

Hamilton War of 1812 Bicentennial

SIGNATURE EVENT: *Hamilton & Scourge* Memorial

Historical Quick Facts

- The *Hamilton* and *Scourge* were two merchant schooners pressed into service by the United States Navy during the War of 1812.
- In the predawn hours of August 8, 1813 the squadrons of the United States and Royal Navy lay watching one another in a dead calm, awaiting fresh breezes, 10.5 km off of what is today the City of St. Catharines.
- On August 8, 2013, a sudden squall tore through both squadrons sending the armed schooners *Hamilton* and *Scourge* to the bottom of Lake Ontario.
- 53 sailors perished in the largest loss of life on Lake Ontario during the war.

Modern Day Quick Facts

- 2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the sinking of the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*.
- The ships currently sit upright and intact 90 metres (300 feet) beneath the surface of Lake Ontario.
- The ships were discovered in 1973, became a National Historic Site in 1976, and have been owned and managed by the City of Hamilton since 1980.
- The schooners have been the subject of five official underwater surveys.
- Survey work allows the City to monitor the condition of the vessels, the associated artifacts in the debris field, and the remains of the fallen interred around and within the hulls.

SIGNATURE EVENT: *Hamilton & Scourge* Memorial On-the-Water (September 4, 2013)

- The City of Hamilton and honoured guests will board the Canadian Coast Guard ship *Griffon* and cruise to the site of the tragic sinking of the armed schooners.
- A commemorative ceremony honouring the 53 sailors who gave their lives for their country on August 8, 1813 will take place on-the-water.
- The ceremony will feature representation from the Canadian Coast Guard, United States Consulate General and Royal Canadian Navy, federal and provincial parliament, Hamilton Veteran's Committee.
- Operatic tenor, Jason Hales, will perform as we recognize the largest loss of life for the United States Navy on Lake Ontario during the war and official peace between our nations over the last two hundred years.

- The ceremony will be the centre-piece of a film entitled *On-the-Water*. The public premier of the film will be presented at Dundurn National Historic Site on September 21, 2013.

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Time: 8:30am-11:30am
Ages: Not a Public Event
Cost: \$10 for adults. \$5 for youth
Contact: 1812@hamilton.ca
www.1812hamilton.com

SIGNATURE EVENT: *Hamilton & Scourge* Memorial On-the-Land (September 21, 2013)

- Presented by the *Hamilton & Scourge* National Historic Site and Dundurn National Historic Site, this event will feature: the showing of the film entitled *On-the-Water* shown on a (9x12) LED outdoor screen ...
- Additional performances will include: Hamilton Aerial Group with an artistic impression of the sinking of *Hamilton & Scourge*; choral music by the Bach Elgar Choir; giant puppet characters; puppet shows in the Cockpit theatre by Studio Babette; marching and dress-up with the naval and military re-enactors; a hands-on discovery gallery, as well as fun and fanciful food from local Hamilton food trucks.
- Free admission to Dundurn Castle and the Hamilton Military Museum is available between 12pm and 4pm for the event.

Site: Dundurn National Historic Site
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013
Time: 11am-4pm
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Contact: 1812@hamilton.ca
www.1812hamilton.com

1812 Hamilton Signature Events Series

- Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek (June 1-2, 2013)
- Canadian International Military Tattoo (June 8-9, 2013)
- TALL SHIPS® Hamilton (June 28-30, 2013)
- *Hamilton & Scourge* Memorial (September 4 and 21, 2013)

More Information

Website: www.1812hamilton.com
Twitter: [@1812Hamilton](https://twitter.com/1812Hamilton)
Facebook: [Facebook.com/1812Hamilton](https://facebook.com/1812Hamilton)

Media Contact

Brenda Branch
Marketing and Promotions Officer
Tourism and Culture Division
Planning and Economic Development Department
City of Hamilton
Phone: 905-546-2424, extension 7527
bbranch@hamilton.ca