

Final Thoughts

Marine Soundings sponsored by

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

Message from the President

We have just had our tenth anniversary and may reflect how far we have come from when we started. We had some luck, but a lot of credit must go to our members' hard work. To give a few examples, I'll mention Tom and Vern working on our gun equipment, our Bingo crews, our faithful gunner Marty Burnett who has so patiently trained many of us, and our painters who did such a beautiful job on our sign.

This year has been no exception: Jennie Lajoie has been doing a wonderful job giving our headquarters a nineteenth century look. She has acquired some nineteenth century items and an item or two that look close to that period. She is getting estimates on a period reproduction for a big table for our meeting room. Peter will create a diorama for our models of HMS DETROIT and the NIAGARA. He intends to create a scene on the back panel of our carrying cases. While on display in the commissariat, we will look through Plexiglas. While carrying the ships to school presentations we can still use the wooden covers and keep the Plexiglas nice and scratch free. As display cabinets they are wonderfully narrow – a consideration in our Commissariat.

We have moved on getting the Bi-centennial of the War of 1812 in everyone's mind in a couple of areas. Shamus, the Story Teller, a member of our group, got sponsorships to put on a Legion Dinner-Story event about some of the many Canadian legends of the War. Shamus donated the proceeds to us, and they will help fund some of the improvements we are planning. Shamus contented himself with the proceeds of sales of books and other items. We also partnered with the Town of Amherstburg in applying for a Trillium Grant. The grant has been approved and will go to a special Provincial Marine account over a period of three years. In the first year funds will go to a sculpture planned by our members. In the second year funds will be for interpretive kiosks – a keen desire of the town. They will feature touch screen computers. Some money will go for period costumes and visitor souvenir booklets. In the final year of the grant—2012—funding will go for banners, children's colouring books, a re-enactment of the Cayahoga's capture within sight of the Fort at Amherstburg and a voyageur encampment. Hopefully this will be on Boblo Island which played an important role in the War.

This year was also the culmination of many years of training at School for the Sailor events. We traveled to Halifax with two boats and a gun crew—a tremendous undertaking involving long periods of driving for everyone. Our presence made a difference. These schools will continue and help us with our training for the Bi-centennial of the War of 1812.

This winter we are partnering with the River Lights Festival keeping our Commissariat open in the evenings Fridays and Saturdays. We are ready to talk and provide a cup of hot coffee to our guests.

I have the Honour to be your Obedient Servant,

David May

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JENNIE LAJOIE'S PLANS FOR THE COMMISSARIAT

Jennie would like to have the southern room as historic as possible. She identifies the desk she has chosen as a postman's desk. It is a tall desk at which one would stand or else use a stool. There is a large sideboard with two big drawers, already filled. Below are two large doors. The shelves are wide boards that were plentiful in the old days. The northern room, which we use as a meeting room and display area, has a hutch and buffet unit, more properly identified as flat-to-the-wall kitchen cabinet. The lower doors will be lockable. A mouse has nibbled its way through the upper doors. She thinks it adds to the authenticity of the piece. A little fake cheese and a stuffed mouse might be an amusing display.

Jennie Lajoie is open to suggestions and looking for display items. She wants to change the displays twice a year. Her e-mail is 2LAJOIE@sympatico.ca