

Attendees (5): John Ratcliffe, Barry Edgington, Jeff Porter, Christopher Holloway, Greg Buscombe.

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 19:15 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clock Tower brew pub on Bank street.

Minutes of the previous meeting

On October 24 were not taken, however there was unanimous approval of our August 2 Meeting minutes.

Recent events

John attended the Society of Historical Archaeological (SHA) Conference in New Orleans January 3–7, as well as the 1000 Islands chapter of SOS's social on January, and gave high recommendations to both, with kudos to Tom Scott's great chilli.

Treasurer's Report

We are doing well, with a current bank balance of \$6,313 after expenses were incurred for the Beaver's plaque (\$497), and boat fuel for Jean Michelle Lalonde (Eco-Dive: Valleyfield) to retrieve the buoys (\$120).

Note: Apparently Chris Welch donated money to us through corporate. We (John) should see where this has gone.

Beyond the Edge ...

Barry kindly brought in a part of his museum and has promised to do so for subsequent meetings. Barry has restored this set to working order.

This is a vintage German-made BaraKuda twin 50 cu/in tanks from the early 1960s. This set is unique in that the tanks, double-hose regulator, and backpack/harness are all made by BaraKuda. This German company was founded in 1949 and later was affiliated with the Draeger of Germany and the Nemrod of Spain.

Also shown in the photo is a pair of vintage Seapro Seafins (US made, **heavy** rubber and chromed brass); a US Divers rubber (high volume) "Aqua-Lung" wrap around Mask and an early ScubaPro (4 D-cell battery) "Scubalight". This equipment all came from the late '50s/early '60s.

Buoys: as Andy was having boat engine issues, we were fortunate to have Jean Michelle Lalonde volunteer and collect the buoys for us on a nasty cold November 19th.



Some of the buoys are in need of maintenance due to the usual wear and tear. The light on top of the Eastcliffe Hall Spar buoy is loose, and all of the others need some/all of the stickers replaced. (A pressure wash would be good too.) Can this be made into an event?

We may want to think of adding a marker to the Fred Mercur.

And more questions to buoy our spirits: Barry has kindly volunteered to maintain our website and inform the coast guard of our buoy status. Thanks Barry.

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

Debbie and Christopher have secured additional used anchor chain from the Nepean Sailing Club and OWL rafting respectively. We are looking at replacing the rope on the south side of the Connie and connecting it to the radiator plaque in front of the bow. There is still some protection required for where the chain crosses some of the metal plates that have fallen off the hull. If we have too much chain, Tom Scott has said that they can use it in the 1000 islands chapter. (Perhaps we can negotiate a trade for some of his spicy chili.)

New Beaver Scuba Club Plaque for the Conestoga

Greg has kindly offered to mount this in concrete with a protective Plexiglas cover. We will place this at the stern of the Connie at the swim chain. We would like to make the installation an event with some members from the Beaver's club and perhaps some local dignitaries as was done for the Wee Hawk plaque.

The Ottawa Beavers Scuba Club (OBSC)



This plaque honours the contributions of the Ottawa Beavers Scuba Club (OBSC) to promote the sport of scuba diving in general and preserve dive sites in Eastern Ontario. With the support of the Canadian Forces Sub-Aqua Club, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police formed the OBSC in the early 1970s. For four decades the Beavers were one of the most active clubs in the region, training hundreds of new divers, divemasters, and instructors. They were leaders in the Eastern Ontario dive community, organizing many dive-related social, charity, and community events. In 2015 the Beavers made the difficult decision to close the club, but their philosophy of safe, responsible, and fun diving continues in all Ottawa area dive clubs. This plaque recognizes the many contributions of the RCMP Ottawa Beavers Scuba Club and all other organizations that promoted and preserved local dive sites for those who seek the challenge, adventure and knowledge that comes from underwater exploration.



Cette plaque souligne la contribution du Club de plongée des Beavers d'Ottawa (OBSC) pour promouvoir la plongée sous-marine sportive et préserver les sites de plongée de l'Est ontarien. Le club OBSC a été formé au début des années 1970 par des membres de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada avec le soutien du club de plongée des Forces canadiennes. Cet organisme fut l'un des clubs les plus actifs de la région durant quatre décennies. Ses membres ont formé des centaines de nouveaux plongeurs, des chefs de plongée et des moniteurs. Ils furent aussi des chefs de file pour la communauté de plongée de l'Est ontarien en organisant des événements sociaux, caritatifs et communautaires liés à la plongée sous-marine. En 2015, le club a mis fin à ses activités, une décision qui fut difficile à prendre. Toutefois, sa philosophie pour une plongée sécuritaire, responsable et agréable se poursuit dans tous les clubs de plongée de la région d'Ottawa. Cette plaque reconnaît l'apport des Beavers d'Ottawa et des autres organismes qui ont favorisé et préservé les sites de plongée locaux pour ceux qui recherchent un défi, une aventure et des connaissances découlant de l'exploration sous-marine.



A donation from the Beavers Club made this chain possible. Thank you for using the chain!

Grâce à un don du club des Beavers, cette chaîne est devenue réalité. Merci d'utiliser la chaîne!

Challenge Medals have all been distributed to our deserving volunteers.

Thanks Luc.

Apparently the tradition is that anyone who does not have one is in charge of beer purchases.

Donation Boxes have continued to provide a source of revenue for us. We would like to talk to Jean Michelle to see if he would like one for Eco-Dive.

There was a motion to look into translating some of our pamphlets into French (presented by Greg, seconded by John and carried unanimously). Also we should make a tour to the collection boxes to replenish the pamphlets.

New Business

We have declined to participate in the Ottawa Sportsman's show. The thought was that we do not get enough members/exposure for the effort involved. The only time this worked was when we had a NAS course, and we were able to get people from the course to sign up for the course.

We have a Facebook page (which needs updating).

We hope to get Terry Irving (from London) to drop in to give a talk about a train wreck that they found in Lake Ontario. How did this happen – thin ice? Lost in fog? Stay tuned.

A suggestion from Greg to get involved in local store events – perhaps we can put together some poster boards? Have a display of really old diving equipment? Sailboat artifacts (non-wreck)?

Next meeting early/mid-April.

Meeting adjourned at 20:15.

