

The Provincial Marine is doing things to make ready for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812. For example, we were early in applying for a grant towards the building of a statue honoring the men who fought in the Battle of Lake Erie. We also applied for a grant to make an event celebrating the Indian encampment on Bois Blanc Island. Various First Nations groups have accepted this event joyfully, and we should use the money to encourage them to come in groups, to bring their historically decorated canoes, but we should stay out of the minutiae

of their dress and so on.

It was the same with us at the Fair at the Forkes; we came as best we could the first year; many of us were lacking in our period dress. Some, I recall, wore running shoes. As time went on we got better. We had more and better displays. The same will apply here. Some groups will be used to period costumes; others less so. Some groups will show up with wigwags (at left), others with teepees (as shown above), some will have canvas tents. Let us be the gracious hosts, perhaps awarding prizes to those with the most authentic costumes or campsites. We don't have enough money to actually pay these people; but it is something they want to participate in. Let's use the money to make it an interesting and memorable event for the participants as well as the general public.

MARINE SOUNDINGS is a quarterly newsletter of the PROVINCIAL MARINE RE-ENACTMENT GROUP of Amherstburg. It is put out in FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST and NOVEMBER Ideas, questions, articles are needed at the **beginning** of the month of publication. Note the change in our publication dates.

## Message from our President

Membership is coming due. NFA insurance is still good till April. We are holding the cost of membership but the cost of black powder insurance has risen.

Single membership is \$15; family membership is \$30. Black powder insurance is \$10 per active re-enactor above the cost of membership. You **MUST** have Provincial Marine membership to get the black powder insurance. And you **don't require black powder insurance if you don't handle it**. It is only good (\$5 million) if you injure someone else during the handling of a weapon. If you fall down and break a leg it will not cover that. (That's the breaks!) Mail cheque (made out to Provincial Marine) to Jane Teeple.

Jane Teeple,  
443 Dalhousie St., Amherstburg, Ont. N9V1X4

## Same Latitude as Rome is promoting Canada's Exciting 1812 History

Peter Boyer is part of the songwriting team of **Same Latitude as Rome**. Peter, an award winning songwriter, is based in Windsor, and has performed his songs on radio, television, and at live venues across Canada. Recently Peter was awarded an Honourable Mention for his song, "Song for Louis Riel".

Peter wrote original music for Dan Aykroyd's production "Tom Paine" performed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and his current song catalogue receives regular air play on local radio stations CBC, CJAM and CHYR. His song "V8 Cars" will appear in a soon to be released documentary film about the auto industry.

Peter and Dan Lonke are working on an album for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. **Same Latitude As Rome** has had three CD releases since 2007. Dan Loncke is a retired veterinarian and educator living in Windsor, Ontario. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario (Zoology) and the University of Guelph (Veterinary Medicine). Dan taught at St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology. His interests include Canadian history with special emphasis on the War of 1812, and outdoor activities including natural history, birding and canoeing. Starting in the fall of 2011, as part of Mackenzie Hall's Heritage Series, he will be presenting seminars on the War of 1812: Detroit River Frontier and conducting tours of 1812 sites on the Canadian side of the Detroit River. Contact Information: [danloncke@yahoo.ca](mailto:danloncke@yahoo.ca)

Peter's e-mail: [petercboyer@gmail.com](mailto:petercboyer@gmail.com) His Phone: 519 839 4468 His group: [www.samelatitudeasrome.com](http://www.samelatitudeasrome.com)

## Message from Peter Boyer to our group

Since the January meeting, Dan Loncke and I decided that we should include lyrics about the shot across the bows shown in Peter Rindlisbacher's painting of the taking of the **Cuyahoga**. Thus it will bring the song closer to how the Provincial Marine will re-enact the event. Would it be possible to include this song in any of your newsletters, or distribute it further to your membership? Could you use the latest version that I have attached?

As I mentioned, both Dan and I are happy to grant the Provincial Marine full authority to use the song in any manner that they wish, at no cost. Once I have recorded the song, we will provide you with the recorded version with a similar proviso, to encourage its public use.

Peter

( For more on this group see page 3)

## Belgium Re-enactment

Would you like to visit Belgium in 2015? Consider this: re-enacting the battle of Waterloo—for about seven days. Cost about 2,500 dollars approximately. Sounds like a good deal! Belgium is a rather expensive place these days; few get to visit.

MARINE SOUNDINGS is a quarterly newsletter of the PROVINCIAL MARINE RE-ENACTMENT GROUP of Amherstburg. It is put out in FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST and NOVEMBER Ideas, questions, articles are needed at the **beginning** of the month of publication. Note the change in our publication dates.

In Canada we badly need to have our history popularized. We fight a losing battle if the only place where history is heard is in the classroom. People like Shamus the Story Teller and Latitude South of Rome can do the popularization. (More on Shamus page 7)

## Capture of the Cuyahoga Packet

*by Dan Loncke and Peter Boyer*

1. 'Twas a schooner from Ohio, boys, that brought  
Brock to fame

The Cuyahoga Packet was that vessel's name  
She carried Yankee plans of war, for General Hull's  
command  
All his baggage, instruments, and his regimental  
band

2. Hull's Northwest Army was 2000 strong  
North to Fort Detroit, their march was hard and long  
The Cuyahoga was dispatched, to carry their  
supplies  
The War was just declared, and she was right  
before our eyes



Chorus:

Cuyahoga, Cuyahoga, a sight to behold  
Flying Stars and Stripes, a treasure more than gold  
No loss of life, no cannon fire, we took her close to shore  
Cuyahoga, Cuyahoga, our first prize of War

3. Rolette called out, a Yankee ship, sailing in plain sight  
Let's have a go, and see me boys, if she has some fight  
If there's no fight, I'll guarantee, at least we'll have some fun  
I'd wager no one's told them, the war has just begun

4. The boarding crew was just a few, able and seafaring  
We set out to take her and show the Yanks our daring  
Just our bateaux, a musket and each man to an oar  
A single shot across her deck, by Bois Blanc's shore

5. No resistance did they offer, and surrendered to the man  
His Majesty now owned the boat, and Hull's invasion plan  
We ordered the Americans to play God Save the King  
And those on shore gave a roar, and all began to sing

6. General Hull decried our daring as an unjust attack  
He pleaded for the British to give his schooner back  
Our reply, Sir, your loss, was easily foreseen  
And your ship is now in service of the Provincial Marine

### News about the River Raisin Event January 22 (Our first event every year)



Dave and I christened our new sled at the River Raisin Battlefield Memorial today. The temperature was very cold, 8 to 12 degrees F. We managed, with the help of several volunteers, to set the gun tube on the carriage and load the sled in the van, unload at the battle area, reload the sled in the van, and unload again at the memorial service. Then remove the tube after the memorial firing and put the tube in Dave's van and the sled and carriage in mine. We were fed a delicious meal starting with soup, salad and bread then a second course of ham, chicken, green beans, scalloped potatoes, and corn. There were plenty of deserts, also.

I managed to get a few photos before the camera froze. They are attached!

Vern



**Note from the Editor: These sleds that Vern Coon is building are useful items for re-enacting the early battles of the War of 1812. The first battles of the war occurred in winter and early spring. Now we have historically accurate sleds to use for them! Vern is taking care of them while the group has paid him for his materials and something for his labours.**

**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/FEBRUARY 2011 p5

Please submit photos, articles, or links.

Googling “Provincial Marine” will bring you to over one hundred items.

To go to our newsletter directly use: [www.provincialmarine.org](http://www.provincialmarine.org)

When the home page opens, then click on “newsletter”; the latest newsletters appear first.

### **Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy**

By R. G. Rajan

Raghuram G. Rajan has lived most of his life in the West, and has been an acute observer of the things that made the West great. Having worked for years in the International Monetary Fund, he returned to his endowed chair at Chicago’s Booth School of Business, and wrote his non-fiction best seller. There he examined the growing inequality in the US and the growing dependence of the wealthy US on loans from poorer China. Part of the growing inequality stems from the US’s belief that you have to pay an inordinate amount for your managerial talent. (Currently it is close to 200 times the average worker’s pay for CEOs versus 12 times in Germany and Japan. Canada and the UK have been following the same nasty trend.) This trend creates a disjunct between top management and the rest of us. It’s not good for the companies either in that it has encouraged them to goose up the results for a coming quarter rather than looking to the long term health of the company. In banking in particular, competition for high returns propelled most banks into creating mortgages and then bundling

them off into “AAA” securities that were guaranteed by other banks or insurance companies. These types of behaviour almost propelled us off the cliff.

**Observations: Similar reckless behaviour propelled the dominant economy of Europe—18<sup>th</sup> century France--into a revolution and allowed its fiscally prudent but much smaller neighbour—Britain—to take center stage.**

The English took numerous steps to enhance the reputation of their currency. Queen Elizabeth I took steps to repair the damage to the currency incurred when Henry VIII debased gold coins by adding silver and copper to the mix. Later the work of Sir Isaac Newton enhanced all types of coins—gold, silver and copper. When the time came—war between Britain and France—Britain was able to borrow greatly and freely and fight the war without raising taxes too severely. (They did institute an income tax and they did allow a secret inflation to get rid of part of the debt!) London became a financial center for floating all sorts of sovereign debt and remained the biggest source of funds for about one hundred and fifty years, financing railways and canals all over the world—in its empire and beyond. Indeed many parts of South America were treated like a part of its empire.

Let’s look at what fiscally imprudent France was doing in the meantime.

**Louis XIV, the Sun King,** built the palace of Versailles and reigned for 60 years. He gave an example of the profligate

expenditures that brought the kingdom low. He fought 5 wars, 3 of them major—and built his palace as an instrument of state policy. He brought the nobles to his palace, instead of allowing them to build power bases back in their home territories. It had the unintended side-effect of making the whole noble class virtual parasites. Theoretically the peasants paid taxes to their feudal masters in exchange for protection. Louis’ policies destroyed feudalism—centering all power on the monarchy.

Louis also revoked the



famous Edict of Nantes which had granted certain rights to the Protestants in an otherwise Catholic country. Between 200,000 and 400,000 Huguenots migrated to different countries—notably the UK, Belgium, and Switzerland, and Germany. Those countries gain was France’s loss. Another thing that hurt France, a far richer country than Britain, was its internal tariffs and

---

To join, Send this footer along with \$15.00 CAD to the editor.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

poor roads. Britain had a customs union and one currency. As an island, its goods often travelled by sea. In addition it built a large system of narrow canals. In contrast, France was not modernizing its infrastructure. It even had trouble getting enough food to its capital.



**Louis XV**, the grandson of Louis XIV, was called the beloved through much of his reign. But he continued some of the disasterous involvements that his predecessor had. He lost the War of the Austrian succession (but gained Loraine), and then the Seven years War with Britain, where he lost most of France's overseas territories, including Canada--*quelques arpents de neige*, some would say, but it was the nadir of France's prestige. The government struggled with its budget and its deficit. The government did not collect its taxes directly but through a company called the General Farm, which for its trouble took a good slice of the revenue for its investors.

**Louis XVI** is painted as vain, unintelligent, and ineffectual. On the fall of the Bastille, he was so clueless that he wrote in his diary, *Rien* --- nothing happened.

It's difficult, however, to really blame Louis. The revolution was lit by decades of antagonisms between the first two Estates (nobility and church) and the Third Estate (peasants and townspeople).

When Louis ascended the throne at the age of twenty, he was of average intelligence, but little concerned with the running of the country. He represented everything people opposed: centralized government, wealth, indifference. Marie-Antoinette, his wife, was hated by the Revolutionaries, but she had no part in any of the abuses of the government or the nobility which precipitated the Revolution.

When Louis first ascended the throne, his chief financial officer Turgot (1727-1781) was a brilliant and creative administrator. Turgot instantly set about reforming the country's financial situation by replacing the *corvée* with taxes, an easing of guild laws to allow industrial manufacturing to increase, and, radically, a sharp cut in monarchical expenses. These reforms were vetoed by the *Parlements* (traditional courts—these *Parlements* were, of course, made up largely of nobility wishing to avoid taxes. When the reforms failed, Louis dismissed Turgot.

France mismanaged its taxes. Both the Seven Years War and the French support of the American Revolution had put France deeply in debt, and



over one half of the country's budget was dedicated to paying off that debt. While this sounds extreme, it was

fairly typical of European countries at the time.

France's tax collection, however, was a disaster. Taxes varied from region to region, and most of the taxes were collected by private businessmen. They made loans to the government and then collected the taxes directly, paying themselves the interest on the loan, their fees and then sending the rest to the government. The Third Estate (not noble, not church) was paying far more in taxes than actually went to the government.

The financial crisis precipitated a steep inflationary rise in prices. This inflation was good news for French manufacturing and mercantilism. It played hell, however, with the peasantry. They faced higher prices for the basics of life and rising fees from their landlords. In 1789, over 80 percent of an average peasant's household income went to purchasing *bread* alone—just bread. In that same year, unemployment in many parts of France was over 50%.

The stage was set. In 1787, Louis's financial ministers, Charles de Calonne and Loménie de Brienne, tried to initiate a series of reforms to stave off the complete financial ruin of the French government. They wanted new taxes. The *Parlements*, which had the authority to raise taxes, wanted something in return: more regional independence. The aristocracy wouldn't budge on the matter; when Louis called a select group of nobles together to solve the reforms, they flat out refused to consider the matter. They insisted, rather, that the only legislative body that could approve the new taxes was the Estates General, which hadn't been called since 1614.

He called the Estates General in 1788, and, without anyone knowing it, the Revolution had begun. Further financial woes were experienced in the Revolution that followed.

## Marine Soundings

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

Membership at \$15 a year includes the right to go on encampments, training with equipment, sailing on our vessels plus an insurance component and our quarterly newsletter. In addition we have many social events each year. Active re-enactors pay an additional \$10.00 towards insurance.

Members of similar organizations may apply for just a newsletter subscription. At \$6.00 Canadian funds and \$6.00 US, we simply recover our costs.

### The Executive for 2010 (Elections April 5, 2011)

David May Sr.—President

Peter Rindlisbacher—Vice-President

Ellen Rindlisbacher—Treasurer

Secretary—Jennie Lajoie

#### Board Directors:

David May, Bob Ferguson, Peter and Ellen Rindlisbacher, Vern Coon, Jim Ouellette, Jane Teeple, Vicky Beaulieu, Linda Bertrand

#### Committees (chairs highlighted)

Newsletter: **George Marshall**, (Various departments report)

Education: **C. Ferguson**, **George Marshall**

Membership: **Jane Teeple**

Boats: Bob Ferguson, Vern Coon, P. Rindlisbacher, Jim Ouellette

Events: **Marty Burnett**

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

Drill: **James Whyte**, Dale Kidd

Social: **Jennie Lajoie**

Promotions: **Jennie Lajoie**

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

Commissariat: **Jennie Lajoie**

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

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

Web master: **Kenneth Cyr**

### Our Sponsors and Supporters:

Essex Community Futures Development Corp.

Trillium Corporation, Windsor Charity Bingos,

Royal Canadian Naval Association, Royal Canadian

Navy, Legion Branch 157 Amherstburg, CAW Branch

200, hbc (Hudson Bay Co.), the Questors, The Windsor

Essex Community Foundation, and Fort Malden

Historic Site

To submit articles, questions, ideas e-mail

**NEW:** [gtmar3@bell.net](mailto:gtmar3@bell.net)

To Read articles in our newsletter on the web, visit

[www.provincialmarine.org](http://www.provincialmarine.org)

To contact Marty Burnet, our events coordinator

[Martyb17@hotmail.com](mailto:Martyb17@hotmail.com)

*P1 Thoughts on upcoming Indian re-enactment on Bois Blanc Island*

*P2 Rise in fees for insurance, Songs for War of 1812*

*P3 Song on the Capture of the Cuyahoga*

*P4 Report on Raisin River Event; Vern Coon's sleds*

*Pp 5,6 Rising debt causes the fall of the Old Regime*

*in France, rise of Britain to pre-eminence*

*P 7 Further Events in Planning*

*P8 Final Words on French Inflation*

1. March 1 We had our **First Meeting** with a Wheatley group formed to sponsor a re-enactment of **Brock's historic trip** to Amherstburg to organize the defense of Southern Ontario. Brock liked to move quickly. In advance of his troupes he had himself paddled or rowed to our town. He travelled along the South coast of Ontario from Long Point past the Point, and finally to Amherstburg. There were few places where one could safely land in those days. The port at Wheatly was one of them. From the description of his trip, it seems that he did in fact land there. This **sponsoring group** will have to meet and research what vessels were used at the Fort Malden research center. They need to find funds; we suggested **Shamus the Story Teller**, who has had made it his career to research this kind of event, to make it into an exciting story, find sponsors, and to present a kind of dinner theatre. All funds generated go to the charity group. He takes as his fee only the sponsorships. (He also sells educational books and toys at the event.) Perhaps an **actor** could be hired to represent Brock. Here we suggested **David Morris**, who has played Tecumseh, Barclay and Southern bounty hunters. The matter of the **uniform** was also raised. This type of uniform is quite expensive and a number of communities might go in together to share the costs. Event to take place **August 6, 2012?**
2. We are **just beginning to research available vessels** for our re-enactment of the capture of the Cuyahoga packet boat. (see page 3) We have a **fifteen thousand dollar** grant to get a vessel interested in stopping at Amherstburg for this event. Help is needed on planning this important event in 2012!
3. On March 12, we will be working with Fort Malden **Interpretation Officer Alex Dale** together with the Park House next door to put on a day for children in the park and at the Commissariat where we will answer questions and provide activities. Luckily Alex will be doing a lot of the planning as we have our hands quite full right now!
4. **PRELIMINARY LIST OF PM 1812 EVENTS FOR 2011**  
*Submitted by Marty Burnet.*

Living History Conference, Hamilton, 26 February

Kalamazoo Living History Show March 19, 20

Longwoods, London, April 30-May 1

**Maidstone Museum, Lakeshore, May 27, 28, 29**

**Stone Creek, Hamilton, June 4, 5**

**School of the Sailor, RMC, Kingston, June 10, 11, 12,**

**Port Dover, June 18, 19**

**Fort George, Niagara, July 16, 17**

**Wasaga under siege, July 22, 23, 24**

**Fort Malden, July 30, 31**

**Siege of Fort Erie, August 6, 7**

**Battle of Cook's Mill, Welland, August 20, 21**

Fairfield, Thamesville, September 3, 4

Backus Mill, Port Rowan, September 10, 11

Fort Willow, Minesing, Ontario, Sept 17, 18? + approved but not necessarily a PM event

Fanshaw, London, October 1,2

Mississinewa, INDIANA, Oct 8,9 +

Battle of Tippecanoe, La Fayette, INDIANA Nov 5, 6 +?

+ approved events but not necessarily PM events

? Date as yet not finalized

# Final Words—on French Inflation

Marine Soundings is sponsored by the Questors,

Essex CFDC, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Windsor Charity Bingos, and Hbc

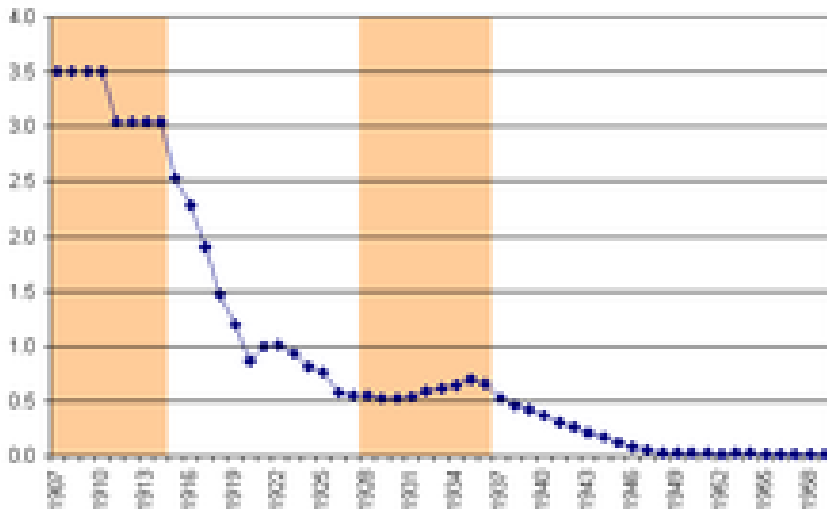


**The Old Regime had gone bankrupt. France was bankrupt.** People who had bought government bonds for their pensions could not be paid. Then in desperation the country turned to paper money guaranteed by the flow of cash that property could earn. The one at the left was for 500 livres—supposedly equal to about 500 pounds sterling, but soon to be discounted as the notes flooded the country. The notes were originally thought of as something like a bond or debenture with a certain yield, but with the shortage of cash to pay their government expenses they were issued in lower and lower amounts. The one below is for 15 sols—15 shillings. As it became evident that the government could not meet the interest payments they became a medium of exchange much like our money today, and much discounted against real money; that is, gold or silver.

**These bank notes or bank drafts,** issued by the National Assembly in France during the French Revolution, **were called Assignats.** They were issued after the confiscation of church properties in 1790 because the government was bankrupt. The government thought that the financial problems could be solved by printing certificates representing the value of church properties. These church lands became known as *biens nationaux* (“national goods”). Assignats were used to **successfully retire** a significant portion of the national debt as they were accepted as legitimate payment by

domestic and international creditors. Very quickly the government found it could not pay the interest, and the bonds simply became money backed by land.

The value of the French franc in 2007 Euros  
Old franc, 1967-1999



Bills such as the *Maximum Price Act* of 1793 aimed to regulate inflation. When the Directoire came into power in 1795 the *Maximum Price Act* was lifted. Hyperinflation reemerged and in the next four years Paris was the stage of yet more riots. The inflation was finally solved by Napoleon in 1803 by introducing the franc as the new currency as a decimal currency. By this time, the assignats were basically worthless.

The story of inflation in France did not in the nineteenth century; it continued in the twentieth century as this chart shows. At the opening of the century the franc was worth a mighty 35 Euros, being comparable to the pound sterling. It dropped during WWI, but not precipitously, but during the Depression and after WWII it kept dropping till in 1969 it was only worth a few cents. Then DeGaulle issued new francs worth ten times as much. Later to avoid further hyperinflation France joined the Eurozone. This experience with inflation causes France to fear what the US is doing today; quantitative easing by the US (and Britain) is exporting inflation all over the world.

Originally bonds, they had evolved into a currency used as legal tender. As there was no control over the amount to be printed, the value of the assignats exceeded that of the confiscated properties. This caused massive hyperinflation. In the beginning of 1792, they had lost most of their nominal value. In 1796, the Directoire issued **Mandats**, a currency in the form of land warrants to replace the assignats, but these too quickly failed.

This hyperinflation was stirred up by repeated food shortages. Instead of solving the financial problems, the assignats became a catalyst for food riots. after the abolition of the monarchy, instability continued, exacerbated by the wars France faced. This situation impeded the implementation of good financial policies that would reduce debts.