



Hello from the editors

We are trying a couple of new ideas for The Maritimer:

Many people are important to the success of LMS, and we would like to get to know them better. In each issue, starting with this one, we will profile one of our staff members, one of our many volunteers, and someone from the broader community who has a special connection to LMS.

Also, many of our visitors and community friends have expressed interest in receiving our newsletter. Starting with the next issue we will move to a new format that will make it simpler to produce and distribute to an expanded recipient list.

Please send us any ideas you might have. Use the “Contact Us” feature on our website and address it to “The Maritimer”.

Dine On The Dock
begins a new season
starting June 1st

We Couldn't Do It Without Our Staff

As the Marina Manager, **Marc Pettigrew** oversees marina operations for LMS. You will find him down on the docks or in the Welcome Centre, answering the phone, greeting visiting boaters, and organizing rendezvous with various clubs.

A big part of Marc's work is planning, contracting and supervising the off-season work program for the LMS docks, Welcome Centre and boathouses.

Friendly and approachable, Marc is one of the reasons LMS has such a wonderful reputation amongst members and visitors. Along with Pam, his wife of 31 years, Marc lives at the marina on *TOBA*, a 42' power boat. Not only does Marc have one of the prettiest offices from which to work with harbour views from every window, but his life at the marina as a 'liveaboard' is less complicated compared to the management of home and property as in the past.

As a child, Marc grew up in Deep Cove (southern Vancouver Island) and in the summer of his 12th year began work at the local marina. In fact, Marc has worked in the marine industry all his life. At another marina in North Saanich he worked for 10 years mainly hauling boats. Later Marc was employed at a metal fabrication shop where for 18 years he worked on projects such as weather buoys and rigid zodiac hulls. At this point Marc started his own company manufacturing shock mitigating seating for small fast boats. The US Coast Guard and the US Navy (along with other companies) contracted him to upgrade their vessels. Seven years later Marc sold his company and after taking a year off, came to work for LMS.

During the first year Marc and Pam lived in Shawnigan Lake and Marc commuted to Ladysmith. They had always loved boating, coming from a sailing and racing background. However, getting a spacious liveaboard sailboat was not in the cards and *TOBA* fit the bill. In the summer you will see them out boating most weekends as they love to be on the water. Marc misses sailing and was an accomplished racer on the Pacific coast. He won the OLSON 30' Western Championship in Seattle and has fond memories of racing with family and crew.

Marc and Pam have two kids and two grandkids, all living in North Saanich close to where Marc grew up. A highlight for Marc of working at LMS over the past 5 years or so is meeting new friends as well as the many visitors to the marina. He cites the marina as a sort of "happy place" where people come in a good mood, often on holidays or getting ready to go off in their boat, smiling and enthused and eager for an adventure.

- *Sharon Phillips*



Marc has a lot of marine knowledge and is keen to share. Thank you, Marc for helping create a safe and friendly community marina!

Meet our Volunteers

Keith Gillanders

Quiet, friendly, and competent are words that describe **Keith Gillanders**. If you get the chance to talk with him for a few minutes don't pass it up!

Keith is one of those exceptionally talented volunteers to whom we are all indebted when we enjoy the Welcome Centre, access ramp and new docks, and many other features of our Community Marina. It was to Keith that LMS turned when we needed a Project Leader for the 2010-2012 upgrade that transformed our marina into the facility that is known as one of the top 10 marinas in the Pacific NW.

To quote Keith, "I received an innocent invitation to lunch from people I knew at LMS. They were looking for someone to help 'one or two days a week' with a marina renovation project. HA! It turned out to be 3 to 5 days a week over several years while we scoped, bid, and oversaw the marina upgrade and new Welcome Centre construction. It was a fascinating project and working with the LMS people is a real pleasure. I still try to help out when Rod or Marc need help on a dock extension and the more recent heat tracing work."

The Welcome Centre being a floating structure and not always perfectly level while under construction, it didn't take Keith long to realize that carpenter levels should be banned from the site and replaced with the trusty 3-4-5 triangle.

Born in Saskatchewan, Keith's roots are on the Prairies. A Chemical Engineering degree in Edmonton was followed by a 33-year career in the oil industry. After years as a project engineer in Calgary and Fort St. John, Keith spent almost 4 years in Norway involved in North Sea oil and gas production.

Along the way Keith married Rosemary – a lovely lassie from Greenock, Scotland (who also happens to be a rare expert in the complex and arcane world of natural gas accounting). Keith and Rosemary retired to a property on Boat Harbour in 2008.

Keith is so self-effacing that, while you might guess that he is an avid kayaker and an avid runner (both true) you might not guess that he is also a bit car crazy. For 20 years he raced cars in an open wheel road racing series called Formula Ford and for a time taught high performance driving. He thinks he might now be ready for an electric car...

Keith, LMS is a better place because of you and we thank you for being such a friend.



"I received an innocent invitation to lunch from people I knew at LMS".

A Voice From The Community

Staff Sgt. Ken Brissard

Spending time with **RCMP Staff Sgt. Ken Brissard** is a delight. When asked about hobbies or interests he replies, "I love people". And it shows. Ken believes that two key ingredients to a successful career with the RCMP are the ability to follow through—finish what you start, and an innate love of people.

Ken also speaks lovingly of his family—his wife, 4 kids, 3 grandchildren and another on the way. Two daughters are in the RCMP, the third works in Victoria and his son works in an addiction center. They are educated, travelled, and well launched in their chosen careers. The Island is home and this is where Ken plans to retire, farming on their property. His dad was a farmer and so was his Grandfather. His dad joined the Canadian Army during the war. Wounded in Dieppe he was shipped to Scotland to recover. There he met a Scottish nurse who gave the best sponge baths, so he just had to marry her.



“Think safety and know your limitations”.

Ken has had a rich and varied career during his 28 years of service with the RCMP. Ken arrived as the Ladysmith Detachment Commander late in October 2015 and settled back into the area where he grew up. Keeping the citizens safe is his number one priority. One of the reasons he was keen to accept the posting here, is because of the detachment’s connection to West Coast Marine Services and the response vessel that is moored at the LMS Community Marina. You will often find him down on the wharf or enjoying a chat with the locals at the Welcome Centre. He can’t wait for the Oyster Bay Café to begin its’ summer hours; he likes to go there for coffee 2-3 times a week.

Much of Ken’s work is proactive, here and on Thetis and Penelakut Islands. He speaks about the importance of 'officer presence' —what he calls 'flying the flag'. The detachment also works to keep our waterways safe doing preventative boat checks, inspecting for standards of safety equipment, monitoring for illegal trafficking, and education around the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Ken's message to the boating community is to always “think safety and know your limitations”.

How does Ken reduce stress and maintain balance in his life? "Hay farming is therapy" he tells me. Also having a healthy attitude about what is possible and what one can control or change helps keep things in perspective. Ken encourages his staff and young officers to "Just do the best you can—you can't change every bad behaviour."

Ken has earned the appreciation and respect of this community. He not only provides 'officer presence', but quality presence. So, say hello to Ken when you see him—he is a genuinely nice guy. And he enjoys telling funny stories – just ask him about the paint on the old boat!

- Sharon Phillips

Recent Events

The theme on February 24 was **“Heritage Stands the Test of Time”**. It was a very busy and successful day celebrating heritage on the waterfront. LMS volunteers opened the vessel restoration shop to share the history of the wooden vessel *C.A. Kirkegaard* and explain to the public the many steps involved in her restoration. Our volunteers also celebrated the reopening of the Harbour Heritage Centre with new exhibits and slide shows. We were honoured to have John Marston there demonstrating his exceptional artistic carving skills. The Ladysmith and District Historical Society’s Industrial Heritage Preservation

Committee exhibited the steam locomotive #11 which is under restoration, and hundreds of people were thrilled to see the humdirgen moving along the track under its own power, bell clanging.

At noon an important symbolic ceremony occurred at Transfer Beach where the **Canada 150/ Stz’uminus 5000 Salish Wind Canoe** was formally unveiled. This canoe, the work of a team led by elder and master carver Manny Sampson, symbolizes the shared history that our two communities have in the land.

Also, on February 24 the Welcome Centre saw the first **Talk-on-the Dock** event of the year. Catherine Dook spoke about her and her husband’s experiences “Anchoring in the Gulf Islands”. The event was a great success, and over 40 people crowded into the main floor of the Welcome Centre to listen to Catherine.



Humdirgen in action



Talk On The Dock with Catherine Dook



On March 12 it was an honour to welcome **federal Minister of Transport the Honourable Marc Garneau** to the LMS docks. He was here to announce important new funding for the removal and disposal of abandoned boats and wrecks from B.C. coastal communities, including nine from the Ladysmith waterfront. His presence in the Community Marina was a testament to the contributions of our community leaders, including LMS Executive Director Rod Smith, in bringing the issues of derelict and abandoned vessels to national attention. A week later Saltair Marine Services started the work by dismantling and removing the large wreck that had sat on the shore on Slack Point for the past several years.

What's Coming Up



Tai Chi On The Dock

April 3 to May 18

2 days/week:
Tuesday and Friday
9:30 - 10:30 am

Oyster Bay Cafe opens May 18 and will be licensed to offer you a glass of wine or beer along with the tasty delights from their kitchen!

Dine On The Dock tickets available online at tickets.lmsmarina.ca

90-minute Harbour Tours Daily in July & August
\$15/person Call 250-245-1146 to reserve your seat

Rendezvous season has begun

This will be another busy season for boater rendezvous at the Community Marina. Twelve are booked already – all repeaters from previous seasons! That speaks well of our hospitality and our facilities.

The first rendezvous of the season was the Maple Bay Yacht Club, here on March 10-11. They brought 25 boats, a mix of power and sail, and occupied all available visitor moorage. They used the tented social dock for their BBQ dinner then moved upstairs in the Welcome Centre for a dance and party. This is a very convenient option for the shoulder season.

Summer Event Schedule

April 14 – **Talk On The Dock**; Welcome Centre 2 pm
April 28 – **First Annual Fun Rhumb-Line Race**

May 18 – **Oyster Bay Cafe** opens for the Summer
May 26 – **HERITAGE BOAT FESTIVAL**

June 01 – **Dine On The Dock - Feast of the Pirates**
June 02 – **KIDS' PIRATE DAY**
June 15 – **Dine On The Dock**
June 22 – **Dine On The Dock**

July 03 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic
July 05 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
July 06 – **Dine On The Dock**
July 10 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic
July 12 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
July 13 – **Dine On The Dock**
July 17 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic
July 18 – **MOVIE On The Dock** – bring your dinghy
July 19 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
July 24 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic
July 26 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
July 27 – **Dine On The Dock**
July 31 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic

August 02 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
August 03 – **Dine On The Dock**
August 07 – **Music On The Dock** – Open Mic
August 09 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
August 12 – **SEA LIFE CELEBRATION**
August 15 – **MOVIE On The Dock** – bring your dinghy
August 16 – **Music On The Dock** – Featured Artist
August 17 – **Dine On The Dock**

Talk on the Dock

Deb Gawiuk has scheduled the second Talk-on-the-Dock event of the year, at the Welcome Centre. This should be very popular so come early!

Sharing The Strait with Killer Whales Saturday, April 14 - 2 pm

Speaker: Michelle Young, of Georgia Strait Alliance

In the Southern Strait of Georgia, there is a unique population of killer whales called the southern residents, but there are only 76 of them left. That's why the federal government has come out with new rules around viewing and approaching Orcas. Michelle will explain the new whale watching regulations. Her talk will also explore many practical and easy ways to practice green boating.

Deb tells us that she is working on one more Talk-on-the-Dock for May and then will take a break over the busy summer season. So stay tuned.



Sail the RHUMB-LINE Fun Race Saturday, April 28

Come shake out the winter sail wrinkles!

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Where: Ladysmith Community Marina

9:30 am: Skippers meeting and pre-race wagers

10:30 am: Start Time - in the vicinity of Slack Point.

Finish: all boats must "cross the line" - the 49th parallel line!

To register, please email marc@lmsmarina.ca

Open to any size, shape or type of sailboat. No rating required or calculated.

Post-race BBQ, door prizes, bantering, jabbing and other sailor grandiloquence to follow at the Welcome Centre.

Come out and Cross The Line with the Ladysmith Community Marina!

Paddling Centre

Looking for a great spot to launch your kayak, canoe or paddleboard? Come to our Paddling Centre where we have a specially lowered dock, perfect for gliding into the harbour waters. Lockers are available to store your dry land gear and racking with locks can be rented for your water craft.

This season is the start of a new **youth program** at the Paddling Centre, bringing students from Ladysmith Senior Secondary and Stz'uminus Community School together to build paddle boards and learn from each other the cultural significance of being on the water. A video will be produced to tell the story of the students learning and sharing construction skills, and finally launching their new paddle boards.

We Need Volunteers Who Love to Teach!

LMS invites local teachers to book time in May – June to bring their classes down to the waterfront for hands-on educational field trips. LMS delivers the programs. Depending on the classes' interests we may focus on the local fishing, oyster, coal or forest industries, sea life of the Harbour, heritage boats or Stz'uminus First Nation culture. These trips generated a wonderful response last year.

We have all the materials, but we need volunteers who love to teach. If you could help and have any dates free during those months, please contact Shirley Blackstaff at 250-245-3075 or at vimarmot@shaw.ca for further details. The experience is very rewarding, and we'd love to hear from you!



Viewing portal at the Sea Life Centre

Contact Us

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