

They can rebuild it

Huron Historical Parks has investigated whether a modern version of the Tecumseth could be built and sailed.

The answer is "yes." A ship that looks like the Tecumseth could be built and satisfy late 20th century safety standards.

A study is as far as the idea has gone. How such a vessel would be used and where it would be built are two issues to be addressed.

The ship that is envisioned would be 20 feet longer and 10 feet wider than HM Schooner Bee. The Bee is 49 feet long (more than 62 feet including the bow spirt) and 15 feet wide.

quite a different kettle of fish than the Bee," Burke Penny, HHP's manager of resource development, said.

The Bee cost \$200,000 in 1983. The estimate of the cost of building a Tecumseth is \$500,000.

The remains of the original Tecumseth are on display in the parking lot of the Historic Naval and Military Establishments. HM Schooner Tecumseth was launched in April 1815 at Chippawa, on the Niagara River, too late for action in the War of 1812. She was 70 feet 6 inches long, 24 feet 5 inches wide, and carried two 24 pound guns and 30 men.

For two years, the Tecumseth was used as a supply ship on Lake Erie. Ordered to Lake Huron, within weeks it was sent to Penetanguishene.

While at the Penetanguishene Naval and Military Establishments, the Tecumseth made one significant voyage. Troops were carried to Drummond Island, near Sault Ste. Marie. In 1828 the British Admiralty ordered that the Tecumseth be broken up. The order couldn't be carried out. The Tecumseth, rotting and in need of repair, sunk in Penetanguishene Bay in 1825.



The hull remains

Part of the hull of HM Schooner Tecumseth is all that remains of the ship launched in 1815 too late for the War of 1812. The remains of the hull was raised from

the bottom of Penetanguishene Bay in 1953. It is on display in the parking lot of the Historic Naval and Military Establishments. (Murray Moore)

Waltec did much for labor relations

Waltec Sinkware can add another award to its collection.

The Midland company became winners of the silver award of The Canada Awards for Business Excellence, recently. This is presented annually by the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, honoring Canadian companies which have shown excellence in areas such as labor-management co-operation and innovation.

Waltec was presented with the silver award in the labor-management co-operation category "for outstanding co-operation in the implementation of a productivity improvement plan."

During its 26-year history in Midland, Waltec has done a lot to promote a labor-management relationship and has proven successful. It has never experienced a work stoppage, says vice-president and general manager Hudson Leavens.

Leavens says the company prides itself on the employee family relationship which exists. Each employee is a valued worker and is given an opportunity to participate in the decision making process at the company.

During the recession of the early 1980s, a number of programs were implemented to keep the

company stable and maintain a profit.

Two programs of special importance were introduced; The gainsharing program, where employees could realize financial gains when the company was profitable and quality circles, which enables the employees to actively help bring improvements to the company through suggestions.

"We do our best to continually listen to our employees, address their needs and correct the problems," Leavens says.

For the 26 years it has been in existence, it has had a good relationship with its union, Sheet Metalworkers International Union 504.

A major part of this relationship is based on trust. Each employee is a trusted member of the team. There are no time clocks in the plant.

"We don't have a police state here as they do in some factories. There is a trust here," says Ron Hunt, marketing services manager. "If we work together and work efficiently we all share and all gain."

Last year, for example, the company proved its gain sharing works. Its return on net investment was 70 per cent above target and it experienced record sales and profit figures as well. With all this, it paid out more than

\$900,000 in gainsharing, quality circle and achievement bonuses to its 179 employees.

In order to keep these

programs successful it spends more than \$200,000. These programs are in place to ensure the employees participate and

grow as employees, says Hunt.

Although pleased with the recognition Waltec has received from this award,

it has only served to inspire the company onto greater achievements.

"It's nice to be praised, but it has really inspired us

to be better," says Hunt. "We can't rest on our laurels. To learn by example is probably the best learning technique."

'Furnishing fund' receives high praise

Georgian Manor employees are well on their way to raising enough cash to pay for new furniture and equipment costing \$100,000.

The "furnishings fund" for the retrofitted Georgian Manor received high

praise from Simcoe County councillors last week at their September meeting.

Established to pay for furniture and equipment not in the new capital budget, the amount in the fund now totals over \$55,000 - well on the way

to its goal of \$100,000.

Funds are being gathered by payroll deduction and special events including sales, raffles and entertainment.

On Sept. 7 Penetang Mayor Frances St. Amant gave \$10,000 on behalf of

the town to Social and Family Services chairperson Harry Adams. He called the response to the fund "a credit to everyone who works at the manor and to all of those who have contributed from the surrounding area."

Monies raised from the fund will buy furniture for the new and expanded resident activity rooms, lounges and dining rooms.

County councillors were told that construction on the manor is almost on schedule. Recent delays with roofing have set the project back approximately two weeks.

Markham flies again

Markham Airways Ltd. will be operating a flight school and charter service at Huronia Airport as soon as a licence is granted by Transport Canada.

Negotiation between the Huronia Airport Commission and the Markham company concluded successfully.

Four Seasons Flight Academy offered a similar service at Huronia Airport until April 30, when it ceased operation. The public airport has been without a locally-operated charter service since May 1.

Markham Airways will start with one airplane and one instructor during the period of transition from satellite to permanent status at the airport.



A learning experience

Students from Huron Park School (left to right) Ken Moss, 12, Jason Devillers, 11, Tim Mason, 10, Michael Sommerfield, 9, Tim Thayer, 8, Nick Duff,

9, and teacher Brian Walsler look on as teacher Rose Miller gives blood at the blood donor clinic in Midland last Wednesday.

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