



Year end message from our President

This year we accomplished many of our longterm goals. We got recognition for our fallen heroes of the Battle of Lake Erie, who with just six small ships, opposed a much larger and heavier-gunned fleet and came close to winning. They lost the battle, but the fighting spirit of the men on our side showed the Americans that taking Canada was more than ‘a mere matter of marching’. We have to be thankful that in the past the town recognised the importance of this area and created the Navy Yard Park. Peter Rindlisbacher’s idea takes advantage of the site. The sculpture will face Lake Erie where the battle took place and where many lost their lives. It commemorates the lives lost on both sides.

Here’s what has been accomplished to date: our group accepted the concept drawing completed by Peter. We met with a representative of the town—Anne Rota—and she was favourably impressed with our proposal. She asked our group to assist the town in making a joint proposal to the Trillium Foundation, and both our proposals and those of the town were accepted. We approached local sculptors with our proposal and one accepted the commission. Several of our members have helped with posing for the sculpture. Jane Teeple provided pictures of her late husband and she loaned the sculptor Tom’s uniform because he liked the details of the white lace or piping. The sculptor began work in clay. Photos were taken. After some discussion, a location for the statue was chosen to give the sculpture good visibility yet leaving it approachable and not impossibly high for study.

The sculptor has approved the site and is ahead of his schedule. The money granted by the Trillium Foundation will cover two figures and the cannon on a large oval base. We will seek funding for more figures once the first part is complete. The town will pour the concrete that will anchor the sculpture to an earth mound and will create a base for the sculptures.

Another goal was to turn the commissariat into a small museum and not just an interpretive center. Jennie Lajoie is to be credited with finding 19th century furniture pieces that are useful for storage and display and yet complement our collection of exhibits. Our collection of museum quality reproductions of paintings of individuals connected with the town is attractive: King George III, General Amherst, General Brock, Governor General George Prevost and Captain Robert H. Barclay. Moreover we intend to change our displays from time to time. To help us Fort Malden has contributed a plexiglass case to safely display our smaller exhibits and a large painting of a cut away ship showing how it worked.

Events through the year are being done with attention to detail and a lot of effort. Our commemorative brick campaign continues and we thank all involved. Details like poetry, the cannon firing, the native dancing and the refreshments serve to make it a memorable event for all concerned. A tremendous amount of work in the background goes to make our events successful, and a good example is our lighted boat in the parade. This year the theme we chose was pirates, and a lot of attention was given to the jolly boat and the costumes. Thanks especially to Vicky Beaulieu. And constantly our bingo workers are bringing in money to pay the rent and prove to donors that we are fundraisers on our own.

*I have the honour to be
Your Obedient Servant,*

Lieutenant David May

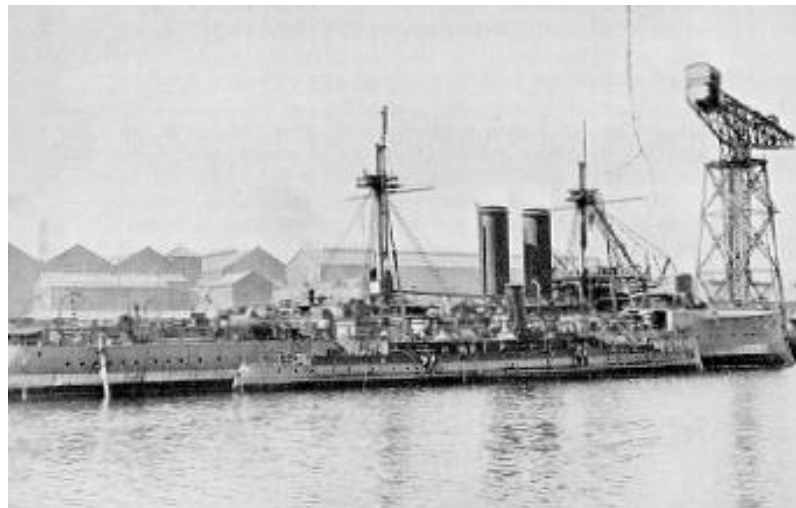
The Formation of the Canadian Coast Guard in 1904

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the increasing speed of changes in technology forced the British to make changes in its defence. The British built *Dreadnaught* (launched in 1906) made all earlier capital ships obsolete. This gave other powers a tremendous chance to catch up. A huge portion of the British fleet was sent to the scrapyards or else consigned to less dangerous, distant waters. In 1910 Canada received the *Niobe* and the *Rainbow* as part of this programme. We mark 1910 as the start of our Navy. How many of us are aware that we purchased a purpose built ship in 1904 to start our Coast Guard? And that the officers and men of the Coast Guard formed a strong part of the RCN in 1910? The ship *CANADA* is shown being completed in 1904 at the Vickers shipyard in England. She became the flagship of the Fisheries Protection Service and detained ships fishing illegally in Canadian waters. She was equipped with the smallest Marconi wireless in the world. She was also used to train members of Canada's Naval Militia and exercised with the Royal Navy in 1905. Reason enough to see her as the beginning of our naval activity.

In 1910 Canada did not have a naval service and relied on the Royal Navy, however, in 1906 British military forces were withdrawn, and Canadian politicians called for a domestic naval service. In 1909 a resolution was passed to provide one, but it did not succeed. In 1910 the resolution was taken up by the government under Sir Wilfrid Laurier and named the Naval Service Bill, achieving royal assent on May 4. The Canadian Naval Service was changed to the Royal Canadian Navy in January of 1911, and this use was permitted by George V on 29 August 1911.

Further connections between the two fledgling Canadian services are noted. Rear-Admiral Kingsmill (RN retired), formerly in charge of the Marine Service of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, became head of the RCN. And when the RCN began training they used the *CANADA* for training officer cadets and crew. It was our first naval academy.

After WW I broke out, the ship was transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy and refitted with two 12-pounders and two three-pounders, serving on the Atlantic coast. She was damaged during the Halifax explosion, and her men were sent ashore to lend assistance to the shattered city. In 1919, she was decommissioned and resumed her duties as a civilian patrol vessel, finally retiring in 1920.



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 \$7.00 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.

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Ellen Rindlisbacher—Treasurer

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To submit articles, questions, ideas e-mail

NEW: gmar3@bell.net

To Read articles in our newsletter on the web, visit

www.provincialmarine.org

To contact Marty Burnett, our events coordinator

Martyb17@hotmail.com

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P2 Our connection with the CCG; List of officers

P3 & 4 Early work in charcoal, iron, and wrought iron proceeds without scientific insight

P5, Membership Report, Commissariat Report

P6 Peter Rindlisbacher reports on the sculpture.

Pp 7-8 Boat Report by Bob Ferguson, Parade report by George Marshall, The Year in Photos.



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/NOVEMBER 2010 p3

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

David May
President
Provincial Marine Amherstburg
mrdavemay@sympatico.ca

Please contribute to our new website. Googling "Provincial Marine" will bring you to over one hundred items.

To go to our newsletter directly use: www.provinciamarine.org
When the home page opens, then click on newsletter. Ken Cyr, our webmaster, has reversed the order, so that the latest newsletters appear first.

Uses of charcoal

Our last newsletter talked about making gunpowder, which is made up of powdered charcoal, sulphur and potassium nitrate. We often associate charcoal with black powder, but it was also used for **drawing**, for **cooking** and **making iron**. Creating charcoal for iron was a major contributor to the deforestation in Europe and Africa.

Charcoal Making

Over thousands of years, the wood was stacked in a pile leaving a shaft or opening in the middle. (figure 1) Coverings of clay or turf cut the flow of air into the pile. A fire was started at the bottom of the shaft and quickly spread to the rest of the wood. When it got hot enough, colliers, or charcoal burners, cut down on the air so that the fire burned essentially without oxygen. By the mid-eighteenth century, coppiced wood (fig. 2) for

making steel was running short in England and they started using **coke** made from **charred coal**.

Coppicing in Europe was a way of ensuring a constant supply of wood for the charcoal industry. When a tree is cut near the roots suckers or new shoots can be harvested on a regular basis. In the USA a huge industry started based on abundant hardwood and nearby bog iron deposits. Charcoal iron, starting in Pennsylvania, and spreading to Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, was still made until 1945 in the USA. Many states maintain sites as part of the local history.

Early colliers lost 50 percent of the volume of wood using long burns (up to eight days). Only 25% by weight remained.

Later, increasing efficiency kept 80% by volume. One way to make the process more efficient was to use a specially built kiln (fig.3) which allowed the charcoal maker to refine his technique and better control the amount of oxygen. When the oxygen is reduced the flame seeks out oxygen from the structure leaving almost pure carbon behind. (Today a burn typically lasts 12 to 18 hours followed by a cool off period.)

Carbon in steel making

Carbon in the presence of heat has an affinity for oxygen in the iron oxide. The word reduction was used to describe the process because the iron lost weight. People saw this without understanding the chemistry.

The lost weight goes into the air
And the equation shows the
weight is constant.



Figure 4

Modern kiln (retort) in India

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Historically the study of iron includes cast iron, wrought iron, mild steel and stainless steel.

CAST IRON

Of these only cast iron is not forged. Pouring the liquid steel into a form creates a very granular metal body. It is very strong under compression, but will easily break when bent apart. All the other forms of iron are forged.

WROUGHT IRON

The earliest iron furnaces were known as bloomeries. The iron oxide



(see bog iron above) was thrown into the furnace with carbon (charcoal), and the heat caused the carbon to steal the oxygen from the iron oxide. Little blooms of iron or sometimes iron sponge formed and were extracted when the fire cooled down. $(Fe_2O_3 + 3C \rightarrow 2Fe + 3CO)$ The modern equation shows the chemistry to be in balance. Early iron workers saw a reduction in volume and weight; hence the term: reducing atmosphere. The metal blooms or sponges were full of impurities and they remained in the finished items so that materials created in this period show an almost woody grain under the microscope. The fibrous structure of this handmade steel can be of excellent quality but it requires an enormous amount of labour. Consequently the average household had only a few pounds of wrought iron.

Archelogs studying old helmets often find that they had over a

hundred years of use before being abandoned. This was true of other items as well.

BLAST FURNACES

The price of iron items came down with the introduction of blast furnaces from Belgium. In these furnaces two steps occurred in the one firing: first the blooms of iron formed as before. Then blasts of air burnt off the excess carbon producing a mild steel. (decarburation) The next improvement was the use of water power to pound the steel into bars using hammers set on a fulcrum. The pounding removed slag or impurities (mainly silicon). Next the bars were passed through rolling mills that progressively thinned the metal. (Again water power was used)

IMPROVEMENTS

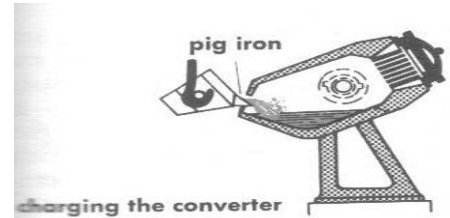
Abraham Derby introduced the use of coke (charred coal) instead of charcoal in 1709 as England found its charcoal running out. In 1784, Henry Cort invented the puddling process whereby the coke and the iron were kept separate. All these processes brought the cost of iron items down. (showing some understanding that it was the reducing atmosphere that caused the reaction)

Still by the mid-nineteenth century, cast iron was used whenever possible because of costs. It could be poured into fairly elaborate shapes; many have survived to this day, preserved by heavy coats of paint.

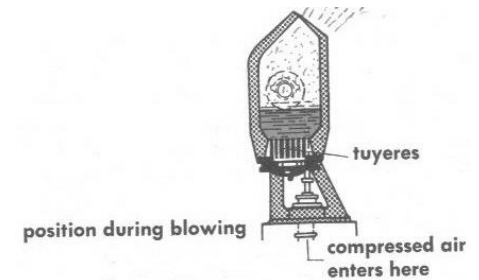
In 1856 Henry Bessemer invented the Bessemer Converter which produced steel with no slag and a good quantity of carbon. Therefore it was strong, of higher tension strength, and cheaper than puddled iron.

In the accompanying diagrams we follow pig iron as it is converted to steel in the Bessemer Converter. Bessemer was English in spite of his name.

Step 1. Charging converter with pig iron



Step 2. blasting with compressed air



Step 3. discharging slag, floating on steel



Step 4. Discharging the steel





MARINE SOUNDINGS of the Provincial Marine
Windsor Charity Bingos, Hbc, Trillium Corporation, ECFDC
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



MEMBERSHIP reminder from Jane Teeple

We're holding the line on prices. Current paid membership: 103

Jane Teeple, our membership chair, sends out reminders. Membership is \$15 single; \$30 family. Insurance is an extra \$7 per active re-enactor member. Single with insurance is \$22. Family is \$30 plus \$7 for each insured member. Uninsured members can take part in **occasional events** by paying \$1 per day. Rumour of insurance price increases are common. To contact Jane Teeple:

Jane Teeple
443 Dalhousie Street,
Amherstburg Ontario, N9V 1X4

Jennie Lajoie

THE COMMISSARIAT

Our beautiful little building was busy again this year. We were open for the summer with our students and volunteers and saw many visitors from all over the world.

In May I attended the Questors meeting and was gratified to be introduced to the assembly with high praise for our group. Many of the Questors attended our brick dedication and came back to the commissariat for a reception and the unveiling of portraits relating to Amherstburg and the War of 1812. The portraits are, of course, the most significant acquisition this year. The portraits include George III, a museum-quality photo of the original Josha Reynolds painting that hangs in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. It is surrounded by a magnificent frame which was purchased at a charity auction in Washington, D.C. and originally came from the White House. The other portraits are of Commander Barclay, and Generals Brock, Prevost and Amherst. We are presently scheduled to receive funds from Community Funding which will pay for the repair of the frame and we have requested funding from the Questors to pay for the portraits. I will be attending the fall Questors meeting on October 28th and should return with their verdict. They did indicate at the unveiling that they were very favorably disposed. The portraits were featured in the **Essex Crier**.

We held a yard sale to coincide with Art by the River and it proved to be extremely successful, bringing in over \$300.

During the summer the town requested us to act as greeters for the OMA – Dave and I were in kit and greeted the two buses as they stopped – they picked up their ice cream and then proceeded into the KNYP and the commissariat – we were again showed with praise. “This is the first time we have been greeted like this!” and “This is just wonderful” were typical comments. It was so successful that an additional day was added for the walking tours.

The commissariat was also host to the Art of Peace Garden presentation on September 16th, and provided refreshments after the ceremony. We also provided the site for the Horticulture Society's luncheon after a memorial tree planting.

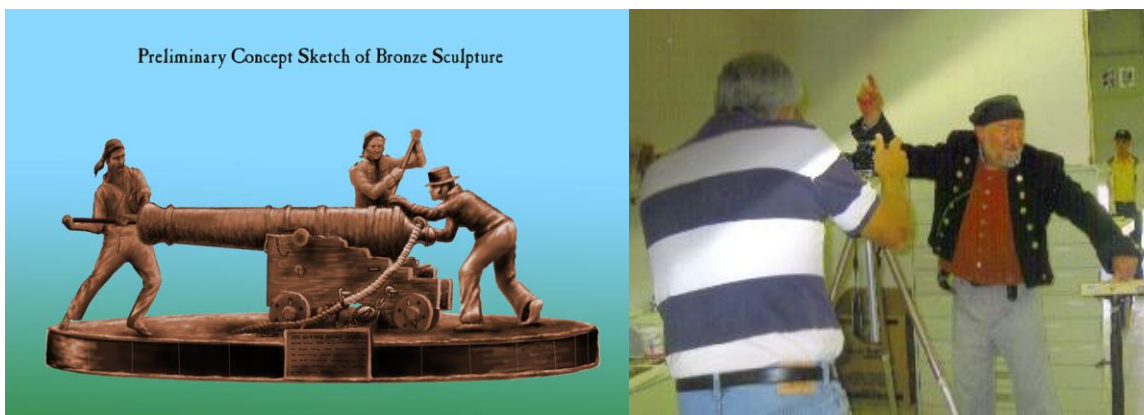
The commissariat will again be open during the River Lights this winter.

Jennie Lajoie

MARINE SOUNDINGS

The Provincial Marine Newsletter—SCULPTURE UPDATE

I asked Peter how the sculptor was chosen. Peter replied that they did interview sculptors, but not all sculptors felt competent to do a public sculpture of this size. These days because of the cost of bronze there is the additional hazard of thieves taking parts of sculptures for the scrap value of the metal. In the end they chose an experienced man who worked on art for the Ford Motor Corporation and who felt competent to deal with these problems. Here's Peter's Report:



Recently, before sending in a Trillium progress report, Provincial Marine members visited the sculptor's studio. The Battle of Lake Erie Monument, when completed, will consist of a full sized 24-pounder cannon, served by four naval individuals in action poses. Present funding will allow two of these figures. PM members were able to see both of these figures partially completed in modelling clay inside the studio. The sculptor has taken numerous photos of our members posed in period clothing, as well as borrowed some of these clothes to guide in his detailing. One of these figures will closely resemble our deceased member, Tom Teeple, who was active in building and operating many of our black powder field and swivel guns.



crew figures.

The monument will incorporate one of the cast iron cannons, formerly owned by Project HMS Detroit, but now held by the Town of Amherstburg. The carriage for this gun will be cast in bronze, to ensure longevity. The whole monument assembly will be set on a pad of textured masonry to simulate a wood deck. The finish date of the present two gun crew figures has still not been set, but the sculptor, Mark Williams (at left) says that his progress is on track, and the monument is scheduled for a major unveiling ceremony in the summer of 2012. A search for funding is currently underway to finance the two additional gun

Peter Rindlisbacher



Provincial Marine Membership Matters



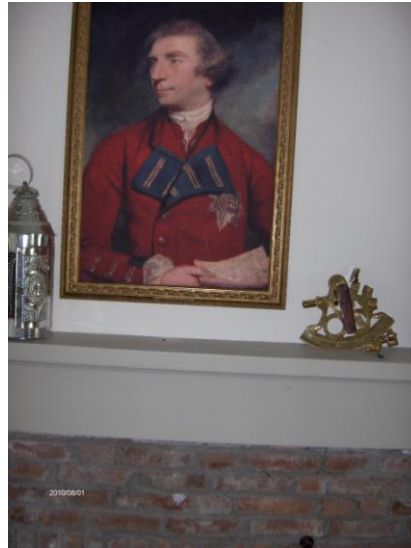
Our Christmas Parade
This year we tried a new theme—Pirates---that proved



popular with the children along the parade route. Imagine my surprise when I saw our entire jolly boat decorated with pirate items—skulls, skeletons, shrunken heads, and it was lighted by an otherworldly purplish glow. We have to thank Vicky Beaulieu and her husband for loaning us this collection that must have taken years to assemble.

Our Annual Brick Dedication is made to seem very special because of the recitation of poetry, the solemn reading of names, the firing of the cannon, and the assembly of many members and the public. Often members of parliament or the legislature make an appearance. This year the public saw the newest addition to our collection: portraits of people

intimately connected with our history—King George III, and General Amherst, (pictured below) after whom our town was named.



The November 11th Parade has always been a time to get together and this year proved to be no exception. This year we shared the honour of firing the gun salute with the Fort.



The Boat Report

The boats are all prepared for winter: the northern canoe has been turned upside down and is located on top of its trailer towards the back of one of the Ferguson

lots. It has a water panther painted on the bow, but the insignia at the stern will be left until we have a reason to change it. The jolly boat is located at still another piece of property and will take part in the parade. Now the HMS DETROIT PROJECT was not putting it into the water and it will leak terribly when we put it into the water after so many years. We intend to reintroduce it to water in a very controlled way. We'll use a boat launch to gently lower it into the water and gently raise it. That way it won't sink to the bottom immediately. If it is done right we may avoid recalking the boat. You may think that wooden boats float, but remember it has a lot of lead and iron in its keel. So hopefully a controlled rewetting of the jolly boat that will allow us to try it on the river again.

OTHER WINTER EVENTS

At the opening of the River Lights Festival, we fire a cannon and we keep the commissariat open on Friday nights. We offer hot cider and a cookie to our visitors.

The PM provides a lantern lighting for the audience at St John the Baptist when the Windsor Symphony comes to Amherstburg.

The Bingo Report

The recession and the opening of the Casino struck into the bingo revenues, but with the closing of many bingo halls, Brenda Mayer, reports that bingo revenues are on an upward climb.

Final Images—

Marine Soundings is sponsored by
Essex CFDC, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Windsor Charity Bingos, and Hbc

