

Attendees (5): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Chris Harnett, Chris Holloway, Harold Walker, Leonard Baak.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:10. This was an in-person meeting at the Clocktower Brew Pub, Westboro (418 Richmond Rd).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 25 April 2024

A motion to approve the minutes of 25 April 2024 was raised by Chris Holloway and seconded by Chris Harnett - motion carried.

3. News and Recap of Recent Events

- Scuba Finatics will be holding their annual Canada Day Dive and BBQ at Lock 21 again this year. They will also be holding a garage sale on Saturday (June 8) where divers can buy and sell used scuba gear.
- Seaway Valley Divers will be holding their annual Pig Roast fundraiser at Guindon Park next month.



4. Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer (Dennis Cartwright) was not present, but John reported that there has been little financial activity since our last meeting, so our bank balance is about \$5,000.

Chris Holloway provided a receipt for plastic thimbles for the tag lines on the mooring lines he recently spliced, he needs to be reimbursed about \$22.00. John to forward receipt to Dennis.

5. Donation Boxes

John said that he's updated the insert for the donation boxes with the URL for the new SOS website and added a new QR code provided by Chris Holloway, and delivered the updated inserts to Barry.

6. Mooring Buoys

John went down to Cornwall a couple of weeks ago to drop off a medium spar buoy and the new mooring lines for the Eastcliffe Hall and Fred Mercur. Most of our mooring buoys are now out:

- Seaway Valley Divers deployed the medium spar buoy and a conical buoy on the Milles Roches Power House.
- Seaway Valley deployed a conical buoy on the Fred Mercur. They have the new line for the Fred but haven't installed it yet; they need some bigger shackles first.
- Sylvain Marcotte deployed a conical mooring buoy on the Belly Dumper and has been fixing the lines between the Belly Dumper and barges.

- Luc Martin deployed a medium spar buoy on the Rothesay. John said it sounded like they may have had some issues when putting out the buoy, Chris Harnett says he plans on diving the site soon and will check.



Image provided by Sylvain Marcotte, showing lines between Belly Dumper and nearby sites.

John said he has been emailing the Coast Guard each time a buoy is deployed so that they can inform boaters by issuing navigational warnings (“NAVWARNs”). John said he hasn’t figured out how to update buoy statuses on the new SOS website yet.

7. Prescott Scuba Park

Jim Dunfield couldn’t make it to the meeting tonight but has been providing regular updates via email on the status of the new diver bench in Prescott:

- Dana Valentyne from the Town of Prescott says they’re waiting on updates from us; we should let them know when the bench is done and ready for installation. Also need to figure out delivery – can we deliver it, or do they need to pick it up?
- Mulder’s Welding say they’ve got the materials and will tentatively start fabrication of the bench this week.

Chris Holloway has updated his map of the Prescott Scuba Park to show the anchor he and Harold moved into the park last year, has added an arrow pointing to the new change rooms, and has adjusted the map so that it’s more to scale. He will try and get more copies printed.

8. Lock 21

At our last meeting Tim Vezina reported that he was contacted by staff from Parks of the St. Lawrence, who plan to tear down the old pavilion at Lock 21 and replace it with a new structure.

Tim provided contact info for Liam Carson, Parks Operations Assistant Manager for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission in Morrisburg, who indicated that the old pavilion at Lock 21 is slated for demolition this summer due to structural issues. Liam indicated that the old SOS signs will be stored for reference purposes but are too faded to be reused at this point.



Old pavilion at Lock 21, May 18, 2024. SOS signage has been removed.

John has been in contact with Liam and indicated that our chapter is interested in working with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to produce new signage at Lock 21. Liam raised the following points, which John responded to via email:

- Who would draft wording?

John suggested that SOS and Parks of the St. Lawrence could work together to produce wording everyone is happy with; we could use the old SOS Diver's Guide to Lock 21 as a starting point. Luc Lafontaine reached out to Jim Brownell from the Lost Villages Historical Society; Jim said that they can supply images and are interested in helping where possible. John also reached out to Dan Foster from Deco Stop in Lancaster, who is a frequent and longtime user of the site, who said he was also willing to help where possible.

- What is the current best practice for this sort of signage?

John sent Liam photos of SOS land plaques at the Conestoga, Wee Hawk, and Rothesay to provide an idea of what our other plaques look like, in terms of appearance and content.

- Who is the primary reader – divers, or the general public?

John indicated that he thought the primary audience for the old signage was divers, as the drawings of the site layout helped them plan their dives, but SOS plaques include site-specific historical information of interest to both divers and the general public.

Dan Foster said that he had always seen more non-divers than divers reading the old signage.

Chris Holloway agrees, everyone is always asking divers questions about what they're seeing, we should aim for a wider audience. Chris Harnett says it's the same in Morrisburg, and the town has added plaques with historical information along the waterfront.

- What is the focus of the signage – Lost Villages, or broader?

John suggested that the focus should be site specific, with some broader context about the Lost Villages.

- Who will pay for signage?

John suggested to Liam that we could partner with their organization to split costs, and provided the recent example of our partnership with the Town of Prescott as an example of cost sharing.

Liam suggested that we schedule a meeting later this summer with his manager, and mentioned that they might want to enter into a MOU.

Chris Harnett asks what the timeline for the renovations is.



Meeting the Challenge

There is a feeling of stewardship that comes from knowing that you have dived and enjoyed this site, causing a minimum of impact to the resource and on the visits of those who follow. This feeling is an integral part of the overall experience involved in discovering your marine heritage.

Are you prepared to meet the challenge?

For information, contact

SAVE ONTARIO SHIPWRECKS
Membership Chairperson
 6065 Forest Glen Crescent
 Orleans, Ontario K1C 5N6
 Canada

For further information on
 THE LOST VILLAGES
 contact
 THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 306
 Ingleside, Ontario K0C 1M0

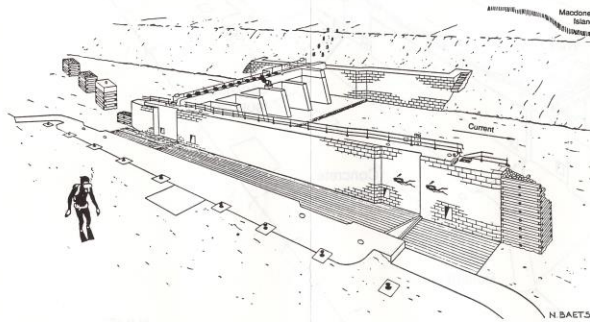
SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS
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Ron's Skin & Scuba Shop

RON MACDONALD

13 ELEVENTH STREET WEST
 CORNWALL, ONT. K6J 3A8

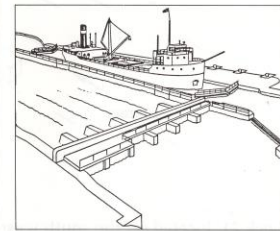
TELEPHONE
 (813) 933-1362



Guard Lock 21 is located at the upper entrance to the 11-mile long Cornwall Canal which was built to circumvent the great rapids of the Long Sault. It was constructed in 1885/86 as part of a second enlargement to the canal system and is 270 feet long between the gates, 45 feet wide and has 14 feet clearance over the sill. The Department of Railways and Canals operated the lock until 1936 after which the Department of Transport took over until 1958 when the area was flooded to serve as headwater for the Hydro dam at Cornwall.



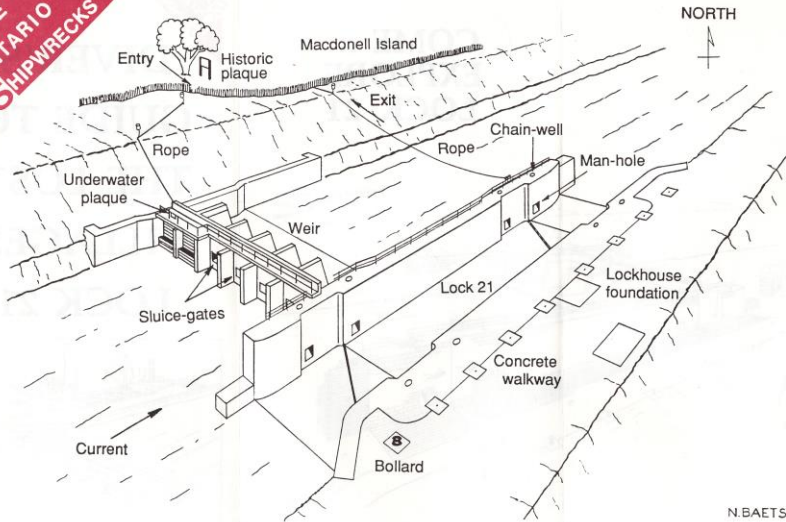
**DIVER'S
 GUIDE TO
 THE LOST
 VILLAGES
 LOCK 21**



**Dive to Enjoy
 Not to Destroy**

"Preserve Ontario's Marine Heritage"

TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES — LEAVE NOTHING BUT BUBBLES



Lock 21, located off the south western end of Macdonell Island, is accessible by land from the Historic plaque. From Highway 401, follow exits to Ingleside or Long Sault to Highway 2. Enter the Long Sault Parkway (fee per car) to Macdonell Island. The Parkway's facilities are operated by The St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Picnic tables are on location and a snackbar, washroom, nature trail and camping facilities are only 4 km away on Woodlands Island.

BOB'S DIVE CHARTERS & SALVAGE

380 Sheridan Street
 Cornwall, Ontario K6H 6M5

(813) 932-6435

Dive Notes

- Bring a light to see into chain wells and man-holes.
- Prepare for a strong current (2 to 3 knots).
- Entry is from upstream shore marker, follow the rope.
- **Lock 21** lies along the south bank and is accessible via the weir.
- Upperwork lies at 40 feet with the lock bottom at 60 feet.
- Visibility is 8 to 12 feet (on a good day).
- Divers have placed lines from various points to aid in exploration. S.O.S. does not accept any responsibility or liability for these lines or their use while diving.
 89/10/24

Text and drawings are for information only. S.O.S. does not accept any responsibility or liability for any diving conducted at this site.

Old SOS Diver's Guide to Lock 21.

John was recently contacted by Christian Rémillard, who plans on creating a 3D photogrammetric model of Lock 21 this summer. Christian's plan is to collect the data in the second half of June and process the data in Fall/Winter.

Christian's models would be perfect for updated signage at Lock 21.

Christian previously modelled the Gaskin and has also created 3D models of Lock 23 (<https://lock23.ca/>).

Christian said the planned products would include:

- 3D model of entire lock, and possibly an augmented reality VR version
- Photo gallery of 3D model
- A "making of" video
- Complete documentation/data set, he would give all data to SOS Ottawa afterwards

Christian wants help with:

- Translation - of website content, and possibly video subtitles.

John said we may be able to help, can reach out to the same individual who helped with translation of Conestoga signs last year.

- Images – existing images from SOS Diver's Guides.

John sent him all of the old drawings we have of Lock 21, made by Nick Baets in the late 1980s.

- Funding – Christian is looking for help with the following expenses:
 - 1-yr pass for St. Lawrence Parks - already purchased, but perhaps Parks Commission will consider refund if they're willing to help support his work
 - Gas to get to/from site
 - Meals
 - Air/O2 fills – Christian to reach out to Dan Foster to see if he can help
 - CO2 absorbent for rebreather
 - Hardware for camera rig for scooter
 - Other material – 5 x 6' vinyl with checkerboard pattern to calibrate camera lens
 - Additional batteries
 - Hard drive and bigger flash card

John asked Christian to provide an estimate of how much money he is looking for. This sounds like a great project which is worth supporting.

Chris Holloway suggests we get in touch with SOS Corporate to see if they can help with funding. We should consider how much this project is worth to us, what is the value added? Could we produce a dive slate as well?

9. New Business and Next Meeting Date

Chris Harnett says the swim chain at the Conestoga is broken.

Meeting adjourned at 20:02.