

# The Northern Mariner / Le marin du nord

## Volume XXIX, Number 2

(Summer/Ete 2019)

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## From the editor

As I write this, the editorial team is hopeful that this issue will be in the mail by mid-January. This issue again has two articles, a document and, of course, the book review section. (The tentative line-up for issue 2019/3 currently has three articles.)

The lead article is by Peter Mispelkamp. Like many who enjoy history and complete graduate work in the field, he must count as an avocational historian. That said, he has contributed to a number of different publications, and is a frequent reviewer here. It is a pleasure to welcome him back to the journal, for he previously published an article with us in 1996. Here, he examines the Monk/Bourassa relationship in the debate around the Naval Service Act. While I do not normally quote from referees' reports, perhaps I may this time. The reader

said, “it’s a splendid examination of an important aspect, which the author rightly concludes has been overlooked.” Further, it “adds some deeper understanding” to that debate.

The second article quite literally comes from our archives. Some readers will remember that CNRS was established in 1982. The first conference was held at the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1984. A selection of the papers were distributed in a stapled, photocopied production of just over one hundred pages. Members of the editorial board and the council thought that where we are able to get permission to republish, some of the papers have indeed “stood the test of time,” and deserve a wider circulation. The editorial policy for these papers will be to publish them as they appeared in the 1984 booklet, “Canada’s Atlantic Connection,” with only minor revision. For example, footnotes are brought up to date, (the Public Archives of Canada is now the Library and Archives Canada), spelling where necessary is corrected, and more generally brought in line with our style guide. There are no substantive revisions.

The first of these articles, and the second one in this issue, is by Walter Lewis, our production editor, and well known in Great Lakes history circles. He has most recently published in this journal with “Lighthouses in Upper Canada, 1803 - 1840,” which was in the first issue of 2018. His contribution here examines the development of steamboat service on Lake Ontario.

The document has also come to us through Walter. It is the diary record of the building of a lake steamer named the *Gore*, built over the winter 1838-39 by Robert Gilkison at Niagara. Thus it is an easy complement to his article reviewing of lake steamboat service. It also provides a window on the shipbuilding business, the challenge of keeping employees occupied, design, and contractual issues. Although the nature of ships may have changed, perhaps the problems of building them have not!

It is, as always, a pleasure to thank those who have been of such material assistance in putting this issue together - authors, referees, book reviews, our translator, and the editorial team who volunteer their time and expertise.

Bill Glover  
December 2019