

1. Attendees (10): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Debbie Reinhart (Treasurer), Jeff Porter (Secretary), Jules Leduc, Chris Harnett, Beverly Sawchuk, Barry Edgington, Nancy Binnie, Peter Noel, Adrian Earle.

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:02 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clocktower Brew Pub, 525 Bank Street.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – 15 July 2019

Minutes of the 15 July 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barry Edgington and seconded by Jules Leduc – motion carried.



4. News and Events

Diving Accidents

There were fatal diving accidents at Morrison's Quarry in July and in the St. Lawrence west of Gananoque. Reminder to everyone to be careful out there.

Road Closures at the Conestoga Site

The road to the Conestoga is now fully reopened.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Debbie Reinhart was present and provided an update.

Our bank balance is \$6,693.14, which includes a recent donation of \$90.00 made through the United Way. Thank you to the anonymous donor!

6. Donation Boxes

Barry will visit O2ToGo in Cornwall and local dive shops to collect money from the donation boxes. He says he will check with Jen Bush from SOS Corporate about getting more pamphlets to restock our displays.

Barry told a story about drifting off the Gaskin wreck with Murray Hollis and being picked up by a passing tour boat.

7. Buoy Update

Our chapter currently has mooring buoys out at the following sites:

- Rothesay (deployed by Tom Scott from the 1000 Islands Chapter on May 11)
- Milles Roches Power House (deployed by the Seaway Valley Club on May 18)
- Fred Mercur (deployed by the Seaway Valley Club on May 18)
- Eastcliffe Hall (deployed by the Seaway Valley Club on June 5)

It's that time of year when we need to think about taking our moorings in for the season. John will talk to Jean-Michel Lalonde from Eco-Dive in Valleyfield, QC, who has helped remove our buoys in the past.

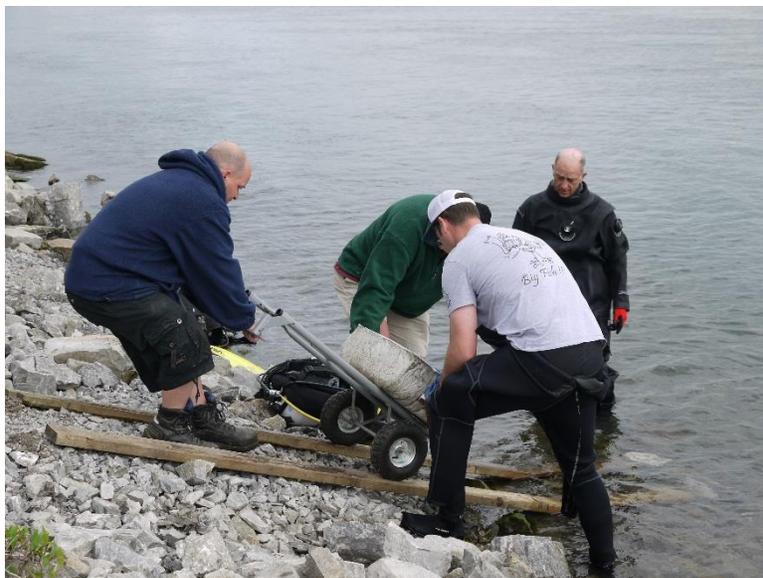
8. Beavers Plaque

The plaque to commemorate the defunct Ottawa Beavers (RCMP) scuba club was placed on the Conestoga site on September 8, 2019. Chapter member Luc Lafontaine had been storing the plaque at his property in Cardinal and provided logistical support to get the plaque in the water. John and Peter Noel dove on the site with former Beaver Mike Segal and placed the plaque in a sandy spot along the starboard side of the wreck near the stern, where it can be readily seen by passing divers. Thanks also to Jeff Porter and Rick Cairns (another former Beaver) for providing shore support.



Left: Former Beaver Mike Segal (L) and chapter member Luc Lafontaine (R) pose with the plaque.

Right: Chapter member Peter Noel helped place the plaque.



Wheeling the plaque into the water. Photo by Jeff Porter.

9. Nick and Hetty Baets Donation – Old SOS files

Last year our chapter received a donation of files and drawings from Nick and Hetty Baets, former SOS members who prepared many of the SOS Diver's Guides in the late 1980s and early 1990s. At our May 6 meeting Nancy Binnie suggested that we should try and secure a written disposition agreement formally transferring the files and rights to them from the Baets to SOS before we share any of this material. John to look into donation agreements.

John invited the Baets to speak to our chapter, but they aren't interested.

10. Prescott Scuba Park

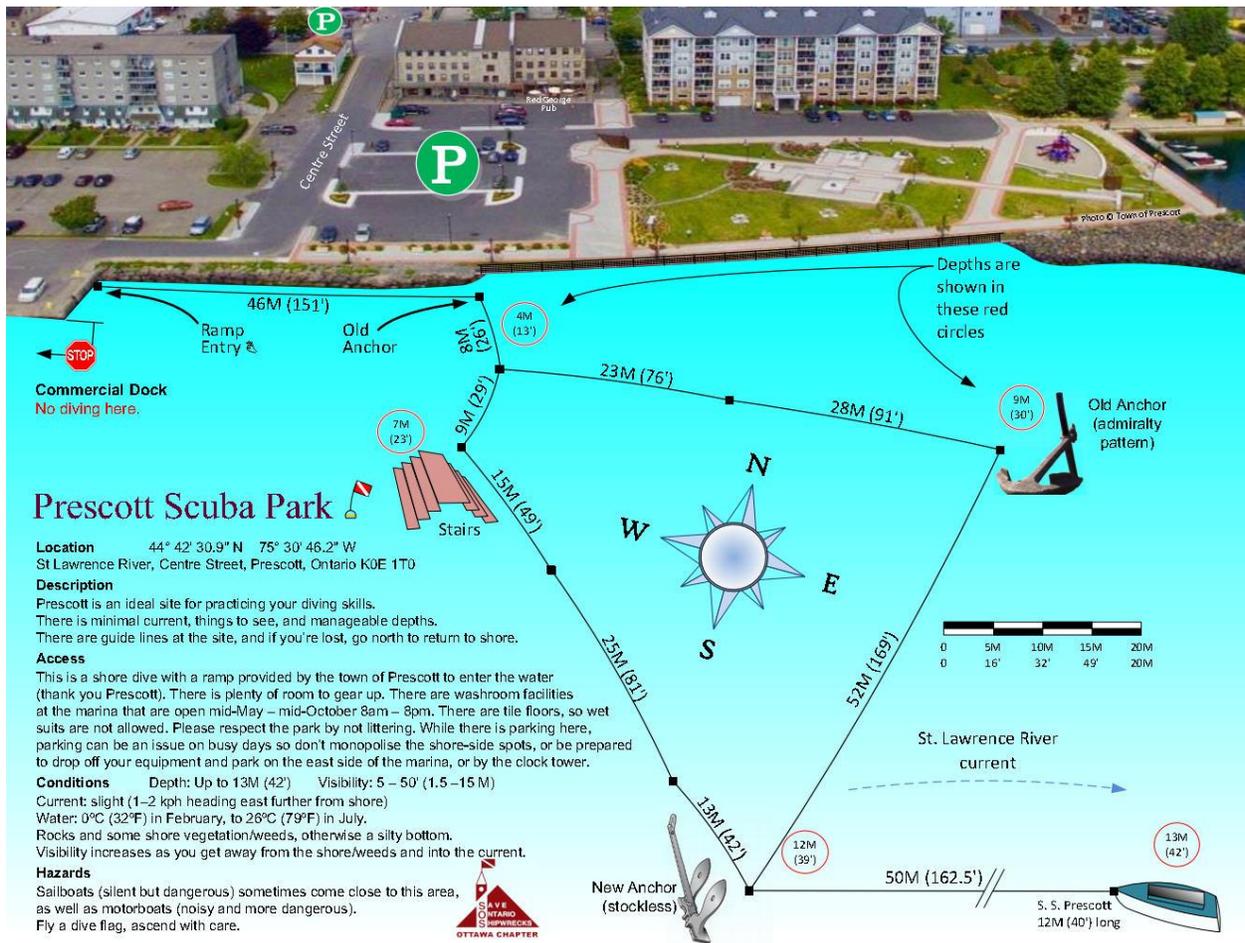
On September 12 the City of Prescott installed a new steel entry/exit ramp along the waterfront, which will allow divers to access the nearby Scuba Park. This is a big improvement, as divers will no longer have to clamber over the rocks. There is still a "No Diving" sign nearby which will need to be altered or removed. Thanks to Helen Cooper from Dive Brockville for all her work pushing this project forward.



Entry ramp being installed along the Prescott waterfront, Sept 12, 2019.

Chapter member Chris Holloway has run a new line from the start of the Scuba Park to the ramp. He has also attached a few jugs to the entry line to raise it out of the weeds.

Chris has also been working on an updated map of the Scuba Park, which he made using Microsoft Visio. The map is almost complete – see the latest draft version, below. He has received some input from city staff. John dove the site recently and thinks there are still a few more small revisions to make to the map before we distribute it.



Draft version of Prescott Scuba Park map by Chris Holloway.

11. “Beyond the Edge” with Barry Edgington

Barry brought in another selection from his amazing collection of vintage dive gear – a plastic diving helmet for use in shallow water. The weighted collar keeps it in place. Thanks Barry!



“Beyond the Edge” - Barry demonstrates his vintage diving helmet.

12. Next Meeting Date

Motion to adjourn at 19:45.

Next meeting to be held in November, John will try and line up a guest speaker.

John gave away some books:

- *Lost Beneath the Ice: The Story of HMS Investigator* (2013) by Andrew Cohen
- *Great Lakes Shipwrecks & Survivals* (1977) by William R. Ratigan
- *Frozen in Time: Unlocking the Secrets of the Franklin Expedition* (1988) by Owen Beattie and John R. Geiger
- *The Young Sea Officer's Sea Anchor* (1998 reprint of 1819 original) by Darcy Lever
- *Treasure of the Atocha* (1987) by R. Duncan Mathewson III
- *Scurvy* (2003) by Stephen R. Bown
- *Ultimate Diving Adventures: 100 Extraordinary Experiences Under Water* (2009) by Len Deeley and Karen Gargani