

Attendees (13): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Dennis Cartwright (Treasurer), Jim Dunfield, Tim Vezina, Melissa Perks, Gerry Carter, Barry Edgington, Bev Sawchuk, Andy Fytche, Nancy Binnie, Chris Harnett, Chris Holloway, Harold Walker.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:05. This was an in-person meeting at the Clocktower Brew Pub, Westboro (418 Richmond Rd).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 4 June 2024

A motion to approve the minutes of 4 June 2024 was raised by Chris Harnett and seconded by Melissa - motion carried.

3. News and Recap of Recent Events

- Scuba Finatics Canada Day Dive and BBQ at Lock 21 – Tim says they had a great turnout, about 120 people.
- Seaway Valley Divers Pig Roast – Seaway Valley held their annual Pig Roast fundraiser at Guindon Park last weekend (July 6).
- Royal Canadian Geographic Society (RCGS) talk, "All Too Clear: Using ROVs to Explore the Great Lakes" (June 27) – Chris Harnett attended this talk by documentary filmmakers Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick, which was mostly about the effects of invasive mussel species on the Great Lakes, but also covered their discovery of the steamer "Africa" in Lake Huron.



4. Treasurer's Report

Dennis provided an update on our finances; our bank balance is currently just over \$5,000.

Tim delivered \$570 for deposit which Scuba Finatics has raised at various events.

We are reimbursing Chris Holloway \$22.07 for plastic thimbles for the mooring lines he prepared this spring.

5. Donation Boxes

Barry says he's been dealing with some health issues and will need someone else to help take care of the donation boxes, moving forward. Gerry Carter agrees to help.

Barry can't find the updated donation box inserts John delivered previously – John to print and deliver more.

Barry has \$16.45 from the Sharky's donation box for deposit. Mike Morris says he would like a second box to bring to events.

Barry can't reach anyone from Divers Warehouse. The shop has closed down and our box is missing.

Tim talked to a friend of his who works at Canus Plastics and will take his donation box over so they can take measurements to possibly fabricate more.

6. Mooring Buoys

John says he talked to Ron MacDonald recently, who deployed the mooring on the Eastcliffe Hall a few weeks ago. The following sites now have buoys out:

- Rothesay
- Eastcliffe Hall
- Mille Roches Power House
- Belly Dumper
- Fred Mercur

John said he was diving at the Rothesay last week and checked the mooring – everything looked good. Chris Harnett said he fixed it earlier.

John emailed the township to ask them to take down the large Covid Diving Protocol signs on the Rothesay changerooms.

Chris Harnett says he repaired the Conestoga swim chain with quick links. Chris Holloway says he has extra chain to repair the line if needed, although it might break again, as the links are old.

7. Prescott Scuba Park

Jim sent a follow up to Mulder's Welding to check on the status of the diver bench. Mulder's said they're going to start working on it.

Jim will follow up with Dana Valentyne regarding other items for the Scuba Park – the new signs are not up yet.

Chris Holloway will print more copies of his map of the Scuba Park; he also has a version in French.

8. Lock 21

John provided a summary of the discussion at our last meeting regarding new signage at Lock 21:

- At our meeting in April Tim Vezina reported that he was contacted by staff from Parks of the St. Lawrence, who planned 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.

- John contacted Liam and indicated that our chapter is interested in working with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to produce new signage at Lock 21. John hasn't heard anything back from Liam in a few weeks and sent him a follow up to see if there have been any updates regarding the new pavilion.
- John also contacted Dan Foster from Deco Stop, a longtime user of the site, and Jim Brownell from the Lost Villages Historical Society, who both indicated that they're interested in helping with new signage.

In his email Liam Carson had questions about updated signage:

- Who would draft wording?

Nancy says text should be bilingual.

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

John previously sent Liam images of other SOS plaques at the Consetoga, Wee Hawk, Rothesay etc.

Should we aim for something like these smaller plaques, or bigger panels like what was there previously, or something like what the township has put up along the waterfront in Morrisburg?

People liked the big panels, although they may not fit on the new gazebo, depending on how its constructed.

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

Tim says lots of people are always asking what's down there, and suggests it would also be good to have dedicated diver tables, like at Ivy Lea.

- Who will pay for signage?

Nancy thinks the townships paid for SOS plaques at other sites.

John reported that he was 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 this summer and process the data in Fall/Winter.

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

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

Christian has already started documenting the site and has shared some initial 3D images.

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 told him 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 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:

Spent so far

8 trips for various dive tests (2 at Kahnawake): \$444

Season pass / St-Lawrence Parks: \$113

hardware: \$740

camera and light upgrades: \$185

Total spent so far: \$1,482.00

Planned

10 trips x \$53/trip = \$530

hard drive \$200

more hardware \$100

Total planned: \$830.00

Total: \$2,312.00

Nancy says we should only support this work if Christian has a permit to document the site, either from Parks or the province. If work is done under permit then the data will be deposited in a provincial repository for safekeeping and future access. John says that Christian has offered to give us the full data set, once available, as he did with the 1000 Islands Chapter when he modelled the Gaskin. John didn’t ask Christian if he has a permit but will inquire.

Andy asks if Christian is a SOS member.

John said he reached out to SOS Corporate to see if they were willing to help support this project. SOS President Durrell Martin indicated that Corporate is willing to help with the costs of new signage at the site but isn’t willing to provide funding for Christian’s project. Corporate’s stance is that there are many SOS members working on 3D models around the province who are not receiving any support from Corporate. They’re concerned it would open a landslide of requests if they funded this specific project.

Dennis asks if we can support this project if Corporate has indicated that they won’t. Nancy says our chapter funded survey projects in the past.

9. “Beyond the Edge” with Barry Edgington

Barry presented an amazing selection of double and early single hose regulators from his enormous collection of vintage dive gear.



Barry discusses a double-hose regulator.



Double and early single hose regulators from Barry's collection.

10. New Business and Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 20:10.

Book Table

The following books were given away:

- *Submerged: The Adventures of America's Most Elite Underwater Archaeology Team* (2002), by Daniel Lenihan
- *The Silent World* (1953), by Jacques Cousteau
- *The Discovery of the Titanic* (1995), by Robert D. Ballard
- *Erebus: The Story of a Ship* (2018), by Michael Palin
- *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* (2023), by David Grann
- *Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth* (2010), by James M. Tabor
- *Fatal Depth: Deep Sea Diving, China Fever, and the Wreck of the Andrea Doria* (2003), by Joe Haberstroh
- *Shark Trouble* (2003), by Peter Benchley