

Attendees (7): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Brennan Massey, Chris Harnett, Leonard Baak, Dennis Cartwright, Jules Leduc, Germain Wiseman.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:05. This was our second virtual meeting (via Zoom).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 23 March 2021

Our last meeting was held on March 23, 2021. We had planned to hold another meeting in late April or early May, but this was delayed due to Covid restrictions. A motion to approve the minutes of 23 March 2021 was raised by Leonard Baak and seconded by John Ratcliffe – motion carried.



3. News and Recap of Recent Events

John gave a quick summary of some recent online events, including the Niagara Diver's Association (NDA) Shipwrecks Symposium (April 9-10), the SOS AGM (May 16), and the Maritime Archaeology Roundtable (May 30).

Highlights from the SOS AGM: Durrell Martin has replaced Jen Bush as president of SOS; Helen Cooper has established a new Picton SOS Chapter; and the 1000 Islands Chapter is trying to create an artificial reef in Brockville by sinking an old Coast Guard vessel.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Debbie Reinhart was unable to attend, but provided an update on our current financial situation.

We provided Neil O'Hare with \$987.41 for lumber and supplies for the two training platforms he is constructing in Prescott. At our previous meeting (March 23) members had approved an expenditure of up to \$1,000.00 to support Neil's work.

We received an anonymous donation of \$100.00 through the United Way, and \$287.00 from SOS Corporate as our 2020-2021 Chapter Dividends (these funds are allocated based on the number of members in each chapter).

Our current bank balance is \$6,142.73.

5. Buoy Updates

Our chapter is responsible for maintaining mooring buoys at sites from Prescott to Cornwall. So far this spring we have deployed mooring buoys at three sites: the Fred Mercur, Milles Roches Power House, and Rothesay.

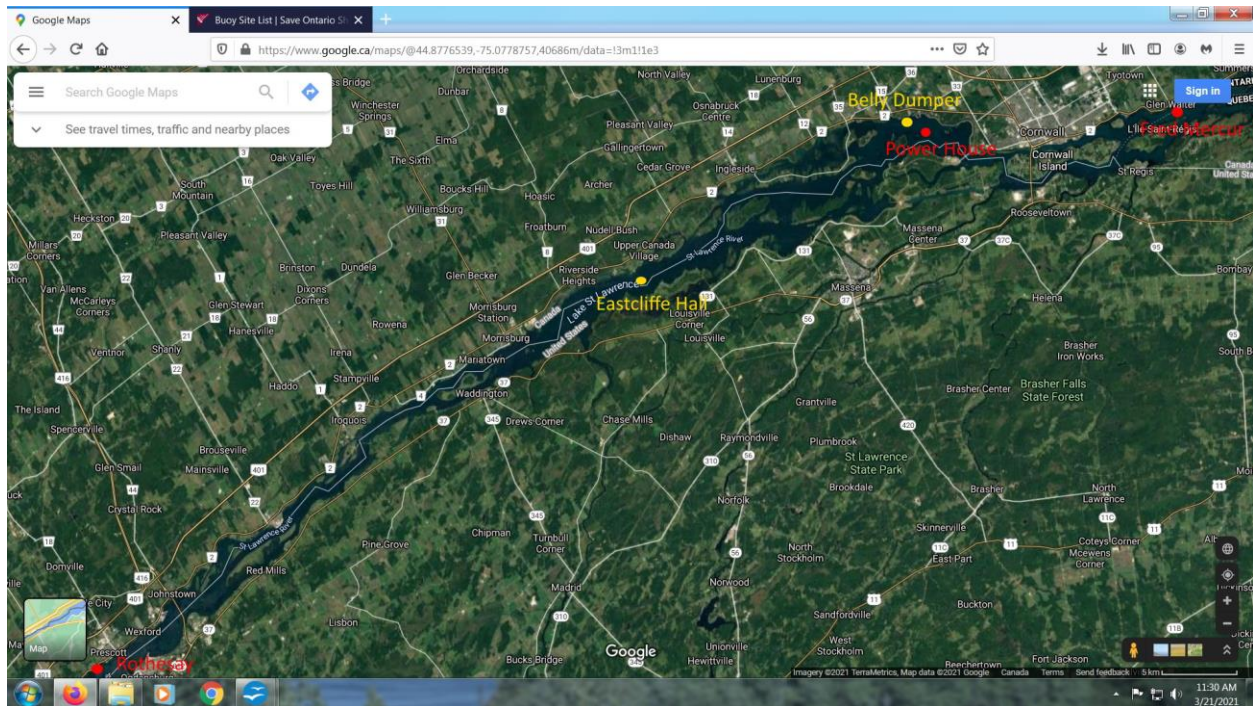
John Mondoux from the Seaway Valley Divers club in Cornwall deployed mooring buoys for us at the Fred Mercur and Milles Roches Power House. Dominique Gingras from the EPSO shop deployed a spar buoy for us at the Rothesay. John Ratcliffe updated the SOS website and emailed the Coast Guard so that they can issue Navigational Warnings (NAVWARNs).

Still to be deployed: Eastcliffe Hall and Belly Dumper. Jules Leduc says that he's heard Ron MacDonald from the Seaway Club will deploy the Eastcliffe mooring this week – John to follow up. John says he's been contacted by a Montreal diver named Sylvain Marcotte who has a boat, he wants to help deploy a buoy on the Belly Dumper.

Leonard asked about procedures for deploying mooring on high-current sites like the Eastcliffe. John said that provincial mooring coordinator Raimund Krob is available to provide workshops on mooring installation and maintenance.

| Site | Type | Status | Date | By |
|-----------------|---------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| Fred Mercur | Conical | Deployed | April 26, 2021 | John Mondoux |
| Rothesay | Spar | Deployed | May 21, 2021 | Dom Gingras |
| Milles Roches | Conical | Deployed | June 12, 2021 | John Mondoux |
| Eastcliffe Hall | Spar | TBD | | |
| Belly Dumper | Conical | TBD | | |

SOS Ottawa Buoy Disposition, June 2021



SOS Ottawa is responsible for maintaining moorings at sites from Prescott to Cornwall. This spring we deployed mooring buoys at three sites: the Fred Mercur, Milles Roches Power House, and Rothesay (red). Still to be deployed: Eastcliffe Hall and Belly Dumper (yellow).

6. Prescott Scuba Park

Training Platforms

At our last meeting our we approved a grant of up to \$1,000.00 for Neil O'Hare from the 1000 Islands Chapter for lumber and supplies to construct two training platforms at the Prescott Scuba Park.

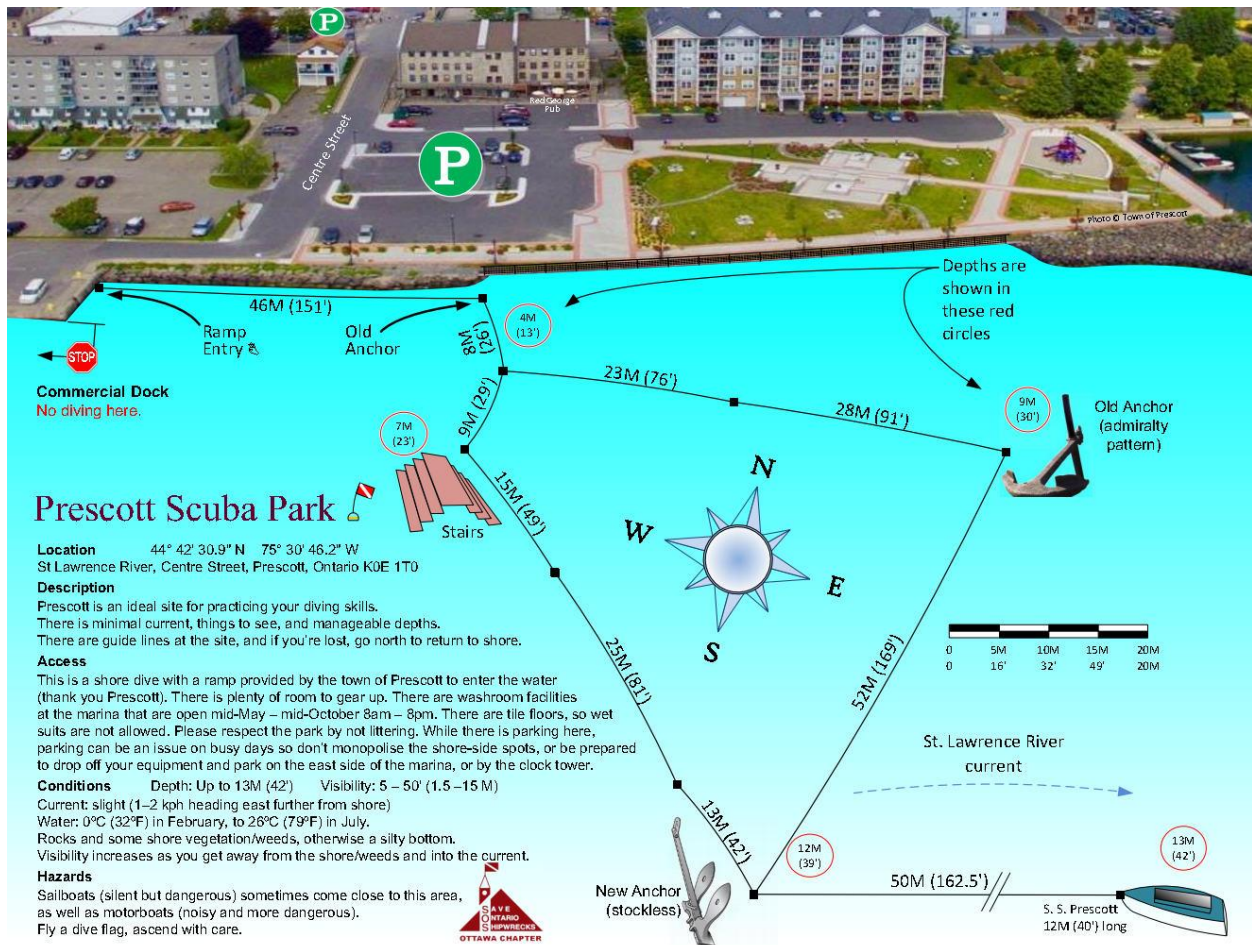
Neil has acquired the lumber and supplies he needs, and plans to construct the platforms on Friday, July 16. John asked Neil if he needed any more volunteers, but Neil thought he already had enough workers. Neil plans to install the platforms on Saturday, July 17. A crane will lift the platforms into the water around 10am.

John was diving the Scuba Park recently when a gentleman named Kevin Bunce came up and introduced himself. Kevin is head of the Prescott BIA and is interested in fostering closer ties between the diving community and the town of Prescott. John has been in touch with him by email and has also provided him with Neil O'Hare's contact info.

Prescott Scuba Park – Map

Chris Holloway has been working on an updated map of the Prescott Scuba Park for the last couple of years (see below), which is nearly complete.

John and Chris recently dove the Scuba Park to verify the map – there are one or two details to correct. There is an additional line from the sailboat wreck towards the old anchor near shore, and the exit lines lead back towards the seawall, rather than connecting to the other lines as currently shown on the map. Chris to make these corrections, and add the two training platforms once installed.



Draft version of Prescott Scuba Park map by Chris Holloway.

7. Beaver's Plaque (Again!)

This plaque was installed at the Conestoga by SOS Ottawa in fall 2019 to commemorate the defunct Ottawa Beavers (RCMP) scuba club, who made a substantial donation to our chapter in 2016 after deciding to disband their club.

John reported that we had erred when fabricating and installing the plaque. We had screwed a piece of clear plexiglass over the plaque to protect it, but the joint between the plexiglass and the plaque underneath was not watertight, and algae has since grown on the interior face of the plexiglass (where it can't be scraped off), obscuring the plaque text.

John and Chris Holloway dove the site recently and removed the plaque from the water. John has removed the concrete screws and outer plexiglass, cleaned the plaque, and replaced the old screws (which were starting to corrode) with stainless steel screws. Will try and return the plaque to the water in the next week or two, without the plexiglass cover.



Beavers plaque – before.



Beavers plaque – after.

8. New Business / Next Meeting Date

Jules asked about donation boxes – says there is one at the new scuba shop in Greely, Scuba Finatics. John to follow up with Barry Edgington.

John said that we need to hold a chapter AGM at some point this year, as we didn't hold one in 2020 because of Covid. We need to hold chapter elections. We need a new secretary, as Jeff Porter has stepped down from that role. Debbie Reinhart has also indicated that she would be happy to pass the Treasurer role onto someone else, as she may be doing more travelling. John says he has been chapter chair for nearly five years, and would also be happy to pass on the role if anyone else is interested. We also need a buoy coordinator (John has been doing this since Andy Bennis stepped down a few years ago), but this is not an elected position.

Next meeting to be held in late July/early August. Motion to adjourn at 19:40.