



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 27 May 2020
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



This was our 2nd attempt at conducting a virtual meeting via Zoom. We had a good turnout. Individuals still appear to have some technical issues depending on the device they are trying to connect with but we are all getting better at it. The biggest suggestion I would like to make is that you keep your mic muted unless you speak or you know that your audio feed is clean and that there isn't any background noise where you are.

We all got connected, greetings given and it was good to see all your smiling faces on our screens. Many pleasantries were had all round. It was good to see old faces and some new faces.

Opening the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:35 hrs from his home and thanked all for making this special Zoom meeting tonight. The first item was to pay our respects to our departed "brothers". James Hollohan on 29 April 2020, Gus Gardner on 01 May 2020 and Paul Hansen on 19 May 2020. Jerry Bourgeois stated that he sailed with Gus Gardner on HMS Amphion in 1957 in Halifax. Brian Lapierre stated that he had a picture of Gus Gardner from Jerry's Photo Album that SAOC(E) had. Sylvain made a statement about Paul Hansen. Sylvain stated that he had a lot of conversations with Paul these past couple of years. Paul never had a bad word to say about anybody. Paul was a good man and would do anything for anybody. Sylvain and Paul had done a road trip together to Rimouski to visit the Onondaga which Paul enjoyed very much. Sylvain stated that he never knew Jimmy Hollohan. Brian Lapierre stated that he knew Jimmy in summer and fall of 1969 before Jimmy had his accident. Andy Lovasi, who is not on tonight, was friends with Jimmy at that time. Both Jimmy and Andy had Commissioned HMCS Okanagan and as young AB's got along very well. They had a few runs ashore. Brian stated that Jimmy was a good young "Stoker" who would have made submarines a career if not for the accident.

Attendance 25 members were in attendance: Pierre Alarie, Cliff Boettcher, Jerry Bourgeois, Jeff Cameron, William Cleal, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Joss Deschenes, Sherman Embree, Claude Gendron, Jim Gordon, Jim Harris, Larry Hickey, Brian Lapierre, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Scotty Parsons, Shaun MacDougall, Gilles Poirier, Sylvain Rouillard, David Russell, Steve St. Amant, Boyd Thomas, Al 'Loon' White, Tim Wood.

Regrets were received from 3 members: Robbie Fraser, John Madison & John Smith.

Health and Wellness Sylvain informed everyone that **Art Boddin** is back in the hospital. His health is not well. Art has since passed. Tex Ranger is not well either. Brian had talked to him a couple of weeks ago. He is hanging in but Brian said Tex stated "that he was in good shape for the shape he was in". A few members asked Brian if he would send them Tex's phone number. Tex's email is not functioning as his mailbox is full and he told Brian he forgot the Password so can't get into it. Brian stated that we still haven't heard anything about Michael Brown who went missing a couple of weeks ago. **(Update as I compose this, Michael Brown's remains were found today 02 June 2020, no further details known at this time)**. Sylvain said that he had not heard from **Bob Davidson**. Bob commissioning the Ojibwa and was a top-notch Communicator. Jim Gordon had a couple of stories about Bob which drew a few chuckles. Bob has cancer and has had a rough go the past few months. Bob wanted everyone to know that the prognosis is not good. He has had a bout with pneumonia as well. People are encouraged to call Bob and give him some encouragement. **Tony Halvorson** in PEI is suffering from Parkinson's Disease. Again, members are asked to reach out to Tony with encouragement. Gord Hunter indicated that he was sending his book to Tony. Also, **Vice-Admiral**

Peter Cairns in the Ottawa area is not well. He as well has a debilitating disease

Minutes the 29 April 2020 MGM minutes were distributed by email. Only one error. The seconder in the minutes was listed as Billy Bimm. It should have read Billy Cleal. The minutes were distributed and **approved after amendment**.

Correspondence In Nothing except what Brian Lapierre has been doing with the Facemask Project.

Correspondence Out Nil.

Reports Chairman Sylvain stated he has been enjoying the Zoom meetings. This is the 2nd General Meeting. We had the Emergency Meeting to discuss the way ahead for the Facemask Project. We had an “All Around Look” meeting but the timing for it may have to change. Brian screwed up sending out the meeting but will try and do better next time.

Vice Chair Jim Northrup stated that with the Zoom meetings we are seeing people we don't normally see at meetings. Jim stated that he broke his drone. It “zigged” when it should have “zagged”.

Secretary Brian added Robbie's report in Correspondence In.

Treasurer Ron Cooper gave his report. At the end of last month, we had \$11,780.00. Sylvain has sent \$4622.50 taken in from the Facemask Project and sent to Ron. This brought the total to \$16,399.00. We paid \$4111.25 to purchase the Facemasks. This gives a total so far of \$12288.18. Both Sylvain and Brian are receiving money from the Project. Brian is gathering all the cheques, money orders & bank drafts. He has also received Pay Pal & E-Transfers. Sylvain is continuing to receive E-Transfers. We should have a completed financial statement on the Facemask Project at end of June Meeting.

Slops No report as Greg had given his regrets for this evening. We still need a volunteer to take over slops.

Membership Update Brian Lapierre had \$60.00 collected in dues to pass on to the treasurer. He will hold onto the money until next meeting when he sees Ron Cooper. Brian reported there are 43 Life Members, 89 Members paid for 2019 and beyond for current total of 132. Shaun MacDougall rejoined, Victor Miniotas paid for 10 years, Willy Wensel re-joined. Thanks Shaun, Victor, & Willy. Brian encouraged people to find out their status and pay their dues. Send dues via E-Transfer to sylvain.rouillard@outlook.com. He will also be sending out emails to members who have not paid for 2020.

Social Nothing to be done with Entertainment due to COVID-19. BBQ will probably not happen and we will just have to wait and see what the fall brings. Maybe things will calm down by September but who knows.

Old Business Sylvain stated about “Buster's” Book. Perhaps it still a bit early to approach the Brown family to discuss this. Jim Gordon stated he would try and talk to Jeff, Buster's son to perhaps discuss it. Sherm offered to help Lucky with this.

New Business Brian talked about the Facemask Project. About the last week of April, I had an idea and did up a couple of designs and put them on the Facebook Group “Canadian Submariners Past & Present. I got Greg involved because of his contacts with the supplier we have for T-Shirts and Hats. The response was a resounding success. We did our designs, went to the supplier and ordered 300 Double Dolphin Facemasks and 250 Submarine Veteran Facemasks. At the time of this meeting we are all SOLD OUT. Perhaps in the future we may have enough interest to do a 2nd order. Only time will tell.

The way things look with what all is said and done we could stand to make about \$3500.00. Now we could take that money and “Piss” it all away or do something with it.

Back in 2014 and the 100th Anniversary of Submarines in Canada the West Coast redid the Cairn dedicated to Submarines. The only problem is that the Oberon Class is not mentioned on the Cairn. My suggestion is to come up with some sort of design to represent Submarines in the Service of Canada here in Halifax. Get a committee together to “brainstorm” to move the Project forward. My idea is we take some of this money and put it towards a Monument to represent the past 106 years of Submarines in Canada. Steve St. Amant has his connections and his work with the Last Post Fund and knowledge would be very helpful. Steve St. Amant joined the meeting at this time. Steve said that the Naval Museum of Halifax is in full support of this project. Brian then told Steve about his suggestion for the Monument or something to support this project.

Around the Room Jim Harris stated when he was in Australia he saw a plaque which listed all submarines who served in that area. Shaun MacDougall asked because he can't attend meetings would it be possible to have these Zoom meetings at a regular meeting. Problem is there is no Wi-Fi at MOG5 and it is a Security Issue in the Dockyard. Shaun works at the Tim Horton's in Dominion. Someone asked what he did there, make the holes in the donuts? A good chuckle was had by all. Jerry Bourgeois said he would like to say hello to his old friend Dave Russell. Jim Gordon said maybe we should try and reach out to more members to encourage them to join our Zoom meetings. Larry Hickey made a tribute and comments about Paul Hansen and the amount of time that Paul put into the West Coast Newsletter. He was a dedicated Submariner and will be missed. Dave Russell made a statement about a copy that lists all submarines that were lost up until 1952. He has said he will give it to Brian Lapierre for the Naval Museum of Halifax. There was a copy given to SOCA way back when but its location is unknown. Scotty Parsons thanked Gilles Poirier. Good to see him. Zoom meetings saves him from driving 3 hours to a meeting. Claude Gendron thought Gilles was “Santa Claus” for a moment.

A suggestion of a combined East, Central & West meeting was put out. Various comments were put out there.

Submariners Prayer was read by Sylvain Rouillard.

Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by John Meehan and seconded by Billy Cleal to adjourn the meeting at 2053 hrs. **Carried**

The next MGM will probably be held via Zoom on 24 June 2020 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre for Robert B Fraser
SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard
SAOC (E) Chairman