

Ladysmith Maritime Society

Harbour Tours Annual Report for 2016

Good Evening

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 12 volunteer operators. With the continued support of volunteer positions for scheduling, we were able to run a full 7 day schedule through July and August and offering tours by request in June and September. 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 and Diana Gould who did a fabulous job of working with our operators, staff in the office and also the public as they handled the scheduling and really kept the harbour tour program running smoothly this past summer!!

Here are few Tour statistics: Harbour Tours contributed approximately 1,000 hours of volunteering to LMS in 2016. July and August tours had 122 tour shifts. Of those, there were 35 shifts with zero passengers. This past season, we entertained 800 guests on "Maritimer" according to the log book. This was accomplished by 11 active tour operators.

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.

Now....looking forward to the 2017 season. We are planning to maintain a full 7 day per week schedule through July and August and to promote more tours on the shoulder seasons. My hope is for greater promotion of the program in various ways to get the word out. I still believe that LMS is a hidden jewel that is need of exposure to the greater community. 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