

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 'events' 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 in any way, 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.

Events

- ❑ Re-enactments
 - 1812 forts group re-enactments
 - Taking of Lewiston, Siege of Fort Erie, Battle of Queenston Heights, Battle of Beaverdams, Battle of 1812 (Fort Niagara), Willobanks, Battle of Stoney Creek, Battle of Cook's Mill, Lundy's Lane
 - Burning of the White House – other 'burning' re-enactments
 - Commemorative services – Battle of Chippawa, Lundy's Lane, Stoney Creek
 - USS Constitution – must go out on water each year – in active service since 1812
 - Bi-lateral ceremony to give mutual recognition to impact of original event
- ❑ Cross Border symphony integration – Project Niagara
- ❑ Chautauqua – focus on 1812
- ❑ Academic conference
 - Conference for teachers
 - Crossing Borders Conference – 1812 theme
 - Partnering schools – student/teacher exchanges
- ❑ University history series
- ❑ Archaeological digs
- ❑ Bi-national legacy festival
- ❑ Solicit international meetings NOW – GA, OAS, UN, etc.
- ❑ Art in historical places – collaboration between historic sites and arts groups
- ❑ Mass tattoos at Fort George and other sites
- ❑ 1812 Overture played simultaneously in Niagara, Toronto, Buffalo
- ❑ Open Doors (architecture tour) – with 1812 focus
- ❑ Art of Peace Festival – St. Catharines
- ❑ Aboriginal festival – lacrosse game, pow-wow

Events

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- ❑ Art exhibit
- ❑ Annual kite festival
- ❑ International music festival
- ❑ Fashion show
- ❑ Cemetery tours
- ❑ Major International Peace Conference - Conference on war and peace
- ❑ Royal Niagara Military Institute and Royal Canadian Military Institute host historical talks
- ❑ Law school debates
- ❑ Tours
 - Children's tour and fair
 - Organized walks/tours – 1000 stories
- ❑ School exchanges
- ❑ Dinners (beyond General Brock's annual 1812 dinner)
- ❑ Co-ordinate all events
 - Pacing of events so that there is always something to do
 - Infilling events – plan/co-ordinate
 - Events on the day they took place
 - Cross border events (corporate challenge, Can-Am Golf, Police Tug-of-War)
 - Use current festivals/events to inform and promote upcoming commemorations
- ❑ Flag Day
- ❑ World cup class events
- ❑ Canada vs US sport competitions
- ❑ International yacht race
- ❑ International sporting events – i.e. lacrosse game
- ❑ Fireworks from bridges
- ❑ Public Art competition
 - Travelling art exhibition
- ❑ Dolly Madison – Laura Secord bake-off
- ❑ Antique Roadshow
- ❑ US-CAN stand up/stand-off comedy
- ❑ Friendship Festival
- ❑ Events – active participation as education
 - Cross border exchanges (travel or virtual)
- ❑ Twinning
- ❑ Charity walk
- ❑ Tall ships visit – shipbuilding
- ❑ Canadians taking cannons up escarpment
- ❑ Treaty of Ghent Tour
- ❑ Shaw Festival – original play
- ❑ Laura Secord's route marked – run – 32Km