



Remembering Speedy 1804 to 2004

August 10, 2004

NEWS FROM THE REMEMBERING SPEEDY COMMITTEE

The Battle of Presqu'ile - A War of 1812 Experience **Saturday August 21 and Sunday August 22, 2004**

Come to Brighton August 21 and 22 to experience what life was like during the War of 1812!

Presqu'ile Provincial Park's day use area will be the site of a large-scale, authentic 1812 military encampment on August 21. From 9:00am to 5:00pm, you can tour the camp to see how soldiers lived, complete with period clothing, a working blacksmith and fife and drum corps.

Watch the British soldiers defend the peninsula in "The Siege of Calf Pasture" as American soldiers land at 2pm at the base of Presqu'ile's Atkins Lane. "Evening Assault", another fictional battle, is set for 8:00 p.m. in Presqu'ile's day use area.

Re-enactment activities resume at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday August 22 as the militia march from the Brighton arena down Main Street. Join in the parade and follow to Proctor Park where the British and American soldiers will settle their differences in a battle re-enactment at 2:00 p.m. Special thanks to Save our Heritage Organization and the Lower Trent Conservation Authority for facilitating this event.

Through this and other upcoming events, the Remembering Speedy Committee plans to commemorate the loss of the H.M.S. Speedy. On October 8, 1804, Speedy was traveling from York (Toronto) to the proposed district town of Newcastle for a trial, when it sank off Presqu'ile Point. After the sinking, plans for the settlement at Presqu'ile were cancelled, changing the development of the peninsula forever.

Due to its strategic harbour, the Presqu'ile peninsula became an important stop on the military supply route during the War of 1812. The Americans knew of ship building activity at Presqu'ile and even burned down a nearly-completed schooner! Members of the Northumberland Militia and the Glengarry Regiment were stationed at the peninsula at times during the war. As there were no documented battles at Presqu'ile, the battles presented on August 21 and 22 are fictional re-enactments.

Local residents may make a donation to the Brighton Food Bank at Brighton Sobeys grocery store to obtain a free ticket to attend events on August 21. Otherwise, regular park admission fees apply for events in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Events on August 22 in Proctor Park are free to the public.

For more information on the Speedy and upcoming commemorative events, visit www.Speedy1804.com or call (613) 475-4324.

Remembering Speedy events are brought to you by Brighton History Week, Brighton and District Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Presqu'ile Park, Brighton Kin Club, Law Society

of Upper Canada, Municipality of Brighton, Northumberland Tourism, Ontario Parks,
Ontario Trillium Foundation, Presqu'ile Point Property Owners, Presqu'ile Yacht Club,
Brighton Rotary Club, Save Our Heritage Organization, Tal Trees Inc and The Apple Route.