

Grand Portage National Monument

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



Rendezvous 2016

The year is 1797, the British North West Company is having one of its most profitable years and the Rendezvous is in full swing. Family and friends come to the rendezvous to renew ties. Ojibwe, voyageurs, agents, and partners gather to transfer the company's goods, to conduct business, and to celebrate their good fortune.

It is here that for a few short weeks, over a thousand voyageurs, bourgeois, and Native men and women worked and lingered throughout the depot for the annual gathering. It was all made possible by the 8½-mile footpath known as the "Grand Portage," the key to the northwest.

Mist of Avalon

Thursday, Aug 11

Afternoon-Arrives in Grand Portage Bay

Friday, Aug 12

All day-Anchored in GP Bay

Saturday, Aug 13

10:00am to 7:00pm

Ferry to view Mist departs on the hour

Sunday, Aug 14

Morning-Departs Grand Portage Bay

Historic Encampment Tours

Friday, August 12

12:00 3:00 5:30

Saturday, August 13

1:00 3:00 5:30

Join a free one-hour guided tour of the 18th century fur trade Rendezvous camp. Tour meets at the Information tent near the North Gate of the Stockade.

This and all schedules subject to change

This year, in addition to over 300 volunteer reenactors we welcome the *Mist of Avalon* schooner! The *Mist* hails from Nova Scotia and will be at anchor in the bay throughout the event. A free ferry to view The Mist of Avalon up close will run on Saturday. Tickets are available at the Information tent located adjacent to the Ojibwe Village exhibit. You must have a ticket to board the ferry.



Welcome! See the reenactment, participate in a contest or watch a program, there are many ways to enjoy the Rendezvous. Please feel free to interact with the participating volunteers. They are here to help you understand and enjoy the Rendezvous and provide you with an opportunity to learn more about Grand Portage and its relationship with the fur trade.

Participants are eager to answer your questions, to explain activities going on in their camps, and to show you materials and equipment they have on display.

Be respectful of personal camps. If the flap or entrance to the tent or a camp is tied shut or if there are poles placed across the entrance, the camp or tent is closed to the public and should not be entered.

If you need assistance you will find NPS staff in uniform and historic dress. Staff members are identified by gold nameplates with the NPS Arrowhead.

Friday, August 12

- 9:00am - 5:00pm Historic Cooking & Baking
North West Company Kitchen
- 10:00 Stone Bridge Singers Drum Ceremony
Great Hall Lawn
- 11:00 NWCo Partners Arrival Ceremony
Great Hall & Dock
- 11:30 Dainty Voyageur Contest
West Lawn
- 1:00 18th Century Puppet Show: Punch & Judy
Historic Encampment
- 2:00 18th Century Music Jam
Great Hall porch
- 3:00 Throw the "Dough" Contest
Great Hall Lawn
- 8:00 National Monument Closes

Workshops

- 10:00 18th Century Clothing Mending & Patching
Workshop Tent
- 11:30 Cornhusk Dolls/Voyageurs For Young'uns
Workshop Tent
- 11:30 Scottish Music & Haggis Making
Historic Encampment
- 1:00 French Spool Knitting for Kids
Historic Encampment
- 1:30 Tinsmithing for Kids
Demonstration Area Inside Stockade
- 2:30 Basic Blacksmithing Techniques for Men
Demonstration Area

Historic Encampment

Open to the Public:

- Friday 9:00am to 8:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am to 8:00pm
- Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday, August 13

- 9:00am – 5:00pm Historic Cooking & Baking
North West Company Kitchen
- 9:30 Scavenger Hunt for Young'uns
Historic Encampment
- 10:30 Gentlemen Conduct a Business Meeting
Great Hall
- 11:00 18th Century Lacrosse Demonstration
Great Hall Lawn
- 11:30 Lacrosse Match
Great Hall Lawn
- 12:00 18th Century Puppet Show: Punch & Judy
Historic Encampment
- 2:00 Rugged Voyageur Contest (Reenactors only)
West Lawn
- 2:00 Voyageur Storytelling and Song
Historic Encampment
- 3:00 Music by "Over the Waterfall"
Great Hall Lawn
- 8:00 Live Music & Dance, Open to the public
Great Hall Lawn
- 10:00 Music & Dancing conclude

Workshops

- 10:00 Turning a Sailor's Fid, 18th Century-Style
Demonstration Area
- 10:30 Basic Blacksmithing Techniques for Women
Demonstration Area (\$ fee)
- 11:00 Make and Stamp a Vermillion Packet
Historic Encampment

Sunday, August 14

- 10:00 Flint & Steel Fire Starting Contest
Historic Encampment
- 11:00 Bead Hunt for Young'uns
Historic Encampment
- 11:30 The Yoke's on You! Water Lifting Contest
Warehouse Yard
- 1:00 Traditional Fiddling in the Fur Trade Era
Workshop Tent
- 2:00 Bagpipes of the NWCo
Front Yard Great Hall

Workshops

- 10:00 Tinsmithing for Adults
Demonstration Area Inside Stockade
- 11:00 Branding the Phyn & Elice Shipment Mark
Historic Encampment



Heritage Center

Hours of Operation

- Friday 8:30am to 8:00pm
- Saturday 8:30am to 8:00pm
- Sunday 8:30am to 5:00pm

Workshops

For more information or to register for a workshop, please visit the Information tent near the North Gate.

Workshops are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Registration opens at 9:00am. Register early, on the day of the workshop to assure a spot.

Archeological Site Tours

Friday and Saturday

11:00am
&
2:30pm

See an active excavation of a mid- to late-18th century archeological site.

Meet your guide at the Information tent near the North Gate.

North West Company Vessels



Howard Sivertson

The Otter was used by the NWCo on Lake Superior from 1793 to after 1803. In 1800, the double-masted schooner and a small crew spent the winter at the mouth of the Pigeon River for repairs.



Howard Sivertson

The Athabaska sailed for the North West Company on Lake Superior from 1786-1793 and on Lake Huron as the Otter after 1793.

The North West Company used birch bark canoes and schooners to move inventory and goods around the Continent. Schooners much like the *Mist of Avalon*, anchored in Grand Portage bay this weekend, could hold 40-80 tons. A Montreal canoe could carry only four tons. Why use canoes?

Canoes paddled by voyageurs were a bit more reliable and could make the trip from Montreal to Grand Portage within 6-8 weeks. Can you picture a cow in a canoe? Livestock, large barrels of food, and lumber arrived on schooners from Detroit and were unloaded on Pete's Island.

Schooners could hold a lot of cargo but they depended on an intricate schedule of coordinated vessels to move through the Lakes. The NWCo had ships on Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Cargo was moved from one ship to another over land on carts. Until 1924, shipping was the only way to get large goods into Grand Portage when the current MN Highway 61 was finished.

John MacDonell, a future partner in the North West Company wrote on July 5th 1793, "The only vessel on the Lake Superior is the ...Otter, the Athabaska which sailed the Lake before her is to be floated down the falls of St Mary, to help the Beaver to bring the needfull [supplies] from Detroit and Mackinac to the Sault, ...Part of the Company's Furs are sent Round the Lakes in Shipping, but the major part goes down the ottawa in the montreal Canoes." *The Diary of John MacDonell. Five Fur Traders of the Northwest.*

About *Mist of Avalon*

The ship began her life in 1967 as the Motor Vessel "Liverpool Bay". She was built by MacLean Shipbuilding, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her Captain and crew worked the Banks off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, fishing for cod.

in 1987, after twenty years working in the North Atlantic, this once proud vessel was left abandoned at a Halifax pier. In 1992 Captain George Mainguy started on his dream of converting her to a 19th century Grand Banks schooner (something her motor vessel lines were a descendant of). In the summer of 1997, now as "Mist of Avalon," the ship returned to sea for her maiden voyage under sail. Since that time the ship has appeared in numerous feature films and documentaries in addition to being a star attraction at maritime festivals.

DIMENSIONS

Displacement 150.77 tons
Length overall 100'
Length on deck 85'
Main mast (deck to cap) 63'
Fore boom 18' 6"
Main boom 35' 4"

MATERIALS

Masts: steel
Booms, Gaffs and Sprit: spruce
Deck: pine
Pilot House & Skylight: pine, oak and mahogany
Hull: oak and spruce, galvanized iron fastening
Sail Cloth: Dacron



Map of Grand Portage Rendezvous- Grand Portage National Monument Grand Portage, Minnesota

