



# **Newsletter**

## **The 2024 Nautical Skills Competition Master Mariners of Canada (MMC) NL Division**



The 12<sup>th</sup> annual [Nautical Skills Competition \(NSC\)](#) was hosted by the [Master Mariners of Canada \(MMC\), \(NL Division\)](#), in collaboration with the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI). The event ran from 1700 to 2030 on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and continued on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 0800 to 1700 at MI's Ridge Road campus in St. John's, NL. A reception was held at 1830 in the MI student lounge followed by a Gala Awards Dinner at 1930 in the cafeteria.

Using five state-of-the-art marine simulators, four from the MI and one from local company Virtual Marine, the competition included seven challenging exercises (five simulation-based and two non-simulation-based) designed to test the knowledge and ability of Nautical Science students. The competition aimed to promote the maritime sector, encourage team building and professionalism, and foster a safety culture.

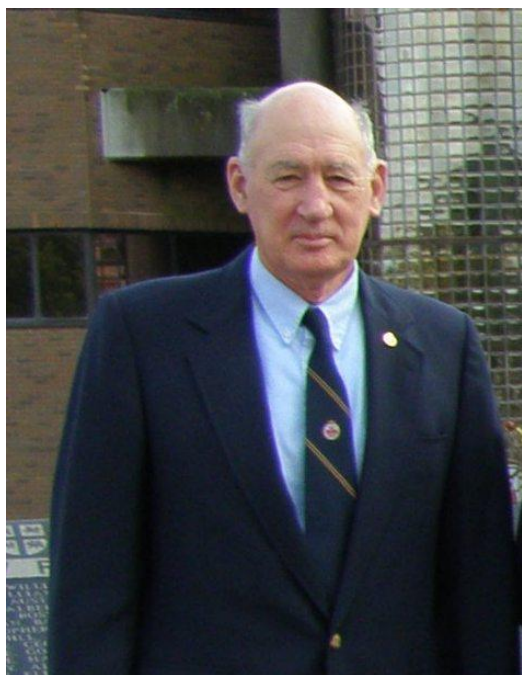
The NSC started in 2012, as a way for the Master Mariners of Canada (NL Division) to mentor and reach out to the younger generation of upcoming seafarers. Over the past decade, it has become a flagship event in the Division's annual calendar. It has also become a way to engage the maritime industry, locally, nationally, and internationally through sponsorship and participation. Industry support helps facilitate the event and enables the MMC to promote leadership, strong work ethic, diversity, and inclusion with any new person entering the nautical field.

“Our students come well prepared for the competition and every year, they excel in showcasing their skills and competency in front of our industry,” said Capt. Eben March, MMC National Master and founding member of the NSC planning committee. “It is beneficial to have industry participate throughout the competition as judges and mentors to encourage leadership, work ethic, safety and confidence to those entering the nautical field.”

Forty-six Nautical Science students demonstrated their skills in ship maneuvering, navigation, stability, seamanship, dynamic positioning, emergency management, and offshore operations to veteran master

mariners from the Newfoundland and Labrador region. Twenty-one Canadian maritime companies supported the competition, providing opportunities for cadets to interact with the region's most experienced mariners. Eleven high school students, ten from across Newfoundland and Labrador and one from Nova Scotia, also participated in the event, contributing to the [Master Mariners of Canada's](#) mandate to promote the marine profession to younger generations. "Raising awareness of the vital role the maritime sector plays in the global economy is important. It is equally important to help ensure the future of the maritime sector will advance under the guidance of bright, intellectual, and competent young maritime professionals," said Capt./Dr. Jim Parsons, MMC NL Divisional Master.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of the NSC are presented with a plaque named in honour of Captain Jim Thorpe (R. James Thorpe), who was a member of the Master Mariners of Canada (NL Division) and a valuable mentor to the Marine Institute's Nautical Science cadets. Captain Thorpe's passion for student success was palpable as he proved to be a valuable source of information for the cadet technical reports. He was often found volunteering at the school, sharing memories of his own cadet and sailing experiences with the students. The plaque honours the memory of this lifelong respected and professional mariner.



Captain Jim Thorpe was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a son of a sailing family, all of whom were active in the Housatonic Boat Club, the oldest yacht club in the state of Connecticut. An avid yachtsman, he attended Maine Maritime Academy, where he was involved with sailing and club activities. Jim sailed the world with American Export Isbrandtsen Lines as Deck Officer and Navigation Officer, obtaining a USCG license of Master, any gross tons. He also held a distinction of having served on the *NS Savannah*, the first, and one of the few ever built, commercial nuclear-powered ships.

Jim retired to Newfoundland with his family. He collaborated with the Master Mariners of Canada, among other projects. Jim was a mariner of the old school, a community builder, and a loving family man with an active circle of friends. His legacy remains an inspiration to young and seasoned mariners alike. Captain Thorpe passed away in January 2009 in St. John's, NL.

## Captain Jim Thorpe

At the first Nautical Skills Competition held in 2012, his wife Dawna Vivian and his son Lydon Thorpe presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award in his honour.

**The 2024 NSC video will be posted on the Newfoundland Division section of the MMC website. <http://nsc.mastermariners.ca/media/>**

## The Sponsors

# Nautical Skills 2024 COMPETITION

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



### MASTER MARINER LEVEL



ATLANTIC TOWING



### CHIEF OFFICER LEVEL



### SECOND OFFICER LEVEL



### THIRD OFFICER LEVEL



This year, the NSC had twenty-one sponsors and they contributed \$47,000, in support of the event. The Master Mariner Level sponsors, Atlantic Towing and Algoma Central Corporation, each contributed \$5,000.





The Company of Master Mariners of Canada, NL Division, would like to thank the sponsors for the support they have provided for the Nautical Skills Competition. Without your financial support, the competition would not be possible. **Once again THANK YOU, to all the sponsors.**

## The Venue



**2024 Group Photo, including Students, Judges and Volunteers.**

**THANK YOU, to the Marine Institute.** For once again hosting the competition.

# The Teams

## Team 1 – Taylor Drift

Chad Wilcox	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Daniel Jackson	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Dylan Pumphrey	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Robert Hodge	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Hayden Landa	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Emily Simmons	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science
Kyle Bugley	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## Team 2 – Hunky Dory

Edmund Pelley	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Josh Batten	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Megan Fiander	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Morgan Byrne	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Sam Collins	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science
Isaac Corbett	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## Team 3 – USAIN BOAT

Kate Marshall	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Luke Turpin	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Morgan Hackett	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Richard Whittle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Ryan Pike	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Victoria Gillett	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science
Elodie Clayton	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## Team 4 – Three Sheets to the Wind

Ethan Strickland	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
James Hawco	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Joshua Williams	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Mckenna Simmons	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Matthew Gibbons	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Pacey Griffin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Christopher Rafuse	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## **Team 5 – My Chemical Tanker**

Allan Bambury	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Macadam Duncan	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Taylor Osmond	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Brady Synard	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Caleb Connors	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Aiden Parsons	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science
Amber Jones	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## **Team 6 – Beachy Keel**

Nathan Childs	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Brady Burke	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Eric Ford	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Adrian Sparkes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Jordan Mercer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Foster Penton	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## **Team 7 – Buoyancy Operated Aquatic Transport (B.O.A.T.)**

Kalif Poitier	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Reilly Planke	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Avery Decker	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Nautical Science
Joyce Ngom	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Noah Robinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Nautical Science
Anthony Griffin	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Year Nautical Science

## **High School Students**

Max Piercey	Carbonear Collegiate
Sara Budden	Lewisporte Collegiate
Jack Moulton	Marystown Central High School
Nick Allen	Holy Spirit High
Griffin Matthews	St. James Regional High School
Logan Ryland	Labrador Straits Academy
Logan Pike	Holy Spirit High
David March	Gonzaga High School
Yassin Labib	Ecole Rocher-du-Nord
Addison Isnor Atlass	Bay View High School
Emma Penney	Gonzaga High School



# The Volunteers

Dynamic Positioning	
Captain Glenn Fiander	Exercise Lead    Member MMC
Captain Eric Alyward	Judge
Captain Richard Edwards	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Jeff Murrin	Judge
Emergency Management	
Captain Victor March	Exercise Lead
Captain Ray Dalton	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Roy Marsh	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Troy Nolan	Judge    Member MMC
Offshore Operations	
Captain Eben March	Exercise Lead    Member MMC
Captain Sheldon Anstey	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Samantha Strowbridge	Judge    Member MMC
Nathan Mullins	Assistant Judge    Member MMC
Seamanship	
Captain Kent Waddleton	Exercise Lead
Captain John Ennis	Exercise Lead    Member MMC
Captain Kris Drodge	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Dan Fournier	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Sean Quinlan	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Chris Whelan	Judge    Member MMC
Search and Rescue	
Captain Dawn Patten	Exercise Lead    Virtual Marine
Frocy Labrador	Judge    Virtual Marine
Captain Fabian Lambert	Judge    Marine Institute
Captain Scott Rideout	Judge    Member MMC
Alex Phillips	Virtual Marine

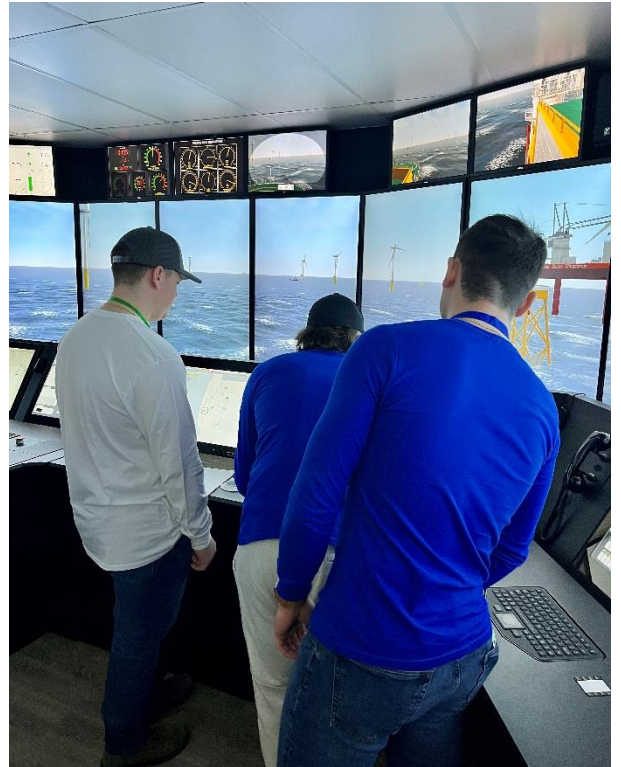
Shiphandling/Navigation	
Captain Chris Hearn	Exercise Lead    Member MMC
Captain Drew McNeil	Judge    Member MMC
Captain Fabian Mulrooney	Judge
Captain Adam Regular	Judge    Member MMC
NSC Volunteers	
Maria Halfyard	NSC Coordinator    Honorary Member MMC
Jennifer Howell	NSC Coordinator    Associate Member MMC
Capt./Dr. Jim Parsons	Member MMC
Krista Parsons	Judge    Marine Institute
Elizabeth Clouter	Marine Institute    Honorary Member MMC
Dr. Angie Clarke	Marine Institute
Bernie Brockerville	Marine Institute
Shelby Fudge	Marine Institute
Paula Fulford	Marine Institute
Mackenzie Luff	Marine Institute
Kate McLeod	Marine Institute
Chelsey Oldford	Marine Institute
Kate Saunders	Marine Institute
Krista Sweetland	Marine Institute
Kimberly Thornhill	Marine Institute
Stacey Walsh	Marine Institute

**THANK YOU, to all the volunteers.** Without your dedication and hard work, the competition would not be possible.

**A special THANK YOU, to our two event coordinators, Maria Halfyard and Jennifer Howell.** Without you organizing all the elements and keeping everything (and everyone) on track, the competition would not have been the great success that it was.

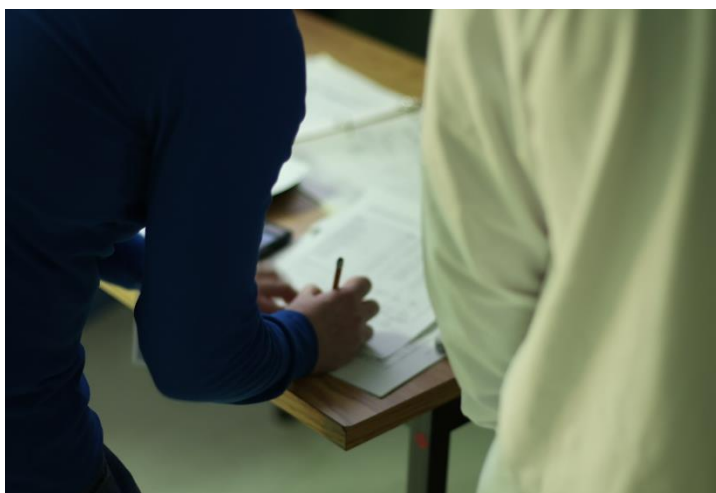
# The Competition

**Dynamic Positioning (DP) Exercise.** Using a multi-purpose support vessel (MSV), participants followed (within prescribed operational limits) a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), as it was carrying out an inspection of cables running between wind turbines, at an offshore windfarm. Vessel movement being controlled through the use of the vessels DP system.





**Emergency Management Exercise.** Participants were given a situation where they were onboard a tanker that entered an ice flow. The vessel came into contact with a hidden piece of old ice imbedded in the flow. There was damage to the stern and the vessel lost its rudder. The participants then had to manage the incident and ensure that the situation didn't get any worse. They had to assess the overall condition of the vessel, including its stability, and work to keep the vessel in a safe position until assistance arrived.





**Offshore Operations.** Participants had to maneuver an anchor handling supply vessel stern to a semi-submersible drilling rig and retrieve an anchor pennant. After receiving and connecting the pennant to the vessels work wire, they were to run the anchor out (on a specified heading) 1200m from the rig and place it on the bottom.





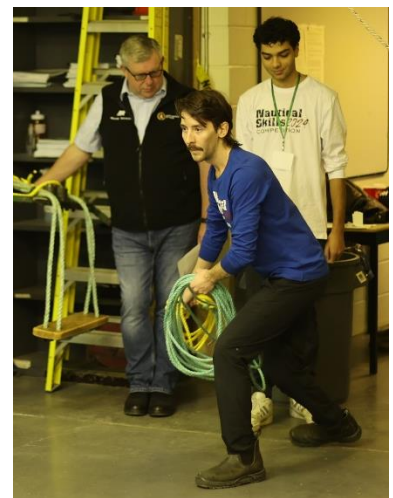
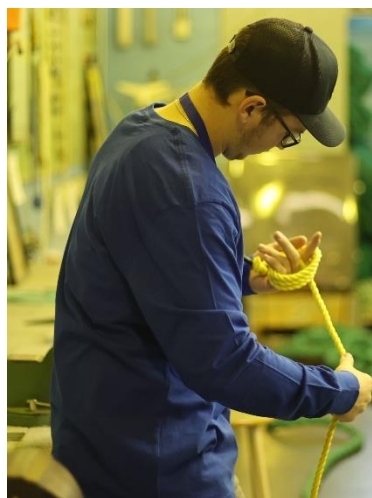
## Seamanship Exercise (five sections).

Participants encoded and decoded messages using the signal flags of the International Code of Signals. They had to tie a heaving line knot (monkey fist), attach it to a heaving line and throw the heaving line through the center of a life ring.

They had to demonstrate various knots, bends, hitches and splices and the proper use of various mooring line stoppers.

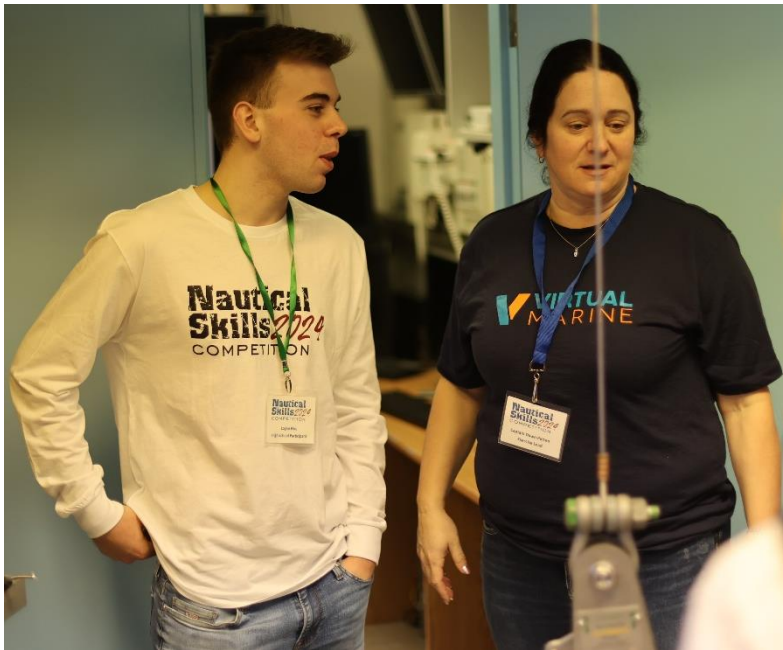
They had to assemble items for working aloft or over the ship's side, rig various purchases and discuss/demonstrate the use of this equipment.

They had to identify various light and shape displays.





**Search and Rescue Exercise.** Participants had to launch and release a FRC from an OSV and proceed towards a vessel on fire. The area was filled with hard to see debris. There are three MOBs in the water, amongst the debris, that had to be recovered. Once the MOBs were successfully picked up, the FRC proceeded back to the OSV for recovery.

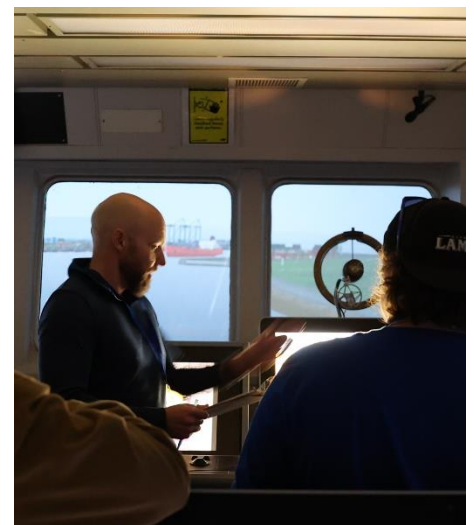


**THANK YOU, to Virtual Marine, for the use of its FRC simulator.**





**Ship Handling and Navigation Exercise.** Participants, using a single screw tanker, had to maneuver safely into the outer turning basin, in Belfast harbour. After turning through 180°, they had to maneuver stern first down a channel towards a berth near a dry dock entrance.





**Marine Emergency Duties (Team Relay).** Held on the Friday evening, in the Marine Institute gymnasium, before the main competition day on Saturday. It was a timed competition where teams competed in pairs. Marks were based on overall time to complete the tasks and proper execution of those tasks. Marks received counted towards overall team scores for the competition.

Part A: Donning a fire suit/ bunker gear.

Part B: Attach a nozzle to a fire hose /deploy hose.

Part C: Recover rescue manikin to a safe area.

Part D: Don an immersion suit and life jacket.











The teams ran the exercise in pairs. As there were seven competing teams this year, an extra team was required to ensure that each team had someone to race against. Team 8, a group comprised of Marine Institute managers, volunteered to take part. **THANK YOU, Team 8.**

#### Team 8:

Dr. Paul Brett  
Dr. Angie Clarke  
Captain Kris Drodge  
Captain Fabian Lambert  
Maria Halfyard  
Georgina White

## The Reception and Gala Dinner

After the competition, a reception was held in the Marine Institute student lounge and a gala awards dinner was held at the Marine Institute cafeteria. The students had an opportunity to meet representatives from the sponsors (potential future employers) and the sponsors had an opportunity to meet with the students (potential future employees). In addition to the representatives of the sponsors, some special guests were also invited:

MP Joanne Thompson, St. John's East	Government of Canada
Dr. Tana Allen Acting VP, Memorial University (Research)	Memorial University
Lisa Browne VP, Memorial University (Administration, Finance and Advancement)	Memorial University
Dr. Paul Brett Vice President, Memorial University (MI)	Marine Institute
Dr. Angie Clarke Associate VP (MI), Academic and Student Affairs	Marine Institute







**THANK YOU, to the Marine Institute cafeteria staff, for an excellent meal.**



# The Awards



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**, Team 1. MMC National Master, Captain Eben March, presenting the team with the Captain Jim Thorpe plaque and \$2,000 cheque for each team member. Highest combined score, for all seven competition events.





**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**, Team 3. MMC National Master, Captain Eben March, presenting the team with \$750 cheque for each team member. Second highest combined score, for all seven competition events.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**, Team 4. MMC National Master, Captain Eben March, presenting the team with \$500 cheque for each team member. Third highest combined score, for all seven competition events.





**Honorable Mention, 4<sup>th</sup> Place (sponsor Marine Institute). Team 6. Presented by Dr. Paul Brett.**

- Team that showed good understanding and performance of most exercises and a commitment toward meeting all objectives.
- Had an overall great attitude.



**Leadership Acknowledgement of Excellence**

**(sponsor Fry Family Foundation Student Leadership Initiative). A \$500 award presented to Chris Refuse. Presented by Marie Burt and Paul Burt.**

To quote the Fry Family Foundation Student Leadership Initiative, “It has been shown that students who began to understand the complexities of leadership at an early stage in their university education were more likely to step forward to take a leadership approach to their own personal and professional development”. This acknowledgement is a reflection of their belief.

- Effectively communicates with team members and demonstrates strong operational group management.
- Consistently exhibited exceptional and dynamic leadership skills by recognizing and harnessing the strengths of each team member in solving the tasks presented.
- Encourages and maximizes group participation and contributed to effective bridge resource management.
- Demonstrates the development of leadership qualities that can be applied at home, in the classroom, at work and in the community.





**Safety Award (sponsor Algoma Central). Team 3. Presented by Captain Adam Regular and Dan Fournier.**

- The safety briefing was relevant and had a direct bearing on the exercise at hand.
- The team showed a good knowledge of safety practices and/or protocols and the information was relayed accurately.
- The team added creativity and demonstrated originality to relay safety protocols.



**Achievement Award in Marine emergency Duties (sponsor Atlantic Towing). Team 3. Presented by Matthew Sturge.**

- Came first in completing the four MED tasks in the proper and safest manner, and with the fastest time.



**Ship Manoeuvring Award (sponsors Canship Uglund and NTL). Team 4. Presented by Jodi Louvelle. Award of \$300 for each team member.**

- In memory of Captain Brian Bishop, our friend and a huge contributor to this competition.
- Came first place in ship handling skills and in this case took a product tanker into a drydock in Belfast.



**Problem Solving Award (Maersk Supply Services). Team 3. Presented by Steve Dwyer and Paul Harvey.**

- Identified the problem in a timely fashion and communicated to the appropriate team members.
- Showed analytical and critical thinking skills, to evaluate the problem.
- Presented a logical and methodical approach, to solve the problem in a safe and effective manner.





**Teamwork and Leadership Award (Canada Steamship Lines (CSL)). Team 1. Presented by Jessica Cooke.**

- Each individual recognized their role and were able to encourage a cooperative approach to complete the exercise.
- The team can demonstrate a high degree of planning and organization collectively and thereby quickly responded to changing conditions.
- The team leader was easily identifiable and, as a role model, communicates and supports feedback from all members of the team in an open and respectful manner, particularly during critical situations.



**Spirit Award (sponsor Horizon Maritime). Team 3. Presented by John Pendergast.**

- Creative and enthusiastic in their approach to the exercise.
- Great team camaraderie.
- Makes the overall environment more enjoyable for each other, observers, and the judges.
- Shows a positive attitude, especially in stressful moments.



**Social Media Award (sponsor Marine Institute). Team 5. Presented by Chelsey Oldford and Mackenzie Luff.**

The social media challenge was created as a way to engage the Master Mariners of Canada, NSC sponsors and the overall MI/MUN community in the Nautical Skills Competition. Partners and supporters followed the competition, via social media, while each registered NSC team added to the excitement by completing a total of 12 different nautical themed tasks. Teams were required to create their own original team name and Instagram account for this challenge and complete the tasks to post on the social media platform.





**Three \$1,000 Tuition Awards (one sponsored by the Master Mariners of Canada, NL Division and 2 sponsored by the Master Mariners of Canada, Foundation). Tuition vouchers presented to Grade 12 students (left to right) David March, Logan Ryland and Logan Pike. Presented by MMC NL Divisional Master, Capt./Dr. Jim Parsons and Paula Fulford.**



**Participation Award for High School Students (sponsor Siem Offshore). Presented by Captain Ray Dalton.**

- Recognition of the 11 high school students that participated in the competition.



In recognition of his many years of service and dedication to the Master Mariners of Canada (MMC), Captain Ahamed Zaki was awarded a lifetime membership to the MMC.



**MMC Lifetime Membership. Captain Ahamed Zaki. Presented by MMC National Master, Captain Eben March and MMC NL Divisional Master, Capt./Dr. Jim Parsons.**



**Marine Institute Alumni who attended the gala dinner.**





**The 12<sup>th</sup> Nautical Skills Competition was a great success. We look forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> Nautical Skills Competition in 2025. See you next year.**