

Attendees (12): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Dennis Cartwright (Treasurer), Jim Dunfield, Gerry Carter, Barry Edgington, Bev Sawchuk, Andy Fytche, Nancy Binnie, Chris Harnett, Chris Holloway, Harold Walker, Dani Lee.

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 – 9 July 2024

A motion to approve the minutes of 9 July 2024 was raised by Gerry and seconded by Dani - motion carried.

3. News and Recap of Recent Events

Not much to report, Dani mentions there's a new National Geographic series on ocean exploration that's worth checking out.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dennis provided an update on our finances; our current bank balance is \$5,592.51.

Dennis deposited \$589.70 in donations; \$570.00 of this was raised by Scuba Finatics at their Canada Day event.

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

5. Donation Boxes

John printed more copies of the updated donation box inserts (with updated SOS website URL and QR code) and delivered them to Barry.

Barry would like more copies of Chris Holloway's Prescott Scuba Park map (Eng/French) – Chris to provide.

Barry would like to have a bilingual box and brochures for EPSO.

Donation box at Diver's Wearhouse appears to be missing; store has closed down. Dani says Robin from Diver's Wearhouse said SOS picked up the box in May 2023.

New donation box to be fabricated at Canus Plastics (suggested at last meeting) – Tim not present.

6. Mooring Buoys

Dive season is winding down. The following buoys need to be removed for the season:



- Fred Mercur (Seaway Valley Divers)
- Milles Roches Power House (Seaway Valley Divers)
- Belly Dumper (Sylvain Marcotte or Seaway Valley Divers)
- Eastcliffe Hall (Ron MacDonald)
- Rothesay (Luc Martin?)

7. Prescott Scuba Park

New diver bench was recently installed at the Prescott Scuba Park.

The bench was ordered in April, but there were various delays with Mulder's Welding. Jim stopped by Mulder's in August to check in. There were also delays with the installation due to typos in the wording on the bench.

Jim wants to stop by in the next couple of weeks to verify measurements.

The bench partially blocks the new sign with the map of Scuba Park, so the sign may need to be moved. Rick originally wanted the sign to be installed on the left side of the ramp. Dani and Harold say the sign could be lower to the ground. Chris H. says the new sign looks good, overall.



The new diver bench was recently installed at the Prescott Scuba Park.

We had discussed doing an official opening of the new bench with the Town of Prescott, but will push this to the spring given the lateness of the season.

Dennis suggests sending a thank you letter to town for their support, to the clerk or mayor. John says he previously sent a letter to the town's Operations Department to thank them for past support, but it's definitely a good idea to send another.

8. Lock 21

No updates from Parks of the St. Lawrence on new signage at Lock 21.

At our previous meeting Nancy had asked if Christian Rémillard had obtained a permit for his photogrammetric documentation project at Lock 21, as he was asking our chapter for support. John asked Christian if he had a permit; Christian indicated that he doesn't believe an archaeological permit is relevant to his project, as he's just documenting the site, and his project doesn't have any scientific objectives.

John reached out to Andrea Williams, who handles Marine Archaeology Licensing and Information at the Archaeology Program Unit, Heritage Operations Branch, at the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM), which is responsible for issuing marine archaeological licenses, to inquire generally if archaeological licenses are required for photogrammetric documentation of known sites in the province, as numerous models are appearing on sites like 3dshipwrecks.org. Andrea's response:

"MCM is aware that individuals are undertaking wreck documentation projects out of interest without a marine licence but the fact is that this activity does require an Ontario marine archaeology licence."

"Under the Ontario Heritage Act, "archaeological fieldwork" is defined as any activity carried out on, above or under land or water for the purpose of **obtaining and documenting data**, recovering artifacts and remains or altering an archaeological site and includes monitoring, assessing, exploring, surveying, recovering and excavating. Photogrammetry would be considered documenting data. Under the Act, an archaeological licence is required to carry out archaeological fieldwork."

Nancy says one issue with doing these sorts of documentation projects without a license is that the data wouldn't be publicly available, as a license imposes a requirement on the license holder to produce a report and submit it to the Ontario MCM, where it becomes available for future reference. John indicated that Christian is making his data freely available online and has offered to share all his data with the Ottawa Chapter, as he did previously with the 1000 Islands Chapter when he documented the Gaskin.

Dennis asks if we could take out a license ourselves, if we want to support this project. Would need to look at requirements – who needs to be physically present? John said this might be tricky, as he believes Christian has already completed most of the work. Who would produce the report?

Gerry asks if Christian is concerned about releasing information, ie would the province restrict access to the report?

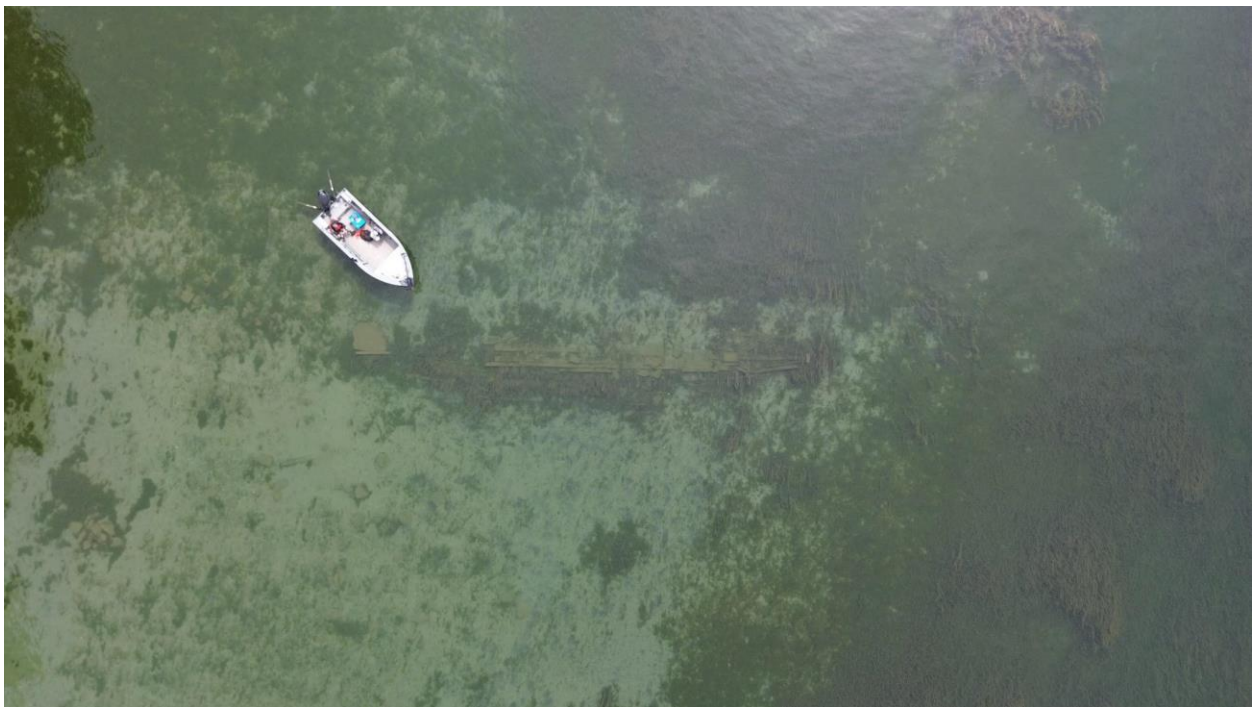
9. Summerstown Wreck

In August John spoke with Jason Swerdfeger who had reached out to Parks Canada regarding a wreck near Summerstown, Ontario, in shallow water just off Little Hog Island.

Jason would like to know more about this wreck and wants to know what the proper process is for reporting it. The wreck appears to be quite shallow and so is likely not a known dive site.

Andy says Bob Dumont who owned “Bob’s Salvage” might know about it. Andy will see what he can find out.

Nancy says there was a guy who was taking aerial photos of the Seaway – should see if he has any aerial images. Should ask the province if anyone has previously reported this wreck. Could also check the wreck reports in the archives (LAC).



Aerial view of Summerstown wreck supplied by Jason Swerdfeger.

10. “Beyond the Edge” with Barry Edgington

Barry presented an impressive selection of double hose regulators, including models by Dacor, Dive Air (with J-valve on regulator), and US Divers, as well as some vintage high-volume masks.



Vintage double hose regulators and high-volume masks from Barry's collection.



"Beyond the Edge" with Barry Edgington.

11. New Business and Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 20:05

Book Table

The following books were given away:

- *Adventures of a Sea Hunter* (2004), by James Delgado
- *Submerged: Adventures of America's Most Elite Underwater Archaeology Team* (2002), by Dan Lenihan (2 copies)
- *Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria* (2001), by Kevin F. McMurray
- *Dark Descent: Diving and the Deadly Allure of the Empress of Ireland* (2004), by Kevin F. McMurray
- *Raising the Dead: A True Story of Death and Survival* (2008)