



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 29th January 2020
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 for making the first meeting of 2020. Sylvie apologized for missing so many meetings last year as he had important things on the go i.e. Spanish classes on Wednesday nights. Sylvie welcomed Tony Palmer and three coworkers from BAE visiting from Ottawa. They are here for submarine familiarization tours. Sylvie welcomed our special guest speaker S/LT Steven Love, a recent graduate from the BSQ course in Dec. Sylvie had a sent out a challenge when he gave out the top student award to the BSQ course for one or more of the students to come and give a talk on their impressions of completing their submarine course. Steven took up the challenge and will give us a briefing after the business meeting. A thank you was given to LS Jeff Harding for bartending tonight. The chairman called the members up for a moment of silence for all sick, ailing and departed members. The Chairman asked the secretary, Rob Fraser, to read out the members who have passed away since our last MGM: Donald Edward Jones - 28 October 2019; Thomas Oliver McDonnell - 15 Dec 2019; Edward Wayne "Lee" "Papa" Johnson - 18 Dec 2019; Harry Holm -18 Dec 2019; and Fredrick Knight Fowler – 10 Jan 2020. May they always be remembered in our hearts and minds for their good deeds.

Attendance 22 members and 3 guests were in attendance: Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Wayne Buzzard, Terry Chatham, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Keith Estabrooks, Rob Fraser, Claude Gendron, Bert Houde, Neil and Rodney Lake, Brian Lapierre, John Madison, Jim Northrup, Marc Pallard, Sylvain Rouillard, JJ Surette, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey and Peter Weis. Visiting from Ottawa was Tony Palmer and three coworkers Michelle Billingsley, Tyler Ottenhoff and Gabe Wong from BAE, here for a familiarization tour of HMCS Windsor given by the CERA Neil Lake.

Regrets were received from 12 members: Buster Brown, George Byzewski, John Clahane, Bob Davidson, Jim Gordon (Jim is down south on beach in Florida toes in the water, ass in the sand, no worries and a beer in his hand), Greg Hallonquist, Taff Jones, Ken McMillan, John Meehan, Conrad Petrikowski, David Russell and Phil Webster.

Health and Wellness Sylvain informed us that Bob Davidson is not doing too well. He is having some serious health concerns which prevents from attending tonight. Perhaps he will be able to attend a future meeting. If you get a chance, please give him a call 902-866-0425. Bob has been fighting prostate cancer which now seems to be under control with hormone therapy instead of chemo/radiation therapy. They also found some cancer in his right lung, which they cannot operate on as he has a stomach virus problem at this time. He misses coming to SAOC meetings. Bob Davidson was a sparker and Buster said he was on the commissioning crew of HMCS Ojibwa. He was a top-secret man and could send messages faster than anyone else. Everyone is good expect for Brum as he can't wipe himself after his operation on his hand. It was noted by Brian Cooper that someone had dropped their hand luggage, making the whole head table gag, and it was a good one, but no one owned up to it.

Minutes the 30th October 2019 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. There being no errors or omissions, the minutes were **Approved** as distributed.

Correspondence In The secretary reported 2 editions of Trident were received and distributed around the mess. He also received 3 letters from the Canadian Red Cross looking for more donations. Note we just received notice that the Post Office in downtown Dartmouth will be relocating to King's Wharf on the 21 February. As far as we know, there will be no increase in our yearly fee for

the rental of our PO Box.

Correspondence Out None from the secretary.

Reports Chairman Sylvie said it was good to be back and reported on the submarine activities he was involved with since his last meeting in July. Sylvie went to the SAOC C BBQ/AGM in Ottawa and visited Ojibwa in Port Burwell. Sylvain presented a Top Student award with Jim Northrup and Brian Lapierre at the Basic Sub course in Dec. The students seemed to very cheerful and paid attention and were respectful. Sylvain attended Remembrance Day Ceremony at Point Pleasant Park with Brian Lapierre. Sylvain has been talking to the new CFB Halifax security officer Stephen Vallis about our access list to Dockyard. Mr. Vallis was in the army for 32 years and is a member of the HMCS Sackville Association, and has our best interest at heart. He is thinking about issuing passes to our members similar to the passes the MFRC issues to members' dependents. More to follow, however no changes to access to the Dockyard at this time.

Vice Chair Jim Northrup gave no report other than he survived the Xmas season.

Secretary Rob Fraser had no report and nothing to add from correspondence.

Treasurer Ron Cooper gave his financial report for the 29th Jan 2020, which showed a closing bank balance of \$12,915.54 after debits, bank charges and funds in. Also given was detailed expenses from the Christmas function. Sylvie related a story about getting the last bottle of wine for his table at the function. He went out for a smoke and came back to his table only to find out the wine was gone. Spotting a full bottle on Nigel Walsworth's table, he thought: "Of course! Nigel must have swooped it." He embarrassed poor Nigel into giving it to him. When he got back to his table his daughter piped up that she sneaked the bottle into her purse. Obviously, Sylvie had to return the bottle and apologized profusely to Nigel. The projected future costs for the 2020 events will be @ \$1000 each for the annual BBQ and Xmas Dinner/Dance.

Sylvie had a comment about the Remembrance Day wreath: He found out from the organizers that when the ceremonies are over, the city comes the next day and throws all the wreaths into the garbage. Therefore, Sylvie took our wreath back and it is his basement for next year's ceremony. We all have to do our bit for the environment. HMCS Scotian runs the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Point Pleasant Park and the Battle of the Atlantic ceremony is run by Stadacona. Both ceremonies are well attended and very well organized.

Slops No report as Greg had given his regrets for this evening. We still need a volunteer to take over slops. Wayne Buzzard piped up that he is willing to be an assistant to Greg. This will have to be discussed later in more detail, but Buzz is often away for work and for that reason cannot take on the full responsibility of Slops. Ron Cooper has talked to Greg about the new T-shirts, which the design got over 300 likes on face book. Greg has quotes from the supplier. The design is Canadian dolphins with the words "Hello Darkness My Old Friend" surrounding.

Membership Update Brian Lapierre had \$200 collected in dues to pass on to the treasurer. Brian reported there are 43 Life Members, 85 Members paid for 2019 and beyond for current total of 128. If you are in arrears for more than two years you are taken off the dist list and access list. Hopefully Brian will have all the dues for 2020 collected by April

Social Brum said he had to think long and hard about his joke tonight due to mixed company. The young lady piped up "Don't worry about it, I work with Tony Palmer." Brum told a good joke about a young monk who started out transcribing the bible in a monastery. After five years he asked the Abbot if there was any chance that he could see the original bible he was transcribing. Certainly, the Abbot said, and he took him down into the catacombs and showed him their prized original bible. The young monk was reading through it and about halfway though he exclaimed "Oh My God" the

word is “celebrate”. It took a second to sink in before everyone caught on and laughed! Good One Brum! Scotty asked what was so funny. Unfortunately, that was the last funny thing Brum had to say. Brum said the Xmas Dinner/Dance was a fiasco. The DJ packed up and was finished by 9 pm. He had been booked till 12pm (an absolute waste of time). So, in Brum’s, opinion the membership does not want any social events because we have 128 members on the rolls and only 16 members purchased tickets. We had a total of 46 people counting guests, with 12 people from the Art Bodden family and 6 from the Rouillard family. The plan was for 60, which is why we had purchased 60 meals. We should be able to have at least 30 of 128 members to come out. In Brum’s opinion if members are not interested in having social functions, then we can save a lot of money in not having them. Therefore, he sees no need for a Social Secretary. So as of tonight, Brum quit as Social Secretary. It is a lot of hard work and Brum has been doing this for the past 15 years so if we want a picnic in the summer or another sort of function, we will have to get someone else to do it. Sylvie and the Rouillard clan thanked Brum for all his hard work over the years. A round of applause was given Brum for all his hard work over the years. Brum will still attend MGMs, but he will have Willy drive him.

No Old Business

New Business SAOC(C) AGM and BBQ this coming summer will be held at Port Burwell on the 3rd weekend of Aug of this Year. From an email from Keith Nesbit, which was disted, there is a plan to spread the ashes of Dean Brassington (Pink Panther) on the border between Canada and the USA at the SAOC Annual BBQ and AGM. Sylvain is planning on attending. Lucky Gordon has offered to drive 2 people that would like to go since he is planning on attending. Brian Cooper is planning on going as well. You will have to pre-register on SAOC C website when they announce it. Note that there are no accommodations in Port Burwell. The closest is a hotel in Tillsonburg. Ron Cooper stated the local Legion took very good care of the members last time the event was held there four years ago. More information to follow

Invitation from Royal United Services Institute of NS (RUSI(NS)) to come hear guest speakers Dr Chris Harvey-Clark of Dal U and Major (Ret) John McCallum of RMC on "The Explosive history of HMS Raleigh" that will be held at RA Park on 19 Feb 2020 at 11:30 to 13:00, no registration required.

AOB Tony Palmer introduced his co-workers. Even though they do submarine work they had never been on a submarine. Tony wanted to get across the importance of First Level Systems. It is one thing to look at drawings and it is a tall order to expect a non submariner to understand how everything interacts together. They arranged a tour of HMCS Windsor and Tony thanked Neil Lake, the CERA of HMCS Windsor, on giving the tour of the boat. On a personal note Tony said it was great to see all the old faces here tonight. He loves coming back home. A round of applause was given to Tony. Sylvie explained to our guests they may just see the machine and drawings but for us it is an actual living thing onboard with a crew. It is home. One guest stated it was very worthwhile to see the submarine. He could have spent hours or days onboard tracing systems. Tony explained to him why we have been doing things a certain way for 50 years.

Scotty was asked next for any comment. He exclaimed “do you want me to follow that?!”

Brian Lapierre wanted to mention a couple things from the museum. Jim and Brian still go there once a week. They acquired the commissioning pennant from Okanagan which Buster Brown gave them at the AGM which had been at Perigrine, which is now in the Oberon display case. This was from Jerry Sigrist of the Okanagan’s commissioning ceremony in 1968. They decided to install a klaxon in the museum room. Brian received one from Ed Loveless which he refurbished and is now working. Brian played a sound clip from his phone which he recorded yesterday. Brian and Jim

stated that the Fleet School will be receiving a lot of artifacts from the museum. The submarine school will be receiving some of these items. They will be assisting and will be looking for assistance.

Terry Chatham made a motion that a thank you amount of \$1,000 be made to our webmaster Ted Hirtle for all the past hard work he has done over the years for free for our website. This was seconded by Peter Weis. Only once has Ted been compensated for his work with \$200 three years ago. John Clahane pays the annual \$200 website fee. Sylvie pays for the SSL certificate \$45 per year. This will be a one-time donation as our funds cannot support a continued expense. Sylvie stated that it is important that we have a website and to be connected. Sylvie also stated that Ted has never asked for any money for his work. There was discussion where many people pointed out Ted's hard work over the years. Ron Cooper noted that perhaps we should be doing something for Ted on a more regular basis. The Motion was called for. The Motion that a thank you gift of \$1000 be given to our Webmaster Ted Hirtle. **Motion Carried**

It was also noted that Ted is getting older and is suffering from MS and we should be thinking of someone taking over the website once Ted is no longer able to do it. It would be advantageous to have someone with website expertise.

Cliff Boettcher had a couple submarine books for someone to take off his hands. Sylvie took them.

50/50 The 50/50 of \$60 was won by Cliff Boettcher. Cliff donated \$20 back to SAOC Funds.

Guest Speaker Sylvain invited S/LT Steven Love to give a talk on his brand-new experiences on becoming a submariner as he was a recent graduate of the last BSQ course in December. S/LT Love is a MARs III trainee onboard HMCS WINDSOR. Steven is from Windsor Ontario and was a reservist in 2018. On Remembrance Day the CO of HMCS Windsor came up to Windsor and they had a talk at a social function. Steven expressed a strong interest in coming to boats but as reservist he could not do it unless he switched over to the reg force. Steven said that this was something he really wanted to do and was very serious about it. The CO called Esquimalt the next day and his CT was approved. He was sailing on the West Coast in April and he had heard nothing about his transfer. He went and saw his sustainment officer and was informed that his CT was approved and he would be posted to HMCS Windsor in May in two weeks time. He had to go home to Windsor to pack and was in Halifax on the 22 May 2019. As soon as got onboard he picked up a nickname and was verbally abused more in first day than any other time in his career. He was asked by Sylvain what nickname was he given. It is "**McLoven**". He loves the comradeship and the small team. You have to get along with people you are going to be locked in tube with. It took Steven a fortnight to figure this out and does not regret his choice. He is a junior S/Lt and is still verbally abused. He read a lot of submarine books and has watched a lot of submarine videos. One book was called "Blind Man's Bluff" about a cold war submarine sitting in the baffles of a soviet boomer submarine and was undetected for months. He didn't know what it meant but thought it was very cool. He was one of the guard officers for the NS Tattoo and looked after the RMC Naval Cadets. He wrote a commendation for a couple cadets that performed first aid on a couple civilians in Peggy's Cove. He attended the opening of the Submarine Display room at Stadacona Naval Museum. Steven said that it was a great job done on the display. He saw the submarine shovel after reading about it in the "All-Round Look". He started his BSQ course on 15th September. 2 months in the classroom, a week in Rimouski and three weeks in the trainers i.e. operation of the SSE and operating the panels. This was the first time he had been exposed to technical subjects and having a test after only two or three days after memorizing the notes taken. It was a very steep learning curve. The course answered a lot of who, what, where and why questions in general terms. They have a new teaching tool called the virtual submarine that you could do different duties as part of the duty watch. Each student received a CD to plug into. There is a new qualification package which is divided into two parts. "Lower Deck Trot"

to do a duty watch and the second phase “Safe Submariner at Sea”. They were the first course to receive this new package. They are going back to the old way of doing things for getting your dolphins. This will be with a CERA and a Chief Elect walkthrough, finishing off with the XO’s exam instead of doing a board. He is not a SPUT but a SLUT (Sub Lieutenant Under Training). Brum noted up this a little different in olden days as Officers were just examined by officers under the old system. Maybe this is a better system. S/Lt Love explained that there was a very small officer corps at his reserve unit and he depended on his senior rates in providing him information and wisdom. He said some of the other direct entry officers do not understand this relationship between the officers and the rank and file right down to the AB with dolphins on their chest. Sylvain wished S/Lt Love good luck and best wishes in his career. A round of applause was given to S/Lt Love.

Brum Tovey related a true dit about a brand-new S/Lt who was OOD and an old CERA who enjoyed his wets in Portsmouth dockyard. The CERA was a George Little who drank a lot. They were in Dry dock and he had a couple beers and he went back aft and moved the rudder. There was a lot crashing and screams from outside from dockyard maties when the scaffolding collapsed. The S/Lt, who was standing his first watch as OOD, came running back to the Tiffs mess and said “Chief, Chief, what are we going to do?” CPO Little looked up, picked up his glass, had a drink and said “I don’t know what you are going to do, but I am going to lie”

Submariners Prayer was read by S/Lt Love.

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

The next MGM will be held at the Stadacona SR Mess Thursday 03rd March 2020 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman