

Attendees (14): John Ratcliffe, Jules Leduc, Beverly Sawchuk, Nancy Binnie, Sheryl & Stephen Lonsbarry, Barry Edgington, Jeanette Ryken, Christopher Holloway, Nancy McCall, Francis Langlois, Debbie Reinhart, Peter Noel, John Harrin.

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1900 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clocktower Brew Pub on Bank Street.

Minutes of the previous meeting - July 16th

Minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting were reviewed, motion to approve the minutes was raised by Barry, seconded by Jules, and carried unanimously.

Recent Events – Avro Arrow Recovery Project (Nancy Binnie)

Chapter member Nancy Binnie (Canadian Conservation Institute – CCI) has been working on the conservation of Cold War aeronautical test models or test vehicles launched by Avro Canada or the Canadian Armed Forces into Lake Ontario during the 1950s. One delta wing test track vehicle (launched by booster rocket) was recovered this summer by the privately-funded OEX Recovery Group Inc. under a province of Ontario archaeological license held by Scarlett Janusas Inc. As this is an ongoing project for Ingenium (the foundation supporting the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, and the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum). Nancy was unable to give a detailed presentation on this current project, but was still able to provide a great overview and some interesting details of the project and her work. This summer was the group's second season of searching the waters off of Point Petre, the southernmost point of Prince Edward County. Their goal was to locate and recover Avro Arrow several free flight models (FFMs) and several of the booster rockets used to launch the FFMs. It is estimated there are over 800 'target's of interest in the search area as the C.A.R.D.E. test firing range at Point Petre was used for more than a decade for ground launches of many types of missiles and rocket boosters. Many promising targets were located using Kraken Sonar Inc's sophisticated autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) in 2017, side scan work by Shark marine in 2018, and the group was also given access to the side scan data generated during searches by the HMCS Glace Bay and HMCS Kingston in 2004.



CBC photo



This summer the OEX Search Group commercial employed divers from General Diving Contractors of Brantford, Ontario, to recover a delta wing test vehicle that Nancy says may be part of another missile program (Velvet Glove), rather than an Arrow free flight model. The recovery cage (“cradle”) for retrieving the model was designed and built by Mike Fletcher of “Sea Hunters” fame and Rick Wolters of Detail Steel, with a mesh and Coroplast (plastic ‘plywood’) lining system designed by Nancy Binnie to retain fragments during lifting. The recovery cradle was lowered down and placed directly beside the model using the 10,000 lb crane on board the workboat Wilson T. Cooper, so that Mike and the other divers from could lift the test vehicle and slide it onto the cradle where it was then secured in place with foam padding, cargo straps, and a cargo net, then raised slowly to the surface. The test vehicle was moved to an old sea plane hangar on the waterfront at 8 Wing CFB Trenton (it was covered in a thick layer of fine bottom sediment and quagga mussels, which smelled awful in the August heat by day 3!) and then x-rayed it in Trenton - 7.5 hours worth of x-raying – made difficult because of its size. The free flight model had electronic equipment (telemetry) inside which will have to be removed during later conservation in Ottawa to take place at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum’s airplane restoration shops.

Nancy reports that the model it is in good shape, although some of the alloys used will present some conservation challenges. CCI conservator Kate Sullivan is in charge of the conservation phase of this project, working along with Tara Grant (Senior Archaeological Conservator), Monique Benoit (Metals Conservator), and Nancy Binnie (Senior Conservation Scientist), . Nancy will be providing ongoing project updates as the conservation team carries out cleaning, desalination, and documentation. For more information, see the official hub for all information at the Raise the Arrow Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/raisethearrow/>

and in this recent posted article:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/avro-arrow-recovered-lake-ontario-1.4793463>

Other Recent Events

John gave a quick recap of other recent events of interest:

Millstone from Lost Villages Raised in Moulinette

A group of divers from the Cornwall area raised a 2,000 lb millstone from the Moulinette mill on Aug 18, 2018, which will be donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society.

<https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/divers-recover-millstone-from-underwater-ruins-of-milles-roches/wcm/b0011391-2639-4028-bd05-c1ff857898ea>

Body of Missing Boy in Rockport

There was a boating accident in Rockport on the Labour Day weekend, and an 11-year-old boy drowned (he was not wearing a lifejacket). The body has not been recovered, although OPP and local tech divers have been searching, so please keep an eye out if you’re diving in the area.

*Addendum (Nov 9, 2018) – the body of the missing boy was recovered on Oct 19th.

Lectures on Archaeology

Nancy Binnie reported that she attended a very interesting lecture on the Great Storm of 1913 given by author Bruce Kemp at the Merrickville Legion on September 25th.

John said that there have been several American Institute of Archaeology (AIA) lectures held recently at the University of Ottawa, these are held on Sundays at 2pm – John has been forwarding emails about these to chapter members. These lectures are free and open to the public. Although they are not always about maritime subjects, the speakers are usually quite good and it's a great opportunity for members to learn more about other aspects of archaeology.

John said there is another lecture series about "Bad Archaeology" being held at Carleton University, but as these are scheduled for Friday afternoons it might be difficult for members to attend. John will forward details to chapter members.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Debbie Reinhart reported that our chapter's bank balance remained healthy, at \$6,648.28. The only recent financial activity was the deposit of \$73.90 in August, which Barry had collected from our donation boxes in local dive shops.

Buoy Report

John gave a quick report on our chapter's mooring buoys. We only deployed buoys on the Rothesay, Eastcliffe Hall and Milles Roches Powerhouse this year, as we're still looking for a reliable boat operator to help us deploy these, as Andy Bennis has scaled back his charter operations.

Ron McDonald removed the large spar buoy from the Eastcliffe Hall on September 12, this is a bit earlier than we would normally remove it, but we need to take whatever opportunities we can to get out buoys in/out until we can find a reliable operator in the area. We will need to pick up the buoy from Ron for winter storage at some point. Ron was going to remove the Milles Roches buoy for us as well, but couldn't because of mechanical problems. John sent the NOTSHIP email to the Coast Guard and updated the SOS website.

John says we still need to remove the buoys from the Rothesay and Milles Roches. Tom Scott said he would remove the Rothesay buoy for us, and John will contact Jean-Michel Lalonde from Eco-Dive in Valleyfield, QC to see if he can remove the Milles Roches buoy for us (he did this last year).

Ottawa Beavers Plaque and Connie Swimline

The plaque for the defunct Ottawa Beavers (RCMP) scuba club is complete – Gregg Buscombe poured the concrete base, and has mounted the plaque on it, with a piece of Plexiglas on top. It's all ready to go in the water at the Conestoga site – just need to confirm an installation date with the former Beavers. Installation likely won't happen this year. Plaque is still at Gregg Buscombe's storage unit – John would like to give it to one of the former Beavers for winter storage until it can be installed next spring/summer.

Chris Holloway reported that he, Jeannette Ryken, John and Luc Lafontaine dove on the Connie last month and wrapped more sections of firehouse around the chain (swimline) installed last year where it was rubbing on iron debris beside the wreck. Seems to work fairly well.

Donation of Old SOS Drawings and Files by Nick and Hetty Baets

John reported that he has received a donation (a large banker's box) of old SOS drawings and files donated by Nick and Hetty Baets. They were SOS members in the 1980s and 90s and Nick prepared many of the drawings of sites such as Lock 21 which are still used in our Diver's

Guides and other materials. Material was on display for members to view – some great artwork. John would like to try and scan all of these files, and would like to invite Nick and Hetty to come speak at a future meeting.

New SOS Website

John reminded members that the new SOS website is up and running – should hopefully be easier to do things like membership renewal. New website seems to have most of the same information as the old site (buoys etc), but looks much better and should have improved functionality. Not sure if the cover photo is from Ontario, looks like it could be a submarine conning tower...

“Beyond the Edge ...”

Barry kindly brought in more examples from his enormous collection of vintage scuba gear, this was a selection of 1970s Dacor gear (Davidson Corporation), including a horse collar style BC with a plug on the bottom for draining, a tank with J-valve, and a Dacor mask and fins. Thanks Barry!!



Barry Edgington with his 1970s Dacor equipment. Photo courtesy of Jules Leduc.

John gave out some books on maritime archaeology/history and diving to chapter members:

- *Ghost Ships* by Emily McCain (1986) – about the Hamilton and Scourge

- *Mary Rose: The Excavation and Raising of Henry VIII's Flagship* (1983) by Margaret Rule
- *The 50-Gun Ship* by Rif Winfield (2004)
- *The Voyage of the Matthew: John Cabot and the Discovery of North America* (1997) by Peter Firstbrook
- *Deep Diving: An Advanced Guide to Physiology, Procedures and Systems* (1993) by Brett Gilliam – founder of SDI/TDI

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting to be held sometime next month.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed at 2000.

