



# THE PERRY GROUP • PUT-IN-BAY, OH CAPTAIN'S LOG

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and guests who participated in our group events in 2021. Please join us in 2022 and beyond. I also want to thank our board members, volunteers, and donors who help in our mission.

The single greatest value in the island area is to become a member of the Perry Group. We host the most interesting events annually and The Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial was named the BEST EVENT EVER ON LAKE ERIE by Lake Erie Living magazine. Joining the Perry Group and help supporting the National Park Service is MISSION 1 in the island community. We are building towards BICEN10 the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie and we still hear the sounds of THE Ohio State Marching Band at Put-in-Bay in 2013. The fireworks were far and away the BEST EVER in the islands as we put the explanation mark on The Stars and Stripes Forever. Please renew your existing membership or take a minute and join the Perry Group. Full Details are highlighted on these pages.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial under the direction of superintendent Barbara Rowles is in a full go mode for 2022 with the seawall restoration and a host of upgrades. Superintendent Rowles highlights the work underway and coming to the Visitors Center will help you understand and navigate the upgrades.

Our team has been busy with re-creating, upgrading and moving the Perry Group website, booking the Jet Express and Niagara for events, writing grants as well as working with the United States Navy and supporting Perry's Victory. Our board has expanded and new committees are being formed. Needless to say it is the **Best Time** to join or renew your membership.

The victory in the Battle of Lake Erie is why we all enjoy the bounties of our wonderful community. One only has to think for a brief moment how defeat would have changed all of your experiences today. Victory allowed America to RECLAIM the Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana territories. Northwest Ohio had been under siege throughout the war. The needed upgrade to our stature as an American and securing our independence from Great Britain flowed after the victory. The magnificent monument and National Park at Put-in-Bay is the forever Peace Memorial and we should always remember the importance.

In closing, thank you for your support and membership. We welcome your interest and look forward to a great season of opportunity.



David R. Zavagno  
*President*

## 2022 • ISSUE 1

### PERRY GROUP BOARD MEMBERS

DAVID ZAVAGNO  
PRESIDENT

•

MIKE MANS

•

MARC BURR

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ROBBY MORROW

•

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•

TOM THANISU

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## Seawall Restoration Project Underway

*By Barbara Rowles  
Superintendent, Perry's Victory and  
International Peace Memorial*

We've been working towards this for several years and are extremely happy that the project to restore the seawalls at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial is finally underway. Completion of this important project will protect the Memorial from future flooding events and create safer conditions for residents and visitors by limiting wave overtopping and managing stormwater. We understand the inconvenience

that this may cause and will do everything we can to keep everyone informed and minimize disruptions.

E.S. Wagner Co. from Oregon, Ohio was awarded the contract and has been working with the National Park Service and others over the winter to prepare. They will be mobilizing in March with construction starting in early April. Temporary utility relocations were completed in late 2021 and all utilities will be returned underground when the seawall project is complete.

*Continued on page 3*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE 2022 EVENTS

The Perry Group is planning several exciting events for the 2022 season. Our first event is in June. Members and their guests are invited to attend a reception at the Perry's Victory and Peace Memorial Visitor's Center. Specifics for the date and time will be forthcoming.

On July 4th we will host a wine and cheese reception at Perry's Victory and Peace Memorial Visitor's Center. A *limited number* of tickets will be available to the top of the monument for a spectacular view of the Independence Day fireworks. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased in advance on the website.

On Saturday, August 20th we will host a reception aboard the tall ship Niagara. This event is Free to Perry Group members, and \$75 per person for non-members.

On September 10th members are invited to ride the Jet Express from Put-in-Bay to the site of the Battle of Lake Erie where a wreath will be placed in commemoration of the 209th anniversary. This event is FREE to Perry Group members (snacks and a drink will be included). A cash bar and some food will be available. ■

*For more information email: [perrygroupinfo@gmail.com](mailto:perrygroupinfo@gmail.com).*



*The U.S. Brig Niagara is home ported at the Erie Maritime Museum, Erie, PA.*



### JOIN US...

The Perry Group is a Friends Group organized to support the mission and goals of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. In addition the Perry Group has a schedule of social, philanthropic, and historical events commemorating our unique history. Active members enjoy regional event and membership meetings to help build a lasting foundation for continued growth.

*We invite you to join us as a member in this mission.*

#### YOUR 2022 PERRY GROUP MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Membership card and a Perry Group member coin
- Exclusive member only events as well as discounted public events

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP – \$45**  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$90**



Visit [www.friendofperry.org](http://www.friendofperry.org) to become a new member or renew your existing membership.

#### OUR MISSION

The Friends of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, also known as The Perry Group, is a 501(c)3 volunteer, nonprofit organization working with the National Park Service and the local, national and international community to commemorate the Battle of Lake Erie and celebrate the long-lasting peace between Britain, Canada and the United States.



## OH Perry's ICONIC RETURN by Peter Huston

This month the Ida Rupp Library is focusing on genealogy. As a board member of the Perry Group ([friendsofperry.org](http://friendsofperry.org)) I wanted to get you excited about Oliver Hazard Perry's return. In 2023 we will be celebrating the "Bicen+10" of Perry's Victory. That's 200 plus ten years celebration of Perry victory. Not many people alive today can claim to be directly related to O.H. Perry. His iconic image is part of our countries history.

For me Commodore Perry aboard a rowing gig transferring his command from the Brig Lawrence to the Brig Niagara during the Battle of Lake Erie is one of these powerful iconic American scenes, the most famous painted by Ohio artist William Henry Powell in 1857. The scene has been painted repeatedly and it is "the image" that we attach to the Navy's most steadfast motto, "Don't Give Up The Ship". And while Perry is not the originator of that slogan, his love for his fallen friend James Lawrence, commander of the "Chesapeake", propelled him to create the "DGUTS" flag that has made it one of our most well known historical American folklore images. Surprisingly, today the "DGUTS" flag image stands alone from the Battle of Lake Erie. For many Americans the slogan, the flag, even the painting are not necessarily attached to the heroic events that made Perry's success in the Battle of Lake Erie become legendary in his own day.

There are dozens of versions of this iconic scene. From the black and white lithograph from Yale's collection to the

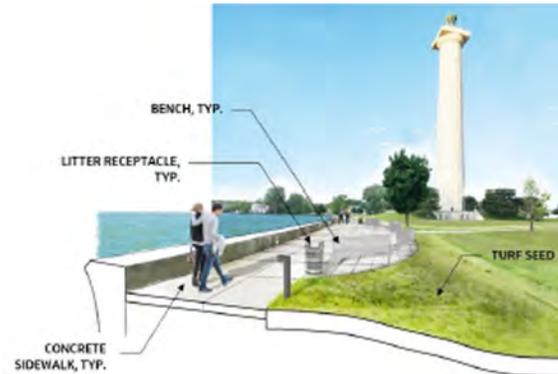
most famous Powell version that adorns the rotunda outside the halls of congress. Some of these paintings have as few as 6 men aboard, while others have as many as 10. Some show Perry carrying the "DGUTS" flag, others have the American Colors flying from the bow. One thing we can be fairly certain about, when Perry was being rowed to the Niagara the battle was still raging all about him. He probably did not have many able bodied men left after the Lawrence had been pummeled practically into splinters. I would also bet he did not want to draw overt attention to himself. Never the less the image we hold dear today is what we are after, but as historically correct as possible.

I can't believe how lucky we are to have this authentic replica of the country's most iconic historical Navy symbols on display at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial every summer. Our journey to build this infamous boat, took us to Boston, Burlington (VT), Newport (RI) and Erie. We enlisted the expert eye of Bob Reynolds Grandson of Scott Matthews (Matthews Boat Company) to help us in this quest.

Thanks to Riddle Boat Works, the Sandusky Maritime Museum, Bob Reynolds and Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial you can learn about and see this living icon. I promise you need to see it with your own eyes this year, in all its glory. Follow our journey to 2023 and the Bicen+10. [www.friendsofperry.org](http://www.friendsofperry.org)! ■

## Seawall Restoration Project Underway

*Continued from page 1*

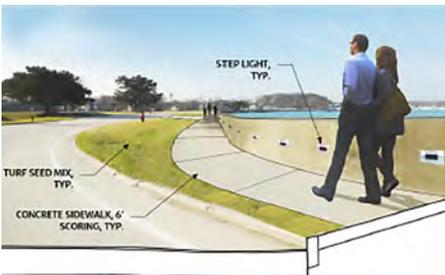


### Details of the project:

- The south seawall will be raised 18" from current height as well as the walkway and an 80-foot extension will be added to the southwest corner adjacent to the swim beach. Work in the area nearest the swim beach will begin mid-April and should be complete by the end of June so that the swim beach is accessible to the public by July 4th. The remaining sections of the south seawall will be complete by the end of October 2022.
- The north seawall will be raised 12" at the northwest and center sections transitioning to 24" taller at the far northeast. Work on the northwest section will be completed April – June 2022 and the north center section and northeastern sections will be completed April – October 2023. A new walkway will be added along the north seawall.
- The seawall will have the same footprint except for a slight change to the tight curve just east of the Memorial creating more space between Bayview Avenue and the seawall.
- A new drainage system will be installed with the south side completed in 2022 and the north in 2023. Package pump stations will be added to provide the ability to drain the site during high water periods.
- An AquaDam will be used to dewater construction areas instead of a traditional sheet pile cofferdam system.

*Continued on page 4*

# Seawall Restoration Project Underway Continued from page 3



- A few visitor experience improvements will also be included.
  - Flush mounted step lights will be added along both the north and south seawalls to light the walkway at night.
  - New seating areas with benches and trash receptacles will be added to the diagonal walkways on the south and in the grassy triangle by the Dairy Isle.
  - A new interpretive plaza directly across Bayview Avenue from the Memorial will be added with full length depictions of the decks of the US Brig Lawrence and HMS Detroit carved into the walkway. Wayside panels will be added describing both vessels.
- All seawall related work will be complete by the end of 2023.
- Project Schedule
  - South Seawall – April through October 2022
  - Southwest Extension – April through June 2022
  - Northwest Seawall – April through June 2022
  - Northeast – March through June 2023
  - North Center - March through October 2023

We are so grateful to the South Bass Island/ Put-in-Bay community for the support of this project and the input provided during the planning process. A major undertaking such as this cannot happen without the involvement of many, as the saying goes “it takes a village”.

Looking ahead, planning for the restoration of the Upper Plaza has started with an Architect/Engineering firm and we expect this project to be under construction in 2023 and 2024. We'll have more details to share later this summer.

Staff will arrive soon, and the park will open for the 2022 season on May 21. We plan to open the Memorial for tours to the observation deck with modifications to the operation to minimize risks to staff and visitors. Rangers will be offering outdoor programs and historic weapons demonstrations will continue with musket

demonstrations every weekend and carronade firings one weekend a month. We will continue to monitor COVID19 conditions and adjust operations if necessary.

One of the highlights of the season will be Perry Birthday weekend as both the US Brig Niagara and the Pride of Baltimore will make a stop at Put-in-Bay, August 20 and 21. Planning is still in progress so more information to come.

Remember to mark your calendars for the anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie on Saturday, September 10, and plan to make some VICTORY noise at 3:15pm.



We look forward to the season and to our continuing partnership with friends and neighbors in the community. We also want to express our deep appreciation to the Perry Group for the ongoing support of the park through their advocacy and fundraising efforts. ■

## SUPPORT THE PERRY GROUP WITH A PERRY'S MONUMENT SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE



*A portion of each sale is donated to the  
Perry Group.*

USE THIS QR CODE TO  
ACCESS ONLINE ORDERING  
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OR GO TO:

[WWW.BMV.OHIO.GOV/VR-SP-GENINFO.ASPX](http://WWW.BMV.OHIO.GOV/VR-SP-GENINFO.ASPX)