

SOS MEETING MINUTES

FEB 18, 2026

19:04 Call to order, eight members in attendance.

Adopted meeting minutes from September 2025, motioned by Jim Dunfield, seconded by Barry Edgington, and carried by all.

Related News and Events

A new wreck has been found in Lake Ontario: A remarkably well-preserved, potentially 200-year-old shipwreck was discovered in November 2025 by a Canadian dive team at a depth of 100 meters near Toronto. The vessel is upright with masts still standing, featuring rare, intact 19th-century construction, including a deck cabin, railing, and rope-rigging.

Kayla Martin is running a photogrammetry course in St. Catharines next month, enabling 3D scans of wrecks to be done easily.

The SOS AGM was held in Prescott last November; John has previously shared his notes from the meeting.

Financial Report

Denis reported that there has been little financial activity. Our current balance remains around \$6,400. It should be noted that last year Scuba Fanatics raised more than \$800, making them our largest fund raiser. **Thanks to Tim and Melissa.**

2025 Recap

In 2025 the Ottawa chapter held three meetings and maintained buoys at four sites: Fred Mercur, Eastcliffe Hall, Belly Dumper, and the Power House. Thanks to Seaway Valley Divers, Ron Macdonald and Sylvain Marcotte for their support with our moorings.

French and English versions of the Prescott Scuba Park map were printed by Lowe Martin free of charge and have been distributed within our region, primarily to dive shops. **Thank you Lowe Martin.**

The new diver bench at the Prescott Scuba Park was officially opened in June 2025, with members of our chapter and officials from the Town of Prescott in attendance. Jim Dunfield did a considerable amount of work designing the bench and getting it fabricated. **Thanks to Jim and the Town of Prescott.**

New Items

John presented a few options for T-shirts and has committed to getting some quotes for a limited run.

Christopher produced and distributed drafts of pamphlets for Lock 23 (Morrisburg) and Wee Hawk / Conestoga (Cardinal). These were done with the same template as the Prescott Scuba Park pamphlet, so there is a focus on helping the diver navigate the site as well as site history. The hope is to have these finalized, translated and distributed this spring.

Suggestions to post pamphlets produced here to our website, however it does not seem to be possible to download any pamphlets from the corporate site. Can we take this up with Corporate?

John was approached by the 1000 Islands chapter regarding the merging of our chapters. A discussion ensued resulting in a consensus to turn down this offer, as members felt we would lose our distinct chapter identity and independence if merged. This led to a discussion of our mandate. What is our purpose, and what are we doing to fulfill this? Most of the wrecks in our area have already been surveyed, and we are no longer offering NAS courses. We agreed that our Ottawa Chapter still retains value as a non-partisan organization promoting the diving community and preserving our wrecks.

There was a suggestion from Nancy (and others) to have more promotional events in conjunction with things such as heritage days.

There was a suggestion of more public recognition for those who have supported us, to increase our visibility and encourage support for our chapter. Challenge coins, certificates, T-shirts and so on.

Should we revisit the write-ups on our donation boxes to ensure that they reflect our values?

Beyond the Edge

From his museum, Barry brought in some breathing equipment from the 1940s intended for mining from the Survivair company (a subsidiary of US Divers).

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 8:50.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting.

