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**Media Advisory**  
**BoomDays 2008 Kicks off the Weekend**  
**with Historical Reenactment**

**Date:** Friday, April 4, 2008

**Time:** 10:15AM

**Place:** Old Fort Niagara  
Fort Niagara State Park  
Youngstown, NY

**YOUNGSTOWN, NY** – BoomDays will kick-off a weekend full of events with the reenactment of the French Explorer LaSalle and Father Hennepin coming ashore from a canoe at Old Fort Niagara Friday at approximately 10:15AM.

At the Old Fort Niagara ceremony Robert Emerson and Ken Sherman will “urge Western New Yorkers to celebrate the end of winter and the coming of spring” by their attendance at the various regional Boom Days events in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Youngstown. “I am proud to learn that BoomDays is the power that binds our community to nature and history,” said the 17<sup>th</sup> century explorer Cavalier Rene LaSalle as he paddles ashore from his trip down the Niagara River.

“We thought we would make our landing at Ft Niagara early before the ice flows down from Lake Ontario,” said LaSalle. Current photos of the ice field behind the Boom show that it still covers a significant area. The current International Joint Commission Order of Approval governing operation of the ice boom that requires all floating sections of the boom be opened by the first day of April unless there is more than 250 square miles (650 square kilometers) of ice in eastern Lake Erie.

Re-enactors will leave from Youngstown Yacht Club and paddle along the Niagara River in canoes. Dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> century period clothing provided by Fort Niagara, the BoomDay reenactors will announce plans for Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Youngstown events this weekend. The reenactors include Cavalier LaSalle (Ken Sherman), and Father Hennepin (Walter Kendzia). Musket shoots will be fired at 10:15 AM by old Fort Niagara staff including its Director (Robert Emerson) to welcome the visitors ashore.

## **About the Organizations:**

### **About BoomDays – [www.boomdays.com](http://www.boomdays.com)**

BoomDays celebrates the lifting of the Lake Erie - Niagara River Ice Boom. It is a unique way to mark the coming of spring. BoomDays commemorates our bustling waterways of days gone by and glorifies our natural, artistic and cultural wealth. BoomDays is a moveable feast and festivities extend from the Buffalo River to Old Fort Niagara. Event participants (known as Boomers) journey throughout the Buffalo/Niagara waterfront areas experiencing all that the region has to offer.

### **About Old Fort Niagara–**

Standing on a bluff above Lake Ontario not far from Niagara Falls, Old Fort Niagara has dominated the entrance to the Niagara River since 1726. The colorful history of the site began even earlier, and continues to the present day.

The fort played an important role in the struggles of France, Great Britain, and the United States to control the Great Lakes region of North America, and also helped shape the destinies of the Iroquois (Six Nations) peoples and the nation of Canada.

Today Old Fort Niagara is a National Historic Landmark and New York State Historic Site that welcomes more than 100,000 visitors every year. It offers a unique collection of original military architecture and fortifications from the 18th Century and the 19th Century, as well as living history events and programs, historical exhibits and collections, archaeology, and education.

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