



## **Submariners Association of Canada (East)**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2019

MOG5 HQ JR MESS



**Opening** the Vice Chairman, Jim Northrup, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:28 hrs and thanked all who could make tonight's meeting. A thank you was given to Chris Powers (newly qualified submariner) for bartending tonight. Please be generous to the bartender. A moment of silence was observed for all sick, ailing and departed members. Capt(N) Ret'd Raymond Hunt passed away on 01 March 2019 at Halifax Infirmary. A celebration of Ray's life was held at JA Snow's Funeral Home in Clayton Park on Friday March 8th. Over thirty Submariners and members of SAOC, along with a multitude of friends and family, attended his ceremony. Larry Smith's wife Gloria Marie (Gates) Smith, wife of Larry, age 68, passed away suddenly on Saturday March 16th at Parkstone Enhanced Care. Funeral Service was held 2 p.m. Friday March 22, 2019 at the Ronald A. Walker Funeral Home. Gerald Joseph "Popeye" Springall, 60 years, of Springhill, formerly of Halifax, passed away on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre. May they always be remembered in our hearts and minds for their good deeds.

**Attendance** 27 members were in attendance: Doug Birch, Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Jerry Bourgeois, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, Brian Cooper, Rob Fraser, Claude Gendron, Greg Hallonquist, Bert Houde, JP Lang, Neil and Rodney Lake, Peter Lindstrom, Brian Lapierre, John Madison, Jim Northrup, Marc Pallard, Conrad Petrikowski, John Smith, Steve St. Amant, JJ Surette, Boyd Thomas, Nigel Walsworth, Peter Weis and Willy Waugh.

**Regrets** were received from 10 members: Buster Brown, Ron Butchart, John Clahane, Ron Cooper, Rob Davidson, Sylvain Rouillard, David Russell, Lee Thompson, Brum Tovey and Tim Wood

**Health and Wellness** Buster Brown had sent an email concerning Bob Davidson's health. Buster was informed by Bob last night that he has been diagnosed with possible Prostate Cancer on top his other medical conditions. So, his attendance to SAOC MGMs would suffer. Brian Lapierre distributed the email from Buster about Bob Davidson to all members.

**Minutes** the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. It had been picked up by Fern Lavictorie he was a Captain and not the Fire Chief for his Volunteer Fire Department. The minutes were accepted as amended.

**Correspondence** The secretary reported 2 editions of Tridents were received and distributed around the mess. One due's check of \$100 USD was received from RW Louthain. There was no correspondence out.

**Reports Chairman** gave his regrets as he had left for Mexico with his wife this morning for a two-week vacation.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup talked about the museum and progress being made in the submarine room. He thanked all who have been helping out Brian, Rodney, Mike Conrad. Jim wanted to say a special thanks to Bruce Lilly for providing a work party to help out at the museum. The submarine room is looking to be officially open on the 4 Aug.

**Secretary** Informed the meeting that Nigel Walsworth had sent an email to him concerning our web page. That it has been coming up with a security alert whenever he has tried to access it. This concern will be passed onto our Web Master Ted Hirtle to investigate.

**Treasurer** Rob Fraser gave Ron Cooper's financial report as of 27th Mar 2019, which was passed out to the members as he was away on vacation in the DR. The closing bank balance is now \$11,757.54 after expenses and credits in. 2019 events forecast for approximate cost: Summer BBQ \$1000 and Xmas Dinner/Dance \$1000. Please note that Nigel Walsworth gave the money he won from the 50/50 Christmas dinner/dance back to the Association.

**Social** The secretary reported for Brum as he was away on vacation in DR. The Summer BBQ is still on for Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> July at the Dube's s and the Xmas Dinner/Dance is still slated for the 20<sup>th</sup> December at the Sackville Lions Club, same place and time as last year. The 50/50 tonight will be \$60. Jim Northrup thanked Bert Houde for selling the 50/50 raffle tickets.

**Membership Update** Brian Lapierre reported there are 45 Life Members, 82 Members paid for 2018 and beyond and 31 members who have not paid dues since 2017. We have a total 127 paid up members. If anyone wants to pay for 2019, see Brian after the meeting. Note if you are not current in your dues you will not be invited to the BBQ or Dinner/Dance.

**Slops** Greg Hallonquist informed the meeting that he was at Ray Hunt's celebration of life and was very moved by it and at meeting Ray's and Jean's family, and at seeing so many submariners he hadn't seen in a long time. Brian Lapierre stated that he received lots of pictures from Ray's widow, which will be added to the museum archives.

**Old Business No old business.**

**New Business** Pete Lindstrom enlarged on the subject on the Navy League cadets which Sylvain brought to our attention at the last month's MGM. Pete's son is in NLCC 62 Bidwell in Dartmouth and they have come up with the idea about teaching the cadets about submariners. Pete would be teaching the course and it would be a basic course, to include history, length, width, masts, compartments and how a boat works like diving, engines etc. Pete asked if anyone still had training handouts from their time in submariners. Pete believes they need approximately 80 pins for those that pass the course. Pete would be teaching twenty cadets at time. On successfully passing a verbal test they would be awarded a pin. Each pin costs \$3 so that's \$240. Pete is asking if the association could help pay for them (say \$1.50 each). Pete was asking the association on Navy League's behalf. They don't have a lot of cash as they for the most part 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. Several members were against giving the cadets submarine dolphins (old or new style) as they are qualification badges given to CAF members successfully completing an extensive submarine training and boards. After much discussion it was decided that Pete would take one of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pins to the Bidwell Commanding Officer to see if they would be acceptable instead. There is also talk of making it nationwide (not that we would pay for them) but could generate money through slops. Earl Corn's name was mentioned by Nigel Walsworth as he is heavily involved with the Navy League cadets on the national level and could perhaps help with this project. It was also noted that the Sea Cadets had a submarine training course years ago which awarded a badge. This course is no longer in effect and the badges have been discontinued. John Madison stated that he would be happy to sponsor some of the cost for the pins for the cadets. Pete Lindstrom is to report back at next month's MGM.

**Canadian Submariner Facebook Page** Steve St. Amant stated that as the manager for the Canadian Submariner Facebook Page he has been running into problems with non-submariners being invited to join the submariner's Facebook group by submariners. This Facebook site is dedicated to only submariners, submariner's family members and others who have links to the submariner community such as dockyard maties who worked on submarines. If new members do not meet the above requirements they will be removed by Steve. Brian Cooper observed that there have been some political opinions that were posted recently that are not correct. Steve stated that if anyone sees any posted material that is objectionable, a complaint can be sent to him and he, as the administrator, can remove the objectionable material immediately.

**VETS Canada** George Byzewski brought to our attention that a Vets Canada Drop-In and Support Centre in downtown Dartmouth at 170 Ochterloney Street opened on March 4th, 2019. The Dartmouth site will be the third Drop-In and Support Centre launched by VETS Canada; 2018 saw the opening of Centres in Ottawa and Edmonton (respectively), which have been highly praised by the local Veteran communities. The Dartmouth Drop-In and Support Centre will be open throughout the week allowing Veterans a safe and welcoming space to receive direct peer, emotional and/or emergency support. The

Centre will also include a computer centre, library and common/social area. Veterans in need will be able to access immediate support, as well as connections to external resources (e.g. Veterans Affairs Canada, community organizations) as needed. George attended the Grand opening. George informed us that VETS Canada are committed to helping homeless and at-risk veterans reintegrate into civilian life. VETS Canada began in 2010/2011 when Jim Lowther, a veteran himself, realized that there were veterans slipping through the cracks. They had not made successful transitions from their military careers to healthy, productive civilian lives. These veterans had lost their families, were living in the streets or at-risk of being homeless and were, at times, suicidal. They were unemployed and many were trying to cope with mental and physical injuries related to their service without adequate health care and other community support. Jim formed a small team in Halifax, NS to seek out and help homeless and at-risk veterans with a view to helping reintegrate them into civilian life. This movement has grown into a federally registered non-profit charity that has a network of 135,000 with hundreds of dedicated volunteers across the country, most of who are ex-military/RCMP. They work within the community to identify homeless veterans and quickly re-establish the bond of trust that exists between soldiers. George asked if the SAOC E could donate a couple hundred dollars on an annual basis to go towards food vouchers. Jim Northrup responded that he would call a meeting of the SAOC Executive to discuss the merits of this excellent suggestion prior to the next MGM.

**AOB** Marc Pallard informed us that Commander J. S. (Steph) Ouellet will be promoted to Captain(N) and will be appointed Commander Canadian Submarine Force.

Cliff Boettcher informed us that a celebration of life for Gerald Joseph "Popeye" Springall, a former electrician on O boats, will be held at the Somme Br RCL 031 on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1-4 pm.

There are two retirement functions happening shortly. Emails have been sent out to all the members. A Depart with Dignity Ceremony for CPO2 "Little" Joe McDonald will be held at the Escape Tower Mess in D-165 Thursday, 11 April 2019 starting 1130. All well wishes and cunning stories can be addressed to CPO2 Bruce Lilly. A Depart with Dignity Ceremony for CPO2 Jamie Lewis will be held at the Escape Tower Mess in D-165 Thursday, 12 April 2019 starting 1130. Note that access lists have been sent to Rainbow gate, with the names of all current members.

George Byzewski remarked that everyone should have a will. He has had to work dealing with estates where no will was made prior to a person's passing. It makes things very difficult to administer the final wishes of the deceased if they are not written down in a will. A Will should be updated at least every five years.

**50/50** The 50/50 of \$60 was won by Willy Waugh

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Brian Lapierre

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Conrad Petrikowski and seconded by Bert Houde to adjourn the meeting at 2010 hrs. Carried.

The next MGM will be held at the MOG5 HQ SR Mess 24th April 2019 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Jim Northrup

SAOC (E) Vice Chairman