



The Foghorn

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



October 2020

From the Master Captain Marshall Dunbar

Good Day Everyone,

Trust everyone enjoyed the summer and for the most part the great weather. Even the weather seems to be cooperating to start the fall season. With fall comes our National Annual General Meeting. The meeting held on Saturday September 26 and was book ended on Thursday September 24 with the 219th Board Meeting and on Sunday September 27 with the 220th Board Meeting. We also held The Foundation meeting on Saturday September 26.

Highlights of these meetings are as below. From the 219th Board Meeting the Strategic Plan was accepted. Captains' Iskandr, Dyke and myself presented an update on the website steering committee. The discussion on choosing a Webmaster was a topic and Stephanie Connors has offered to remain. Captain Gallagher updated the Board on the process of choosing a company to translate into French the Bylaws, Policies & Procedures and marketing materials. It was felt that the lowest bidder may not necessarily be the best choice and further investigation into other bidders would be the proper way forward.

As for the AGM, it went very well and observed agenda closely followed. Reports from all Divisions and Committees received. The election of Board Members for 2020/2021 was proposed and election conducted. Captain David Dyke from the Vancouver Island Division and Captain John Greenway from the Great Lakes Division were the Divisional changes from last year. As the AGM could not be in person, it was been decided that the Great Lakes Division would remain the host for next years AGM. Dates and location are to be decided.

Many thanks for Captain Zaki from the NL and Labrador Division for taking screen shots of the meeting and incorporating it into their newsletter, The Deck Log.

From the 220th Board Meeting, Elections resulted in Captain Hall as President, Captain Connor and Vice President and Captain March as Assistant Vice President. Nominations resulted in Captain Gallagher as Treasurer, Captain Brown as Secretary, Captain Kooka as Membership Chair, Captain Calvesbert as

Education Chair, Captain Connor as Views and Position Chair, Captain Hearn as Editor of From The Bridge and Stephanie Connor as Webmaster.

It was a good few days and I am pleased that The Maritimes Division continues to show a strong presence at the National Level as listed above. There is work to do, as to ensure continued success of the Master Mariners of Canada. That includes implementing the Strategic Plan, working to refresh the website and of course the need to retain and attract members.

I do note that Ivan Lantz now adds a page to the daily e-newsletter on the MMC Professional Development Program. Please do have a review of this program by visiting the website and see if you can meet its requirements for accreditation. Captain Jim Calvesbert is the Education Chair and he takes interest in any form of education that promotes yourselves and the organisation.

Lastly, I see that a Scottish company. Nova Innovation (<https://www.novainnovation.com>) is eligible for up to \$4 million of federal grant money for its plan to install 15 small sub-sea turbines in Petite Passage at Digby Neck. I hope that they are successful and some of our local marine companies benefit by providing services. It certainly has been interesting to observe the efforts to harness this energy and work towards sustainable energy production.

See you at the next meeting (Via ZOOM), Wednesday Oct 14 at 1900.

Marshall



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting

October 14, 2020 beginning at 1900 ADT

(by Zoom -instruction will be sent in a separate email closer to the meeting)





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Minutes of the September 9th Meeting

Our Divisional Master was experiencing life without internet for this meeting and Capt. Wilkie called our ZOOM gathering to order at 1900.

John Swain of Survival Systems for our guest speaker and gave an overview of their new training facility which incorporates a lifeboat training simulator. The system was tested by Transport Canada using two groups of officer cadets from the Canadian Coast Guard College. With this system, SSTL is able to conduct 10 launches per hour versus only 2 when conducting live water drills. They have found that simulation results in consistency and repeatability but is best used in conjunction with “real life training”. Discussion brought up the fact the maintenance of lifeboat systems is critical to ensuring proper operation and that lifeboat hooks are a major cause of accidents during launching. Some areas of thought are that free fall lifeboats may be the safest.

Capt. Connor discussed the “Ship2Shore” program which is based in Toronto and supported by Heritage Canada with Broadreach Sail as the driving force behind it. Broadreach is a society attempting to instill life skills and leadership training in the participants. It focuses on the 13-29 age group and is attempting to get youth involved in Tall Ships with the goal of introducing them to future careers in the marine field.

In other business, a donation to the Mission to Seafarers, Halifax, was approved to cover our normal participation in the cancelled golf tournament as well as the Christmas Dinner whether it is held or not. (the donation was subsequently made by Capt. Wilkie). Smaller donations of \$100-200 were approved for Mercy Ships and Friends of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic or Acadia.

Capt. Connor announced that all applications for membership are now able to be done on-line which should accelerate the joining process.

Our next meeting will be October 14th, again by ZOOM. The meeting was adjourned at 2100.

Proficiency and Computers

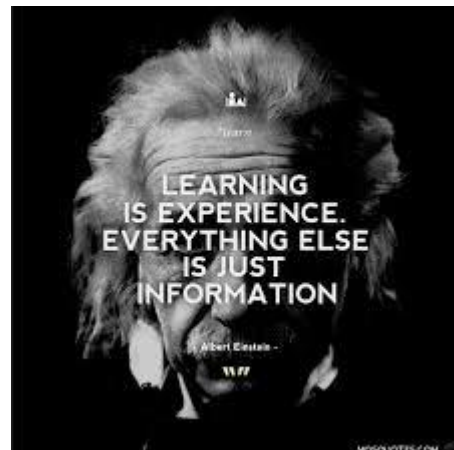
*Adapted from Capt. Sajith Babu, MM with
Suntech Ship Management Pte Ltd.*

“Over the years, priorities and challenges have changed for all ranks. Embracing the change gracefully is the best way to overcome these hurdles. Modern technologies are already replacing age old techniques, but a lot more will change in coming years. Ship Management companies should put more emphasis on Continuous Professional Development courses which include familiarity with computer science and information technology.”

“Sailors should not be deterred from completing this training as part of their pre-joining formalities. Sailor always complain about their companies calling them to complete inhouse courses during vacation periods 1- but these courses should be seen as opportunities to keep up with the pace of evolving technologies.”



Help Me to Understand Capt. Jim Calvesbert



Why is there a shortage of qualified mariners in senior marine positions in Transport Canada?

Why are there so many seemingly ill-formed decisions about ship building requirements in Canada?

Why are there so many changing designs for vessels occurring in Canada?



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Why does it take so long from the decision to build to the in-water operation of vessels in Canada?

Why are marine institutes finding it so difficult to recruit young people in Canada?

Why aren't non-officer crew members, in Canada, being trained for new technologies in the marine field?

Does every mariner have to be an officer?

Why aren't there more shipping companies in Canada?



Tropic Hope Crew Repatriation

For those following the Sunday intervention by TC and the ITF, arrangements have been made for further crew movements this Saturday from Tampa, Fl. Capt. Alan Knight and local TC staff along with ITF and Joseph Loot, the Assistant Manager of the Halifax Mission to Seafarers who acted as a translator. Joseph, who is originally from the Philippines, was able to bring some information forward that would otherwise have been lost in translation.



F.W.E. for this edition

Capt. Jim Calvesbert, Editor (who is always looking for articles from members)