FORT TICONDEROGA DEFIANCE AND INDEPENDENCE RE-ENACTMENT WEEKEND - JULY 19-20, 2014

Saturday, July 19

9:30 AM Fort Opens to Visitors

10:00 AM Inspection of the Guards (Inside the Fort's Parade Ground and the British Camp)

Watch as the American officer of the day inspects the Continental Army's guard details before they take up their fortified positions around Fort Ticonderoga. Inside the British bivouac see their advanced guard inspected before marching to harass and observe the Continental Army's pickets.

10:15 AM Fort Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

Explore what Americans called, "The Old French Fort," in the summer of 1777. Examine how the Continental Army used this Fort and why its nickname was so fitting.

11:00 AM Musket Demonstration (Fort Demonstration Area)

See the firepower of one company of the Continental Army's rear guard. Compare new French muskets to cobbled together civilian and American guns as this company of men drafted from the whole army goes through their military exercises. Among these Continental regulars and militia see their manual exercise by the book and their tactics for fighting in the deep woods.

11:30 AM Garden March (Begins at the American Flag)

Follow the military musicians of the American rear guard as they provide a musical escort from Fort Ticonderoga to the King's Garden.

11:30 AM Tools of the Trade (Mars Education Center Great Room)

Hand-dug earthworks like redoubts, trenches, and batteries used in 1777 weren't really made by hand. They required many types of tools to fell trees and move dirt. Join Fort Ticonderoga Curator of Collections Christopher Fox to explore the French, English, and American tools from their forging to their remains in the ruins of Fort Ticonderoga.

11:45 AM Breaking Ground: A Tour of the Historic Gardens (Inside the King's Garden)

Even on the eve of the American evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga, fifteen men from the army were still detailed to tend the soldier's garden. See the garden that was worth pulling precious men off the front lines and a garden that lived on with the ruins and reconstruction of the Fort.

12:30 PM Fife & Drum Parade to Re-enactment Battlefield (Begins at the American Flag)

Follow the massed fifes and drums from the Continental Army's rear guard up to the real French Lines, where American cannons kept Burgoyne's Army at bay...for a time.

1:00 PM Re-enactment Battle: Evacuate Mount Hope (On the Heights of Carillon)

Watch as American soldiers retreat back from their entrenched camp on Mount Hope with the British advanced guard in hot pursuit. See Continental regulars and militia keep their order and discipline despite attacks from loyalists, native warriors, and British infantry and cannon. Is General St. Clair consolidating his force or exposing his Achilles heel?

1:30 PM The French Lines Tour (On the Heights of Carillon)

Explore the French lines, the famous 1758 battlefield, which the Continental Army turned into new fortifications in 1776 and used to great effect in 1777. See the central redoubts of these lines, which mounted impressive cannons and still stand today in remarkable preservation.

1:30 PM Meet the Soldiers of Two Armies (On the Heights of Carillon) Natives & Loyalists

Meet the eyes and ears of General Burgoyne's Army. Native allies, although an independent people, decided to fight alongside the British Army. Loyalists, driven from their homes by patriots in their community, now seek shelter by serving with the British Army. Discover what drove these men into a war with their neighbors to the south.

Artillery

While combat requires a cool head under fire, for men of the Royal Artillery it also requires an extensive knowledge of math and science. Discover the skills and knowhow needed to move a cannon across the Atlantic Ocean and up Lake Champlain and deliver a cannon ball accurately to its target.

Germans

Hessians? No, Brunswickers. Meet soldiers from the Dutchy of Brunswick, a German state with close family ties to Great Britain. These soldiers made up nearly half of General Burgoyne's Army. Ask them why they fought. Hopefully your French is good; it may be the only language you share.

The Rear Guard

What was it like to be on the front line opposite British regulars and native warriors? Discuss with these Continental regulars and militia what it was like to stand their ground in order to allow the rest of the Army to retreat to safety.

2:00 PM Fife & Drum Parade to Fort Carillon (Begins on the Heights of Carillon) Follow American fifes and drums as they sound the march back to Fort Ticonderoga.

3:15 PM Fort Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

Explore what Americans called, "The Old French Fort," in the summer of 1777. Examine how the Continental Army used this Fort and why its nickname was so fitting.

3:30 PM Sutlers for the Army (Inside the Fort's Parade Ground)

Grab a seat at the grand sutler, the mobile tavern for a regiment. Join Phil Dunning as he explains the role and rules for sutlers within the Continental Army.

4:00 PM Mount Defiance: Witness to History Tour (On Top of Mount Defiance: Separate Admission Required)

Oh the stories this graceful hill could tell overlooking Fort Ticonderoga! Ascend to summit of Mount Defiance to get the birds-eye view of this epic military landscape and learn how this height shaped the Fort's history.

4:30 PM Flag Lowering

5:00 PM Fort Closes to Visitors

6:30 PM "Where a Goat Can Go, A Man Can Go..." (On Top of Mount Defiance: Separate Admission Required)

Drive up Mount Defiance to watch as gun crew from the Royal Artillery haul their cannon up to the summit, aiming them on the Fort below. Hear the details of this decisive tactical stroke and enjoy a cannon demonstration in the evening light on this historic prominence.

Sunday, July 20:

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9:45 AM Flag Raising

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Follow the massed fifes and drums from the Continental Army's rear guard to the recreated French Lines.

1:00 PM Re-enactment Battle: "We Must March Back" (At the Recreated French Lines)

After being on guard all night, the Continental Army's rear guard holds their ground in order to allow the rest of the Army, including the wounded and the baggage, to be evacuated. With the order to retreat, the rear guard begins to pull back, with the British advanced guard right on their heels.

1:30 PM Raise the King's Colors (Inside the Fort's Parade Ground)

Fort Ticonderoga falls once more into British hands. Join the British advanced guard as they enter Fort Ticonderoga, quickly surveying what they've captured. Discover with them evidence of a hasty American retreat from this old historic Fort. By land or by water?...How would you pursue the Continental Army?

2:00 PM Re-enactment Battle: "The Enemy Were All in a Movement Towards Us" (Inside the King's Garden)

Follow the British advanced corps as they press home their attack on the remains of the Continental Army, evacuating the rear guard by bridge and wounded by boat. How many Continental regulars and militia can escape? Will they be chased right into Vermont?

2:30 PM Whose Brunswickers? (Mars Education Center Great Room)

Join Director of Exhibitions Matthew Keagle for a detective story about an unexplained series of watercolors of Brunswick soldiers. Hear how the case was cracked and what these watercolors reveal about German mercenary service in the American Revolution and beyond.

3:15 PM Fort Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

Explore the British Fort of Ticonderoga with British soldiers guarding this historic Fort once more. Examine the long history of this fort and how its recapture in 1777 will lead to its final military chapter.

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