



# Maritimer

February 2011

## THIRD FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 26, 2010, the Hon. John Duncan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of the Hon. Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced a funding contribution of \$806,688 to the Ladysmith Maritime Society's Visitor Facilities Project. This third contribution was the final step in enabling the project to proceed. Also taking part in the announcement were Chief John Elliott of Stz'uminus First Nation, Joe Stanhope from Island Coastal Economic Trust, Mayor of Ladysmith Rob Hutchins, and LMS President, Doug Bell who said that it is an important part of making Ladysmith a major "Tourist Destination Center".



*L-R: Chief John Elliott, Hon. John Duncan, Joe Stanhope, Rob Hutchins, Dave Ehrismann (facing away), Doug Bell*



*Buffi David, Pearl Harris, Chief John Elliott*

Buffi David, Pearl Harris and Chief John Elliott opened the ceremony with a prayer and a welcome to their traditional Stz'uminus land. Doug shared his strongly held views about LMS volunteers. "The Ladysmith Maritime Society is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. As you look out over the water - the maritime museum, the heritage vessels, our harbour tours, support for Cowichan Independent Living and Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society (our purple martins), First Nations canoe journeys – everything you see is a result of the commitment and the thousands of hours of volunteers energy over the past 25 years."

**You can be part of the project –see p. 4**

## **FIRE AT LMS MARINA**

On the night of Jan. 5/6 a fire at the LMS Community Marina consumed 4 boats and 5 boathouses. Two boathouses and 5 boats were extensively damaged. About one hundred feet of the main boathouse row dock, 2 fingers, electrical cables under the dock, six power posts, and two fire extinguishers and their boxes were destroyed; another 100 feet or so of the dock and one finger were scorched. The steel pilings have survived.

The response of liveboards, LMS volunteers called out in the middle of the night, Ladysmith Fire Department, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Canadian Coast Guard, Ganges, and Coast Guard Auxiliary Station 29 was exemplary. Thanks go to each and every one of the responders without whose help the damage sustained would have been considerably greater.

In another part of the marina, a gentleman, who was sleeping on his boat with his wife, collapsed as he prepared to disembark. Although CPR was administered and he was quickly transported to hospital, he unfortunately died. Our hearts go out to his family.

Since Jan. 6, the marina and office have been host almost daily to insurance adjusters, fire inspectors, salvage crews, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans and Environment Canada staff, electrical contractors, and RCMP officers. On several occasions the docks were closed to all but those immediately involved with the investigations; we thank our moorers for their understanding.

The pieces from the five boathouses and four boats which sank have all been raised and placed on barges for further examination. Clean up of debris not

contained by the hazardous material containment booms commenced as soon as volunteers were allowed in the area. Orders have been placed for new docks and decking. Electrical posts and fire extinguisher boxes will be built in the shop.

LMS is most appreciative of the offers of assistance which have come from many quarters.

The interests of LMS are being competently represented by our insurers and lawyer who deployed a fire engineer from Seattle and an insurance adjuster from Vancouver to act on our behalf. The investigations of the RCMP, Ladysmith Fire Department and the moorers insurance companies are nearing completion. The only public statement made to date is that there is a vessel of concern.

Thorough investigations like these are time consuming and reports are often not available for several months. As more details are released from the investigators, we will provide further updates.

### **MEMBERS/MOORERS MEETING**

Thursday, February 24, 2011  
1900 (7 p.m.)

Multi-purpose room  
Ladysmith Senior Secondary School

#### **AGENDA**

- Jan. 6 fire information
- Visitor Facilities Project update
- Moorage rates & contracts

pick up your 2011-2012 moorage contract

## ORIOLE'S OLD MAST



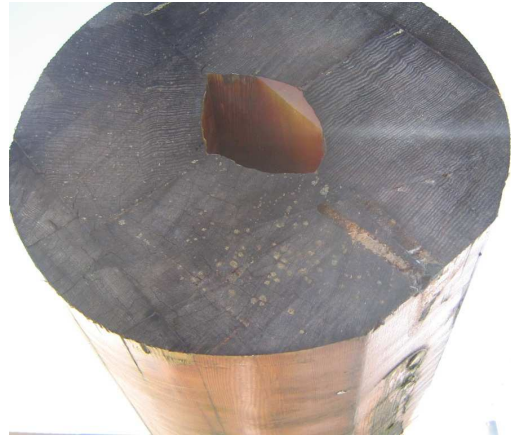
*Jim, Barrie, Betty, & Harold with HMCS Saskatoon skipper, Lt/Cdr Patrick Montgomery (centre)*

Jim Montgomery, Barrie McDonald, Betty Pearson and Harold Moy traveled over the Malahat on a 2-part trip early in November. They first visited "Yacht Tech" in Sidney to look at an old mast off *HMCS Oriole*. The mast had been sitting in Yacht Tech's yard for about 3 years since a replacement mast was stepped on *HMCS Oriole*. Mast details: it is mostly hollow, round, tapered, constructed like a barrel, of fir, and is the bottom 82 feet of the original 112 ft. (top was broken off). The base is delightfully imprinted with coins that were placed under the mast when it was stepped, maybe 30 years ago.



*base of mast*

Our four directors agreed with Yacht Tech's owner that the mast is too valuable to cut up into firewood, and yet it is worth nothing as a mast. On consultation with the other directors, LMS accepted Yacht Tech's generous offer to donate the mast to LMS and to deliver it to our workshop, where it now resides. (It was cut into 3 pieces to transport).



*top*

Various suggestions have been made as to how best to utilize this piece of west coast marine heritage –post in the new visitor facility, sitting posts, display cross-sections and base, backing for recognition plaques, rings for picture frames, use bits to make dice, etc. The Heritage Committee will be brain-storming on this and welcome all suggestions.

Part two included a tour of *HMCS Saskatoon* and lunch in the officers' mess.

### 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you haven't renewed your membership,  
now is the time  
Get your 2011 cards at the  
Members' meeting Feb. 24  
\$5 – youth    \$20 – single    \$35 – couple

## HELP

No matter how many volunteers are actively helping us out, there are always more jobs/projects needing some assistance. A few which could do with some help are:

- Tool maintenance/refurbishment – approx. 4 hours per week - this job needs someone willing to keep our tools in good condition and sorted out. This can be done either in conjunction with the Saturday work parties or at another time convenient to you.

- Workshop overseer – to maintain a regular workshop “open” schedule – not every day, just a regular schedule so everyone knows which mornings/days the shop will be available

- Office assistance during moorage contract time – receiving signed contracts and payments from moorers. Several people could share this month of March job.

- On call typing/clerical assistance as projects are identified.

If you can volunteer a few hours to help, please call Dave @ (250) 245-0109 or e-mail to [lmscommunitymarina@telus.net](mailto:lmscommunitymarina@telus.net)

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 25<sup>th</sup> AGM of Ladysmith Maritime Society was held November 23, 2010 in the Eagles Hall. After the usual reports were presented and approved, the meeting was turned over to Jim Montgomery, chair of the nominating committee. Jim outlined the procedures and invited each of the candidates for the four director positions to speak prior to balloting.

For the first time, some members took advantage of the 2008 by-law change allowing absentee ballots; ballots arrived by e-mail, snail mail and hand delivery.

A lively social period was enjoyed by the many members in attendance while the ballots were being counted.

The successful candidates were Doug Bell, Paul Notte, and Betty Pearson for 3-year terms, and Marnie Craig for a 2-year term. The executive positions were determined by the full board at the first meeting after the AGM with the following result:

President	Doug Bell
Vice-President	Cliff Fisher
Secretary	Barrie McDonald
Treasurer	Betty Pearson

the full list of directors is on p. 8

## BE PART OF OUR VISITOR CENTRE PROJECT

LMS is launching a public fund raising campaign.

**A brochure with more details will be handed out at the Meeting Feb. 24.**

We need to raise funds to purchase:

solar hot water system  
heat pump  
sewage pump out equipment  
elevator  
kitchen and laundry appliances  
dishes, cutlery, pot & pans  
barbeques, benches & heaters  
chairs & tables  
meeting room equipment  
+ lots more

No donation too big or too small  
Charitable receipts issued

You can help by volunteering your time, introducing us to potential donors, donating, offering your ideas for fund raising, and joining our fund raising committee.

Contact:

Tim Richards at 250-245-0377 or  
Marnie Craig at 250-245-4578.

## **MARITIME FESTIVAL MAY 27-29**

The festival organization has started with volunteers from the Ladysmith community and LMS membership, who have offered to help, over and above the festival days; they are contacting donations of large tents, making contacts with tall ships, and generally working on the formation of another great festival. As we progress, there will be need for additional volunteers in building the overall structure and donating their time during the festival's 3-day period. Planning includes a Friday night community dinner at the Stz'uminus cultural centre, lots of family fun and music during Saturday and Sunday, a Saturday evening dinner/barbeque to meet the skippers of the heritage and tall ships. Sunday we hope to close with a bang, after a full day of fun.

Additional volunteer help and input would make it easier for all. If you would like to contribute to the success of the 2011 festival, please contact:

Cliff Fisher 245-9236

or

Dave Ehrismann 245-0109

## **MEMBERS SURVEY**

About 5 years ago, the board surveyed the membership to determine what directions we should be pursuing, and if current initiatives were being supported by the membership. At the time, it was clear that the membership was unified in expressing their support for what the board was doing and what it was planning to do. Last fall we re-surveyed the membership to determine whether or not there were any changes in this support. It is gratifying today to look back and see that the support continues unchanged.

Enhancing the waterfront and having good relations with the town and the Stz'uminus First Nation are seen as the most important priorities for the society.

Five open-ended questions were asked in the latest survey. Not surprisingly, there were no surprises to your answers. People originally joined LMS for the same stated reasons as in the previous survey and they see themselves contributing to LMS primarily through volunteering. This time they were more specific on how they would volunteer, with a large number expressing their willingness to contribute their specific skills that they felt might be needed by the society.

New to this survey was an explicit willingness for people to consider serving on the board. Our focus for the immediate future is clearly one of working on what we have (our facilities) and our relations with the community and SFN neighbours.

In response to being asked what LMS is doing right, members responded overwhelmingly that they were very happy with all that is being done and has been accomplished. It appears that all our current initiatives are well supported throughout the society.

The question of what to do with our restored vessels presented the same answers as in the previous survey. It seems that there is a combination of using the vessels, displaying them in the water, and displaying them on dry land with a planned program of disposing of some vessels when finished. Finally, members were asked what LMS should be doing better. No clear response emerged, but the suggestion that we must start looking after ourselves is one that is new and clearly popular.

Survey & summary by Jim Montgomery

## KEITH GILLANDERS

A young, energetic, retiree at age 55, Keith W. Gillanders has become project manager for the Visitor Facilities Project.

Keith, who retired in 2008, is taking time out from renovating his Boat Harbour home to oversee the implementation on a voluntary basis. As former business manager of North American Natural Gas, for Petro Canada and, before that, with more than three years in Norway as manager of PC Norway Inc., he has spent his working life building pipelines, compressor stations, and working on oil and gas projects. His broad experience in construction and management will stand him in good stead as he coordinates and facilitates the completion of the new LMS projects. As he says, “this feels almost like going back to work, but more fun.”



The purpose of the new two-storey visitor centre is to encourage marine tourists to consider Ladysmith as a vacation destination, rather than as a brief stopping point, and it will offer washrooms, showers, a laundry and meeting areas on its first floor. The second floor will be a large open area in

which community events and functions may be held. The building is planned to be environmentally friendly, with solar hot water heating and a heat pump. The new gangways and boat wastewater pump-out system will serve tourists and local boat owners alike. All will play an important role in fulfilling the LMS’s stated objectives of welcoming the community to the waterfront, preserving maritime heritage, and promoting marine tourism, according to Dave Ehrismann, LMS executive director.

All three projects are scheduled to be completed by late summer or early fall, at a cost of \$1.6 million.

When his LMS work is completed, the prairie-born Gillanders, a graduate of the University of Alberta, will return to the house renovations he and his wife, Rosemary, have underway. Ocean kayaking, recreational running, and dog-walking with his labradoodle are also on the agenda in this area that Gillanders considers to be his Eden.

Interview and picture from Gillian Murad

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*Jim Montgomery looking way too relaxed*

## SARAVAN NEEDS SOME WORK



Our flag ship is in the shop for a well-deserved restoration after 20 years of faithful service. A while back rotten wood was noticed above the water line in the area of the port quarter. After moving *Saravan* to the shop, a shipwright was hired to remove some planks in order to determine the extent of the damage. Last week she received a thorough marine survey-inspection of the hull. While the rot is more extensive than anticipated, it's not insurmountable – early indications are that the hull is structurally sound. This is tremendously good news! The ring timbers

comprising the stern will have to be removed clear down to the hull planking. Several hull planks should be replaced and the keel cooler re-bedded.

Now is the best time, if you are a person with a modicum of woodworking skill or interest, to step forward to help with repair and further restoration of *Saravan*. Our new approach to restoring heritage is to restore as fully as possible to original condition. This means a number of other more cosmetic items will be on the work list. See you at the workshop!

## \*\* TOP TEN CHANGES \*\* to MOORAGE AGREEMENTS

1. **New Schedules** - Moorers must be knowledgeable of the Moorage Agreements they sign.
2. **Stronger enforcement** of standards and Agreement
3. **\$2 million liability insurance** - minimum has been increased
4. **Protection & Indemnity (P & I)** - coverage must include bodily harm, property damage, removal of wrecks, and clean up
5. **Parking rules**
6. **Power consumption** - to be no more than 15 amps
7. **Boat house standards** - have been increased
8. **Boathouse inspections** - being instituted
9. **Liveaboard expectations**
10. **Rates** - increased

If you would like to discuss your Moorage Agreement, please schedule an appointment with Dave Ehrismann at:

250-245-0109 or

[lmscommunitymarina@telus.net](mailto:lmscommunitymarina@telus.net)

## YOUR 2010-2011 LMS TEAM

Executive Director	Dave Ehrismann
Wharfinger	Mark Mercer
Directors	Doug Bell
	Marnie Craig
	Cliff Fisher
	Barrie McDonald
	Jim Montgomery
	Harold Moy
	Paul Notte
	Betty Pearson
	Tim Richards

## LMS VESTS NOW AVAILABLE



The vests are royal blue with the logo and “Ladysmith Maritime Society” embroidered over the left breast.

Men’s & Women’s  
L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Volunteer Price \$10

Regular Price \$30

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

It is only because of the commitment and the hours contributed by our dedicated volunteers that our programs and facilities continue to improve and are increasingly important to so many members of the community.

As a small token of appreciation to our many valuable volunteers, a pizza party was held in the LMS office on 28 January. 152 volunteers were sent invitations; regrettably, we have no contact information for another 3 volunteers.

Do you have a Sony Betamax video tape player that we can borrow? We have 2 old tapes that need to be digitized for the LMS archives.

Call John 250-245-5544.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Feb. 24 – Members’ Meeting**

**May 27-29 – Maritime Festival**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues. of month (usually) – board meeting**

## LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

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