



The Foghorn

Newsletter of the Maritimes Division of the
Company of Master Mariners of Canada

October 2018



From the Master Captain Chris Connor



Sharing our Waters

On 14 September the Company hosted a one day symposium on the measures taken to protect the North American Right Whale.

The symposium was well attended with presentations from the regulators and industry.

I presented the shipmaster's point of view in a 20 minute presentation.

There are many questions remaining pertaining to the effectiveness of the measures applied. For example, it was generally agreed that noise in the water column may actually be increased when vessels travel at speeds slower than their design service speed and the overzealous enforcement of speed limits and excessive fines to masters has the unintended consequence of OOW's assigning their lookouts the duty of monitoring the GPS speed (since the regulator is using raw AIS data) rather than keeping an effective lookout for ships, distress signals and indeed, whales in the water.

This author questioned the statement that 'the speed limits appear to be working as there have been no whale deaths this summer' made by a TC representative, i.e. the cause and effect may not be relevant.

What is not happening this year is cruise ships are not departing Charlottetown bound for Gaspe via a route that takes them through the highest concentration of NARW's. A distance of over well over 200 nautical miles in less than 12 hours.

The symposium was a great success and the efforts of the organizing committee were acknowledged.

It is relevant forums like this which are raising the awareness of the Company as a whole causing our reputation to grow as a source of relevant, timely and non-biased information on topics related to the seafarer.

AGM

After attending the Symposium (with a brief side trip to Halifax and back) I attended the AGM to represent the Division.

There were many topics discussed at the AGM. The official record will come out in the minutes but in short we discussed the business of the Company, the planned re-establishment of a division in Quebec (likely based in Rimouski), the draft review of our policies and procedures, our contributions to international forums through IFSMA and invitations to accompany the Canadian delegation to various international meetings (including IMO), the requirement to update the strategic plan, efforts to increase our exposure on social media (check out our LinkedIn page), activities of the Foundation, activities designed to increase our diversity and the increase in requests for our expertise by the regulator to assist in updating regulations, etc.

You should be happy to note the Company's finances are healthy and in good hands.

There are many concerns which we are following closely including the requirement to continue recruiting for new members, finding ways to serve those new and existing members, the developments surrounding the Foreign Temporary Workers programs and inter-provincial barriers to employment of seafarers that appear to be occurring in the East Coast offshore oil industry.

All of these issues were debated and updated for the national executive.

In short, the meetings were very productive and the cost of the AGM as a whole was quite low as we were fortunate to be able to use the meeting rooms of the Port of Saint John for the entire event.



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Of course it was not all serious matters,... The executive met for a dinner on Saturday night and were entertained by a presentation given by Dr. Cheryl Fury, a professor at the University of New Brunswick. Her talk was about her research into the application of discipline and punishment by masters of the East India Company sailing to the Far East in the 1600's. It was a very interesting and informative. I could not help observing however that some of the issues affecting masters in the 1600's continue to affect us now!

Symposium

Do we have any suggestions for a topic that the Division can address at a symposium this year?

One area we are considering speaking to is the state of the marine industry in the oil and gas industry on the East Coast.

If anyone has a topic idea, please do not hesitate to share it with anyone on the local council so that it can be discussed at our next meeting.

Trans-Mountain Pipeline

An opportunity has opened up with the recent developments pertaining to the Supreme Court of Canada decision surrounding the lack of a proper or comprehensive risk assessment on the effect increased tanker traffic will have on the BC coast.

The Company is seeking intervenor status with the NEB so that we can attend the meetings and provide intelligent and relevant information pertaining to the operation of tankers in Canadian waters.

I will advise if our application is accepted by the NEB.

Participate!

Finally, an organization is only as good as its members. I urge you to consider participating fully in any forum or activity that can further our goals of providing awareness, educational opportunities and advocacy for all Canadian seafarers.

The Company members are knowledgeable in many areas of concern including polar, oil & gas and general shipping operations.

If you can, come out to a meeting and participate fully!

If you have a special topic or specialized knowledge, share it with other members

And, consider taking a position on the Division Council. It is in these ways that we will grow to be the 'go-to' organization for information, guidance and opinions pertaining to the marine industry in Canada.

FWE

I will sign off now. I am returning to sea on Thursday and will be joining ship in Oshawa for a trip down the Seaway. Once the Seaway closes, my Disports will change to places warmer and sunnier than Eastern Canada!

As always, I can be reached at my email address connor@mastermariner.com



Announcements

Monthly Professional Meeting
1900 Wednesday 10 October
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Report of the Maritimes Division Meeting

Wednesday 11 May 2018
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

At 1910, with 9 members present, Capt Wilkie, in the absence at sea of the Master Capt Connor, and Deputy Master Capt Roe, called the meeting to order. Capt Wilkie currently serves in the key position of Division Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Prospective new member RCN Commodore (Ret'd) Charles Westropp joined the meeting with completed application and dues in hand. He was welcomed and invited to overview his substantial career and experience at sea which he did with considerable humour. His application is being processed.

Capt Wilkie remembered Capt Garth Sveinson who recently passed away. Capt Sveinson was a well known and respected member of the Canadian Coast Guard.

April Conference Report



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Capt Gates reported on another very successful, one-day, Division conference that was held at Dalhousie University in conjunction with the Maritime Affairs Institute. Capt Gates overviewed the day's proceedings on the subject of Autonomous Ships. A very complete report with supporting videos is available for everyone to see on the Company website.

June Reception

With our usual June Reception venue, HMCS Sackville, undergoing a very welcome refit and unavailable, a discussion determined that the preferred alternate venue this year would be the "Bridge" lounge atop Juno Tower at CFB Halifax.

Editor's Note: A very successful reception took place in the "Bridge" on Friday 22 June. 37 members and guests attended.

Guest Speakers

Capt Calvesbert raised the issue of guest speaker for upcoming meetings. He encouraged members to recruit speakers and volunteered to coordinate.

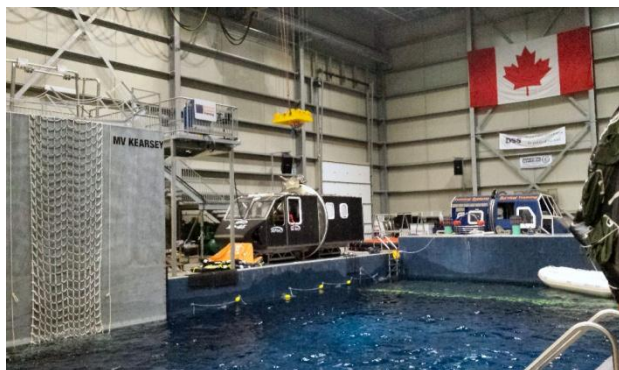
Capt Wilkie then gave an update on CCG activity in the region which led to a general discussion to finish off the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2015.



Survival Systems Honours Captain Tom Kearsy

Note the name of the ship simulator
M/V Kearsy



Division Council positions

With the withdrawal of Capt Calvesbert from the council and the relief of the Treasurer Capt Millar by Capt Wilkie, as well as the addition of Capt Kehoe, 2018/2019 Council makeup was acclaimed as follows:

Capt Connor	DM
Capt Roe	A/DM
Capt Wilkie	Treasurer/Membership
Capt Gilmore	
Capt Knight	
Capt Boutilier	
Capt Kehoe	
LCdr Reddy	Secretary

National Councilors remain as Cpts Connor, Gilmore and Gates (past national master/president).



Norman Crewe 1921-

(From the Royal United Services Institute – RUSI)

The son of a British merchant mariner, Norman Crewe was born in Burgeo, Newfoundland, which was a separate British dominion at the time. In 1940, he moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the insistence of his friends, he joined them in the Canadian Merchant Navy which transported vital Allied supplies, equipment and personnel during the Second World War.

Crewe served a year in the Pacific, then made more than a dozen transatlantic crossings in enemy-infested waters, transporting everything from eggs to munitions and explosives. Crewe experienced the war firsthand, sailing in convoys under enemy attack. The distressing sights and cries of fellow sailors – whom he could not assist – with their red emergency lights bobbing in icy waters, haunt him still.

Following the war, Crewe worked at the Halifax Dockyard and spent six and a half years back at sea aboard HMCS Sackville during this distinguished corvette's time as a civilian oceanographic research vessel. A long-time advocate for the rights of Merchant Navy veterans, Crewe continues to dedicate his time



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and energy to honouring his fallen comrades.

Norman Crewe and his wife Amelia (Mellie), inseparable since 1946, continue to call Halifax home.



Image: courtesy of Mr. Norman Crewe



F.W.E. for this edition

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Arctic Cruise Opportunity Capt. Jack Gallagher

The Mission to Seafarers has a cruise for two for next summer donated by One Ocean Expeditions. They are raffling it off and tickets are on sale. They are \$50 or 3 for \$125. Payment at the mission by cash or cheque.

Tour details at:

<https://www.oneoceanexpeditions.com/canadas-east-coast/canadas-east-coast>