

**Ladysmith Maritime Society**

**Harbour Tours Annual Report for 2013-11-09**

Good Evening

My name is David Grimstead and I began volunteering with Rob Pinkerton to co-ordinate the harbour tour program, last May, 2013. I soon discovered that we had a rather short list of volunteer operator from which to work. This resulted in running a greatly reduced schedule for last season. Basically, public tours operated Saturdays and Sundays throughout July & August and we responded to charter requests on other days of the week. I felt it was important to be consistent with scheduling, even though it was a reduced offering. In addition, a set fee of \$15 per person was implemented for participants with a \$40 maximum for families. In general terms, we were about \$1,300 in the red. Considering our reduced schedule, that was likely expected. So...a couple of upsides to the season include that encouraging charters really worked well for the program and the newly introduced fee was accepted without complaint. The feeling is that an hour and half tour is very reasonable at \$15. Another positive is that our volunteer operators did a fantastic job dealing with the public and insuring that all had a great time on the harbour tour.

I have some special thanks to mention to those individuals who stepped up and cared about the future of the program. These include Jack Bennet, John Beames and Earl McKeown who re-fitted Maritimer and made her sparkle.

Also our skippers;

Sandi & Doug Dobbs; Connie & Jeff Bremer; Rod MacNeil John Dul; Paul Notte; Bob Johns; Rod Sword and special thanks to Rob Pinkerton for his patience and support as I learn about the program.

Harbour Tours contributed approximately 300 hours of volunteering to LMS in 2013.

Now....looking forward to the 2014 season. We are planning to return to a full 6 day per week schedule through July and August. With 5 new candidates and our existing roster of operators, we should have 8 or 9 skippers. We intend to get the work out about the harbour tours including our own community who are often wondering what to do with those visiting guests!! Harbour Tours, combined with the facilities at the Welcome Centre can offer a great time for company or private functions. With a head start on marketing & promotion, I'm confident that we will see new energy and very full harbour tour boats next year.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

David Grimstead