



The Foghorn

*Newsletter of the Maritimes Division of the
Company of Master Mariners of Canada*
www.mastermariners.ca



April 2019

From the Master Captain Chris Connor

A month has passed already since the last sounding of the Foghorn! Time is flying and I am happy say that generally, days are getting longer and there is some warmth in the sun.

It is the first day of April but, I will spare you the normal outrageous claims usually made on this day.

Training

As I sit here wondering what you could possibly want to hear from me, my mind turns to training. Yes, I am on training in St John's, Newfoundland. I have no doubt that Canadian marine schools provide some of the best marine training in the world. However, I wonder how Canadian deck and engineering officers will remain a competitive source of labour given some of the requirements we face.

For example, why does an STCW advanced tanker operation course that takes four and one half days to complete in the UK require eight days in Canada? Or, basic and advanced polar code courses that can be done in Monaco in four days in total require ten days in Canada? In both cases to achieve the same qualifications? Are the courses given overseas not meeting the requirements of the international regulations?

The additional costs for training have to be borne by somebody. And, I have to admit that I seriously considered taking my current training in the UK, not because it would cost less money but that it would result in less time for me away from my home and family.

Anecdotally, we know that the younger generations are not as interested or motivated to spend long periods at sea away from family and they place a greater value on their time than previous generations. Do these requirements impact recruitment?

Also, what effect is specialization having on the supply of not just qualified but experienced mariners?

I recently met a mate who has worked on the

Seaway for most of his 30 year career. I was surprised to learn that he did not have a pilotage certificate. He told me that he had recently received a letter from the pilotage authority informing him that his pilotage certificate had been revoked because he did not meet the number of trips in the district over a three year period. He laughed and told me that it is the fourth time he has had to renew his certificate during his career! He had decided not to bother because of the requirements to start over from the beginning. What a waste of experience and talent! I know there are changes coming pertaining to pilotage certificates but I fear it may be too little, too late.

Now, how do I convince my employer that I should attend that Polar Code course in Monaco!

Upcoming AGM

Unfortunately, I will miss the next meeting due to my training commitments.

However, I would like to urge as many as possible to attend the next meeting.

According to the Policies and Procedures of the Company, we have to elect a new Division Master. I have overstayed my term by at least one year (possibly two).

If you are interested in serving on the Division Council, please take the time to contact myself or any other member of the council to advise your interest in serving.

Spring

With Spring comes the opening of the Seaway. It is a very exciting time to be working in marine industry. There are lots of opportunities and many companies are looking for people to fill many different roles.

Canadian companies are buying ships and the outlook is bright. The glass appears to be half full from where I am sitting. Well, except for the deluge of rain coming down at the moment here in St John's





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Professional Meeting
1900 Wednesday 10 April
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
Division Council update and annual reports
(previously called the AGM)

Missions to Seafarers Fundraiser Pier 21
Saturday 13 April
Call the Mission to book
(see the announcement on later pages)

Merchant Navy Battle of the Atlantic Remembrance
Service
1100 Saturday 4 May
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic



**CANADIAN MERCHANT NAVY VETERANS
BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**



Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony Point Pleasant Park
1100 Sunday 5 May

Professional Meeting
1900 Wednesday 8 May
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Annual June Reception
TBA

**Report of the Professional Meeting
1900 Wednesday 13 March 2019
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**

At 1920, with 12 members present, Division Master Capt Connor called the meeting to order. He invited the Secretary to review the minutes of the last meeting and to overview upcoming events which was done as reflected above.

Capt Connor then updated members as follows:

CMMC participation in TC issues - recently, Company members have taken part in the development of Transport Canada passenger carrying regulations. This and other similar work has been carried out on a contractual basis which has resulted in revenue for the Company - a very positive outcome which has benefitted the Foundation.

2019 AGM October in Ottawa - the AGM this year will be preceded by a one day symposium on gender and equity issues in the marine workplace that brings in University of Ottawa participation.

Company Policy and Procedures - this document is updated on the website.

Company Views and Positions - Capt Connor updated the members on the professional consensus nature of this part of the Company's operation.

NSCC Career Days and Skills Competition - the Master reported that the Port Hawkesbury event just completed was very successful with worthwhile participation by Maritimes Division.

Annual Division Symposium - there was discussion on the fact that we could not muster the resources this year to run a Spring professional symposium at Dalhousie as we have in recent years. Capt Knight suggested that we look at local marine emergency planning as a subject for a future symposium. All agreed that this longstanding concern, which we have formally addressed in the past, warrants a new effort.

New Issues

Foundation Expenditures - Capt McDonald raised the issue of Foundation fund uses. He suggested that resources be used to fund academic research into current issues, taking advantage of available talent to support matters of concern to the Company.

Pilotage Act Review - A number of members noted the current shortage of Seaway pilots and the resulting difficulty in keeping Seaway traffic moving.



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This was seen as a troubling indicator of professional challenges in the Canadian marine industry.

Treasurer Report

Capt Wilkie called for volunteer auditors for the annual report. He also raised the issue of membership professional tax receipts which was somewhat clarified.

Capt Wilkie, as membership secretary, updated the handful of honorary memberships in the Division.

Adjournment

Capt Connor adjourned the meeting at 2045.

Do you have any news of interest about local marine activity or members that you think should be included in The Foghorn? If so, contact the editor, Capt. Jim Calvesbert – jim.calvesbert@gmail.com



Big training changes anticipated



Issue 257, Jan/Feb 2019

The rules governing the way seafarers train and obtain their qualifications could soon be changing if global shipowners' body the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) gets its way.

ICS chairman Esben Poulsson has called for a "comprehensive revision" of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention governs standards for the training and certification of around 2m merchant seafarers and was first adopted by the IMO in 1978. It was radically revised by the IMO in 1995, at the request of the ICS, with a further set of minor amendments adopted in 2010 (STCW 2010).

One argument for making major changes to STCW 2010 is that adequate standards are not

being achieved in many countries, and the ICS hopes a new STCW would solve this problem.

The other main reason for change is that the current framework no longer delivers the right sort of training for the modern shipping industry. ICS said a fully-revised STCW regime would allow the industry to adapt much more effectively to technological developments, including increased automation.

It claimed a more modular approach to competency accumulation and certification may be needed.



Obesity, mental health problems and gender discrimination increase onboard

Source: *Safety4Sea.com*

The Mission to Seafarers, International seafarer welfare charity, addressed that reports of obesity, mental health problems and gender discrimination are rapidly increasing, while wellness at sea keeps on falling. Ben Bailey, Director of Advocacy and Regional Engagement, will present the latest findings from Seafarers Happiness Index at CMA Shipping Conference in April. **SEAFARERS** | 26/03/19

The Seafarer Happiness Index resulted to the fact that seafarers' satisfaction levels when at sea dropped to 6.32 out of 10, revealing a decrease of more than 5%, in comparison to the 6.69 figure recorded this time last year.

The year that passed, Mission to Seafarers published a series of anonymous reports focusing on alarming issues, including increasing concerns around mental health wellbeing of seafarers, with many of them discussing about boredom and stress wen on board.

In the meantime, many were the seafarers that criticised the lack of facilities onboard, whereas others talked about the lack of offshore leave and access to reliable WIFI.

In addition, according to the survey, some female respondents highlighted incidents around gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment at sea. 2018's index had the highest



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number of female participants until today, reaching the 12.32% in total.

Generally, female seafarers seemed more unhappy in comparison to the male seafarers. A number of them highlighted the feeling of loneliness and isolation, especially when being the only woman onboard.

The respondents also focused on gaining weight and exercise when onboard. Some complained that chandlers were sending cheaper, lower-quality branded food supplies to ships, while others stated that while they wanted to exercise they found it very hard to either get the time or the motivation.

The results of the survey will be thoroughly discussed on April's CMA Shipping Conference in Connecticut, where the Mission's Director of Advocacy and Regional Engagement Ben Bailey will present the findings from the first three months of this year.

As Ben Bailey commented:

The Mission's Seafarers Happiness Index is about empowering seafarers across the world by giving them a confidential platform to voice their opinions and concerns. In an industry that so often goes unseen by the vast majority of the global population, it's so important that we do our part to show that these men and women are not forgotten and that we are always listening.

Concluding, during 2019 the Mission will continue to publish its findings from the survey once a quarter.



Captain Serena Melani to Launch Seven Seas Splendor

Regent Seven Seas Cruises announced that Captain Serena Melani will helm the cruise line's newest ship, *Seven Seas Splendor*, making her the first woman in cruise industry history to captain a new ocean cruise ship at launch, the company said. Captain Melani, 45, began her nautical career at age 16 as a cadet while attending school working on cargo ships in her hometown of Livorno, Italy, along the Tirrenian Sea in the Tuscany region.



After graduating from Nautical College in 1993, she was one of only a few females to hold roles of increasing responsibilities on oil tankers, cargo and container vessels. Captain Melani joined Regent in 2010 as a Bridge Officer, then served as Navigation Officer, Safety Officer and Staff Captain on *Seven Seas Voyager*.

She became the company's first female Master Captain in 2016 and has led *Seven Seas Explorer*, *Seven Seas Mariner* and *Seven Seas Navigator* during her tenure.

"Captain Melani has distinguished herself as a trailblazer in the maritime and cruise industries," said Jason Montague, president and chief executive officer of Regent Seven Seas Cruises. "She is an international role model and admired by our guests and crew. We are proud to appoint Captain Melani as the industry's first female captain to deliver a new cruise ship and look forward to her many future successes leading *Seven Seas Splendor* in the years ahead."

"There is a growing number of very talented female captains emerging in our industry, and we're proud to be pioneers for those women who aspire to lead the Bridge,"

Captain Melani said. "Exploring the world and leading ship teams has been a love of mine and I enjoy sharing this passion with everyone who sails with us. I've always believed in the motto that the cure for everything resides in salt water -- sweat, tears and the sea."



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Source: cruiseindustrynews

Editor: I'm sure that we have a number of successful females in the Canadian shipping industry as well. Our 2019 National AGM is preceded by a conference entitled "The Evolution of Equality and Inclusion in the Maritime Profession"



Criminalisation top ranking fear for seafarers



Issue 257, Jan/Feb 2019

Nautilus survey finds nearly 90% of seafarers worry about prosecution. A new survey by the maritime professionals' union Nautilus International has found that criminalisation remains a major worry for those working in the industry, with nearly 90% concerned about the risk of prosecution.

In the survey of over 500 seafarers, nearly three quarters of respondents said the threat had a direct impact on their desire to remain at sea and identified a resulting impact on recruitment and retention within the industry.

Nautilus International has launched a fair treatment campaign which provides practical support for seafarers.

About one in ten of those surveyed reported that they had been directly involved in legal action, opening them up to prosecution and the need for union support. Of these, a third of cases involved civil action and a fifth involved maritime administrative action or criminal action.

The launch of the campaign coincided with the start of a trial in France of a US P&O Cruises captain who allegedly breached pollution limits in Marseille, France in March last year. If found guilty, the individual could face up to a year in prison and a €200,000 fine. The union's head of strategy, Debbie Cavaldoro, commented: "The criminalisation of seafarer not only has a damaging impact on individuals, who can suffer as scapegoats, but also on the economy, as

skilled workers will be put off from entering the industry that we rely so much upon

"Sadly, the example in France highlights the injustice seafarers face following incidents at sea. "As a result, our fair treatment campaign aims to present these issues to the industry and government alike while providing practical support to ensure members' rights are protected at sea as they would be on land."



More on the next pages



**MASTER MARINERS
OF CANADA**

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A Master Mariners of Canada Symposium

Symposium de la Company of Master Mariners of Canada

The Evolution of Equality and Inclusion in the Maritime Profession

Une Évolution de L'Égalité et L'Inclusion dans les Professions Maritimes

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Commandites et Présentations

Date: Thursday, 3 October 2019
Time: 8:30 to 16:30
Venue: The University of Ottawa
75 Laurier Ave E, Ottawa ON

Please register before September 26 @ [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Interested Speakers or Sponsors, please contact:

Date: Date: jeudi 3 octobre 2019
Temps: 8:30 to 16:30
Lieu: Université d'Ottawa
75 avenue Laurier E, Ottawa ON

Inscription avant le 26 septembre @ [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Intéressés par une commandite ou pour une présentation,
veuillez communiquer avec:

Capt/Dr. Jim Parsons @ jim.parsons@mi.mun.ca or/ou Capt. Amanda Slade @ seawomentorship@mastermariners.ca

A Toast to Spring

in support of



Join us **Saturday, April 13, 2019** at the **Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market** for an evening of live musical entertainment, a silent auction and raise a glass in support of the **Mission to Seafarers!**

Celebrate spring's arrival with a selection of wines from **Bishop's Cellar**.

WHEN: Saturday, April 13, 2019

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market

TICKETS: \$50 each

For more information and to purchase tickets please email **Helen** hglenn@bellaliant.com or by phone (902) 422-7790.

www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

