



Maritimer

SEPTEMBER 2009

MEMBERS' MEETING

Thurs. **Sept. 24, 2009**
Ladysmith Secondary School
multi purpose room
1900 (7 pm)

The agenda includes:

- Community Marina update
- Visitor Center design
- AGM preparations
- heritage strategy - next steps
- discussion of moorage rates

VISITING BOATERS

Marine tourism is critical to the health and future of our community. One measure we use to track our progress in attracting marine tourists is visitor nights (1 boat x 1 night = 1 visitor night). We have seen remarkable improvement this year with more than twice as many visitor nights this season compared with last year. We expect to reach 600 visitor nights by the end of Sept. Many are staying more than one night to take advantage of our new laundry facilities, the harbour tour, the museum, and the many services and activities available throughout Ladysmith.

Ladysmith's new Trolley stops at the top of our drive - a most welcome addition to the community marina area of the waterfront. This service encourages visitors to stick

around for a few days - the more visitor nights, the more dollars in the coffers of Town businesses.

Mark, our wharfinger, arranged the work schedules for Ambrose & Darren, two of our summer students, to provide a welcoming person on the docks from 9 am – 9 pm every day during the summer. A friendly hand when you come into a dock is always appreciated.

We welcome letters such as:

We want to compliment your Dock Master, Mark. He was pleasant, welcoming and very helpful with our generator problem. Your Marina deserves an A+. Thank you, Seattle.

Some of our members have provided transportation into Ladysmith and also up to Nanaimo for specialty marine parts. Each of us can play a role in making sure all of our visitors feel very welcome at our marina. How about helping attract marine tourism to our community by inviting your boating friends to come to our community to experience wonderful Ladysmith hospitality.

AGM

Wed. Nov. 25, 2009
Eagles Hall
1900

(details in next Maritimer)

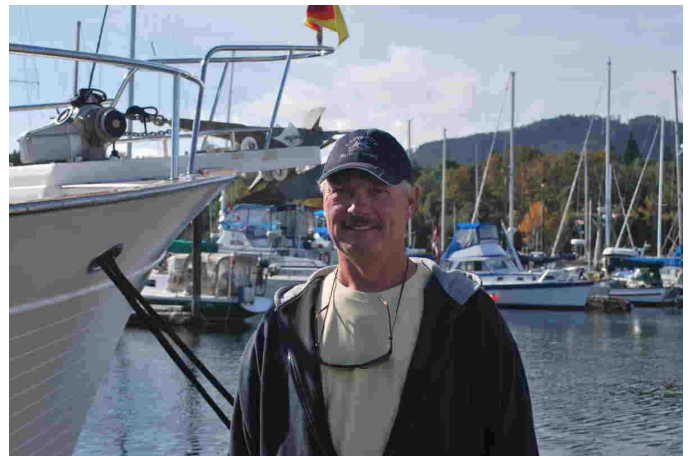
MARK MERCER

Mark, who joined our LMS family as Wharfinger in February of this year, comes with wide experience in the marine world. He started sailing at the age of 6 in the Calgary area on a “Dad-built” 14 footer which he still has. Racing and teaching the CYA junior sailing program occupied his leisure hours. Who else has sailed a Laser on Lake Louise, Emerald Lake, and mountain lakes only accessible by four-wheel drive?

After moving to Vancouver Island, Mark maintained a 26-boat cruising fleet, becoming the head instructor before being hired by the owner of a 39 ft. C&C, that was in the fleet, to take him on a 2-year, 30,000 mile, offshore trip that included 15 countries and several exciting moments - some good, some not so good! He has also been a whitewater rafting guide, a whale-watching boat captain, a private yacht captain, and a fish master at an exclusive fishing lodge in the Queen Charlotte Islands. As well, Mark had his own yacht delivery business delivering over 100 power and sail boats. His marine career has taken him from Alaska to the Equator and Hawaii to the Eastern Caribbean.

Mark is married to Karen and together they have 2 sons, Daegan aged 9 and Riley Kae aged 5. All are avid boaters, fishers, and sea-life explorers.

Welcome aboard, Mark.



Mark Mercer

KEEP YOUR BOAT DRY

Our weather here on the coast of beautiful British Columbia allows us to cruise twelve months of the year - a bonus for those of us who enjoy winter cruising. No lifting and shrink-wrapping of boats, such as is necessary in much of Canada, for us. The down side is that precautions should be taken to defeat the condensation and molds that love clammy conditions.

There are many ideas on how to keep your boat dry; some require expensive equipment, some require a lot of power. A simple, inexpensive, power-friendly solution is to place a fan in your boat. The circulation of air eliminates the condensation/mold problems.

The one fall we forgot to plug in a fan, our boat cabin grew mildew – not a nice situation. We have been “winterizing” our boat with a fan, with excellent results, for many years. Try it.

MOORAGE CONTRACTS

SATURDAY WORK PARTIES START SEPTEMBER 19

We need all you handymen (and handywomen), painters, and specialists who hanker to pound a nail or saw some wood or wield a paint brush or – or – or. Keeping the marina in tiddly shape and continuing the upgrading of our facility is an never ending job. Several projects have been on hold over the summer just waiting for the work crew to start up again.

The first job of the season is to skirt the fingers at the end of “C” dock. Stowing water and electrical lines under the decks is another project. Completing and installing additional boarding ladders is on the list. and on and on.

If you haven't participated in the Saturday work parties don't by shy about joining the crew. Come along to Boathouse #13 around 0900 for coffee before starting on the project for the day. About noon lunch will be served courtesy of a group of volunteers who are devoted to providing some nourishment for the work crew. Most days the crew breaks off at 3ish.

It's fun

It's companionable

It's a valuable contribution to LMS

Questions? Call Mark (250) 245-1146

Last April all moorers were required to comply with standards for insurance, safety and aesthetics prior to acceptance of moorage contracts. This resulted in some vessels moving out of the marina, some boathouses getting spruced up, and all moored vessels and boathouses proving liability insurance coverage. There are still some issues which need to be addressed; some moorers who are dragging their feet about sprucing up; but it was a great start towards improving the quality of the marina.

Next April (and every April from now on) compliance with standards will again be incorporated into the moorage contract process. In the next month or so a committee will be advising those whose vessels/boathouses aren't up to snuff of the deficiencies which will have to be addressed prior to acceptance of a contract for the 2010-2011 moorage year.

JIM BLACKSTAFF

Nov. 6, 1951 – July 24, 2009

Jim was a quiet volunteer whose quality work included the “showroom” finish on our 1959 Glaspar. His brother & sister-in-law, Harry & Shirley, invite Jim's friends to their home for a

Celebration of Life

September 26

10825 Edgelow Road

1:30 – 5:30

A short informal service, slide show, and sharing of remembrances will begin at 2:00 pm

MUSEUM ATTRACTIONS

The LMS Museum was opened for the season on May 30, 2009 - Maritime Festival day - with two new displays: Outboard Motors and the history of the local Oyster Industry. We had about 500 visitors that day and often the Museum was so full that people had to return later to get a better look. Many folks enjoyed the outboard motor display and were delighted when they found the one they remembered using as a young person. Most of the motors were donated by local citizens. A number of people saw our request in the TAKE 5 magazine and were happy to give up their treasure for display in our maritime museum.



Each motor was researched with a display sign sharing information and an old advertisement. We have a fine collection now with makes like British Seagull, Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, Muncie, Scott-Atwater, Champion, Chrysler, Elgin, Elto, Lauson and others. Six motors were donated during our summer season. Once cleaned and researched, they will be put on display to replace those that are on loan. We appreciate the kindness of people's gifts and loans. The borrowed motors will be returned to their owners this fall.

The local oyster industry was researched, interviews conducted and artifacts borrowed so that one of our Ladysmith harbour industries could be showcased. Historically, Ladysmith has been an oyster growing area with records going back to 1884. The Plecas', relatives of

Walter Jones, pioneers of the Oyster Industry in Ladysmith harbour, provided many interesting artifacts and much information. The Irvine family of Timothy Oysters supplied large oyster shells and other items, and relatives of Limberis Seafood Processing plant gave us some excellent large historic photographs. People visiting the museum showed interest in this display, asked questions and studied the photographs and informational display boards.

The logging diorama that depicts the forest industry of our harbour at the present marina's site was enjoyed by many. Harry Erickson was interviewed and shared his stories and photographs. His photographs will be returned to him once copied for use in future displays relating to our local Forest Industry.

A new diorama showing the long wharf in Ladysmith Harbour with ships and barges being filled with coal is being developed by Guy Brooke. It is progressing well. Guy spent considerable time researching and studying the information and photographs he collected and is now working steadily to complete this challenging project.

Michelle, one of our summer students, assisted our museum curator, Shirley Blackstaff with keeping track of visitors, sign painting, and opening the museum for longer hours.

Visitors from as far away as China, Australia & Norway wrote comments such as: *Wonderful museum - Great marina. I shall return - Love the old motors - Love the new facilities - This is one of our favorite spots. - Great ! I also like the children's viewing area.*

Bob Bossons, Al Gilroy, Rob & Marilyn Johnson, and Barrie & Peggy McDonald all volunteered hours in the Museum to ensure it was open seven days a week during July & August. Their support and the time they gave on a regular weekly basis is greatly appreciated.

HARBOUR TOURS

SUMMER STUDENTS

We added a new dimension to our 2009 summer season by hiring four summer students to help support the Marina, Museum and administration.

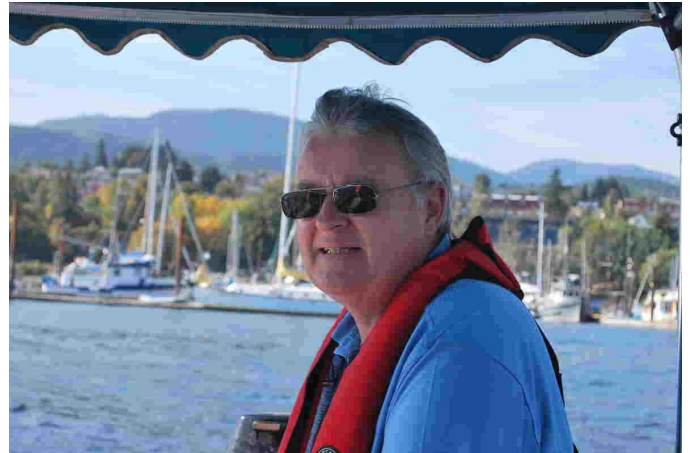
Ambrose Jim and Darren Cooper worked around the docks, greeted visitors and sanded and varnished “C.A. Kirkegaard”; Michelle Seymour assisted Shirley Blackstaff in the Museum; and Marcia Seymour provided much needed support in office administration. A fifth student, Gareth Davies, volunteered time as a co-op student of the Vancouver Island University Tourism program by helping to promote the museum and harbour tours this season. Gareth also created a Media Kit for our 2010 marketing/promotions and created a Summer Student Information and Orientation handbook on Tourism & LMS.

The contribution of these five students towards our summer operations was much appreciated and we wish them success in their future endeavours.



Darren Cooper, Michelle Seymour, Ambrose Jim

The regular twice-a-day harbour tours have been enjoyed by over 600 people this summer. Our enthusiastic skippers, Sid Gray, Bob Johns, Paul Notte, Rob Pinkerton, Rod Sword, and Bert Vermaskari have entertained folks from Denmark, Germany, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Wales, California, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, off island BC + lots of local and island residents.



Skipper, Sid Gray

70 people enjoyed a Saturday morning harbour tour which included lunch at Jimmy O's (at Page Point Marina). Jimmy O's donates a portion of the \$25 charge to LMS.

Ladysmith Parks & Rec. joined with LMS to provide a new activity for its summer day camp program. 61 8–10 year olds + 8 supervisors cruised on “Maritimer”; they enjoyed seeing seals, driving the boat, and splashing through the waves.

This welcome letter was received:

Thank you so much for your wonderful harbour tour. Our guide was excellent! We enjoyed it very much. The restaurant was first rate. We are locals and it was a great way to see a part of our hometown we've never experienced before. We'll be telling all our friends to make sure to sign up.

EXTENSION MINE DISASTER OCTOBER 5, 1909

Our volunteer curator for the Ladysmith Maritime Society Museum, Shirley Blackstaff, has written a book, “**Dad was a Coal Miner**”, as a tribute to all the Vancouver Island miners and as a remembrance to the 32 miners who died in the Extension Mine Explosion of October 5, 1909 and their families. This book is designed to be used in the Museum's future educational programs. Directors and members of LMS have fully supported this heritage/educational project. The launching of this book at the community events, October 3-4, 2009, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Extension Mine disaster and honoring all coal miners of that era, provides an opportunity to further LMS's goals to promote heritage in our community.

Memorial events will take place in Ladysmith and Extension over the Oct. 3-4, 2009 weekend. Look for details in local publications.

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS

LMS is in a transitional phase between a working board where members do much of the work to keep the Society functioning, and a traditional board where directors oversee the activities of the organization while employees provide the leadership to achieve the Society's vision. Our Executive Director has taken on many responsibilities which were formerly handled by directors; however, we still need fully involved directors.

As a working board it is anticipated that each director will assume responsibility for

an active part of the operations of the Society. The time commitment is substantial. Legal, financial, insurance, and environmental requirements are becoming more important; communications with our members, moorers, partners, and others, is critical to their support of our operations; management of the visitor centre project to comply with necessary permits, financial requirements, and time-frames will be starting this year.

If you, or someone you know, have some knowledge and/or expertise which would be helpful, and the energy to go with it, please consider forwarding your name to the Nominations Committee Chair, Rob Pinkerton at: rpink@shaw.ca or (250) 245-7804.

Please note that:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing of Ladysmith Maritime Society
2. Nominations must be signed by 2 seconders who are members in good standing
3. Nominations must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair no later than 5:00 p.m. Oct. 31, 2009
4. There will be 3 directors elected at the AGM on November 25, 2009 to serve for 3-year terms
5. The directors will elect the executive officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer) from amongst themselves.

The nomination form is attached. Please return it by **5:00 p.m. October 31, 2009** to **Rob Pinkerton**, Nominations Committee Chair at:

rpink@shaw.ca or (250) 245-7804.

Questions? Call Rob

LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM
(nominations close 5:00 p.m. October 31, 2009)

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 (see page 6)

(signature) (date)

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

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____

*this form must be submitted to the nominating committee chair, Rob Pinkerton, at
rpink@shaw.ca or (250) 245-7804 by
5:00 p.m. Oct. 31, 2009*

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 will be copied into a newsletter prior to the AGM to give members time to think about their vote.

LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

**PO Box 1030
Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A7**

Office-museum-tours 250-245-0109

Marina 250-245-1146

www.ladysmithmaritimesociety.ca