



The Company of Master Mariners of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Division

Divisional Master's Report - 2008

2008 has been a year of rapid and profound changes in the world's economy. What started out as a year full of optimism has ended in a year of uncertainty. While the full impacts on the maritime industry remain to be seen, it is clear that the need for professional and highly qualified mariners still persists.

Our industry is undergoing rapid and profound changes as a result of the move towards performance based regulations. Performance based regulations rewrites the social contract between the industry, the general public and the regulators. Companies will no longer be tied to prescriptive regulations which sometimes inhibit innovation and efficiency and will be able to implement their own standards to achieve performance based targets. The general public will demand increased accountability from the industry to provide adequate safety and environmental safeguards. The regulators will no longer be the guardians of technical standards and they will shift from compliance assurance to investigation and enforcement.

A consequence of the new social contract will be an increased trend towards the criminalization of seafarers. As we heard during our 2007 Seminar, mere compliance to a published standard is not enough protection under performance based rules. Due diligence demands a higher level of professionalism and competence from individual mariners than was previously required. At the Maritime Day, hosted by Transport Canada in Halifax in 2008, we argued that recruitment and retention of seafarers will hinge on the ability of industry, schools and professional bodies to raise the bar on professional standards.

To play our role in enhancing the standards within our profession we need people who are willing to devote their energies and expertise. Within this context, I am very pleased to note that the Newfoundland and Labrador Division is the fastest growing Division within the country. Most of our new members are active seafarers who are undoubtedly seeing the shifts in the industry as they are occurring.

Our challenge is clear, and I am confident that we are gaining the resources required to move our profession forward so that it meets the demands of the new shipping reality. Our interventions at IMO and CMAC as well as our close involvement with students and young professionals are steps in the right direction.



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2008 Activities

- 1- February 2, 2008 Annual General Meeting at the Crow's Nest Officers Club.
- 2- April 3, 2008 157th Company of Master Mariners of Canada Teleconference.
- 3- April 9, 2008 CMMC NL Division dinner meeting in the Green Room of Papa's Pier 17.
- 4- May 9, 2008 CMMC NL Division Council meeting at the Centre for Marine Simulation.
- 5- May 20, 2008 Official Certificate of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada Captain Baugh Memorial Scholarship awarded to David Anderson.
- 6- May 29, 2008 CMMC NL Division dinner meeting in the Green Room of Papa's Pier 17.
- 7- September 17, 2008 CMMC NL Division Council Meeting at CMS.
- 8- September 18, 2008 CMMC NL Division's Mentoring Programme BBQ at the Marine Institute.
- 9- October 2, 2008 CMMC NL Division's One Day Seminar in the Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.
- 10- October 3, 2008 CMMC National AGM reception at the Crow's Nest Officers Club.
- 11- October 4th and 5th, 2008 CMMC NCM, AGM and NCM at the Marriott Hotel, St. John's, NL.
- 12- November 10, 2008 Remembrance Day Ceremony – Wreath Laying.
- 13- November 17, 2008. Paper prepared by the NL Division entitled “Recruiting Seafarers into a Job or a Profession?” presented at Maritime Symposium 2008 in Halifax.
- 14- November 19, 2008 CMMC NL Division's general meeting at the CMS, Marine Institute.
- 15- December 11, 2008 CMMC National Council Teleconference at the Virtual Marine Technology head office. Capt. Fiander's submission to TC regarding the incorporation of DP training into STCW was tabled and accepted.
- 16- December 13, 2008 CMMC NL Division's Christmas Dinner at the Marriott Hotel.
- 17- January 22, 2009 CMMC National Council Teleconference. Capt. Adam's WG guidelines for Cadet Membership were tabled.



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September 18, 2008 we had our regular Mentoring Programme BBQ.



The BBQ was a great success. The students and the attending members had good discussions on the topics on which various groups were trying to prepare their technical reports.

October 2, 2008 we had our One Day Seminar on Maritime Human Resources Solutions. It was held at the Marine Institute.



Senior Nautical Science students helping at the Seminar with Capt. Jim Thorpe filling in for Capt. A. McNeill the Treasurer.



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October 3 – 5, 2008 we hosted the CMMC National Annual G/Meeting.



We had a very successful 3 days of meetings. We were able to satisfy the National Treasurer as we monitored our expenses of the meetings. Some of the senior Nautical Science students joined with us at our reception.

November 10, 2008 we participated at the Remembrance Day Ceremony by laying a wreath at the War Memorial in front of the Marine Institute. I was not in town and therefore Capt. Hye-Knudsen and Capt. Ennis laid the wreath with some of our members taking part at the ceremony.





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December 13, 2008 we had our annual Christmas Dinner at the Marriott Hotel. It was a lovely evening with 12 of our members and their partners attending the dinner.



Our membership, today is a very promising 32 members.

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We are sad to acknowledge the sudden passing of Capt. James Thorpe. Jim was a very active member of our Division and a man of drive and passion. Capt. Thorpe's enthusiasm will be missed but his memory will be fondly preserved by his family and his many friends.