



THE PORT LOG

The Journal of The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

Issue 1 – February 2007

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MAIN CONTACTS 2006- 2007

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Phill Nelson	Asst. Deputy	
Jack Bishop	Treasurer	
Don Tranter	Membership	
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Officers

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Tony Dekkers	Phone Comm.
Dorothy Hickman	Office Manager
Thelma Bremner	Newsletter

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

David Bremner, Jim Shroff, Ratch Wallace

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Members are welcome to attend –

1. The Divisional Council meetings held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1700hrs. (see next column for info about this month's special meeting)
2. Every Tuesday is brown bag lunch from 1030hrs to 1330hrs.

VICTORIA GROUP MEETING

The third Wednesday of each month at 1200hrs – contact Mike Gray - 250-477-0743 if you wish to attend.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MEETING

The fourth Tuesday of each month – 1100 - 1300 hrs. in the Harbour Commission office – Front St. Nanaimo BC

**SPECIAL EVENT –
COMBINED DIVISIONAL COUNCIL/OPEN MEETING
followed by
DINNER & a VIDEO PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 2007
AT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS
401 E. WATERFRONT ROAD**

1700hrs.	Divisional Council Meeting
1730hrs	Open Meeting – Topics:- <u>See Page 2 for details.</u>
	1. Criminalization of Seafarers
	2. Cadet Membership
	3. Dues Structure
1800hrs	Social Break
1830hrs	Dinner followed by a video presentation - "The Raising of the Submarine Kursk" This is the official Smit version of the event and features the use of advanced technical equipment.

Cost: \$25.00

Wives and guests are most welcome to attend.

RSVP -

David Bremner – 604-738-0161, e-mail- theda@telus.net
Jim Shroff – e-mail- divaventures@shaw.ca

Members are asked to make dinner reservations/and give notice of cancellations by Sunday Feb.18th to avoid charges for meals not used.

DUES FOR 2007

There are still a few members who have not submitted their dues for this year. All dues should be paid by March 1st. The new structure, which includes an increase in the National portion as voted at the National AGM, is as follows -

Full member-	\$130.00
Seniors -	65.00
Associate -	65.00
Companion -	130.00
Corporate -	185.00

THE MASTER'S REPORT

Now that the AGM is behind us we have been discussing ways to involve our members in the operation of the Division. It is clear what we do not get many chances to discuss matters of interest to The Company with them apart from the Divisional AGM. Our technical nights are usually focused on the topic of the speaker. This year our Council has decided to hold some open meetings which will be held in the evening commencing with a Divisional Council Meeting followed by a dinner and ending with a short technical presentation. The agenda for the council meeting will concentrate on matters of interest to The Company on which we wish some input from our members. The agenda will be placed on Vancouver web site well in advance of the meetings along with any necessary background information. The first of these series will be held on February 20th. We hope to discuss topics such as –

- (1) the Criminalization of Seafarers,
- (2) how to attract younger members – e.g. Cadet Membership
- (3) the average cost of running The Company and the present dues structure

.Everyone is welcome to participate in the Council meeting and the open meeting. We hope for a good turnout and look forward to your comments and suggestions.

In December we held our usual Christmas party and 48 members and wives enjoyed a happy festive evening. After an excellent meal our caterer entertained us with one or two arias and we had a short carol sing along. We finished off with the raffle and door prizes. I sincerely thank those who donated the raffle prizes and especially to Seaspan International for the door prize.

On January 19th we had a pub lunch at the Paddlewheeler Pub in New Westminster – attended by 18 members who braved our rather inclement weather. We were pleased to have a new innovation at this gathering. At the Christmas Party a group of our ladies decided to have a gathering of their own at this event all-be-it at a table of their own. Six ladies therefore had a small gathering of their own and we were very pleased to see them.

We are pleased to welcome two new members:
Erica Bourgault, a native of Victoria, who is presently Chief Officer with BC Ferries and Chris Gardiner, a native of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia presently Senior Master on the Royal City Star. We welcome them on Board.

*Captain D.J Bremner
Master,
Vancouver Division*

BACKGROUND to TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

CRIMINALIZATION OF SEAFARERS -

Two recent cases have highlighted the harsh treatment of Masters of vessels involved in accidents or cases of pollution.

The first case involves Captain Margouras, Master of the tanker PRESTIGE that sank off Galicia, Spain in November 2002. Following the sinking he was arrested and held in custody until 2003 when his bail (3bn euros) was paid by the vessels P & I Club. He won permission to return to Greece in March 2005 but has to report to a local police station every fortnight and will have to return to Spain to stand trial at some stage in the future. A local judge justified the amount of bail on the grounds that Captain Mangouras was a foreign national and the seriousness of the crimes he was accused of. (Extract from the Telegraph Jan. 2007.)

The second case involves Captain Wolfgang Schroder, Master of the vessel ZIM MEXICO 111 when it struck a crane in the port of Mobile, in March 2006. The incident occurred after a failure of the vessels bow thruster as it was departing the Alabama port. An electrician working in the crane was killed when it collapsed. Captain Schroeder, a German national living in Ireland was convicted in October on negligence charges and was due to be sentenced on February 7th. Prosecutors argued that Captain Schroder knew that his vessel had been suffering from bow thruster problems before it shut off while the vessel was manoeuvring in the Mobile River (Extract from Telegraph January 2007.)

Captain Schroder was held in detention without bail. Later a bail of \$500,000 was permitted and his passport was confiscated. At the request of the prosecutor the Judge ordered Captain Schroder immediately arrested as it was claimed he was a flight risk as he had world wide connections (Extract from Sidelights - Winter 2006 published by the Council of American Master Mariners Inc.)

There is a growing emphasis on the prosecution of offences under The Migratory Birds Protection Act and various pollution prevention regulations. Very high fines have been levied and it seems that the person responsible is considered guilty under the regulations and has the onus to prove he is not guilty rather than the prosecution having to prove the person did the offence.

Where is this going? When will it end? What should we do?

CADET MEMBERSHIP/ DUES STRUCTURE -

There is a rapidly growing shortage of properly skilled officers to man the world shipping fleet. The number of cadets is increasing once again as

Companies realize they must look to the future. At the same time our membership is growing older, the average age of our members is increasing and the cost of running The Company also increases. How do we encourage younger persons to become involved?

How should operational costs be shared by the different classes of membership?

*Captain DJ Bremner
Master,
Vancouver Division*

IN MEMORIUM

Members of Vancouver Division were saddened at the passing of two long time members.

Captain Tom Rayner – A native of Goole, England, he commenced his sea career as apprentice with Ropner & Co. In 1957 he joined Ellerman/Wilson and sailed with them until coming to Canada. After a short spell with Canadian Pacific Ferries he joined Young & Gore and sailed on their tugs, Sea Lion and Sea King. In 1956 he joined Black Ball Ferries. In 1966 he joined the new BC Ferries and sailed as Master until coming ashore as Assistant Manager Planning, a post he held until his retirement. He joined Vancouver Division in May 1986.

Captain Cecil John Rhodes - A native of New Westminster, he commenced his career as deckhand with Marpole Towing, American Army Transport and Island Tug and Barge. Obtaining certification he sailed as Mate & Master with Straits Towing, Northland Navigation and the Canadian Forces Reserve. From 1978 until 1994 he operated his own business Seawave Charters. He was business agent with the Canadian Merchant Service Guild from 1961 to 1966 and their Secretary/Treasurer until 1970. In 1971 he became a Safety Engineer with the British Columbia Marine Employers Assoc. In 1978 he joined the Department of Labour Canada as Safety Officer. In 1987 he was posted to Ottawa to oversee the application of the Labour Code to ship operations which until then had been excluded from the Code being under the Canada Shipping Act & Department of Transport. This led to his secondment to the Canadian Coast Guard with the Ship Safety Branch followed by appointment as Manager Waterfront Task Force on the Canada Labour Code. He joined The Company in April 1944.

The Division sends its deepest sympathy to their families.

CAPTAIN G.O. BAUGH MEMORIAL FUND

I am pleased to announce that two scholarships, each of \$1000.00, have been awarded for 2006. The recipients are-

Quinn Macey

Quinn is a second year cadet at the Pacific Marine Training Campus of BCIT, Vancouver.

Marie-Hélène Roy

Marie is in her fourth term at Institut Maritime du Québec at Rimouski.

On Tuesday, 30th January 2007 Captain P. Ireland and myself attended the presentation of scholarships to Cadets at Pacific Marine Training Campus. The Captain G.O. Baugh Memorial Fund Scholarship was presented to Mr. Quinn Macey. The Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada Scholarship was presented to Mr. Eric Green. In addition, Captain John Clarkson of PMTC presented four scholarships to cadets on behalf of The Supercargoes Association of BC.



Presentation of the G.O. Baugh Scholarship to Mr. Quinn Macey

*Captain DJ Bremner,
Chairman,
Trustees*

FROM THE BRIDGE

Note: A change in delivery system

The present edition is the last under the editorship of Captain Tom Kearsey who has given this task up due to work constraints. Commencing with the May issue the new editor will be Captain Janice Kenefick. The distribution of the newsletter by post is time consuming and at the January teleconference the National Council asked and it was agreed that each Division should be responsible for distributing postal copies to its members. A small group will be set up to take a copy off the web-site and then arrange for copies to be printed, stuffed in envelopes and posted to members who wish to have hard copies.

To reduce costs as much as possible we would appreciate if those members who have computers continue to read the newsletter on the web-site and make any copy they might wish

Members who for any reason require a hard copy should contact Mrs. Dorothy Hickman or myself. Members without computers will continue to receive a hard copy.

We will try to ensure that the hard copy will be available shortly after the newsletter appears on the web site but the process will take a little time and we ask that you bear with the delay.

*Captain DJ Bremner
Master,
Vancouver Division*

RETIREMENT OF SENIOR CHAPLAIN OF MISSION TO SEAFARERS

On January 29th there was a very pleasant gathering at the Mission to Seafarers to honour the retirement of the Reverend William Pike, the senior Chaplain.

A large number of attendees from the Marine Industry enjoyed snacks and light refreshments and then listened to representatives speak highly of his achievements during the three years he was there. A number of gifts were given to him including a fine print of a painting done by our honorary member Captain John Horton. The new Chaplain Reverend Nicholas Parker took over on Wednesday 31st January. I had the pleasure of meeting him and letting him know of our long association with The Mission and wishing him well in his new appointment. We sincerely thank Reverend Pike for his time and help during his time at The Mission.

*Captain DJ Bremner
Master,
Vancouver Division*

COMPANY REGALIA FOR SALE

Ties - \$25.00
Blazer Badges - \$20.00
Lapel Pins - \$5.00
Mugs (with Crest - \$9.00
Crest (without Plaque) - \$20.00
Business Cards - \$14.00 per 100
(plus postage)