The Wharf Tour 1812 Exhibit at the 2012 Coastal Trails: Sails to See Tall Ships Festival

War of 1812

The only war to ever have been fought on Canadian soil was the War of 1812.

South of Windsor, Fort Malden, now a National Historic Site, helped secure Upper Canada and provided shelter to British Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and Chief Tecumseh in preparation of the Siege of Detroit.

When American General Hull invaded Canada at Sandwich (present day Windsor) in July 1812 the American army was twice the size of the British.

Immediately, Sir Isaac Brock knew he must act quickly. The British troops fled to Fort Malden, and devised a plan. The plan was to attack the Americans on their own soil. The British troops set up gun batteries and asked General Hull to surrender. When he refused, they attacked.

Crossing the Detroit River on August 16, the troops landed a few miles south of Fort Detroit. Sir Isaac Brock cleverly dressed the volunteer militia in red coat uniforms to trick the Americans into thinking the British forces were large and powerful, and together they marched as a group.

Upon arrival, the intimidating large British troops, and their Aboriginal allies led by Tecumseh, caused an immediate surrender from General Hull.

Overjoyed, the British troops refueled and restocked on the Americans' supplies and prepared for their next battle in October in the Niagara Region.

Ultimately, the War of 1812 brought no change to the border, but it lives on through festivals and events that act as a powerful connection for the community and Canadians alike.

The Capture of Detroit Commemorative Event

First Nations dancer

War of 1812 re-enactors