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The Newsletter of the **PROVINCIAL MARINE RE-ENACTMENT GROUP**

MOMENT IN HISTORY

We're in the midst of one of those defining moments when there is a monumental shift like when the center of world power shifted from France to Great Britain. One can argue whether it occurred at the Battle of Trafalgar or the Battle of Waterloo, but one can see there was a shift. Another shift had to be around WW I. The US's power was instrumental in settling the struggle between the Allies and the Central Powers. The Crash of 1929 centered on the USA and its mistaken policies afterwards that triggered the Depression. So somewhere in that period, power transferred from Great Britain to the USA. Both World Wars might be seen as a challenge to the British Empire. All the European powers ended up doing was hastening the decline of Europe in total.

Where are we now? Some argue that the property bubble of the USA caused this Great Recession. Others argue that it was the sudden increase in oil prices that brought this recession. The USA was also the epicentre of this crisis, for hedge funds, largely in the USA, bid up the price of oil and many other commodities. The trend up was so strong that many funds made billions. Never mind that these run-ups were ruining economies. But then the trend went the other way. And those same funds were losing people billions. Of course, when money was being made people denied that hedging and commodity trading had anything to do with the huge spike in prices. When they got burned as prices moved the other way, they screamed. So we know the truth.

Now the leadership of the Group of Seven is suspect. The Group of Twenty is the power group that counts. And China is a member in good standing in that group. The World looks to China for a stimulus as it spends its huge surpluses built over years to improve its economy. China is signalling to the world that it has a large amount of gold bullion. China, afraid that the USA will inflate its currency to get out of its chronic debt situation, is spreading its risk by investing in non-US currencies and bonds. The world is watching China and hoping it unwinds its American holdings slowly. China, the biggest maker of batteries in the world, may just build the first affordable battery car. Just as Henry Ford was not the first automaker, just the first to bring down the price, so China may come up with the first reasonably priced electric car, with reasonable battery replacement costs. I don't believe the internal combustion engine has reached the end of its useful life. We can add extra elements to it. (Just as the British did with steam power) But eventually there will be a paradigm shift, and the cheaper battery car will come in and China will be a dominant player. And China has huge deposits of lithium in Tibet. So China will have less patience with lectures from the West. US power will remain just as the UK did, but the rising power may be China. In any case they don't want lectures from us/

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Changing line astern to line abreast**

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**Halifax as a place to visit. Museum of the Atlantic. Two historic ships well worth seeing. Citadel and Brunswick Street.
Focus on Port Dover. Port played a vital role in War of 1812**

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Spring 2009 EVENTS

May 1-3 Battle of Longwoods, London

May 23-24 Fort Meigs, Ohio

May30- 31 Maidstone Museum, Lakeshore, Ontario

June 5-7 Stoney Creek, Hamilton

***June 19-21, Port Dover Marine Heritage, Port Dover, ON
SEE FOCUS***

July 1, Canada Day, Fanshawe Village, London, ON

*July 11-12 1812 Grand Tactical - July 19-20 School of the Sailor
Penetanguishene, ON*

*July 17-19 200th Anniversary, Founding of Royal Navy Dockyard -
Halifax, NS*

*July 12-13, Crysler's Farm : Morrisburg, ON. (Distant so only a
possible.)*

July 24-26 Wasaga Under Siege, Wasaga Beach, ON

MARINE SOUNDINGS is a quarterly newsletter provided as part of membership in the PROVINCIAL MARINE RE-ENACTMENT GROUP of Amherstburg and Southwestern Ontario. It is put out in JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, and OCTOBER. Members are encouraged to submit ideas, questions, articles which are needed at the beginning of the month of publication.

Marine Soundings

is published by the Provincial Marine Amherstburg, a Re-enactment Group.

Membership is 15 dollars a year, which includes the right to go in our encampments, train on our equipment, learn sailing on our vessels. It includes an insurance component and our quarterly newsletter. In addition we have many social events each year. In addition active re-enactors pay \$7.00 towards insurance.

If you are a member of a similar organization you may apply for just a subscription to our newsletter. At \$6.00 Canadian funds and \$6.00 US, we are simply looking to recover our costs.

The Executive for 2009 (Elections May 5th)

David May Sr.—President
Peter Rindlisbacher—Vice-President
Ellen Rindlisbacher—Treasurer
Secretary—Jenny Lajoie

Board Directors:

David May, George Marshall, Bob Ferguson, Peter Rindlisbacher, Ellen Rindlisbacher, Vern Coon, Jim Ouellette, Jane Teeple, Vicky Beaulieu

Committees (chairs highlighted) Some positions are vacant.

Newsletter: **George Marshall**, Carol Ferguson (membership matters) Members needed from each area

Education: C. Ferguson, Peter Rindlisbacher

Membership: **Jane Teeple**

Boats: Bob Ferguson, Vern Coon, P. Rindlisbacher

Events: **Marty Burnett**

Black Powder: **M. Burnett**, David May

Drill: **James Whyte**, Dale Kidd

Social: **vacant**

Promotions: **Jenny Lajoie**

Brick Campaign: **Carol Ferguson**, Bob Ferguson

Commissariat: **vacant**

Period Clothing: **Jane Teeple**, Elizabeth Kersey

Bingos: **Brenda Mayer**, E. Kersey

Our Sponsors and Supporting Organizations:

Essex Community Futures Development Corp.

Trillium Corporation

Windsor Charity Bingos

Royal Canadian Naval Association

Royal Canadian Navy

The Legion Branch 157 Amherstburg

The CAW Branch 200 *Computers for Kids*

Hbc (Hudson Bay Company) has helped us with a grant to celebrate some of our earliest settlers.



To submit articles, questions, ideas e-mail

gtmar@allstream.net

or contact our President David May

To Read articles in our newsletter on the web, visit

www.provincialmarine.org

To contact Marty Burnet, our events coordinator

Martyb17@hotmail.com

From Peter Rindlisbacher

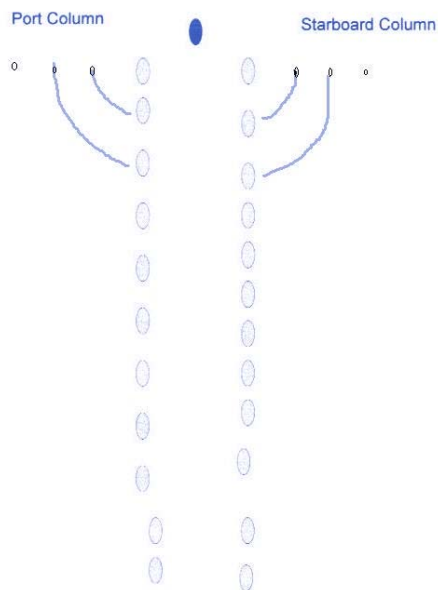
The Canadian Navy's Colonial Sailor programme holds at least one major re-enactment event every year. This summer, Halifax will host a double celebration; the 250th anniversary of the founding of their Royal Navy Dockyard, and the centennial of the establishment of the Canadian Navy. The festival weekend of July 18th and 19th is designed to coincide with a gathering of over 40 tall ships in the harbour, arriving from Boston.

As the tall ships are docked in port, a ceremonial row past by 24 period boats will take place on the Saturday. These boats originate from across Canada and the U.S. The Provincial Marine will be well represented, with three of our boats and a gun crew participating. All personnel will be dressed in 1759 apparel. Gun salutes will be exchanged and the crews will join in parades, dinners and other functions during that weekend.

One of the PM longboats, the **WITCH** of Amherstburg, acting as flotilla leader, will carry retired Canadian Navy Vice Admiral Dusty Miller, portraying Rear Admiral Phillip Durell (founder of the base), and various other eighteenth century officers and their ladies accompanying him. A boat dock landing and ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon, with crews greeted by national defence leaders from Canada, the U.S. and Britain. On Monday, the boats will escort the tall ships out of Halifax Harbour, on their way to Ireland.

Cheers.

Pete



Imagine the magnitude of the task--keeping station on one another, about 1 ½ to 2 boat lengths apart. For a landing, very good discipline is required as the boats move into line abreast. Safest is to do it in sequence, with the second boat coming alongside, and then the third coming alongside the second, and so on. To wheel the entire flotillas at once requires lots of practice. Very likely a safe bet would be to break into 3 or 4 groups and land in sequence. Good luck with your manoeuvres!

MARINE SOUNDINGS promotes the history of the Provincial Marine, most particularly in the War of 1812, and is available as part of the membership of the Provincial Marine. For members not on the web we mail their copies and send it to organizations at cost for \$ 6.00 CAD or US including postage and handling.
MARINE SOUNDINGS/APRIL

Please submit contributions in the form of photos or articles, links to other groups that might interest members.

David May
 President
 Provincial Marine Amherstburg
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Please contribute to our new website. Google "Provincial Marine" to find our website. To go directly use:

www.provincialmarine.org

Coming 1812 Events for 2009

May 1-3, *Battle of Longwoods, London*

May 23-24, *Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, OH*

May 30-31, *Maidstone Museum, Lakeshore, Puce Rd., Essex County*

June 6-8, Stoney Creek, Hamilton
June 19-21, Port Dover Marine Heritage, Port Dover, ON

July 1, *Canada Day, Fanshawe Village, London, ON*

July 11-12 *1812 Grand Tactical - July 19-20 School of the Sailor Penetanguishene, ON*

July 17-19 *200th Anniversary, Founding of Royal Navy Dockyard - Halifax, NS*

July 12-13, *Cryslers Farm : Morrisburg, ON. (Distant so only a possible.)*

July 24-26 *Wasaga Under Siege, Wasaga Beach, ON*

Aug 1, 2 & 3, Heritage Weekend Amherstburg, Ft Malden & PM
Aug 8-9, Seige of Fort Erie, Fort Erie

Sept 6-7, *Backus Mill, Port Rowan,*

ON
 Sept 13-14, *Backus-Page House, Wallacetown, ON*
 Sept 5-6, *Fairfield, Thamesville, ON*
 Also *Fanshawe 1812, London, ON*

Oct 3-5, Chatham
October 2-4, Fanshawe 1812, London, ON

Halifax—Historic Canadian City 1749-2009

Halifax was founded 260 years ago by British General Edward Cornwallis. It's a very historic place. It has served as a colonial capital, as a bastion for British sea power and as the gathering place for the great convoys of the Allies that allowed us to win the war. When I visited it in 1956, it had a grayness to it common to many Canadian cities. In 1960 it still had an air of poverty about it that prevented me seeing its beauty. By 1969 that had begun to change. In 1994 they had begun to improve the waterfront and now it sparkles. Cruise ships make it a regular stop; **it's cool, nice for walking, and it's safe.**

Cornwallis chose the harbour because it had an easily defended mouth and a saltwater bay, Bedford Basin, where a fleet could easily anchor. It was still large enough for convoys in WW I & II.

It has grown slowly until recently so a lot of its historic architecture is still visible. A must see is the citadel and the town clock. But there are lots of other less well known buildings worth seeing. Many of them on one street—Brunswick Street. (Brunswick Street was formerly known as Barrack Street because it led directly to the citadel and it is one of the greatest concentrations of 19th Century in Canada.) Below a round clapboard church St George's. (on Brunswick Street)



The British wanted a group of settlers of known allegiance and so at one blow they settled 2,500 people of British origin. There were then about 8,000 Acadians, mostly French but with some Scottish, Irish, and Portuguese elements. There was a question of their loyalty as the area switched hands many times. Some 6,000 were expelled between 1755-1760. By 1800 many had returned. There is still a strong Acadian element in Nova Scotia. In the meantime Halifax had grown to about 5,000—comparable to Washington. A visit to the graveyards is also interesting if you have the time. Downtown are the graveyards of some of the **Titanic** victims. The Citadel of Halifax, known as Fort George, was just part of a conglomeration of about 20 forts protecting one another and the harbour. This complex was maintained as one of the British Empire's strongholds until 1906 when it was handed over to Canada. It has been restored to the mid-Victorian

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period. These forts are all National Historic Sites.



The Museum of the Atlantic is a fascinating museum of ships and shipbuilding besides containing two outstanding and unique ships: **HMCS Sackville**, the only Flower Class Corvette still afloat; and **CSS (Canadian Scientific Ship) Acadia**, a ship built in Britain at the same time as the Titanic, and the only surviving ship of the Halifax explosion. The Acadia boasts the same one-inch riveted steel that the **Titanic** had. The little ship was often pressed into icebreaking although it was designed for survey work. It was responsible for new charts for the waters of Newfoundland when it entered Confederation in 1949. Both ships have triple-expansion steam engines, and seeing their engine rooms is a pretty good educational experience. In the **Acadia**, there is just the one triple expansion engine and the condenser lies right alongside. I had no idea that condensers were that large! This ship was much loved by its crews having a little of the luxury of a liner of those days with its real mahogany paneling in its dining rooms and mess areas. I recommend visiting the museum or at least these two historic ships. The staffs are enthusiastic about their ships and available with answers. These two small ships are real prizes and go to HMCS Dockyard during the winter where naval staffs take care of them.



So spend some time in Halifax, which has lots of 19th century charm and plenty of 21st century sparkle.

COMMISSARIAT NEWS
by Carol Ferguson

Student Trainees

The application has been delivered to HRDC requesting students for the summer. We have been receiving resumes in March for these positions for summer employment. We are hoping to be able to hire 2 students through this program.

Another piece of good news: Vicki Beauliu has secured a student from St Clair College just as we have had in the past. Several years ago, Linda Bilicic a student at St Clair proved to be an asset for our group.

New display

We have a new display at the Commissariat, located near the birch bark canoe, which enhances the canoe.

Peter's mother, Eleanor Rindlisbacher, who is also an artist and very creative, has given our mannequin a skin colour more in keeping with native dress. She also sent a much better top, fixed the hands and hair, which really looks great now.

Heather Oliver, one of our native members, has also come to our rescue outfitting the mannequin's costume with hand-made stripes. Thanks to both of these ladies for making our native lady more appealing. We now should give her a name. Any suggestions?

Carol Ferguson may be reached at Carol_Ferguson-r@gcdsb.on.ca

FOCUS ON PORT DOVER

By George Marshall

It's not generally known but the American attack on little Port Dover may have been the last straw for the British. They had hoped that vengeful attacks on civilian communities had ended. Then the Americans attacked Port Dover. Shortly

afterwards they issued orders to harass the American coastline, ultimately ending the game by attacking Washington, a town of about 7000 at the time.

Historic Port Dover is proud of its role in the War of 1812 and invites us to taste its flavour on June 19th, 20th, and 21st. Norfolk County is one large municipality and they really get behind their events.

AT SILVER LAKE

- A great encampment area and an even better battle setting.
- Daytime land battles at 2:00 PM Saturday and Sunday
- Daytime music and demonstrations
- Sutler's Row

PORT DOVER Harbour

- Dockage for Gunboats
- Music, dance, and demonstration Tent
- Exhibits and Presentations in Museum
- Free Evening Concert/Pub Saturday

BRIG ST. LAWRENCE II

- Friday, Saturday, Sunday Tours
- Participating in Harbour Battle

HARBOUR/BEACH BATTLE

- 7:00 PM Saturday with Brigantine, Gunboats, Land Forces, Artillery

ENTERTAINMENT

- Daytime Music at All Locations
- Chantey Singing on Brigantine & In Pub
- Free Evening Concert at Museum (Top drawer traditional folk acts)

CRICKET and FOOD for Re-enactors

SMALL CRAFT DISPLAY

Education Day – Friday June 19



Above: the Port Dover Marina. Port Dover is no longer an important commercial harbour. Much of the work of 19th century stonehookers remains, hidden under modern cement. Below: the Harbour Museum





Provincial Marine



Sponsored by Windsor Charity Bingos, Hbc,

Essex Community Futures Development Corporation, The Ontario Trillium Foundation

Monthly Meeting May 5th

News on our 24-foot Canoe Acquisition

We've been on the lookout for a canoe for our native component; luckily the local LaSalleVoyageurs had one surplus. We put down 1200 dollars and Peter made an application to the Essex CFDC. Seemingly 2000 dollars would be their maximum contribution. But May 5, 2009, we received 3,500 dollars. So with our deposit on the canoe deducted, we will have a big chunk of the money required for a thirty-foot trailer. So thanks very much to the Essex CFDC and to our bingo volunteers!

Vern Coon announced the completion of the cannon that Tom was working on prior to his death. The cannon will be used for the first time at the Maidstone Event 30th and 31st of May. Thanks to Vern, Tom Teeple, and Hazen Price who sweated on the metal rims for the wheels.

The Navy has advanced \$1000 for our powder and transportation of a cannon to Halifax. Exciting news as we generally have to wait for expense money!

Although details must remain confidential, we are teaming up with the Town of Amherstburg to apply for a grant for various projects relating to the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Dear to our hearts would be some sort of monument to the dead of the Battle of Lake Erie, but we shall see what sort of grant emerges from the Ontario Trillium Corporation. Ann Rota, representing the Town, was very attentive to our desires. A vote was held and passed to work as partners with the town on making an application to the OTF fund. There were three dissenting votes because there is a possibility that a grant could be made without our group getting any of its desires met. David communicated to Ann Rota that evening by e-mail.

Keep in mind that starting our planning this early for the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 will put us in a better position to get further funding for the War Bi-Centennial from senior levels of government.

Captain's Corner from our newly elected President

By David May Senior

We just held our Annual General Meeting Tuesday May 5.

The Officers for the next year are as follows; the President is David May; the Vice-President is Peter Rindlisbacher; the Secretary is Jennie Lajoie; the Treasurer is Ellen Rindlisbacher.

This year we have gained members from the British Indian Department. They join the On-Gwe-Ho-Way Indian group, who joined last year, and combined will enhance the events we attend. We have received funding from the Community Futures Development Corporation to assist with the Purchase of a North canoe and trailer. Peter and I are members of the 2010 Canadian Naval Centennial Steering Committee for Windsor & Essex County. We are preparing events to be held in Windsor and Amherstburg. We are partnering with the Town of Amherstburg to apply for a grant for some of our ventures to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Our group is doing well and getting better.

The Windsor Bingo funding continues to aid us with our goals.

Thank you to all!

Lt. David May

President

Provincial Marine Amherstburg

David may be reached by e-mail at mrdavemay@sympatico.ca

For flute & unison voices

COME ALL YE BOLD CANADIANS

Anonymous

Allegretto
no chord

1. Come all you bold Can - a - di - ans; I'd have you lend an ear. Con -

2. There was a bold com - mand - er, brave Gen - er - al Brock, by name. Took

3. We tra - velled all that night and part of the next day, With

4. Our com - man - der sent a flag to them and un - to them did say: De -

5. Their com - mand - er sent a flag to us; for quarter he did call. Oh,

6. And now we are all home a - gain; each man is safe and sound. May

cern - ing a fine dit - ty that would make your cour - age cheer, Con - cern - ing an en -

ship - ing at Ni - ga - ra and up from York he came. He says "My gal - lant

a de - ter - min - a - tion to show them Bri - tish play. We tra - velled all

liv - er up your gar - i - son or we'll fire on you this day!" But they would not sur -

hold your guns, brave Brit - ish boys, for fear you'll slay us all! Our town you have at

the mem - or - y of this con - quest all through the pro - vince sound! Suc - cess to our vol -

gagement that we had at Sand - wich town. The cour - age of those Yan - kee boys so

he - roes, you come a - long with me; We'll fight those proud Yank - ees in the West

that night, and part of the next day with a de - term - in - a - tion to con -

rend - er and chose to stand their ground. We op - ened up our great guns and gave

your com - mand, our gar - ri - son like - wise." They brought their guns and ground - ed them be -

un - teers whodid their rights maint - ain, and to our brave com - man - der, Gen - er -

late - ly we pulled down.

of Can - a - we a - day!"

quer or to die!

them fire a round.

fore our ve - ry eyes!

al Brock, by name!