

# The Farmington Observer

HomeTown News...  
It's all about you!

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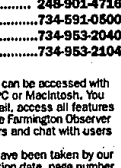
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# The Farmington Observer

HomeTown News...  
It's all about you!

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## First bite from page A1

"It's just so neat to see their faces experiencing it."  
From her standpoint, it will be just as neat to "be able to refer back to this as an example. They'll have a visual to go along with it."

That visual will include some unique hands-on experiences, thanks to Honor's efforts. He thoroughly showed youngsters what it was like to live during

Honor added that officers also had to learn how to paint landscapes "to show what the terrain was like" to prepare for military strategies. "What do they do now? Take pictures."  
■ In another part of those barracks, the students saw a row of tiny, bunk beds where soldiers and their wives slept. If there were any children, they slept on the floor or out in the field. The

three parts. They ate each third for a meal. That's all they got in a day, regardless of the age of the child," explained Honor.

■ With the students now wearing red coats, they went outside the barracks to march and perform various drills.

"It was like a wall of red coming toward you," Honor said. "Why do you think the British wore red uniforms?"

A student accurately answered that the color red indicated superiority to the opposition.

"It (red clothing) was real expensive to make," Honor chimed in. "Other countries might see a wall of red and think, 'That country's wealthy, well-equipped, well trained.'"

### They loved it

Quigley's students and their parent chaperones also enjoyed the day, which after lunch included a tour of an early 1800s Amherstburg home. (20th-grade teacher Karen Farber's class also took the trip.)

"It's really cool," said Michello Heller. "It gives me a lot of information about what happened with the wars and the battles."

Classmate Tim Gilbert thought making keeppaks metal buttons featuring the school's "regiment" number - 89 - also was a definite highlight. "First hand is the only way to learn."

Fort Malden's earthen fortifi-

cation really made a dramatic impression on Jerome Mulligan. Even though the existing trenches aren't as deep as they were during the 1800s, Jerome said "all the big hills they made are really neat, and still up from 1837."

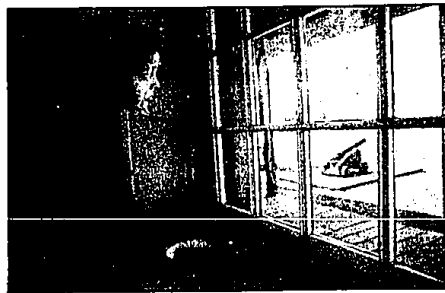
Jerome's mom, who helped chaperone on the field trip, said the experience is bound to be one to be remembered.

"It's good they decided to do this, it's good for the kids to learn that way," said Karen Mulligan. "You just watched them and they were so interested. And the tour guide was so good. He spoke to them at their level. They actively participated, they did things with him and he was telling the story behind all of it, too."

Parent Mary Wittbold thought her daughter Kathryn and classmates benefited from hearing how the border area evolved over centuries. "I like them to learn people from Michigan and Canada were originally the same group."

Another parent chaperone, Sus Thiel (Murphy's mom), said the trip to Fort Malden is bound to make much more of an educational impact on them than would have any journey through pages of the World Book.

"Any time you get to be there and see it is easier (to learn) at any age," Thiel said. "To be in barracks and see the size of the beds, and to eat the food makes it easier when you read about it. But I think that's the way education is going - interactive."



Point of view: Kathryn Wittbold peers out of the window of the bunkhouse at Fort Malden.

the War of 1812 behind the earthen British fortification - built along the shores of the Detroit River, just a stone's throw from what would eventually become the Bob-Lo amusement park.

(Actually, the original fort was destroyed by fire in September 1813 and was re-built beginning in 1816. It last saw military action in 1838.)

### Back in time

But he also played the role of teacher, assisting students in a variety of activities, which included the following:

■ Inside brick barracks, Honor explained that the number assigned to each regiment was engraved onto each of 32 brass buttons sewn onto their red battle coat. Since the Highmeadow class became the "89th regiment," youngsters donned eye goggles and gloves and turned liquefied powder into metal button molds featuring their number.

■ Students also worked a printing press, to create officer's commission papers "signed" by King George.

"What do you think officers had to learn in school?" Honor asked the class. "Reading, writing, maybe a little bit about battle history. ... Maybe another language, like French."

soldiers with most seniority first inside.

The subject turned to how little food the children of soldiers received. "Imagine a McDonald's quarter pounder divided into



Ten-HUTI: Ms. Quigley's fifth graders lined up for morning drill practice, a part of their "hands on" experience at Fort Malden, where they learned about soldiers who fought in the War of 1812 and their families.

## Bank from page A1

n't decided about the 300,000-square-foot corporate headquarters, on Iakaber Road.

"We're looking into a number of different options," he said, "but we don't have definitive answers."  
These options include using part or all of the existing building, Darmanin added.

Changes will be implemented over the next 12 months, but some employees are already moving into new quarters. Hills City Manager Steve Brock said if the building goes up for sale, he's optimistic it won't be vacant for long.

"You always hate to lose a significant corporate client like Michigan National," he said.

"It's a great building and a great spot. They'll have no trouble marketing it."

According to a press release issued last week, ABN AMRO Bank N.V. has completed its acquisition of Michigan National from National Australia Bank Limited. Until the conversion, Michigan National and Standard Federal will operate under their existing names.

Standard Federal CEO Scott Heitmann said choosing one brand over the other was a difficult but critical step in creating a combined company.

According to Heitmann, an important rationale for the decision was that the Standard Federal name is not limited by any

geographic connotation. The combined company will have offices in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Adopting the Standard Federal name was also the cheapest option, he said.

While the two institutions will not merge until the fall, customers of both institutions may use any Standard Federal, Michigan National or LaSalle Bank (ABN AMRO's Chicago-based subsidiary) ATM, free of surcharges or foreign activity fees. In Michigan, the combined network includes 873 ATMs, more than any single financial institution in the state.

The mortgage products of Standard Federal and the ABN AMRO Mortgage Group are now available to prospective mortgage customers at all Michigan National financial centers. Michigan National customers now have access to the new MySites option, available at

www.michigannational.com. This account aggregation service, also available at Standard Federal and LaSalle Bank, offers people the ability to consolidate their personal online information.

Customers of both banks are benefiting from Michigan's newest partnership, Heitmann said. "More ATMs, access to world-class mortgage products and free online account aggregation will all make life a little more convenient for our customers."

After the merger, the combined entity will operate as a full-service commercial bank under the name Standard Federal Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of ABN AMRO North America Inc. The combined company will be Michigan's second-largest bank as ranked by assets.

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