

Happy 113th birthday Canada



Re-tracing historical trip

Sailors from the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene, Ontario are confronting the 19th century this week in an authentic 42-mile historic row

along Georgian Bay from Wasaga Beach to the Establishments, located at the entrance to Penetanguishene harbour. The university students, who work as summer interpreters

at the historic site, are re-enacting an event dating back 160 years when supply bateaus (like the one pictured above) brought provisions and correspondences to those

stationed at the remote British defense outpost which guarded Canada's Upper Lakes following the War of 1812. Photo by Odesse

Re-enactment of supply run to be part of holiday weekend fare at Penetang

The sudden turn to more summer-like weather could not have come at a more opportune time for the costumed sailors from the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene who are currently confronting the 19th century on Georgian Bay.

The first crew of six, manning an authentic 19th century British bateau, departed from the Nottawasaga River in Wasaga Beach on Tuesday morning and when the trip ends at the Establishments on Saturday night, the bateau will have covered 42 miles of Georgian Bay.

Re-enactment

The event is an actual re-enactment of a supply run from the Nottawasaga which provided provisions and correspondences for those who served and lived at the Naval Establishments 160 years ago.

The re-creation has been in the works for several months and the on-going concern has constantly centred around the weather.

Georgian Bay conditions are unpredictable at best and the flat-bottomed bateau is no match when the bay kicks its heels. So far the bateau has been riding the waves of good fortune with hot, sunny weather prevailing.

Twenty-two year old Scott Wilson, one of the co-ordinators, of the project, will travel the full route with the other ten sailors splitting the trip in half as the bateau can only carry a crew of six at one time.

The crew handling the first leg of the journey was made up of Wilson, Box Huxley, Jamie Maddock, Tim Soper, John Powell and David Hamilton. The second crew of Brad Davis, John Gilbert, Mike Sullivan, Jim Zegers, Lorne Pinkney and Wilson took over the boat on Thursday morning.

The bateau is scheduled to arrive at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments on Saturday evening at 8:30 and a special on site program is planned for the general public beginning at 7 p.m.

Those who were stationed at the remote

defense outpost in the 1820's regarded the arrival of the bateau as a major event and this is typified in the colourful activities and entertainment geared for Saturday night.

Visitors

Visitors can step into a different century by touring such candlelit buildings as Roberts House (residence of the commanding officer), House of the Clerk-in-Charge, Assistant Surgeon's House, Seamen's Barracks and the immense naval storehouse. The buildings will be staffed by costumed interpreters providing period activities and dialogue reflecting the historical significance of each dwelling.

Music and dramatic presentations capturing scenes of daily life at the Establishments in the 19th century will highlight the naval storehouse program. The presentations will run every half hour starting at 7:30.

Bateau

When the bateau arrives at King's Wharf,

mid-way through the evening program, the public will be encouraged to join in the celebration of this important occasion. Visitors will witness a scene right out of the 1820's when the bateau is greeted by the Commanding Officer of the Naval Establishments, Captain Samuel Roberts, accompanied by other costumed personnel portraying historic figures who performed important functions at the naval dockyard.

The evening will give visitors a rare perspective of 19th century Canadian history as they witness historic scenes performed by authentically clad interpreters in the glowing ambience of the candlelit historic buildings.

Admission is free for this special event at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments, located at the end of Church Street in Penetanguishene.

The reconstructed British military garrison and naval dockyard is administered by Huronia Historical Parks of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Birthday party plans for the area



Canada's Birthday

by Doug Reed and Murray Moore
Happy Birthday Canada...you'll be 113-years-old on July 1.

While the nation marks its 113th birthday, here in Midland the town is well into its 102nd year having

La Fête du Canada

marked its centennial during year-long celebrations in 1978.

Last year residents of Christian Island celebrated their community's centennial while later this summer the hamlet of Wyevale will mark its 100th year of existence.

Growth in Canada and especially in this part of the province has been phenomenal, yet Huronia's history goes back to the early fur traders and missionaries of the 1600s.

The Huron Indian Village, Ste Marie among the Hurons, Huronia Museum and the Military and Naval Establishments all record this area's colorful past.

This area's history, like Canada's, reaches back to our nation's earliest beginnings.

From the time

Samuel de Champlain visited these waters to the arrival of the first Jesuit Fathers who settled among the Huron Indians this area, like Canada grew in importance.

So as Canada's celebrates its 113th birthday, we too can celebrate and justly be proud of the integral part this part of the nation has played in Canada's history.

Locally to mark Canada's 113th birthday, members of the Midland Rotary Club will be staging their annual barbecue here in

Midland tomorrow afternoon.

Regatta

Midland Bay Sailing Club will be holding its annual invitational regatta with Thornbury.

And the grand-daddy of 'em all when it comes to bass derbies rolls into high gear Sunday at Little Lake Park at the crack of dawn.

Folk music

A program of Canadian folk music by local talent is scheduled for tonight from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Midland Secondary School, cafetorium as part of the Canada Week

celebrations.

Special welcome

The planned highlight of the Saturday evening Candlelight Tour at the Historic Naval and Military Establishment in Penetanguishene is the arrival of the bateau that left the Wasaga Beach area Tuesday.

The Establishments will be lit with candles. Dramatic readings will be given and period music performed. Admission is free.

Next Tuesday's Canada Week program is a screening of all types of Canadian films at the Midland Civic

Centre on Yonge Street. Show times are 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Yesterday was Native People Day. An Indian from Montreal working at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons for the summer was to be at the Civic Centre from 1 to 9 p.m. to answer questions.

Wednesday night Canada Week was kicked off with a torchlight parade from the Civic Centre to Little Lake Park, the singing of O Canada by the Huronia Harmonizers and an address by Midland's mayor.