



# Maritimer

NOVEMBER 2009

## 20 YEAR AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Following approval at the June 25, 2009 Members' Meeting, 20-year renewable agreements with the Town of Ladysmith have been signed which provide a sound foundation for our future and the marina.

Under the agreements, LMS will plan, develop, operate, and market the Ladysmith Community Marina with a priority on marine tourism.

This partnership provides a sound basis to improve the marina. It also requires that LMS be fiscally responsible in all aspects of its operations. Professional engineers will have to "sign off" on projects; financial statements will have to be thoroughly scrutinized; various government agencies will have to approve work plans etc.



Back: President, Doug Bell;  
Mayor, Rob Hutchins;  
Councillor, Bruce  
Whittington

Front: City Manager, Ruth  
Malli; Treasurer, Betty  
Pearson

Come celebrate with us on  
December 5  
(see invitation on p.2)

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday, November 25, 2009 Eagles Hall**

No host bar: 6:30 pm Meeting: 7:00 pm

#### **Agenda:**

Approve the 23rd AGM Minutes  
(see them on the LMS website)  
Receive and Approve the Financial  
Statements  
Receive and Approve Reports  
Motion to appoint Elaine Layman, CMA, to  
conduct a Review Engagement of the  
finances for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.  
Election of Directors

#### **Voting on Workboat Name**

In order to allow sufficient time for the return of absentee ballots, as required in the By-laws of the Society, the deadline for nominations was October 31. As there were not more than three nominations for the three positions, those nominated will be elected by acclamation.

A social hour with finger food and a no host bar will follow adjournment.

The executive officers – president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer – will be decided by the directors from amongst themselves at the first meeting of directors following the AGM.

## **2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Bring some cash or a cheque to the AGM and pick up your 2010 Membership Card.

\$20-single \$35-couple \$50-family

Hear about new membership benefits at the  
AGM

## **CELEBRATION DINNER**

### **To All Members and Volunteers of Ladysmith Maritime Society**

With the recent signing of 20-year renewable contracts it is time to recognize the time, energy, funds and support that innumerable people, members and non-members, have contributed over many years to the endeavours of our Society.

You and your guest  
are invited to  
a celebratory dinner/social  
on Saturday, 5 December, 2009  
in Branch #171 Royal Canadian Legion hall  
(621 1st Avenue, Ladysmith)

no host bar: 1730 dinner: 1800

Salmon buffet will be catered by  
Stu"ate Lelum School

No host bar will be staffed by the Legion

All tickets are complimentary and can be picked up at the LMS office. Due to Legion capacity, there is a limit of 120 tickets so get yours early. Tickets will be collected at the door on Dec. 5th.

Contact Dave before Nov. 27 at:  
[lmscommunitymarina@telus.net](mailto:lmscommunitymarina@telus.net)  
or 250-245-0109

or see Dave at the AGM

## **OFFICE NEEDS PAINTING**

Our office in the Expo Legacy Building needs sprucing up and we would really like to have it done before Dec. 11 when we will be hosting a reception. Any takers to paint some walls? Call Dave (250) 245-0109

**INTERVIEW  
WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DAVE EHRISMANN**

DAVE, WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR THE JOB?

LMS is very community focused and I was looking for an opportunity to work with an organization involved with the community. I enjoy working with people and I definitely meet many individuals with various backgrounds and experiences.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

The LMS office has an Open Door policy and I usually start my day with members, volunteers, or visitors sharing their concerns, feedback and suggestions over coffee. Several times a week I walk down to the docks to keep in touch with the visitors, families, members and moorers enjoying our LMS Community Marina. Mark and I regularly meet Friday mornings to discuss the week and plan upcoming events and marina maintenance.

Later, I deal with administration, planning, promotional duties and committee meetings.

ARE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES ROUTINE?

Sure. There are the usual phone calls, e-mails, financial issues and contracts, etc. to follow up. Membership renewals and moorage contracts provide opportunities to keep in touch with members and moorers.

IS PLANNING INTERESTING?

At the moment there is lots of planning going into the Visitor Centre. The committee meetings dealing with the design, financing,

engineering, grant applications, electrical, environmental and other aspects of the planning are enjoyable. Helping people solve problems and research information is an interesting challenge.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PROMOTION?

Promotion is fun. I put lots of time into networking with members of the community, businesses, and Town to promote the Festival, Museum, Harbour Tours, Kid's Don't Float, Disabled Sailing, Heritage Vessels and LMS Community Marina as a Visitor Destination.

DO YOU HAVE A WISH LIST?

1. Seeing LMS Community Marina as the premier destination for land and sea visitors.
2. Having strong relationships within our diverse community.
3. Seeing the Museum filled with families and children experiencing our past.

WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT, RIGHT NOW?

1. Organizing a tour for journalists writing an article for Pacific Yachting on Ladysmith, including LMS.
2. Marketing the LMS Community Marina to draw members and visitors to our area, like the Market does to Salt-spring Island.
3. The Navy selecting our marina as their choice for moorage. Three Orca Class vessels ("Orca", "Raven" & "Cariboo") are coming on Nov. 11. "HMCS Oriole" will be here for the Dec. 12 Christmas Lights Cruise.



Dave in the office

Selective quotes about Dave:

Remarkable energy and contact with the members. (Doug Bell, President)

Planning with Dave is more constructive and steady, especially with his global view.(Tim Richards, Vice President)

He is really good at marketing, although his Gung-Ho helpfulness can feel like micro-management.(Rob Pinkerton, Harbour Boat Tours)

I don't feel lonely, knowing that Dave cares about history and the Museum. (Shirley Blackstaff, Museum Curator)

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## WORK PARTY PROJECTS

- Nov. 7  
Complete skirting & tie-rails on “C” dock  
Start running water lines under “C” dock  
Start replacing decking on far end of “C”
- Nov. 14  
Continue water lines under “C” dock  
Start running water lines under “B-C” connector  
Continue replacing decking “C” & “B-C” connector
- Nov. 21  
Continue water line work up to kiosk  
Pull water line out of water on “A” dock  
Tighten & maintain tie rails & lights on “A” dock
- Nov. 28  
Install fire extinguisher boxes throughout marina  
Start work on replacing 100’ of dock at end of “A”
- Dec. 5  
Volunteers Dinner tonight – no workparty

- Dec. 12  
Work on replacing 100’ of dock from gangway to museum
  - Dec. 19  
Start to install lighting & replace decking on “B” dock (Visitor Dock)  
Up-grade water system on “B” dock
  - Dec. 26  
Boxing Day – no workparty
- Throughout the winter, if the weather is unfavorable, we have several inside projects that we will pick away at, most involve painting. There are also outside painting jobs when the weather is good for those of you who prefer to paint instead of pound!!
- Also, the work shop needs some organizing and cleaning (again) to make it useable for future projects.
- Watch for 2010 workparty schedule in the next Maritimer.
- Interested in helping? Contact our wharfinger, Mark, at (250) 245-1146 or show up Saturday morning.

## THE CONTEST IS ON

### NAME THE WORKBOAT

After many years of service our marina workboat, “African Queen”, is tired and



has been retired.

The search was on for a sturdy vessel which could withstand the rigours of pushing docks, towing boathouses, picking up debris, generally being a workhorse around the marina, and not cost the earth. We found her in Sointula.

She is 16 feet long, with an almost 8 foot beam, built in 2005 by Vern Sampson and Randy Grout to a Glen-L design (with a few modifications). She was designed for Fisheries patrols and log salvage work on the mid-coast. Building her was a winter project in Sointula to teach Vern how to weld aluminum. Her twin 50 hp Honda four-stroke engines were new in 2000. (Yes, I know one engine cover is marked 40 HP – it was the only replacement cover to be found when the original was damaged)

Mark is finding her “incredibly stable, responsive, powerful and reliable and amazingly fuel efficient.”

She is currently named “Maria C” after Vern’s great-niece, Maria Christine.

Name the workboat and receive a signed copy of Shirley Blackstaff’s “Dad was a Coal Miner”.

Submit your suggestion(s) to Betty Seaton at: [rbseaton@telus.net](mailto:rbseaton@telus.net) or (250) 245-2920

or

drop it(them) off in the LMS office

Be sure to put your own name on your entry

The **deadline** for contest entries is

**November 20**

Voting for the name will take place at the AGM (Nov. 25 – Eagles Hall – 1900)



**SHE NEEDS A NEW NAME**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day  
Cenotaph & Legion
- Nov. 25 – AGM – Eagles Hall – 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 26 – Ladysmith’s Light Up
- Dec. 5 – LMS Members & Volunteers  
Dinner – Legion – 5:30
- Dec. 12 (Sat.) – Mt. Brenton Squadron’s  
Christmas Lights Cruise
- May 29, 2010 – Maritime Festival

## A LETTER FROM DOUG

Our 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Eagles Hall. I want to share some thoughts with you prior to the meeting. As November 25 is quickly approaching, it means that another year and chapter in the history of the Ladysmith Maritime Society (LMS) is coming to a close. We have 24 chapters to date - 2010 will be LMS's 25th anniversary. It is helpful to focus on what has been accomplished since the last AGM and to consider what we can look forward to in the coming year.

2009 has several significant milestones, building on the work of 2008. In late 2008, we were completing the work to bring Dave Ehrismann, our new Executive Director, on board. Dave brings a remarkable level of energy and commitment to his new role. As will become more evident at the AGM, Dave has played a major role in building and shaping some of the key relationships that are essential for the future of LMS. He will be presenting information on a discount/benefit package for LMS members that is being developed with the Ladysmith Downtown Business Association. Marvin's resignation from the wharfinger role was announced at the 2008 AGM and it created some very large shoes to be filled. The size and scope of the challenge was very clearly evident at the wonderful appreciation dinner and roast held on January 31st, 2009 for Marvin. Cliff Fisher and Mary Jean Vangenne provided us with a wonderfully entertaining evening of good fellowship, good food and great memories. Our new wharfinger, Mark Mercer, joined us in March, 2009. He has enthusiastically taken on the challenge, has created some equally large shoes, and has established a wonderful presence on the docks. The operation has improved in many areas and LMS has experienced an outstanding visitor season. Mark has played a key role in making this happen - more on this at the AGM.

We had other significant milestones as 2008 came to a close. Milestones that built the foundation for 2009. Our Constitution and By-laws were updated and modifications unanimously approved by the membership. This is a significant milestone in the history of LMS as the updated Constitution clearly states: "*The purpose of the Ladysmith Maritime Society is to serve the community*". Enabling LMS to serve the community and in doing so, securing its long-term future, is the foundation that was established with the signing on October 15, 2008 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ladysmith. This framed the basis for a long-term partnership for LMS on the waterfront.

Our 2009 Maritime Festival was a remarkable success, a success that could be achieved only with an equally remarkable group of volunteers. Cliff Fisher and his team built on the experience gained from prior festivals and created a new standard for 2010. Expanding the involvement of other community organizations and the Stz'uminus First Nation was a key focus for 2009. Our rich maritime heritage was clearly evident with the participation of the Stz'uminus First Nation canoe, vessels from the Westcoast Work Boat Association, the HMCS ORIOLE and vessels restored by the labour-of-love of our members. Plans are currently under development for the 2010 Festival - more on this at the AGM. Some have asked why we put so much work into the festivals. Our maritime festivals are key to our initiatives to invite the community to their waterfront - a critical component of LMS serving the community.

Significant improvements to our facilities were completed in 2009 as we prepared for a highly successful 2009 marine tourism season. Ted Kordic and his team completed the upgrades to the electrical services for the visitor docks as well as improvements spread broadly across the marina. Our dedicated team of Saturday work parties completed significant improvements to many areas of the docks. Mary Jean's team kept the Saturday work parties well fed. We have several other teams of volunteers that have worked very hard in 2009 – our beautification committee worked magic on having the place spruced up for our visitors and folks from the community. Shirley Blackstaff's museum team kept the museum open during the summer, Rob Pinkerton's team of skippers did a great job of ensuring the harbour tours went off without a hitch. Rod Sword and Rob Johnson represented LMS with the "Saravan" and the "C.A. Kirkegaard" at several heritage boat festivals. Harold Moy and his team completed a remarkable transformation of the washroom facilities next to the Expo Legacy Building. We have consistently received positive feedback on these amenities which are exceptionally clean, thanks to the high standards and excellent work by Annette Douglas.

In 2009, we achieved in excess of 600 visitor nights – three times the number of visitors over the prior year. As is frequently the case, the numbers don't tell the whole story. Our vision is to make the LMS Community Marina a 'must visit' place for the West Coast boater in the Gulf islands. Ladysmith hospitality, coupled with outstanding visitor amenities to host large-scale rendezvous, – washrooms, showers, laundry and facilities - are critical to achieve this vision. Several members have gone out of their way to make our visiting boaters feel totally at home in our community, including offering transportation into town as well as up to Nanaimo. Word-of-mouth communication from our guests to other boaters will quickly spread the message – 'LMS is delighted to have you as their guest'.

Our Museum and the Harbour tours continue to be a magnet for local residents and tourists. Feedback from Museum visitors is overwhelmingly positive – gray-haired folks sharing "these outboard motors take me back to my youth". Harbour tour participation has been strong with the harbour tour/lunch at Jimmy O's being a real hit. We were fortunate to have five students work with us this summer: Marcia, Michelle, Darren, Ambrose and Gareth all contributed to our successful summer season. There are exciting plans for 2010.

In 2009, considerable progress was achieved in our long-term goal of contributing to the community and securing our future on the waterfront. In July, 2009, 20-year renewable agreements were signed with the Town for the ongoing provision of a Community Marina. These agreements provide a rock-solid foundation for our future. In addition, plans were developed for expanding visitor amenities with a focus on a new floating visitor center. Upgrades to the access, gangway, electrical system, sewage pump out and the main docks are included with the visitor center plans.

Standing back from 2009, it was clearly a year of significant change for LMS. This change has not been without stress for our some of our members and our moorers. New insurance requirements, upgraded boathouse standards and moorage rate increases have all caused some concerns. The majority of our members and our moorers are very supportive of the direction in which we are moving. We continue to have challenges with some moorers with respect to

bringing their boathouses up to standard. We also have challenges regarding the way in which Mark and Dave have been treated by some of our moorers. We will continue to work with all moorers to ensure that standards are achieved and that a respectful working environment is the norm on our docks.

So what does 2010 hold for LMS? I would like to suggest, for your consideration, that our priorities should be:

- Significant growth in volunteerism across all aspects of our operation. In parallel with this, improvements in how we recognize and appreciate our remarkable volunteers.
- Further upgrades to our facilities.
- Further progress on achieving implementation of the Visitor Center.
- Significant growth in marine tourism.
- Completion of our heritage strategy with broad engagement of our membership regarding our heritage vessels and expansion plans for our Museum.
- Broader engagement of our community in its waterfront – e.g. more families spending Saturday morning on our docks.

As I have shared with you before, we intend more discussion on all these at the AGM.

LMS is a remarkable organization that has proven itself to be a responsible steward of the community's front yard - its waterfront. I believe that 2010 holds remarkable opportunities for our future. We have an extraordinary and expanding volunteer base. I encourage you to think about our future and to contribute your thoughts and energy to achieving our potential. As I mentioned before, 2010 will be LMS's 25th anniversary. How will you contribute to our future?

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM Nov. 25, and our celebration dinner on December 5th.

Regards,  
Doug Bell

The support of our members in these exciting times is critical to our future. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and the opportunities to help are endless. Just talk with Dave, or Mark or any director about wish lists.

## **LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY**

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**Office-museum-tours 250-245-0109**

**Marina 250-245-1146**

**[www.ladysmithmaritimesociety.ca](http://www.ladysmithmaritimesociety.ca)**