

27 Attendees (8): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Dennis Cartwright (Treasurer), Chris Harnett, Tim Vezina, Melissa Perks, Jim Dunfield, Chanelle Zaphiropoulos, Jean-Marc Perreault (by phone).

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:06. The meeting was held in our normal spot in the basement of the Clocktower Brew Pub (Glebe location).

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 12 April 2023

A motion to approve the minutes of 12 April 2023 was raised by Tim and seconded by Melissa – motion carried.

3. News and Recap of Recent Events

- Jill Heinerth talks – John reported that noted cave diver Jill Heinerth gave presentations in Almonte on April 20, and at the Canadian Geographic Society.
- James Cameron’s submarine - DeepSea Challenger is on display at Canadian Geographic headquarters on Sussex Drive in Ottawa all summer. Cameron used this submarine to descend to the bottom of the Marianas Trench in 2012.
- Scuba Finatics will be holding their annual Canada Day Dive and BBQ at Lock 21 on July 1, and will be encouraging attendees to donate to SOS.
- Seaway Valley Divers will be holding their annual Pig Roast at Guindon Park on July 8, where attendees can dive on the Milles Roches Power House.
- Charlotte Pilon-McCullough from KDS has organized a “Dive Against Debris” clean up dive at the Prescott Scuba Park on July 29.
- The Ontario Archaeology Society (OAS) is holding their annual Archaeology Days at Bonnechere Provincial Park from July 8-13. This is focused on archaeology on land but is still a great way to learn more about local archaeology.



4. Treasurer’s Report

Dennis provided an update on our finances. Since our last meeting we’ve received a \$100.00 donation from Chris Welch, and Dennis has deposited \$49.00 Barry collected from donation boxes. Our current bank balance is \$6,772.14.

5. Donation Boxes

Tim Vezina passed \$179.00 to Dennis for deposit, which Scuba Finatics collected at their garage sale event in early June. Thank you Scuba Finatics!

6. Buoy Update

Since our last meeting Luc Lafontaine has indicated that various other commitments will prevent him from continuing as our chapter buoy coordinator. Tim Vezina has graciously agreed to store our buoy inventory, and our buoys in storage (three spar buoys) have been transferred from Luc’s property in Cardinal to Tim’s shop in Greely. John will continue as chapter buoy coordinator in the meantime.

Seaway Valley Divers have deployed mooring buoys at the following sites:

- Milles Roches Power House (two conical buoys)
- Fred Mercur (one conical buoy)
- Eastcliffe Hall (one spar buoy)

Seaway Valley has indicated that they would like to replace the line on the Fred Mercur; Luc may have a line in storage that would work.

Dominique Gingras from EPSO has deployed one spar buoy on the Rothesay.

Moving forward, Dominique has indicated that he would prefer to be associated with SOS Thousand Islands rather than SOS Ottawa, but is willing to keep our donation box in his store, and will continue to help with the mooring at the Rothesay.

John was recently contacted by Sylvain Marcotte and Christian Rémillard, who want to put a buoy on the Belly Dumper. They have already installed a new line on the mooring block. They have Tim's contact info and will arrange a time to pick up one of the medium spar buoys. John will advise Seaway Valley, since this is a site in their area.



SOS Ottawa – sites moored to date in 2023.

7. Conestoga – Issues with Divers

Cardinal residents had experienced issues with divers at the Conestoga site and had brought their complaints to the local town council. Since our last meeting our chapter has worked with the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal to develop and install new signage to remind divers to respect other users of the site, obey they posted speed limit, use the washrooms and trash receptacles provided, and that overnight camping is forbidden.

SOS Corporate and the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal split the cost of the signs, which were fabricated at Ketchum's in Brockville, and recently installed at the entrance to Legion Way, at the Conestoga site, and at the Galop Canal. The signs are posted in English and French; thank you to Sylvie Frigon for help with the translation, and to everyone else who helped with the new signage.

Tim has advised that the washroom at the site is in poor shape and could use more frequent attention. John emailed the township, who said that the site is cleaned 2-3x per week, but that the sewage company has complained of users throwing trash into the toilet. The township has apparently added new signs to remind users not to throw trash into the toilet.



ATTENTION DIVERS

DIVING HERE IS A PRIVILEGE

- **Please be respectful to local residents and other users**
- **Respect posted speed limit of 20 km/h**
- **Use trashbins and washrooms provided**
- **Overnight camping is not permitted**

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER SO THAT WE CAN
CONTINUE TO ENJOY THIS AMAZING SITE!**



ATTENTION PLONGEURS ***PLONGER ICI EST UN PRIVILÈGE***

- Respectez les résidents et les autres utilisateurs du site
- Observez la limite de vitesse de 20 km/h
- Utilisez les toilettes et les poubelles mises à votre disposition
- Le camping pour la nuit est interdit

*Travaillons ensemble afin de pouvoir continuer
à profiter de ce site exceptionnel!*



EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS) – Section Ottawa
ottawa@saveontarioshipwrecks.ca

New signage at the Conestoga site – French.

8. Prescott Scuba Park

Jim Dunfield from our chapter's Prescott Sub-Committee gave a presentation on their recent liaison work with the town of Prescott. The Sub-Committee is composed of Jim, Rick Menard, and Melissa Perks; their role is to provide feedback and work with the town of Prescott to improve diving in the area.

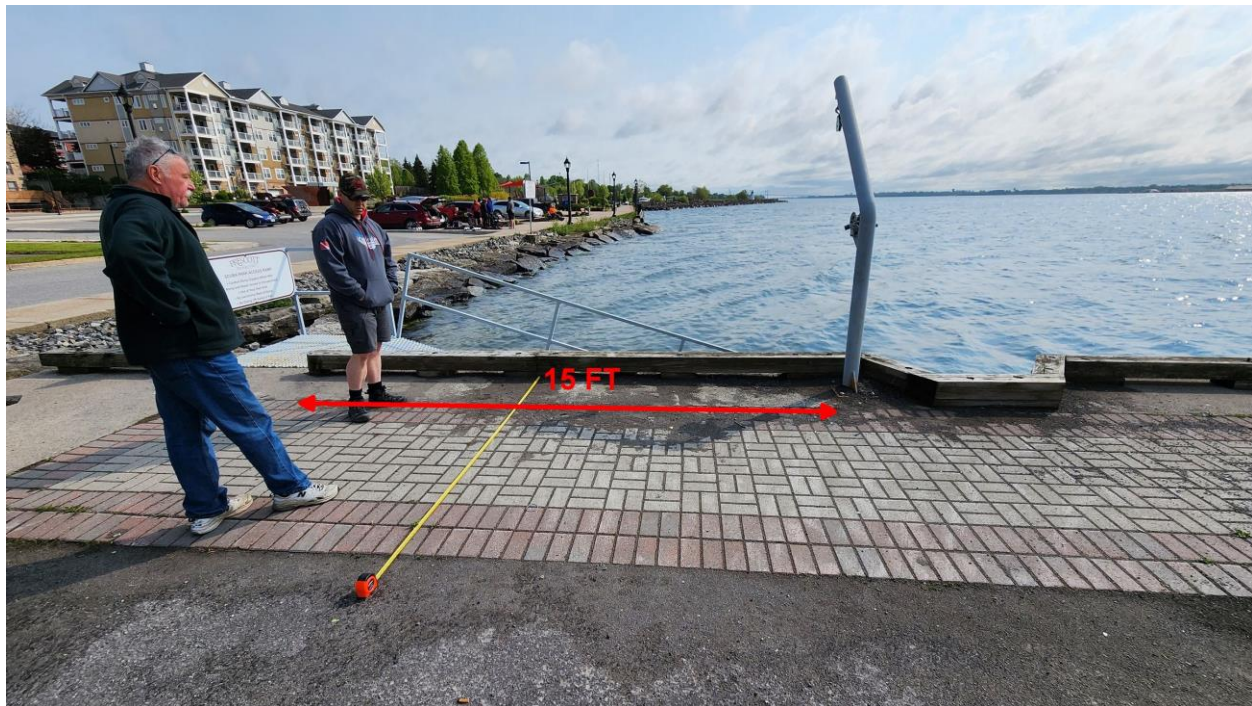
Jim and Rick met with Dana Valentyne, the Economic Development Officer for Prescott, and another staff member on May 11. Jim reported that Dana was very enthusiastic about improving the Scuba Park and the overall diver experience in the area, focusing on the following areas:

- A new change room - scheduled to arrive shortly.
- Washrooms - screening has been installed around the Porta John recently added to the site, to give it a more permanent look.
- Signs – plans for signs in two locations, with maps of the scuba park.
- Dive ramp - town is in the process of looking into modifying the angle of the ladder at the end of the ramp to make it easier to get out of the water; they may require some additional information once they hear back from the manufacturer.

- Adding a diver bench – Jim is looking at various options.
- Adding more artifacts to the water to attract divers; the sculptures at Centeen Park were created by a local high school.

Rick thinks that a railing should be added beside the entrance ramp, since the wooden bumper there is a tripping hazard. He thinks that the best place for a sign with the map of the scuba park would be along the waterfront, by the rocks to the east of the entrance ramp.

Jim has been looking at options for a diver bench, similar to those found at Centeen Park, the Rothesay, or the Reynold's Yards in Brockville. Suggested location would be beside the entrance ramp, with an approximate length of 14', a seat height of 24" and a width of 24". Jim has taken some measurements, but still needs to confirm the overall height of the proposed bench; Dennis thinks that the bench doesn't need a back at all. Jim has identified one possible fabricator (Mulder's Machine & Welding in Spencerville); Tim says he can help with identifying other potential fabricators; Melissa suggests that we get three quotes. Jim to come back to the chapter with estimates as to cost, and suggests we also decide on the text for a small plaque to add to the bench. Suggested text: "Save Ontario Shipwrecks / Take Nothing but Pictures / Leave Nothing but Bubbles" or similar.

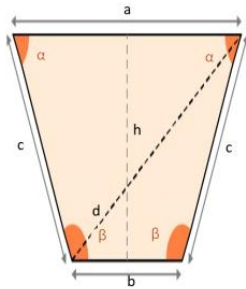


Proposed location of diver bench at the Prescott Scuba Park.

SOS Diver Friendly Bench

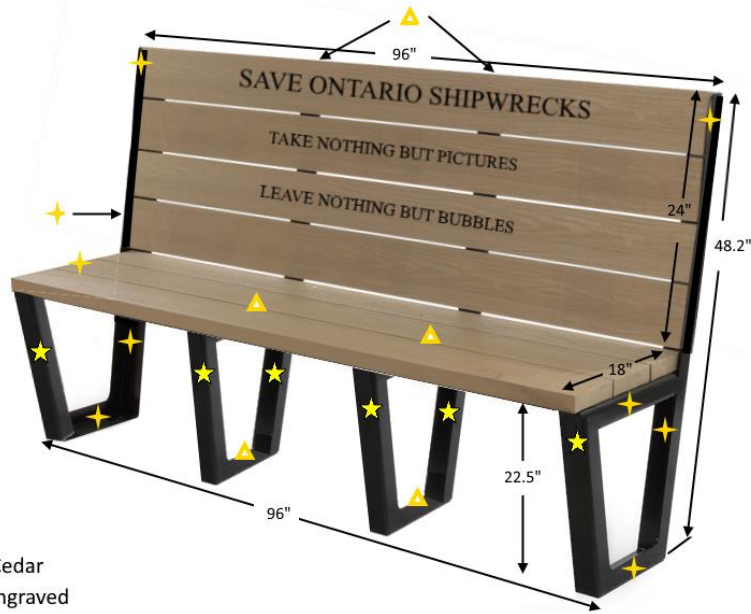
Designed by Steve Hatch
January 4, 2023

- ★ 1-1/2" Square
- ✦ 1-1/2" Angle
- ▲ 1-1/2" Flat



Longer base (a)	18 in
Shorter base (b)	12 in
Leg (c)	22.7 in
Height (h)	22.5 in
Acute angle (α)	82.4 deg
Obtuse angle (β)	97.6 deg
Diagonal (d)	27.04 in
Perimeter	75.4 in
Area	337.5 in ²

Bench wood is natural Red Cedar
SOS Message will be Laser Engraved



Design of diver bench recently installed at Reynold’s Yards in Brockville by SOS Thousand Islands. Proposed bench in Prescott would be longer.

9. Ottawa River Sidescan Survey

J-M Perreault is a high school teacher from the Montreal area who is planning on doing some side scan sonar survey work in the Ottawa River this summer, and possibly also in the Cornwall area. J-M had had dialed into the meeting; he is planning on going out on the Ottawa River with five or six of his students tomorrow (June 28), where he will also be joined by some representatives of the Comité des affaires maritimes (le CAM) de la Succursale de l’Outaouais de la Ligue navale du Canada in their boat. J-M said his plan is to try and scan known targets, to see what kinds of images he gets. J-M had previously asked if anyone from our chapter was interested in joining him; Chanelle, who has a background in maritime archaeology, had expressed interest, but will likely not be able to join tomorrow given the short notice.

John said he would forward Sylvain Marcotte’s contact info to J-M, as Sylvain has done some sonar scanning around Cornwall.

10. New Business and Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 20:20.

Book Table

The following books were given away:

- *Lost Beneath the Ice: The Story of HMS Investigator* (2013), by Andrew Cohen
- *Ghost Ships* (1983), by Emily McCain (two copies)
- *Erebus* (2018), by Michael Palin
- *Neutral Buoyancy: Adventures in a Liquid World* (2001), by Tim Ecott