

Ladysmith Maritime Society

2016 – 2017 Tour Boat Report

The Ladysmith Maritime Society's harbour tour continues to evolve. 2017 was a difficult year as we lost a significant number of key volunteers. The schedule was cut to five days a week due to lack of operators. Even so we carried about 450 paying passengers and 150 free ones on festival days.

Revenue was on par (\$4,900) with other years even with the reduced schedule. Expenses were \$1,940. Two operators were educated at Safer Ocean Systems and received SVOP (Small Vessel Operator Permits), MED certificates (Marine Emergency Duties) and a number of LMS members took First Aid training. The remaining expenses involved repair and service to the outboard motor. It continues to run adequately but will need replacing down the road.

The Maritimer is in good shape due to the diligence and expertise of the crew from the Car Shop. We continue to bang Maritimer around and they always spruce her up and make her look good.

Response from tourists and locals alike is always overwhelmingly positive. The cafe on our docks adds to the success as tour and lunch is a great draw.

The need for new operators is critical to our continued success. I would like you to consider volunteering for this very satisfying job. LMS will pay for your SVOP...a five day course in Nanaimo which entitles you to operate small vessels with up to 12 passengers such as whale watching, pickle boats, tour boats etc and you can call yourself "Captain". We ask that you commit yourself to two years with the tour boat program and hopefully more. The summer schedule is for one day a week for each operator in July and August with adequate relief as we all need summer holidays. I would like to see a significant increase in women operators. As well as getting your certificate you will receive training in operating the Maritimer and doing the tour.

Thank you.
Rob Pinkerton