

**Attendees** (13): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Bev Sawchuck, Barry Edgington, Luc Lafontaine, Nancy Binnie, Chris Holloway, Jeanette Ryken, Jim Dunfield, Tim Vezina, Melissa Perks, Rick Menard, Shawn Girard, Lindsay Halsall.

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:03. This was an in-person meeting held in our normal spot in the basement of the Clocktower Brew Pub (Glebe location).

### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 4 August 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of 4 August 2022 was raised by Barry and seconded by Luc – motion carried.



### 3. News and Recap of Recent Events

- AIA Lectures – John reported that the local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) continues to hold in-person and virtual lectures; he has been forwarding information to members on those lectures and events he thinks may be of interest.
- International Plowing Match (IPM), Kemptville, September 20-24 – John reported that he was contacted by Dana Valentyne from the Town of Prescott in August about the IPM to be held in Kemptville in September. Apparently the city of Brockville was going to be organizing a booth to promote tourism in the region, including diving, and Prescott wanted to do the same. John provided links to Roger Lacasse’s 3D model of the Rothesay, copies of the “Diver’s Guide to the Rothesay,” and offered to help staff the booth, but is unclear as to whether the town had a booth at the event or not.
- SOS AGM, Brockville, October 22 – John provided a summary of the SOS AGM for those who were unable to attend.
- Luc asks about Doors Open at the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI); Nancy says they have done a virtual Doors Open type event in the past.

### 4. Treasurer’s Report

Our Treasurer, Dennis Cartwright, was unable to attend, but John reports that there has been no major financial activity since our last meeting in early August. Our bank balance is currently \$6,119.00.

Date	Code	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance	Notes
2021 01 01		Balance from previous year			\$ 6,743.14	
2021 04 15	CK #56	Prescott Platforms	\$ 987.41		\$ 5,755.73	
2021 06 21	IB	United Way Donation		\$ 100.00	\$ 5,855.73	BMO ATM 1450 Merivale
2021 06 21	IB	SOS Membership Dividend 2018 - 2020		\$ 287.00	\$ 6,142.73	BMO ATM 1450 Merivale
2021 09 13	MB BR. 0081	Donation Boxes - Various - B.Edingctn		\$ 113.91	\$ 6,256.54	Sharkey's, Diver's Warehouse, KDS, Deco Stoo
2022 05 02		SOS Chapter Dividend Payment for 2021		\$ 115.00	\$ 6,371.54	BMO deposit Ogilvy & Mtl Rd.
2022 06 08	CK #57	John Mondoux - mooring support	\$ 40.00		\$ 6,331.54	Mooring support - gas and launch fees
2022 06 08		Donation Boxes - Scuba Fanatics		\$ 55.10	\$ 6,387.04	Collected from Scuba Fanatics - 2022 06 07 - B. Edingctn
2022 06 23	CK #58	Christopher Holloway	\$ 268.04		\$ 6,119.00	Printing Brochures - Minute Press Ottawa

## 5. Donation Boxes

Barry thanked Scuba Finatics for their continued support. Scuba Finatics has surpassed their previous record of \$155.00 by collecting \$160.00 at their recent Pumpkin Carving event. Thank you Scuba Finatics!

Barry says the Prescott Scuba Park map our chapter recently produced seems popular. Barry plans to do his semi-annual tour of local dive shops in the next week or two to collect donation money and top up the brochures as required. He reports we are getting low on stickers.

Translation of Diver's Guides – at our last meeting we had discussed the translation of our Diver's Guides into French, as many divers in eastern Ontario are coming from Quebec. John says Sylvie Frigon from Sharky's has offered to help with translation; Nancy says we should check with SOS Corporate for approval before proceeding. John previously raised the issue of translation with SOS President Durrell Martin, who said he would bring it up at a board meeting – John to follow up. Chris says a friend of his has already translated the text for his map of the Prescott Scuba Park.

Luc suggests we look into adding QR codes on the donation boxes so that people can contribute to SOS digitally; Shawn says the challenge will be to link the codes to a payment system. Chris says he'll look into options, and Luc says he'll try and raise the issue with Corporate.

Melissa would like a downloadable PDF version of the Diver's Guides – the versions on the SOS website are low res.

## 6. Membership

John reminds those in attendance to try and renew their memberships, if expired, although he realizes that there are still some issues with the SOS website. John still needs to clean up the chapter email distribution list (based on input from Dennis); Jim thinks he may not be on our email list.

## 7. Buoy Update

John reported that all of our buoys have now been removed for the winter. He would like to thank our partners and supporters who deployed and retrieved our buoys this year: Dominique Gingras, EPSO (Rothesay); and Seaway Valleys Divers, especially Ron McDonald, John Mondoux, Parry Walker, and Karen St. Denis Poirier (Eastcliffe Hall, Milles Roches, and Fred Mercur). Seaway Valley Divers has informed John that one of the older conical buoys from Milles Roches appears to be missing - the club put two conical buoys on the site this year.

In his role as Buoy Coordinator John has continued to notify the Coast Guard when buoys are removed so they can issue NAVWARN notices, and has updated the buoy status list on the SOS website.

Luc says that most of the mooring lines on our sites need work or replacement. He thinks the line on the Eastcliffe is undersized. John says he received some new polysteel mooring line

from Corporate for use on the Belly Dumper which we might be able to use. He also has new stickers for the buoys; they will need some maintenance and refurbishing in the spring.

John reports that Murray Hollis, a former chapter member and past chapter president has been storing some our buoys on his property in Stittsville for the last few years and would like them moved. He has three spar and one conical buoy. Murray has been in touch with Corporate, who said they can take the buoys back if needed, but it's likely better for our chapter to keep them to use as needed.

Tim says they may have space in their new location to store them; Luc says he could store the buoys at his property in Cardinal, and is also willing to take on the job of Buoy Coordinator. Luc suggests talking to Luc Martin for help with deploying and retrieving buoys.



Buoys stored by Murray Hollis in Stittsville, which need to be moved.

## 8. Prescott Scuba Park

### Scuba Park Map:

Chris says he has about 100 copies left of the Prescott Scuba Park map we had printed this summer, so we should likely order some more. Tim says one of his DMs owns a printing business and may be able to help with additional copies.

Tim and Chris confirm that the overall accuracy of the map is fairly good.

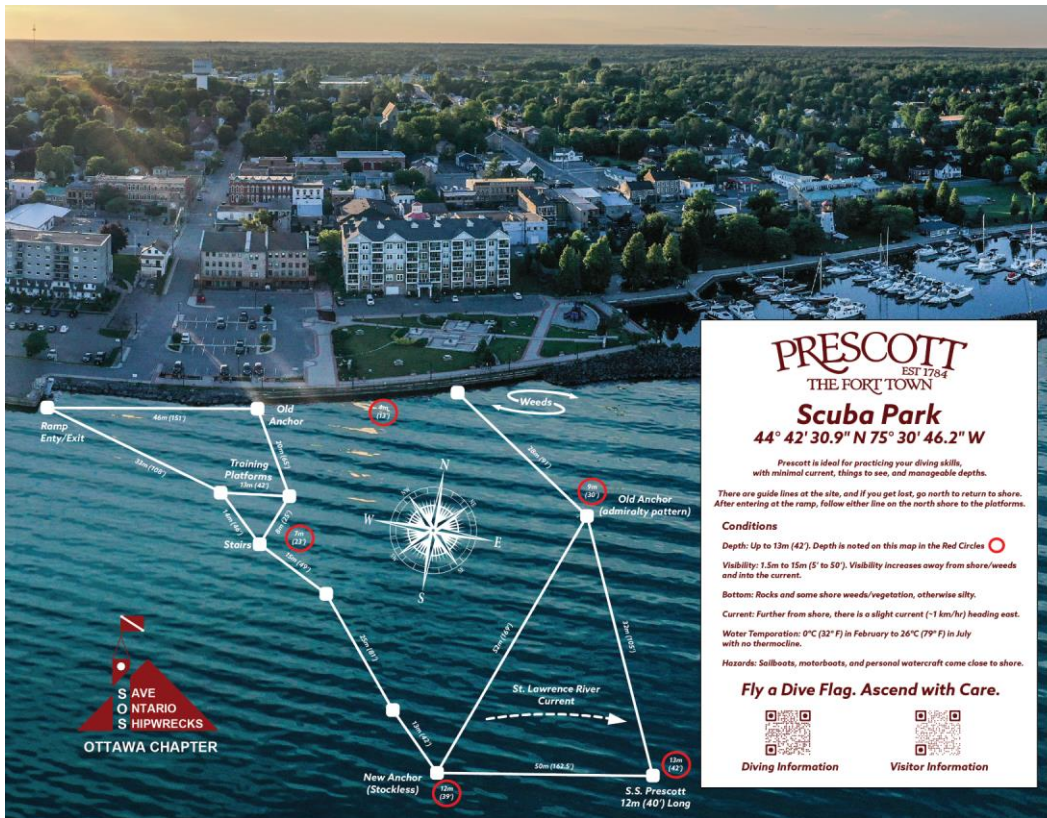
### Moving Forward with the Town of Prescott:

John says Dana Valentyne from the Town of Prescott has been in touch about continuing to develop the Scuba Park. They want to install a large version of the Scuba Park map beside the entrance ramp.

Rick says the proposed placement of the map would interfere with divers getting in the water, as many of his students like to put their gear on the wood bumper beside the ramp before getting in the water. Nancy says the proposed placement at ground level could lead to damage from snow clearing operations during the winter.



Proposed location for large dive park map at Prescott Scuba Park.  
Courtesy of the Town of Prescott.



Proposed dive park map. Courtesy of the Town of Prescott.

Rick suggests that placing the map along the rocks, to the west, would be more effective, although it would obstruct the view of the waterfront, which would likely be an issue for local residents.

Rick said that washrooms on site are needed; Luc asks what plans are underway for a new structure. John to follow up with Dana.

Attendees agree that the stairs at the end of the entrance ramp are not very good, because of the angle of the ladder. John was diving there recently and was unable to pull himself onto the ramp in a drysuit and heavy equipment.

## 9. “Beyond the Edge” with Barry Edgington

Barry continued his popular “Beyond the Edge” segment, presenting several vintage single hose regulators.

## 10. New Business and Next Meeting Date

- John said we still need to hold our chapter AGM; possibly early next month.
- Meeting adjourned at 20:15.

## **Book Table**

The following books were given away (as well as some SOS T-shirts):

- *Marine Disasters of Newfoundland and Labrador* (1986), by J.P. Andrieux
- *Great Lakes Shipwrecks and Survivals* (1977), by William Ratigan
- *Dive Ontario!* (1995), by Cris Kohl
- *The Last Dive* (2000), by Bernie Chowdhury
- *Legend of the Lake: The 22-Gun Brig-Sloop Ontario (1780)* (1997), by Arthur Britton Smith
- *Ghost Ships* (1983), by Emily McCain
- *The Emerald Sea: Exploring the Underwater Wilderness of the North Pacific Coast* (1993), by Diane Swanson