

Ladysmith Maritime Society
30th Annual General Meeting – December 3, 2015
Reports

President's Report

As President, this past year, I have enjoyed the support of our staff, Rod Smith, Debbie Loewen, and Marc Pettigrew. It is much appreciated; and I thank each of you. I must point out that all three have volunteered many hours beyond their job description.

Two of our directors, Jay Page and Lane Befus, served for a short period before resigning when circumstances overtook them. I thank them for their contributions while serving. Your directors, Shirley Blackstaff, Bob Cross, Allan Gould, David Grimstead, Rod MacNeil and Jim Phillips have attended to the undertakings of LMS this past year. Thank you, all, for your assistance and friendship. I must single out for accolades, David Grimstead, who jumped into the position of Treasurer and has wrestled with the complexities of our finances – it's been a bit of a nightmare for him. Thanks for hanging in, David.

Jim Phillips, who has served his 3-year term as a director, contributed substantially to the marina operations and safety protocols. He will be missed at the board table.

Tonight, David Grimstead and Rod MacNeil are nominees for re-election. The rest of us are here for another year or two.

You will hear and read several reports which will detail Ladysmith Maritime Society's activities over the past year. I am on a nostalgic note in this, our 30th year.

On July 26, 1985 Ladysmith Tall Ships Society was incorporated by 9 founding members. We changed our name to Ladysmith Maritime Society in 1991. We have grown from an idea to do something special for Expo '86 into a multi-faceted society restoring and maintaining heritage vessels, showcasing maritime industries, providing affordable moorage for local residents, becoming a destination for visiting boaters, and growing into an attraction and a financial asset to the Town of Ladysmith. Over the 30 years, 95 members have served on your board of directors and many hundreds of volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to our ventures.

For 30 years Ladysmith Maritime Society has had an interest in what happens in Ladysmith's harbour. Our original 1985 constitution included the purpose of promoting the maritime history of the Ladysmith Harbour. In 1995 an addition to the purposes was to operate and maintain a marina for the purpose of moorage and to provide services for heritage and other vessels, including the heritage vessels owned by the Society. A major re-write of the constitution in 2008 emphasized that the over-riding purpose of the Society is to serve the community, including protecting and promoting public access to the waterfront.

This past year LMS has embraced the concept of cleaning up the harbour.

The concept of enhancing our environment is not new to LMS. For more than 20 years LMS has encouraged and supported the recovery of the endangered purple martins. From 3 pairs in 1989 – there were only a few pairs on Vancouver Island – the colony at LMS has grown to ~ 80 pairs; the most successful colony in Georgia Strait. The number of nest boxes in our colony has not increased in 6 or 7 years as the martins have been

encouraged to disperse and this year occupied 90 colonies; 20 of which are freshwater sites which formed their natural habitat. This bodes well for the birds recovery although they are not yet out of the woods.

At the September 9th board meeting it was moved and carried “that Ladysmith Maritime Society re-confirms its support of the Purple Martin Recover Program and direct staff to work with GBEARS (Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society) to develop a strategy to mitigate problems related to the birds in high traffic areas of the marina.” Also moved and carried “ to include Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) in the 2015-2016 budget to offset any LMS expenses associated with working with GBEARS.” Our support of the purple martins has been noticed, commented upon, and been one factor in our success in obtaining grants.

While we have no jurisdiction over District Lot 651, to our south, we have supported those endeavoring to eliminate the hazard presented by *Viki Lynn II*.

The Fall 2015 newsletter of the Georgia Strait Alliance, which is available at the door, highlights both the purple martins at LMS and the *Viki Lynn II* on pages 8 & 9.

What we can do, realistically, is reduce our own environmental footprint. LMS was awarded 3 anchors of a possible 5 by the Georgia Strait Alliance Clean Marine program. As I said, this is just the start; we want that 5 anchor designation!

As well, preliminary conversations have taken place around the possibility of enhancing the inter-tidal area of District Lot 2016 – the water lot on which our marina is situated. Now that is a really exciting prospect.

With a sound financial position and the support of our members we will continue to have a positive impact on Ladysmith’s harbour for the next 30 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Pearson

Treasurer’s Report

- On September 30th, LMS closed off another fiscal year. With a budget surplus and increased summer moorage, it was possible to pay an extra \$100,000 toward our loan. This leaves a balance of \$77,000 as of December 1st, 2015
- After an extensive of our banking practices we have decided to move to RBC. At the recent budget meeting, the directors supported the move to RBC with a new loan rate of 3.19%, down from 6% at LDCU, without encumbering any of our assets. This move includes a well-developed online banking platform for “non-profit” organizations such as LMS.
- The status of our banking change includes a recommendation by RBC for a conservative investment portfolio designed to preserve capital but provide growth beyond Term Deposit rates of 1.5 to 2.5%.

We are “holding” moorage rates for the upcoming year... it is important for our members to become involved in the society...either by volunteering or consider a donation to LMS. Your contributions are also “cost-saving” for LMS which really helps us keep moorage fees in check.

Also, if you were involved in the “opt-in” moorage sharing program...consider donating some back to LMS as another way of help us. Anything that you may be willing to contribute will help us to keep moorage costs in check.

Personally, if we do have to look at increasing moorage fees in the future, I'm in favour of small, cost of living increases rather than waiting and having to implement a larger increase later.

David Grimstead, Treasurer

Maritime Museum, Archives and Harbour Heritage Centre - Highlights of 2015

- Had an unveiling event of the completed Long Wharf Coal diorama in the Harbour Heritage Centre
- Celebrated the incredible talent and support of many volunteers
- Added a new Navigation, Safety and Communication display for the Maritime Museum
- Obtained the Young Canada Works Grant for our Museum/Heritage Assistant, Jennika Erickson who completed many heritage and educational projects during the summer
- Researched, designed and installed new signage for the Long Wharf Coal diorama and the Ladysmith Log Dump diorama
- Worked with the Ladysmith and District Historical Society to build on our Forest Industry exhibits to create joint educational program field trips
- Provided a number of LMS educational field trip programs for students with the assistance of tour boat operators and other volunteers
- Worked cooperatively with Western Purple Martin Foundation, Stz'uminus First Nation, LMS members and local citizens to create educational materials for our community heritage and cultural educational programs
- Participated in networking discussions with other Vancouver Island Maritime Societies to share knowledge and assist with common goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Blackstaff, Director

To accompany this Report, a very short slide show has been prepared to show on the big screen in the Welcome Centre with photos illustrating the Heritage Highlights of 2015.

2015 Maritime Festival

The 2015 Maritime Festival was very successful; our new Kid's Pirates Day chairman was Gerry Beltgens who was supported by Cliff Fisher and his band of pirates. Together they pulled off an amazing Kid's Pirates Day. The weather was spectacular and crowds on the docks were huge as usual. The kids enjoyed the Bullhead Derby. They were awestruck by Captain Jack and his/her crew. A great day!

The Heritage Day was well attended by many classic boats and crews from all over the Pacific Northwest. It started Friday with a meet and greet potluck on the docks, continued on Saturday with a steak BBQ and finished Sunday with a pancake breakfast.

I want to thank Art Rendell for organizing and inviting so many really cool boats. As well, a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this event such a success.

Planning is under way for the 2016 Festival which will be held on May 28th and June 4th.

Bob Cross, Director

Managing Director's Report

It has been a good year at LMS and I am hopeful that we can build on the success and the lessons learned from this year and past years to fulfill our mandate of serving the community as interested and invested stewards of the harbour.

I want to thank our dozens of dedicated volunteers without whom this organization would not exist, beginning with the Board: Shirley Blackstaff, Bob Cross, Alan Gould, David Grimstead, Rod MacNeil, Betty Pearson and Jim Phillips. I also want to thank Lane Befus and Jay Page who served briefly on the Board but contributed much including some personal lessons for me.

Diana Fisher and Cecilia Grimstead thank you the countless hours you have dedicated to serving our large team of volunteers and thank you to Anne Newell for running our membership program. I want to thank the teams of volunteers who worked on the docks, made Dine on the Docks such a success, scheduled and operated the tour boat and greeted our guests wearing their blue shirts and a smile.

I want to thank the folks who made the place look so great...Traci, Tricia and others. And the guys in the car shop who hide away for months doing what they do then out pops a beautiful creation. Our Festival team worked its magic again this year – fabulous events and more attendees than ever. Thanks Bob, Cliff, Rob, Gerry, Art and the dozens of volunteers who make these events so special. I want to thank Niels Weise who took on the daunting task of our environmental assessment and who is responsible for LMS receiving certification under the Clean Marine BC program putting us in elite company. The Dragonboaters are a delight to have on the docks and tremendous volunteers. I also want to thank Barrie McDonald, Doug Bell and John Dul for listening to me and advising me. I really appreciate your support. Thank you to our friends that live here in the marina. Your unique perspective on operations is appreciated as is your volunteer time and your role as the eyes and ears of the marina. In particular I want to Thank Brian Tilley for keeping the Welcome Centre open on weekends. Your efforts really add to the welcoming feeling on the docks.

Finally I want to thank Debbie and Marc. Last fall I threw them together without much of a job description and asked them to make the place better. They have and some of it hasn't been easy. There have been a lot of upgrades and a significant amount of repair and maintenance. They have my total confidence and my support as we head into the new year.

For the most part annual moorage spots were full all year and we have 43 active names on our waiting list. And visitor moorage hit a record level up from \$29,465 in 2011 to almost \$82,000 this season, thanks in part to the opt-in moorage program, thanks in part to the website but thanks to a large degree to word of mouth about our facilities and how friendly we are – again our volunteers were key to our success. Every month from March on set a new record for visitor numbers. We know most of these folks visit the town because they ask for directions, sometimes we take them there and often we see them coming back to their boats loaded down with supplies. That’s good for us and good for the town.

Dine on the Docks was a smashing success. Every one sold out. Trudy and Michel did a great job with the Café. The docks were well used by Festivals, a record number of rendezvous, music nights and impromptu gatherings.

I am told by our friends at GBEARS that the Purple Martins came back in good number again this year and the disabled sailing program operated throughout the summer. Harbour tours were very busy and traffic to the Harbour Heritage Centre and the floating museum was good. Folks who visited our museums were very complimentary of the facilities and the volunteers and Jennika Erickson (our summer student) for the information and hospitality they were given - all in all a pretty good year. We must never forget what sets us apart from other organizations is our large group of dedicated volunteers.

Rod Smith, Managing Director

Harbour Tours Annual Report for 2015

My name is David Grimstead and I began volunteering to co-ordinate the harbour tour program, starting May, 2013. At that time, we had a rather short list of volunteer operators from which to work. Currently, we are scheduling with 11 terrific volunteers. With the inclusion of a volunteer position for scheduling, we were able to run a full 7 day schedule through July and August this past season. Passenger wise, July is a still a bit “thin”, but it certainly picks up in August. 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 a special “thank you” to Wendi Waage. Wendi does a fabulous job of working with our operators, staff in the office and also the public as she handled the scheduling and really kept the harbour tour program running smoothly this past summer!!

The way the program is shaping up, we are budgeting for 3 new volunteers each year. We are asking for a two year commitment of up to 10 days per year; in exchange LMS pays for the required SVOP course and the operator retains that license for life. After the second year of volunteering, we certainly encourage and hope that the volunteer operator would continue with us, but more to their own scheduling wishes.

Harbour Tours contributed approximately 1,000 hours of volunteering to LMS in 2015.

Now....looking forward to the 2016 season. We are planning to maintain a full 7 day per week schedule through July and August. With 3 new candidates and our existing roster of operators, we should have 10 or 11 skippers. In addition, Harbour Tours is working with Shirley Blackstaff and her volunteers on developing group field trips which may include a harbour tour...this expands our program beyond July and August. Charters by request will be available starting in May and concluding at the end of September. We intend to get the word 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

Heritage Boat Committee Report

I am very pleased to report that our fleet was ready for a very busy summer season on time thanks to our group of dedicated volunteers.

The ambassador program gives us a lot of exposure. The Saravan is well received everywhere. During the Classic Wooden Boat Show in False Creek the Saravan had more visitors than any other boat and won first prize. At the Cowichan Classic Boat Show the Leslie was a big hit and got a lot of attention. Plans are in place to present the Leslie at all shows we are invited to next year.

The Sudbury and Leslie needed some attention this year; they both had problems that have since been taken care off. Both will be ready for display next year and in better condition.

Early next year the Kirkegaard will be taken out of the water for recalking, rewiring, safety upgrades and some cabin modifications. This will be a major undertaking for the crew at the car shop.

At present car shop crew are busy organizing and installing dust-collecting equipment. This makes for a safer and a better work environment. Our goal is to have the car shop in good shape before the Kirkegaard is brought in for overhaul.

We at LMS are blessed with the good fortune of having 8 highly skilled dedicated volunteers who contribute a minimum of 12 hours a week of their valuable time to the Society.

On behalf of the members my sincere thanks to you all. It has been my pleasure to work with you this past year. This concludes my report.

Rod MacNeil , Director