

# **SOS** SAVE **SOS** ONTARIO **SOS** SHIPWRECKS

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOS**



The Save Ontario Shipwrecks' "Executive" Crew; Dennis Cartwright.

© Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS)  
October 1991  
Author: Monique J. Bellefeuille

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE ..... ii

INTRODUCTION ..... 1

THE BIRTH OF AN ORGANIZATION ..... 1

SOS HIGHLIGHTS ..... 3

ONGOING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES ..... 7

SOS PROGRESSIVE MOVES ..... 8

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS, SOS! ..... 9

SOS FORUM RECAP ..... 10

THE SOS MARINE HERITAGE AWARD ..... 11

SOS - LET'S CELEBRATE ..... 13

NOTES - QUOTES ..... 13

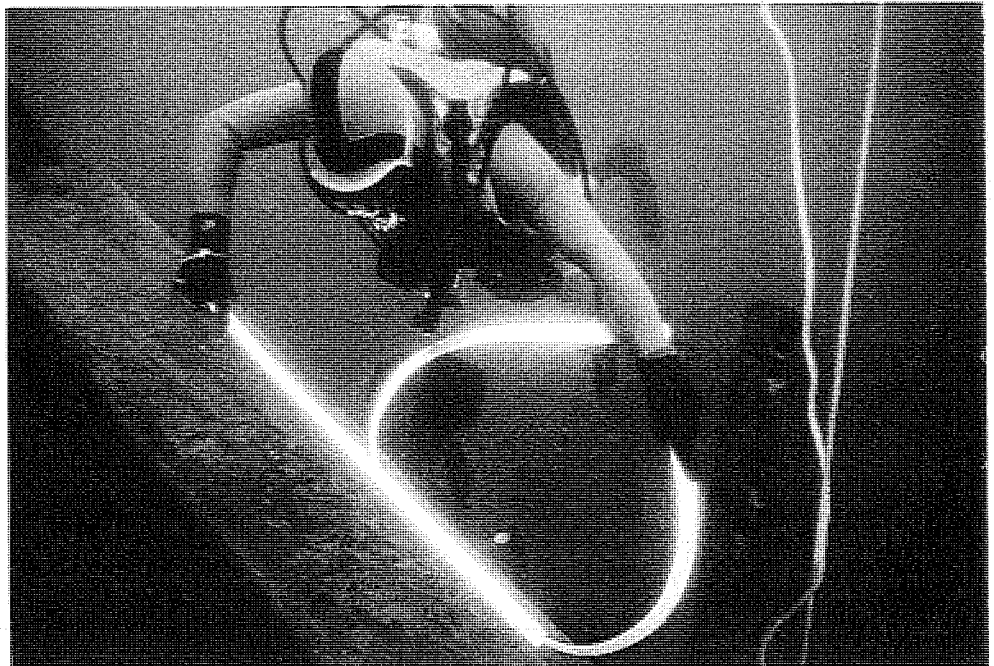
CONCLUSION - LAST WORDS ..... 15

BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 16

SAVE ONTARIO SHIPWRECKS ..... 16

NOTES AND AUTOGRAPHS ..... 17

ANNIE FALCONER project;  
Ministry of Culture and  
Communications.



## PREFACE

It has been ten great years guiding Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS) to this point in her course. For me it has been a rewarding and exhilarating experience to have had the privilege of piloting her course first as President of SOS and for the past two years as Executive Director. I am sure as well that those of you, who also have shared this honour, feel as I do. Indeed, you should feel justifiably proud of your accomplishments as members and volunteers in this great organization.

In 1990, as part of our plans for celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOS, we thought of publishing an "Anniversary Year Book" to honour those who had a part in the achievements of SOS and for appraising everyone of the history of SOS. At that time, Monique Bellefeuille, a freelance journalist and member of SOS, volunteered to research the history and people of SOS and author, for us, this year book. Monique and Mike Bellefeuille (as co-editor) have done a great job in this task and I extend our thanks and appreciation for performing this on your behalf.

I wish also to acknowledge the contribution of Ken McLeod as historical advisor, Hetty Baets and Cindy Walker for their effort in transcribing and editing, and to Diann Lawton, Scott Fuller, and Les Pullen for proof reading and amendments.

This publication will, doubtless, not be without its errors and omissions. There are bound to be individuals and incidents we have missed. To those who believe they have not been specifically mentioned in these pages, please rest assured that your efforts are appreciated. If we have left anyone out, we sincerely apologise. Please let us know though - perhaps there will be a revised edition!!!

Again, I extend gratitude to all who have made Save Ontario Shipwrecks what it is today - one of the largest and most significant marine heritage organizations in the world. Thank you for your support.

Fred Gregory  
Executive Director  
October 1991



Lillie Parsons' anchor returned; Jonah Libman



\*\*\* *HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY SOS* \*\*\*

## INTRODUCTION

It's 1991 and Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS) is celebrating its first decade of existence as a corporation. Who could have imagined that we could make "marine heritage preservation" a household word in ten short years - not including of course the several years spent as a fledgling organization! Researching this project was an eye-opener and has made me appreciate the effort of so many SOS members and volunteers. I will start at the beginning since I only joined in 1982/83. SOS was already two years old then, just an infant.

wrote "too often, I have been on wrecks and seen entire teams of divers equipped with tools, sacking the wreck". He was a dedicated conservationist who died in 1980. The Ontario Underwater Council utilized much of this man's information and insight on marine heritage preservation.

One year later in 1980 at the Ontario Archaeology Society (Hart House U of T), lectures and discussions were going on about the problems and possible solutions for marine heritage destruction and wreck stripping. At that time the divers in Kingston needed



An SOS project;  
Fred Gregory.

## THE BIRTH OF AN ORGANIZATION

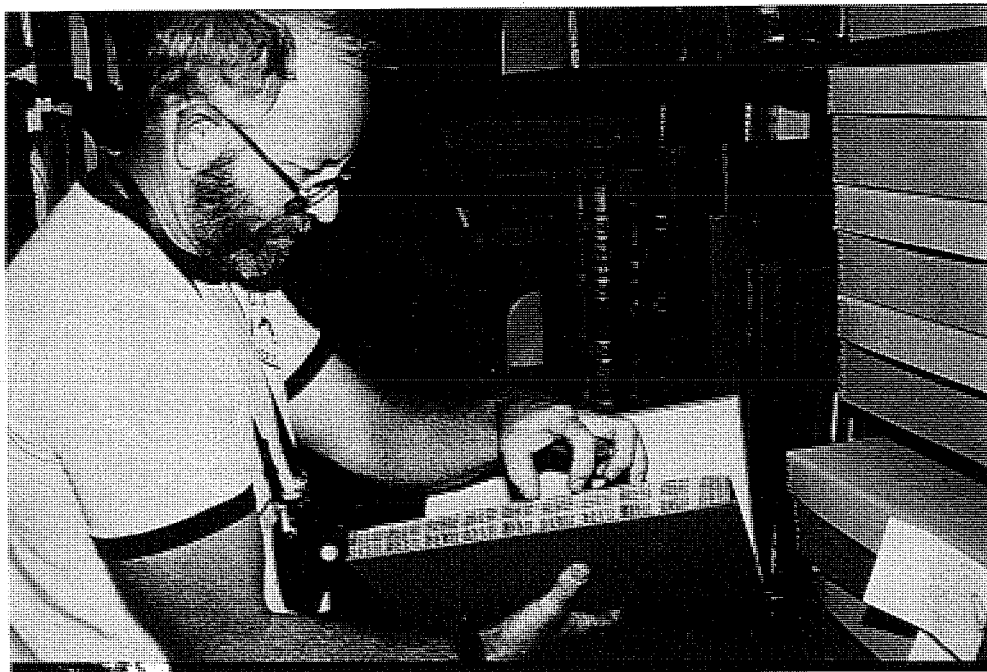
SOS was conceived in 1979 from the idea that something had to be done to preserve Ontario's shipwrecks. Ron Cowalchuck, Gain Wong, Pat Ryan, Rick Jackson, Andrew Garay, and others were giving courses and lectures on "Instructor's Obligations in Wreck Preservation". Flyers and bulletins promoting anti-wreck stripping were sent out to members from the Toronto headquarters. John Fell once

an immediate solution and they formed "Preserve Our Wrecks", Kingston.

In 1981 SOS was well established, and consideration and process for incorporation were effected. Assisted by Karen Thompson and a legal student, the volunteers compiled the necessary documents. This proved to be a long and tedious task, but everything had to be just right if the long term objectives were to be successful. This was to be a non-partisan, grass

roots organization. This meant that SOS would have no political affiliation to the province, the dive clubs

Rick Jackson. There were problems, sleepless nights, good and bad moments, and times when one



Researching our past;  
Dave Ostifichuck



or the dive shops. All volunteers at that time had their own reason for seeing the realization of this dream. For Ron Cowalchuck the basic idea for preservation was, and still is, a poetic one: romanticism of the past and of the people that sailed our waterways. Also, as an instructor, he needed something of great importance to keep his students interested in scuba diving. For Dennis Cartwright it was a genuine and keen interest in archaeology; therefore, marine preservation presented a new challenge and a worthwhile commitment. He also felt that, as an instructor, he could teach his students that having an organization such as SOS would be beneficial since not enough information was known about our shipwrecks and research needed to be done.

The first official SOS projects were the LYMAN DAVIS in Toronto and the CONESTOGA in Cardinal (1983). Eventually the then Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture (MCC) was contacted for advice and assistance with surveying, licensing, training, researching and compiling data. This contact was useful in helping SOS gain a strong voice in the diving community. By having a charter, and some guiding rules and regulations, SOS would be officially recognized. Thus in 1981, SOS truly started to grow with her three Chapters - Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara - a great beginning for founder

wondered if SOS would ever survive to maturity!

Since then, SOS has matured considerably. During the ensuing years we introduced our underwater archaeology training seminars, authored many articles in magazines and newspapers, published the quarterly SOS Newsletter, and held our first annual Forum. SOS participated in the recovery of stolen ship's artifacts and initiated identification plaque programs for the more popular shipwreck dive sites.

SOS now has a board and executive members, 17 chapters from the major regions of Ontario, and representation in the USA. In 1989 SOS hired its first Executive Director to coordinate its many activities and programs.

The aim of SOS is to "further public knowledge and appreciation of ontario's marine heritage". SOS encourages responsible use of our heritage and non-disturbance archaeology and the non-removal of artifacts. The objectives of the organization are:

- a. to conduct and actively promote research and study of our marine heritage at all levels of interest;
- b. to facilitate and actively promote

networking and co-operation among all individuals, organizations and agencies dealing with marine heritage;

- c. to interact with the various users of marine heritage resources, with a view to promoting the "responsible use" ethic; and,
- d. to interact with, and advise, the regulatory and controlling agencies to ensure that appropriate legislative and policy frameworks are in place which foster the preservation and promotion of our marine heritage.

The Save Ontario Shipwrecks' mission is clear and well defined. Our mandate is "Preservation through Education and Involvement". SOS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our marine heritage through volunteer workers, research and educating others of our marine heritage resource. SOS is doing its best to preserve our past, in the present time, for future generations.

SOS has now survived ten years and for SOS it can only get better. SOS has pledged to continue its great efforts towards marine heritage preservation and to continue to educate the public at large about it. Well, maybe the teenage years will tell the whole story - for now - HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOS and DIVE TO ENJOY NOT TO DESTROY!

### SOS HIGHLIGHTS

First came the planning years and the evolution of a dream. Perhaps the greatest event, however, was official the birth of SOS through our incorporation in 1981. SOS Toronto held one of the first underwater survey training seminars in 1982 and then came the discovery of some new shipwrecks in Windsor.

Like a child, SOS grew with each event in its evolution. let's read through some pages of its diary and remember these exciting moments:

#### **1979**

SOS Flyer - Marine Heritage? The dawn of an organization!

#### **1980**

SOS Flyer, circa 1979/80. Recruiting volunteers - "Who cares about marine heritage?"

#### **1981**

The start of something great: the coming of age of Save Ontario Shipwrecks.

#### **1982**

Kingston Seminar - "Basic Approaches to Marine Archaeology" - Sponsored by Preserve Our Wrecks, Kingston, this first of many seminars covered topics such as: conservation, site survey, lab work, hypothesis and analysis of the results of the excavation, underwater photos, record keeping, theory of triangulation, taking of elevations and offsets, co-operation of team members. Preserve our Wrecks, Kingston, undertook the first survey of the ANNIE FALCONER located off Picton's shore. Ryan Leblanc and Scott McWilliam, from Lake Superior, surveyed a steel-hulled whaleback. Les Pullen conducted a preliminary survey of a wooden-hulled steamship, the JUNO, just off Bowmanville, in the Oshawa area. SOS Peterborough was founded at the SOS Annual General Meeting with Bryan Davis. Ruth Rutherford was the first editor of our present day newsletter.

#### **1983**

SOS sponsored Ian Morgan (chairman of the Historical Board) and Rick Jackson (president SOS Toronto) to instruct a ten-week course on Marine Heritage at the University of Toronto. The Ontario Heritage Foundation funded Ian Morgan to research and write a three-volume reference work on Great Lakes History. Thanks to sidescan sonar the wreck of the scow-schooner GRAY OAK was discovered in Thunder Bay harbour. Rick Jackson led Toronto's LYMAN DAVIS project. He and volunteers were the first to make contact with the wreck after almost 50 years. They discovered the wreck with the aid of McQuest Marine's sidescan sonar, and hoped to get some sophisticated pictures from a special camera loaded aboard the DART, a remote control underwater video system. A successful weekend of sailing aboard the brigantine PLAYFAIR makes the summer of '83 unforgettable. Preserve Our Wrecks, Kingston has had a busy summer constructing mooring systems on the shipwrecks of the MARSH, COMET and ALOHA. SOS Quinte, with President Bob Harvey, was formed to continue work on the

ANNIE FALCONER and in 1984 published a second report. SOS Ottawa - Fred Gregory with the help of volunteers - completed a survey of the CONESTOGA. At the SOS Annual General Meeting Rick Jackson was re-elected as SOS President.

#### 1984

SOS is declared a Charitable Organization and anyone making a donation is now entitled to a tax receipt. A spring Underwater Archaeology Course was held in Peterborough with speakers Phil Wright, Peter Engelbert, Stan McClellan, Scarlett Janusas, Tom Daley, Dr. Pat Ryan, Toni Towle, Peter Blood, Rick Jackson and Bain Ireland. A third expedition on the LYMAN DAVIS took place in April with the participation of technicians from Toronto's CFTO

project, assisted by divers from Preserve Our Wrecks, SOS Quinte and SOS Toronto. Funding was provided from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Fred Gregory was voted in as SOS president.

#### 1985

SOS assisted local dive clubs which had entered Ottawa's Winterlude festivities with their ice sculpture of the LILLIE PARSONS (carved in an upright position); they won \$100.00. The LILLIE PARSONS received her plaque on August 5th, the anniversary date of her sinking. The CONESTOGA also received a plaque (the first of many) and this made the TV news, and the papers. A new tool was designed to measure cross sectional profiles of a vessel, this was given the name of "profilometer".



Yet another plaque for the CONESTOGA; Fred Gregory.



television station and their recording equipment. Pictures were not available as visibility was only three feet and the DART's cables became entangled in a steel cable on the wreck. The cables had to be disconnected and cut so that the DART could be brought to the surface for rewiring. A new chapter is born - SOS Ottawa Valley, with President Andrew Polley. They spent the summer working on the MAYFLOWER in Lake Kameniskeg, Renfrew area. SOS Quinte (President Ken Mullings) began a survey of an unnamed wreck near Presqu'ile Bay, Lake Ontario. As its true identity was never determined the wreck was named the CEDARDALE EAST. SOS Ottawa kept active with their LILLIE PARSONS

This was successfully used to measure the lines of the LILLIE PARSON'S hull. Her anchor was finally returned home to Sparrow Island. SOS Ottawa, with assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communication, hosted a seminar in March on Marine Archaeological Techniques. Les Pullen - SOS Oshawa and Ryan Leblanc - SOS Superior are welcomed aboard. The old Hope Island wreck is identified as the MARQUETTE, thanks to Ken McLeod's and Bill McNeil's research. The first component of Ian Morgan's "Understanding Great Lakes Shipwrecks" was almost ready to go to press. SOS hosted a day-sail aboard the PATHFINDER on June 8th, and a full-day cruise aboard the tall ship

CIUDAD DE INCA on June 22nd. SOS Toronto completed four dives on the LYMAN DAVIS in order to remove any fishing net which might be on the ship and attach a mooring line to the bow. SOS Quinte published its CEDARDALE EAST Wreck archaeological survey. We were there when ships were sunk too! Rest well M.V. WOLFE ISLANDER II. You'll be there for future generations to visit in Kingston. Be sure to look for the SOS logo inscribed on a porthole on the upper deck skylight (these were purchased by organizations en an effort to have them remain on the vessel).

### 1986

SLIGO: Toronto's first official dive site (Rick Jackson). Now who do you think dives in Toronto harbour? SOS members of course. They successfully positioned a six-foot steel buoy over this wreck to serve as a mooring for dive boats. The tall ship INCA regrettably sank in Portsmouth harbour (Kingston), however, she was successfully raised. SOS members enjoyed the fall colours on Lake Muskoka while cruising aboard the paddle wheeler SEGWUN. SOS Ingleside, with President Ron Patterson, is welcomed aboard. Sad news - the passing of historian Dr. Richard Wright has cast a long shadow throughout the Great Lakes.

### 1987

Calabogie Lodge is not just for skiing; SOS held an Advanced Project Management Workshop there. Following a tradition of almost sixty years the Mariner's Marine Museum in South Bay, Prince Edward County, held its memorial service for sailors and fishermen. SOS Quinte was proud and honoured to be part of this year's service and the memorial stone destined for the ANNIE FALCONER was dedicated by Rev. Pat Patterson of St. Philip's Church in Milford. Canada Underwater! Not likely; SOS set up her usual display and information booth at Underwater Canada, provided a major symposium and took part in a marine archaeology workshop. The Ontario Underwater Council's "Canadian Diving Achievement Award for Eastern Canada" was presented to SOS in recognition of our success to promote the protection of Ontario's marine heritage resources. The Canadian Maritime Heritage Federation (C.M.H.F.) was formed, with the assistance of SOS, of representatives from all marine heritage groups across Canada. SOS, as a major agency of the now Ministry of Culture and

Communications, participated in the Young Leaders Tomorrow Program by placing two young people from Ottawa (ages 15 to 25) on our Board, one to act as secretary (Chris Scullion) and the other with public relations (Lena Capkun). SOS Ingleside, with president Ron Patterson, began work on an interpretive trail to the Lost Villages near Cornwall. SOS Windsor, a new chapter with president John Karry, presented an Underwater Archaeology Seminar in August with Margaret Rule as guest speaker and created an underwater interpretive trail to the wreck of the CONEMAUGH, at Point Pelee National Park. SOS Ottawa, with president Jane Samson, visited the Environment-Parks Conservation facilities to view the remains of the BREADALBANE wheel. SOS Niagara, with President Ron Stenson, completed first step in a detailed cataloguing of Niagara's shipwrecks in the form of an archaeological report. One of many articles detailing some of the wrecks was submitted by its president, Ron Stenson, on the wreck of the propeller RALEIGH in Lake Erie. Bessel VandenHazel, a professor at Nipissing University College, obtained funding from the Department of Manpower to work on the history of Lake Nipissing transport technology. He created the Nipissing Room in the North Bay Area Museum. He then published his book called "From Dugout to Diesel". Also, he located and researched the wreck of the JOHN FRASER and wrote an archaeology report about it. SOS Sault Ste. Marie welcomed Richard Brown as new president. SOS Thunder Bay was welcomed aboard with Garth Mehagan as president. SOS Oshawa and Les Pullen were busy working on their photo mosaic of the WAOME. SOS considered the hiring of an executive director to maintain continuity of SOS. With the Spring edition of the SOS Newsletter, Debbie Stenson assumes the position of Editor.

### 1988

SOS purchased two "Expo" type display systems for SOS promotion. Dave Ostifichuck, with volunteers, produced a very popular SOS educational slide show. Bud Pennington initiated the Plaque Project, and designed and wrote a Plaque and Mooring Instruction handbook. An Underwater Archaeology Workshop was held in St. Thomas, thus creating the new SOS St. Thomas Chapter, with President Cathy Vendrig. They worked on a wreck of a coal schooner they thought was the GROTON. A survey on the MAYFLOWER was completed by the Ottawa Valley



Chapter. Diver Magazine published the story of the Lost Villages in the St. Lawrence Seaway. The ship's wheel of the RAPPAHANNOCK is finally returned to the wreck site in Lake Erie, proving that a little peer pressure (by our Superior chapter) goes a long way. Thieves are hard to catch! Wayne Winegarden of Port Stanley found his favourite wreck STRIPPED of its artifacts. He hosted a seminar to help divers explore shipwrecks. The CONESTOGA received its second plaque, as the original bronze coated plastic one did not stand up very well underwater. The ROTHESAY was also commemorated with a plaque, almost 99 years to the day after she sank. Sidescan sonar helped SOS Windsor to find nine new shipwrecks and twelve wreckage sites within seven days in Lake Erie. The stolen TASMANIA'S anchor is located in the USA. The anchor of the MARY MACLACHLAN was voluntarily returned to its original position by a diver who did not realize he had broken the law by removing it. Two more "Young Leaders Tomorrow" - Katherine Harrison and Rosemary Redgrift - are welcomed aboard. Rosemary is kept busy developing a newly revised pamphlet for the LILLIE PARSONS. Chris Scullion is replaced by his father, John, as SOS Secretary. SOS purchased an "AT" computer thanks to the Wintario grant provided by the Ministry MCC). The BLUEFIN, a steel-hulled fishing tug, is

Newsletter editor. SOS produced a booklet, authored by Kim Carter, entitled "Discover Ontario's Marine Heritage".

### 1989

SOS is at National Capital SCUBA Advocate's Swap Night held in Ottawa in February. SOS participated in Heritage Week in Ottawa by having their display booth at a local shopping centre. SOS makes a presentation at the Underwater Archaeology Symposium held at Ottawa's Carleton University. You steal, you get caught, you pay the price! This is what happened to a Toledo salvage diver who just happened to bring home, as a souvenir, the TASMANIA's 2,000lb anchor in 1987. The TASMANIA finally got her anchor back in June of '89, proof the law does work. Thanks to the assistance of Ted Walker and the Effy Mae, the CITY OF SHEBOYGAN received an SOS plaque and SOS Quinte placed a unique monument marker on the ANNIE FALCONER. We also speak French at SOS, "La Plongee" will attest to that. This magazine fully supports marine preservation. Ken McLeod discovered the J.K. WARD near Smiths Falls, in the Rideau system. He will install a plaque and mooring on her. Tim Legate, the then Board Chair, is recognized for performing 1100 hours per year diving in search of shipwrecks. SOS booth at Underwater



SOS at Scuba  
Celebration '90;  
Dave Ostifchuck

purchased by MCC as a research vehicle, and ferried down from Nipigon, Lake Superior to Deseronto, Bay of Quinte. Linda Danyluck becomes SOS

Canada was honoured by visitors such as Wess Skyles, Bill Lovin, and John Stoneman. The booth at Scuba Celebration '89 was very popular. The SOS

plaque which was forcibly removed from the LILLIE PARSONS was replaced on July 8th. New diver information pamphlets on the CONESTOGA and LOCK 21 are published. November found Tim Legate, Dave Ostifichuck, and Ken McLeod (also nicknamed McWreck) still looking for the wreck of the KITTY FRIEL. A new threat to our underwater shipwrecks - ZEBRA MUSSELS - they can cover a wreck in less than one year! The LITTLE WISSAHICKSON'S bell is returned and a plaque is placed near the bell by SOS Ohio. SOS has grown to 15 Chapters. A new position of Executive Director (Fred Gregory) has replaced the offices of President and Vice President of SOS.

### 1990

The eve of our 10th Anniversary and the start of our next decade. SOS is very popular again at Underwater Canada. The SEGWUN cruises have been popular for many years and once again SOS sponsored a day cruise. SOS Ingleside have marked off Lock 21 with yellow rope to serve as an interpretive trail to this popular dive site. Last year's successful dive weekend prompted the return of the SOS Ingleside Social. A rudder is returned to an unknown wreck in the St. Mary's river by SOS Sault Ste. Marie. Another year, another booth at Scuba Celebration and the initial selling of the popular 1991 Marine Heritage Almanac (printed on recycled paper). Les Pullen completed his photo mosaic (four year project) of the WAOME and published it in poster form, which sold very well at Underwater Canada. Sponsorship of SOS by many dive-related corporations has become a reality. SOS is heavily involved in the Ontario Heritage Policy Review. SOS presented Certificates of Appreciation to DACOR Canada, ACUC, Viking, Mares, Sherwood, and PADI in recognition of their corporate support of SOS and marine heritage. SOS not only cares about shipwrecks, it is also concerned with the plight of the endangered dolphins "SAVE A DOLPHIN DON'T EAT TUNA". The organization helps our ecology by promoting recycling. SOS Public Relations Director - Scott Fuller - received a Certificate of Recognition from NAUI for his years of unselfish contribution to the diving profession. The ANNIE FALCONER is damaged by careless anchorage of a diving boat. The GASKIN received a plaque and a diver information pamphlet is in the works. Richard Tatley received the SOS Marine Heritage Award for researching and writing two volumes of "Steamships

of the Muskokas" and his other marine heritage endeavours. 'Skin Diver' magazine published SOS articles on the CONESTOGA and the LILLIE PARSONS. Diver magazine published the same article on the LILLIE. SOS is finally gaining recognition on a big scale. Oh, I almost forgot - the CONESTOGA will be receiving another plaque to replace the second one that has gone missing. "To give up or not, that is the question

### ONGOING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

#### **SOS Superior - Ryan Leblanc**

Presently working on 22 unknown shipwrecks, placing plaques on some of them, and trying to identify all of them. They are also working on preparing dive site information pamphlets for the Northern Superior area.

#### **SOS Ingleside - John Van Baal**

Consists of a different type of dive site - the Lost Villages and Lock 21. Members are busy trying to solve the problem of bottle collectors, and researching some better mooring systems.

#### **SOS London - Andy Hibbert**

These members keep active compiling a list of Lake Huron wrecks, organizing advanced training programs for '91, and undertaking to survey a new wreck. They also plan to develop a museum commemorating the wreck of the VICTORIA.

#### **SOS Niagara - Marcel Tardif**

Compiling wreck data for Port Colborne and surrounding areas keeps these members active as they complete work on two wrecks and plan to commence efforts on eight others.

#### **SOS Thunder Bay - Karen Della-Matia**

These members have been very busy chartering dives and showing divers how to enjoy wreck diving without destroying them. They plan to produce a diver information pamphlet on the GRAY OAK.

#### **SOS Oshawa - Les Pullen**

Completed his four-year photo mosaic project of the WAOME - and what a beautiful job!

#### **SOS Sault Ste. Marie - Barry Lyons**

This chapter is working well with an archaeological license to study wrecks in Lake Superior Park.



SOS cruise aboard the  
RMV Segwun;  
Dave Rogers.

#### **SOS Windsor - John Karry**

Members are promoting dive tourism in conjunction with SOS, continuing their work on the CONEMAUGH, searching the waters of Pelee Passage with sidescan sonar.

#### **SOS Toronto - Tutty Lee**

Plans to distribute teaching pamphlets and set up a SOS display in dive shops of the area.

#### **SOS Elliot Lake - Maureen Cameron/Phil LeBlanc**

Plans to work on the ALLIGATOR at Flagg Lake as well as do an interpretative trail for Elliot Lake. Members are working on getting artifacts returned, a grant for a museum, and a video of the present wrecks before the threat of the zebra mussels buries them from view.

#### **SOS Sarnia - Al Melville**

They are busy working on the wreck of the MONARCH.

#### **SOS Ottawa - Bert Williams**

Artifact database to become active soon, computer program will be "user friendly".

#### **SOS Ottawa Valley - Andrew Polley**

Continues work on the MAYFLOWER.

#### **SOS Ohio - Joyce Hayward**

This chapter covers an area of Ohio and their membership is climbing. Presently involved in a photo documentation of a wreck.

#### **SOS Sudbury - John Varney**

Members are assisting with heritage and tourism on Manitoulin.

#### **SOS Discovery - Nils Semmler**

A new chapter in 1990 works on a paddle wheeler in a lake north of Trenton and sponsors a marine archaeological seminar.

#### SOS PROGRESSIVE MOVES

When SOS first started its marine archaeology efforts it was like trying to write in total darkness. Luckily through members' perseverance and ingenuity things finally settled into place. First of all, recognition by major newspapers, magazines, and television gave SOS respectable credentials and much needed visibility. Second, came the development and expansion of the organization, such as executives, board members and a salaried executive director.

Many innovations resulted from SOS marine archaeology projects: the underwater grids, the use of waterproof sheets, the DART, the sidescan sonar, the 'profilometer', the use of a new sign language for avocational marine archaeologists, the underwater

technique for installing plaques, the expansion of underwater photography of shipwrecks, the development of Divers and Field Guides, and the compiling of data for publication. SOS is comprised of volunteers and very few have professional skills in marine archaeology; however, many members have talent and personal skills in other areas and they have donated these to make SOS one of the most successful avocational marine archaeological and heritage organizations in the world. We have architects; underwater photographers, computer buffs, artists, writers, surveyors, public relations people, researchers, organizers, treasurers, historians, marine archaeologists, genealogists, and more.

SOS provides a variety of services to the diving community: a wealth of information about Ontario shipwrecks; educational material about SOS and marine heritage preservation; pamphlets about some of our favourite wrecks, locks, and lost villages; underwater field guides; and, videos about shipwrecks.

There has also been a seminar - "Scanning the Great Lakes". Thanks to this seminar, SOS, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and the Ministry of Culture and Communications published a report on January 17, 1990. This seminar dealt with the impact that new sophisticated, submerged site location technology is having on Ontario's marine heritage resource. The outcome of this seminar should solve future problems and solicit international co-operation.

What would SOS be without its very own archival researcher, Ken McLeod (McWreck). Although a very modest man he and his wife Cathy have accomplished a great deal for SOS. He has just published his first book on "SOS Shipwreck Research Publication #1" in March 1990. We look forward to many more.

### NEWS, NEWS, NEWS, SOS!

SOS has always been in the news since its early days, thanks to the determination of our members and an interested media.

In 1984 The Canadian Diving Journal recounted the sad tale of the LYMAN DAVIS.

Equinox also published an article about "Sunken

Heritage Jeopardized".

"The Recorder and Times" reported the successful return of the LILLIE PARSON'S anchor; the press and the media covered the sinking of the M.V. WOLFE ISLANDER.

In 1987 the Muskoka Advance announced the hopeful start of SOS Muskoka.

April 27, 1987 - the Ottawa Citizen printed the LILLIE PARSON'S story.

The Intelligencer covered the mariner's service at South Bay on August 10, 1987.

The Ottawa Citizen printed "the sinking of the MAYFLOWER on April 23, 1983. In May 1988, Diver magazine printed an article about the St. Lawrence Seaway's Lost Villages.

Free Press recorded that a relic was restored to a Lake Erie wreck.

The St. Thomas Times Journal covered the "Seminar to help area divers explore wreck off Port Stanley".

In 1984, the press and TV media covered the first plaque placed on the CONESTOGA;

The Prescott Journal covered the plaque ceremony on the ROTHESAY.

In Toledo, Ohio, Saturday, September 3, 1988 the TASMANIA'S anchor is found.

October 5, 1988 "bonanza of shipwreck find" is reported by the Windsor Star.

On Wednesday, February 22, 1989 the Windsor Star reports the TASMANIA'S anchor is finally home. June 1989 is a lucky month, SOS celebrates success.

The Toledo Blade magazine promotes shipwreck preservation, 1988.

La Plongee promotes SOS in June 1989.

Once again La Plongee supports SOS, August 1989.

The Ottawa Citizen covers another story about SOS exploits.

In 1990 major publications finally recognize SOS internationally: the first is in the August 1990 issue of Skin Diver magazine, an article on the CONESTOGA was published. The second is the November 1990 issue of Skin Diver and Diver magazines with the article on the LILLIE PARSONS. Third, La Plongee published both of these articles in FRENCH, again showing its support of SOS.

John Stoneman, of Mako Films LAST FRONTIER, assisted SOS by making a film documenting the MARY MACLACHLAN wreck in the summer of 1990. This film, "Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes", was shown at Scuba Celebration '90 and at Underwater Canada '91.

This really was a great decade for SOS. Hopefully we will see more publications, more TV coverage, and a movie, maybe.

The second SOS Forum in 1983, was also held in Port Dalhousie and featured Dr. Richard Wright as guest speaker. The third SOS Forum '84 was held at the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes At Kingston. The guest speakers were: Phil Wright, Peter Engelbert, Richard Tatley, Lorne Joyce, Richard Palmer and Emily Cain. Andy Lockery, from the University of Winnipeg, was the guest speaker and workshops were introduced for the first time in the afternoon session. A tour of the "Ciudad de Inca" (sister ship of the "S.V. Marques" sunk 4-6-84) was provided for those attending.

In 1985 the Forum was again held at the Museum in Kingston, with speakers Pat Folkes, Dr. Richard Wright, Dr. Dan Nelson, Emily Cain, Tim Legate, Ken Mullings, Phil Ibbotson, Phil Wright, George



A plaque for the ROBERT GASKIN, Roy Lewis.

### SOS FORUM RECAP

The first SOS Historical Forum was held in November of '82 in Port Dalhousie and featured Dr. Dan Nelson as keynote speaker on the 1812 wrecks of the HAMILTON and the SCOURGE, and introduced Maurice Smith of the Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston, Ontario.

Cuthbertson and Maurice Smith. At the 1986 Forum accommodation was aboard the ice breaker ALEXANDER HENRY. Richard Palmer was one of many speakers and he presented a history of "Oswego's Ship Chandleries". The great bottle debate was initiated. The Honourable Dr. Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture, was well received as the key speaker.

The sixth Annual SOS Forum of 1987, also in Kingston but held at the Donald Gordon Centre, featured Dr. Robert Grenier as guest speaker and others were Paul Miles and Jim Gallager.

The 1988 Forum was honoured to have Dr. Margaret Rule featured as guest speaker who gave a special address on the MARY ROSE project.

SOS Forum '89 was moved to Windsor with keynote speaker John Broadwater from Virginia, a marine archaeologist. The danger of The Zebra Mussel was introduced by Chris Kohl. David Trotter presented a slide show of the NIELSON and Bill McBride made a presentation on the HAMILTON and SCOURGE warships of 1812.

The SOS Forum of 1990 was held in Sault Ste. Marie, the first time for northern Ontario, and featured Jim Marshall as guest speaker on "Ships, Men, and Mining in Lake Superior".

The 1991 Forum was held in Ottawa/Hull in conjunction with "Scuba Celebration" a major National Capital dive show and celebrating SOS' 10th Anniversary is the main attraction.

#### THE SOS MARINE HERITAGE AWARD

There are many individuals involved with marine heritage but it was recognized that there were a select few who's dedication deserve special recognition. To that end, SOS has an award which is presented yearly to an individual who dedicated a special effort to marine heritage conservation. The SOS Award is normally presented at the annual marine heritage Forum. The master copy, with each award winner's name engraved on it, is displayed in the SOS Head Office - and a personal copy is given to each recipient. To date, the SOS Award for Marine Heritage Preservation has been presented to:

##### **1981**

Audrey Rushbrook and Barbara Carson - for co-founding the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston (these women personally located most of the known wreck-sites in the Kingston area).

##### **1982**

Stan McClellan - for creating the first fresh-water

underwater park in the world - Fathom Five Park.

##### **1983**

Peter Engelbert - a staff archaeologist with the Provincial government who helped train and organize several surveys.

##### **1984**

Fred Gregory - for his leadership on the Conestoga and Lillie Parsons underwater archaeology projects.

##### **1985 JACKSON**

Rick Nelson - for founding SOS and for his on-going efforts to protect Ontario's shipwrecks and further the maritime history and heritage of Ontario.

##### **1986**

Bill McNeil - for his accuracy and sophistication in researching Ontario's maritime history.

##### **1987**

Dr. Richard Wright (posthumously) - for his devotion to the study of Great Lakes history.

##### **1988**

Natalie Parsons - for her part in recovering the TASMANIA anchor.

##### **1989**

Richard Tatley - for researching and authoring two volumes on "Steamships of the Muskokas".

##### **1990**

Not issued.

##### **1991**

Ontario Heritage Foundation, Archaeology Committee - for their grants program towards the study and preservation of Ontario's marine heritage, and their recognition and on-going support to the efforts of Save Ontario Shipwrecks.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD

These are the individuals (listed in chronological order) who accepted the challenge and responsibility to shape SOS and direct her strategic planning:

##### **Presidents:**

Gain Wong (SOS Toronto)	1981 - 1981
Rick Jackson (SOS Toronto)	1981 - 1982

Jim Lockart (SOS Niagara) 1982 - 1983  
 Fred Gregory (SOS Ottawa) 1984 - 1989  
 Eric Sharp part 1989

**Board Chairs:**

Les Pullen (SOS Oshawa) 1986  
 Ron Stenson (SOS Niagara) 1987  
 Tim Legate (SOS Ottawa Valley) 1988 - 1990  
 Les Pullen (SOS Oshawa) 1990 - 1991

**Board Members (Chapter Presidents):**

Rick Jackson SOS Toronto  
 Andrew Garay SOS Toronto  
 Gain Wong SOS Toronto  
 Ron Cowalchuck SOS Ottawa  
 Pat Ryan Preserve Our Wrecks  
 Jim Lockart SOS Niagara  
 Bryan Davis SOS Peterborough  
 Fred Gregory SOS Ottawa  
 Michael Gains SOS Peterborough  
 Toni Towle Preserve Our Wrecks  
 Bob Harvey SOS Quinte  
 Andrew Polley SOS Ottawa Valley  
 Ryan LeBlanc SOS Superior  
 Ron Stenson SOS Niagara  
 Len Stewart SOS London  
 Les Pullen SOS Oshawa  
 Marcel Roy SOS Ottawa  
 Euan Callendar SOS Quinte  
 Andrew Garay Treasurer  
 Sue Bazely Preserve Our Wrecks  
 Ken Mullings SOS Quinte  
 Dan Orr President SOS Ohio  
 Richard Brown SOS Sault Ste Marie  
 Andrew Hibbert SOS London  
 Garth Mehagen SOS Thunder Bay  
 Ron Patterson SOS Ingleside  
 Steve Taylor SOS Thunder Bay  
 Jane Samson SOS Ottawa  
 Cathy Seniuk SOS Thunder Bay  
 John Karry SOS Windsor  
 Hugh Wyatt Pres Sault Ste. Marie  
 Wayne Wynegarden SOS St Thomas  
 John Stonier SOS Toronto  
 Chris Scullion Secretary  
 Joyce Hayward SOS Ohio  
 Kathy Vendrig St. Thomas  
 Dave Keenlyside Member At Large  
 Tutty Lee SOS Toronto  
 Barry Lyons SOS Sault Ste. Marie  
 Margaret Legate Treasurer  
 Tim Legate SOS Ottawa Valley

Dave Rogers Treasurer  
 John Scullion Secretary  
 John Varney SOS Sudbury  
 Bert Williams SOS Ottawa  
 John Van Baal SOS Ingleside  
 Maureen Cameron SOS Elliot Lake  
 Karen Della-Mattia SOS Thunder Bay  
 Al Melville SOS Sarnia  
 Marcel Tardif SOS Niagara  
 Dave Trotter Member At Large  
 Hetty Baets Treasurer  
 Phil Wright Member At Large  
 Phil LeBlanc SOS Elliot Lake  
 Nils Semmler SOS Discovery  
 Fred Gregory Executive Director

THANK YOU - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following dedicated individuals have served on the Provincial Executive Committee in the capacities noted:

Jean Jackson Recording Secretary  
 Nancy Dodgeson Researcher  
 Karen Thompson Meetings Chair  
 David Jay Membership  
 Bill Baszyk Scientific Research  
 Kathy Ciric Recording Secretary  
 Dave Rogers Recording Secretary  
 Ruth Rutherford Newsletter Editor  
 Ian Morgan Historical Chair  
 Ken (McWreck) McLeod Historical Chair  
 Ralph MacIntosh Education  
 France Desjardins Membership  
 Chris Julian Quartermaster  
 Heather Amys Public Relations  
 Pat Ryan Forum Chair  
 Ken McLeod Historical Chair  
 Dave Ostifichuck Video/photo Cmte  
 Heather Amys Public Relations  
 Peggie Armstrong Member  
 Jacques Blais Member  
 Mark Brooks Member  
 Andre Champaign Member  
 Marian Clark Member  
 Mark Coutts Member  
 Glenda Eden Journalist  
 Lorna Ford Typing  
 Lyne Fyle Artist  
 Kent Gardner Member  
 Vicki Gregory Ships Stores

Katharine Harrison	Member
Jackie King	Forum Chair
Magda-Lena Capkun	Public Relations
Jonah Libman	Photographer
Kathi McAinsh	Secretary
Brett McKay	Member
Kathy McLeod	Public Relations
Helen Morris	Poster
Wendy Nichol	Reporter
Jim Lougheed	Member
Hermann Noorthoek	Falconer Report
Donna Saker	Member
Debbie Stenson	Newsletter Editor
Mike Sylvain	Member
Scott White	Member
Nick Baets	Interpretive Trails
Rosemary Redgrift	Interpretive Trails
Dennis Cartwright	Dive Officer
Linda Danyluck	Newsletter Editor
Scott Fuller	Ed & Public Relations
Sam Gillespie	Education Coord
Jackie King	Forum Chair
Diann Lawton	Membership
Cindy Walker	Calendar
Eric Sharp	Forum Chair
Hetty Baets	Ships Stores
Bert Williams	Artifact Database
Monique Bellefeuille	Year Book/Journalist
Mike Bellefeuille	Photographer
Collette Dionne	Wine label project
Bud Pennington	Member
Bob Walker	Database Assistance
Ted Walker	Charter Boat Program
Marcel Roy	Francophone Coord
Dave Sorensen	Member

### SOS - LET'S CELEBRATE

This has been a great decade for SOS. We have seen new innovations, expansion of our chapters, and increased membership. We have published a variety of informative booklets and articles about shipwrecks, and invented interpretative trail pamphlets and plaques. We have succeeded in retracing stolen artifacts and actually having some returned to their original resting place; for example the LILLIE PARSON'S anchor, the TASMANIA'S anchor, etc. We designed our official SOS poster in 1989, which is recognized everywhere we go. There is the 10th year celebration book, a special Almanac and even our own wine label. SOS has been featured on TV,

radio, and magazines such as Skin Diver, Diver, Diver Free Press, and La Plongee.

What's up for 1991? Well let's have a look at the planned events:

### **SOS Burgundy 1991**

We now have our SOS label on our own red and white wine to commemorate our 10th Anniversary. A recognized Ontario winery will support us in this project.

### **SOS Map**

How about a map of all the SOS sites and projects!!

### **SOS Almanac**

Hot off the press - a shipwreck calendar commemorating SOS and its role in marine heritage as seen through the SOS anniversary year 1991. It is a real collector's item containing lots of wreck information.

### **Party, Party, Party - SOS**

Ingleside hosted party in conjunction with their Annual SOS Ingleside Social.

### **SOS Yearbook**

Finally there is this First Anniversary Book acclaiming SOS's success as a volunteer organization. Thanks to Hetty Baets for transcribing, Cindy Walker for editing and transcribing, and to Dave Ostifichuck for the photographs. It will become a valued source of information for all.

### NOTES - QUOTES

#### **Hetty Baets**

"What really made a difference was meeting SOS divers; then SOS came alive. In the future SOS should concentrate on dive instructors in order to get divers educated about SOS. SOS has come a long way over the past ten years, and I am confident it will be able to sustain its growth."

#### **Rosemary Redgrift**

"Diann worked with me as a mentor and in that time I learned about SOS and its membership. I am working on an Artifact Database with Bert Williams. I feel that education is a major part of SOS's goal."





SOS (Bermuda) Seminar;



### **Andrew Hibbert**

"I have been involved in a number of speaking engagements, promoting the aims and objectives of SOS. I am hoping to organize an advanced training program for the London area in 1991; SOS should be fun!"

### **Dennis Cartwright**

"I worked in a museum and was very interested in archaeology and marine heritage. As an instructor this provided, for me, an extra interest in my courses! I had somewhere to go and something to show my students. Most reports on our wrecks are probably not complete because there is so little funding available. All types of people are required in SOS; each offers something of value to SOS. Much needed instruction material for diving communities."

### **Bert Williams**

"I am a new member of SOS, since 1986! I am working, with Rosemary Redgrift, on the Artifact Database. It is difficult because people are suspicious, but if we can convince them that this is for information purposes only, then this project will be a success. I am the president of the Ottawa chapter at the moment and would like to see more diver education in the way of free lessons, lectures and information sessions. This could be achieved via volunteer speakers and diving instructors. Let's get back to marine heritage preservation education."

### **Ron Cowalchuck**

"I had an idea, and now here it is - ten years later - preservation through education! My idea is poetic. I enjoy the mystic feeling I get on a shipwreck. I imagine what it was like back then. I am a true Canadian diver and I believe that shipwrecks are an integral part of our diving activities within our community. I was the one who invited Fred to accept the responsibility for SOS Ottawa. He's done a good job of it. I'd like to see past accusations and ignorance about wreck stripping remedied through education. I see the future goals as being education packages for diving entities (PADI, NAUI, etc.) and education of past offenders."

### **Fred Gregory**

"I joined SOS in early 1980. I truly believe in marine preservation. I feel that marine preservation and non-disturbance archaeology is the way of the future for SOS. I want to see sos grow and gain official recognition on an international level if need be. I want to see our heritage preserved for the future. When asked why preservation, I ask why does anyone keep a photo album? To remember and preserve the past. I also intend to work on various projects such as fund raising and educational programs. Finally, I support all of our volunteers in their efforts to promote marine preservation."

### Mike Bellefeuille

"I support SOS and its work. Thanks to them, professional photographers like myself, have something to record on film for further archival references. I am worried about zebra mussels and I am photographing as many wrecks as possible before it is too late. I'd like to see SOS members do the same thing. Maybe one day we'll all get together and publish a combines photo album of our shipwrecks. I am always available for photographic work on shipwrecks, feel free to ask me. I love photographing wrecks and diving on them."

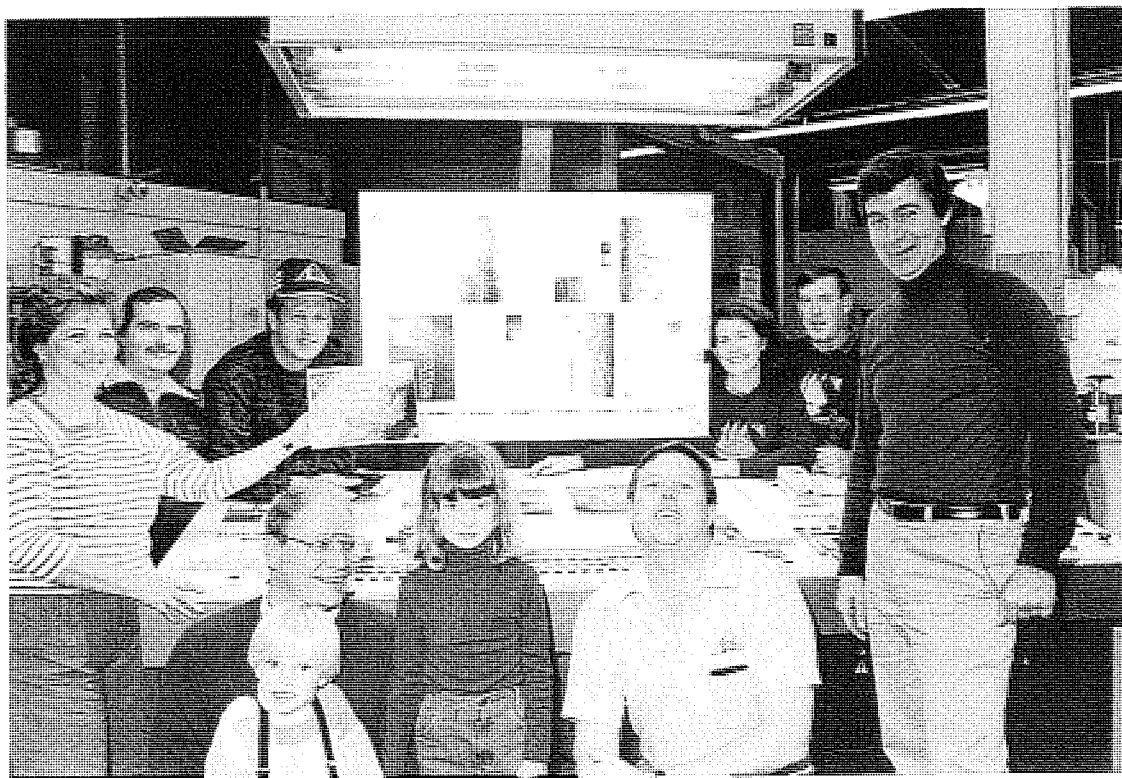
like watching TV programs about the past and its history. Therefore, it was not difficult to get me interested in SOS. I am interested in the specifications of a wreck and more so in the history of its navigators and their way of life. Thanks to Ken McLeod, the most interesting man in SOS (for me), much has been learned about our past marine heritage. I actually enjoyed doing the research for my published articles and with the advantage of a professional photographer as my husband, I have easy access to the photographs required. I came on board early in SOS' life and I am proud to have seen it grow as it has. I hope to see ten more years, but beware, you must remain an affair of the heart - a grass-roots non-partisan organization for the members and by the members. Have a Happy 10th Anniversary and many more.

### CONCLUSION - LAST WORDS

I love what SOS is doing for the preservation of our past. I love reading about historical events and I also



Monique J. Bellefeuille  
Freelance Journalist  
March '91



The SOS 1991 Marine Heritage Calendar rolls off the press; Dave Rogers.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

SOS Scrapbooks, Letters, etc.

SOS Newsletters

Information Sources:

Ron Cowalchuck; Pat Ryan; Dennis Cartwright; Hetty Baets; Andrew Hibbert; Rosemary Redgrift; Bert Williams; Sue Bazely; Tim Legate; Mike Bellefeuille; Dave Ostifichuck; Ken (McWreck) McLeod; Les Pullen; Marcel Tardif; John Karry; Fred Gregory.

## SAVE ONTARIO SHIPWRECKS

Formed in 1981, Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS) exists to further public knowledge and appreciation of Ontario's marine heritage. SOS encourages the involvement of divers and other interested individuals in projects ranging from marine archaeological activities, to placing plaques on shipwrecks, to educating the dive and general public, to serving our membership. We are also involved in historical activities, moorings for shipwrecks, and publishing Diver Information pamphlets and other heritage and archaeological publications. Our quarterly Newsletter and annual Marine Heritage Forum keep members and others abreast of marine heritage activities.

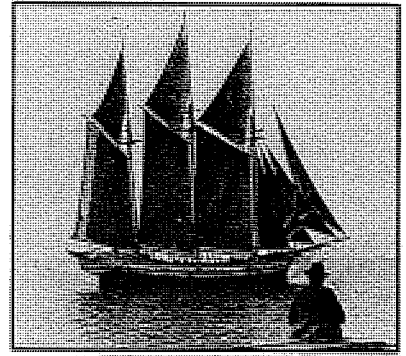
For further information on Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS), write or call:

2175 Sheppard Ave. E.  
Suite 110  
Willowdale, Ontario.  
M2J 1W8  
(416) 491-2373



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOS

NOTES AND AUTOGRAPHS



SOS gratefully acknowledges the contribution of  
*SYNERGY PRINT AND COPY INC.*

In printing our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Book

