

Introduction:

The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets

The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets is a youth organization sponsored jointly by the Royal Canadian Navy and a civilian body, the Navy League of Canada. Membership in the Sea Cadets is open to any boy between the ages of 14 to 18. During the school session, the Corps hold weekly parades, aboard Naval training establishments where these exist, or in other suitable quarters. A training program, similar to that given to Navy reservists, but suited to the lower age group is prepared by the Royal Canadian Navy and administered by the Corps' own officers. To the more senior cadets fall many responsibilities to assist with the Corps organization and the instruction of the younger boys.

The purpose of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets is not to recruit and train boys for the Navy, but to use naval training as a means of developing character and producing good citizens, whatever calling they may follow in life. Of course former Cadets do follow the sea and the Royal Canadian Navy relies very heavily on former sea cadets, for its officers and ratings. At the time of writing (Spring 1964) there are about 10,000 sea cadets in Canada.

In Kingston, Ontario, the R.C.S.C.C. "ST. LAWRENCE" was formed in 1942 and has been thriving ever since. Many of its former cadets served in the R.C.N. during the war, and all, whatever vocation they have since taken up, have benefitted by their time in the Sea Cadets.

Building of "St. Lawrence II"

It was in the fall of 1952 that the idea of a sail training vessel for "ST. LAWRENCE" began to take definite form. The Corps was at its greatest strength; enthusiasm for the idea was high. The original plan was to buy an old fishing schooner on the East Coast, but a search revealed nothing suitable so it was decided to build a ship specially for the job. The design was undertaken by one of the Corps' Officers, a