

For Immediate Release:

1812 Discovery Centre for Bath Gets \$171,000 Funding Boost

The 1812 Discovery Centre in Bath Ontario, took another step forward with a funding announcement from the federal government on Wednesday October 20, 2010. The funding, announced by the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages is a grant of \$171,225 to the Fairfield Gutzeit Society under the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage Program. The grant, is in support of the War of 1812 Living History Discovery Centre to be developed at the boat house on the Fairfield Gutzeit grounds.

With a scheduled completion date of June 2012, the discovery centre is set to open in time for the Flight of the Royal George signature event which is part of War of 1812 bicentennial programming. The centre is a legacy project. It is being designed with both educational outreach and tourism in mind. The ground floor will feature interactive content and displays depicting both the Flight of the Royal George as well as life at the time. The second floor will feature a reconstruction of barracks life during the war.

David Smith, Director Fairfield Gutzeit Society and Chairman of the Legacy Project:

“The War of 1812 Living History Centre is a legacy that will endure beyond the Bicentennial Celebrations of the war of 1812 and presents a wonderful opportunity for students and families alike to experience this era of Canadian history. A re-enactment of the Flight of the Royal George is planned for Canada Day Weekend of 2012 and this will be the signature event for Eastern Ontario. An invasion is planned for the Village of Bath with re-enactors from as far away as Great Britain taking part.”

Kelley Hineman, President Fairfield Gutzeit Society: “The society has proudly sponsored this project as a dedicated to heritage and history of the area. The legacy project presents an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and a chance to live and learn about history in the making. We are grateful for the support and funding made available through the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.”

Joe Hudacin, Loyalist Township Councillor for the Village of Bath: “I have personally supported the project and accompanied Dave Smith's presentations for the last two years. Loyalist Township has supported this program by funding initial engineering and historical authentication of the legacy project's boat house. Bath heritage is a most valuable strength to our community. We are proud to build on this strength to make Bath and the Fairfield Gutzeit House an important destination as it promotes history and tourism in this part of Eastern Ontario.

To interview David Smith about the discovery centre and its impact on Bath or for information on the Flight of the Royal George and the event planned for 2012, please call **613 449 2146 (cell)**

Information on the Flight of the Royal George, the signature event planned for 2012 and the discovery centre can also be found on the centre's official web site,

www.flightoftheroyalgeorge.ca