

# Final exhibit concepts unveiled by the SLPC

MORRISBURG (SLPC) – The St. Lawrence Parks Commission unveiled the exhibit concepts it intends to pursue for the two new visitor centres today (Mar. 31) and posted the exhibit reports on-line at [www.parks.on.ca](http://www.parks.on.ca). These concepts are the culmination of months of research, planning and community consultations and will form the basis for the fine-tuning of final exhibit development.

Outlined in the exhibit reports are themes, interpretative approaches, combined with state of the art, multi-media techniques, interactive exhibits, and extensive artifact displays that visitors will experience at the new Discovery Centres. Specific storylines have also been identified, thanks in large part to the consultations with area heritage and community leaders, as well as input during and since the open houses held in January and February. Commission staff and Board members have poured hundreds of hours with prominent exhibit design firm, Reich + Petch, to determine the best way to highlight the rich history of Upper Canada Village, Fort Henry, and the Battle of Crysler's Farm --- all with the specific goals of providing context to the sites in a compelling way so as to attract more visitors to the area and to the sites themselves.

Site assessment and building design work for both Discovery Centres are now fully underway. The Commission expects to have preliminary sketches

available to show at community open houses planned for later in April. Construction is expected to begin in mid summer at the Morrisburg site and hopefully later in the Fall in Kingston. The new building at



**St. Lawrence Parks Commission**  
AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Upper Canada Village will be located adjacent to the Village Store, which will also have a make-over. In preparation for construction, Commission staff will be moving the current ticketing building closer to the café and constructing a new route into the Village. Hoarding announcing the exciting changes ahead will be placed around the construction site so that it is fully enclosed and disruption is kept to a minimum.

At Fort Henry, it is hoped that the preferred site, at the west glacis, or near the current ticket approach, will prove acceptable from an archaeology and suitability standpoint. Commission staff are working closely with Parks Canada to ensure heritage integrity principles are observed, and Parks Canada archaeologists will likely begin work in mid May.

Numerous artifact displays are planned for both sites. A wide array of carriages, canoes, marine related artifacts and other large objects now in storage are planned to be incorporated into displays. The Commission is exploring the relocation of the pier light or channel marker originally from Dickinson's Landing and placing it closer to the entrance to the Village as a prominent feature.

The Commission will also introduce a new miniature train and expanded train route. The route will incorporate the existing trip from Upper Canada Village to Crysler Beach with an addition through to Crysler Park Marina as well as a stop near Aultsville Train Station. This will provide another opportunity to tell the story of the Battle of Crysler's Farm and bring visitors closer to the actual battle site near the marina. In addition, this new route will provide the Commission with an important internal transportation link for visitors between Upper Canada Village and Crysler Park Marina allowing the Commission to better serve its cruise line passengers and boaters.

"The Board and Management Team of the SLPC have been working very hard developing and refining our business plans," said Ron Eamer, vice-chair of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. "One of our strategic priorities is to realize sustainability of our operations; and the Board is very supportive of the excellent progress we are making on the Visitor Centre projects. The Board is conducting much more rigorous analysis of the performance of all of our business units so that we can align our spending with visitor patterns and improve our ability to generate revenues. This approach, combined with the tremendous success of special events contributed to our finishing the 2009/10 fiscal year in a balanced budget position, which is quite an achievement in the context of the difficult tourism season we just came through."

–Continued on page 8



Over 25 years, we have evolved our viewpoint about design to create extraordinary moments and opportunities for people to have experiences that change their understanding and perspective of the world they live in.

## **REICH+PETCH**

1867 Yonge Street Toronto, ON Canada M4S 1Y5  
TEL (416) 480 2020 FAX (416) 480 1881  
[www.reich-petch.com](http://www.reich-petch.com)  
[info@reich-petch.com](mailto:info@reich-petch.com)