

2014 AGM Managing Directors Report (for the record)

What a year. What a successful year and to a very large degree the success we enjoyed this year is directly because of the tremendous effort of the dedicated folks who volunteer at LMS.

All of the LMS community events – Heritage Afloat!, Kid’s Pirates Day, the Heritage Boat Festival were big hits with our community. Who knew so many people would come out in the middle of February and play on the docks – well done Shirley and your band of volunteers.

And John Horton night. If you were there you were squeezed into the Welcome Centre for a wonderful evening with Captain Vancouver (courtesy of John Horton) and about 80 friends and the food was spectacular – thank you to everyone who made the night such fun.

Kid’s Pirates Day set a new record with probably more than 3,500 people in attendance. At the end of the day I don’t think there was any fish left in the water. And how many burgers did you cook you wonderful selfless (smoked) volunteers. To the whole band of scurvy dogs who worked tirelessly – good job.

What a boat festival – dedication and all. Food was great, the boats were amazing and my guess is it will be even better next year. Thanks Rob Pinkerton and team. Cliff and Bob Cross thank you for all your work on the Festivals.

Speaking of food...Dine on the Docks hit it out of the park – ten events, each one sold out faster than the one before. Cheryl and Fern and your whole team – thank you. And the Oyster Bay Café – sales were three times our forecast and more than that...the food was amazing. Thank you Trudy for adding 3 inches to my waist and any Michel, thank you for pitching in and for your signature blackened oysters. I think we can safely say that “food” is a big part of the LMS identity.

So what does all this translate into? I hope for those of us who spend a lot of time on the docks it gives us a sense of appreciation for how much effort our volunteers put in to making LMS a special community organization. It certainly is appreciated by our visitors. You only have to read the guest book to see how

much our guests, visitors and “regulars” appreciate the love Trudy puts into the food she serves or how our work parties contribute to the marina experience through upkeep and beautification. Our HOSTS on the docks were a big hit. Thank you Rod Mac, Sonny Neils, Betty and others.

This past summer that appreciation and good “buzz” about the LMS experience translated into a 31% increase in visitor nights. We have actually increased visitor nights by over 100% in the last three years – not bad for a little community marina. Little community marina – yes but we can’t forget that we are more than that. We host the most successful Western Purple Martin Recovery program in the Province and our award-winning floating Heritage museum along with the Harbour Heritage Centre and our Heritage Boat Program should be celebrated. We are celebrated and profiled by our funders and the Provincial government. And how does the Town think we are doing? Just ask Geoff Cram or Wayne Richmond both of whom spoke glowingly about the positive impact of LMS on their businesses and the harbour in the ICET Annual Report.

But this is not a time to rest on our laurels. This past summer we had some success in getting the Coast Guard to pump out 22,000 litres of oil and water from the Aberdeen next door in lot 651 thanks to the action of LMS members. It could have been an environmental disaster. And if you look around there is much to do, much to clean up in the harbour and LMS should take a leadership role in this area. I dream of a time when the harbour from the south end of Transfer Beach to the government wharf is the jewel of Ladysmith for residents and visitors alike. It might take ten years or twenty years but I can’t see any reason to not take up the challenge and dozens of reasons why LMS should. And there is much to do in the marina itself as well. Repairs and maintenance will be the number one priority in the coming year along with the enforcement of policies and procedures to ensure safety and the enjoyment of the marina environment is something everyone can experience.

I want to specifically thank the Board for their support, in particular Tim Richards, Sonny Hockey & David Grimstead who are stepping off the Board. Debbie and Marc thank you for all your work this summer and fall. I appreciate the way you both just jumped in with both feet. Two tireless volunteers must be thanked – Betty Pearson, I don’t know where you get all your energy but I can tell you LMS just wouldn’t be the great organization it is without you and John Dul who

developed the Marina Management System and who has done so much more around here. Thank you both. Finally, working behind the scenes: Betty, Dave Ehrisman, Doug Bell – thank you for the hundreds of hours you put in bring the fire mediation process to a close and Barrie McDonald for negotiating a more favourable tax rate for us.

One more person (at least) I must thank for putting up with a non-stop list of dumb questions: Thank you Paul Notte for helping me understand how much I don't know. Here's to a great year!