



## Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 27th February 2019

MOG5 HQ SR MESS



**Opening** The Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:30 hrs to all who could make tonight's meeting. A thank you was given to Mike Davis for bartending tonight. Please be generous to the bartender. A moment of silence was observed for all sick, ailing and departed members. Herbert Easterbrook, age 90, of Lower Sackville, NS passed away January 31, 2019 in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, Halifax NS; Michael Edwin Goble passed away at 90 in New Glasgow, NS on the 20th Feb; Dave Stobie passed away at age 67 on the 25th Feb in North York, Ont. May they always be remembered in our hearts and minds for their good deeds.

**Attendance** 26 members were in attendance: Marc Aalbers, Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Jerry Bourgeois, Buster Brown, George Byzewski, Jon Carpenter, Terry Chatham, Ron Cooper, Rob Fraser, Larry Hickey, Bert Houde, Neil and Rodney Lake, Brian Lapierre, Fern Lavictoire, Ken McMillan, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Mark Pallard, Sylvain Rouillard, Boyd Thomas, Lee Thompson, Brum Tovey, and Tim Wood. Plus, a Special Guest LCdr Drew Matheson.

**Regrets** were received from 16 members: Alain Blondin, Ron Butchart, Rob Braye, Rob Davidson, Greg Hallonquist, Ray Hunt, Chris Jones, Taff Jones, JP Lang, Peter Lindstrom, George O'Keefe, Shawn Preston, David Russell, Steve St. Amant, Harry Suto and Willy Waugh.

**Respects** were passed on from Tony Palmer who had been visiting last week from Ottawa. John Meehan stated that Tim Kramble was down last weekend and passed on his regards. John had given Tim Greg Hallonquist's phone number for slops items. Sylvain informed the meeting that Chevy Ford has taken on slops for SAOC Central. Ron Cooper informed us that SAOC Central will only be doing one item at a time and will not be holding stock. Brian Lapierre informed us that Billy Venator was looking for a Submarine Tie. Brian told him to contact Greg, which he did but Greg had none, so he told him to contact Jim Ford at Central or Chris Parkes out West. Ron Cooper informed us that George O'Keefe is in town at the moment and is working for Babcock. George will be rejoining the association when he moves back east in May.

**Health and Wellness** Slinger Wood informed us that Rob Braye was down south and feeling better; Steve St. Amant had to fly out west for a family emergency; Chris Jones, a Radio Lady, had just beaten TB and now is going in for a cancer operation in two to three weeks.

Sylvie informed us that Ray Hunt was admitted into the Halifax Infirmary a couple weeks ago. Ray is in the Halifax Infirmary 4th floor - Unit 4.2 1796 Summer Street Halifax in palliative care. Ray is 89 years old. Medical details are not included in the minutes. Sylvie read a letter from a former shipmate Alfred Smith which he had read to Ray, something that Alf wanted passed on as it had such a great impact on his life following this event. Alf was the Trimming Officer onboard Okanagan in 1980 and he did a horrible job with the trim and the submarine broached in the Bay of Biscay during rough weather. The CO, LCdr Ferguson, gave Alf a dressing down in the wardroom during a cozy mess dinner for being such a waste of space. Ray was the SM1 Squadron Commander sailing onboard for the trip. Ray had a way with words. Alf thought Ray would come to his defence for the criticism. Ray schooled Alf with one sentence. He turned and looked at Alf with cool eyes and said, "If this was War time, I would have had you shot." Then dismissed him from his attention and returned to eating. No one laughed, even the CO was taken aback. Alf afterwards became a very good TO. This one sentence changed Alf's life completely and he was driven to do his best at everything in his life after this. He had for a say: "Succeed or Die!" He said it was an honour to have sailed and served with Ray and hopes Ray gets better. Ray smiled after being read this letter. John Meehan informed us Alf Smith was here for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Okanagan. Alf became a naval architect and currently lives in California driving his Tesla and doing volunteer work such as Habitat for Humanity. Bazoo and Jim Northrup remembered that trip and there had been three mess

dinners which were held one after the other while at sea. Ken McMillan asked for directions as he tried to go see Ray last weekend with no success. Sylvie gave Ken the information.

**Minutes** the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. There was one correction that should read “Brian Hills” not “Brian Hill”. Jim Northrup asked why the jokes were deleted. The secretary explained that he had been directed to keep the minutes shorter and some of the jokes were just too politically incorrect to be included, and also that it was voted in a past meeting that they shouldn’t be included. If Jim was interested, he can talk to Brum afterward to see what he missed. The minutes were accepted as amended.

**Correspondence** The secretary reported 2 editions of Tridents were received and distributed around the mess. There was no correspondence out.

**Reports Chairman** Sylvie informed us that Fred Sherwood’s book: “It’s Not the Ships – My Early Years” are being offered by his son Philip from Ottawa who had reached out to Pete “Hollywood” Heppleston at SAOC C to see if there was any interest from the members. The cost is unknown at this time but around \$20 ea. plus shipping. Sylvie has had little luck in contacting Philip Sherwood as he is on the go a lot. A show of hands was asked for those interested in purchasing this book. As a result, Sylvie will try to order 15 books as his action item. Jim Northrup wants a few copies for sale at the museum.

“Submarine Lost!” is a fictional account of a Victoria class submarine adventure written by Daniel Lloyd Little, and was mentioned at last month’s MGM from an email from Wilfy Broyden. Mr. Little has three books published with submarine themes. He had worked at Radio Shack for 30 years but his passion is writing. Sylvie will try to have him come as a guest speaker.

JP Lang donated a copy of McLean’s “A Special First World War Centennial Commemorative Issue”. Unfortunately, JP could not make it tonight as he is home sick. MacLean’s has published more than 66,000 covers, each one dedicated to an individual Canadian who died in the First World War. This issue is dedicated to [Lieutenant William M. Maitland-Dougall](#). Maitland-Dougall was the first and only Canadian submarine commanding officer to be lost in action. While the inside of the magazine is near-wholly army-related, men donned naval uniforms too and did their part. Most of how our fledgling navy fared in the First World War is dwarfed by the tales of what it accomplished in the Second World War, but the historical record shows that our navy contributed just the same, and with some of what should be remembered as firsts: our first submarines, the first Canadian-born commanding officers in submarines, and the first effective defense against submarine attacks (the convoy system), to name a few. This issue will be given to the Museum to be part of the Submarine Display. Sylvie offered to lend it to members. No takers at the end of the meeting except for secretary.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup talked about the museum and the progress being made. He thanked all who have been helping out Brian: Rodney Lake, Mike Conrad. The submarine room is to be officially open on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Secretary** No report

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his financial report as of 27th Jan 2019 which was passed out to the members. The closing bank balance is now \$11,516.29 after expenses and credits in. 2019 Events forecast for approximate cost: Summer BBQ \$1000 and Xmas Dinner/Dance \$1000.

**Social** Brum told his normal two jokes. First one Brum was driving down at the Super Store parking lot and ran into a car. A short little guy got out. He said he was not ‘Happy.’ Brum said “If you’re not Happy, which one are you?”. That was a clean one! Brum told another one about yodeling, asking where did yodeling come from? This involved a farmer’s daughter, farmer’s wife and a stranger in Switzerland. The punch line was the stranger yelled back to the farmer “I did your old lady too”. And that’s where yodeling came from. Brum stated that the Summer BBQ will happen on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> July at the Dube’s. The ½ beer keg will be there and has been paid for by Charlie McManus’ bequest. There will be

a donation jar on the beer machine to help defer expenses for the BBQ. The food will be a lot better this time. Brum told us that the Christmas Dinner/Dance is slated for the 20<sup>th</sup> December at the Sackville Lions Club, same place and time as last year. Brum has ordered the food, wine and DJ for the dinner. Brum had eight wine labels from the 25<sup>th</sup> Ojibwa's Anniversary and put them on the table if anyone wants one. The 50/50 tonight will be \$60.

**Membership Update** Brian Lapierre reported there are 46 Life Members, 80 Members paid for 2018 and beyond and 33 members who have not paid dues since 2017. Total 159 members. \$140 worth of dues was passed to the treasurer. If anyone wants to pay for 2019, see Brian after the meeting.

**Slops** No report as Greg had given his regrets.

**Old Business** Take two. Sylvain has not yet drafted a form letter that we could hand out to businesses in order to facilitate donations for the annual SAOC Xmas Dinner/Dance as door prizes. He will supply the letter head to Slinger Wood, who agreed to take this on and draft the form letter. "Slope". It further came to the attention of the Chairman that Slinger will have his wife draft this, as she is a news writer and pretty good at those things. Slope once more!

Prior to that moment, Sylvie had also asked Buster if he could take this on as he has the gift for writing. Unfortunately, Buster is busy with the Aussie Report for several people. This concerns medical issues resulting from serving on diesel submarines. Jim Northrup stated that VA recognises this document but does not advertise the fact. Slinger Wood said that Rob Braye mentioned the Aussie Report and he got all his VA claims approved. Something to keep in your back pocket.

### **New Business**

**Submarine Force Briefing** LCdr Drew Matheson, CO of HMCS WINDSOR, was our special guest speaker tonight. Drew gave us a briefing on submarine force status. This was his first time at an SAOC meeting. There are 185 active submariners currently serving. Drew said that the 2017 defence paper stated that we needed to modernize the submarines to operate on both coasts and anywhere in the world and maintain them. The Chicoutimi and the Windsor proved that submarines could be deployed for long periods. In 2018, Chicoutimi was in the Far East (Japan) for 197 days and the Windsor was on a Med deployment for 133 days with a work period in Crete with forward resupply. We will be doing this again in the near future.

Drew explained that the Victoria Class is expected to run until 2035 before new submarines are online. This will be accomplished by modernising the Victoria Class onboard equipment such as upgrading the SONAR suite, Comm suite, Fire Control, EMS, installing modular masts, upgraded MK 48 Mod 7T heavy weight torpedoes (This requires a new FC System). The sonar suite is the same used on USN Virginia class submarines. The first boat to get the new masts will be Cornerbrook. Cornerbrook will be completely new and upgraded when she comes out next year. Someone piped up she will have a new bow dome too. Windsor is on the lift for one year for a transitional docking work period. They were working on a six-year operational life cycle for the boats, now it will be switched to a nine-year operational cycle. All the planned maintenance will be changed to reflect this. There is one Canadian submariner currently on the Pershiser course in Norway. Drew stated he thought the morale is very good in the submarine service.

There were a few questions asked by the members. Buster asked if there was going to be a survey of the internal bits and valves that normally do not get seen. Neil Lake, CERA WSR, stated that this is ongoing as we speak. John Meehan asked how many submariners we had lost to the RAN recruitment drive. LCdr Matheson said there were six, all ranks and trades. Two were commanding officers, Tim Markusson and Chris Ellis. We have stopped hemorrhaging submariners to the RAN. Drew was asked how many women are serving on the boats. Currently there are six females. Three are officers. One is a Mars officer currently serving as the sensor officer onboard Windsor. He was asked if there is chance a female would

ever be the CO of a boat. He said that his Sensor officer has a good chance if she keeps progressing. LCdr Matheson was asked if he had any dits from the Med deployment. He said LCdr Pete Chu had done all the heavy lifting and all he did was sail back across the pond and the sail past parade down Halifax waterfront. There was an interesting dit that the all flood alarms went off just north of the Canary Islands for no reason. After investigation the same thing happened at the same place on the way to the Med.

***Spooky.*** There were no more problems with M Port flooding down in the lower flats. Buster asked about the smoking onboard. Buster related a story aboard a CO who came alongside wearing his submarine sweater and smoking a pipe at Jetty five. The Sqd Commander told him to turn around again and come alongside properly. Sylvie asked LCdr Matheson about the legalisation of pot and how this affects the submariners. There were lots of meeting held on this policy. It was stated that service members cannot be under the influence for 28 days prior to a deployment. That is easy to enforce when the boats are operational as anyone can be called to sail at anytime to fill a shortage. Someone said there were a lot of good father & son reunions outside the NSLC when it became legalized. There is no smoking aboard. The policy for alcohol is that none is to be consumed 8 hours prior to going on watch and none 24 hrs prior to driving or firing a weapon. The culprits will be weeded out as the PA can still do spot checks. Sylvie was informed that there is no longer a sickbay in MOG5. Hopefully these will be turned into submarine offices. LCdr Matheson was given a round of applause by the members for his excellent briefing.

There was a five-minute refreshment break given for the members to pump bilges and order new drinks.

### ***Banging in the Boat. Refreshment ended and labour resumed.***

Fern Lavictoire presented the association and the SR's mess with a black and white character print of the Victoria Class submarine. Someone stated that there was a similar print of a Vanguard sub in a SR's mess which was given to the mess when the Vanguard made a port visit and we had hosted them. Fern is downsizing and wanted to give the print a good home instead of throwing it away. Sylvie had contacted both JR and SR mess presidents to see who wanted it. Since the JR mess already had a copy of the Victoria and Oberon Class prints, it was decided by Bruce Lilly, the SR PMC, that it will be mounted in the SR Mess. Fern now lives in Summerville which is ½ hr north of Windsor NS on Hyw #215. It is about an hour drive in. Sylvie asked Fern what he had been doing since he retired from the navy in 2003. Fern said he had been a commissionaire for a year on WSR. He then was a regular school bus driver for eight years, driving all age groups. They did not drive him nuts. It was just like being on a submarine. He was also a volunteer fire fighter for ten years. Fern just retired at age of 69 as the Captain of his Volunteer Fire Department as he was no longer physically able to do everything well all the time at the job. Fern served 37 years in the navy. Fern received a round of applause for his donation to the mess.

Sylvie informed us of a request by Pete Linstrom to sponsor the Navy League cadets as they are about to start a basic submarine training program for the youngsters. Pete could not make the meeting tonight as he was ill so he asked Sylvie to read out his request. His son is in The Navy League. He came up with the idea of teaching the kids about submarines. Pete would be teaching the course and it would be basic (history, length, width, masts, compartments and how a boat works, like diving and engines. Once done, it was suggested that they could be given their 'dolphins'. The idea would be for them to wear an old-style dolphin pin (Greg has these in slops). Pete believes they need 80 give or take. They are \$3 each so that's \$240. He is asking if the association could help pay for part of them (say \$1.50 each). Pete said he would ask on their behalf. They don't have a lot of cash as they have to raise money for every event. The money they would save will help with camp (a week long in the summer) as some kids cannot afford to pay to go. Of course, we could come and give the dolphins out if we wanted to. This would be the first Navy League cadets ever to earn them. There is also talk of making it nationwide (not that we would pay for them) but this could generate money through slops. Art Boden said it was NLCC 62 Bidwell in Dartmouth. Terry Chatham reminded Sylvie that he could spend \$500 per occasion on his own authority for a worthy project. Sylvie wants Pete Linstrom to make this a formal request at the next MGM. Sylvie is excited and wants to participate as he thinks this would make a difference in young people early in their lives and would teach them about the RCN.

**AOB** Brum told another bad joke about an ISIS terrorist, a bomb vest and tripping into the water. Brum informed the police, the harbour master, the fire department and the ambulance service, as any good Canadian would. He did this at 8 am. By 11 o'clock no one had arrived. Brum thought to himself: "That was a waste of four stamps."

Sylvie thanked Rodney Lake for all his hard work at the museum.

Brian Lapierre thanked Bert Houde for dropping off a bunk bag for the Museum display. They need three more.

Mark Pallard informed us of the Admiral's message that Chris Robinson has been promoted to Commodore and is taking over an important job in Ottawa. From the CNFGN: CAPTAIN (NAVY) C.A. ROBINSON WILL BE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF COMMODORE AND APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVAL STRATEGIC READINESS, AT NDHQ, IN OTTAWA ON, REPLACING COMMODORE S.M. WADDELL.

George Byzewski had nothing to say! Wow!! (We later came to find out he had a complex oral procedure done today, which precluded him from opening his mouth.)

Sylvie commented that LCdr Matheson goes by his second name Drew instead of William. As his mother called him Drew. This got started us talking about another Drew we knew as the commanding officer of Ojibwa; Drew "Fat Mac" MacDonald was mentioned. We were told that he is currently working as a bartender at Jacobs Pub on Portland Street in Downtown Dartmouth. We should all go visit him.

Larry Hickey presented us a photo album that was given to him by one his students. A landlord had given this album that he had found in one his apartments where someone had passed away in. It was Bob Bramwell's, with a lot of his submarine and course photos. This was given to Brian Lapierre to scan and put in the museum. Sylvain asked what Larry had been up to as we had not seen him for a while. Larry had been on the west coast for six months as a superintendent doing underwater range contract work with QHM at CFMETR. He also informed us that Cdr Scott McVicar had just taken over as the CO of CFMETR. He said that Cdr McVicar informed him that this would be his retirement posting. He will probably retire in the Toronto area as that is where he has his roots

Cliff Boettcher asked what were the meanings for Dolphin Codes 53-57 as they were abbreviations, as these were being discussed at his legion last week.

53. G.O.Y.A. Get Off Your Ass

56. P. P. P. P. P. P. > Piss Poor Planning Produces Poor Performance

57. S. M. F. > Stupid Mo Fo

After a few more explanations from more knowledgeable members, Cliff was red in the face and asked for no further enlightenment.

**50/50** The 50/50 of \$60 was won by Jerry Bourgeois.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by LCdr Drew Matheson

**Adjournment** There being no further business it was moved by Rodney Lake and seconded by John Meehan to adjourned the meeting at 2045 hrs. Carried.

The next MGM will be held at the MOG5 HQ JR Mess 27th Mar 2019 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Secretary

SAOC (E) Chairman