

NEWS RELEASE

NIAGARA FALLS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BUREAU

P.O. BOX 1111

NIAGARA FALLS, U.S.A. OR CANADA

CUTLINE FOR PHOTOGRAPH

NIAGARA FALLS--Visitors watch "soldiers" dressed in colonial British uniforms parade at Old Fort Niagara, located about 12 miles north of Niagara Falls. This fort and Fort George on the Canadian side provide a glimpse of life during colonial times. The forts have been restored so that they appear just as they did around the start of the 19th Century.

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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

NIAGARA FALLS--The 150th anniversary of a treaty that assured an armament-free border between the United States and Canada is being celebrated this year, drawing attention to the two restored forts that are reminders of the conflicts that once raged along the frontier.

The bastions are Canada's Fort George and the U. S.'s Old Fort Niagara, located on opposite sides of the Niagara River about a dozen miles north of Niagara Falls.

Restrictions on armaments along the border were provided for in the Rush-Bagot Agreement negotiated between the U. S. and Great Britain in 1817, three years after the end of the War of 1812.

The two forts have been restored and visitors see them as they were in colonial days and during the initial years of American independence.

Old Fort Niagara originally was built by the French, later was seized by the British during the French and Indian Wars. Several years after the Revolutionary War, the British turned it over to the new republic. During the War of 1812, the British captured and held the fort for a time. Fort George was built by the British after the loss of Fort Niagara.

Both forts are operated on a non-profit basis. Fort George is run by the Niagara Parks Commission and Old Fort Niagara by an association under license from the Niagara Frontier State Park Commission.

Special ceremonies are conducted throughout the summer for the benefit of visitors.

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