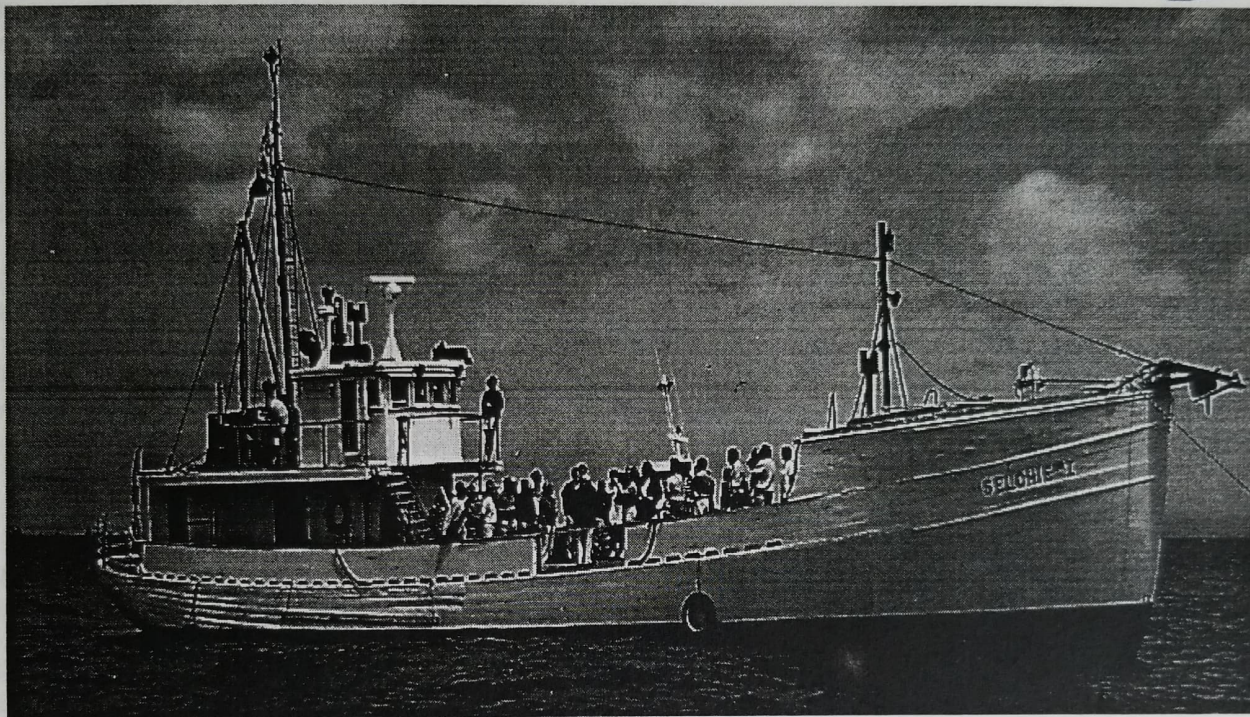


Bottomtime:

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council



THIS ISSUE FEATURES: SOUTH SHORE of NOVA SCOTIA



The Official Dedication of the Lunenburg Marine Park, Lunenburg Bay, Nova Scotia.

Diving along the South Shore of Nova Scotia

by Rick Welsford

Nova Scotia has been my home for twenty years now which is longer than I have lived anywhere else in the world. (Does that make me a Nova Scotian yet?) In those twenty years, I have had the opportunity to visit most communities along the South Shore, from Halifax to Yarmouth. One year, I spent so many nights at the Red Cap Motel in Middle-West Pubnico, it would have been cheaper to buy a house! It was during this time that I also had the opportunity to dive in most of these places. Most of this diving was in support of research projects for Fisheries and Oceans Canada or Dalhousie University, but often we would see something during a survey that was worth going back for a second time.

In the late 70's and early 80's, the near-shore was covered in kelp around the Pubnicos. The lobsters were plentiful and commonly observed walking freely among the holdfasts. This was also the site of Nova Scotia's only underwater human

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habitat. At Clark's Harbour, specifically Green Island, the kelp was still thick and if you looked really hard, you would find huge green sea urchins feeding in and among the rocks. By the time you reached Mc Nutts Island in the mouth of the inlet to Shelburne Harbour, the kelp was a rare sight. As far as you could see in any direction, if there was rock bottom, there were green sea urchins consuming everything they could find. It was at Mc Nutts that we began to notice rarely documented large numbers of newly settled juvenile lobsters of less than an inch long. One Fisheries scientist was so sceptical of our observations he suggested that we should have slipped a few into our glove and returned them to Halifax for proof of our discovery! Wonder what the Fisheries officer would have thought about that trick?

Continuing along the Coast to Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, the sea urchins persevered, the kelp was not to be found and theories were put forward that this was the cause of the lower lobster catches. We also met a lobster fisherman who felt that we were the cause of the lower lobster catches. As he explained to the judge six months later, he felt running over the two divers swimming on the surface and knocking the third from the 16 foot Zodiac with his Cape boat was justified because he thought he was protecting the fishery.

In Terrance Bay, the urchins ruled, the kelp was in decline, and we were working on new techniques to control these "pests of the ocean." Divers using pumps spread quicklime over the urchin beds California style. The technique worked but during the following year as large scale battle plans were being made to take on the urchins on a large scale, they all disappeared unexpectedly owing to a micro-organism infection. The kelp returned the following year.

The point is that in a small distance of a hundred miles the ecosystem varies dramatically. And as soon as you think you have seen it all, it changes. This year, the urchins died off again along parts of the South Shore, and the ecosystem will change again. One theory I've heard lately was that it was the SAGUENAY's fault! Come visit and see for yourself. Things are always changing. Unlike twenty years ago, there now are charterboats, shore facilities and marine parks available to support the diving tourist and the diving is fantastic.

SCUBA Accident Management Workshop

by Austin Baird

As part of the Official Dedication of the Lunenburg Marine Park in June, a SCUBA Accident Management workshop was incorporated into the weekend schedule. Held at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic on Saturday morning, a gathering of forty interested and professional persons attended this event. With a fatality during a dive in Lunenburg Bay just two weeks prior to the seminar, the overall atmosphere at the event was deeply emotional and of professional concern for effective treatment and evacuation of any future incidents. In attendance at the event were guest speakers, Jim Perkins, Victoria General Hospital Hyperbaric Unit and Sgt. Jim McCluskey, Rescue Co-ordination Centre, additionally representatives from the Emergency Departments of Fisherman's Memorial Hospital, Lunenburg; South Shore Regional Hospital, Bridgewater; Lunenburg Fire Department and Lunenburg County Ground Search & Rescue, as well as local charter boat operators, divemasters, rescue divers, instructors and ambulance attendants. The event was co-ordinated by Dave Williams and Austin Baird.

The objective of the seminar was to establish a common contingency plan for any diving emergency at the Park. In dealing with a hyperbaric emergency in Nova Scotia, there is really only one destination, the Victoria General Hyperbaric Unit in Halifax. However, there are apparently several methods of arriving at that destination; which route is the most effective in treating a diving casualty? Access to several emergency response groups through telephone, cell phones, VHF can get out the call for help with possible response from fire departments, police, hospitals, helicopters and ambulance services. That source of help requested may not be the help which will give the "greatest" benefit to the diver while in transit to the Victoria General. As we progress in our diving training we were taught that one of the greatest hazards to safe diving is stress, particularly through task and equipment loading. This same stress loading can occur when presented with having to make the right decisions while caring for and evacuating a distressed diver. Charter boat operators, rescue divers, divemasters,

Bottomtime: *The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council* (ISBN 1100-2050) is published six times annually. Members of the Council are encouraged to submit to the editor photos (including captions) and articles of interest to the general membership. Deadline for submissions is the 1st. of every other month beginning January. Submissions, address corrections, comments or general suggestions should be send in writing to:

The Editor

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P.O. Box 3010 South

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



instructors and dive buddies can all find themselves rapidly over loaded when presented with the complexity of care and arranging evacuation at the same time. The obvious solution is to hand over the task of organising the most effective method to experts in that field. The responder should concentrate on the ABC's of First Aid to offer the greatest chance of complete recovery without residual & permanent damage to the casualty. The Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Halifax is just that sort of authority, once contacted, a file is opened and remains open until the case is officially closed. RCC can be contacted through Coast Guard Radio, channel 16; Cellular *16; or by phone 1-800-565-1582 24 hours a day. The following clear statements should follow:

This is a SCUBA Diving Emergency”;

and then provide

***Location;**

***Description of vessel;**

***Diver on surface or missing;**

***Conscious or unconscious;**

***What is the diver doing now;**

***When did the symptoms appear;**

***Are other divers OK;**

***What was the dive profile.**

This information should also be written down and accompany the diver. As they say in legal circles, “if it is not documented, it never happened”.

In Lunenburg County, our particular geographic location requires a drive of approximately one hour to arrive at the Victoria General. A drive of this duration could result in further complications without the benefits of oxygen and an intravenous supply. It is also generally accepted that the advantages of air evacuation would not be beneficial in terms of time lost meeting the helicopter when weighed against the length of the drive, however this could be an acceptable method should the diver be located on a stranded vessel or island. For Lunenburg County, the preferred response avenue was decidedly to contact RCC who could arrange for ambulance transportation to one of the hospitals nearest to the casualty. The emergency departments at the hospitals in Lunenburg County are now prepared to perform a quick assessment of vitals, start an intravenous supply and provide sufficient oxygen to last the ambulance drive to the Victoria General Hospital. At the Victoria General, the hyperbaric department can now be ready to receive the casualty with baseline vital signs and a history of the incident already passed along.

The benefit of oxygen and intravenous treatment for diving casualties is indisputable. Some near-misses were reported this year from divers in Nova Scotia who had oxygen equipment and the good common sense to use it following omitted decompression incidents on challenging dives. It is worth mentioning that as breathing gases other than air become available, a greater awareness of more technical diving equipment and procedures will grow among Nova Scotia divers. Consequently, there will be a more important need for divers to talk about what it is they are doing and what they intend to do when things go wrong. At the SCUBA Accident Management Seminar, divers and responders were able to discuss concerns and establish a plan of evacuation for our particular location and resources.

Schooner Tours and Salty Dogs Dive Vacations

by David Wilkie

Schooner Tours and Salty Dogs Dive Vacations offers dive excursions along Nova Scotia's South Shore. Anchored by the Lunenburg Marine Park's HMCS SAGUENAY, optimal diving exposures include a seal colony, a wall dive, caves and reefs.

The dive Boat is a 35 foot cabin cruiser with a flying bridge that offers magnificent viewing of the islands and rustic shorelines separated by narrow channels and passageways which have captured to this day the interests of rum runners and drug traffickers. Features aboard include transom/swim platform entry, heated cabin, licensed bar, fridge, stove, stereo, head and a qualified PADI instructor. Additional options to diving include deep sea fishing, shark fishing, island lobster dinner cruises and overnight accommodations. Schooner tours is licensed to operate in the Lunenburg Marine Park.

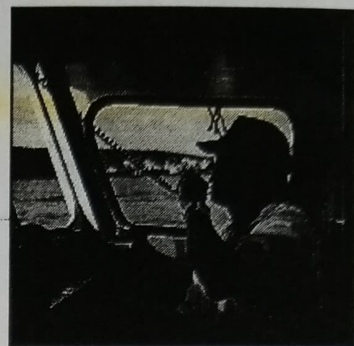
They offer a complete package of air, airport pick-up, accommodations, meals and diving, or the daily rate or party boat charge whichever fits your fancy. The one thing that you can count on is that they are the original and longest operating touring company in Lunenburg and that longevity has been based on a family operation and family hospitality. For additional information contact “dad” Dave Wilkie 902 543 9317, “son” Sean Wilkie (PADI Inst.) 902 543 8971, or “son” Todd Wilkie (Salty Dog's) 1 519 756 8564.



Ocean Adventure and Lamb and Lobster B&B

by Bill Flower

Offering diving and fishing charters aboard the vessel "Seabird." Your captain, a former professional diver and diver medical technician with over 15 years experience and with considerable knowledge of local waters, can offer the best diving sites available in the Lunenburg Area: The HMCS SAGUENAY, Bill's Bluff, Ovens Park and seal diving. From the basic to the advanced, all will enjoy! The dive boat, a 35 foot fibreglass Cape Islander, is a stable platform with good entry and exit points. All trips include a beautiful view of Blue Rocks and historic Lunenburg Harbour. "Seabird" is licensed to operate in the Lunenburg Marine Park.



Billy Flower and Seabird

For divers requiring accommodation, there is a farm B&B and Breakfast. Take a walk in the pasture while the sheep graze and enjoy a beautiful view of Lunenburg Bay, or watch a Border Collie in action. 902 634 4833.

Deep Diving

by Austin Baird

Well folks, it seems that deep diving is here. In actual fact, deep diving in SCUBA has been around in a few isolated groups of Nova Scotia divers for years, so what has changed? The main thing is that now we have the emergence of diving agencies and training programs which condone rather than condemn the activity. In the past, divers and instructors were in a perplexing situation of "do as I say not as I do". This ultimately resulted in people not talking about the equipment and redundancy required to effectively minimize the risks on deeper dives, consequently many poorly informed divers were tempted to enter into this arena without training or preparation and using traditional and middle of the road, recreational diving equipment. Two diving agencies which are arising in this area at phenomenal growth rates are Technical Diving International (TDI) and the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD), their success bears witness to the attraction and continuing quest for adventure felt by a large number of experienced divers. The keyword is experienced, a relative term to recent frequency. Most recreational divers would be astounded as to just how much attention to detail, preparation and planning their fellow divers are putting into these deeper dives.

Equipment for conducting deeper dives requires the utmost scrutiny. Too much equipment can be equally as devastating as not enough. Adding equipment for the sake of appearing "Tekkish" can result in severe stress loading, while too little can result in inadequate redundancy. During his record breaking "air" dive to 452 feet, Brett Gilliam donned only a single tank and regulator, however, most of us would never find the time, safety divers and physiological mechanisms which he had in resources to complete the 300+ preparation dives. However, most deep divers will agree that when it comes to breathing gases, the more the better. Dealing with doubles, ponies or stage decompression rigs requires practice and training. Preferably this training will come from a recognized training agency which has standards for deep diving. As in all diving training, you should be confident that the reputation and experience of the instructor who you select will provide you with the skills to deal with real life emergencies. If you are attracted to deeper diving, take the time to get informed, ask around, consider doing a sanctioned course and be prepared to start doing a lot of diving and dive preparation. *Austin Baird provides equipment sales and instruction through "3" Dolphins Dive Shop, Bridgewater, 902 543 8822, 902 543 (fax), abaird@fox.nstn.ca*

Joe's Dive Shop

by Joanne Shadbolt

Diving is Atlantic Canada's fastest growing recreational industry offering hundreds of diveable shipwrecks along the coastline and some of the most virgin naturalist diving in the world. It's no wonder the Maritime Provinces are suddenly being talked about and most recently being discovered. Jo's Dive Shop in Nova Scotia has 3 locations along the South Shore to serve you; Lunenburg, Liverpool and Yarmouth. Jo's is a PADI Five Star organization bringing you quality air and professional service in equipment and instruction. They follow a professional code of ethics, get involved in community service and is licensed to operate in the Lunenburg Marine Park.

Jo's Dive shop specializes in PADI Instruction from basic openwater to instruction, including specialties (wreck, deep, boat, etc.) also sales, rentals, air, dive club, and charter service. They offer exciting dive excursions on a custom 42 ft. dive boat, complete with amenities, to exciting destinations such as the Lunenburg Marine Park and the SAGUENAY, seal and wall dives, to name a few. They will also direct you to other great diving areas in the Liverpool area. Jo's offers the best lines of equipment in the SCUBA industry. They are proud of their organization and the people in it and look forward to welcoming you as a member or visiting patron. For further information, call 902 634 3443, 902 634 9466 (fax) or 1 800 JO DIVE 1.



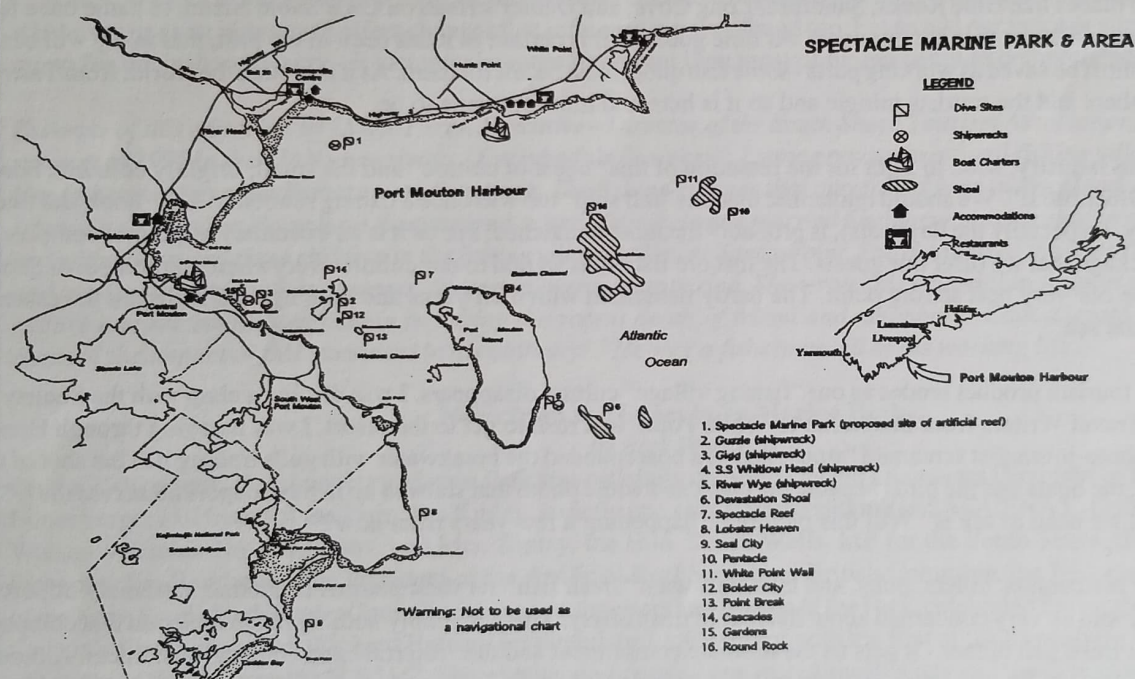
Short of Breath on the South Shore

by Rick Welsford

Little known to diving visitors along the South Shore of Nova Scotia, the volunteer fire departments of both the Towns of Shelburne and Liverpool have been known to refill SCUBA cylinders at competitive rates. Both departments have large air banks, state-of-the-art compressors, and properly trained technicians. These organisations are volunteer and therefore have slightly different procedures when handling SCUBA diving requests. For example, do not call them on their 24 hour emergency telephone number requesting assistance. Usually, someone can be found at the station in the evenings, failing that, someone in Town knows or is related to someone who is a fireman, and can get in touch with the refill technician. Firemen are volunteers and often have day jobs (and families) as priorities so try to make your request convenient to them. Another thing, you make sure your cylinders are properly inspected up to date (VIP and Hydro) before requesting the refill and you must wait in line while they refill their own cylinders first. The price they charge is a donation to the department and you should be grateful for the favour they provide. If you can live with these differences in procedures, you will save yourself a long drive and the price of the fuel. My experience is that you will probably meet a new friend, maybe a diver, and maybe learn of a previously unknown secret dive site.

Spectacle Marine Park, Port Mouton

by Donna Hatt



Offering divers a chance to go beneath the saltwater surface to discover a different world—one inhabited not only by marine life, but also by the remains of shipwrecked vessels. Located in Port Mouton Harbour, Port Mouton, Queens County, there are 16 dive sites awaiting your exploration!

The sites give you a broad view of what can be found in the great Atlantic Ocean. The shipwrecks date back to 1782 while other sites allow you to swim with seals and observe lobster beds. The Summerville Beach site is the proposed home of a new artificial reef-wreck. Venture around incredible boulders, reefs and underwater gardens all found within the Spectacle Marine Park and Area. For overnight guests there are numerous Ocean Front Cottages and Resorts, and Bed and Breakfasts to choose from. Be sure to try the fresh seafood dishes served up with plenty of hospitality. For complete visitor information, contact the Queens County Tourism Department toll-free at 1-800-655 5741.

Note: As this newsletter was going to print, the Queens County Artificial Reef Society have completed the purchase of the Vessel-Matthew Atlantic for their artificial reef project. It is expected that the ship will be cleaned and prepared during the winter and scuttled in the late Spring.



The Demise of the Inshore Fishery Threatens Nova Scotia Tourism

by Lynne Perry

This July I had the fun task of driving a television crew from Iceland around Lunenburg County for the day. They wanted a feel of what Nova Scotia has to offer visitors for a special television program on the province to be aired in Iceland this winter. As the day progressed it became apparent to me that they wanted scenic little nooks and crannies that show our lifestyle, so I meandered along the narrow dirt roads of Stonehurst and found exactly what they were looking for. A little hidden jetty with its slipway and a brightly coloured boat in the fisherman's backyard proved to be the photogenic gem of the day.

As I was sitting in the van, I was reminded of a time a couple of years earlier, when a photographer with National Geographic demonstrated a similar excitement of his finds along the shore for a hard cover edition called "Canada's Incredible Coasts." I remember the "TV Tokyo" crew that went lobstering out of Lockeport and how different that was from what I saw on the CBC news on August 3/95 from Shediac, N.B. The thrill of pulling real lobster traps from the water and wondering whether they are "skunked" or not, far exceeds the "tourist trap" with the lobsters' claws banded together that got pulled out of the water on that clip!

We have had a real inshore fishing industry that has been sustainable along our Atlantic Coast for nearly five hundred years. It is in a perilous condition but it is both salvageable and can be sustainable again provided we all take great care to learn from the mistakes of the last few years. From Advocate to Cheticamp, Canso, Digby and Clark's Harbour - all around the Province, even Peggy's Cove, we have examples of a lifestyle in harmony with the sea. Many of our visitors explore our shoreline, and find those special places like Blue Rocks, Sandford, Long Cove, and Daniel's Head on Cape Sable Island, to name but a few of the dozens of tiny villages that dot our coast. As time goes on, it is certain as it has been in the past, that many will cease to exist but some must be saved as working ports - some fish quota must be left for them. As it is around the world, from Taiwan to Greece, the fishers and the tourists mingle and so it is here and must continue to be.

We, in the tourism industry, need to fight for the retention of this "coast of culture" and the small, brightly coloured boats, like we did for "Bluenose II". We should remember that this "tall ship" too was once a fishing schooner. The "hook and line", small boat fishery, (especially the dayboats), is probably the most threatened. For us it is an extremely important component in the overall package that we offer our guests. The inshore fishery is so tied to our culture everywhere in rural Nova Scotia that it just may be our very best selling point. The hardy fishermen with their yarns and their age old skills are the essence of the "spirit of the sea."

The value of our tourism product erodes as our "fishing village" culture disappears. I was driving a chap with the Society of North America Travel Writers from Shelburne to White Point. In a rush to get to the resort, I was hurrying through Hunt's Point when the photo-journalist screamed "stop", just as a boat rounded the breakwater with gulls trailing it. That shot of the beach, the wharf, the boats and the birds became the black and white photo that showed up in newspapers all across the USA. The big question we need to ask is "Will this picture be happening a few years from now?"

The fact that our restaurants, diners, pubs, and take-outs want "fresh fish" for their patrons is another extremely important reason that we should be very concerned about the loss of this fishery. There is simply nothing in Nova Scotia that compares with an excellent fresh fish dinner - it gets us the ultimate compliment and the "referral" and "repeat" customers. Although the newer aquaculture industry comes up with mussels, salmon and other species, there is still the expectation that here in Nova Scotia one can get fresh haddock, halibut, sole and cod as well as lobster, clams and scallops.

Last autumn, I was told by a waitress in a restaurant in Carbonear, Newfoundland: "We have everything on the menu but codfish and when we get the new ones printed, we won't be putting it on at all." I bought a book in Nfld. entitled "Daddy, What's a codfish?" When you go to the outports and see the bows of the empty boats pointing to sea but no people and no activity it sure gives you a sickening feeling in the pit of your stomach. It is definitely not the type of impression we wish to leave with our guests.

It is true that our Nova Scotia fishery is in trouble but our tourism industry is not yet in trouble because of the crisis in the fishery; however, we in tourism have done little to express our concerns. These two industries are intertwined in Nova Scotia and the demise of one may threaten the future of the other.

As we move towards a "back to nature product" and ecotourism ways, we would do well as an industry to endorse sustainable practices all around us - be they in our own operations, in the ocean that surrounds us, in the forests and woodlands as well as on the farms. The tourist is first and foremost a person and if we do what is right for people then we will support what is



right for our residents and visitors alike. Although change is inevitable, it just may be true that the way it was is better than the way it is. Our advances in technology and equipment have allowed for the effective destruction of massive fish stocks and fish habitat and a change backwards may be necessary. As an industry, we need to advise those who are changing the rules that we are also stakeholders and are subject to the negative impact of closures in the inshore fishery.

In the hospitality industry, let us be ever cognisant that the infrastructure that is in place when the visitor arrives, is here because that operation is part of the community during the entire year. Small business is dependant on local support to remain in existence. It is viable with both resident and visitor support. This is where the fishermen and the fish plant workers and their families come in - they put millions of dollars annually into the local economy and without this money, restaurants, service stations and shops could not "make a go of it". Let us also remember that the people who work in the fishing industry travel around this province on daytrips, camping trips and other kinds of vacations, that add to our overall sales. Tourism is not a replacement industry for the fishing industry, tourism in Atlantic Canada is actually dependent, to a large extent, upon the fishing industry. The entire culture of the area is tied to the sea and the people who live by the sea and from the sea. For decades our industry has been built around this reality, with the key word being "reality". As tourism operators, we need to be part of the "reality check" and as small business owners we need to support other small business owners - our local fishermen.

More people work in the hospitality industry in Nova Scotia than in any other industry. As a "people" industry we touch all other industries and every aspect of Nova Scotia culture. Last year (1994), it is estimated that travellers spent nearly nine hundred million dollars in this province, an infusion of money that has had a positive economic impact upon the entire province. We live in changing times but we have not yet ceased to depend upon each other. Since more changes are pending, it behoves us as an industry to effect changes that influence our livelihood too. Let us add our voice in support of a sustainable quota for the inshore fishery - it just may be more important than most of us can begin to comprehend.

Excerpts of this editorial, by Lynne Perry, Executive - Director of the South Shore Tourism Association, were printed in the summer of 1995 in the TIANS newsletter "Everybody's Business". Lynne grew up in a small fishing village near Lockeport. Her father and her grandfathers were fishermen. The fishing villages that they fished from in Rockland, East Side of Ragged Islands and Pleasant Point have disappeared in her lifetime. Lynne married Shelburne service station owner, Wayne Perry and with him raised three children in the fishing village of Lower Sandy Point. She recognised the importance of both fishery and tourism dollars to their business, for over a twenty year period. She wrote this editorial in support of the fishing village culture and the small boat fishery following the recent death of friend and neighbour, Capt. Gerald Hemeon, when she realised the impact of this statement in his obituary: "He was a fisherman all of his working life"

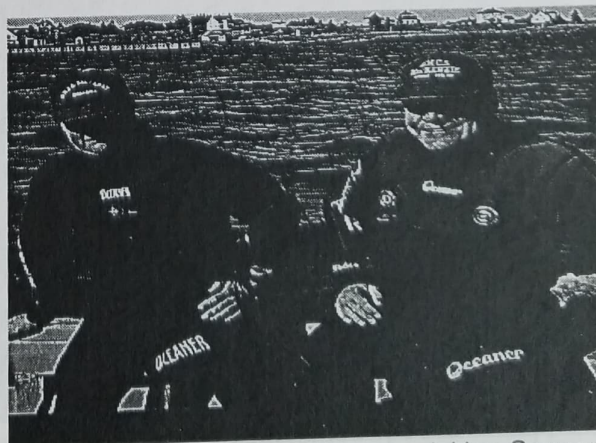
News from the Lunenburg Marine Park...

by Rick Welsford

On the 25th of June, the Lunenburg Marine Park was officially dedicated by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, fellow Lunenburger and friend of the Park, Jim Kinley; exactly one year after the sinking of SAGUENAY. Onboard Mike and Gael Watson's Selchie No. 1, Lt. Gov. and Mrs. Kinley, the Hon. Derek Wells, MP for the South Shore, the Hon. Minister of Fisheries, Jim Barkhouse, the President of the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia, the Past and Present Presidents of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council with many supporters and friends of the Park, celebrated the establishment of Atlantic Canada's first marine park. Richard Hatcher presented the Lt. Governor with the first of the Lunenburg Marine Park posters as a token of thanks from the N.S.U.C. The weather co-operated one more time that day and the dive charterboats were lined up for mooring space. After the ceremony, the new onboard LaHave Bakery was christened and the food was enjoyed by all.

Over the whole anniversary week-end, work-shops and seminars were held as part of either the NSUC Annual Meeting program or as part of the SCUBA Accident Management and Dive Charterboat program. Speakers included Dr. David Scarratt, Mr. Ralph Tomilson, Mr. Robert Ogilvie, Capt. Hugh Plant, Mr. Jim Perkins from the VG and Mr. Mark Hemsworth of PADI AWARE Program. Squeezed in between were night dives to the SAGUENAY, a midnight seafood chowder reception at the Knot Pub and a supper at the aquarium of the Fisheries Museum of the North Atlantic.

Presentations were made to Mr. Peter Kinley for his assistance to the South Shore Marine Park Society and to Mr. Jay Straith



Jay Straith and Dave "doc" Roberts visiting Saguenay



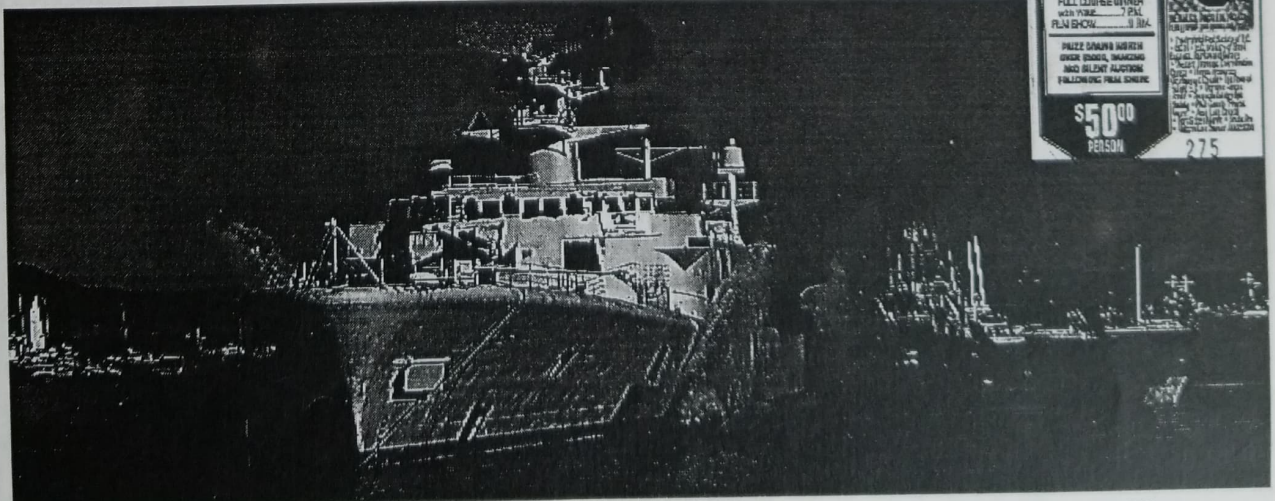
who had provided both technical assistance and "Doc" ensuring the environmentally safe scuttling of the ship. The presentations were made by Mrs. Lila O'Conner, MLA for Lunenburg, who continues to demonstrate her support for the marine park concept. The N.S.U.C kindly scheduled their annual meeting to be held in Lunenburg attracting a wider audience and generally showing support for the goals of the Park.

Those of you who visited us both this summer and last immediately noticed the different orientation of the SAGUENAY. Last summer you could stand on the horizontal surfaces such as the weather deck, the helicopter hanger or the flag deck; this summer you slid right off. She lies at about a 45 degree angle on her starboard side, "just the way she was suppose to" as our sinking consultants say. She has pushed down into the sand and lies on hard bottom in roughly 110 feet of water at the keel. We will be watching for further movement over onto her side although the bets in Lunenburg favour that she has rested completely now and the trench around her will fill in and into the cut-outs along her sides.

You will also have noticed the new growth of algae, greens and browns, mostly located on the superstructure and the hanger areas. A night dive in late June revealed nudibranchs and small crustaceans in numbers rarely seen during the day. With this new habitat, and the increase in small invertebrates, the schools of fish moved in for the summer. On the last Sunday in September, large pollock circled the ship like barracudas, while schools of herring darted in and out of the protective ship's structure. The big surprise was the hundreds of juvenile cod feeding on the deck surfaces, not the least intimidated by divers. By late November the heli-deck was covered in juvenile scallops, but don't touch!

Members of the South Shore Marine Park Society and the Park have been participating in the N.S. Parks and Protected Areas public meetings, the White Point Beach Ecotourism seminars, the TIANS Ecotourism Foundation meetings and a recent Federal and Provincial Parks Council annual meeting with the goal of establishing more marine parks in the Province. When asked, members have attended meetings hosted by other communities investigating marine park development in their areas. Communities throughout Nova Scotia have approached us and some, such as Queens County, are very close to finalising plans for a combination artificial reef and marine park project. Special thanks are offered to both the South Shore Tourism Association and the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) for their unwavering support of the marine park concept and assistance in the promotion of our Park. Establishing marine parks and protected areas have important long-term economic benefits beyond recreation and tourism, yet Government(s) continues to postpone serious research in these complicated times.

The Park was represented at the scuttling of the HMCS MacKenzie, a Canadian destroyer escort, nearby to the Town of Sidney, British Columbia in September. The sinking went as planned and was the focal point of a whole week-end of events hosted by the Town. At a \$50 a plate reception the evening before, the Hon. Minister of National Revenue, David Anderson, proclaimed that this was a worthwhile use of these vessels, that he supported the ongoing BC plans to sink more, and recognised the efforts of both the artificial reef societies of BC and Nova Scotia. *Sounds like an invitation to talk more, Dave...*



HMCS MacKenzie being scuttled as an artificial reef nearby to Sidney, B.C. in September 1995,

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Please notify the NSUC of any errors or omissions.

As we make plans to close at the end of November and make way for the lobster fishermen in Lunenburg Bay, the Park has concluded a co-operation agreement with the Professional Association of Dive Operators (PADO) in Barbados, W.I. Yes, Barbados! They are interested in artificial reef-wrecks Lunenburg-style and we are interested in their access to the diving market world-wide. Two parks, one in the south and one in the north, promoted together are likely to get wider promotion and coverage by the diving media. And for those of you who have aquatically challenged friends, Barbados operates a Canadian built, Atlantis 40 passenger tourist submarine. That's an awesome experience.

The Park finally has a small home at the post office. You can reach us at Box 533, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada BOJ 2E0 or on the internet (saguenay@fox.nstn.ca). Thanks to Grant MacLeod, we have a portion of his Nova Scotia Diving web site: <http://cfn.cs.dal.ca/Recreation/EastCoastDive/Ns.html> Information on travelling to and staying in Lunenburg can be obtained from the South Shore Tourism Association at 902 624 6466. Or by sending an addressed envelope to be used as the mailing label and a ten dollar donation to the Park post office box; you will receive the information and a Park poster by return mail (Fall 1995) Happy and Safe Diving, and Merry Christmas!

President's Report

by Richard Hatcher

It's been a very busy year at the NSUC, especially since our Annual General Meeting in June. Your new Board of Directors have undertaken a number of initiatives and will continue to do so throughout the balance of this year and into 1996.

One such initiative is the unanimous agreement to improve the quality of our official newsletter, "Bottomtime." Beginning with this issue each area director will take turns working with the editor to feature dive related topics pertaining to their specific region of the Province. This issue will feature the South Shore of Nova Scotia and our February/ March issue will be dedicated to the the promotion of diving in Cape Breton. We will also be upgrading the quality of the publication. Your feedback both positive and negative will be very much appreciated.

I would like to hear from anyone who has a comment, concern or would simply like to express a viewpoint. We also welcome articles written by our members that would like us to consider for publication. If you would like to contact me you may do so at home at 1 902 475 1187 or writing me c/o the Underwater Council. You may also E-mail me at rhatcher@ips.ca.

Notes:

The next NSUC Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Sydney, Cape Breton on the 13th of January, 1996. The public is welcome to attend and specific details may be obtained from the Executive Director.

The Lunenburg Marine Park poster produced with the assistance of the NSUC and the Nova Scotia Recreation Commission is available from most Nova Scotia Dive Shops or by sending a self-addressed envelope (which is used as the mailing label) and a \$10 donation, to the Lunenburg Marine Park, P.O. Box 533, Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0. The funds are applied to the ship's scuttling expenses or the upgrade of the mooring buoys on the Park site in the Spring.



Nova Scotia Underwater Council Since 1971

- To be a representative body for the SCUBA diving community so as to preserve, support and promote diving and diver safety in the Province.
- To ensure training programs are given to a recognized level of quality, to foster and encourage the safe handling and usage of all approved types of equipment used in the sport of SCUBA diving.
- To make available to all members information concerning safety, medical, technical and research data concerning the sport of SCUBA diving and SCUBA diving equipment.
- To cooperate and participate with the Provincial Government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreation activity.

Board of Directors and Executive 1995-96:

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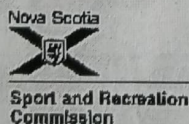
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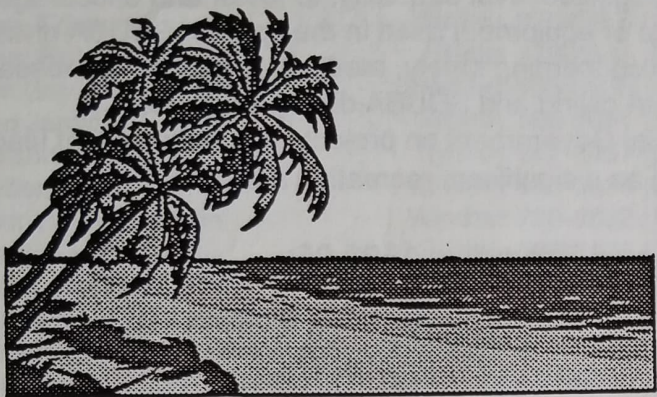
This issue of **Bottomtime**: *The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council* was published with financial support and services provided by the following organizations:



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DIVE SITES

The NSUC is now in the process of producing its latest guide to diving in Nova Scotia, and we would like your help. If you have a favorite spot to go diving, we would like to hear about it.

Please remember to include the local name of the site, directions how to get there, depths, what there is to see, any safety concerns, and if it is a wreck, a couple lines about its history. We are also looking for good photographs

of dive sites, land or underwater.

For more information or to write an article, write to:

DWAYNE T. MCLAUGHLIN

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