



# Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site Management Plan Newsletter #1

June 2015



### *Embrace a living monument*

Still remote and relatively undisturbed, Fort St. Joseph symbolizes the commercial and military alliance that existed between the British and the First Nations peoples of the western Great Lakes region in the aftermath of the American Revolutionary War through the War of 1812. In addition to the Fort itself, the site contains a remarkable assemblage of archaeological features which in their undeveloped state reveal part of the complex pattern of military, domestic and commercial life - Aboriginal and European - in this frontier outpost.

### *Bring history to life*

Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site welcomes visitors to experience what life was like for the small community of soldiers, civilians, and Aboriginal people who lived at this isolated outpost two centuries ago. The alliance between First Nations, Métis and British military is a central theme in the presentation of Fort St. Joseph, and visitors find themselves transported back in time to the place where the War of 1812 began.

### *What is a management plan?*

A Management Plan is a plan for the future. It provides the opportunity to establish and strengthen relationships with the community and stakeholders. It guides decision making so visitors can experience and enjoy the national historic site while making sure that natural and cultural heritage features are protected. It is a chance to celebrate past successes, re-evaluate goals and create new strategies for the future.

Parks Canada manages national parks, historic sites and national marine conservation areas for all Canadians. You can help by sharing your thoughts and ideas on the future of Fort St. Joseph.

We hope you will attend an **Open House** sessions that we will be hosting:

**Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2015 4–8 p.m.**  
Royal Canadian Legion  
1534 - 10th Sideroad  
Richards Landing  
**St. Joseph Island, Ontario**



Check the Fort's web page under 'Site Management' at [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/joseph](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/joseph) for updates and information, or write to:

Parks Canada Management Planning  
1 Canal Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W4  
[FSJ.Consultations@pc.gc.ca](mailto:FSJ.Consultations@pc.gc.ca)







### ***Taking Stock***

Management planning provides the opportunity for Parks Canada to take stock of a site and set a course for the future. We have completed an assessment of the fort's current situation, including the condition of its cultural resources and contemporary assets, as well as its visitor experiences, external support, First Nations engagement, and species at risk.

### ***Monarch Butterfly***

We are very fortunate to provide a home for monarch butterflies at Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site. These summer residents are recognized as a species of special concern, and it is our intention to adopt best management practices for their well being. Areas of the site will be left as wild vegetation to provide habitat for the monarch butterfly to help maintain its conservation status.

### ***Aboriginal Engagement***

Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site wishes to strengthen relationships with First Nations and Métis communities, to increase collaboration and achieve mutual benefits.



### ***Consider the possibilities***

The evaluation has helped us identify areas for improvement. These are the three key strategies that will guide future decision-making:

- Raise the profile of the site to increase the numbers of both new and repeat visitors
- Collaborate with external partners to diversify programs offered on site
- Maintain good condition of cultural and contemporary assets



### ***Maintain built assets***

We will adopt a stronger focus on facilities maintenance and achieving conservation gains for archaeological resources.