



Submariner's Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 24th October 2018

MOG5 HQ SR Mess



Opening. The Chairman Sylvain Rouillard brought the meeting to order (open-up for dive) at 1930 hrs. Sylvain thanked the MOG5 HQ SR's bartender PO2 Mike Davis for supporting us, and please be generous to the bartender as they are volunteers and do not get paid. The Chairman called the meeting up for a moment of silence for all sick and departed members. The chairman asked the secretary to read out the notices on the two boatmen who just passed away.

Email from CPO1 Andrew Moulton, Submarine Force Chief "I regretfully inform you that PO1 Paul Dumas passed away at the young age of 46 on the 2 Oct 2018 at 1215 pm in Ottawa Ontario. Paul sailed on all three "O" Boats HMCS Onondaga, Okanagan and Ojibwa. He also served on HMCS Victoria and Windsor. Paul's last posting was in Ottawa at CFINTCOM HQ. Paul's funeral service was held on the 7th Oct 2018 at the Beechwood National Military Cemetery. The family had requested that rather than flowers donations be sent to the Canadian Heart Institute."

Obituary for Gerald David Rutherford received from SAOC C. Gerry passed away peacefully on Sunday 21st Oct 2018 in Ottawa at the age 81 surrounded by family. Gerry joined the RCN in 1955 and served 34 years. Gerry, as a Canadian who served in British submarines from 1959-1964 which included submarines HMS Scorchers, Walrus, Sealion and Excalibur. He also sailed in HMCS Skeena. Brian Lapierre had talked to Buster Brown and Buster said he met Gerry in 1962 when Gerry was aboard SM6 HMS Astute or Alderney. Gerry never sailed on the "O" boats and was a member of the SAOC C. The funeral service was held at St Laurent Chapel of Hulse, Playfair & McGarry funeral home in Ottawa on the 27th Oct. The family had requested that rather than flowers, donations be sent to the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation Institute." The chairman said may they and all departed and sick submariners be kept in our hearts and minds. Amen.

Attendance 29 members were in attendance: AG "Dinger" Bell, Alain Blondin, Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Rob Braye, Terry Chatham, Brian Cooper, Bob Davidson, Keith Estabrooks, Rob Fraser, Greg Hallonquist, Jim Harris, Bert Houde, Iain Hughes, Ray Hunt, Neil Lake, Rodney Lake, JP Lang, Brian Lapierre, John Madison, Geoff Mawdesley, Jim Northrup, Conrad Petrikowski, Sylvain Rouillard, John Smith, Boyd Thomas, Lee Thompson, Brum Tovey, Willy Waugh, Peter Weis, Al White and Tim Wood.

Note Al White was greeted with a loon call toy which Brum Tovey had brought in for fun.

Presentation by IPSC and VAC the Chairman Sylvain Rouillard introduced our guest speakers Marilyn Parker from IPSC (Integrated Personnel Support Center) and Vanessa MacDonald-Hood from VAC (Veteran Affairs Canada).

Marilyn Parker from IPSC introduced herself as a Services Coordinator from Windsor Park and explained there would be no Power Point Presentation but she will leave numerous pamphlets for all to get after the meeting. She first explained the difference between **JPSU** (Joint Personnel Support Unit) which have eight regional offices across Canada and **IPSC** (Integrated Personnel Support Centers) which have 33 offices located across Canada. The names will soon be changed to CAF Transition Group and Unit in November. There is a trial currently under way in CFB Borden. They will be looking after all releasing members and not just medical releases. More staff will have to be hired. IPSCs are the military point of contact for Veterans and their families. If you require assistance you can call to make an appt with a Service Coordinator but walk-ins are also accepted. IPSC Halifax is located in Windsor Park between the Canex and Auto Club. Contact is Services Manager Rick Frail at 902-722-1907 or Richard.frail@forces.gc.ca. Several of members of the SAOC know Rick quite well as he was a former NWT CPO. They aid with Administrative issues such as Review of Release Item (they could have been released medically), Lost Medal Applications, providing a copy of a member's MPRR or veterans either

for personal use or when preparing a resume for employment opportunities, along with any other issues.

Financial Assistance is available for veterans that may be in financial distress, or require financial assistance as they cannot afford to replace big ticket items such as windows or oil tanks – refer them to other organizations such as VAC, Support our Troops, VETS Canada, etc.

OSISS (Occupational Stress Integrated Support Service) – A Peer support for serving members and veterans and those that support the member. It is completely confidential and can be conducted over the phone, in person, or in group setting. Every Wednesday evening there is group meeting happening at IPSC Windsor Park.

Veteran Family Program – Veterans that released medically and their Families are able to participate in the various MFRC programs organized by the VFP Coordinator, access information and referral services, transition programs, access to intervention support.

National Military Cemetery – located in the National Capital Region – when planning your service, an application can be submitted to DCSM (Directory Casualty Support Management) for yourself and 1 designated immediate family member to be put to rest at the Beechwood Cemetery. You can also request to include a small Presence Guard, padre, bugler and/or piper at no extra fee.

Soldier ON – for those that medically released, looking to participate in Recreational activities. They can be provided adaptive equipment for sports that you participated in prior to the injury or help you take up a new activity. They have a Facebook/web site where you can apply to participate in National events via your region. This Program is just for those members who were medically released. This concluded her presentation. A round of applause was given to Marilyn.

VAC Services and Benefits Vanessa MacDonald-Hood gave her VAC presentation. She works with Marilyn at Windsor Park at the JPSU as a Case manager. Her power point presentation will be sent out to all members with the minutes as an attachment. She handed out 15 copies of her presentation. She works on case rehabilitation program for all veterans who are entitled to it. At anytime you can request a case manager. You can call, go online or walk in the IPSU. There is currently a huge back log of cases which is being addressed by hiring more case workers and adjudicators.

There is a step by step plan to apply for disability pension on the web page. The hearing disability has changed from 1-5 scale to 4-5. 4 is partial hearing loss to 5 total loss. You can contact the Bureau of Pension Advocates to see if you are entitled to more compensation. If you have been denied a pension do not reapply to VAC but contact DVA and ask for to be adjudicated or have a department review done. Even if you are at 100% award you still can apply for more compensation. You might not receive any more money but you could receive more treatment and or money to pay for medication for your disability. Note if it is not a prescription drug it can still be covered. If it is not covered have your doctor fill out a form saying that this drug will work for this individual it should be accepted. Do not take no for answer for the first time. There is something called an attendance allowance if you have 90% disability you can apply for a combination of all your conditions. They will look at what you can or cannot do. This depends on how your quality of life is impacted. Dinger Bell stated in his understanding in order to get the highest award you would have to be in a nursing home. Vanessa said that this is correct.

Sylvain asked how we would first start the application. You call the help line or make an appointment at IPSC area office to apply for disability pension or through your VAC computer account. There are different people who can assist like RC Legion case workers. To apply for an appeal if you have ever been denied an award and pension benefit contact VAC Advocate that is supplied to you free of charge. If there is 3rd stage denial this goes to Supreme Court of Canada. You can hire your lawyer but there are some who work for Pro Bono.

One member informed the meeting that your CAF medical documents that you can request are available

but the records from the Navy are of lot a less detailed than the Army and Air Force. VAC is well aware that Navy medical records are atrocious. If you were injured and the record does not exist you can get sworn witness statements to validate your claim for benefits as long as you can prove that you served when the injury occurred. If you were released prior to 1998 your records have been archived. You can request your medical records from DND through Access to Freedom Act or you can go through IPSC but this can take up to six months or more to receive them. Do not demand your medical docs at the same time VAC is requesting them as this will hold up their process as they will serve you first as priority. This will delay your application for benefits as they will not start until your application has been completed first.

A Quality of Life form has to be filled out for each injury with pain level on scale from 1-10 on your worst day to get your pension benefit. If you can't drive, you can't get grocery's, you can't take public transportation, how this impacts your social interaction, recreational activities etc.... They will send you a medical questionnaire to fill out to know your current function is. If your benefit was been denied a third time you will have to get a lawyer which some are provided pro bono via VAC.

Part of the 2006 Veterans Charter, veterans with 6 years of service are entitled to \$40K for education benefits and those with 12 years or more are entitled to \$80K for education/training at an accredited university/college. For quality of life training is available for those courses costing up to \$5K per semester up to the \$40K/\$80K limit as previously explained. You can apply for an exception to the full amount up front with justification. Vanessa knows at least 50 veterans and each one's benefits are different. These grants must be claimed on your income tax but you can claim your education deduction.

Lots of questions were asked by various members. Venessa stated if there are specific questions concerning their own claims they should make an appointment with a VAC case worker or contact RCL case worker as each individual case is different. Pension for Life will recognise a disability resulting from a service injury. In April 2019 there will announcements made on Pain and Suffering Compensation, Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation and Income Replacement Benefit. Veterans from other armed forces can apply for benefits. You need to get your own VAC account number. They will help you set you up on this at their office in Windsor Park.

11 Case workers have been hired for the Atlantic area but only 1 adjudicator. They need to have a least one year of university as part of their qualification requirements. Then they need to take additional training before they will be able to take on clients. There are still vacancies as qualified people are still leery about getting hired by the Federal Government because of the Phoenix Pay system problems. There were concerns raised by several members that these new young case workers have no experience in what veterans had gone through during their service such as sailing on a submarine. All they can do is listen and ask questions to gain experience to help the claimants. Several members got up (Peter Weis) and stated that they had been treated with care and concern when they had been released and their paperwork was expedited by IPSC and VAC. They are not an adversarial organization. There were more positive stories related.

For more details see attached VAC Power Point presentation for contact information or go on line to www.veterans.gc.ca The chairman thanked our guest speakers Marilyn Parker and Vanessa MacDonald-Hood for taking their time to address us this evening. They were given a round of applause from all.

Regrets & Health and Wellness Regrets were received from 13 members: Marc Aalbers, Buster Brown, Ron Butchart, George Byzewski, John Clahane, Ron Cooper, Taff Jones, Pete Lindstrom, Ken McMillan, John Meehan, James "Dusty" Miller Snr, Marc Osmond and Scotty Parsons.

Terry Chatham informed the meeting that James 'Dusty' Miller is still in the QE II undergoing tests to find out what is wrong with him. Dusty is now on a waiting list for a bed in the Camp Hill Hospital. Dusty is also being awarded two WWII medals as he joined the navy prior to 1st April 1947 so he is entitled to them. Sylvie will get the papers for VAC from Dusty's wife tomorrow.

Minutes the 26 Sept 2018 MGM minutes were distributed by email and a few hard copies were available tonight for review. There being no errors or omissions the chairman **approved** the minutes as distributed.

Correspondence in Only the two editions of the Tridents were received and put out for people to grab. No correspondence out.

Reports Chairman No report

Vice Chair Jim Northrup reported on the Submarine Display at the Museum is progressing. They are still looking for more volunteers to assist in the research. They meet every Thursday at 9 am at the Museum. Brian Lapierre added that there is a meeting with NSCC Ms. McManus on Monday concerning the graphics they are doing up for us. Brian thanked several members for bringing stuff in tonight for the museum.

Secretary No report

Treasurer No report as Ron Cooper was absent.

Social Brum reminded us that the Annual Xmas Dinner Dance at the Sackville Lion's Club on the 14th December is still on. Ron Cooper will have the tickets printed out shortly. Brum told his normally politically incorrect joke about condoms and a bag.

Slops Greg Hallonquist has sold over 120 of the new Submarine Veteran ballcaps almost into a profit. Greg Hallonquist had the new VIC class crests and "O" boats T-Shirts and hoodies for sale. He thanked everyone for their support.

Membership Report Brian Lapierre gave his membership report. We have 47 Life Members with Gerry Rutherford passing but Bob Davidson has turn 80 so he is now a life member. 80 Members have paid for 2018 and beyond and 33 members who have not paid dues for 2017. Total membership is 160 souls. If anyone wants to pay their annual dues for 2019 please see Brian after the meeting. E-transfers are accepted through the Chairman's email address.

Old Business No old business

New Business The Chairman stated as there seemed to be no new takers (according to the nomination committee) for the Executive positions as all the present members had reoffered, therefore the AGM on the 1st December should be short. Sylvain asked for a show of hands if the members were willing to have a pot luck dinner with their wives after the meeting. The majority agreed.

The Chairman stated that he will be laying the Remembrance Day Wreath at Point Pleasant Park Sailors Memorial with Buster Brown. Hopefully it will be cleaned up by then. He moved that the Ribbon on the wreath be changed to Canadian Submariners seconded by Jim Northrup as we didn't want it to read Sub Assoc. **Approved.**

The Chairman informed the meeting about a Facebook post concerning Iain Hughes from Sim Arruda "To all who worked and know Iain Hughes and wish to have a drink with him before he leaves for BC, we will be at the bar Doolittle (off Tacoma Drive Dartmouth) Saturday 27 around 6:30 pm. Come by and wish him well and have a drink. DBF"

AOB Brum Tovey told his normal follow up politically incorrect joke. This one concerned first Nation Chiefs, 100K acres of land claims, some people and chicken. Very incorrect.

Mike Davis informed us that Anders Berglund is looking to place an order of 1000 bottles of a submarine spiced speciality rum made at cost of about \$40 a bottle. If you want one you have to put a \$20 deposit for each bottle. One of the submariners from Windsor will be designing a submarine-oriented label. Which Neil Lake commented he will get no work out of him next week.

Alain Blondin informed the meeting he was retiring from the Armed forces and his DWD function will be held on the Bridge at Juno Tower on the 8 Nov 1300 -1500 hrs. Open bar. Alain spent three years on Ojibwa and spent his last 17 years as an officer. His sons and mother will be there and it also his birthday. Brum made another inappropriately funny comment.

Brian Lapierre had an email from Stadacona SR PMC. There will be a briefing on the current projects the RCN is pursuing –AOPV, JSS, CSC etc. On conclusion, there will be a Tot issue. Place and time 1400hrs on Saturday, 27th of October - 3 Mess, Juno Tower. You need to contact the PMC NTL 26th Oct if you wish to attend. Brian will forward this email to secretary who will then dist it to the members.

The Beast informed the meeting that he has his boat out the water.

Greg said buy more slops

Al White was greeted by the loon call again. Al was at loss for words which happens rarely.

50/50 The 50/50 of \$80 was won by Jim Harris

Submariners Prayer was read by Jim Harris

Brum Tovey informed the meeting that Rodney Lake has made three special submarine pens for Xmas Dance Door prizes. If want your own contact Rodney. All thanked Rodney for his generous donation.

Next MGM will be held on the 30th January 2019 at 1930 hrs - Location TBP.

AGM all were reminded that the AGM will held at MOG5 HQ on the 1st Dec at 1330 hrs which will be a potluck and bring your missus.

Adjournment There being no further business it was moved by Conrad Petrikowski and seconded by Geoff Mawdesley to adjourn the meeting at 2100 hrs. **Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman