

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battle of Georgian Bay largest in the region in 18 years

Total of over 800 participants now expected

PENETANGUISHENE, ON, August 2, 2019 – Discovery Harbour historical location.

Bringing back a large-scale version of the Battle of Georgian Bay to this region has been a passion for David Brunelle, Special Events Coordinator for Discovery Harbour for the past 2 decades. In 2001 David managed the last large event, and he and many others have worked hard over the past few years to make this year's event a reality. This dedication has resulted in the attraction of over 800 re-enactors and other participants to the event. They will take part in 7 different engagements and battles in the 4 communities of Penetanguishene, Midland, Tiny, & Tay.

There will also be a large encampment at Discovery Harbour where visitors will be able to experience a glimpse of a "living history" of this timeframe, watching the participants live as they would have over 200 years ago. Also, there are dozens of vendors, entertainers, and food providers adding to the experience.

"This will be the largest 1812 event in North America this year and will be the largest we have seen in this region (north of Toronto), in 18 years. This event is an 1812 Grand Tactical event, with a location that alternates between Canada and the US each year. Last year it was in Old Fort Niagara in Youngtown's New York. We are expecting as many as 200 re-enactors to attend from the United States with groups as far away as Florida. Many of the re-enactors bring their families and portray the civilian side of 19th century living in the encampment as well." Said David Brunelle.

The Battle of Georgian Bay itself is fictitious, but the activities take place at Discovery Harbour, which was an actual British Naval and Military base active from 1817 till 1856. The beauty and the historical nature of the location make it ideal for this type of re-creation. By combining the timing of this event with the tall ships visiting in Midland, visitors can take advantage of a unique opportunity to see a great deal of Canada's early history.

Nicole Major, Special Events Manager for the town of Midland said, "We are excited to coordinate the timing and activities of the Tall Ships Challenge in Midland with the Battle of Georgian Bay happening a few kilometers away in Penetanguishene. This makes for an exciting weekend for the entire family and we encourage local residents and visitors to take advantage of the discounted price to visit both locations. There will be 7 tall ships between the 2 locations and there will be an opportunity to do a tour of the ships when they are not being used in battle." Nicole continued, "The action in Midland kicks off Friday night August 9th, with an Attack on the Port of Midland occurring on the main street, (King Street), with many of the stores being pillaged during the process. It is a great event to watch!"

There are 7 scheduled encounters starting on Wednesday evening and continuing on until Sunday afternoon. Specific events are scheduled for towns of Victoria Harbour, Balm Beach, Midland and Penetanguishene. The last 3 larger battles will happen at Discovery Harbour on Saturday August 10 and Sunday August 11 and will include both land and sea exchanges. For more detail on all Battle of Georgian Bay activities please visit: www.battleofgeorgianbay.com
For information on the Tall Ships Challenge please visit: <https://engagingmidland.ca/Tall-Ships-2019>

For more information contact Ron Neumann, ron@seizethebay.ca