

War of 1812 Bicentennial in Ontario

**Binational Tourism Alliance Conference
May 1, 2009**

UPPER CANADA

What is the Bicentennial?



- Commemoration of 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, a historic turning point in the history of Canada

What is the Bicentennial?

- Commemorative events will instil pride in Canadian history and help us understand our identity while appreciating the 200 years of friendship we share with our U.S. neighbours



What is the Bicentennial?



- Showcase bonds among military, civilians, First Nations, English and French

Opportunities – Tourism

- Opportunity to attract heritage enthusiasts
 - Significant tourism market segment
 - Desirable, lucrative travellers
 - More likely to participate in other high-end activities



Opportunities –Tourism

- Opportunity to improve tourism product as legacy
 - Infrastructure and events



Opportunities – Education & Community



- Increase shared understanding of our past
 - Guaranteed Canada's existence as a separate nation
 - W1812 ranked 3rd in defining events – after Confederation and building the railway

Opportunities – Education & Community

- Recognize historic partnership with First Nations
- Educate our children



Overall Planning Approach

- War conducted over 30 months, centred on Great Lakes and connecting rivers
- Commemorative events will follow progress of war using key battles as focal points



June 18, 1812
United States declares war on Great Britain

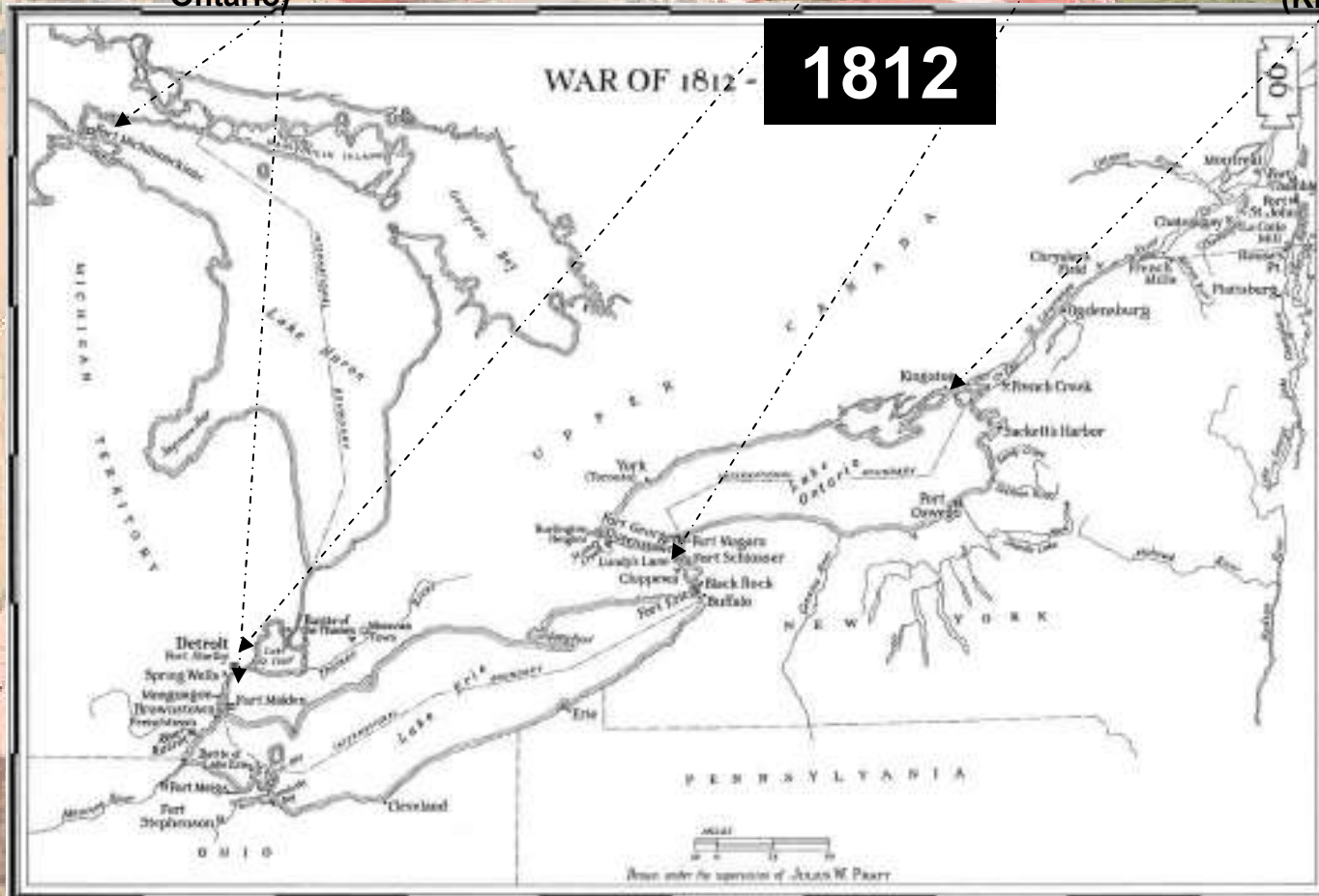
July 12, 1812
General William Hull's army invades Upper Canada (Sandwich, Windsor, Ontario)

July 17, 1812
Capture of Fort Mackinac (Mackinac Island, Michigan)

August 16, 1812
Surrender of Fort Detroit (Detroit, Michigan)

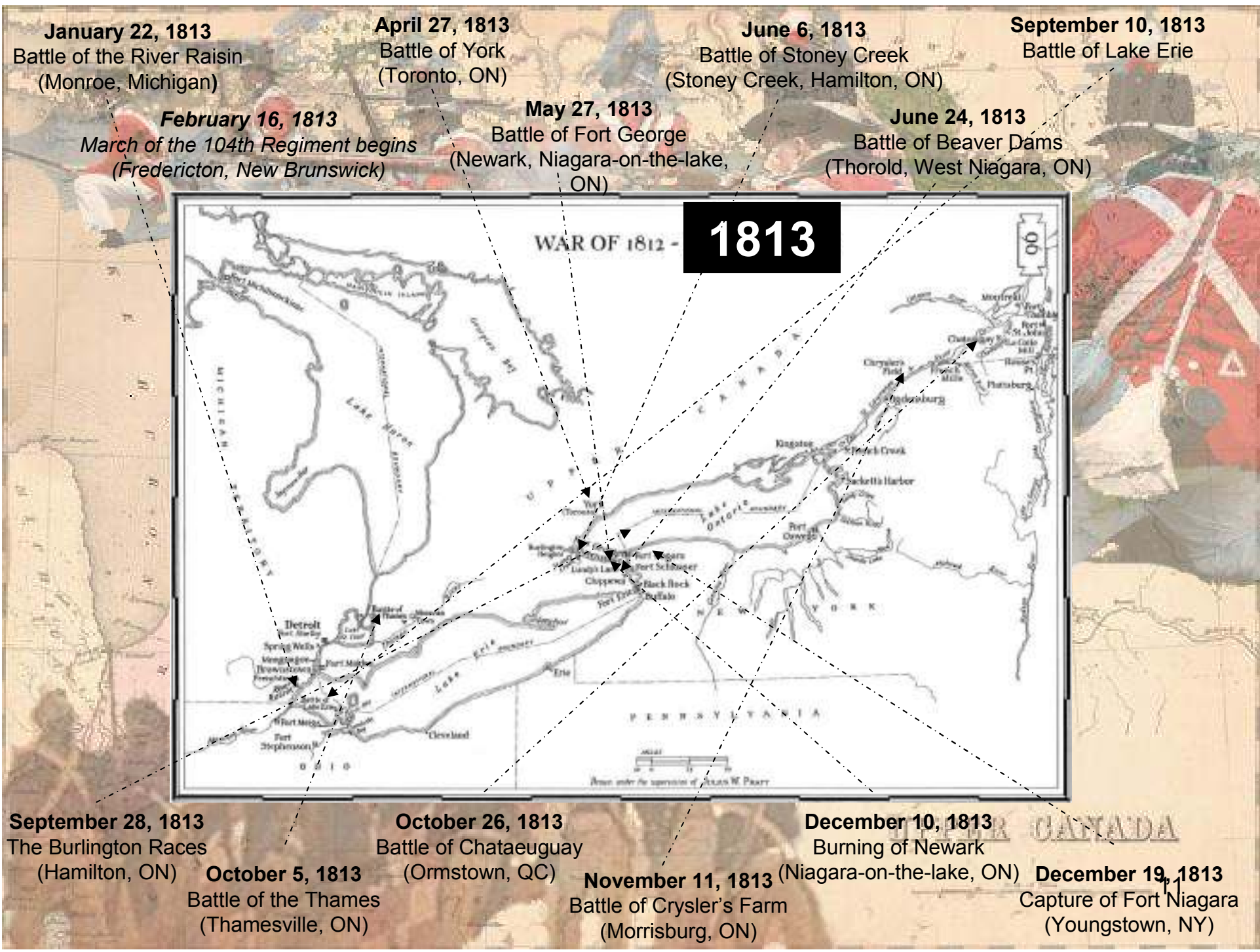
October 13, 1812
Battle of Queenston Heights (Queenston Heights, Niagara, Ontario)

November 9, 1812
Escape of the *Royal George* (Kingston, ON)



1812

UPPER CANADA



January 22, 1813
Battle of the River Raisin
(Monroe, Michigan)

April 27, 1813
Battle of York
(Toronto, ON)

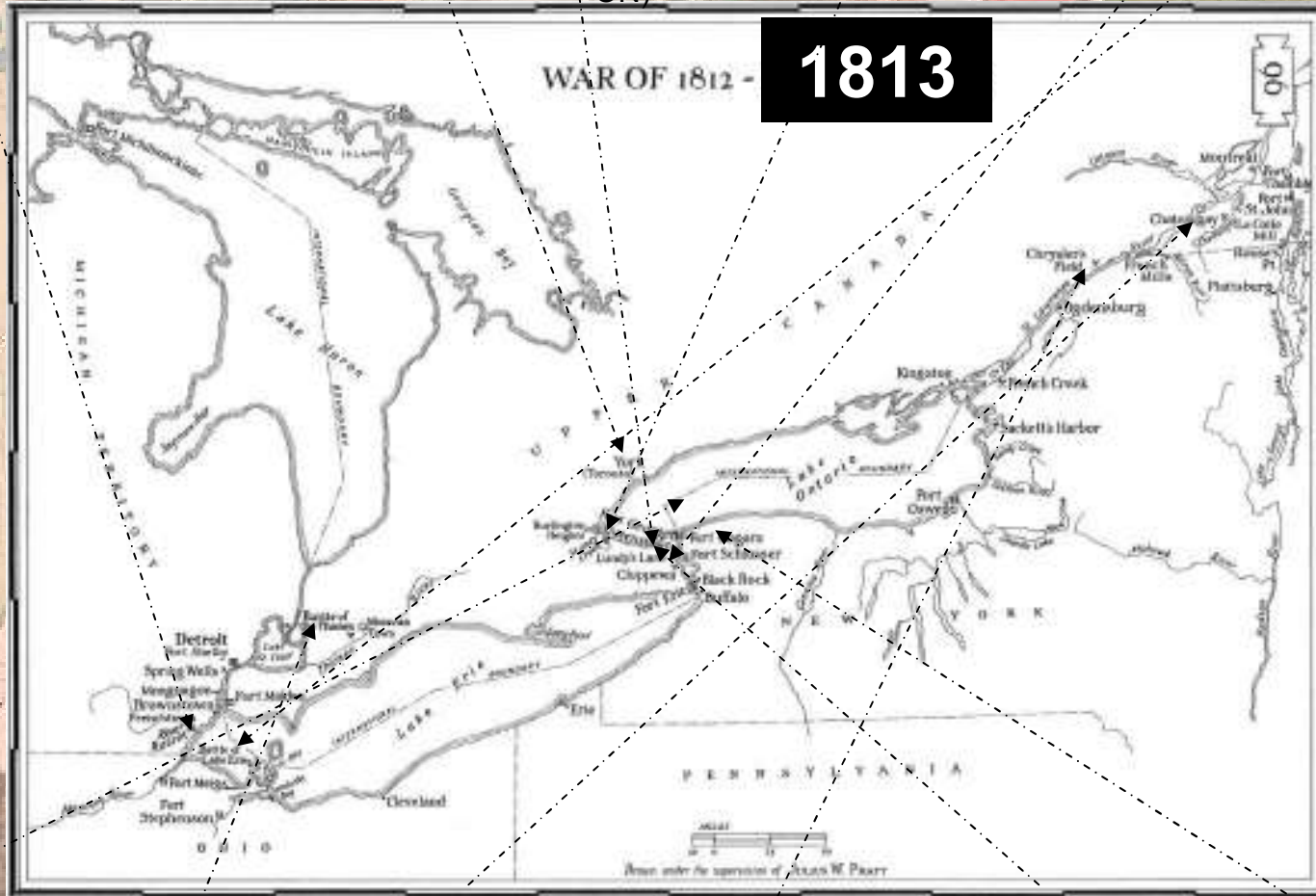
June 6, 1813
Battle of Stoney Creek
(Stoney Creek, Hamilton, ON)

September 10, 1813
Battle of Lake Erie

February 16, 1813
March of the 104th Regiment begins
(Fredericton, New Brunswick)

May 27, 1813
Battle of Fort George
(Newark, Niagara-on-the-lake,
ON)

June 24, 1813
Battle of Beaver Dams
(Thorold, West Niagara, ON)



September 28, 1813
The Burlington Races
(Hamilton, ON)

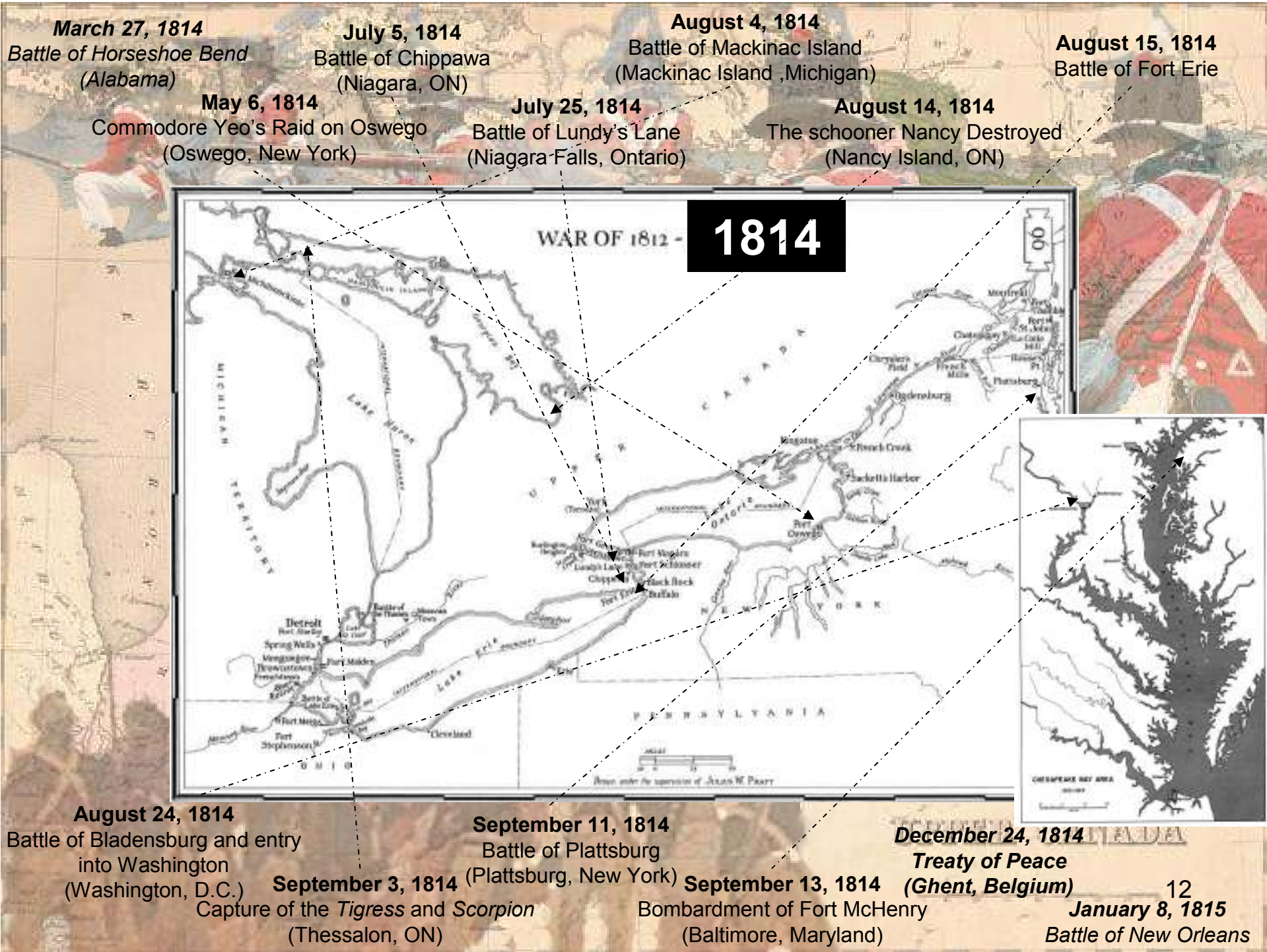
October 26, 1813
Battle of Chataeuguay
(Ormsdown, QC)

December 10, 1813
Burning of Newark
(Niagara-on-the-lake, ON)

October 5, 1813
Battle of the Thames
(Thamesville, ON)

November 11, 1813
Battle of Crysler's Farm
(Morrisburg, ON)

December 19, 1813
Capture of Fort Niagara
(Youngstown, NY)



March 27, 1814
Battle of Horseshoe Bend
(Alabama)

July 5, 1814
Battle of Chippawa
(Niagara, ON)

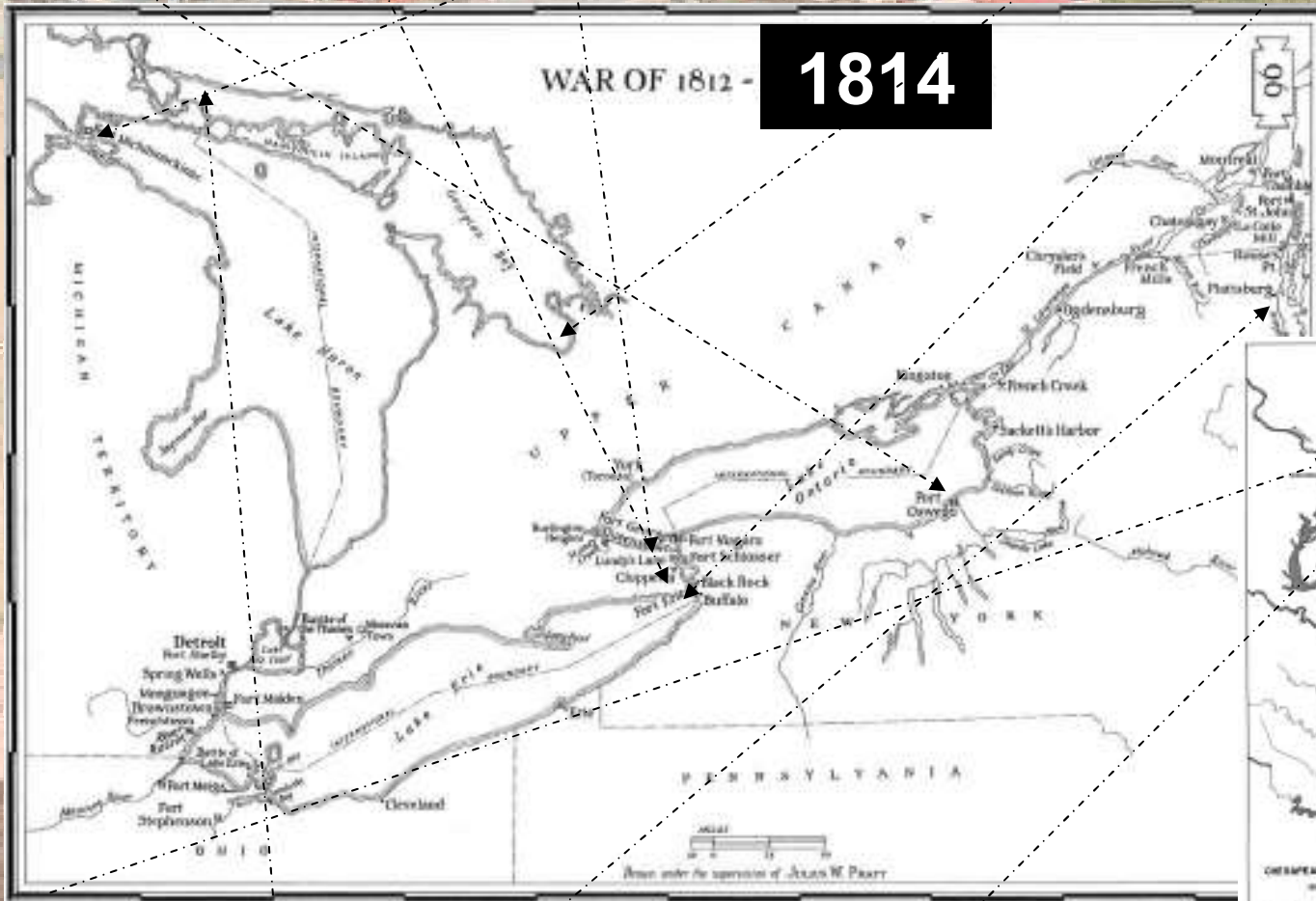
August 4, 1814
Battle of Mackinac Island
(Mackinac Island, Michigan)

August 15, 1814
Battle of Fort Erie

May 6, 1814
Commodore Yeo's Raid on Oswego
(Oswego, New York)

July 25, 1814
Battle of Lundy's Lane
(Niagara Falls, Ontario)

August 14, 1814
The schooner Nancy Destroyed
(Nancy Island, ON)



August 24, 1814
Battle of Bladensburg and entry
into Washington
(Washington, D.C.)

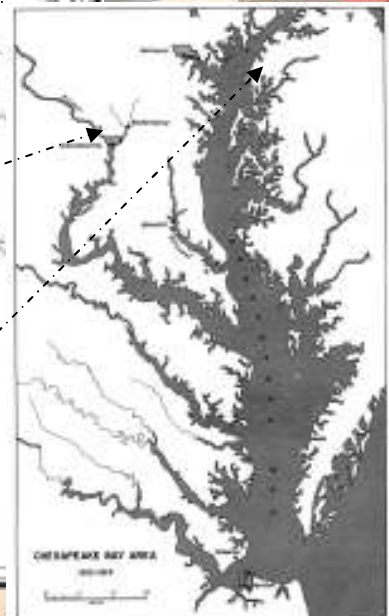
September 3, 1814
Capture of the *Tigress* and *Scorpion*
(Thessalon, ON)

September 11, 1814
Battle of Plattsburg
(Plattsburg, New York)

September 13, 1814
Bombardment of Fort McHenry
(Baltimore, Maryland)

December 24, 1814
Treaty of Peace
(Ghent, Belgium)

January 8, 1815
Battle of New Orleans



Regional Planning Groups

- Planning groups established in areas of significant activity
 - Niagara—Hamilton
 - Toronto
 - Windsor—Chatham
 - Southern Georgian Bay
 - Sault Ste. Marie
 - St. Lawrence
- Most have U.S. and First Nations participation



Priority Areas for Action

- Provincial events
 - Beginning and end of war
 - Tall Ships in summer 2013



Priority Areas for Action

- Signature regional events
 - Linked to key battles around province and throughout period
 - Starting point for broad range of activities



Activities – Events

- Athletic: runs, regattas, lacrosse
- Arts: plays, music
- Re-enactments
- Homecomings
- Wine and culinary



Priority Areas for Action



- Education and communication
 - Build and maintain high level of awareness of and enthusiasm for commemoration
 - Curriculum and public education

Activities – Education

- School programs: curriculum materials, gaming, adopt-a-soldier
- Public education: heritage minutes, interpretative trails, exhibits (War Museum, Archives), symposia



Legacy

- War of 1812 trails
- Commissioned art works
- Educational materials
- Capital improvements

