



Government of Canada

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The National Battlefields  
Commission

Commission des champs  
de bataille nationaux

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## The convict's last drink Quench your thirst for history in Québec's unique military vestiges

Québec City, July 17, 2009 – Enter Jos Vaillancourt's tavern, or Martello Tower 2 and, beginning tomorrow, savour a chapter in Québec City's British history. For a second consecutive year the National Battlefields Commission offers history buffs a chance to take part in *The convict's last drink*, a highly animated activity providing a glimpse into 19<sup>th</sup> century military justice, the soldiers' leisure activities and their punishments... beer included!

From next July 18 to September 7, witnesses to a crime committed by a soldier on furlough will gather to discuss the fate of the culprit. An innkeeper will welcome them so that they may shed light on this matter. This colourful interactive investigation is accompanied by a microbrewery beer tasting, the result of a collaboration with La Barberie brewery.

Five participants will be selected among the public to fill the roles of the period characters. Each will express an opinion about the kind of punishment the guilty soldier should receive: flogging, wooden horse, absolution, quartering in barracks or being forbidden to carry a bayonet. As for you, what fate will you have in store for the accused?

The Martello towers, architectural treasures and military vestiges unique in Québec, abound in history. Towards 1807, as tensions between England and the United States loomed very high, four Martello towers were built on the heights of Québec City in as many years. But the 1812 war failed to prove the effectiveness of the towers since the Americans never reached the city.





Of the 196 towers built around the world 16 were erected in Canada, including four in Québec City. Out of these four, three still remain. Martello towers 1 and 2 are located on the Plains of Abraham while No. 4 is located in the Faubourg Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

The Martello towers are listed (No. 1) or known (Nos. 2 and 4) as historical monuments. Martello Tower 3 was pulled down in 1905 to make room for the MacKenzie Pavilion of the Jeffery Hale Hospital (near the Grand théâtre de Québec).

## The convict's LAST DRINK

### Schedule:

Daily from July 18 to September 7, 2009: at 4:30 p.m. (in English) and 6:30 p.m. (in French). Average time: 1 hour.

### Place:

Martello Tower 2, at the corner of Taché Street and Wilfrid-Laurier Avenue (near Joan of Arc Garden).

### Cost (taxes included):

\$12/participant. Places limited to 50 people for each presentation. Microbrewery beer tasting included. Those admitted, who are 17 years old or younger, must be accompanied by a parent and they will not be allowed to sample the beer.



### Reservations: 418 649-6157

Or at the Discovery Pavilion of the Plains of Abraham, 835 Wilfrid-Laurier Avenue, level 0, Québec (the same address as the tourism information bureau).

[www.theplainsofabraham.ca](http://www.theplainsofabraham.ca)

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