

Ladysmith Maritime Society Board of Directors Meeting

June 17, 2015 9:00 am – Noon

Expo Building LMS Office

Minutes

In attendance: **Directors:** Shirley Blackstaff, Bob Cross, Allan Gould, David Grimstead, Jim Phillips, Rod MacNeil, Betty Pearson
Guests: Gerry Beltgens
Staff: Debbie Loewen, Rod Smith

Betty Pearson, President, chaired the meeting

The meeting began at 9:00 am with a 15 minute in-camera session

The agenda, the April 14, 2015 and April 30, 2015, board meeting minutes were **approved**.

New members **approved:** Darlene Paulson, Ladysmith; Charmaine Campbell, Ladysmith; Mark Bogart, Nanaimo; John Monaghan, Ladysmith; Ken Ireland, Ladysmith; John & Norma Neil, Chemainus; Daniel McArel, Ladysmith.

There was some discussion about the criteria for membership and a suggestion that perhaps a volunteer could be found to investigate what other similar organizations use as criteria and approval process.

Guest and Pirates Day Chair, Gerry Beltgens presented a report on Kids Pirate Days activities: The Pirates walk about was great for publicity and a huge hit with folks at Laff and Ladysmith Primary School. Poster distribution was terrific. Pirates Pub night was a full event and great fun. Staff of the Fox & Hound donated \$50 of their tips in support of the new Transfer Beach playground equipment. June 6th was a busy day – kids everywhere, the fishing dock dipped under the water a number of times with the weight of the kids and parents (floatation should be beefed up next year). Kidnappings and hangings raised about \$450 for Transfer Beach and it was great fun with the Mayor being a great sport. Gerry stated he is keen to see the Festival expanded next year with perhaps a big community wide Festival for 2017 (Canada's 150th). Gerry felt that the big highways signs, word of mouth and social media were the big traffic drivers. Rotary want to stay involved. The Board was appreciative of Gerry's hard work and Rotary's involvement. It was a real community event with support from Rotary, Kinsmen, the Dragon boaters, RBC, Atlas Marine, LDBA and dozens of volunteers.

Bob Cross reported on the Maritime Heritage Festival (May 29, 30 & 31): There were twenty impressive boats that took up all the available dock space. Friday night was a good night for the participants. Saturday there were lots of visitors and all the food sold. Vendors on the docks were very happy. The Harbour Heritage Centre's unveiling of the Long Wharf Coal Diorama was

a great success with 107 people signing the guest book. The Captain's Dinner was a big hit and the Coal Diorama creators were pleased to be treated to a steak dinner. Over the Festival Days more than 200 people were booked on free harbour tours.

David Grimstead presented the Treasurer's Report: David advised that revenue and expenses are tracking well and on target for the most part. Of late the relationship with Ladysmith & District Credit Union has not been great primarily to some recent changes in the way they operate and a lack of customer service. David was encouraged to send a letter expressing the Society's displeasure with our treatment. David advised that he has met with RBC and is expecting a proposal from them in the next couple of weeks that would cover banking services, investment management and loan rates.

Moved: Jim Phillips/Rod MacNeil to accept the Treasurer's report – **Carried.**

Betty Pearson presented the President's Report: Resignations had been received from Jay Page and Lane Befus.

Moved: Bob Cross/Rod MacNeil to accept the resignations with regret.

Betty Pearson met with Charlene Lee of the Purple Martin group and advised her that they need to carry their own insurance for their volunteers. New arrangements have been made to pick up and store bottles and cans so they are not stolen in the middle of the night. Bottles and cans are a significant source of income for our Purple Martin friends accounting for about \$1800 last year. The birds returned early this year. It's expected the annual open house will be in July.

Pearson reported that the 30th anniversary celebration went well with about 70 people in attendance. Approximate cost was \$1300. Pearson also reported that she, Shirley Blackstaff and Barrie McDonald greeted a group of seven people from the Town of Ladysmith Heritage Revitalization Advisory Committee at the Harbour Heritage Centre on June 16th. By all accounts these folks were impressed with the Centre and have asked LMS to participate in the committees meetings.

Rod Smith presented the Managing Director's report ([attached](#))

Debbie Loewen presented the Board with an update on marina operations: All moorage renewal agreements are complete with just a couple outstanding due to sales, etc. Recently two boathouses had been sold. Staff was advised that boat house sales need to be approved by the Board. As these sales are now complete and contacts have been signed it is essential that the new owners are in compliance as they indicated they would be by signing the contract. Staff was asked to follow up. Staff was also asked to bring LMS boathouses into compliance asap recognizing that we are headed into our busiest part of the season.

One of the annual moorers was complaining because marina staff needs to move his boat from his current slip in order to address a safety issue in another slip. The Board provided marina staff with direction to insure any safety concern was addressed promptly and reminded staff that it states in the moorage agreement that LMS has the right to move boats as appropriate.

Jim Phillips inquired about the status of the safety plan implementation. Rod Smith will investigate and report back. Rod MacNeil suggested that staff might want to take a look at the breakwater set up in Brown's Bay just north of Campbell River.

Shirley Blackstaff presented the Heritage/Museum Report ([attached](#))

Rod MacNeil presented the Heritage Boat Update. The guys in the Shop are making stands for the Heritage outboard motors currently in the Shop so they can be properly stored and displayed. Rod had attempted to take Saravan over to Vancouver for a recent boat show but was forced to turn back – just too rough. Saravan will be going to Cowichan Bay June 27 & 28 and hopefully to Ganges and False Creek in the summer. There was a discussion about the Shop space which Rod M thought works well but there is a need to upgrade the sump pump and get some dust control in place.

Rod Smith read out **correspondence** received since the last Board meeting.

Under **Other Business**: David Grimstead expressed his frustration in trying to deal with the Ladysmith and District Credit Union and asked for the Board's support to send a letter of displeasure. The Board supported David in this. David stated that he is expecting a proposal from RBC shortly. There was a discussion about what jobs are appropriate for volunteers and the need to insure that the work volunteers do is personally rewarding.

LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

Managing Director's Report to the Board June 17, 2015

HOSTS

Last summer, thanks to a core group of dedicated volunteers, we ran a very successful greeting program. The comments from visiting boaters were terrific. They loved having our blue-shirted ambassadors there to catch a rope and provide them directions to the facilities and to Town. This year under the direction of Cecilia Grimstead we are off to a great start. Please consider helping. Shifts are four hours (1:00 to 5:00) and it really is a great way to spend an afternoon with our friends. Cecilia can be reached at clgrimstead@gmail.com or you can contact me at admin@lmsmarina.ca

Welcome Centre Doors

First set of art on the doors was installed the first week of May. The comments have been very positive. Second set will be installed in the fall.

Law Suit

You will recall that a past boathouse owner has brought a small claims action against LMS regarding the destruction of their boathouse after it was removed from the marina. That law suit has been dropped by the complainants.

Festivals

Another great year! Thank you to Cliff Fisher, Bob Cross, Gerry Beltgens, Rob Pinkerton, Art Rendell, Rotary, Kinsmen, the Dragon Boaters and the other 100 plus volunteers who made both the Heritage Boat Festival and Kids Pirate days a huge success. A special thanks to RBC Ladysmith for their sponsorship and for manning the PFD booth and to Atlas Marine and the LDBA for their financial support. The highlight for me in addition to the boats on May 30th was the official opening of the Long Wharf Coal Diorama in the Harbour Heritage Centre. The Centre was packed and the showpiece that these volunteers – artists – created is simply world class, a must see. I think there were more people at this year's Pirate Day on June 6th than last and last year we estimated 3500 people. What a great day. And the Friday night Pirates at the Pub Night was a fun addition as was the capturing and eventual hanging of the mayor (and others). I am a bit concerned that our local Pirates are going over to the dark side. After all that's how Sir Francis Drake started his eventual Pirate career. What will next year look like? Arrrrrrrrrr!!!

No Discharge Zone

January 22, 2015 with the approval of the Board I sent a letter to Minister Raitt (DOT) urging that DOT drop the proposed change in the no discharge zone from three miles to one mile at least until the science had been presented to support the proposed change. I can advise the Board that DOT has dropped this proposed change for now. Phase II of this approach is to get the area around our pump out station (three mile radius) declared a no discharge zone.

Update: I received the official letter from Minister Raitt stating that the proposed change around how small vessels manage their sewage: " will not be proceeding any further in the regulatory process."

Viki Lyne II (Aberdeen)

As of today's date the letter that went to Minister Raitt jointly signed by Chief John Elliott of Stz'uminus First Nation and Mayor Aaron Stone of the Town of Ladysmith has not received a response. I remain in touch with the Canadian Coast Guard but have little to report at this time other than I am developing a strategy involving more public information and more organizations focused on the problem of derelict vessels while not losing sight of the urgency around this particular vessel.

Ladysmith Community Clean UP

By all accounts this Earth Day plus event was a great success with a couple of hundred people (including school groups and scouts) showing up to cut, sweep and pick up. Certainly the area around the Machine Shop looks much better. "Well done" to all those who pitched-in.

Insurance

We completed the review of our insurance needs and all policies are in force at this time. There is a meeting the week of June 15th with our insurance agent to go over the specifics of each policy and to review the costs.

Structure

Early in the year we began a process of reviewing our structure with regard to our charitable status and the application of GST. I supplied a package of information to and met with the firm of Bull Housser in Vancouver. We have received a memorandum from the firm with recommendations about wording of our mission/mandate and suggestions on how we should proceed with GST. There is some clarification required but I expect there will be recommendations brought to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Update: Bull Housser has expressed the opinion that: “all of the current activities of the Society are either permitted charitable activities, or permitted as a related business activity under the ITA and CRA policy.”

Marina Layout

Informal discussions involving staff and volunteers took place in May and the decision was made to bring in a professional marine surveyor to develop some options. These are being received now and once cost/benefit analysis is completed a presentation will be made to the Board for consideration.

Café Update

“All great plans...” Back in April we thought we had a workable staffing plan but it was not to be. The Café is now open from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Friday through Monday with Trudy in the kitchen. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday coffee is on and muffins and buns are available. While this is not ideal it seems to be meeting the needs of most of the people we serve.

Dine on the Docks continues the sellout run it started last year and the food has been spectacular.

Safety & Security

Over the past couple of months there have been four or five incidents involving theft or break-ins in the harbour. In an effort to address this concern I have had a number of meetings with the TOL, the RCMP and a private security company. The RCMP have been very helpful, Dave Herman – detachment commander - in particular. Although he said he didn't have the resources to provide more frequent coverage of the marina, there has been an increased presence and he has reported some of what has been observed directly to me. He also introduced me to RCMP member Dawn Portman in Nanaimo who is the liaison for the Harbour Watch Program. I also met Bill Williams the volunteer coordinator of the program. I am looking at introducing this successful program in Ladysmith harbour and will have a follow up meeting with the RCMP before the end of June. At this point I believe a combination of increased security that includes: closer liaison with the Ladysmith RCMP detachment; a Harbour Watch

Program, some coverage by a private security company; boom sticks to the beach on the south side of our marina; additional security cameras; increase signage and a meeting & training session for liveaboard members will greatly enhance our safety and security. More later.

Expo Building (or the Machine Shop)

It appears TOL has decided to go ahead with upgrades on the building if they can find the grant money. June 1st Council directed staff to apply for a grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. I have sent the TOL a letter of support for this grant application. There has not been any information coming forward about the use of the building or the process to determine same.

Grant Applications & New Staff

Our Gaming grant application was submitted May 25, 2015 for the same amount as last year \$17,225. We should hear back in the fall. We received a positive response to our grant application to Young Canada Works Museum Program and have hired Jennika Erickson to work with Shirley from June 1st to the end of August. Jennika is a great addition to the team. Please make sure you drop into the Harbour Heritage Centre to introduce yourself. Also please say hi to Logan Godau who currently helps out in the marina Saturdays and Sundays and who will be around more beginning late June. We did not, unfortunately, get a positive response to our grant application for a dock assistant. We will still need more part time help and will, as has been our practice, give priority to hiring a First Nations student.

Clean Marine BC

In a June 1st letter we received official notice from Georgia Strait Alliance that through their independent certification process we were being awarded a 3-anchor eco-rating recognizing our commitment to Marina Environmental Best Practices. How 'bout that! This speaks volumes about the dedication of volunteers and staff to step up their game in addressing one of our key mandated goals of protecting the harbour for public access, the promotion of tourism and the promotion of our maritime heritage. On June 19th Michelle Young of Georgia Strait Alliance will be here to make the official presentation. It is my expectation that there will be press coverage and that the mayor and perhaps Chief Elliott will say a few words.

June 19th is also the start of a major awareness campaign by LMS about the benefits of our organization's involvement in the Clean Marine BC program. One of the immediate benefits is that we received congratulations from our insurance agent who then forwarded notice of our certification on to our individual insurance companies. Why? Because it is another example of how far LMS has come since the fire and when combined with our other achievements is likely to have a positive impact on our insurance costs - something that should interest our members and moorers.

We also received congratulations from a number of other sister marinas certified under the program. We are a member of a pretty exclusive club, a club whose members I can reach out

to for advice, joint marketing opportunities, to consider the problem of derelict vessels and for assistance in helping us achieve 5-anchor certification.

I am very excited about this program and the opportunities it affords us and once again would like to thank Niels Weise for all the volunteer hours he put in to completing the original assessment and his further offer to help develop our goals and plans based on the recommendations from Georgia Strait Alliance.

Rod

Heritage/Museum Report – June 9, 2015 – submitted by Shirley Blackstaff

News - Our summer student is Jennika Erickson - hard worker, good with the public, great assistant

Maritime Museum

- Need more greeters for Maritime Museum
- Need the help of a carpenter or handy man
- Museum office is being used by museum greeters, researchers, student and Tour Boat operators for their phone and booking records
- Working on improving present displays and creating new ones

Harbour Heritage Centre

- Unveiling of the completed Long Wharf Coal diorama was a great success, well attended, volunteers felt supported and appreciated
- Harry Southern - slide show is excellent, <https://youtu.be/Swk-iRII1r0>
- New informational display board has been drawn-up for the Forest – Log Dump Diorama, so it matches the appearance of the coal display board.
- Need two more greeters for the Harbour Heritage Centre

Education Programs Field Trips (LMS Trip #1 is the most popular.)

- Had a Grade 1- 2 class who enjoyed their program immensely
- Two more classes booked for June 16 & 23
- Slide shows for Forest, Fishing, Oyster and Coal industries for our visitors and student groups - made by John Rodall for use on the big screen TV
- Need more volunteers to assist with our educational programs

Summary: LMS staff, members, community and visitors have shown support and appreciation for our heritage displays and educational programs. This is very encouraging. Thank you