



# Maritimer

September 2011

## LMS NAMED LADYSMITH'S 2011 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, August 13, 2011, at the pancake breakfast just prior to the Ladysmith Days parade, Jim Cram, last year's citizen of the year, named Ladysmith Maritime Society the 2011 Citizen on the Year. This honour recognizes the huge contribution of our volunteers, members, directors, and staff to our society and to the Town of Ladysmith.

A framed E.J. Hughes print was presented to President, Doug Bell who accepted this on behalf of LMS members. Doug commented that "over the past 26 years, volunteers have truly been the lifeblood of the Society and it is through our remarkable volunteers that LMS delivers to the community the programs and initiatives..."



Claude Camacho picture

Dougall & Erma Warren



Wayne Richmond picture

Marg & Harry Erickson



Claude Camacho picture

Ladysmith Ambassadors and Doug Bell

Erma & Dougall Warren, LMS founding members, and Margaret & Harry Erickson, moorers since Crown Zellerbach days, represented LMS in the parade

Please come and celebrate this great honour with us at the members' meeting Oct. 5.

**MEMBERS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 5, 2011**  
**Legion Hall (upstairs)**  
**1900 (7:00 p.m.)**

**AGENDA**

- Citizen of the Year Celebration
- Marina facilities project update
- nominations procedures
- LMS overview
- Questions & Answers time

## SARAVAN'S STRENGTH

Strong timbers step up to make the bow, matching the strength of the ocean swell. I am standing on a ladder at the stern, talking to our shipwright, Eric Sandilands. The deck is at eye level and I can see the new timbers. *Saravan* is a thing of beauty and strength.



*deck timbers*

Dougall Warren tells me that he liked *Saravan's* lines and jokingly suggested that the LMS restore her. Others agreed and Ken Mulholland donated her in 1988. Over the years, government grants for training young people and (later) retraining fishermen helped pay for the refit. The tug was converted into a passenger vessel by adding a canopy and rails. Today, she cannot meet government passenger regulations.

Fortunately, we are able to remove the additions and restore *Saravan* to her former self. Dan Spence is the “Boat Husband” and future skipper. He hopes that the restoration will be completed by the end of this year. Many volunteers will be working with Eric and Dan to replace planks, change the caulking, remove the varnish on the deck, install the tow-post and complete a host of finishing work.



*stern of Saravan*

Doug Dobbs and Yves Guihur have rewired the boat. Although the re-wiring and modern glues that Eric used are modern up-grades to make the boat stronger and safer, they do not compromise its Heritage status. Great attention is being paid to historical detail, for example, using authentic old brass from Vancouver. As Harry Blackstaff says, “We want to do it right”.



*Harry Blackstaff and Eric Sandilands*

*Saravan* is one of the biggest, oldest vessels in our fleet. Also, it is one of the last wooden tug boats on Vancouver Island. It will be an ambassador for the LMS at boat festivals all over VI and maybe even Vancouver. Together with our other heritage initiatives, we will attract more visitors to come to our marina, helping our community become a marine tourist destination.

*Pictures courtesy of Shirley Blackstaff*

## **ELECTRICAL UPGRADES**

30 amp service is an important requirement for visiting boaters and is now available throughout the marina. The new system, which includes individual meters on 137 power points, provides LMS with the means to charge for actual usage of electricity.

Over the winter the meters will be read on a monthly basis to provide a base line of usage for future invoicing of moorers starting with the 2012-2013 moorage year. It is anticipated that notice of actual usage will be sent to moorers every six months – more frequent information will be available through the LMS office.

Before any invoicing, a moorers meeting will be scheduled to explain the whole process and to view the meters.

And before you ask, yes, there are a number of common power points around the marina to accommodate the work parties and other workers.

## **LMS FINANCES**

We have done amazingly well to get to where we are to-day; expenses from the January fire have been paid, the new \$1.8 million marina upgrades and facility, which are almost completed, have so-far been funded by outside organizations, and LMS is still solvent!

Over the years LMS has self insured the marina infrastructure which meant that recovering from the fire has drawn down our operational reserves. Going forward, a reserve must again be built up against future emergencies. The 2011-2012 budget will reflect this.

When the marina facilities project was first contemplated, members agreed to borrow One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00). Subsequently the directors felt this would be too great a burden on the society and applications for funding were successfully submitted. It is now anticipated that LMS will have to finance approximately \$150,000. Over a 20-year period that amounts to less than \$15,000 per year. For upgrades and facilities valued at \$1,800,000.00, financing less than 10% is a very sound approach.

(note: this year's income from visiting moorers is about \$28,000; it is expected to increase in future years – more than enough to cover the cost of financing)

Pursuing outside funding for ongoing and new programs will be a priority built into the budget.

## **MOORAGE WAIT LIST**

The moorage wait list has been a source of misunderstanding for some time. In order to ensure everyone is treated fairly, a list of recommended policies and procedures (p. 9 & 10) and a sample application form (p. 11 & 12) have been developed. If you have some comments to add, please send them to Dave Ehrismann before Sept. 30 so they can be included in a discussion prior to adoption at the next board meeting.

Contact Dave at:

250-245-0109

or

[lmscommunitymarina@telus.net](mailto:lmscommunitymarina@telus.net)

## SATURDAY WORK PARTIES

With summer now officially over, it's time to think about regular work parties around the marina. Our Wharfinger, Mark Mercer, and his side-kick, Paul Notte, have a list of jobs a mile long. How about showing up in Boathouse #13 around 0900 any Saturday morning starting Oct. 1, to lend a hand? (not Thanksgiving weekend) Lunch will be provided.

By the way – Boathouse #13 is now moored at the foot of the ramp, next to the Museum.

Not into pounding nails? Like to keep tools in good shape? It would be a huge help to have someone pay attention to the condition and location of tools and supplies.

## RECEPTION CENTRE

The framing, walls, and roof are almost finished. We expect the centre to be at the “lock up” stage around the middle of October when it will be towed into the marina. As soon as we know the exact date (weather permitting), we'll let you know so you can welcome it to the marina.



*At the building site*

Inside construction work will be completed once the centre is here. Then the fun will begin to fit it out. A campaign will get underway to raise the necessary funds. Cheryl Bancroft has been working with the architect and a small group to identify and price all the “stuff” which will be needed. As dollars roll in, equipment, furniture, crockery etc., etc., etc. will be purchased. More details on this in the next newsletter.



*Dave Ehrismann pictures*

*top floor*

## WORKSHOP NEWS

For the past several months the shop has been a very active spot. Inventory of dock floatation and wood has been relocated, new lighting has been installed, windows have been opened up and security screens installed, walls have been painted, and power tools have been refurbished. All this to increase and improve the work space; and all done by volunteers.

Meanwhile, as the restoration of *Saravan* is ongoing, (see p. 2) the plan is to have the shop open on weekdays so that work can begin on several small vessels needing TLC.

We value our dedicated volunteers who have spent 350 hours in the shop since May.

## **NOMINATIONS**

It's that time of year to consider nominations for the board of directors. With a total of nine directors with revolving terms of office, three directors for 3-year terms are elected at each Annual General Meeting. New faces on the board are always welcome; please consider putting your own or another member's name forward. Please be aware that as a working board, there is a significant time commitment beyond attending a monthly meeting. Various committees meet separately and following up on decisions may require hands-on involvement.

Please note that:

1. a nominee must be a member in good standing
2. nominations must be signed by 2 seconders who are members in good standing
3. nominations must be received in the LMS office no later than 5:00 p.m. November 6, 2011 - this is to allow time to provide for absentee voting
4. there will be 3 directors elected at the AGM each to serve 3 years
5. the directors will elect the executive officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer) from amongst themselves at their first meeting after the AGM

See Nomination Form on p. 8

For more information contact:

Executive Director, Dave Ehrismann  
250-245-0109

or

Nominating Chair, Jim Montgomery  
250-245-5616

## **ROUND TABLE FEEDBACK**

The round table discussions at the May 17, 2011 members' meeting provided much valuable feedback. The board of directors is tackling various issues one by one and are encouraging further input. Note the draft policies for the wait list in this issue. Below are a few comments from that meeting:

### **COVERED MOORAGE**

*When Visitor Facilities project is finished effort should be spent in resolving this issue*

Still on the "to do" list

### **SAFETY & SECURITY**

*Emergency Response Centre & emergency contact numbers*

Work in progress

### **FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR LMS**

*Heritage, education, wood shop continuing to be a big part of community*

Total support

### **COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS**

*Published waiting list available to members*

It's in the works

### **PARKING**

*Lower parking lot issue, suggest 1/2 be reserved for moorers, 1/4 for visitors, and 1/4 for handicap and loading (30 minute, no overnight)*

A discussion once construction is completed

### **FIT-UP OF VISITORS' CENTRE**

*mural*

Interior designer, Cheryl Bancroft, is volunteering time to assist

### **VOLUNTEERISM**

*phoning committee*

*regular dock activities*

volunteers needed in many areas

## Purple Martin News Update

### Population numbers increase significantly

A new high record for the recovering BC population was reached this summer despite the slow start to the spring migration and low early numbers. The BC Purple Martin population increased from 585 pairs last year to 730 pairs this summer!! This is primarily as a result of last year's good production of young. A preliminary review of the band reading data shows an on-going decline of older birds from the 2003-2005 boom years due to old age which was more than offset by the significant increase in subadults (1-year old birds) returning this year.



### Lots of young produced and banded



*summer students age nestling during banding*

Another cold and wet spring slowed the return and

nesting of all age groups of Purple Martins by 2-3 weeks again this year. The summer continued to be cool but the martins managed to find a sufficient supply of flying insects for food and were able to build up their fat reserves in preparation for egg laying. The number of eggs/pair was not as high as last year but they still managed to produce another high record of young - over 2,300 nestlings were successfully raised! This should result in another significant increase in population numbers for next year. Perhaps we'll reach our short term goal of 800 pairs by 2012.

With the help of our summer students and many volunteers in Victoria, Campbell River, Sechelt and the Lower Mainland, we were able to band a total of 1900 nestlings.

### Purple Martins at Ladysmith Maritime Society Community Marina

Purple Martins also did exceptionally well at the Ladysmith Maritime Society Community Marina again this



year. About 65 pairs nested successfully, 20 more pairs than last year. With the cooler weather throughout much of the breeding season this year they still successfully raised about 200 young. The Community Marina colony continues to contribute significantly to the BC Purple Martin population, housing 8-10% of the martins nesting in BC.

### Third year of BC Purple Martin migration study

The BC Purple Martin migration study, using state-of-the-art, miniature geolocator data loggers, was continued in 2011. Geolocators were put on 10 adult martins last summer and three birds wearing their geolocators returned (2 to Ladysmith and 1 to Buckley Bay) and all three geolocators were retrieved. We also caught the male we are not able to catch last year and removed his geolocator. The data from these geolocators will be analysed this fall.



*Bruce Cousens and summer students put a geolocator on an adult martin.*

Through funding support from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, we were able to put geolocators on 20 more adult martins at the Ladysmith Maritime Society Community Marina colony this summer in the hopes of gaining additional information about western Purple Martin migration. For more information about this study, please go to the migration study page on our Foundation website at [www.saveourmartins.org/recoveryprogram.html](http://www.saveourmartins.org/recoveryprogram.html).

### Charity Dinner & Silent Auction

**Saturday, Nov. 12 - Come celebrate the fall migration of Purple Martins to Brazil** and a successful year for the Recovery Program.

No host bar & buffet dinner at Coast Bastion in Nanaimo.

Tickets: \$60/person

(includes a tax receiptable donation of \$23)

Call (250) 758-2922 or email [wpmf@georgiabasin.ca](mailto:wpmf@georgiabasin.ca) to reserve your tickets

Tickets may also be purchased at the Backyard Wildbird and Nature Store on Metral Drive in Nanaimo.

## **Questions & Answers about Purple Martins by Bruce Cousens & Charlene Lee**

Several questions have been asked this summer about why Western Purple Martins, a recovering at-risk (Blue-listed) species in BC, are nesting in boxes on offshore pilings at the Ladysmith Maritime Society community marina, why they don't (or won't) nest in cavities or nest boxes on land, and why they sometimes dive at members and visitors near their nests at the marina. Read on to find out the answers to these questions.

### What was Purple Martin's natural nesting habitat?

Purple Martins used to nest in abandoned woodpecker cavities in stands of old trees and snags in burned forest, open treed areas like Garry Oak meadows or flooded areas bordering fresh water. However, much of their natural nesting habitat no longer exists due to logging, fire suppression, land clearing and agricultural and urban development. An ever-decreasing number of isolated snags remain often in unsuitable habitat. We are also not creating a supply of new snag stands in our remaining closely managed coastal forest stands because snags have no commercial value and are seen as a liability or hazard.

They also nested in old city buildings in the early 1900s until excluded by changes in building design to discourage nesting pigeons and starlings. Martins then hung on for a time nesting in woodpecker cavities in old untreated wood pilings. These old pilings decayed and fell down or were replaced with creosote-treated pilings, which resulted in the steep decline in population numbers. There were only about 5 breeding pairs recorded in BC by 1985. LMS community marina is one of these original piling cavity nest refuge sites, with martin nesting documented here as early as 1989 and likely occurring much earlier. This colony is currently the largest in BC (65 pairs) and one of the 2-3 largest in Western North America, with about 9% of the BC population.

### Why do they nest over water, but not over land?

When the nest box recovery program was started in 1986, nest boxes were installed on pilings in bays and estuaries around the Strait of Georgia. As the nest box program expanded nest boxes were also put up on pilings at marina sites, like the LMS community marina. Thanks to many dedicated individuals participating in the recovery program and helping to maintain and monitor nest boxes at 90 sites (50 active in 2011), the population of Purple Martins is continuing to increase in the Strait of Georgia area. **All** of the now 700+ martin pairs breeding in BC nest in boxes and a few cavities on coastal marine pilings in the Georgia Basin. None have nested inland of the high tide line for at least 40-50 years.

Nest boxes are not put on or close to shore because they will be taken over by House Sparrows, an introduced and invasive pest species. House Sparrows completely fill the box with their grass nest, making it unsuitable for any other bird species to use. They will soon take over all the boxes, excluding the martins and raising 2-3 broods per year. Maintaining a martin colony in this situation requires plugging all the nest boxes from fall to spring AND removal

of new sparrow nests on a weekly basis during the breeding season. This is a lot of unnecessary work most people don't want to do. We are trying to re-introduce martins to nesting in upland areas without House Sparrows but so far there has been no interest from the birds. This is not practical in urban areas where House Sparrows commonly occur, as at Ladysmith and the LMS community marina.

### Purple Martin subadult bird behaviour around their nest boxes

With the recent upgrade and many changes to the LMS community marina, many of the old pilings have been removed and most of the replacements have been along the new main and improved visitor dock. This is where the ~25 displaced nest boxes were relocated, increasing the interaction between Purple Martins and people. Subadult martins (first-year) nested in many of these boxes not already claimed by adult birds.

Subadult birds have had no previous experience dealing with people around their nesting sites. They instinctively view people as potential predators, like crows, gulls and racoons, that need to be discouraged from potentially preying on their eggs and nestlings and encouraged to move elsewhere (which is why there are few crows or gulls around the marina in summer). Therefore, when you are around boxes where Purple Martins are diving by you, the martins are not trying to hurt you. They are trying to protect their nesting site and young. Please be aware of what the birds are trying to tell you and move away.

There have always been subadult martins nesting at the LMS community marina and each summer there are a few who are more protective of their nesting site than others. This year there were more subadults as a result of last year's record high production and they became more apparent than usual. Please remember the birds are just trying to protect their home just as you would if a potential invader was at your doorstep. Far more people are delighted and amazed that they can pass by within 10' of a pair of martins sitting calmly on their nest box just above head height at high tide than are concerned about being buzzed by 50 gm (2 oz) birds.

As Purple martins age they become more tolerant of people around their boxes as they learn that people do not pose a threat as long as they are not actually climbing up to and reaching in the boxes.

When the nestlings are being banded both adult and subadult birds are very protective and dive at the banding crew when they are removing the nestlings to be banded. Once the nestlings are returned to the nest box and the banding crew moves on, their parents realise the young are unharmed and go back to feeding them in a matter of minutes.

### Reference:

Cousens, B. and J.C. Lee. 2011.  
Status of the Western Purple Martin in British Columbia.  
B.C. Min. of Environment (in press).

**LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM**

**(nominations close 5:00 p.m. November 6, 2011)**

Name of person nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person nominated certifying that:

- (i) he/she is willing to serve on the Board for at least three years;
- (ii) he/she is a member in good standing; and
- (iii) he/she has read what is needed from its Board members

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) (date)

This nomination is seconded by the following two members in good standing:

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_

*(this form must be submitted to Executive Director, Dave Ehrismann, at [lmscommunitymarina@telus.net](mailto:lmscommunitymarina@telus.net) or (250-245-0109) by 5:00 p.m. November 6, 2011*

Please provide some personal background about yourself and what you think you can bring to the board or what you think the board needs or should be doing in the upcoming year. Note that this section may be copied into a newsletter prior to the AGM.

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## WAIT LISTS –RECOMMENDED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Policy:

To provide affordable moorage for residents of the local area

- local area described as between the Nanaimo and Chemainus Rivers

To allow a maximum of 10% of moorers to be from outside the local area –

- Those presently moored to be grandfathered.
- Once the present “out of area” moorer no longer desires moorage, the grandfathering expires.
- The only exceptions to this policy would be to permit the transfer from either an “in area” or “out of area” moorer to an “out of area” immediate family member. Immediate family being father, mother, son or daughter.

To provide significant visitor moorage space

To offer moorage in a fair, clear and transparent manner

Maximum boat length (LOA) - 50 feet

Maximum Boathouse length - 50 feet

### Procedure – Open Annual Moorage:

Accept signed applications – accompanied by fees - from those wishing to obtain moorage at LMS  
(Application form to be posted onto website)

Maintain a list of people wishing to obtain moorage at LMS

List maintained by Wharfinger

- Duplicate copy of list to be held by Executive Director
- List held by Wharfinger to be determinant in any dispute
- Subject to privacy review, list of names to be posted in Wharfinger’s office
- Detailed information available to those on list, on request, to Wharfinger or ED

The list in “date of request” order to include the following information:

- Name
- Date of request

Applications held by Wharfinger to include the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Contact information: tel, cell, e-mail. Moorer applicant must indicate preferred method of contact. Applicants are responsible for keeping information up to date
- Boat length, width & draft
- Date of request
- Wait list fees paid – wait list fees applicable to moorage year (Apr. 1 – Mar. 31)
- Notes re: contact and/or attempt to contact incl. date

\$25 per moorage year non-returnable wait list fee held by LMS to maintain name on wait list:

If moorage is offered and accepted, the total fees paid while on the wait list will be returned as a reduction of first year’s moorage

### Offer of Moorage

- Offer to be made by Wharfinger
- Offer to be made to top name on Wait List – of appropriate sized vessel (a short slip will not be offered for a longer vessel but a long slip will be offered for a shorter vessel)
- New moorers typically offered 40 ft. slip
- If boat length is less than 40 ft., a shorter slip will be offered when available after others previously moored have been accommodated (offers made in date of moorage order)
- if message of offer is left at contact information provided, it will remain open for 1 week
- if no response is received within 1 week, this will constitute a refusal of moorage
- If offer is refused, the information is documented and the name is relocated to the bottom of the waitlist with date of request changed to current date

### Procedure – Boathouses:

- No new names at this time – because a long-term strategy for covered moorage is not yet in place
- List maintained by Wharfinger as per info above
- All new boathouses into marina to be approved by Wharfinger prior to bringing to marina

### Procedure – Live-aboard

- Applications for live-aboard status received  
(see LMS website – Moorage - 2011 Agreement Schedule E)
- Interview as to suitability conducted
- If deemed suitable, name entered into the wait pool of applicants
- When a live aboard opening becomes available, those in the live aboard application pool will be re-interviewed and those deemed most suitable at that time will be offered live aboard status (Note that an offer to live aboard is not necessarily in date of request order)
- \$25/moorage year non-returnable fee to be charged to maintain name in the pool (this does not apply to those who have paid the \$25 to be on the moorage waitlist)
- If live-aboard status is offered and accepted, the total pool fees paid while in the pool will be returned as a reduction of annual moorage

### Procedure – Out of Area:

- Integrate list with “in area” requests
- Offers of moorage will only be made subject to number of “out of area” moorers remaining at 10% or less - this means names may be skipped over until an “out of area” opportunity becomes available
- When an “out of area” opportunity becomes available it will only be offered to an “out of area” person if that person is at the top of the list

### Procedure – Seasonal Moorage:

- First come-first served - No formal list
- Wharfinger to administer
- winter season moorage not to “fill” marina – some visitor space should always be available

APPLICATION FOR MOORAGE  
at  
LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY COMMUNITY MARINA (LMS MARINA)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT (indicate preferred method)

TEL \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BOAT LENGTH (LOA) \_\_\_\_\_ WIDTH \_\_\_\_\_ DRAFT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE NAME PLACED ON WAIT LIST \_\_\_\_\_

WAIT LIST FEES PAID (\$25/YEAR - non-refundable)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES

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I am aware that:

- I must inform LMS of any changes in my contact information;
- \$25/year wait list fee is required each April 1 to maintain my name on the wait list;
- \$2,000,000.00 liability insurance must be carried on my vessel in order to moor at the LMS marina;
- Once moorage is offered, a contract must be signed and moorage paid in advance for the current moorage year (This can be paid with one cheque or post-dated monthly cheques); and
- Wait List Fees paid will be returned as a reduction of moorage when contract signed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Back of application

### WAIT LIST PROCESS:

Application for moorage accompanied by wait list fee\* to be filed with LMS Wharfinger

Name is entered onto wait list in date order of receipt of application

Those on the waitlist prior to April 1, 2011 must submit an application with the wait list fee\* and will be located on the list in date order of their original request

Preferred method of contact must be indicated

Annual wait list fee\* is to be paid as of April 1 each year to retain name on the wait list

### OFFERS OF MOORAGE PROCESS:

Typically, 40-foot slips are offered to those at the top of the wait list.

Shorter slips are offered to those presently moored at LMS who are paying for longer slips than they need. These offers are made in “date of original contract” order. Once they have been accommodated, shorter slips are offered to those on the wait list.

Offer is made via the preferred contact information provided on the application form

Offer is valid for one week

No response within the week will be taken as a refusal of moorage

Refusal (either actual or no response) will result in date of application being changed to current date and name being relocated to the bottom of the wait list

### WHY TOP NAME ON WAIT LIST NOT OFFERED MOORAGE:

Person is from “out of area” and maximum “out of area” places are filled (maximum is 10% of moorage clients)

The moorage slip available is too short or has insufficient draft for the vessel

\* The annual \$25 wait list fee is non-refundable. All wait list fees paid will be returned as a reduction of moorage when a moorage contract is signed.

## YOUR 2010-2011 LMS TEAM

Executive Director	Dave Ehrismann
Wharfinger	Mark Mercer
Directors	Doug Bell
	Marnie Craig
	Cliff Fisher
	Barrie McDonald
	Jim Montgomery
	Harold Moy
	Paul Notte
	Betty Pearson
	Tim Richards

## LMS VESTS NOW AVAILABLE



The vests are royal blue with the logo and “Ladysmith Maritime Society” embroidered over the left breast.

Men’s & Women’s  
L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Volunteer Price \$10

Regular Price \$30

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Oct. 5 – Members’ Meeting**

**Nov. 6 – Nominations close**

**Nov. 29 (?) – AGM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues. of month (usually) – board meeting**

## LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

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