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# News Release      Communiqué

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October 14, 2011  
For Immediate Release

## Harper Government Invests in Nancy Island Historic Site and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812

**WASAGA BEACH, Ontario, October 14, 2011** – The Harper Government today announced support for local events in commemoration of the War of 1812. This War helped establish our path toward becoming an independent and free country, united under the Crown with a respect for linguistic and ethnic diversity.

“The heroic efforts of those who fought for our country in the War of 1812 tell the story of the Canada we know today: an independent and free country with a constitutional monarchy and its own distinct parliamentary system,” said the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. “The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 is an opportunity for all of us to take pride in our history, and we look forward to taking part in the events and activities that will mark this important anniversary for Canada.”

Thanks to support from the Government of Canada, this investment will give visitors to the Nancy Island Historic Site the opportunity to learn about the crucial role that the schooner HMS *Nancy* played in the defence of Upper Canada during the War of 1812. The funding will enable Wasaga Beach Provincial Park to develop educational and interpretive materials for the Nancy Island Historic Site, a legacy that will remain long after the 2012–2015 Bicentennial.

“Our Government received a strong mandate from Canadians to invest in our history and the important historic events that define us as Canadians,” said Dr. Leitch, Member of Parliament for Simcoe–Grey. “By supporting projects like these, our Government is delivering on its commitment to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812—a defining moment in our country’s history that in many ways has shaped Canada into the country it is today.”

A Government of Canada monument located at the entrance to Nancy Island recognizes the area as the site of an important naval engagement during the War of 1812. The distinguished career of the Royal Navy Schooner HMS *Nancy* began in Detroit and ended in a fiery explosion during the last days of the War. Today, the Nancy Island Historic Site houses the charred hull of the HMS *Nancy* and related artifacts.

The HMS *Nancy* project will enhance Canadians’ knowledge and understanding of this significant moment in Canadian history and of the way the War of 1812 shaped the development of the Southern Georgian Bay region.

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Over the next four years, the Government will invest to increase Canadians' awareness of this defining moment in our history. This will include support for:

- a pan-Canadian educational campaign focused on the importance of the War of 1812 to Canada's history;
- support for up to 100 historical re-enactments, commemorations, and local events;
- a dedicated War of 1812 Monument in Canada's National Capital Region;
- interactive tours, exhibits, and improvements to national historic sites across the country; and
- investments in infrastructure at key 1812 battle sites, such as Fort Mississauga and Fort York, Ontario; and
- celebrating and honouring the links that many of our current militia regiments in Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada have to the War of 1812.

The Government of Canada has provided funding through the Commemorate Canada component of the Department of Canadian Heritage's Celebration and Commemoration Program. This component provides financial support to initiatives of national significance that commemorate various aspects of Canadian history.

Details on planned activities and funding opportunities will be made available on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 website at [www.1812.gc.ca](http://www.1812.gc.ca).

You can now also download the official Government of Canada mobile application and browse the mobile site for information about the commemoration, key battles and heroes, and related national historic sites, as well as other interactive features that will be updated in the coming months in the lead-up to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812.

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(This news release is available on the Internet at [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca) under Newsroom.)