

Detroiters to Revisit War of 1812 Victory

By Gerald Scott

The Brig Niagara, a host of U.S. Navy ships and 1 million people are expected on the Detroit riverfront Sept. 4-10 during the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

In what promises to be Detroit's biggest community celebration on the riverfront since its own Tricentennial party during the summer of 2001, that's right, that's no typo — more than 1 million people are anticipated to visit the riverfront in and around the GM Renaissance Center during the Bicentennial 1812 festival.

During Sept. 4-10, Navy warships and an exact replica of the Brig Niagara will moor along the Detroit riverfront and be available for civilians to tour.

The Brig Niagara — a stunning tall ship with sails that draws sell-out crowds wherever it tours — will dock in Detroit at the GM Renaissance Center the week following Labor Day (Sept. 3).

The original Brig Niagara was involved in one of the pivotal events in the War of 1812, which was the Battle of Lake Erie, when Oliver Hazard Perry, commanding the Brig Niagara, regained control of Michigan and turned the tide of the war.

Of America's dozen or so wars, the War of 1812 seems to be the most lost to history, the one that most Americans know only through high school history books from years gone by. The U.S. Navy and its partners, including GM, hope to breathe a little life into the lost legend of that particular war.

"The free flow of commerce is absolutely essential for our prosperity and that of other nations — as the past continues to inform the present and guides us to the future, the War of 1812 Celebration will commemorate our rich history and heritage, positively influence the millions of Americans who come to see us, and showcase and demonstrate



Brig Niagara will be visiting the Detroit riverfront.

the capabilities of today's Navy," said Admiral Gary Roughead, USN (Ret.) and former chief of naval operations.

As such, the Detroit branch of the 1812 Commemoration Committee will host a spectacular Opening Night Navy Welcome Gala 7-10 p.m. on Sept. 6 at Detroit's Fox Theatre.

"This signature, red-carpet charity event promises to be one of the highlights of the bicentennial celebration," said Dr. Jeff Pierce, co-chair of the committee.

"The gala welcomes visiting sailors and high brass from both the U.S. and Canadian naval ships visiting Detroit with an evening of music, food and entertainment."

Meanwhile, General Motors is planning several major events in front of the Renaissance Center, including a military country music concert Sept. 8 featuring three-time No. 1 Billboard country hit maker Darryl Worley.

General Motors will also celebrate the Bicentennial with a Navy Festival each day Sept. 5-10, including interactive flight simulators, an interactive submarine tank, a U.S. Marine Corps display with vehicles and mounted weapons systems, a Navy helicopter display and more.

Entertaining Navy and Marine bands will also take place every day onstage outside of the RenCen.

Dozens of other Bicentennial of the War of 1812 events will be taking place across Southeast Michigan.

The Detroit riverfront events will allow the city to shine in front of audiences from around the world.

Track-Ready Camaro 1LE Offers Speed, Balance, Grip

DETROIT — The 2013 road-racing inspired Chevrolet Camaro 1LE, with Camaro engineer Aaron Link behind the wheel, lapped the famed Virginia International Raceway (VIR) "Grand Course" in 2:58.34 — a time previously accomplished by only the upper echelon of performance cars.

The \$3,500 1LE package is available on Camaro 1SS and 2SS coupes, with a manual transmission.

A Camaro 1SS with the 1LE package starts at \$37,035, including destination, making it one of the most affordable, most capable performance cars offered by any manufacturer, Chevy officials say.

"The Camaro 1LE combines the best elements of the SS and the ZL1 with a focus on handling," said Al Oppenheiser, Camaro chief engineer.

"We optimized every part of the SS for improved track driving, including gear ratios, suspension tuning, and chassis mounts. The result really brings the Camaro SS alive at every turn — whether you're carving through your favorite backroads or working on lap times on the track.

"Best of all, the Camaro 1LE is \$10,000 less than its nearest competitor," Oppenheiser said. "For drivers looking for an affordable way to get on the track, what they save with the 1LE will cover a lot of days at the track."

According to Oppenheiser, the VIR Grand Course configuration is a challenge for production cars because recording a fast lap requires prodigious power, precise handling and tenacious grip.

"To break a three-minute lap on the four-mile Grand Course is an incredible accomplishment for any car," he said.

"Like the Nurburgring, at VIR there's never a moment when the car rests at steady state. Each lap tests every aspect of a car, including power, brakes, steering, tire grip and chassis balance."

Earlier this year, Link drove a 2012 Camaro ZL1 Coupe around the Grand Course in 2:52.4. Link's 2:58.37 lap time in the 1LE further demon-

strates the Camaro's capabilities on a road course.

The car Link drove was a production-spec Camaro SS with the 1LE package, modified with only a race seat and roll cage for safety. The 1LE proved to be track-capable, even with temperatures approaching 90 degrees in the early-morning test session.

"Like the ZL1, the 1LE is very easy to drive fast, and its performance is very consistent," said Link.

"Even in the hot, humid conditions through a tank of fuel, there were no issues with brake fade, changes in grip, or powertrain performance."

"One of the best sections in the 1LE is the Climbing Esses," Link said. "They are a series of four quick turns, as the track climbs uphill, that tend to upset the balance of most production cars."

"The 1LE offers such neutral balance, and tenacious grip, that I could charge into the Esses at nearly 125 mph and steer the car with the



The Camaro 1LE.

throttle to carry a tremendous amount of speed through the Esses. That would not be possible in a car that wasn't as confidence-inspiring as the 1LE."

The Camaro 1LE package was introduced in 1988, inspired by Camaro's involvement in Pro-Am road racing.

For 2013, the 1LE package is offered only on 1SS and 2SS coupe models, featuring a

6.2L LS3 V8, which is rated at 426 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque. In addition, 1LE is only available with a six-speed manual transmission.

While the Camaro SS features a Tremec TR6060-M10 for all-around performance, the Camaro 1LE features an exclusive Tremec TR6060-MM6. It is paired with a numerically higher 3.91 final-drive ratio.

On Her 18th Birthday, Stevenson Grad Organizes Needed Church Blood Drive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"Plus, I'm part of their Youth Group — I'm a college leader, actually. So I've been going to Youth Group for five years. I actually did my First Communion here in Second Grade."

Asked if, when she gets married, would she walk down the aisle at St. Martin, she replied, "I really want to, I can picture it sometimes and I'm like, 'Oh gosh, focus on church.'"

She said her parents and two older brothers, Tom and John, also attend church services at St. Martin, hence the strong family connection to this particular church. "We really go the extra mile for this church because we love Fr. Roman (Pasiieczny, the parish pastor) and we just love the Youth Group. I joined it in 8th grade and you do a lot of community service. We're doing a mission in Detroit next week."

Monette will be attending Macomb Community College in the fall studying nursing and health care.

"I want to be a nurse, I definitely want to do that and want to minor in anesthesia, maybe I could be a nurse-anesthetist, but definitely medical field," she said.

At the blood drive, if she managed to gain 65 pints of blood from donors, she will realize a \$1,000 scholarship.

"It moves up, if you get 108, it becomes \$1,250."

As a card-carrying 18-year-old, it's not surprising to learn that Monette used social media to get out the word about



Sterling Heights High School grad Julia Monette, left.

the Aug. 1 blood drive.

"I've done a lot, I'm the annoying person that doesn't stop — I have this thing called an Instagram that you can upload pictures that say, 'Blood Drive,'" she said.

"I have a Facebook (account) I put that notice on it a couple times. It worked out good, I had a grad party and got my family that way and my two cousins just came."

"Then I use a lot of Twitter, I tweet all the time about it — come, come."

One way or another, it worked, the line for donors at mid-afternoon was reasonably long.

St. Martin de Porres is perhaps one of the few churches with a resident nurse, Renee Heileman, who doubles as a nurse for Henry Ford Hospital. She said the church hosts two blood drives per year on its own, with the student-led

drive, including the scholarship connection, as the third church-related blood drive held in the calendar year.

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