



2011  
ANNUAL REPORT

FORT  TICONDEROGA  
*AMERICA'S FORT*

[www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org)

## Welcome From the President



As this Annual Report reaches you, the 2012 season at Fort Ticonderoga is just beginning. Once again the Fort is welcoming the first waves of visitors and getting ready for an assortment of programs, many of them new, in the upcoming season.

Five years ago the Fort was in danger of collapse, facing as it did interrelated crises of management, governance and finance. Today I am happy to report that a dramatic turnaround is well underway. The Board of Trustees has been restructured and revitalized, bringing new faces and new talents to the Fort's governing body.

Beth Hill, our dynamic Executive Director since 2010, has brought energy, competence and vision to the job, inspiring our existing and new staff. Under her leadership our venerable institution has

been well and truly transformed, and more exciting developments lie ahead.

The Fort's finances have stabilized. Financial management is strong and the Fort has been out of debt for over two years. Significant gifts by a small number of donors literally kept our doors open in the early years of my tenure as President of the Board. In addition, thanks to an expanded fund raising effort, there has been a gratifying increase in support from a wider horizon of donors that is critical to our future.

To all of those donors listed herein, whatever their level of contribution, I express my deepest appreciation. You are the vanguard of the fellowship of supporters who can and will ensure that our old stone Fort truly becomes and remains "America's Fort."

*Peter S. Paine, Jr.  
President  
Board of Trustees*



Photo by George M. Jones III

**FORT TICONDEROGA**  
AMERICA'S FORT

Cover photo by Carl Heilman

Located in the shadow of the Adirondack Mountains and overlooking Vermont's picturesque Green Mountains, Fort Ticonderoga is a living museum of historical and landscape resources. An active leader in land protection for nearly two centuries, Fort Ticonderoga continues its commitment to land stewardship today. The Fort Ticonderoga campus encompasses 2,495 acres in the southern Lake Champlain Basin of New York and Vermont. The protected historic areas include the Fort, Carillon Battlefield, the King's Garden, Mount Defiance, Mount Hope, and Mount Independence. Including nearly two miles of shoreline, wetlands, forests, and agricultural lands, Fort Ticonderoga protects and interprets one of the most significant landscapes in America!

## An Epic Story that Inspires Action



A site of critical military history in its first century, landmark preservation in its second, and monumental restoration in its third,

Fort Ticonderoga now enters its fourth century committed to passionately serving its mission: to ensure that present and future generations learn from the struggles, sacrifices, and victories that shaped the nations of North America and changed world history.

As this report goes to print, Fort Ticonderoga has just completed Phase 1 of its Comprehensive Plan that articulates its long-term vision to be the premier military history site in North America. In achieving this, Fort Ticonderoga has significant potential to serve our community in three ways: as a comprehensive educational resource, as a demand generator for increased tourism and economic development in the Adirondack region, and as a source of innovative ideas and approaches for historic sites throughout the United States.

Although this planning process will continue over the course of the next two years, Fort Ticonderoga is poised to implement many new initiatives in

the coming year. We anticipate these to provide increased resources that will enable us to better serve our mission and broaden our audience. We have developed a new Interpretive Department that is responsible for researching and recreating Fort Ticonderoga's specific history and will bring that information to life through daily programs, special events, and historic trades.

The transformation in our exhibitions will continue in 2012 with the new *Bullets & Blades: Weapons of America's Colonial Wars and Revolution* exhibit. Many new educational programs will be unveiled this year as we continue to develop our learning campus. These will include the First Conference on Lake George and Lake Champlain, to be held on August 11 & 12. Horticulture programming will continue to thrive in the beautiful King's Garden. The new *Growing Up Gardening* series will encourage young visitors to learn about different vegetable, flower, and insect varieties in one of North America's oldest gardens dating back to the French occupation of the Fort in 1755.

I am enthusiastic about Fort Ticonderoga's future. Indeed, its epic story inspires action, and we are embracing every opportunity to best serve our mission. Join us in this noble calling!

*Beth L. Hill  
Executive Director*

Photo by Kelsey Freeman

## Lifelong Love Affair



Fort Ticonderoga! I still vividly recall the excitement and anticipation my brother and I felt some sixty years ago on our first visit to the Fort. The purpose of our family's five-hour trip was to visit our sister, who was teaching school in Ticonderoga,

but the young Kissel boys had been up most of the night fantasizing images of red coats, continentals, grenadiers, Green Mountain Boys, cannons, musketry and the formidable Fort walls we had seen in pictures. Such began my lifelong love affair with the Fort, and more importantly its history and significance for future generations.

Today Fort Ticonderoga is not only America's Fort, but also the Adirondack's gem — bursting with wonderful year-round, on-site historical, cultural, and educational events. An iconic living historic monument, Fort Ticonderoga is at the forefront of educational endeavors.

The arrival of Beth Hill as the new Executive Director a few years ago has transformed the Fort into a vibrant, forward-looking and highly interactive institution serving the Ticonderoga and Adirondack communities, as well as a national and even international audience. Beth's experience in historic preservation and management, coupled with her strong leadership style and infectious enthusiasm, promises a rich and challenging future for the Fort.

I am fortunate to now be taking my grandchildren to the Fort, and am proud to support it and its endeavors to continue a strong tradition of educating and entertaining visitors with early American and Colonial history.

*Bill Kissel  
Lake Placid, NY*

## Fife & Drum Corps



I am now in my third year of working as a member of the Fife & Drum Corps at Fort Ticonderoga. This job has been very rewarding and challenging each year. It is a perfect environment to learn both responsibility and discipline. Working at Fort Ticonderoga is more than just a summer job. With it comes a

sense of pride, learning and achievement. It truly is special to work hard at practicing marching and memorizing songs all throughout the winter and spring and to be able to perform for visitors that come to the Fort every day throughout the summer season. Aside from all of that, Fort Ticonderoga is in a beautiful setting situated on the shores of Lake Champlain with a view of Mount Defiance. I feel lucky and privileged to be an employee at Fort Ticonderoga and to serve such an important mission.

*Mark Donohue  
Ticonderoga, NY*



# Fort Ticonderoga appreciates our contributors . . .

Fort Ticonderoga is grateful to all our donors who support us with their gifts. We particularly want to acknowledge those who donated to the Fort Ticonderoga Fund (names in bold) which provides vital support for our operations, ensuring our financial well-being and a strong foundation for future planning.

Members of the Friends of Fort Ticonderoga help support our mission and enjoy many benefits including free admission. Donors who give over \$2,500 annually receive a complimentary membership. Members of the Friends program are marked with a red asterisk.

We salute and thank the 2011 donors listed below.

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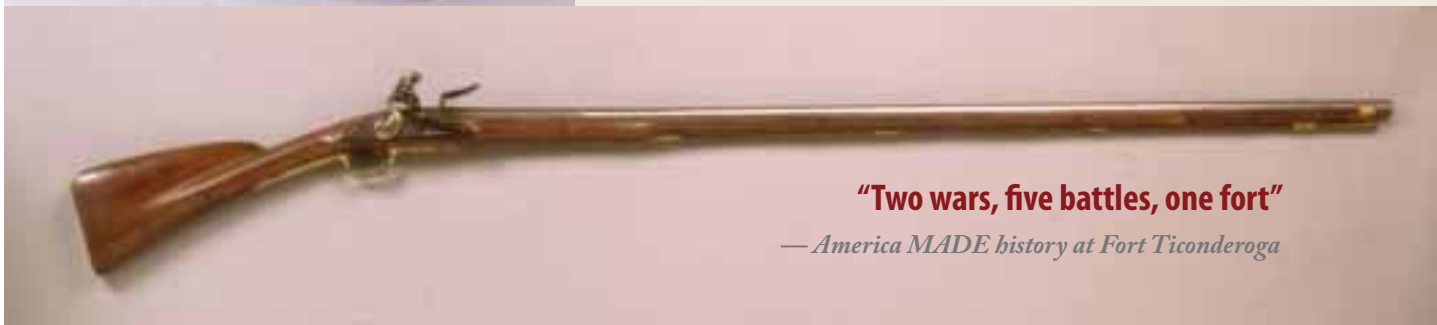
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## Stewards of our History

Fort Ticonderoga is a significant cultural and educational institution engaged in multi-disciplined activities that reflect its rich story of international scope. As we reflect on being stewards of our history, it is critical that we engage the future – young people, families and teachers. Dynamic field trip programs such as *To Act as One United Body: In the Footsteps of Continental Soldiers* immerse students in the daily routine of the Continental soldiers garrisoning Fort Ticonderoga in the weeks after the capture of the Fort by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold in 1775. In 2011 approximately 4,300 school children participated in our field trip programs, and we reached a total of 12,600 children during daily visitation. Multi-disciplined field trip opportunities, innovative teacher seminars, and year-round programs are all part of Fort Ticonderoga's growing learning campus and fulfill our commitment to engaging future generations with the Fort's epic story!



**"Two wars, five battles, one fort"**  
— America MADE history at Fort Ticonderoga



## Inspiring a New Generation

Fort Ticonderoga is an institution whose mission is to ensure that present and future generations learn from its inspiring story. We seek to show visitors how each generation of Americans face challenges and make choices that shape our nation's history. Today, one can hear whispers and rumblings of another revolution of ideas and ideals at Fort Ticonderoga – a revolution of thought and visitor experience. We are pulling back the curtain in order to see the dynamic nature of history. Visitors help solve the mysteries of the past. Through our research based on Fort Ticonderoga's vast collections of 18th-century military material culture, our exhibitions, programs, and digital communications help our on-site and off-site audiences to discover how we know what we know, and how "what we know" will change over time. This unique approach makes Fort Ticonderoga a leader in the field and inspires our more than 70,000 guests each year to probe beyond the traditional historical narrative.

## A Most Beautiful Situation!

Rev. William Emerson stationed at Fort Ticonderoga in 1776 exclaimed, "Ticonderoga is a most beautiful Situation! I'm charmed with the Prospect." Indeed visitors for centuries have been charmed with the exquisite landscape. In addition to Fort Ticonderoga's natural beauty, visitors to the Fort today enjoy the beautifully restored King's Garden originally designed in 1921 by leading landscape architect Marian Coffin. The garden's formal elements – a reflecting pool, manicured lawn and hedges, and brick walls and walkways – are softened by a profusion of annuals and perennials, carefully arranged by color and form. *The Young Diana*, a bronze by sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington is the garden's crowning jewel. A visit to the King's Garden is a living and vibrant experience that highlights Fort Ticonderoga's preservation story and brings to life the grand era of the Adirondacks in one of America's oldest gardens dating to the French occupation of the Fort in the mid-18th century.

The mission of Fort Ticonderoga is to ensure that present and future generations learn from the struggles, sacrifices, and victories that shaped the nations of North America and changed world history. We serve this mission by preserving and enhancing our historic structures, collections, gardens, and landscapes, and by educating and inspiring the public as it learns about the history of Fort Ticonderoga and the diverse peoples who met here in war and in peace.



Keep the connection.



**FORT TICONDEROGA**  
AMERICA'S FORT

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