



Our own Badger, Penetanguishene's "Small Tall Ship", reflects a colourful Naval heritage

## A Great Year in Review *and more to come in 2008!*

2007 was another great year for The Ship's Company, with many appearances at events including programs at the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum, the Fall Fort Willow Heritage Days (pictured), "Celebrate Barrie" in the Spring, "Wasaga Under Siege" in July and a Coldwater Canadiana Museum event in August. 2008 looks even busier - just check out the Planned Activities list in this newsletter. Wishing everyone fair winds and good times...

*The Ship's Company Board of Directors*

## Boatshop News

Work (and play) is taking place every Monday and Thursday from 7 – 9 p.m., followed by some socializing. Everyone is welcome; no skills are required, with lots of opportunities for learning.

Maintenance on the Badger's hull and spars is complete but we still have to check and repair rigging.

Work is progressing well on our new 17' boat (currently named *Kingfisher*) with hopes to launch her this summer. It is an interesting and challenging project. We have plans in place but often run into obstructions at the actual construction stage. This involves some head scratching, a number of ideas and options and finally a general consensus as to the best approach. This vessel will be unique and will employ a number of features seldom seen on modern boats, such as tanbark sails, 2 masts, a dipping lug rig on the mainsail, a leeboard, retractable bowsprit and boomkin and, of course, a cannon. *Kingfisher* should be a real head turner as well as a challenge to sail.

Other projects taking place in the shop are a cannon truck and related tools plus some upgrades to our display materials for shows and events.

## Irish Dancing

Our big social/fundraising event this spring is the Ceilidh (kay-lee) on May 10 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (17 Poyntz Steet, across from Tim Horton's) in Penetanguishene. Maureen Mulvey will be back again to teach us some Irish Dancing moves which can be put to practice to music. It is always great fun and we still have some tickets - just \$10.00 per person for a really enjoyable night out and great socializing. Call Joanne and Mark at (705) 549-0581 or email [hmsbadger@csolve.net](mailto:hmsbadger@csolve.net)

## What's in a Name?

Our flagship H.M.S. *Badger* certainly fills us with pride, but did you know that just before the Napoleonic Wars there was an H.M.S. *Badger* in the Royal Navy? The *Badger* of Lord Nelson's time was an armed brig. She was approximately 70' on deck and carried 12 4-pounder cannon as well as swivel guns.

This *Badger* was Horatio Nelson's first commissioned command and the second ship in the Royal Navy to bear that name. Brigs like her were often used for convoy duties, reconnaissance and checking other ships for trade contraband. The *Badger* was employed in the West Indies and soon captured several prizes.

In December 1777 Nelson was directed to command the *Badger*. He joined her in January 1778 - this was his first command. The next months were spent chasing sails sighted, conducting shipboard maintenance, and victualling. The latter was a big part of the operations necessary to keep the ships going. On one occasion, while moored in Port Royal, Jamaica, the *Badger* took on fresh beef, pork, bread, butter, oatmeal, peas, 1,600 gallons of water, and 320 gallons of rum(!).

In June 1779, Nelson was promoted to Post Captain and was eventually transferred to another vessel. He was succeeded on board *Badger* by Cuthbert Collingwood - who ultimately would be second in command at the Battle of Trafalgar many years later. When the war with America ended, *Badger* was eventually sold out of service.



Before

Work's progressing well on our newest boat, H.M.S. *Kingfisher*

See over for 2008 Events and more 