

LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY
31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy year. We would not be doing our job if it wasn't a busy year.

In accordance with the constitution of Ladysmith Maritime Society we serve the community in a variety of ways – encouraging visiting boaters, providing educational programs for school children, preserving maritime artifacts, restoring heritage boats, showing our heritage vessels and advertising Ladysmith at boat shows around Georgia Strait, providing public access to our docks, assisting the purple martin recovery program, holding festivals for the public, operating the harbour tour boat, co-operating with our Expo Building co-tenants, offering dine-on-the-docks dinners, welcoming our across-the-harbour neighbours, accommodating the disabled sailing program, reducing our environmental impact, operating the marina for local residents, and participating in the public process on the Town's waterfront plan.

The enormous contribution from our volunteers is paramount in LMS serving the community; and the income from managing and operating the marina provides the resources to do so without having to scramble for grants.

What is often forgotten, or perhaps not known, is that only a few years ago LMS had no lease on the waterlot and was operating the marina on a 30-day basis. The Town would have eliminated our on-the-water presence except for moorage for 2 heritage vessels in a developer-operated marina. The relationship between The Town and Ladysmith Maritime Society was in the doldrums. Over several years Doug Bell and Barrie McDonald developed and nurtured trusting relationships with the Chief of Stz'uminus First Nation, the Mayor of Ladysmith, other council members, Island Coastal Economic Trust, and others. The resulting relationships were essential in LMS obtaining the long-term agreements presently in place with the Town and, subsequently, the influx of funding for the 2012 expansion which included the new access and ramp, new visitor dock, the pump out station, and this Welcome Centre.

We tend to get bogged down in the day-to-day operations of the Society. What we are not doing sufficiently is continuing to expand and build on the relationships that have been so beneficial. One small step is accepting the Town's invitation to participate in the development of a waterfront plan. Much more should be done. You can help. How many times have we heard a local resident say "I didn't know you existed". Collectively you, our members, belong to almost every organization functioning in Ladysmith. By attending meetings or having a cup of coffee with a representative, you can help build the relationships between LMS and our community.

This year some staff changes have been made and responsibilities shuffled to more effectively manage the operations of the Society. Part of this re-organization includes title changes: Rod Smith, Executive Director; Debbie Loewen, Operations Manager; Marc Pettigrew, Marina Manager; Deb Gawiuk, Marina staff. I thank each of them for their dedication to our Society, their unstinting volunteering of overtime hours whenever a need arises, and their support of me and the directors.

I also thank all our directors for their support this year. The relationships and friendships with our team, the directors and staff together, have made this year an enjoyable one.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Pearson