

The War of 1812 headed for Uxbridge

New attractions at this year's Steam Threshing Days

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By Jeff Hayward Staff Writer

UXBRIDGE -- Soldiers and weapons from a time long past will abound during an upcoming annual heritage festival.

But you won't have to hide your family: it's all just for fun.

The 35th Uxbridge Historical Centre Steam Threshing and Heritage Days will take over museum grounds on Saturday, Aug. 26 and Sunday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Like previous years, visitors can expect to see demonstrations of steam threshers, treadle sewing machines, weaving machines, newspaper printing presses and more.

And to highlight this year's event, the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, a Toronto-based group, will turn the grounds into a village and battleground from that era. Along with three tactical military demonstrations each day by performers in period clothing, spectators can learn ways of life from that time including how bread was made from wheat and corn, and how to make fire without lighters or matches.

Paul Kelly of the Incorporated Militia said a surgeon will be on hand with "their instruments of gore" to tend to the "wounded" soldiers. There will also be a demonstration of early firearms, using replicas.

Young people will have a chance to don battle clothing and join in on the fun, he said. "An officer will be barking (orders) to kids," he said, jokingly adding, "Most of the men are the ones who cry."

The 1812 re-enactments are about a half hour each, said Mr. Kelly, and are scheduled to run at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. both days.

All regular museum displays are open during the weekend. Hot dogs, sausages, and corn on the cob are available in the barbecue area, and an ice cream truck will make its rounds. Other demonstrations over the weekend include blacksmithing, making of rag dolls, rope making, quilting and woodworking.

The Historical Centre grounds are also equipped with new walkways and wheelchair ramps, funded with the help of a \$22,700 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant.



Photo By Mike Pochwat
Jim Nidderly, Glendon Hovey, Paul Kelly, Michelle Hovey and Elizabeth Hovey are members of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, and will be doing period demonstrations, along with 30 other members, at the Uxbridge Museum as part of the Steam Threshing Show on Aug. 26 and 27. August 6, 2006

Links

<http://uxlib.com/museum/>

<http://www.imuc.org/rentaregiment.htm>

Additional photos courtesy of the MRSC Campfollower cams!! Michelle Hovey, Debbie Brown, Sarah Brown and Donna Kelly.

Admission to the event is \$6 for adults, free for children, and parking is no charge. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks from Aug. 25 to 29. For more information call Carol at 905-852-5097.