



MEDIA RELEASE

Two New Peace Gardens Launch in South West Ontario This Week

For Immediate Release – July 18, 2012

Essex County is home to the latest of the Bicentennial Peace Gardens being launched in 2012 by the Binational Alliance and their many community and project partners under the Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail Project.

On Thursday, July 19 at 2 p.m., dignitaries and community partners will assemble at Windsor's Community Museum, the well-known Francois Baby House, for the dedication of their Peace Garden, in Olde Sandwich Towne, followed by an afternoon of special gallery tours, 1812 music, costumed interpreters, food and drink, and an array of family friendly activities including face painting, water colours, chalk art and a bubble station.

On Friday, July 20 at 11 a.m., Colchester Harbour will be the location for the dedication of the Robert H. Barclay War of 1812 Peace Garden. This event kicks off a full weekend of War of 1812 commemorative activities in Colchester, including the arrival of the Tall Ship Brigantine St. Lawrence II from Portsmouth Harbour in Kingston, Ontario at 2 p.m. that afternoon, where it will be docked for tours and special events at the Harbour and surrounding area that continue through Saturday, July 21. Go to www.echrs.org/essex.warof1812 for a complete list of events for the weekend.

These two gardens are the 10th and 11th Peace Gardens of the 23 Peace Gardens that are being dedicated in 2012. The Binational Alliance is the project lead for this initiative, with key partners Landscape Ontario and Arts Network for Children and Youth involved in the development of the many components involved in the project, and core funding support for the initiative through the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

“This project is meant to be a lasting legacy to the 200 years of peace between Canada and the United States. It was started as an 1812 Bicentennial project. When we began in 2008, we had no idea how quickly it would be embraced by so many communities across the Southern Great Lakes and beyond the Northern Border. We are extremely appreciative of every one of our Peace Garden partners, and to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, whose funding support was critical to bringing this concept to fruition” advises Arlene White, Executive Director of the Binational Alliance, and Project Lead for this initiative. “We expect more than 60 bicentennial themed gardens will be launched by 2014, and will continue to work with binational communities to create new peace gardens with a variety of binational peace themes beyond 2015.”

The complete list of Peace Gardens dedications in 2012 include:

May 27 Victor, NY
June 1 Burt, NY
June 15 Leamington, ON
June 16 Grimsby, ON, Sacket's Harbor, NY
June 21 Tecumseh, ON
June 29 Fort Erie, ON
June 29, Youngstown, NY
July 19 Windsor, ON
July 20 Colchester, ON
July 22 Lancaster, NY
Aug 9 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Aug (tbd) Lewiston, NY
Aug 26 Black Rock, Buffalo, NY
Sept 1 Winery, Colchester, ON
Sept 8 Olde Sandwich Towne, Windsor, ON
Sept 15 Kingsville, ON
Sept 22 Botanical Gardens, Buffalo NY
Sept (tbd) Niagara University, NY
Sept (tbd) Thamesville, ON
Oct 13 Amherstburg, ON – 2 sites

Go to www.binationalheritagepeacegardentrail.com to learn more about this legacy project.

For More Information:

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