

Historians to feature Dundas Militia update

INKERMAN — As the War of 1812 bicentennial draws closer, local communities and groups are planning different ways of celebrating the event.

During that time, as required by proclamation, communities were required to muster up all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 to gather on King George's birthday on June 4 for military drills. In reality, most events were more of an excuse for picnics and public celebrations.

The Dundas Militia was formed with recruits from along the St. Lawrence River waterfront, and the townships of Williamsburg and Matilda, as well as from settlements further north. Of note, these men saw action as flankers at the Battle of Chrysler's farm in 1813 — a battle which has been referred to as the turning point of the war. In the years following, land was granted to men who saw service and this in turn was instrumental in the settling of Winchester and Mountain townships.

Locally, a land grant in

Mountain to Grenville Militia member Michael Main was later sold to fellow member Benjamin Bigford, who married Margaret Fralick, sister of John and David Fralick, both members of the Dundas Militia. The original land grant and Bigford farm is where Oak Valley Pioneer Park is now located.

As part of the upcoming celebration, the North Dundas History Stewards, in co-ordination with the Chesterville and District Historical Society and the

**2012
celebration
coming up**

Friends of Oak Valley Pioneer Memorial Park and South Nation Conservation, will be hosting an information day on Sat., June 12 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Oak Valley Pioneer Memorial Park, located on Baldwin Road near Inkerman.

Featured will be information on military life in the Napoleonic era, period dress of both the militia man and his lady, local genealogy, and refreshment.

For more information, contact Murray Inch at 613-731-7830 or 613-989-1802 or Carol Goddard at 613-938-2455.