



PATHWAYS TO PEACE

WESTERN CORRIDOR WAR OF 1812-1814

Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance

☀ Who We Are

This alliance jointly coordinates activities for the bicentennial in the central region of south-western Ontario. The corridor links communities, including the First Nations, from the western tip of Lake Ontario in Burlington running south-west, along the north side of the Lake Erie coastline, ending at Middlesex County. The region is split by the Grand River as it travels south to Lake Erie.

☀ Our Mandate

WCA partners will ensure broad connectivity to commemorate initiatives that foster the legacy left by the people, history and communities and that align with the provincial commemorative priorities.

☀ Our Objectives

- ✘ Establish overall guiding principles and goals that ensure broad connectivity of commemorative initiatives within the strategic framework of the Region's Terms of Reference
- ✘ Be a catalyst in facilitating ideas, concepts, initiatives, events and community linkages in order to build a successful bicentennial commemoration that connects the entire region
- ✘ Act as a sounding board and resource for potential initiatives undertaken by partners, stakeholders and provincial Regional working groups
- ✘ Stimulate the cultural tourism sector (to enhance product development through the legacy of improved infrastructure i.e. Exhibits, Educational materials, Facility upgrades)
- ✘ Build market readiness capacity of cultural attractions and events
- ✘ Ensure promotion to local and tourism audiences is achieved
- ✘ Seek and secure funding for "Western Corridor Region" commemorative priority initiatives

☀ What We Are Doing

The Alliance hopes to be a catalyst in facilitating ideas, concepts, events and community linkages in order to build a successful bicentennial commemoration that connects the entire region.

The *Rural Raids* project from the Ontario Visual Heritage Projects will tell the story of the people living in the Western Corridor during the War of 1812. *Route 1812* through the corridor will mark military movements, historical events and battles. As well, *Brock's Walk* will show visitors where events are being held for the bicentennial. These projects will have interactive apps for phones and linked to our website. A map and calendar of events will be created for easy reference to activities and places to see.

In order to facilitate the collaborative effort, the Western Corridor Alliance needs community participation. **Tell us what you are planning** in your area for the 200th anniversary. We encourage all and any ideas to mark our part in the war that helped to form our Canadian identity.

Please contact Adrienne Horne with your initiatives at adrienne.horne@hamilton.ca.



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REGIONAL PROJECTS SPRING 2011

- ✿ **Cultural Mapping:** A database of the Cultural Asset Inventory for members within the Region has been established. This inventory will provide the content for an events trail, map and calendar of events and will form the bases for an interactive online database.
- ✿ **Western Corridor Alliance Website:** As a portal the WCA website will link to the websites of regional partners as well as provincial initiatives. This site will provide an interactive, searchable database for the events in the region during the bicentennial, it will be a platform for videos, and an interactive map linking to events, cultural institutions and tourism packages (ie: hotels & restaurants).
- ✿ **Route 1812:** A driving trail linking historic sites and cultural institutions within the region will be created. It will link to trails in the Southwest, Toronto and Niagara regions as well. A team is currently researching where the trail should go and what sites will be marked along the trail.
- ✿ **Rural Raids and Divided Loyalties:** A documentary that will tell the story of this region's involvement in the War of 1812. It will empower the citizens of this region to create an educational and promotional multimedia toolkit, as it will have mobile application and an online component. It will also have an education learning guide that will be distributed to over 900 schools in Ontario.
- ✿ **Brock's Walk:** An events trail will be established highlighting all the 1812 events and programs during the bicentennial.
- ✿ **2013 Great Lakes Tall Ships Tour:** Provincial Regional Managers are coordinating efforts to develop a tour of Tall Ships in the Great Lakes during the summer of 2013.
- ✿ **Pageantry in a Box:** An interactive marketing tool to promote local events and to raise awareness of the significance of the War of 1812 and the upcoming bicentennial.
- ✿ **"A Defining Moment – The War of 1812":** The Six Nations Legacy Consortium (SNLC) is producing a 50 page booklet/handbook which will focus on the significance of the War of 1812 to the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations of the Grand River. It will discuss the events that led up to their involvement in this war, the war itself and the often decisive role of the warriors in ensuring success for their allies, and the outcome of this war as it was applied then and in its interpretation today.
- ✿ **River System Travelling Exhibit:** A travelling exhibition to tell the collective stories along the Grand River Watershed over the last 200 years. This project provides a unique partnership opportunity to tie the collective stories along the Grand River from pre-contact through to present day by creating a portable travelling exhibit. This exhibit can be displayed in malls, libraries, arenas, etc. It can also be supplemented with artifacts for use at museums and other heritage sites. There will also be a website component (exhibit can be online) and audio/podcast tours.
- ✿ **Canadian Art Cards – War of 1812 Series:** The WCA will participate in the province wide initiative to develop products, promote Canadian artists and teach history to the general public.
- ✿ **Barn Quilts:** develop a series of "barn quilts" (quilt blocks painted on the sides of barns) along the 1812 Discovery Trail to tell the regional story of the war. Through community engagement, local historians, artists, students and farmers are needed for the success of the project. The quilt blocks can be seen from a distance, attracting visitors from the high speed highways to rural communities.