

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Tourism Burlington Commemorates War 1812-14 Bi-Centennial!

**BURLINGTON, June 7, 2012 - Tourism Burlington Commemorates War 1812-14 with Doors Open, Ships Biscuits, Restaurant Menus, a Business Workshop and a John Brant (re-enactor)!**

Beginning in June 2012, through into the end of 2014, residents of Burlington and communities all along the Great Lakes will kick-off commemorative events, themed festivals and projects to mark the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. This war played a significant role in the shaping of Canada, the United States of America, and Six Nations, and their peoples. The end of the war marked the beginning of 200 years of peace between our nations.

In anticipation and preparation of the upcoming commemoration of the Bi-Centennial of the War of 1812-14, Burlington Ontario, due to the strategic position she held on Lake Ontario, the events that took place in her jurisdiction and the contributions by the locals who heeded the call of duty, is joining in the commemoration of this 200th anniversary and 200 years of peace. Discover the past...Explore the past...Learn from the stories of our past.

Although Burlington and the surrounding area were not sites of many significant battles, the geography and the people were significant. The Burlington area (although not named this at the time) was, and is still known as a safe place, a place of trade, a cross roads, a landmark, and a resting point - A destination to for food, shelter, and shared resources. There is history to be explored, stories to be told. Heritage sites, academic, cultural, tourism and community groups from across this geographic territory have been working collaboratively to prepare for this event.

Recently Tourism Burlington's AGM was themed around War 1812-14. Attendees learned the History about the named Streets of Burlington and the exploits of the lives of the people by story teller [Pauline Grondin](#).

June 9 & 10, Burlington will participate in [Doors Open](#)! Visit Tourism Burlington's Visitor Information Centre to see War 1812 storey boards, displays and purchase and yes, *taste* the War 1812 theme. Also visit Joseph Brant Museum, a significant site in War 1812-14 and Ireland House where Daphne Smith will be presenting her research paper entitled, "*Burlington Connections To The War of 1812*".

[Mrs. B's GiftHouse](#) is getting into the commemoration as well with their own take on Ships Biscuits or Hardtacks! Mrs. B's Gift House have transformed their wonderful biscotti to fit the theme of the War of 1812-14! Life in the War of 1812-14 was hard, and so were their biscuits! Mrs. B's Ships Biscuits are much better that what you would have been fed as a soldier in 1812, but you get the idea!

[A Taste of Burlington](#), a prix-fix menu event running from July 22 through to August 6, will feature lunches at \$18.12 at some participating restaurants. - See, everyone can get into the Commemoration theme!

A War of 1812 [Business Opportunities Workshop](#) will be open to the public on Wed. June 13, 2012. This is your opportunity to learn about the upcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial and to identify and maximize potential business, event & not-for-profit organization opportunities. Learn about marketing initiatives and opportunities, tourism experience development tools. Participants will be provided with a take-away toolkit to maximize participation in the Bicentennial Commemorations. Learn about themes wines, ice-cream, theatrical performances, events and more.

John Brant will meet Sir Isaac Brock (re-enactors) at the [John Brant Day Festival on August 6<sup>th</sup>](#), in beautiful La Salle Park. John Brant, son of Joseph Brant and a very important leader during the War of 1812 in Upper Canada. In 2012, a special year lies ahead with the long-running Joseph Brant Day Festival being dedicated to John Brant light of the War of 1812 Commemorations!

Many other activities are being planned: Burlington Gravesite Recognition Program, Speaker Series, Provision and Peace Gardens at RBG, Museum Exhibits and themed Camps and so much more!

Events and information can be found at: <http://tourismburlington.com/what-to-see-n-do/history-n-museums/war1812-seedo> and <http://www.westerncorridor1812.com>

Don't forget to plant Red Geraniums this year, as it is the Official flower of War of 1812-14.

Tourism Burlington is the destination management organization for Burlington and operates a Visitor Centre that is open 7 days a week at 414 Locust Street just minutes from our beautiful waterfront.

**For more information, contact:**

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