

The War of 2012!

(The third of a three-part series)

By Derek Wolfe

First, a thank you: On behalf of the Friends of Mariners' Park Museum and its staff I wish to thank all who attended the July 7th Fish Fry. I would like to think that our "call to arms" to help support the Museum and show Council that we are a vital part of the County and South Marysburgh helped to make the event so well attended. Just as likely it was the weather, a gathering with friends, cold beverages and a great serving of fish! Whatever the case - many, many, many thanks - the overflow crowd has been noted and you have served notice to Shire Hall that we all do make an effort to help ourselves.

My final article on the topic of helping us deliver a message to Council regarding museums and town halls etc., has to do with an event that is dear to my heart. On August 12th at 1:00 p.m. South Bay United Church will host the 88th Annual Mariners' Memorial Service. As PEC is essentially an island, one knows that the maritime history we have runs deep and strong. It is something that must be preserved, must be cherished and must be honoured. The men and women who first settled here had only the waters of PEC as their roadways and as a primary form of sustenance. The waters were not always kind to them - as the many cemeteries of the county can attest.

The following are some of the names of families who have etched their stories deeply into our maritime heritage: Wellbanks, Ackerman, Farrington, Hudgin, Dulmage, Hicks, Mouck, Bongard, Minaker, Whattams, Lancaster, Scott, Hinemen, Rankin, Frost, Ostrander, Lobb, Palmateer and McCormack. To be sure an incomplete list, with my apologies to any and all that I have overlooked. These early pioneers and their stories will be a focus of our service this year.

There are only two memorial services in Ontario dedicated to honouring our maritime heroes and heroines and their stories. Knox Presbyterian Church in Goderich, Ontario and South Bay United Church in PEC are all that remain to preserve this tradition. In February 2013 Knox will hold their 100th annual service and, as mentioned this year is our 88th service.

I would like you to help us keep this tradition strong, vital and alive. Be part of the preservation of our history. Joining us on August 12th will be members of HMCS CATARAQUI, the Ontario Provincial Police, CFB Trenton - 8 Wing, the Canadian Coast Guard Reserve and the Wellington and Picton Legions. An offering will be accepted. Following the service join us in the museum for light refreshments and a display of past memorial services dating back more than 70 years complete with photographs.

August 12th @ 1:00 p.m.
Mariners' Memorial Service,
at South Bay United Church.

More information can be found in all local papers or by calling Mariners' Park Museum at 613-476-8392 Wednesday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Derek Wolfe is Chair of the Friends of Mariners' Museum)

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