

workopolis IS NOW HIRING:
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

CLICK HERE
TO APPLY

reason #2
TOP
COMPENSATION

the star.com

History blazes to life at battle re-enactment

Costumed 'soldiers' take the field to mark clash's 250th anniversary

June 25, 2009

LIZ FLEMING
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y.—When the largest siege of the French and Indian War began at Fort Niagara 250 years ago, more than 2,300 British soldiers and 1,000 Iroquois warriors charged 600 French soldiers.

That's going to seem like a small gathering compared to the commemoration event planned for the first weekend of July at the same fort.

More than 2,500 costumed recreators from across North America will gather to mark the 250th anniversary on July 3-5, and organizers are expecting thousands of spectators to be on hand to watch the full-scale naval and land battle re-enactments.

"At the time, the capture of Fort Niagara was one of the most significant military events in North America, as its strategic location was the key to controlling the entire North American continent," says Robert Emerson, executive director at Old Fort Niagara.

The fort at the mouth of the Niagara River, which is open daily, puts on re-enactments every year, but not on this scale, says director of development Kathryn Vedder.

She says that this year's festivities will include a spectacular nighttime artillery bombardment and fireworks, and a sea battle, complete with a tall ship.

In addition to the battles, visitors will also be able to experience Old Fort Niagara's normal routine, meeting costumed artisans and soldiers as well as their wives and families, living and working as they did in 1759.

Liz Fleming is a St. Catharines-based freelance writer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD FORT NIAGARA

Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, N.Y., offers a glimpse at war and daily life in the American colonial period.

Ads by Google

Waves Indoor Water Park

The Premier Water Park in Niagara
Special Packages for Families avail
www.AmericanaNiagara.com