict ... the war has at least garnered enough attention to begin planning for its 200th anniversary. New York has done, well, almost nothing. Until now.

The State Legislature last week approved a measure to create an unpaid state commission to prepare for commemorations of the war, including re-enactments and other events to highlight notable sights and actions related to the war. We hope Gov. David A. Paterson will sign the bill promptly so planning can begin at more than just the local level. He vetoed a similar bill last summer.

We are definitely behind. Canadian government agencies and foundations already have spent more than \$19 million to plan for the bicentennial. The possibilities are not just for education but for tourism and economic development. Western New York has special interest in this war's bicentennial, given its proximity to Canada and the role it played in the war. Buffalo was invaded and burned during the war following an incursion into Canada and the burning of a settlement a few weeks earlier. Even still, among local governments, only the Niagara County Legislature has approved money for observances, authorizing \$5,000 for the purpose.

It will be 2012 in only 1.5 years, so it's past time for government to get moving on this. An educational program has been launched and a citizen, binational Niagara Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Legacy Council has been planning (www.discover1812.com), but governments should be doing more and foundations, civic groups, schools and other organizations should get in the act.

We need to ensure that Americans become better acquainted with this forgotten part of their history and, not insignificantly, take advantage of the economic opportunities it presents today.

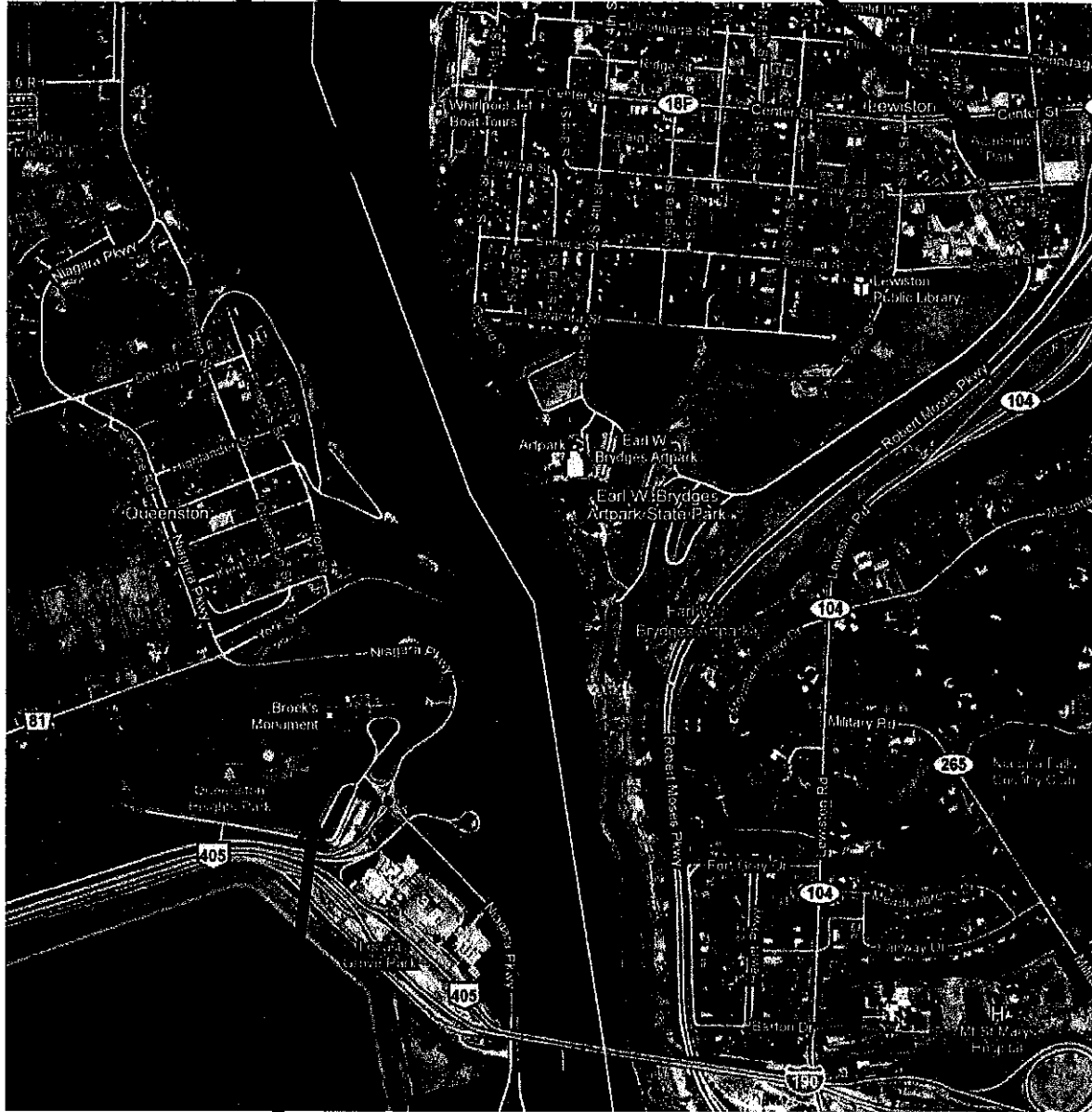
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and the how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animals species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and / or enhanced. Cite any relevant project related studies.

There are no known environmental impacts regarding the Battle of Queenston Heights. Resolutions of support from the Village of Lewiston, owner of all impacted properties, have been included in this application. Comprehensive clean-up measures will be taken and all areas will be restored to normal soon after the Battle Reenactment.

**Artillery Bombardment of Canada
from River shoreline.**

**American Soldier encampment at
Academy Park in Lewiston.**



**British Soldier encampment at
Queenston Park in Queenston, Ontario.**

**SCIENTIFIC MARKETING SURVEY FOR
WAR OF 1812 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

December 1, 2009

Potential Economic and Tourism Development Impact
of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 for Niagara County

Summary

This short note sets out the potential economic benefits to Niagara Falls and Niagara County from investing in the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 which will last 1000 days from June 2012 to February 2015.

Citing data from the Province of Ontario's May 2009 Travel Intention Survey which surveyed Americans from 11 states (MA, NY, NJ, MD, PA, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, MN) as well as Canadians, this note will demonstrate the huge potential tourism opportunity which the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 presents for Niagara County.

Size of potential interest in the Bi-centennial

The May 2009 travel intention survey (US sample 5,355) sized up the opportunity which the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 presents. It found the following:

History tourists

- The primary motivation of 8 to 10% of all adult travelers is to visit historical sites, battlefields or museums. This is as true for Canadians as Americans
- Another 22 to 31% of all adult travelers like to include a visit to a historical site or museum even when the primary purpose of travel is not historical
- The potential number of "history tourists" in the 11 states and Ontario is around 30 million

Familiarity with War of 1812

- 45% of Americans in the 11 states surveyed said they were familiar with the War of 1812. Another 49% said that they had heard about it but did not know much about it. The comparable percentages among Canadians surveyed are 35% and 48%. As to levels of familiarity with wars, 1812 ranks 3rd in both countries. Behind the Revolution War and Civil War in the US. Behind the American Revolutionary War and the Great War (WWI) in Canada.

Willingness to attend

- 11% of Americans and 23% of Ontarians who were aware of the War said they would definitely or probably would attend 1812 Bicentennial celebrations. Another 28 to 40% said they might attend.
- Interest in attending War of 1812 events is highest in the area of Toronto to Hamilton (28% or 1.3 million adults) said they would definitely or probably attend) and New York State (15% or 2.2 million adults). Within NYS, interest is highest in WNY and NYC. This is a definite advantage for sites on both sides of the Niagara
- If even a fraction of those who said they definitely will attend or probably will attend is realized the potential tourism revenues are in the billions of dollars.
- The recent success of the July 3 to 5, 2009 French and Indian War re-enactment at Old Fort Niagara which attracted 15,000 over one week-end provides an indication of the potential tourism draw.

The Niagara Region, Ontario example

- In 2008, Niagara Region provided \$200,000 to the 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council (the Ontario not-for-profit) to “prime the 1812 pump” - \$100,000 in each of the 2008 and 2009 Budgets
- To date, the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council has received \$ 195,000 from the Ontario Government in direct grants for administration and projects with the prospect of receiving a minimum of \$ 100,000 to \$ 125,000 in similar grants for each of the next five years, 2010 to 2014.
- In addition the following 1812 projects were funded in Niagara Region this year (2009) to prepare for the expect influx of tourists:
 - \$ 2.3 million from both the federal and provincial governments for the expansion and enhancement of the Lundy’s Lane Historical Museum in Niagara Falls (Of the total \$ 12 million required, \$9 million has been raised so far)
 - \$ 6 million to Parks Canada for the renewal of the infrastructure including new visitor centre and the expansion of the programs at Fort George, Niagara on the Lake
 - \$ 500,000 for new signage relating to 1812 along the Niagara River
 - \$ 40,000 to a consortium of museums in Niagara Region to digitize their 1812 holdings

- More funding is expected from Canadian Heritage and Ontario Culture in 2010 for arts and culture related programs preparing for the Bicentennial

Priming the 1812 pump in Niagara County

- Funding is now being sought to accomplish the following:
 - Support advocacy efforts which put Niagara County “on the 1812 national and cross-border map” with national institutions such as the US Navy and Army which are planning 1812 events
 - Undertake a limited number of County-wide projects to stimulate volunteer involvement with the Bicentennial through city or town 1812 committees
 - Support resource-mobilization efforts to seek out further funding for Bicentennial activities from federal, state and private sources

The implementing agency

- The New York State not-for-profit 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council which is governed like its Ontario counterpart by a common board would be a possible umbrella implementing agency to receive, administer and flow through the funding to local 1812 groups. Its Board of Directors has an almost equal number of Americans (from both Erie and Niagara counties) and Canadians.
- The Board members who have a substantial connection with Niagara County are Mayor Paul Dyster of Niagara Falls, Thomas Schofield of the Town of Porter, the Council’s Vice-President; Prof. Bonnie Rose, Executive Vice-President, Niagara University and chair of the Council’s Education Committee; Robert Emerson, Executive Director, Old Fort Niagara and Dr. Percy Abrams, Director, Native American Art Museum, Tuscarora Nation.