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MEDIA RELEASE – BOOK LAUNCH

‘Warriors and Warships: Conflict on the Great Lakes and the Legacy of Point Frederick’

The **Frontenac Heritage Foundation** and the **Kingston Historical Society** jointly announce an important book launch event that will include author Dr. Robert D. Banks. The book, which is published by Dundurn Press of Toronto, will be released in Canada in late January 2023, with release in the U.S. and U.K. occurring one month later.

The book launch will be held at the Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall, on Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, at 2 p.m. Dr. Banks will make remarks, meet attendees, and be available for book signing. Light refreshments will be served.

This important volume fills a gap in the histories of the Kingston region, Province of Ontario, and Canada. Never has there been a book that tells the early history of Point Frederick, starting prior to the founding of Kingston and creation of the Royal Military College. Filled with maps, historical images, colour photos and 3D reconstructions, this high quality and fully cited publication will be an essential reference for promoting the protection and conservation of artefacts on this point of land.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Banks, a graduate of the Royal Military College (RMC) and University of Toronto, became a pilot and medical doctor. He has received wide recognition for his contributions in science and in medical education. Starting with his experience as a cadet at RMC, Bob developed a keen interest in the history of Kingston and Point Frederick. He began to collect research material for a book starting in 2014. The resulting manuscript describes events spanning the pre-European presence, early

settlement, dockyard expansion, the War of 1812, and the post-war Royal Navy period. It offers new insights into the role of French Canada, Kingston and Point Frederick in historical events.

While Kingstonians appreciate the RMC complex, few are familiar with the history of shipbuilding on Point Frederick, and how it influenced the future "undefended border" with the U.S.A. As a prequel to the two Richard Arthur Preston books ('Canada's RMC: A History of the Royal Military College, and 'To Serve Canada: A History of the Royal Military College Since the Second World War') this volume adds an important earlier chapter to local and national history.

Paul Charbonneau, the president of the **Kingston Historical Society** states: "The KHS has followed Dr. Banks' interest in the history of Point Frederick, and is very pleased to see the important book in publication."

The **Frontenac Heritage Foundation** advocates for heritage preservation in a broad geographical area centred on the City of Kingston. President Shirley Bailey comments that this book will bring attention to the early history of Point Frederick and the importance of this area prior to and after the War of 1812. "It may read like historical fiction, but the truth it tells is mesmerizing!"

Thanks to the City of Kingston Heritage Fund allocations of 2022, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation received a \$15,000 grant from the **City of Kingston** and the **Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites** towards the printing costs of this book.

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