



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

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 26 August 2020

At RCNA Peregrine & Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



This Monthly Meeting of SAOC(E) was held at RCNA Peregrine for the first time since our last in person meeting on 03rd March 2020. We also provided a Zoom connection for those interested in attending from home. Emails had been sent out and we did a posting on Facebook Group to inform everyone.

Once everyone arrived at Peregrine, taking the required COVID-19 precautions, there were greetings all around. For Zoom we used the WIFI at Peregrine. It was sporadic at times, but the four that attended were happy to see everyone. It was good to see old faces and some new faces.

**Opening** the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order at about 1720 hrs at Peregrine. Sylvain mentioned that this was our first live meeting since our last on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. He also stated that we are one of the few organizations that are holding live meetings at this time. He thanked everyone who participated in the Zoom meetings during the past 5 months as well and it appeared that people at Peregrine and Zoom attendees could hear all of the conversations. A moment of silence was held for all our departed brothers and those who are ailing. Since the beginning of the year we have lost Frederick Fowler, Nigel Frawley, Nigel Frawley, Mike Ryan, Mo Biloski, James Wood, John Sexmith, Mo Tate, Buster Brown, Joe Chaney, Jim Hollohan, Gus Gardner, Paul Hansen, Art Bodden, Verral Clark, Sir Charles Gunning, Mike Brown, Nike Yakabowich, Nike Yakobowich, Robert Nichol and Ed Durdle. May we now think of them for a moment and keep their memory alive in our minds.

**Attendance** 16 members were in attendance at Peregrine: Cliff Boettcher, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, John Clahane, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Keith Estabrooks, Jim Gordon, Jim Harris, Gary Hopkins, Brian Lapierre, Jim Northrup, Scotty Parsons, Sylvain Rouillard, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey and 4 via Zoom: Jeff Cameron, Don Courcy, Shaun MacDougall & David Russell in attendance. Total 20 Members.

**Regrets** were received from 4 members: Greg Hallonquist, Robbie Fraser, John Meehan, Wynn Jones and Bob Davidson.

**Health and Wellness** Lloyd Blagdon recently had a short stay in hospital. He is now home and a good picture was posted on Facebook of him. Looking good Lloyd. Bob Davidson is not doing well. Please call him.

**Minutes** the 24 June 2020 MGM minutes were distributed by email. No errors. The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Correspondence In** Nil.

**Correspondence Out** Nil.

**Reports Chairman** Sylvain stated he has been enjoying the Zoom meetings. The "Friday Night at the Mess" is a weekly meeting every Friday night at 1900. We have had anywhere from a few up to 15 or so members connect for a short time or a long time. We have seen a few new faces which is good. One thing that came out of the last meeting was that Jerry Brown from Central gave us a brief of his foreign duty tour of 4 months in Namibia using Google maps and we toured around the country. Very interesting. Also, Al White gave us a tour of the dockyard in Chile where he worked for months. Sylvain mentioned the good participation of all to do with the Ojibwa "Paint Party," which turned out very well work-wise and all the members and Associations stepping up to

contribute financially. Members East, Central and West contributed over \$4000.00 towards the costs and \$5000 was obtained through a fund-raiser done by Steve St. Amant. The next OJ work period will be to clean the pigeon droppings from under the casing and blocking off the holes. This will take part about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

Sylvain also stated that the committee to meet with the Brown family was started. Some articles were taken to the Museum and put in the good hands of Jim and Brian. A further visit to Gerri Brown will take place in a few weeks.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup stated that the “Friday Night at the Mess” Zoom meetings are a “hoot”. Nothing else to report.

**Secretary** Nil. Brian Lapierre is recording the meeting and will transcribe it.

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his report. At the end of July our balance was \$16,198.58. Deposits were made from the Mask Project. Ron Cooper paid the initial bill for the Facemasks which was \$4170.00. Ron also stated that the final total of income from the Mask Project was \$3320.00. \$240.00 was collected in Dues. \$200.00 from the Bodden Family of which a cheque will be cut today to Brian Lapierre for the Naval Museum of Halifax. It is the Bodden Family’s wish that this money be used at the Museum in the Submarine Display. It will not be used to buy Rum as suggested by George Byzewski. Dues paid to RBC. The final tally is \$15,134.83 in the account.

**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 reported there are 42 Life Members, 88 Members paid for 2020 and beyond for current total of 130. Brian encouraged people to find out their status and pay their dues. Send dues via E-Transfer to sylvain.rouillard@outlook.com. Brian will also be sending out emails to members who have not paid for 2020. As of the meeting only 4 people haven’t paid their dues for 2020. Anyone who wants to know their status for membership please contact Brian Lapierre. Thank you all.

**Social** Nothing to be done with Entertainment due to COVID-19. BBQ will not happen this year and due to the situation, the Christmas Function will probably be cancelled. Brian Cooper has taken over as Social Chairman and his first comment was to thank Brum Tovey for his work for the past 10 years. At the next meeting it was suggested that members bring a food item to contribute to Helen Dube’s donation for the Food Bank. Another suggestion was that the Association contribute \$200.00 and that George Byzewski go shopping at the Superstore in Elmsdale and take it to Helen Dube. A motion was then put on the floor and passed to contribute the \$200.00. Motion carried.

Attendance for the Christmas Dance for the past few years has been decreasing. Costs are still the same but with the attendance decreasing, it appears that 2020 will be a “write-off” for events. A motion on the floor that the Christmas Function be cancelled. John Clahane and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Harris. Motion carried.

Brian Cooper has an idea that SAOC(E) host the HMCS Windsor in a function similar to what we used to do when an American Submarine visited Halifax. Again, due to COVID restrictions, these are good suggestions and we need to wait until probably 2021 to see what the situation will be like. If anyone has any ideas on this or anything else you would like to see on the social side, please contact Brian Cooper. Hopefully this will develop into creating a better relationship between current serving submariners and past serving submariners.

Brian also suggested that a monthly meeting Breakfast/Luncheon be held in the near future for people interested. These would be held three or four times a year. It may be a way to help get people out to a gathering. All food for thought and all good suggestions. Perhaps even a luncheon at Peregrine, ordering in pizza. With that said, Brian Cooper is receptive to suggestions, so after reading this, please give some thought to what you would like to see happen for us socially.

**Old Business** The fund-raising initiative that Brian did with the Facemasks was brought up. The topic of a Submarine Monument in Halifax was brought up. Steve St. Amant mentioned that he had received an email from Jennifer Denty, the Director at the Naval Museum of Halifax, that the museum would be willing to assist us in this project. We now need to move forward on this with ideas. A committee needs to be formed to support this. Steve St. Amant, Sylvain Rouillard, Brian Lapierre, Jim Northrup, and Jim Harris when he is in Canada. The committee would have to have something put together to present to the Director of the Museum in order to be able to move forward. If members are interested in participating in this and have any ideas, they need to contact Steve St. Amant. Members in attendance had various comments about the topic at this time. Support from Maritime Command is essential along with the Base Commander of CFB Halifax.

If anyone has any further ideas on a fund-raising project, please let the Committee know.

**New Business** No new business discussed with the exception for everyone to be vigilant with the COVID situation. Look after yourself and your family and reach out to others who may need help with anything.

Sylvain then apologized for the Zoom connection being intermittent as it was cutting in and out.

**Around the Room** Brum thanked Brian Lapierre for the mask project and its success. Brian discussed again about the Monument project. Jim Gordon mentioned that he had articles of clothing obtained from the Brown family. They are blazers with SAOC Crests and ships jackets. Anybody who might want these contact Jim Gordon. It was also stated that we have not heard anything about a memorial service for any of our members that passed away. George Byzewski also passed regrets from Charlie Lonsdale who will not be making his customary trip to Canada this year. Brian also stated that he didn't know if we would order more masks. The problem in a new order is the minimum order is 100. Would we be able to sell another hundred? If anyone is still interested in masks, perhaps with a new design, contact Brian Lapierre.

**50/50 Draw** Brum Tovey won \$35. The other half was given to our bartender Gary, who works for tips only.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Brum Tovey.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Keith Estabrooks and seconded by Scotty Parson to adjourn the meeting at 1814 hrs. **Carried**

The members then gathered around for a few wets and spin some dits.

The next MGM will be held at Peregrine and via Zoom on **Thursday, the 1st of October 2020 @ 1700 hrs.** The reason for the shift from Wednesdays is that the chairman will be taking another Spanish course on Wednesdays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre for Robert B Fraser  
SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard  
SAOC (E) Chairman