

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Friends of Fort McClary

PO Box 82

Kittery Point, ME 03904

Season's Greetings!

This has been the busiest and most successful year of activities the Friends have ever had. As part of a community awareness program, we made four well-received power point presentations to the Kittery Rotary in January, the Meeting Hose and Kittery Estates in May and Kittery Adult Ed in October. Our schedule of summer activities were geared to the Maine Department of Conservation and Bureau of Parks and Lands' "Take It Outside" program and focused on our charge as a Friends group to support education, historical preservation and recreational activities at Fort McClary State Historic site and Park.

- On May 25, a largely attended Memorial Day ceremony was held on the Parade Ground with Timeline Re-enactors, the Shapleigh Middle School and Traip Academy Bands, remarks by Senator Peter Bowman and Representative Walter Wheeler and an official dedication of the 1840's cannon which the Friends had purchased and placed in the Block House.
- June 6, A "First-Time Hikers" Program took place with guided hikes on the Barter Creek trails and the new Block House trail.
- June 20, Colonial "Crafts from the Past" had numerous artisans demonstrating their craft work.
- July 11, a Blue Grass concert with the Sugar Shack Grass Band and guests was held on the picnic side of the Fort. Half of the funds raised were donated to Foot Prints Food Pantry.
- August 3, the Kittery Recreation Department's Adventure Camp with 33 middle school students and their counselors spent the day with the Friends hiking the trails and learning about the history of the Fort.
- August 7, a large crowd and Colonial Re-enactors with artillery cannon firing greeted the arrival of the Tall Ships boat parade which accompanied the USS Eagle and Spirit of Massachusetts when they entered the mouth of Portsmouth Harbor and turned up river.

- August 8 and 9, a Revolutionary War Encampment with tent camps and artillery demonstrations by the Royal Irish Artillery, Drake's Artillery and the Frigate Raleigh Gun Crew drew record numbers of visitors to the Fort over the weekend.
- August 22 and 23, a Civil War Encampment with the Liberty Rifles was themed around the 1860's election of Abraham Lincoln.
- September 12 and 13, a Timeline Encampment with tents, displays and re-enactors from the French and Indian Wars through WW1 was held.
- November 7, the Pepperrell Project Committee working with the Friends, the Kittery Cemetery Committee and the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum and Society hosted a rededication ceremony of the Pepperrell Cemetery Site, Tomb Monument and Memorial Tablet. "A Very Pepperrell Affair" was held to celebrate the 275th and 250th anniversary of the passing of Colonel William and his son, Sir William. Author and historian Neil Rolde was guest speaker, Maritime folk music was provided by "The Dog Watch" and musket salutes were made by Colonial militia representing the "Pepperrell Brigade". A well attended reception followed at the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum.

The annual meeting of the Friends was held on November 23 and the 2010 Board of Directors were elected and tentative plans for the 2010 season were made.

On December 7, a History of the Fort night is being planned to pull together all the current McClary artifacts that we have acquired to date.

The first regular meeting for next year will be on January 18 when the calendar of planned activities will be finalized. All meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Second Christian Church, 33 Government Street, Kittery.

The Friends would like to thank you for your continued or new membership and for the many donations made to help support our projects at the Fort. We greatly appreciate it.

Please join us. We are always looking for volunteers to help is out in any way you can. Go to the Friend's website at www.fortmcclary.org for more information about upcoming projects and activities for next year or call Ken at 439-2744 or Steve at 439-3479.

Sincerely,

Ken Higgins, President

The Friends of Fort McClary