Save Ontario Shipwrecks and The Gelber Group present

Ghost Ships of the WAR of 1812

The Hamilton and Scourge: A battle for survival

One night during the summer of 1813, two armed American schooners sank in Lake Ontario in a violent storm. These remarkably intact ships, and the forty-two American sailors who were lost, lie in dark waters, 90 meters below the surface.

The *U.S.S. Hamilton* and *U.S.S. Scourge* are the only intact War of 1812-14 warships in existence today. When the U.S. government gave these vessels to Canada in 1980, their safety seemed assured. Today, despite their designation as a national historic site, they are at risk from sourvenir hunters and the natural environment where they rest.

Something must be done, and done soon.

The opportunity to study these ships is slipping away. We are also concerned about the preservation of their artifacts and the site's status as the grave of 42 American sailors. We have invited five experts to discuss the future of the ships:

- Robert Grenier, Chief of Underwater Archaeology, Parks Canada; and President of the International Scientific Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (UNESCO)
- Dr. Robert Neyland, Head of Underwater Archaeology, U.S. Navy
- Dr. William Dudley, former Director of Naval History, U.S. Navy
- Jonathan Moore, marine archaeologist, Parks Canada
- Ian Kerr-Wilson, Hamilton & Scourge Project, City of Hamilton

Come, learn more, voice your concerns.

Wednesday, March 9, 2005. Bar 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. $20. Tickets are limited.
The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto at 14 Elm Street, Toronto

If you would like to attend contact Elaine Wyatt (ewyatt01@hotmail.com) or Wilson West (wilson.west@sympatico.ca). Please put Hamilton and Scourge in the subject line of your email.