

Maritime Museum, Sea Life Centre & Harbour Heritage Centre

Reports - Dec. 6, 2017 AGM - Submitted by Shirley Blackstaff

Maritime Museum – 11th year on the water

Summer student – Emery Urquhart

- acted as Museum greeter on days when volunteers were not available
- helped to keep Museum open from 10 am to 4 pm daily
- created Harbour Heritage & Sea Life Identification laminated cards for Tour Boat operators' use
- updated Purple Martin photograph/information for plaques placed along Marina walkway
- assisted with the Sea Life Celebration festival - Aug. 13, 2017

Volunteers – Had 9 regular Museum greeters

Jean Guy's Veggie Stand on the dock provided fresh vegetables from his farm to visitors

- Donations received from the Veggie Stand and the Maritime Museum were submitted to LMS to be used towards LMS Education Programs

New Exhibit – Captain's Quarters built by Jean Burgeron during the winter of 2016 – 2017

- was a favourite with visitors

New Signage with fewer words and larger print was installed on the wall behind skiff dinghy

Sea Life Centre – 2nd year on the water

- The viewing section in the middle of the floor of the gazebo provides opportunities to introduce people to the magic and wonder of the sea life of Ladysmith Harbour.
- Amy Sennett, a 14 year old Ladysmith High School student, volunteered on Tues. and Thurs. during August to share her local sea life knowledge with visitors. With the new diver's light visitors were able to take the wand and look into the viewing hole in the floor 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 really added to the participants' interactive experience.
- Other volunteers collected sea life specimens for the observation tanks, jars and dishes, shared knowledge, welcomed visitors and donated books

Harbour Heritage Centre – 4th year on the waterfront

- 2017 the Harbour Heritage Centre was closed due to structural renovations by the Town
- 2016 was an excellent year with many school groups (pre-school to high school) from private and public schools coming from schools on both sides of the Harbour to participate in our Education Program. We had 20 volunteers assisting with our May – June field trip program.
- June – Sept. 2016 we were open from 1 – 4 pm. Greeters met interesting people from Ladysmith and many other places. All comments were positive regarding the Centre and our Programs.
- Sept. – Dec. 2017 – Volunteers: Rick, John and Shirley created, repaired and re-installed exhibits
- New window boxes, that can be viewed from the outside, were created
- New cement floor was prepared and painted by Steve Stuart

- Dioramas were moved into place by the Stuart brothers
- The dioramas' delicate pieces have been replaced by Dave Ames
- Oyster scow was put back in place by Heritage Boat volunteers
- Good progress is being made – will be complete by Dec. 2017
- New slide show was created on *Oysters and Ladysmith*
- New LMS educational book, **Mom was an Oyster Farmer** by Myfanwy Plecas was completed and published. A successful Book Launch was held on Sept. 23rd.
- Books are on sale at the Harbour Heritage Centre, Welcome Centre and Salamander Book Store
- Next to the Harbour Heritage Centre, in the foyer to the LMS office, a small heritage boat display and an outboard motor exhibit is being installed.
- A summer student and volunteers will keep these exhibit locations open with regular hours. They will greet visitors and lead educational heritage activities from May - September 2018

Sea Life Celebration, a new festival was held Sunday, August 13th from 10 am to 2 pm. It was a mid-summer waterfront experience that brought families and their children to our community marina. The many educational and fun activities, led by volunteers, took place at the LMS Welcome Centre, big tent, Maritime Museum and Sea Life Centre and on the 'Maritimer' Harbour Tour Boat.

It was a true family event sponsored by Ladysmith Maritime Society. There were hands-on touch tank experiences with diver, Bob Cross, students, teachers and marine biologists; a Stz' uminus First Nation language game by Pearl Harris, and a John Marston dug-out canoe display. The collection of ancient sea life fossils was a real education to many visitors. There were a variety of awesome art projects. Ladysmith artist, Daphne Marion of *Maritime Blues – Hand Printed Fabric Designs* donated her linocut block print supplies and with the help of an LMS volunteer, young people created an impressive sea life/nautical pendant, cloth bag or fabric square. The children enjoyed creating other sea life art projects under the guidance of LMS and community volunteers. The art and science activities of the NS3 team were interactive and interesting to many kids. The drama and music activities were well-attended and enjoyed. The Maritime Museum was packed with kids participating in the Sea Life Treasure Hunt, the Captain's Cabin game and Sea Life Jewelry Station. Outside the Museum was busy with many young children enjoying creative play in the 'Create your own Beach' sand box. The Purple Martin informational display and art activities were also a favorite station. Our volunteers who helped kids put on life jackets were busy all day, as were the Harbour tour boat operators who put on many extra trips due to the keen interest. The kid's favourite food, hot dogs, was an additional treat.

This summer event provided opportunities to reach out to our communities for their expertise and support. With the talents of many people we created a working team who contributed to this summer festival full of sea life adventures. The help of 50 volunteers was appreciated.

We were amazed and delighted by the wonderful attendance at our Community Marina as hundreds of people came to participate in this **Sea Life Celebration**.