
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>THE FOGHORN</i></b> <i>The Newsletter of the Maritime Division of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY 2010</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submissions to Tom Kearsy 5 Averill Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 2H1 <a href="mailto:Thomask@ns.sympatico.ca">Thomask@ns.sympatico.ca</a></p>	
---	---	---

*Any opinion or meaning you find in this newsletter is your own*

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

<b><i>NEXT MEETING</i></b>
<p>1830 for 1900 Wednesday, 13 January 2010 Dinner Meeting at RNSYS Council Meeting 1800</p> <p>Speaker to be determined</p>
<p>The speaker for our <u>February</u> meeting. It will be Lt. Commander David Mugridge, MA, MSc, MNI, RN and his topic will be "The Links between Piracy and Terrorism". That meeting will also be at the RNSYS. That will follow the Dinner.</p>

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***MINUTES OF THE PROFESSIONAL MEETING***

Christmas Dinner Meeting  
Wednesday December 09, 2009  
Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron

Despite a developing snowstorm, almost all the booked members and guests arrived in time for the Christmas dinner. After a Happy Hour, 24 diners sat down at 1900 to a very enjoyable dinner of turkey or salmon, begun with Grace by Capt Knight. Not much business was discussed in view of the Christmas flavour of the event.

Near the end of dinner, Capt Gates reminded everyone of the change in the winter meeting location caused by Maritime Museum renovations. As a result, our January meeting will be in the form of a Council Meeting at 1730 followed by dinner at 1830 at RNSYS.

Our February meeting will include a piracy briefing by an acknowledged expert. Details will appear in the FOGHORN.

Fortunately, over the dinner period, the outside temperature rose above freezing so that driving conditions improved and members got away safely home.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***POET'S CORNER***

God Rest You poor small businessmen  
Who've managed to survive;  
Be glad in this e-con-o-my  
That you are still alive;  
Give shouts of praise at Christmas time  
When folks who buy appear;

There's a chance...you'll break even for the year  
For the whole year  
There's a chance that you'll break even for the year

The chain stores and con-glom-er-ates  
Have brought you to your knees;  
High taxes, rent and labor costs  
Have caught you in a squeeze;  
The cost of goods keeps going up  
Inflation's running on

So give thanks....you can buy cheap from Taiwan  
Good old Taiwan  
So give thanks that you can buy cheap from Taiwan!

Author unknown but reminds me of the old saying, "I will be glad when this one is over and the last one is paid for."

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***NAUTICAL NEWS WEATHER AND SPORTS***

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ***A GRAND OLD LADY***

The book ship *DOULOS* is to be retired at the end of this year, a little ahead of expected due to technical problems with her classification extension and new SOLAS requirements. The *DOULOS* was built as a cargo vessel at Newport News in 1914, yes 1914 and was christened *MEDIAN*. In 1949 she was sold to Panamanian interests who converted her to a passenger ship named *ROMA* with some cabins and dormitory accommodation. In 1952 she was sold to Linea Costs who renamed her *FRANCA C* who replaced the steam engines with diesels while fully converted her to a passenger vessel. She was re-engined again in 1977. Sold in 1977 and became a mobile library visiting ports around the world. She had 3,000 to 5,000 books on the shelf at any one time and half a million books in the holds. In the new year she will be making her way to the scrap yard and there will be book sale of major proportions in her last port.

The first 'book ship' was the *LOGOS* which I have not been able to find out much information except she ran aground off South America in bad weather in 1988 and was abandoned without any loss of life. The *LOGOS II*, ex *ANTONIO LAZARO* was built in 1968 and was purchased in

1989 and sold for scrap in 2008. The *LOGOS HOPE* was built in 1973 as the *GUSTAV VASA*, she became the *NORRONA* in 1983 and was purchased for conversion to a book ship in 2004. The *LOGOS HOPE* is much larger than the other book ships and has only recently entered service.



**MV DOULOS**

\*\*\*\*\*

***THE ENERGIZER BUNNY***

I was looking through the QE II Foundation magazine during one of my visits to the hospital and, low and behold, there was a photograph of Captain Earle Wagner holding a photo of his late wife, Ruth. Earle, never one to sit still, has set up a fund for research into bi-polar disorder, as were his wife's wishes in her will. The memorial fund will provide a scholarship in perpetuity for someone studying mental health issues, and bi-polar disorders in particular. Donations can be made to the:-

Ruth L. Wagner Memorial  
PO Box 9000  
1276 South Park Street, room 1040  
Halifax , NS  
B3H 2Y9

\*\*\*\*\*

***JOLLY ROGER***

There are 14 vessels and several hundred crew members enjoying the company of Somali pirates and their friends, one vessel recently released was detained for nine months (hope their pay continued). The pirates have got some 50 million Dollars in ransom so far this year. The pirates have ventured as far as a thousand miles from their coast to attack merchant shipping, stretching the resources of about twenty five naval vessels patrolling the area. In one instance the nearest naval vessel was two and a half days away from the location of the attack. The cost of the naval forces in the area per year is estimated to exceed a billion dollars. A billion dollars worth of education, job training and business set up in Somalia would go a long way to eradicate the pirate problem.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO JOIN THE REAL WORLD**



According to newspaper reports in the UK the bank bail out in the UK put a liability of 5,530 Pounds (about \$8,800 Canadian) on every one of the 21.1 million families in Britain. Bankers, advisors and lawyers shared 107 million Pounds (about \$172 million Canadian) in fees for services from the 117 billion Pounds made available to the banks. To top all this off, 1.5 billion Pounds is to be paid out to bank staff (executives only, surely. Ed) for their work to return the banks to 'profitability' in 2009. There are 5,000 city bankers who could get over a million Pounds (\$1.6million) bonus EACH this year and they have threatened to resign if they do not get it as it is in their contracts - so they are entitled to their entitlements. (Chewing gum included?)

It is also reported that the British Prime Minister is only 324<sup>th</sup> on the pay list of public servants in the UK. At least eight people who worked for taxpayer funded organizations earned more than a million Pounds last year, the PM was not one of them. The BBC alone had 53 executives who made more than 150,000 Pounds!

It is reported that the highest paid Canadian executive had earned more than the average Canadian pay (about \$ 42,000) by 1301 hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, and the executive had the day off!

Wallet shrinking as well as mind bogging.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**AMPERSAND**

The & symbol for the word 'and' was started by a Roman, Marcus Tullius in the first century BC (Before Computers, so it was a long time ago). In the early 1800s children in school included it as the 27<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet and would recite ABC 'XYZ and per se, and'. Running the words together became andpersand and that is what the & symbol is called today, with a change in spelling.

There are actually only 25 letters in the alphabet, remember the angels sang No L.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SHORT SNAPPERS**

- On January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1885 the brigantine *MARY CELEST* ran aground off Haiti, 13 years after she was found drifting crewless in the Atlantic.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1779 a standard marine insurance policy was adopted by Lloyds of London, the first one of its kind.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1959 the International Maritime Consultative Organization was established as an agency of the United Nations.
- On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1946 the LORAN navigation system was demonstrated at the Floyd Bennet airfield in New York by the US Navy and Coast Guard.
- In January 1872 the first synoptic telegraphic weather report was received in Toronto from Kingston for transmission to Washington to start the exchange of weather information between the two countries.
- In January 1956 Nova Scotia experienced two weeks of very mild weather, during which Mount Uniacke received 300 mm of rain.

- In January 1795 French cavalry captured 14 Dutch naval vessels which were frozen in the Texel anchorage,
- There are at least 100,000 chemical reactions in the human brain every second. The brain also operates on the same amount of power that would light up a ten watt light bulb.
- After visiting a sheep farm in New Zealand a Tesco (big UK grocery store) observer reported that, “We need to make sure the sheep dogs move sheep in a considerate manner so they do not stress out the sheep.” Humans flapping their arms with sticks or flags are considered better than dogs according to the report.
- The Japanese order book for ships sank for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive month.
- Hapag-Lloyd lost 986 million US in the first nine months of 2009 compared to the year before’s 320 million profit. “Profit contributions” from container shipping “is expected to be negative” said one company official.
- The saying something broken has gone ‘Mickey mouse’ comes from Glaswegian engineers saying, “It Dis’ney work.”

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CALL THE MATE**



— **“ Loading completed, all trim and ship shape Captain.”**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DECK LOG**

Ring ring, Ring ring. You have reached our toaster, you see the answering machine has eloped with the DVD player so I will have to write down your message then post it on the fridge door in the hope someone will see it. You know the drill. BZZZZZZZZZ.

A happy new year to all readers of the FOGHORN, be they CMMC members or web browsers.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January flight 1549 from New York crashed into the waters of the Hudson River, fortunately without any loss of life. The pilot became an instant hero but would a ship’s captain doing something similar have received the same honours or would the pollution police have stepped in and marched him off to jail?

The *PARIZEAU*, now named *DESTINY EXPRESS*, has been arrested for drug smuggling off the coast of Spain, the second time an ex Canadian Coast Guard vessel has been sold into such trades and been caught.



Freezing spray being removed from the fore deck of the *MARGAERT BOWATER* in Philadelphia in the 1960s. Under the man with the pick axe is the spare anchor. It took four days to clear the fore deck.



The Great Lakes vessel *RALPH MISNER* leaving a lock in the Welland Canal