



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 31st July 2019

MOG5 HQ JR MESS



Opening the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:30 hrs and thanked all fellow travelers of tubular steel who could make tonight's meeting. A thank you was given to Chris Powers for bartending tonight. Please be generous to the bartender. The chairman called the members up. A moment of silence was observed for all sick, ailing and departed members. Sylvain reported that Bob Price had passed away on the 30th June in Vancouver. From Buster, in an email, he remembers Bob (Pricky) Price who was a young two-ringer aboard Onondaga in early 1968 and also from John Smith, he remembers Bob in Okanagan for a brief time in 1969-1970ish. May they always be remembered in our hearts and minds for their good deeds.

Attendance 14 members were in attendance: Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Rob Fraser, Claude Gendron, Bert Houde, Neil and Rodney Lake, Brian Lapierre, Fern Lavictoire, Jim Northrup, Marc Pallard, Sylvain Rouillard, Steve St. Amant and Lee Thompson.

Regrets were received from 13 members: Buster Brown, Ron Butchart, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, Ron Cooper, John Clahane, Jim Gordon, Greg Hallonquist, Jim Harris, Taff Jones, Conrad Petrikowski, Boyd Thomas and Brum Tovey.

Health and Wellness Rob Fraser gave a report on Wilfy Broyden as we had a tough time trying to get a hold of him lately. Rob said that a good friend of his in Ottawa had recently been in contact with Wilfy Broyden's wife. She reported that Wilf is doing a lot better with the aid of CBD oil and now is up and about. They are going on vacation to Bulgaria in the near future.

Minutes the 24th April 2019 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. There being one omission: The secretary had been up in Ottawa and had given his regrets to the chairman. The minutes were **Approved** as amended.

Correspondence In The secretary reported 4 editions of Trident were received and distributed around the mess. He also received a letter from the Canadian Red Cross acknowledging our donation of \$113 from a whip around from last month's meeting. This was tripled by Honda Canada Foundation.

Correspondence Out None from the secretary.

Reports Chairman Sylvain reported that this year's SAOC Annual BBQ went very well. The chairman asked for a show of hands of the members attending tonight who could not attend the BBQ. Approx. eight members put up their hands. It was a beautiful day at the Dube's in Rawdon. The new catering company provided a real cook who, along with his lovely and competent assistant, did an excellent job with the burgers, chicken, sausages and salads. Brum should be congratulated on finding them. The beer keg was paid for by Charlie McManus' \$200 bequest and donations were given at the beer keg jar. Sylvain stated that Helen Dube is quite happy to continue hosting the annual summer BBQ as long she is able to. Brian Lapierre stated he was disappointed that only 46 members with their spouses showed up for the BBQ. We should ask why people are not showing up for this free event. This was the lowest turnout we have had in the past few years as we had sixty last year. The event was publicized well before the date. Brian said he has been told that some people are not showing up for this free event because

it is so far out of town and some of our members are getting older. There were several people who showed up that we had not seen in a while such as Tim Kramble. Tim stated he wanted to see how many old coffin dodgers were still around. Gilles Poirier could not attend as his wife had broken her arm as she normally drives Gilles to the event. Gilles gave his regrets otherwise he would have been there.

Sylvain reported that Paul Hansen had attended our Annual Summer BBQ. Paul looks after SAOC W newsletter and is its treasurer. Sylvie and Paul became good friends over the last four years and met for the first time for the 50th celebration of Rainbow and Okanagan in Victoria. Paul had already stopped in New London Connecticut to tour the submarine facilities and USS Nautilus. Sylvie traveled with Paul after our BBQ in the Maritimes. They saw Alexander Graham Bell's Museum in Baddeck NS. They then stopped to visit Ray Hunt's step son David in Antigonish on their way to Charlottetown PEI. Finally, they stopped in Rimouski Que to see ONONDAGA as Paul had never been on an "O" Boat, and did supper with Moe Allard. Once tourists found out the Sylvie had sailed on "O" Boats they started asking him lots of questions. Finally, Sylvie was asked not to talk to the visitors anymore as they wanted to keep the visitors moving through the boat. They also visited the RMS Empress of Ireland historic display where the shipwreck is at 110ft in the St Lawrence River on the 29 May 1914. It was a worse maritime disaster than the Titanic with over 1000 lives lost. They also visited the Maritime Institute of Engineering where wet pressurized escape training had been instructed in the last few years from 27 feet. We had done the escape training in 100 ft tower in HMS Dolphin in Gosport UK until it got too expensive. We did wet training in aft escape tower onboard the HTS Olympus until we restarted wet pressurized training in Rimouski. Canada was the last country in the world to stop this pressurised escape training and it now is all unpressurized as of last year.

Vice Chair Jim Northrup informed us that the Submarine Room official opening at the Stadacona Naval Museum will be held on the Thursday 8th Aug at 1330 hrs. If you are going to attend please send an email to the museum as per email instructions. The opening will be conducted by the Base Commander and will happen on the main floor. Then there will a procession down to tour the submarine room. The official invite has been sent out by Brian Lapierre to all SAOC Members (past and present) and submariners. The Naval Reserve band will be there. The dress will be SAOC Blazers with Medals and berets. Note parking will be at premium so come earlier or park on the street. There is an excellent article in Trident's 15 July edition written by Jennifer Gamble, Curator from the Museum about the submarine display called Diving Now Diving Now. Steve St Armand asked if Crystal and her students from NSCC would be attending the opening and if something would be given to them as token of our appreciation. They would be there but no presentation would be given as this would have to be approved by the museum but they will be recognized during the ceremony according to Brian. A presentation can happen at a later date. No slops will be set up as Greg Hallonquist will not be present. Note all items donated belong to Submarine Association of Canada which are then on loan to the Naval Museum. Other organizations such as legions have been looking for submarine memorabilia. They have been put on hold until the Submarine Room has been sorted out and seen what overflow they have. The boys are having a stand made for an O2 generator they got donated from the submarine school. Jim and Brian will still be working there cataloguing all the items. Jim stated that they are considered the full-time volunteers and Submarine Experts for the Museum. There is world of difference from the old Museum director to the new senior staff. They are making major changes and improvements to the museum.

The Vice Chairman, Jim Northrup, Secretary, Rob Fraser and Brian Lapierre were at the latest

BSQ Course graduation on the 25th July at S-100 where they awarded the SAOC BSQ Top Student award with the first time presenting a Biography book by LCdr Fred Sherwood RCNVR. While there the Museum Trolls had a tour of the submarine trainers in S-100. During the tour they were able to finagle a couple more donations from the submarine school; that being of a 4 ft long Model of Victoria Class Submarine and a mannequin for a submarine escape suit for the submarine room display. Everyone they have worked with have been fantastic. Good report from the Vice Chairman.

Secretary No report

Treasurer Rob Fraser gave a summary of Ron Cooper's financial report for the 31st July 2019 which showed a closing bank balance of \$12,190.67 after debits, bank charges and funds in. There is just one future expense, the annual Xmas Dinner/Dance at the Lions Club on the 20th Dec for \$1000.

Social No report as Brum and Taff are in UK attending a RN submarine reunion. The BBQ was covered in the Chairman's report. The Chairman restated that Xmas Dinner/Dance at the Lions Club is still on for the 20th Dec. It is a regular roast beef dinner with fixings and bottles of wine and DJ. The secretary asked if Sylvie had a joke like Brum. He didn't.

Slops No report.

Membership Update Brian Lapierre reported there are 45 Life Members, 87 Members paid for 2018 and beyond with 29 members in arrears. If you are in arrears for more than one year you are taken off the dist list.

Sylvie remembered a joke he had heard from Greg Pease 45 years ago, but it was pretty sad. When you see a beautiful woman in a pretty dress moving nicely on a dance floor, what part of her body do you not want to see move? Her bowels.

No Old Business or New Business

AOB Steve St Amant informed us that he is donating a \$200 to each SAOC branch from the sale of Submarine T shirts. We just have to pick a charity we want to donate it to. This decision was put off till the Sept MGM for a larger attendance to decide.

Steve St Amant again raised the idea for a Cairn for "O" Boats for the CFB Halifax Base Museum which he had brought up in May. Steve stated the West Coast cairn only commemorates West Coast submarines and it pisses him off that 35 years of "O" Boat history was ignored. Steve thinks we are shortchanging ourselves by not having one here to commemorate the SM1 and "O" boat service over the decades. It was pointed by Jim Northrup and Rob Fraser that we should also commemorate all the Canadian submarines not just the "O" boats that sailed on the East Coast. This would include CCI, CCII, CH14, CH15, U190 and U889. The Cairn should be on black granite 36" by 36" with the "O" boats and SMI crests and be located on the museum grounds. Jim Northrup stated the Museum staff are trying to fix up the grounds. Steve said he will do some fact finding on the costs of a cairn and a location. Steve is hoping after a little more clarity that donations could come from all branches of SAOC and the remainder from a fund-raising effort from submariners across the country. Rob Fraser stated if Steve wanted to see a proper memorial, he should go over to 12 Wing Shearwater to visit their 100th Anniversary Gate Guardian park.

Brian asked how Steve St Armand polices the Submariner Face Book page. Steve stated that he

has 3 basic questions and criteria for membership and if the person wanting join does not meet that they get bounced. They have to be Canadian Submariners, Canadian Submarine family members and or support staff to be on the Facebook page. There was one instance of a MARS Officer who did not qualify due to a brain aneurism and they supported his go fund me page with a 117-dollar donation.

Brain Lapierre stated that the museum is developing their own Facebook page which has to meet all DND guidelines.

Brian Lapierre played a recording when they sailed on the Onondaga in 2000 for the last time with 88 people onboard. The Beast was spinning a dit in the after ends. Beast had bought a cottage by a lake in the wintertime in East Uniacke and he then left for the next four months in UK. When he got back in the summer there was no more ice and he couldn't find it so he had to ask Soapy Watson if he knew where his cottage was. Beast must have found it again as he lives in it now. Only can happen to the Beast and he has not changed in fifty years.

50/50 The 50/50 of \$45 was won by Sylvain Rouillard. Sylvain donated \$25 back to SAOC Funds

Submariners Prayer was read by Fern Lavictoire.

Sylvie had another Greg Pease joke. Which side of a cat is the furriest? The outside, of course! Sylvie, you are no Brum...

Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by Rodney Lake and seconded by Claude Gendron to adjourn the meeting at 2030 hrs. Carried.

The next MGM will be held at the MOG5 HQ SR Mess 28th August 2019 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman