

MARCH TO HONOUR NB's 104TH REGIMENT

Fredericton, NB, 18 Feb 2013---New Brunswick MLA, retired Canadian Forces captain and Chief Scout award recipient Brian Macdonald today began his solo march to re-trace the New Brunswick portion of the epic mid-winter trek of the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot from the War of 1812.

“My thanks and congratulations to MLA Brian Macdonald for his dedication to our rich military history. With this march and his distinguished career in Canada’s armed forces, Brian continues to shine,” said Premier David Alward. “His continuing support and encouragement of our young people by raising funds for the Scouting movement is commendable. I wish Brian good luck and good weather for his journey. I, along with his colleagues and all New Brunswickers will be following his march.”

For over 300 kilometres, Macdonald will snowshoe and walk in the footsteps of the famed NB 104th over the snow-bound route to Cabano, Quebec.

“I want to honour the spirit of New Brunswickers that overcame weather and fatigue to save Upper Canada,” Macdonald said. “As a former Scout, I want to raise money for Scouting in New Brunswick. Plus, I like a challenge!” The entire journey will likely take three weeks.

New Brunswick Scouts have organized a fund-raising and recruitment campaign tied to Macdonald’s march. “This is a great way to start Scout and Guide Week,” said Peter Kent, Scouts Canada Council Commissioner for New Brunswick. “The funds raised from Brian’s efforts will help children in need join our activities. Scouting helps connect youth with the outdoors and teaches them citizenship, values understood well by NB’s 104th.” Donations can be made online at www.marchnb.ca

Commenting on the announcement of Macdonald's march, Tourism, Heritage and Culture Minister Trevor Holder said, "I congratulate Brian for embarking on this personal trek linking a great historical achievement with Scouting in New Brunswick. I wish him a safe and successful journey every step of the way."

"Brian's trek on the Trans Canada Trail reminds us of a courageous military maneuver in our country's development," said Deborah Apps, president and CEO of the Trans Canada Trail. "We hope that his trek will help raise awareness of this and many other historic events that happened along our trail in Canada and wish him great success in his support of Scouts Canada-our future explorers and trail builders!"

Macdonald's route, mostly along the Saint John River, includes Woodstock, Florenceville-Bristol, Perth-Andover, Grand Falls, Edmundston and Cabano, QC, where community re-enactments organized by the St. John River Society to celebrate the original march will be held. In Cabano, Macdonald will hand over to the Voltigeurs de Quebec, who will continue the spirit of the march to Ontario using snowmobiles.

A shadow team of volunteers will monitor Macdonald's progress and keep in touch with him for safety and health reasons. The volunteers include:

- Brian Conoley (The Radical Edge): route planner/logistics
- Keenan Cook (Maritime Cycle Tours): route planner/logistics
- Sentier NB Trails: support crew (various)

During his time on the route, Macdonald will be in regular touch with his legislature and constituency offices. Brian Macdonald is also Chair of the War of 1812 Commemoration Committee, and Legislative Secretary to the Premier Responsible for Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

A complete schedule of the trek including overnight stopovers, media interview opportunities and re-enactment events en route is available online at www.marchnb.ca.

200 years ago, the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot marched over 1,100 km in 55 days from Fredericton to Kingston, Ontario, to defend against American invasion in the War of 1812.

-30-

Media contact: Brian Conoley

Cell: 506-442-1580

Email: brianconoley@gmail.com