

Ladysmith Maritime Society
Report to Annual General Meeting

2017 Heritage Boat Festival

The 2017 Heritage Boat Festival was held the weekend of May 26 - 28.

Most of the 22 participating vessels arrived on the Friday in time for their crews to enjoy the potluck supper. Saturday was "festival" day from 10 - 4. The vessels were open for viewing and a number of maritime-type displays were situated around the LMS Welcome Centre . It was busy as festival attendees walked the docks, went aboard vessels, and chatted with the owners.

A BBQ steak dinner was held on the dock on the Saturday evening and a wind-up pancake breakfast on the Sunday morning.

This program for the weekend has proven to be satisfactory for the participating vessel owners and the LMS volunteers.

Approximately 40 volunteers contributed over 200 hours in preparation and on the docks over the weekend. Many have indicated their interest in helping with the 2018 festival.

Saturday's volunteers received a chit for a complimentary burger or dog which they turned in to the Oyster Bay Cafe - cost to LMS of \$205. Two complimentary tickets were given to each participating vessel for the steak dinner. Other tickets were available for sale. Dinner ticket sales and donations contributed \$540 towards the expenses of \$1,500. An approximation of potential lost revenue due to two nights free moorage given to participating vessels is \$2,000. As no visitor vessels were turned away from the marina because the docks were filled with heritage boats, the lost revenue is minimal.

A number of the vessels at this year's festival had not previously participated. The goal is to have 40-50% different vessels each year.

Many of the visiting boaters were very complimentary about the warm welcome they received from the staff, the committee, and other volunteers. Several commented on the generosity of two nights free moorage and complimentary dinner tickets. Those who set up displays sold their products or spoke with festival-goers about their activities depending upon the type of display; all were pleased they had come.

Thank you to the directors who attended the Saturday night steak BBQ dinner. Your presence reinforced the welcoming atmosphere of LMS.

At a wrap-up meeting it was agreed that the 2018 festival should be held on the last Saturday in May; that is: **May 25-27, 2018**

Art & Heather Rendell and Jack & Ann Thomson have agreed to take on the overall responsibility for the 2018 festival.

All in all, the 2017 Heritage Boat Festival was deemed a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Pearson
Chair 2017 Heritage Boat Festival