200th Anniversary Historic Calendar and Scholarship

Tay Valley Township, ON: A 200th Anniversary Calendar and Scholarship have been created to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of British North America's first military settlement, the Perth Military Settlement, in the area now represented by the Township of Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley Township, the Town of Perth and Tay Valley Township.

"The calendar contains stunning vintage postcards, local historic photos as well as the story of how Scottish settlers and War of 1812 veterans received their land grants in April of 1816," says Keith Kerr, Warden of Lanark County and Reeve of Tay Valley Township.

Planning is well underway for an exciting year that will honour the four townships' rich heritage, celebrate their accomplishments and establish a legacy that will continue for generations to come.

"I am so pleased that proceeds from the sale of the calendar will be directed to a scholarship to be granted annually to a local student who has been accepted into an apprenticeship, college or university program and who has demonstrated a keen interest in history," adds Gail Code, Deputy Reeve of Drummond /North Elmsley.

With over 200 events to participate in and so much history to explore, creating a calendar seemed the best way to provide the information. A resident of Tay Valley Township, designer Annie Dalton gathered settlement maps, archival and family photos, and verified the historical summaries to create the calendar

Richard Kidd, Reeve Beckwith Township, comments, "The Calendar is not only a keepsake of the 200th Anniversary but with the events from all four municipalities, you will be able to plan your participation in the 200th Anniversary year."

Each month throughout 2016 is filled with various 200th Anniversary events and activities that are happening in the participating municipalities over the year. "This is everybody's birthday,"

says John Gemmell, Deputy Mayor, Town of Perth "So each of the municipalities is gearing up for a number of signature events to celebrate it."

Beckwith will host a Jock River Paddle, Franktown Lilac Festival, Pioneer Days, and Richmond Road Military Walk. Drummond /North Elmsley will host a DNE Heritage Day, Pioneer Maple Days, Celebrate Balderson Day, Discover Drummond Day, and Settlers' Trail Unveiling. The Town of Perth will hold a Fire + Ice Winter Festival; Ontario Town Crier Championships, and Blast from the Past block party. Tay Valley Township will hold a Tay Bells Winter Celebration, Scotch Line History Fair, Settlers' Trail Unveiling, Settler Heritage Days and Lanark County Plowing Match, and a Betwixt and Between Heritage Dinner Dance.

The calendar lists these events and many more and is a beautiful walk through the townships' history. Selling for $10 ,they are going fast!

Calendars are available at municipal and county offices, the Perth Museum, and select local businesses. Tay Valley Township is coordinating distribution of the calendars on behalf of the Joint 200th Anniversary Committee (made up of the Township of Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley Township, the Town of Perth and Tay Valley Township.)   Visit our website at www.tayvalleytwp.ca for a list of the various locations where you can purchase the calendar or email us at events&promotions@tayvalleytwp.ca

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For further information contact:
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Calendar Cover attached below.

Background information: *The Perth Military Settlement was founded in 1816 by disbanded soldiers from the War of 1812 and settlers from Great Britain, who arrived as part of a strategic plan to secure Upper Canada in the event the United States should again attack British North America.*

At the end of the War of 1812, the British government planned three military settlements in the strategically positioned territory north of the Rideau Lakes. Perth was the first, followed by Richmond (1818) and Lanark (1820). Discharged soldiers from the Glengarry Light Infantry, the Canadian Fencibles, and the Swiss mercenary regiments as well as settlers from Scotland, England and Ireland received location tickets for their lots throughout the historic townships of Bathurst, North Burgess, Drummond, North Elmsley and the Town of Perth in April 1816.

An online map of the original settlement pattern that provides details about the recipients of the first land grants and subsequent changes in ownership has been developed for all four municipalities and will be available for viewing in 2016.

200th Anniversary
PERTH MILITARY SETTLEMENT

1816–2016

Beckwith • Drummond/North Elmsley • Perth • Tay Valley