



# Maritimer

Ladysmith Maritime Society Newsletter – 2017 Summary of Summer

## Awesome Sea Life Festival!!

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, this new LMS festival brought families and children to your community marina, supported by LMS volunteers.



### An interesting sea star..but will you touch it?

There were hands-on experiences with a diver, students and marine biologists; a Stz' uminus First Nation language game by Pearl Harris and a John Marston dug-out canoe. The collection of ancient sea life fossils was a real education. There were awesome art projects. Ladysmith artist, Daphne Marion donated linocut block print supplies for kids to create sea-life pendants and bags. The children created beach scenes in oyster shells and sea-life wall hangings. There were art and science activities by the NS3 team, and drama and music activities. The Maritime Museum featured a Sea Life Treasure Hunt, the Captain's Cabin game and Sea Life Jewelry. Our volunteers helped kids put on life jackets all day, and the Harbour tour boat operators put on many extra trips due to the keen interest.

## From the Big Mac

Another successful season is behind us thanks to the volunteers, staff and directors who make things happen at LMS. Your community marina is now known far and wide along this coast for the friendly way we do things in Ladysmith. Thank you all for a job well done.

The Saravan was very well received at the Vancouver Classic Boat Show, and in Port Townsend at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show. Our 1938 restored tugboat, built in Stanley Park Shipyard, is always a major attraction to promote tourism to Ladysmith.

Wherever I go locally I am often stopped by parents pleased with what we do for the children of this wonderful town. I do tell them that these functions are as a result of the collective effort of our volunteers and staff. However, a special mention is deservedly given to Shirley Blackstaff, creator of the Sea Life Festival!

**Rod MacNeil, President, LMS**



## Need Veggies?

**New this year at LMS, purchases from the Veggie Stand went to support LMS education programs.**

## Our Summer Student – Emery Urquhart

Emery Urquhart, a university student and local Ladysmith girl, joined LMS this summer – first as a volunteer and then as a paid summer employee.

It was a joy working with Emery during a hot and busy summer season on the Ladysmith Community dock. She assisted the Harbour Tour Boat Program and worked as a Maritime Museum greeter. She made many visitors feel welcome and helped LMS live up to our goal of being a friendly marina. We were fortunate to have had Emery because she helped to make our community marina a happy place for staff, volunteers, visitors and tourists.

Emery found her summer work at LMS fun and rewarding. Volunteers and staff are most appreciative of her work. We all wish her a great second year in her advanced education.

## Members Night

A members meeting is being scheduled for October. The board and staff look forward to updating members on the activities and priorities of the Society.

**Sarvan at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show in Port Townsend created the opportunity to promote Ladysmith as a tourism destination.**



## From Executive Director, Rod Smith

People stop me on the dock to tell me we have one of the best marinas on the coast: “Your facilities are amazing and your people so friendly.” Please take a moment to check out the comments in the Welcome Centre guest book.

We are very fortunate to have the staff we do – Marc, Debbie, Deb, AJ and Shane - and an incredible group of volunteers who take great pride in our organization, making sure our visitors and community members feel welcomed.

And the increase in activity was not just from our boating visitors. Both the Kids Pirate Day and Heritage Boats Festival were as busy as I have seen them. Dine on the Docks sold out all season. Music on the Docks, both open mike night and Thursday nights, are growing in popularity. The Oyster Bay Café was busier than ever with lineups out the door some days. The Welcome Centre has become a real “go to spot” for a morning coffee and a bite to eat.

The new Sea Life Celebration was fantastic – hundreds of people learning and playing together, exploring our marine environment, with LMS living up to its education mandate. Well done Shirley Blackstaff and team.

The Ambassador Program made a lot of new friends this year. I attended the Vancouver Wooden Boat Show and was proud to be associated with Saravan. She stands up very well alongside the best of them, with lots of interest from boat owners in coming to our Heritage Boat Festival in 2018. And not to be outdone by boats on the water, we also had a boat on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue – an award winning pirate ship in the Ladysmith Days Parade.

And finally, the Paddling Centre will open this fall. A key part of the Salish Sea Marine Trail, the Centre provides another way to maintain public access to the Ladysmith waterfront.

Rod Smith, Executive Director

## Marine Environmental Education

Ladysmith Maritime Society supports the preservation, protection and promotion of the marine environment.

Our Community Marina is certified under Georgia Strait Alliance's Clean Marine BC Program for environmental best practices. This designation recognizes that LMS meets Georgia Strait Alliance's strict environmental standards.

LMS also conducts Harbour Tours with the operators sharing their knowledge of the local industrial waterfront history and sea life of the harbour.

LMS is a supporter of the BC Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program and have contributed to the increased population of this endangered swallow through the nest boxes in the Marina.



LMS's most recent addition to environmental education is a **Sea Life Centre** built in 2016. It is a gazebo on a 20 foot by 20 foot dock surrounded by a fence with a viewing shelf along the top of the fence with many permanent photographic and descriptive sea life identification signs. The Centre is a special place where touch tanks showcase our local sea life and provide hands-on experiences that involve



divers, marine biologists and students. The glass viewing section in the middle of the floor also provides the perfect opportunity to introduce people to the magic and wonder of the sea life of Ladysmith Harbour.

Our Sea Life Program teaches visitors of all ages about sea life, inspires them to protect it and allows them to explore how sea life and oceans contribute to all of our lives. This summer we were fortunate to have Amy Sennett, a Ladysmith High School student, volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays during August to share her local sea life knowledge with visitors. Her mom, Tani West assisted Amy in collecting the sea life which was put into touch tanks or glass observation jars. With the new diver's light, visitors were able to take the wand and look into the viewing hole in the floor of the Sea Life Centre and see the amazing sea life growing on the rope dangling across the space under the floor. Being able to hold this light and direct it to the sea life below really added to the participants' interactive experience. It is our hope that each year the Program will include more opportunities for our visitors.

- Shirley Blackstaff

## New Videos

Two new videos featuring LMS should be released this year: A Take5 production for use with Councils and the business community and a production by the CVRD for their economic development website under the "Change Makers" program.

## Ship Captain's Quarters from 1880

Who had the best berth on the boat? ...the Captain, of course!

Researched and designed by Shirley Blackstaff and Steve Janssen, and then handsomely built by Jean Guy Bergeron, the Captain's Cabin has proved an asset in the Maritime Museum. While the crew would sleep in communal bunks and hammocks, the Captain had bed, desk, and privacy in the stern of the vessel.



The wooden pedestal desk in this exhibit was used on the S.S. Beaver, the first steamship on the West Coast. When she went aground in 1888 at Prospect Point near Stanley Park, Vancouver, the desk was salvaged by James and John Astell. The desk remained in the Astell family until it was donated to the Ladysmith Maritime Society in 2014 by Caroline R. Astell. All the artifacts: books, charts, bedding, furniture, pictures, etc. in the Captain's Quarters are of the 1880s era. The sound effects add to the feel that you are actually aboard an early vessel in a captain's cabin.

We are honored that Caroline Astell donated this well-looked after historic desk to our Maritime Museum.

## Key links at LMS

### MarinaCam

<http://lmsmarina.ca/webcams/marinacam.php>

### MarinaCam pictures over 24 hours

<http://lmsmarina.ca/WeatherPics/index.php>

**Time lapse of MarinaCam** almost every day at noon for the last 19 months.

Takes a while to load. Has selectable dates.

[http://lmsmarina.ca/WeatherPics/view\\_archive.php](http://lmsmarina.ca/WeatherPics/view_archive.php)

**Weather conditions** at the marina.

<http://lmsmarina.ca/weather>

The **Purple Martin cam**. Slow but unique.

<http://lmsmarina.ca/webcams/martincam.php>

View current **electric meter readings**, bill estimates, and historical bills. Click "Join" if you have never logged in before.

[https://marina.lmsmarina.ca/my\\_meter/login.php](https://marina.lmsmarina.ca/my_meter/login.php)

**Manage your LMS email subscriptions**

[https://marina.lmsmarina.ca/manage\\_email/login.php](https://marina.lmsmarina.ca/manage_email/login.php)

**Purchase visitor moorage on-line**

<http://reservations.lmsmarina.ca>

## Maritimer Tour Boat Captains Needed

The LMS Tour Boat was unable to operate at a full schedule this year due to a limited number of volunteer operators. If you would be interested in becoming a "captain", LMS pays for training, which includes the Small Vessel Operators Certificate, in return for a commitment to the harbour tour program.

Please contact LMS at 250-245-1146