

# The Huissier

A Newsletter for Fortress of Louisbourg Heritage Presentation Staff

## Montcalm project takes particular interest in long-lost Artois officer

Anne Marie Lane Jonah

He wasn't lost to us... In August, Jessica Bolduc, agent for the Montcalm Project of the Société généalogique ca-

nadienne-française, visited Louisbourg and presented her project to members of the Cultural Resources staff and one very interested representative of the Heritage Presentation staff, Florence Miron. The Montcalm project will collect, with researchers in the field in Canada and France, biographical data on the soldiers serving in New France from 1755 and 1760. Their starting point will be the lists of troops leaving Brest and LaRoche in this period. A book containing the biographical data on the troops, and related images, will be published in September of 2009, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. This collection will not address *Compagnies franches* troops as many of them had been in the colonies

longer, and cannot be captured under the Montcalm project, but it will give much more information about troops serving in New France than we currently have.

Jessica reviewed the archives and collections of

Louisbourg to make sure no stone, or microfilm reel, is left unturned. One object in our collection that interested

her was the pastel portrait of an Artois officer on display in the Bigot house. This portrait—purchased for the Louisbourg collection in 1968 by Jean Palardy—is identified as Jean René Benne de L'Étendard, Captain of the Artois Regiment, in Louisbourg and Canada, 1755-1760. It is unusual in that it represents a named officer, but not one of the major figures in the war. The existence of this portrait was unknown to the project's researchers. Jessica expects that the portrait, as well as other images of Louisbourg, will be featured in the

project's publication. Louisbourg will continue to work with the Société généalogique as the project continues.



Pastel portrait is of Jean-René Benne de l'Étendard, a captain of the Régiment d'Artois.



## Since you asked...

Anne Marie Lane Jonah

**Were lobsters eaten by the inhabitants of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Louisbourg?**

**Yes, even the upper class ate lobster.**

In our archives of in-house memos for the Fortress of Louisbourg we have two research memos, one by John Johnston and another by Hope Dunton, with lots of evidence that lobsters were known to the French in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and were liked by many. Fishermen on the coasts of Normandy and Brittany in France exported lobster to England. Many of Louisbourg's fishermen came from that region, and so, undoubtedly knew how to catch and prepare lobsters. Many of the records of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Cape Breton



Interpreter Carl Boudreau holds a period willow lobster pot.

mention lobster, and other shellfish, being plentiful and liked. Lobster shells do not survive for long in the ground, and therefore there is not much archaeological evidence of lobsters; however, there was a lobster claw shell found in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century context in the well on the Loppinot property, block 16.

In times of shortage, such as the spring of 1744, and almost a century earlier in a bad year described by

Nicolas Denys, some people had to live on only shellfish. This does not mean that people disliked or disdained shellfish, but that they had nothing else, no bread, no vegetables, or any meat. Richer people may have had access to other foods in times of shortage, but the poor did not. Shellfish are easier to get

**MANY OF THE RECORDS OF 18<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY CAPE BRETON MENTION LOBSTER, AND OTHER SHELLFISH, BEING PLENTIFUL AND LIKED.**

in Cape Breton, but this does not mean that the wealthy would not enjoy them from time to

time.

In our modern presentation of Louisbourg we have shown lobsters as part of the ambigu on feast days, and there are lobster traps at the DesRoches property. Lobsters are not routinely offered in the restaurants for operational reasons, not because of interpretation.



## This Week in 1744

SEPTEMBER 19 "A daughter is born to François-Marie de Goutin and Marie Angélique de la Fosse; the infant is baptize by Guégot.

Mid to late month " Three vessels carrying 340 prisoners (men, women and children) sail for Boston. Around the same time a single vessel with additional prisoners may have departed for Placentia, Newfoundland, where they are to be exchanged for French prisoners.

SEPTEMBER 21 "Feast Day of St. Matthew the Apostle.

SEPTEMBER 22 "A sailor off the *Caribou*, Jean Centurie, is buried in the parish cemetery.

SEPTEMBER 23 "The truce at Annapolis Royal ends. At ten o'clock Duvivier launches an assault on the Fort that lasts until four the next morning.

"In Louisbourg the marriage of an Irish couple, Terré Donal and Sara MacMelun, is rehabilitated by Guégot.

SEPTEMBER 26 "Birth of a daughter to Pierre Martissans and Jeanne Angélique chavigny.

"At Annapolis Royal a brigantine and sloop carrying reinforcements sent by Governor Shirley sails into the harbour.



## Visitor Comments...

*Very helpful and friendly staff!! I am a nursing mother and the staff was more than helpful in giving me a private place to go. Thank you especially to the Guide who was so very pleasant and helpful. We will be back!!!*

*The wonderful staff made the day a truly memorable experience.*

*Wonderful experience! - to go back to the 1700's and experience the wonderful narrations and restorations. Unbelievable, well worth the visit. Thank you!*



Hi all,

For various reasons this season I am not as confident of our stat numbers as I have been in the past. The following is what I believe to be as correct as we will get. Please remember that year to date stats begin as of May 16 this year.

Thanks,  
- Greg Joyce

### Visitor Stats

For the period of September 1 to September 19, 2007

	2006	2007
# People for the period	9949	10,252
% Increase / Decrease		+3.05%
Year to Date	84,632	85,068
% Increase / Decrease		+0.52%



Clockwise from upper left: Micheal Black, Gwenan Gibbard, the Sangsters, Jerry Holland, David MacIsaac

## *Celtic Colours Fortress event sells out as usual*

As usual the Celtic Colours' event held here onsite, *Stepping into the Past*, sold nearly as quick as the tickets went on sale. Following is the information about the event as it appears on the Celtic Colours website.

...One of the great things we get to do is host events in many types of interesting and beautiful venues. One of the most special is Fortress Louisbourg, North America's largest historical reconstruction of an 18th century colonial French town. The experience, with room for only 120, begins with a candle-lit meal followed by a lantern-lit walk to the chapel through the cobbled fortress streets. The chapel is lit with candles and the music is played acoustically. Some of the songs sung by Scotland vocal group, the Sangsters, would

have been written in the heyday of the Fortress. Ireland's Michael Black's voice will ring through this historic venue. Gwenan Gibbard will add a Welsh flavour with harp and vocals. Jerry Holland and Dave MacIsaac will perform traditional Cape Breton tunes.

### **Gwenan Gibbard (Wales)**

Gwenan was brought up in a Welsh speaking family in which singing and Welsh culture in general played an integral part. Having graduated in music from the University of Wales Bangor, and gaining a masters degree in performance and research in the field of Welsh music, she went on to further her studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London. She has won many harp and singing competitions and Gwenan's debut album was recently released. It features her own arrangements of Welsh tradi-

tional folk songs and Welsh traditional music played on the small Celtic harp. We are pleased to welcome Gwenan to Cape Breton for the first time. Gwenan will be accompanied by Huw Williams who is best known for his performance and promotion of the Welsh style of dance known as clogging.

### **Jerry Holland (Cape Breton)**

Jerry Holland is a fiddler strongly rooted in Cape Breton, Scottish and Irish dance music traditions. An active performer and recording artist, many of his own tunes have entered the traditional repertoire around the world and he has taken his music internationally and all over Canada. His tunes, books and recordings have remained influential wherever

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Fortress gets aerial photo session

If you happened to be on the schedule last Monday, you no doubt noticed a small plane flying quite low over the site. Site graphic designer, Josh Adams and well-known Cape Breton photographer Warren Gordon were busy taking photos of the Fortress. The shoot was intended to provide updated digital images of the site and to get shots of the site not previously taken. Two flights were made—in the morning around 10am and around 4pm—to provide two different lighting environments. The entire site, from Kennington Cove to lighthouse point, was photographed including shots of the excavation at Wolfe's redoubt. You may have noticed that the airplane seemed to be lower than most we see flying over. Before taking off special permission was required from the Federal Department of Transport and Parks Canada in order to fly below 1000 feet while above the site.

Battery Island with the Fortress Site in the background, shot from around 500 feet up. Photo by Josh Adams

(Celtic Colours, continued from page 3)

Celtic music is played.

### Dave MacIsaac (Nova Scotia)

Internationally recognized as a master of stringed instruments, Dave MacIsaac is a musician's musician and is widely admired as such. He plays traditional fiddle tunes with fiery passion, and his stunning guitar playing, whether solo or as accompaniment, is industry legend. Always interested in expanding his knowledge of Celtic music, Dave has thousands of recordings of Cape Breton traditional music. He also possesses an archival knowledge of tunes, and is often called upon to name that tune for recordings, as well as being in high demand for session work. John Allan Cameron often stated that, "If a cod fish had strings... Dave MacIsaac could play it!"

### Michael Black (Ireland/USA)

Michael is a member of Ireland's foremost family of song, The Black Family which includes his brothers Shay and Martin and sisters Frances and Mary. Their work has been described by critics as "exquisite", "exhilarating" and "nothing short of stunning". Michael now resides in San Francisco and has taught at the University of San Francisco, and San Francisco State University. After moving to the

US in 1984, he became very active in the music scene in San Francisco where he was a regular performer at the Plough and Stars pub for many years. As a banjo player, and an accomplished guitarist, he worked with many Irish artists including Paddy Keenan, John Whelan, Nollaig Casey and James Kelly. More recently Michael has rejuvenated his solo career, playing at various venues throughout the United States. He has just finished recording his solo album with John Doyle producing it and guest singers and musicians include Mary, Frances, Shay and Martin Black, John Doyle, Liz Carroll, John Williams, Dirk Powell and Seamus Egan. The album will be released on Compass Records ([www.compassrecords.com](http://www.compassrecords.com)) in July 2007.

### Sangsters (Scotland)

The Sangsters - Anne Murray, Fiona Forbes, Scott Murray and John Blackwood - are a Fife group who put the accent firmly on the voice. Their repertoire of traditional songs is arranged for solo singing, harmonies and simple accompaniment to let the voices shine through. They have recorded two CDs - *Begin* (1993) and *Sharp and Sweet* (2000).



## Tours, Cruise Ships & Events

September 20, 2007	Caravan Tours
September 21, 2007	NORWEGIAN DAWN (Sydney) Tauk World Tours West World Tours Pacific Gold Tours
September 22, 2007	Ambassatours Fehr-Way Tours Globus
September 23, 2007	Hanover Holiday Tours
September 24	VEENDAM & GRAND PRINCESS (Sydney) FIT Mr. Kieron Bayley & Mrs. Diana Bayley Pacific Gold Tours
September 25, 2007	Jonview Caravan Tours
September 26, 2007	MAASDAM (Sydney) Nagel Tours Tauk World Tours Globus Destination CB - FAMTOUR
September 27, 2007	Coxheath School (Grade 5) Caravan Tours Page & Moy Holidays Nagel Tours
September 28, 2007	ZODIAC BOATS Tauk World Tours Pacific Gold Tours Sunwest Tours
September 29, 2007	Ambassatours
September 30, 2007	SAGA RUBY (Sydney) Hanover Holiday Tours Caravan Tours