

Themes Identified for 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations

At the conclusion of a June exercise for the 2012 Celebrations Group, we reviewed the input of participants, looking for themes. We found a great many instance when 'heritage' and 'heritage awareness' were identified along with numerous ideas and projects that already do, or have the potential to do, a great job of connecting with public interest in celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

We have pulled those from the grand manuscript and set them out here – in no order of priority or importance. We hope, that as visitors to the website review them, they are inspired to offer more ideas; to offer suggestions around the ideas and concepts listed here; to offer to get involved in making some of these ideas come to life.

Remember – this is raw information – it is not refined nor is it reshaped by the facilitator. It is the input of participants from the 2012 Celebrations Group.

We hope it incites interest, energy and passion in those who peruse it.

Heritage and Awareness of Heritage

- ❑ National park/heritage area
- ❑ Historical walking trails – St. Catharines
 - 100 miles of history - rebrand
- ❑ Heritage archivist space – Regional level
 - Regional archives – Bi-national
- ❑ Connection to historical museum – Welland
- ❑ Improving the awareness of and importance of heritage
 - Internet access to historical documents
 - Awareness of economic benefits of heritage
- ❑ Heritage/Cultural Master Plans
- ❑ Parades, festivals and events prior to 1812 – booths, floats, etc.
 - Awareness of war and bicentennial
- ❑ Cultural asset mapping
 - Maps of sites, events, logistics to events
 - On-line maps (GPS link etc. and other website links)
 - On-line, digital connection for all historical archives
 - Better battlefield info/facilities/signage/staffing/GPS tours
 - Good raised map of all bi-national communities and their heritage assets
 - Large on-line digitization exhibit maps (war sites) interactive
- ❑ Joint committee for heritage review/designation
- ❑ Heritage booth at airports and travel centres
- ❑ Improvements to existing historical sites and museums
 - Sites need to be improved and investment/funding found
 - Heritage fund (ongoing) all levels of government and private sources
- ❑ Monument to acknowledge aboriginal contribution to War of 1812
- ❑ Need more research for more historic sites

Heritage and Awareness of Heritage

Themes Identified for 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations

- ❑ Historic Fair (Brock 2006)
- ❑ Historica
- ❑ Heritage minutes/moments
- ❑ Art in historical places (like Czech – ballet in the forest, musicals in a grain elevator, exhibits/performances in cemeteries)1812 war ‘veterans’ of
- ❑ Tours of cemeteries with ‘
- ❑ Educational programming
 - 1812 teaching chairs
 - Brock-continuing ed courses planned
 - timeline of history
 - Balls Falls (and any other site) re-enactment of daily life for 1 full year
 - Focus on women of war
 - Focus on social history
 - Historical crafts – re-creation of items – how to
- ❑ Heritage fairs
- ❑ Specialized travel companies – heritage
- ❑ Social history of war (i.e. women’s and children’s lives)
- ❑ Battlefields book (planned)
- ❑ Family names – links to war
 - Brock family reunion
 - Attract families whose history goes back to 1812
 - Perhaps tie into militia units
 - Set up genealogical website
 - Geneology – family reunions – big party
- ❑ Individual community history – connecting more broadly
- ❑ Documentary series – mini-series (1812, 1813, 1814)
- ❑ Rolling museum
- ❑ Museums – concurrent exhibits – exchange of artefacts (Canada and US)
- ❑ Annual observance of 1812 in Cemetery in Cheektawoga
- ❑ USS Constitution – in active service since 1812
- ❑ Build on what was done to celebrate 100 year celebration – Lundy’s Lane and Queenston Heights
- ❑ Add 1812 perspective to annual events and festivals
- ❑ Bi-national bonfire
- ❑ Plans for a feature film (documentary)
- ❑ Friends of Fort George Citizens Committee forming now
- ❑ Niagara Historical Society exhibition