



Maritimer

JULY 2009

PLANNING the FUTURE of LMS

Over 75 members attended a meeting June 25 to hear the details of proposed 20-year agreements between LMS and the Town. With a unanimous vote it was

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors be given the authority (1) to enter into agreements on behalf of the Ladysmith Maritime Society with the Town of Ladysmith or its agents regarding long-term occupation and operation of the Ladysmith Community Marina, and (2) to incur debt as required, to a maximum of \$1.5 million, for upgrading and expanding the marina.”

Applications for several grants to assist with the funding of the proposed expansions have been submitted. If LMS is successful in obtaining grants, work will commence very soon as there are tight time-lines for when construction must be completed to comply with the grant requirements. If grants are not received, work will progress at a much slower pace so as not to burden the Society with more debt than can comfortably be serviced over approx. 15 years. We'll keep you informed of the progress.



*Conceptual Drawing of Visitor Centre and Special Events Dock June 2009
by Michael Dean*

LMS LOGO

At the members meeting of May 20, 2008 your Board of Directors announced that they had approved a newly designed logo to be the standard for our Society. This had been done in response to an increasing variation in colouring, fonts, and even designs that were creeping into usage for our signs and burgees. The Board felt that a quick decision was required in time for the new logo to be incorporated into the Festival promotion material for 2008, and as a result the membership was not consulted on this decision. This was a mistake.

The previous logo had been designed by members two decades ago. The 2007-2008 Board seriously underestimated the heritage value that many of our members attached to this logo. We have received expressions of dismay from many of our members that an important part of our past was discarded without consulting the membership. We agree, and have taken steps to correct an error.

Accordingly, on July 7, 2009 your Board of Directors decided unanimously to revert to the previous logo for use on all of our signage, letterheads, burgees, and promotional material. This change will be implemented as soon as can be prudently managed.

Our traditional logo is hereby welcomed back, beginning with its rightful position on the top of this communication!

Ladysmith Maritime Society

PO Box 1030

Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A7

Office-Tours-Museum 250-245-0109

Marina 250-245-1146

www.ladysmithmaritimesociety.ca

VISITOR NUMBERS UP

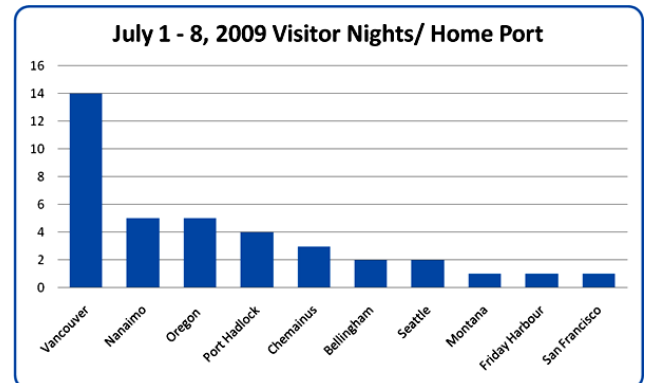
Our Wharfinger, Mark, reports a 4-fold increase in the number of visiting boaters at the marina. We had a total of 38 visiting boats in the first week of

July compared to 49/46 in the entire month of July for 2008/2007

When you are walking the docks say “hello” and “welcome” to our visitors

WASHROOMS READY

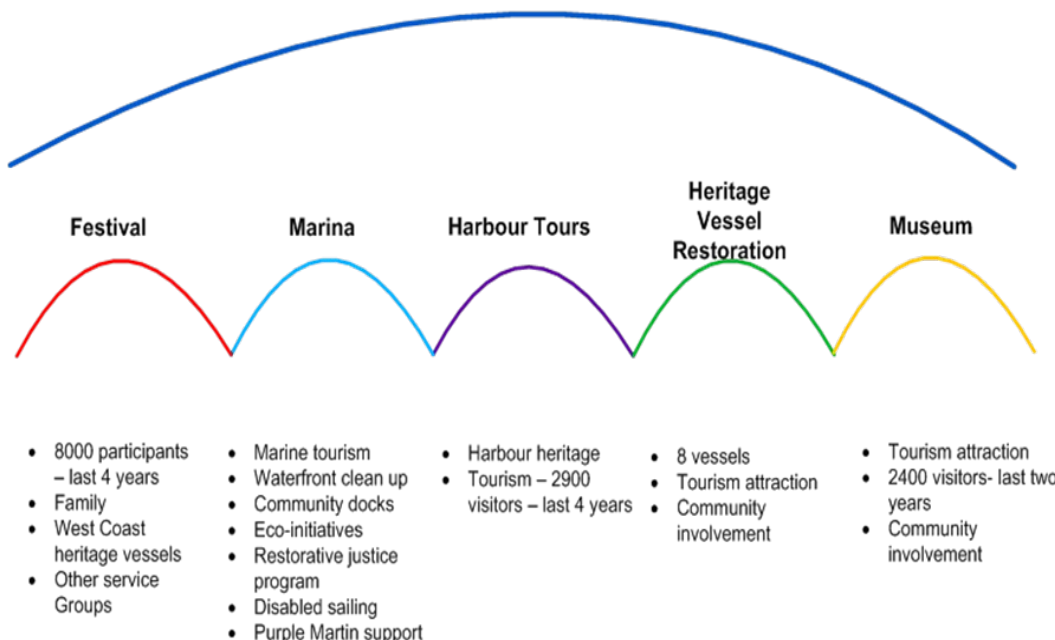
After the lease for the use of the washroom facility beside the Expo Legacy Building was signed with the Town this spring, a major clean-up was undertaken. Harold Moy headed the crew which built walls, polished and cleaned, painted, and installed a washer & dryer. We can now advertise that we are a full-service marina. This addition to our facilities is proving to be very valuable - visiting boaters have commented favourably and are spreading the word.



EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

We are continually expanding our activities as we pursue our constitutional goal to serve the community

Expanding Community Focus



OFFICE MOVES TO EXPO BUILDING

The small office above the library was rented in January on a month-by-month basis. As a first office for LMS, it has proven to be valuable; however, the opportunity to be closer to the marina and to have more space trumps being in the centre of town. As of the middle of July, our LMS office will be located upstairs in the Expo Legacy Building. A lease from the Town was recently signed which provides the south area of the second floor to LMS - the north half is occupied by the Ladysmith Waterfront Arts Centre Gallery. At last, a home for all those boxes of “stuff” which have been languishing in various basements for years.

SUMMER STUDENTS

We have hired four students and have a fifth volunteering to help with the workload over the summer.

Marcia is in the office answering phones, getting our computer files ship shape, sorting through old records (those boxes of “stuff”) and helping with a variety of projects which have been simmering on the back burner for too long.

Michelle will spend her time in the museum assisting our curator, Shirley. Cleaning & oiling wooden artifacts, keeping the museum in order, and computerizing our inventory are all on the list. Also, she will help keep the museum doors open.

Darren and Ambrose are working with the harbour tours and on the docks ensuring that visiting boaters are welcomed from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm seven days a week. Our wharfinger, Mark, has a great long job list to keep the two of them occupied any time they think there is nothing to do.

Gareth is volunteering as a part of a marketing program at Vancouver Island University which requires 300 hrs. of community service. He is looking at how best to “market” LMS and the marina, designing brochures, contacting possible sources of visitors both by land and by sea and generally spreading the word about LMS.

HARBOUR TOURS

10:30 am & 2:00 pm
daily July & August
(weather permitting)

Reservations may be made for 5 of the 10 spaces on “Maritimer” by calling 250-245-0109
The other 5 spaces will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis – sign the sheet at the marina

Lunch at Jimmy O’s with your tour

Reservations required
250-245-0109

A new feature this year is lunch at Jimmy O’s (at Page Point Marina) included with the Saturday 10:30 am tour. The cost is \$25 payable to Jimmy O’s (\$17 for those 5 – 17 yrs. old and free for under 5 yrs.) LMS receives a portion of the cost. There has been a good response to this combination and favourable comments have been heard.

Tours can be arranged for unscheduled times by calling the office. 250-245-0109

OUTBOARD DISPLAY IN MUSEUM

Our curator, Shirley Blackstaff, has developed an interesting display of vintage outboard engines which will be in place until the fall. The engines are mounted on stands which allow the viewer to see all sides. Pictures, information, and artifacts on the local logging, mining, and fishing industries are also on display. There is always something new in the museum - go see.

Thanks to our volunteers Bob Bossons, Al Gilroy, Marilyn & Rob Johnson, and Peggy & Barrie McDonald the museum will be open every afternoon from now until Labour Day.

Summer hours to Labour Day
1– 4 pm Daily
& by request
call the office 250-245-0109

2009 FESTIVAL HUGE SUCCESS

A huge vote of thanks goes to Cliff Fisher who chaired the 2009 Ladysmith Maritime Festival Committee and his team. May 30 was a glorious day for a very successful festival. Besides the ever-popular bullhead fishing derby, there was much to attract families to the marina and uplands area for a day of fun. As always dozens of volunteers contributed to the smooth functioning of the event – well, mostly smooth. There are always a few glitches but none detracted from people’s enjoyment of the day.



Pirates Abound

LMS partnered with the Five Star Cultural Connection Leadership group to bring a tribal journey ceremony and cultural connection dinner to the festival. A prominent feature of the festival was the arrival of a Chemainus First Nations canoe which had been paddled from Shell Beach by Ladysmith Town representatives alongside their counterparts from Chemainus First Nations. Mayor Rob Hutchins and former Chief Terry Samson were on hand to greet them as they docked in front of the museum.

A delicious buffet dinner catered by the Stu’ate Lelum School culinary class was enjoyed by approximately 100 festival goers at the end of an eventful day.

MAJOR SPONSORS OF 2009 FESTIVAL



Every drop delicious.



SAY THANKS WHEN YOU SEE THEM

Don't miss next year's festival
MAY 29, 2010

JOHN SAMSON Memorial Gathering

John and Pat Samson joined our LMS family several years ago when they moved their boat and office/floathome to our marina. John died June 10, 2009. John's family invites all who remember him to a memorial gathering:

**July 18
Ladysmith Eagles Hall
1 to 4 p.m.**

You can access information about John's life at <https://sites.google.com/site/johnsamsonmemorium/>

HERITAGE and WHAT IT MEANS TO LMS

What is heritage?

Heritage encompasses different things to different people: vintage vessels, museum, logo – and more - just within LMS.

Tim Richards is leading the committee to develop policies for our Society regarding “heritage”. Two workshops have been held this spring where wide-ranging ideas have been discussed.

Because they are front and centre, our fleet of vintage vessels have occupied the majority of our thinking. The overall objectives of the Heritage Boat program were raised. Based on the last few meetings on this subject, LMS would be best served by a clear set of criteria. A draft prepared from the June 18 meeting outlined many of the issues and questions to be answered; however, details were not delved into too deeply because of time limitations. Future workshops will be scheduled. In the meantime, Shirley and Harry Blackstaff have agreed to oversee critical maintenance issues with the boats for the summer. Rod Sword agreed to become a 'Safety Officer' for the boats for the summer, checking equipment and safety issues such as fire extinguishers. A big thank you to Shirley, Harry and Rod for seeing a need and stepping in; you are great representatives of our volunteers!

A written (and followed) maintenance program for our heritage boats was felt to be needed. Maintenance schedules drafted in the past were never adequately put into effect.

Boat operation instructions and operation & maintenance logs need to be in place.

Standards or qualifications for those permitted to operate the LMS boats was also raised. At the present time we have no objective written list of qualifications nor do we have a standardized process for evaluating persons interested in operating our boats. The exception to this is our Tour Boat operators who have all taken appropriate training and received certification recognized by

Transport Canada. Perhaps we could run our own training sessions in the winter to qualify those interested in using a boat the following summer. In addition, historical stories and notes should be kept for/with each craft recording incidental meetings with people who have a contributing story or connection with the boats. When the vessels are on display at various boat shows, including our maritime festivals, it often happens that crew members and passengers from their past lives come on board and reminisce about their experiences. The possibility of taping these verbal accounts and digitizing the records and stories for permanent histories was discussed.

Together all this information will be used to develop an annual heritage vessels budget.

It was agreed that the heritage vessels are a major part of the Museum collection and are important in promoting an appreciation of local maritime history, enriching educational maritime programs and providing a powerful asset to community enhancement and tourism.

The objective of the Museum, through its exhibits, displays and educational events, is to share the story of the people for whom the waterfront has been an essential part of their lives. The displays are designed to have people look back to the vibrant history of the Ladysmith Harbour and to allow them to discover the many changes that have occurred over the years through the impact of cultural and industrial activities such as fishing, boat building, coal mining and logging.

The mission of the Museum is to research, record, photograph, restore, preserve and display our local waterfront and maritime history in an innovative, quality maritime museum which is proud of its past and present and which is planning wisely for the future to be an educational centre for our local citizens and students as well as being a successful tourist destination.

The extent to which we can proceed with all the ideas will depend upon the number of volunteers willing to assist with their execution. If you are interested in preserving Ladysmith's maritime history, make yourself known to our Executive Director, Dave Ehrismann – 250-245-0109.

PURPLE MARTIN NEWS UPDATE June 30, 2009

From the Western Purple Martin Foundation,
Nanaimo, BC
wpmf@georgiabasin.ca

Better returns this spring than expected. Remember the prolonged cold spring and a week of rain at the end of July last year that resulted in a lack of flying insects for Purple Martin food and losses of both adults and young? With these losses the number of martins returning this year was expected to decline, possibly as low as 450 pairs.

So far returns are looking slightly better than expected. Initial nest box checks indicate there may be as many as 500 pairs nesting this year. Some colonies have fewer birds than last year while others have the same or higher numbers. The overall result to date appears to be a small decline of 10-15%, which can easily be reversed with a successful nesting season this year.



Lots of eggs starting to hatch. The consistently warm weather this spring has been good for Purple Martins. They have had lots of flying insects to feed on and were

able to build up their fat reserves in preparation for egg laying. They are laying lots of eggs. Nest box checks at the Central Island colonies found 5-6 eggs/nest and 4 nests with 7 eggs which is quite unusual. Nest box checks last week found some eggs hatching already and a few nests with 5-6 day old nestlings. Now good summer weather is needed with lots of food for the adult birds and their nestlings.

Donate online now available We need your help to keep this highly successful recovery program going.

You can help sustain the BC Purple Martin Recovery Program with a donation through the Western Purple Martin Foundation. The Foundation is registered with an online donation

organization, Canada Helps. Donating at www.CanadaHelps.org is easy, quick and secure. Using your credit card, you can make a one-time donation, set up a monthly donation and/or donate in memory of, in honour of, or on behalf of someone special to you.

Canada Helps will send you a tax receipt for your donation. Search for 'Western Purple Martin Foundation' on the first Canada Helps page and go to the Foundation's donation page. Check it out. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers about donating to the BC Purple Martin Recovery Program.



State-of-the-art martin migration study starting soon

Although 9,000 BC Purple Martins have been banded in the last 12 years as part of the BC Purple Martin Recovery Program, no BC bands have been seen at or returned from their expected wintering areas in South America. Only 2 western Purple Martins banded in Oregon have been found in the Amazon River Basin area of Brazil in over 30 years – one in 1976 and the other in 2008. The only other band sightings and recoveries during migration have been BC bands from Washington and Oregon.

Until recently it has been impossible to directly track Purple Martins to their South American wintering grounds as GPS satellite tags are much too heavy for use on these small birds. A recent study on eastern martins showed that new miniature geolocators can provide detailed information critical to understanding migration routes and tagging areas used by western Purple Martins and where they overwinter. This work represents the new state-of-the-art in songbird migration tracking studies.

PURPLE MARTIN OPEN HOUSE

Mark your calendar for our Open House

July 19

1- 4 pm

Ladysmith Maritime Society Community Marina

Wear something purple.

Come enjoy an afternoon about Purple Martins.

Displays Stories Kids crafts.

Banding sessions at 3 and 4 pm.

Our famous purple milkshakes.

Update since June 30

From Bruce and Charlene

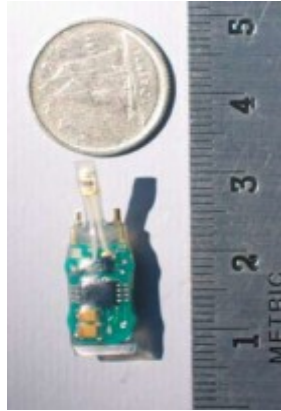
There are a minimum of 51 pairs nesting at LMS this year, as expected down ~25% from 67 pairs last year (as at most other larger colonies), but a fairly good showing under the circumstances. I doubt this number will change much at this point, unless one or two very late nests still produce eggs. As well, the nestlings that have hatched over the past week or so seem to be in good condition - warm and well fed - a very different situation from last year. My guess is that despite the windy weather all this week so far, which reduces their foraging efficiency, there are still plenty of flying insects available for food as a result of the earlier several weeks of warm sunny weather, which greatly increased abundance. It may be that the martins are able to take advantage of the relatively sheltered areas downwind of hills and mountains, where flying insects would be concentrated by the wind. (One problem last year may have been that with record long cold spring the flying insects didn't become available until much later in the season.)

Also, the eggs in the box with the nest cam have indeed hatched - 'mom' is now brooding 4 hungry young nestlings 2-3 days old.

We may start banding at a few early nests next week, though the peak of banding will be closer to mid-July.

These new miniature geolocators, smaller and lighter than a dime, are tiny data loggers that detect and record light intensity and daily time of sunrise and sunset allowing researchers to estimate latitude and longitude daily along the bird's migration route. The geolocators are mounted on the birds' backs by looping a harness of thin straps around their legs like a tiny backpack.

geocator with short light sensor stalk to locator



light sensor stalk on back of eastern Purple Martin.

Through funding support from the Shell Environmental Fund, miniature geolocators will be put on 20 adult martins this July. The martins will wear the geolocators until next spring when the surviving birds return from their wintering area. The geolocators will then be removed and the stored data will be downloaded and analyzed using computer software designed for this purpose.

We are excited to be working with Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society (GBEARS) on this state-of-the-art Purple Martin migration study.