



# Volunteer News

## The Changing Face of Fort Vancouver

There's never a dull moment at Fort Vancouver, McLoughlin House, or the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. With every visit for staff, volunteers, and visitors comes something new.

What will you see at Fort Vancouver? You can't miss the caution tape around the Garden, Chief Factor's House, and Kitchen. A new fire suppression sprinkler system is being installed. This long awaited project is very exciting, as we strive to improve protection of the valuable museum objects in these two areas. Once complete in March, the system will provide the park one more way to preserve what is inside the buildings. This project has required many behind the scenes changes, such as the relocation of the period clothing room and many of the objects inside. Now you can spot the Period Clothing crew inside the Indian Trade Shop Conference Room and they will begin to do cultural demonstrations in the Barclay Quarters on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Many of you are aware of the Confluence Project and the Land Bridge construction associated with it. The construction is becoming more and more visible each day! The Land Bridge will provide the fort a physical link to the Columbia River. Associated with the Land Bridge is the Discovery Loop Trail, which passes through the Village. Preliminary work is being done to mark the trail, hence the pink flags in orchard area. Completion



Construction work being done on the installation of the fire suppression sprinkler system for the Chief Factors House and Kitchen. The expected completion date is by early March.

should be fall of 2007.

The Land Bridge and the trail are designed to bring more people to the Fort and the Reserve. In preparation for this increase in visitation, the city installed two speed bumps along fifth Street and also relocated the cross walks. Part of the foot traffic improvement plan also calls for the extension of the DG trail that now goes from the fort to the parking lot. The trail will actually go straight out to Fifth Street for visitors to walk from the Fort. The trail system will also increase inside the Fort, making a link from the Fur Store and Indian Trade Shop. Another related project was the installation of nonslip landings in front

of each of the building entrances inside the fort. The timing could not have been better with these past few weeks of icy conditions.

Once the warm weather hits, you will see the repainting of the McLoughlin House and the reroofing of the Barclay House in Oregon City. Both original houses, this project is just one example of what's to come in preserving these historic structures.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! To find out more about what's going at the Fort and the Reserve please read the Superintendent's Corner or come see for yourselves.

## Superintendent's Corner

Happy New Year! 2007 has already brought a number of exciting things to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts about what is going on at Fort Vancouver, the Reserve, our many partners who make this site so successful, our community who support the Fort, and volunteers, who cheer us on – we couldn't do it without you!!!

There are many programs and projects underway at present. The **Land Bridge** and trail are making excellent progress and the orchard survived the snow; we are looking forward to the **Kanaka Village** house reconstruction in the spring; and for work on the fire suppression system for the Chief Factor's House to be completed soon. Lantern Tours are scheduled and available through reservations at the Visitor Center and living history events are planned. All of these projects or programs will provide enhanced opportunities for education, outreach and visitor experiences!!! Planning for the **East and South Barracks** continues as well as discussions about the development of an I-5 cover, which would provide a green space connecting downtown to the Historic Reserve. Research reports are underway for archeological work completed last field season, collections are being cataloged and accessioned and we look forward to several publications and journal articles about this research that are on the way. Stay tuned!

A few days of sunshine and moderate weather have provided wonderful opportunities to get out along the waterfront **Discovery Loop Trail** and also to visit at the McLoughlin House Site in Oregon City, which re-opens in mid-February. As always, our thanks to the hard working and caring Maintenance crew who keep the pathways clear and the grounds in top shape. Recognition also goes out to the many volunteers at the **McLoughlin House Site** who are training as docents and to the Fort program volunteers who are busily preparing for a new season of interpretive talks, walks and events! Please come visit.

Spring is an exciting time for the park and for our community! Please come by, say hello, and get involved! We'd love to have you share some time and energy with us!

See you soon,  
Tracy Fortmann

## Christmas at Fort Vancouver: Family Fun Through Hands On Interactive Activities

The holiday season may have past, but not the memories for over 1,100 visitors who came to visit Fort Vancouver's Christmas event.

This year's change in focus proved to be a great success! In an effort to distinguish the *Christmas at Fort Vancouver* event from other special events at the park, emphasis was placed on interpretation through interaction and hands-on activities.

The activities offered were both new to the site and to the visitor. Visitors young and old, groups of a few and many, were able to try their hand at several tasks: making the culinary delight sugar plums, making their very own top and participating in top spinning contests; and creating wreaths. These activities along with the traditional favorites of Storytelling, Christmas Carolers, Bag Pipes, and the Duck Hunt Black Powder program drew crowds as well.

The day was perfect, with the sun shining and just enough of a chill in

the air to be warmed away with a non-alcoholic Wassail.

Each area provided a first hand opportunity to experience *Christmas at Fort Vancouver*. Visitors learned what would have been eaten, drunk, and what gifts would have been exchanged. Children and adults were able to get a sense of what the favorite activities would have been, without having the electronic gadgets of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With jacks, marbles, and jack straws enjoyed by the kids, these games also brought memories for adults.

It was a delight to see families with their children, out of town relatives, and friends come to the Fort. Groups of kids ran from building to building while adults chatted with costumed interpreters and warmed themselves with a hot cup of Wassail by the wood stove. The holiday spirit was evident as people enjoyed themselves in 19<sup>th</sup> century Fort Vancouver, while at the same time learning about the site's history.



Volunteer Carpenter Clay Ford assists a little one in the skills of top making, while Volunteer Cassie Anderson observes. Providing a link from station to station, Volunteer Cassie Anderson provided roving interpretation, allowing visitors an opportunity to ask questions about the Fort.

# Volunteer Orientations, Trainings, and Socials; Oh My!

The new year is underway for the Volunteer-In-Parks Program at Fort Vancouver. The quarterly newsletter, regularly scheduled orientations for perspective volunteers, In-Service workshops, and socials are in the works for this year and next for the program.

As we become more and more connected to the world wide web and the internet, the Volunteer program is doing the same. The newsletter can now be found on the park's website, [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova), under the 'News' icon. It will be sent electronically to everyone, if you have not received the last couple issues, please let your supervisor know so we can have your name added to the mailing list. If you do not have e-mail, there are hard copies available on site, and if necessary they can be mailed to you.

The Volunteer-In-Parks Calendar will soon be posted onto the web page, letting you know when the next orientations, trainings, and workshops will be offered.

*Save these dates on your calendars*

*Volunteer Appreciation Day*

*June 3, 2007 1p.m.-3p.m.*

*At Pearson Air Museum*

*Volunteer Socials*

*February 22, August 23*

*November 7*

*At the Visitor Center 7-9pm*

The *Volunteer Socials* will begin in February. In the dead of winter, this will provide volunteers and staff an opportunity to mingle. The first one of the year is scheduled for **February 22**. *What's New With You In 2007* will be the focus topic, and the get-together will be an informal gathering of volunteers with refreshments provided.

*Volunteer Appreciation Day* is scheduled for **June 3, 2007** at Pearson Air Museum. This is a day where we honor our dedicated volunteers.

Remember to mark your calendars.

If you know a friend who is interested in volunteering their skills at Fort Vancouver, please share with them the park's website for more details and an application. We will soon be posting positions available. In the meantime, what we have a need for are the following:

## **Administration Volunteers**

The park headquarters is in need of volunteers who want to work a few hours a week. Duties would include clipping newspaper articles and filing. Contact Elaine Huff, Administration Officer, at 360.816.6212.

## **Interpretive Volunteers**

Are you interested in sharing the history of Fort Vancouver with visitors and school groups? For more information contact Becky Railey, Fee & Operations Program Coordinator, at 360.816.6241.

There's more to come so keep a watch on the park's website and stay tuned!



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks. A part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, we value working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**  
**Vancouver National Historic Reserve**  
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[www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## What's Up and Coming

**Wild Winter Season-** Due to its success in 2006, Lantern Tours will be offered again this year and have expanded to include two tours for January and February as well as tours in November and December. The tours offer visitors an intimate look at the fort during the evening hours, allowing them to start up their own lanterns and carry them from building to building. The tour ends with a nice cup of hot cider to take the chill away allowing for the opportunity to ask a few questions about life at Fort Vancouver.

**McLoughlin House Reopens-** Oregon's birthday will be opening day for the staff and volunteers at the McLoughlin House, which is scheduled to reopen on February 14. A volunteer orientation and interpretive skills training will be offered on February 12, 9-4 pm. All are invited to attend. The McLoughlin House programs will have its first ever Kids Dig scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Events-** Planning is underway for the 2007 event season. 2007 marks the **140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vintage Base Ball** in Vancouver. May 12 will be the kick off for the celebration with the first game of the season. **Candlelight Tour** continues to change annually; this year the event will make the shift to one full day, Saturday, September 15. Visitors will see how different life was throughout an entire day, providing an opportunity, for example, to see dinner at its actual time. In an effort to increase visitation, partnership opportunities and a new time for **Christmas at the McLoughlin House** are being explored as well.



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The *Volunteer News* is published periodically by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

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## News You Can Use

The parks first ever **multiprogram and events calendar** is now available on the web. For the first time, the calendar reflects a comprehensive list of what you can do at Fort Vancouver and McLoughlin House. This listing includes the science side, with the Archaeology Field School as well as the traditional favorite events, such as the Vintage Base Ball. Check out this and other great pieces of information on the Fort's web page, [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova).

The **Carpenter Shop** is excited about the Red River cart workshop that took place on January 27 and 28. Guest instructor Rob Lewis from the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts was on hand to teach the basics of wheel making and how one of these carts was constructed during the fur trade era. The **Blacksmith Shop** has been requested to produce hardware for the new reconstruction in the village area. As you know, **Historic weapons** training will be this spring and if anyone is interested in participating in either small arms or cannon, HBC or military get in touch with Bill DeBerry at 360.816.6247

or [Bill\\_DeBerry@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_DeBerry@nps.gov).

On January 1, 2007, Fort Vancouver National Historic launched the sale of the nationwide **"America the Beautiful" pass**, which offer expanded benefits, including entrance to National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation sites. As part of the new program, volunteers who accrue 500 hours, beginning in January will receive a free Volunteer Pass. The pass is valid for one year from the month of issuance. It has no specific time frame in which the volunteer hours must be accrued. Passes will be issued by Kimm Fox-Middleton, the Volunteer Program Manager.

**Congratulations** are in order for Tessa and Scott Langford as well as Greg and Sarah Shine! Tessa gave birth to a healthy Nora Katherine Langford on November 14 weighing in at 7lbs 10oz. while Sarah gave birth to a healthy Nathaniel Paynter Shine on December 30, weighing in at 8lbs and 6 oz. All are doing well.