

Attendees (16): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Chris Harnett, Barry Edgington, Bill MacLennan, Mary Edwards, Beverly Sawchuk, Leonard Baak, Jeanette Ryken, Christopher Holloway, Sydney Schnurr, Dave Testa, Jim Dunfield, Tracy Dunfield, Peter Noel, Christian Rémillard, Sylvain Marcotte.

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1905 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clocktower Brew Pub on Bank Street.

Minutes of the previous meeting – Oct 1st

Minutes of the Oct 1, 2018 meeting were reviewed, motion to approve the minutes was raised by Barry, seconded by Leonard, and carried unanimously.

Recent Events

John said that the Gatineau Valley Historical Society held a lecture on “The Underwater Archaeology of the Franklin Shipwrecks,” which was presented by Thierry Boyer from Parks Canada in Chelsea QC, on Nov. 19th. Bill McLennan said that he attended, and it was an excellent talk.

John reminded members 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’re not always on maritime subjects, the speakers are usually quite good and it’s a great opportunity for members to learn more about other aspects of archaeology.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Debbie Reinhart was not present but had provided an update via email. Our bank balance has increased by \$96.00 since our last meeting and is currently \$6,744.28. Corporate confirmed that the \$96.00 was from a donation to our chapter, likely made through United Way (they take a 4% fee).

Debbie wanted to remind chapter members that they can donate to SOS through United Way (SOS has been a registered charity since 1984), but if you are donating, be sure to tag your donations so that our chapter receives them.

Buoy Report

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

Ron McDonald removed the large spar buoy from the Eastcliffe Hall on September 12th, this is a bit earlier than we would normally remove it, but we needed to take whatever opportunities we could to get out buoys in/out until we can find a reliable operator in the area. Tom Scott removed the small spar buoy from the Rothesay on Oct 21st, while he was taking his boat from



Brockville to Johnstown for winter storage. On Nov 24th John met Jean-Michel Lalonde from Eco-Dive (Valleyfield, QC) at Guindon Park, and they removed the buoy from the Milles Roches Power House with Jean-Michel's boat.

Murray Hollis and John picked up the Rothesay buoy from Tom Scott (Johnstown) and Ron McDonald (Long Sault) on Nov 10th and delivered them to Andy Bennis in Iroquois for winter storage, and John dropped the Milles Roches buoy off at Andy's on Nov 24th.

Most of our buoys will need some maintenance in the spring - cleaning, new stickers etc. John says he received some new reflective tape and decals from the SOS Quartermaster (Marg Barker) a month or two ago.

John updated the new SOS website to show that the buoys have been removed, and talked to provincial mooring coordinator Raimund Krob to go over the steps involved when updating the new website. John emailed the Coast Guard to let them know the buoys were removed for the season (NOTSHIP). John reminded members that our chapter still needs a Buoy Coordinator, they would just do things like update the SOS website and email the Coast Guard.

Jean-Michel from Eco-Dive seemed interested in helping us deploy more buoys next year, maybe we could consider buoying more sites next year, ie Belly Dumper, Hoople Creek Bridge, Fred Mercur etc. We should also put a buoy on the Conestoga, this should be fairly straightforward.



John (R) and Murray deliver plaque to former Beavers Treasurer Dan Kenny (L) in Ingleside, Nov 10th.

Ottawa Beavers Plaque

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.

Murray and John met Gregg at his storage unit on Nov 10th and picked up the plaque, they delivered it to former Beavers Treasurer Dan Kenny in Ingleside. Plaque still needs to be installed at the Conestoga site next spring.

Local Fieldwork Opportunities in Summer 2019 (“Ann Sissons”)



Ottawa Citizen reporter Andrew King recently published a story on what is likely the wreck of the 19th-century paddle steamer (the “Ann Sissons”), located in a few feet of water in the Ottawa River near Britannia Bay (<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/king-on-the-hunt-for-a-shipwreck-here-in-ottawa>). Local archaeologists Nadine Beaudoin and Ben Mortimer accompanied King on his site visit. Nadine is applying for an archaeological license to conduct fieldwork on the site in summer 2019, to try and confirm if this wreck is indeed the “Ann Sissons.” The fieldwork would likely occur as part of Public Archaeology Month in August, and there would be opportunities for SOS members to become involved. Although there won’t be any diving (the site is only one or two feet deep), this is still a fantastic way for SOS members to gain practical experience and learn more about ship construction.

“Beyond the Edge ...” with Barry Edgington

Barry kindly brought in more examples from his enormous collection of vintage scuba gear, this month Barry brought in a scuba pro hard-shell BCD. This presented a more streamlined profile, and featured Velcro straps and integrated weights - quite advanced for the mid-70's. This rig originally came from Dan Humbolt (DiveTech). This was one of the first BCDs to inflate from the 1st stage, an improvement over oral inflation.

Next meeting Barry will be bringing in a BCD with ballast tank (very cool!). Those interested in vintage gear may want to look up Alex Peirce's web site (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFBv1_u7CDOEAdBqedIkSeQ)

Thanks Barry!!



Barry Edgington with his 1970s ScubaPro hard shell BCD.

John gave away some books:

- *Ghost Ships* (1986) by Emily McCain
- *The Story of the Mary Rose* (1982) by Ernle Bradford
- *Breathing Underwater* (2004) by Dr. Joe MacInnis
- *The Last Dive* (2000) by Bernie Chowdhury

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting to be held in February/early March.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed at 19:45, to allow for a break before Christian Rémillard's presentation on Lock 23 at 20:00.



Guest Speaker - Christian Rémillard
“Modelling Lock 23”



Christian Rémillard from Université de Montreal gave a very interesting presentation on the 3d models he has made of Lock 23 in Morrisburg. Starting with a short film, Christian talked about the survey work he has been doing there since 2012 (more than 140 dives at this site) to collect the measurements he needs for his 3d model.

Christian described his surveying techniques and planning for each dive. He started by creating a rough draft of the area using aerial photos and satellite images, and then measured specific points with a tape, tent pegs and his dive computer (for the z axis). He used this data to construct 3d renderings of the site using SketchUp® (and later Blender®), and would collect any missing details on his next dive.

As a lot of Christian's diving was solo (for which he has been trained), he also talked about safety, and managing anxiety, his environment, equipment and so on.

Christian plans to create a short movie of the site (pre-flooding). This would be a great benefit for divers and historians interested in the area.

You can see his work here: <https://lock23.ca/>

Thanks Christian!!



Christian Rémillard giving a presentation on the amazing 3d models he's created of Lock 23.



Christian Rémillard receives an SOS Challenge Coin as a small thank you from the Ottawa Chapter.