

*Lafarge Bath Plant*

# concrete connection

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# 1812

**Bicentennial Celebrations**  
*Commemorative Edition*



bringing materials to *life*



## A Message from the Plant Manager

It is my pleasure to present this commemorative edition of the Bath Plant newsletter as a keepsake to the community to recognize the hard work of countless volunteers. This special newsletter marks a watershed event in the history of Bath when history came to life. Over the Canada Day weekend hundreds of volunteer re-enactors from our area and around the world gathered in Bath to bring to life the Flight of the Royal George, a key battle in the War of 1812. About 55,000 spectators were thrilled to witness this colourful event, the largest re-enactment of its kind in North America.

I am proud to honour the hard work of the countless volunteers who planned and executed the re-enactment — representatives from the Fairfield Gutzeit Society, Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry and Loyalist Township. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the annual Canada Day parade in Bath. Without their vision and tireless efforts over the past six years, the events of the recent Canada Day weekend would never have taken place.

Volunteers also contributed to the Lafarge Discovery Centre, a place where we all can learn about our history. Lafarge is honoured to support this historical site of interest on the village waterfront. It is my hope that it will develop into an important tourist attraction and be a lasting legacy for generations to come. I look forward to continuing to work with the community on the further revitalization of the village of Bath.

— *Mike Kralik*



War of  
**1812**  
Bicentennial  
Celebrations



*Photos above and opposite by Bernard Clark*

## Bath's Loyalist Roots

Originally known as Ernestown, many of Bath's current residents can trace their ancestors to the American Revolution of 1776-83. The area was settled by United Empire Loyalist refugees from the area now known as the U.S. states of New York and Vermont. Families loyal to the British crown were persecuted and displaced by the American Revolution. They lost their possessions and were forced to leave their secure homes, settling on the north shore of Lake Ontario in what was known as Upper Canada.

Almost 30 years later the same families again faced a familiar threat when the Americans invaded their new home during the War of 1812. "Imagine waking up and finding an American fleet ready to take over your home," explains David Smith, a director with the Fairfield Gutzzeit Society. Fathers and sons who fought during the American Revolution were forced to defend their homes in the War of 1812, "It brought people together from various backgrounds in British North America — natives, English and French speaking immigrants — with the common goal of protecting their homes and country."

Why is our history important today? Smith believes we need to honour the sacrifices of these early families. He adds, "You need to know where you've come from if you want to know where you want to go."





Photos above and opposite by Bernard Clark

History comes to Life on the Canada Day Weekend in Bath

## The Flight of the Royal George

On November 9, 1812, the USS Oneida and six gunboats arrived in the Bay of Quinte from Sacketts Harbor, New York. They lay in wait off the False Duck Islands to intercept the HMS Royal George en route from Royal York, what is now Toronto. Commanded by Commodore Hugh Earl of the Provincial Marine, the 22-gun Royal George was the largest ship on Lake Ontario at the time.

The U.S. warships chased the Royal George through the Upper Gap between Amherst Island and the Eastern tip of Prince Edward County, moving toward the waters of Kingston. The skirmish was a key battle in the War of 1812 and the Royal George successfully defended itself against the U.S. gunboats. The outcome helped solidify the future of this country and forge our identity as Canadians.

History came to life on the 2012 Canada Day weekend when the year's largest re-enactment of the War of 1812 in North America took place in the village of Bath, highlighting the flight of the Royal George.

Other events included a re-enactment of the U.S. attack on Ernestown, the current village of Bath, and the burning of the schooner Two Brothers, as well as the Addington militia and British regulars defending Upper Canada.

The Lake Ontario shoreline was dotted with five tall ships and 10 gunboats, a once in a lifetime experience. Up to 55,000 spectators turned out for the re-enactment events, ending with the traditional Canada Day fireworks sponsored by the Lafarge Bath Plant.

Among the spectators were Jude Tremblay, Lafarge's Ready Mix General Manager 401 East and Bath Plant General Manager Mike Kralik. The two watched the events from Tremblay's backyard which backs onto the bay. There was also a group of U.S. re-enactors and a cannon on his property.

David Smith, a key organizer of the re-enactment, believes Bath's strong Loyalist roots and patriotism made it fitting for the area to host such a massive living history.

The culmination of a six year plan, it was an enormous commitment by many groups, including the Fairfield Gutzeit Society, Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry, Lafarge, Heritage Canada and Loyalist Township.

More than 750 volunteer re-enactors from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom converged on the village of Bath. There were countless practices and drills in the months before the re-enactment in an effort to accurately portray history and the men, women, children and military units of the time.

Smith was asked what would have happened if the Americans had been successful that day in November 1812 when the Royal George was chased by the Americans through the waters of Lake Ontario. "We wouldn't have a country as we know it. Canada would not exist," he says. "What a better way to celebrate Canada Day on the bicentennial of the War of 1812 than to bring history to life and celebrate the heritage of this community and country."







# The Lafarge 1812 Discovery Centre Story



It's a first step in the revitalization of Bath as one of Ontario's most vibrant historical centres. Located on the shores of Lake Ontario in the village centre, the Lafarge 1812 Discovery Centre officially opened June 29, 2012 as a permanent legacy to the community, a place where history comes alive.

The Centre is a restored 1806 boathouse, used as a barracks in the War of 1812 and floated across the ice in the 1920's from Bulch's Point, the present day Heritage Point. With the support of Heritage Canada, Loyalist Township, private donors and the Lafarge Bath Plant, the building came to life.



Owned by the Fairfield Gutzeit Society, a charitable organization of volunteers who manage heritage buildings in Bath, the centre is open from May 24 to Labour Day with interpretative staff providing guided tours of the grounds. The lower level has interactive videos and original artifacts to tell the story of the village from 1784 on through the War of 1812. During the school year the centre welcomes local students studying the history of the region as part of their curriculum.

Lafarge Canada has provided a \$50,000 ten year operating grant, ensuring stable funding and a foundation that will support the community long after the re-enactment. Lafarge also donated all of the stone, cement and concrete for the project as well as a new foundation for the building. Concrete was supplied at zero cost by Lafarge's 401 East Division courtesy of Jude Tremblay, Ready Mix General Manager.

With a vision of Bath becoming the Lunenburg, Nova Scotia of Ontario, the grounds of the centre include a dock that will soon become home to the tall ship Brigantine St. Lawrence II. The ship offers a sailing program for 12 to 18 year olds, the oldest continuous sailing program in Canada. The program will expand next summer and excursions will also be available for the public.

The Bath Plant's General Manager Mike Kralic hopes the centre will become a major cultural attraction. "With stable funding, the centre can develop programs, such as hiring summer students and helping it evolve into a major tourist attraction."

"It's an education centre where the community, especially young people, can learn about the Loyalist history of Bath and how the American Revolution and the War of 1812 shaped our country prior to Confederation," explains David Smith.

David Smith explains that Lafarge is a huge part of the success of the project. "It never would have happened without the tremendous support of the Bath Plant from both a building perspective and the stability of long term funding."



"We are delighted to be part of this. Standing with the hard working volunteers behind this project was an easy decision. We're very proud to have our name attached to this but the hard work of community leaders like David Smith, Kelly Hineman, and many others is what makes this a truly lasting legacy," adds Bath Plant Environment and Public Affairs Manager Rob Cumming.

*Photos left and opposite by Bernard Clark*



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Photo: Bernard Clark

# Low Carbon Fuels Project Update — Queen's to study low carbon fuels

The Bath Plant continues to work toward its goal of replacing imported fossil fuels with locally produced, low carbon fuels. The Plant is working with many partners on the low carbon fuel project, including the World Wildlife Fund Canada, Queen's University, the Cement Association of Canada and the local community through the Community Liaison Committee. The partnerships ensure a comprehensive and transparent review of the projects.



Photo: iStockphoto

## Here's an update on progress this year:

- Queen's University has been awarded research funding from several granting agencies. This funding allows the researchers to study the benefits and challenges of using low carbon fuels, to assess their performance, to conduct in-depth life cycle assessments, and to develop safe handling technologies for these new fuels. As well as providing valuable research, the three year project will enable several students to complete their Master's and degrees.
- The Plant submitted its applications with the Ministry of Environment in April and is working with the ministry to provide further information.
- The Plant also continues to provide regular, timely updates on the low carbon fuels project to the Community Liaison Committee and also through Twitter @Cement2020 and [www.cement2020.com](http://www.cement2020.com).

If you are interested in joining our advisory panel on the low carbon fuels project, which involves reading updates and draft reports and providing comments for our research team — contact Rob Cumming at [BathPlantInfo@lafarge-na.com](mailto:BathPlantInfo@lafarge-na.com). Stay tuned for further updates online and in future newsletters.

## The Bath Plant's First Community Survey

We want to hear from you! Please complete our survey on-line at [bathcementplant.com](http://bathcementplant.com) and enter for a chance to win a prize. Or contact Rob Cumming at [BathPlantInfo@Lafarge-na.com](mailto:BathPlantInfo@Lafarge-na.com) and we'll mail a paper survey to you.



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