



# Maritimer

January, 2017

## December 2016 Annual General Meeting

Meeting minutes and reports are all now available in the Members Section on the Society website at [www.lmsmarina.ca](http://www.lmsmarina.ca), and good news, a password is no longer required.

Some highlights of the meeting were:

- Overall the Society is in excellent financial shape and continues to grow the reserve fund
- a waiting list exists for full-time moorage, and seasonal moorage was sold out
- 25 vessels participated and provided access aboard at the Heritage Festival in May
- 9 volunteers provided 50 hours every month to maintain and restore our heritage vessels. 2018 will see full restoration of the Kirkegard.
- 14 volunteers operated the Harbour Tour program providing 122 tours for 800 guests over 1000 volunteer hours
- Kids' Pirates Day and Fishing Derby in June was so popular there was little room left on the docks, and additional kids' lifejackets will need to be purchased for 2017
- this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the floating museum, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the Waterfront Heritage Centre, and the 1<sup>st</sup> year for the Sea Life Centre. Look for the opening in 2017 of the Captain's Cabin!
- the Board and Executive for 2017 comprises:
  - Rod MacNeil, President
  - Allan Gould, Vice-President
  - David Grimstead, Treasurer,
  - Alan Newell, Secretary
  - Gerry Beltgens
  - Cliff Fisher
  - Paul Nowlan
  - Dan Lutz
  - Art Rendell

## Why a Ladysmith Maritime Society?

Our Society exists to serve the community by protecting Ladysmith's maritime heritage, promoting tourism activity in the harbour, and providing public access to the waterfront.

LMS activities in 2016 included hosting visiting boaters and two maritime festivals, the operation of museums, education programs for school children, our ambassador program of sending heritage vessels to marine festivals around the Strait, providing public access to the docks, operating the Ladysmith Harbour Tours, accommodating a Purple Martin Recovery Site and a dock for Disabled Sailors, offering always sold out Dine-on-the-Dock events, and supporting environmental projects for the improvement of the harbour.

## Have You Renewed Your Membership?

The success of LMS is rooted in its membership and volunteers. Membership is only \$20 for an individual, \$35 for a couple, and \$50 for a family.

Support the society with your membership and sustain us by contributing a few volunteer hours!

Renewal forms are available in the Members section at [www.lmsmarina.ca](http://www.lmsmarina.ca)

## New BC Societies' Act

Like many organizations, LMS will be reviewing its charter and bylaws in 2017 to comply with this new legislation. Stay posted!

## President's Message

2017 marks the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the Society serving the Ladysmith community with access to the waterfront, providing learning opportunities, and with protection and promotion of the harbour.

Thank you to our outgoing directors, Shirley Blackstaff, Bob Cross, and Betty Pearson, and welcome to our incoming directors, Dan Lutz, Alan Newell, and Art Rendell.

While 2017 has already created significant challenge, the Society membership is strong, the staff are capable, and the volunteers are great!

I look forward to serving the community as President of the Society in 2017.

Rod MacNeil, President

## Welcome Centre Closure

During the cold weather in early January, the Welcome Centre experienced an unfortunate sewage back up, which has resulted in closure of the lower level. Special thanks to staff who moved quickly to minimize damage and have already started repairs.

As result, the LMS Dockside Office will be located on the upper level of the Welcome Centre until restoration is completed in March.

## Oyster Bay Café

In 2017, the highly rated Oyster Bay Café will be open 7 days a week from May 19th to Sept 4th. There is not much better than breakfast or lunch on the dock on a sunny day.

## Mark your 2017 Calendar!

- May 27 – Heritage Boat Festival
- June 2 - Pirates Feast on the Dock
- June 3 – Kids' Pirates' Day
- June 2 to Sept 8 – Dine on the Dock

## Ladysmith Waterfront Plan

Board member Paul Nowlan is putting his career experience as a city planner to good use as LMS's representative on Ladysmith's Waterfront Plan Review. The area under consideration lies between Fishermans' Wharf and Slack Point, where the Ladysmith Community Marina is the centrepiece.

Through a request for input and an Open House, LMS members contributed a wide range of good ideas, such as:

- maintaining access to the waterfront
- trail linkage to Transfer Beach
- floating walkways meandering through restored seabeds
- improving the breakwater
- stabilize Slack Point and create a marine park

Read Paul's report to the AGM online in the Members section at [www.lmsmarina.ca](http://www.lmsmarina.ca)

## A special tribute to Betty Pearson

Betty Pearson is deserving of a very special thank you upon her retirement from our Board of Directors at the December 2016 AGM.

Since Betty's arrival on the Island in the early 1990's she has contributed her very considerable professional, boating, and interpersonal skills to LMS. Betty has occupied every executive position on the Board, some of them several times. Betty and her husband John were made Life Members of LMS several years ago in recognition of their contributions. It is a measure of the respect with which she is held that many of our members have expressed the view that without Betty we would not have an LMS today.

We will miss you on the Board, Betty, but we look forward to seeing your smiling face as an active volunteer and we will continue to rely on your encyclopedic 'corporate memory'.

Betty, you occupy a special place in our hearts!