

Attendees (8): John Ratcliffe, Sandy Sutherland, Barry Edgington, Leonard Baak, Pierrick Labbé, Kathy Belanger, Chris Harnett, Beverly Sawchuk.

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1915 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clocktower Brew Pub on Bank street and introduced the guest speaker, Matt Windle from the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences in Cornwall.



Guest Speaker “Talking About Eels”

Matt delivered an excellent presentation on the life cycle of eels, their history of abundance in Ontario fresh waters and their declining numbers today. To support conservation efforts, Matt is building a database of eel sightings. You can report your sightings at <http://riverinstitute.ca/american-eel-reported-sightings>.



Minutes of the previous meeting Feb 12th

It was pointed out that Barry had not volunteered to maintain our website and that Challenge Medals are properly called Challenge Coins. Moved by Barry, seconded by Sandy that the minutes as corrected be approved. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of the treasure, John reported we have over \$6000 in the bank and had received a kind donation of \$100 from Chris Welch.

Recent events

John mentioned that AIA, the Archaeological Institute of America, holds events periodically at U of O and Carleton, usually on Sundays at 2 pm. These don't necessarily have a nautical theme.

On 17 April, Nancy Binnie will be presenting at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum on search effort and recovery plans for the Avro Arrow model launched into Lake Ontario around Toronto.



John attended the SOS Board of Directors meeting held Feb 23-25. Some topics of interest:

- The new website will be up and running soon.
- The website could use some photos and videos taken in Ontario waters with good visibility [laughter ensued].
- The BoD plans to have better, centralized organization of NAS courses to take best advantage of the limited number of tutors available.

Beyond the Edge ...

Barry kindly brought in a further part of his collection of vintage scuba gear.

Tonight he brought a variety of gauges and some vintage masks, including one of the original masks with built in snorkel.



Chapter Elections

There being no nominations from the floor, the current executive, John Ratcliffe, Debby Reinhardt and Sandy Sutherland were acclaimed to remain in their positions.

John pointed out that the chapter still needs a volunteer to act as Buoy Coordinator. There are lots of volunteers to do the work, but someone has to be the point person. Lots of help is available within the branch from members who have done the job before.

Buoy Report

We are looking for a new buoy coordinator as Andy's work has been taking away from his diving time.

If Andy Bennis' boat is not available, we will have to find another boat to place our buoys this Spring.

Ottawa Beavers Plaque and Connie Swimline

It is intended to place the plaque on the block anchoring the swimline on the Connie. John noted a rope swimline has been placed on the other side of the Connie from the chain by person(s) unknown.

New Business

Upcoming events:

- April 21/22 SOS AGM in London, ON. A proxy form is available on the SOS Facebook page.
- May 19 Seaway Valley Divers Clean-up dive May 19th.
- May 25/27 1000 Islands chapter is holding an NAS combined Intro and Part 1 course in Brockville. Contact Tom Scott in Brockville for details.

Meeting adjourned at 2110.

