

# Oakwood Cemetery of Niagara Falls

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Oakwood Cemetery Commemorates War of 1812:**

*Historic Congressional Presentation, Stunters Rest Tour, Nature Walk, Tree Planting*

The historic Oakwood Cemetery (OC), second oldest cemetery in Western New York, commemorates the War of 1812 in conjunction with the Main Street Business and Professional Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Walk on July 14, 2012. The Oakwood Cemetery event is sponsored by the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission in regards to their “cross-border” cemetery program by partnering with the Drummond Hill Cemetery, 6110 Lundy’s Lane, Niagara Falls, Ont., CA L2G 1T1. This is an opportunity for the public to be on hand for a historic Congressional presentation, enjoy the Stunters Rest Tour, participate in a Nature Walk, observe a special tree planting, and support the future plans of Oakwood Cemetery.

### **Event Schedule:**

On Saturday, July 12, 2012. Oakwood Cemetery will be open to the public to enjoy:

9 AM: Gates Open

9:15 AM: Welcome Ceremony - Larry Steele, OC Administrator

9:25 AM: Congressional Medal of Honor presentation regarding Gen.

Porter - Warren Baltes, Buffalo

9:45 AM: 1812 Re-enactors

10:00 AM: Stunters Rest Guided Tour with re-enactors - Michele Kratts

11:00 AM: Nature Tour - John Farfaglia, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

11:45 AM: Maple Tree Planting

And, Drummond Hill Cemetery will be open to the public to enjoy:

2:00 - 3:00 PM: Guided Tour - Sherman Zavitz, local NF, Ont. Historian

3:00 - 4:00 PM: Visit - Historic Battle Field Hotel Tour

**Congressional Medal of Honor presentation:** As the victor at the Battles of Chippewa, Erie and Niagara, Major General Peter Buell Porter was recognized as a hero in the War of 1812 and, therefore, awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on Nov. 3, 1814.

In order to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, a majority vote in both houses of the US Congress is required. The award is emblematic of a Presidential Medal of Honor, in that, it also requires the majority vote of Congress. However, it is bestowed by Congress instead of the President.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the only medal wherein families of the awardees may order Bronze replicas. In the presentation on July 14, Warren Baltes will be presenting a bronze replica to Oakwood Cemetery in honor of Major General Peter Buell Porter who is buried there.

The re-enactors are a group of three men who will be dressed as militia of 1812. They will fire their muskets on the grounds of the cemetery to honor all the 1812 veterans buried at Oakwood Cemetery..

**“Stunters Rest” Guided Tour:** Visit some of Niagara's most colorful characters who preformed stunts at Falls. Oakwood Cemetery's "Where the Stunters Rest" Tour will take you to meet Annie Edson Taylor face to face. Join her and visit Carlisle Graham, Capt. Matthew Webb, and Francis Abbott (the Hermit of Niagara). Learn of their adventures, and capture the excitement they caused. Docent: Michelle Kratts.

**Nature Walk with John Farfaglia, Horticultural Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension.**

Identify tree species - in particular, deciduous shade trees. Brochures to be provided and a question and answer period will be available. The tour is a fairly easy walk of approximately 40 - 45 minutes along the cemetery lanes. Contact info for Mr. Farfaglia: 433-8839 Ext 226, or jaf21@cornell.edu.

**Maple tree planting:** Symbolizes the cross-border connection between the Oakwood Cemetery on the US side and Drummond Hill Cemetery on the Canadian side.

**Fundraiser:**

**Honeymoon Sweets of Niagara** is offering a new line of chocolate to honor Niagara Falls stunters of the past. "[Niagara Daredevil Chocolates](#)" is the sweet concoction of local candy maker Mary Ann Hess. The unique, handmade chocolates can be purchased by at the event or by calling Oakwood Cemetery at 716.284.5131 or by going to [Mary Ann's website](#) .

*A portion of the proceeds to benefit Oakwood Cemetery; Heart, Love and Soul Food Pantry; and the Lions Club of Niagara.*

**Where the Stunters Rest Tour:** Creator and docent - Michelle Kratts. Live re-enactors.

\$5

**Annie's Book:** The life and times of Annie Edson Taylor

\$10

**Combo - Tour and Book:**

\$13

**Bottled Water**

\$1

*Proceeds to benefit: Oakwood Cemetery Future Development*

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