

Bottomtime:

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council



"Nova Scotia Underwater Council Under the Sea" Exhibit

The Council has been chosen as the official sponsor of the Halifax International Boat Show's special theme called "Under the Sea." To be promoted as "Nova Scotia Underwater Council Under the Sea," an annex of the main exhibit area of the Halifax exhibition grounds will be dedicated to all things under the sea. We plan to have a combination of salt water aquariums, touch tanks, shipwreck artifacts and underwater video presentations mixed with various commercial and not-for-profit exhibits. With a growing interest in eco-tourism, this is the perfect opportunity for Nova Scotia charter operators to promote their services to divers and nature lovers alike.

The show is held in Halifax in late February, a time when we are all ready to say farewell to our famous Nova Scotia winters. It has always been a challenge for dive groups to hold a dedicated trade show alone and it was felt that a show in association with a boat show may provide sufficient interest to get divers out and thinking of the up-coming season. Nova Scotian families who dive often have other complementary interests such as boating, fishing or sea kayaking. Perhaps there will be a Treasure Hunt like prize arranged to lure those 16,000 boat show participants into our special part of the sea.

Renting a small booth for your group or as a dive shop is very reasonable, not-for-profit organizations are welcome and given a discounted rate. For booth details, contact the Halifax Boat Show (506-658-0018). If you would like to volunteer your time, contact Michael Haynes (902 425 5450) at the NSUC office. Don't you think the time has come for an annual, mid-winter Atlantic Canada based diving show? If you have display ideas, let us know. Plan to be there with your family.



Last year's boat show (Photo courtesy of Sydney Jane Brittain)

Nova Scotia Underwater Council Under the Sea

Halifax International
Boat Show, NS
February 19-22, 1998

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Nova Scotia Hyperbaric Medicine Unit

health

BY JIM PERKINS

I am sure that you are all aware that the adult Halifax hospitals have merged into a consortium called the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre. The Hyperbaric Medicine Unit is still located at the Victoria General Hospital site with the best entrance located off University Avenue between the D.J. MacKenzie Building (path lab) and the Bethune Building (former nurses' residence). The 24 hour phone number is (902)473-2220. This is the locating service for the QEII; be sure to tell them if it is a dive related emergency for which you wish assistance. As you know, we maintain a 24 hour response consisting of a Hyperbaric Physician and two Respiratory Therapists trained in Hyperbaric Medicine.

The QEII Emergency Room is now located at the New Halifax Infirmary 1796 Summer Street, across from the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and by the CBC television building. You will be asked to go either to the Emergency Room or directly to the Hyperbaric Unit, by Hyperbaric Medicine staff. However; go to the Emergency Room at the New Halifax Infirmary if the situation prevented you from first speaking to someone from the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit.

Questions and comments of a non-emergency nature can be directed to (902) 473-7998 during normal business hours; 0800hr to 1600hr Monday through Thursday.



Heather Shaw, RRT (standing) and Sylvie Brassard, RRT (patient) are both on staff at the N.S. Hyperbaric Medicine Unit

Posturing an Injured Diver for Pre-hospital Care and Transport

BY JIM PERKINS

My colleagues and I are often asked to provide advice on the optimum posture to employ when an injured is being transported. Presently, there are two positions that are used; supine and coma. The position used is dictated by the condition of the injured diver.

The supine position has the injured diver lying flat on their back. This is a comfortable posture for an injured diver who is alert and conscious and is not nauseated or vomiting. If the diver requires artificial ventilation and/or CPR the supine position is preferred. However; if the diver begins to vomit or loses consciousness the coma (three quarter prone position) must immediately be employed.

In the coma position the diver is placed on their side with the top leg drawn up to lend stabilization. Also, a moderate head down incline will help direct any vomitus away from the airway. Again, the coma position is employed if the diver has a decreased level of consciousness or is vomiting. The rescuer may have to alternate the postures if the injured diver requires both airway clearing and resuscitation.

For a diver who is suspected of suffering a cerebral arterial gas embolism the convention was to posture the injured diver in the Modified Trendelenburg Position; head down and feet up. However; the use of this position has all but ceased because of the problems that it can cause:

1. The head down position causes the abdominal organs to rest against the underside of the diaphragm which makes spontaneous breathing difficult,

2. if the injured diver has recently eaten, the diver will be more apt to vomit or regurgitate in the head down posture, and

3. the head down and feet up position increases the blood flow to the brain. Although this increased blood flow increases the amount of oxygen reaching brain tissue, it also causes brain swelling and an abnormally high pressure within the head. This increased intracranial pressure can lead to complications.

Remember that airway control, adequate ventilation and blood circulation are the first priorities with these requirements determining the posturing choice for the injured diver during pre-hospital care and transport.

Survey results

membership

BY MICHAEL HAYNES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For the past several years, two volunteer-based associations have been professing to represent recreational divers in Nova Scotia: the NSUC, dating from the 1960s, and the new Nova Scotia Scuba Association.

In late 1996, the Board of Directors of the NSUC began discussions with the Board of the NSSA to determine whether any basis existed for maintaining two groups representing essentially the same community. As a result of the dialogue, and belief that the differences between the two bodies were actually quite minor, the NSUC Board decided to hold an open discussion on amalgamation at the Annual General Meeting held on June 7, 1997.

After considerable open debate, involving general members, guests, NSUC Board members, and NSSA Board members, the voting members present directed the Board to canvass the entire NSUC membership by means of a mailed survey. The purpose of this survey was to fully notify all members of the discussions underway and to determine their opinions on amalgamation.

In early July, the survey was mailed, with pre-addressed stamped envelopes to increase the response rate. The questionnaire was also provided to all new members who joined during the survey period, such as the NSSA Board. Responses were tabulated until August 30, 1997, and the survey gave the following choices:

1. The NSUC should disband and its members join the Scuba Assoc.
2. The Scuba Assoc. should disband and its members join the NSUC.
3. Both groups should disband and a new association should be formed.
4. The NSUC should remain unchanged.
5. Any decision on these matters should be made by the Board of the NSUC, and I will accept their choice.

Of the approximately 200 questionnaires distributed, 75 replies were received by August 30. Two other submissions were received in September, but these were not included in the results. (They were for Option 4 and 5.)

Option #1:	2/75	(2.67%)
Option #2:	11/75	(14.67%)
Option #3:	33/75	(44.0%)
Option #4:	4/75	(5.33%)
Option #5:	22/75	(29.33%)
Other:	3/75	(4.0%)

The results of the survey indicate that neither consensus nor a sufficiently distinct attitude of the membership on

amalgamation is present. Evidence is available, however, that continued discord between the two associations is what is most unpopular. Furthermore, several replies pointed out that the existing By-Laws of the NSUC contained a procedure for dissolution of the organization, and these members insisted that the rules be followed before any action was taken.

As the second component of the membership consultation, a concluding meeting was held on **September 20, 1997**. This had been indicated on the survey mailed in July and on a follow-up notice, and all NSUC members were asked to attend, both to evaluate the survey results, for further discussion on amalgamation, and to elect a new executive.

After substantial debate, the general membership chose to not further advance the process of dissolving the NSUC. Following the conclusion of that discussion, a Board was elected with a mandate to re-examine and improve the efforts of the Council working within the existing constitutional framework.

Conclusion: As a result of this process, several issues have been addressed:

1. The NSUC will not disband at this time.
2. A review of NSUC's activities, policies, and procedures will occur.
3. Further discussions on amalgamation with the NSSA will not take place.
4. The NSUC will not initiate confrontations with the NSSA.

The Board of the NSUC wishes to thank all members who participated during this long and demanding exercise. We are happy to have received so many views on this issue, and to be able to be confident that our future mandate accurately reflects the wishes of the general membership.

If you have further ideas on how the NSUC might better represent recreational divers in Nova Scotia, please let us know. This is an ideal time to examine new suggestions.

Important Dates:

DEMA, Anaheim, CA	January 28-31, 1998
NSUC Under the Sea	February 19-22, 1998
Halifax International Boat Show, Halifax, NS	
Underwater Canada, Toronto, ON	April 3-5, 1998
NSUC Annual Meeting, Sydney, NS	June, 1998
NSUC Treasure Hunt '98	Sept. 13, 1998
Crystal Crescent Beach, NS	

NSUC Treasure Hunt '97

special event

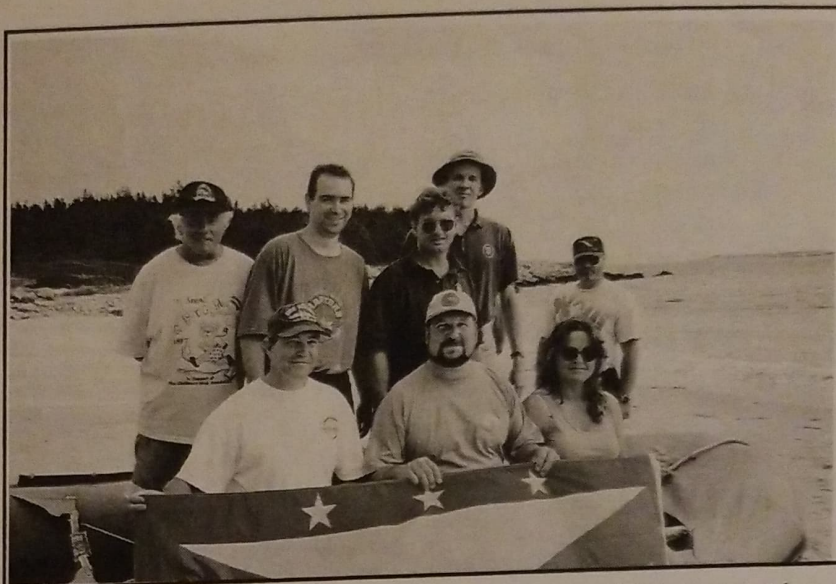
A NSUC tradition continues... Since 1980, one day late in the summer, schools of Nova Scotia SCUBA divers have migrated to Crystal Crescent Beach to participate in the longest continuous running event of it's kind. Friends meet old friends. Debates initiated in the year previously continue on as if uninterrupted. The event is well organized and safely run. The prize giving is generous. For the most part, that keenly competitive commercial rivalry between dive shops and their faithful customers is temporarily put aside so the day is enjoyed by all.

This year the NSUC Treasure Hunt was held on September 14. The seas were calm and the sky was grey. Registration was handled efficiently by volunteers despite the more threatening sky as the morning progressed. The sky finally opened up and late arriving participants who were considering sitting out the event were soaked. In ten minutes, the rain was over. The sky cleared. The dive master took charge and the hunt was on.

This year buddy teams were to return to the dive master a collected shell (without contents) of any kind, and most were successful in finding clam shells. A gourmet hot dog barbecue was served to all participants, their families and friends. Smaller prizes included hats, tank carriers and protectors, t-shirts, beach towels, safety lights, gear boxes, air fill cards, masks, snorkels, golf balls, books, bagels and pop; most donated by Maritime Marlin Travel, MT&T Mobility, O'Regan's National Leasing, Torpedo Ray's Scuba Adventure, Nautilus Aquatics and Hobbies, and SCUBA Tech. A

The grand prize this year was a trip for two to stay at the Renaissance Grenada Resort, on the spice island of the West Indies, Grenada.

The winner was Stephen Foster of Halifax.

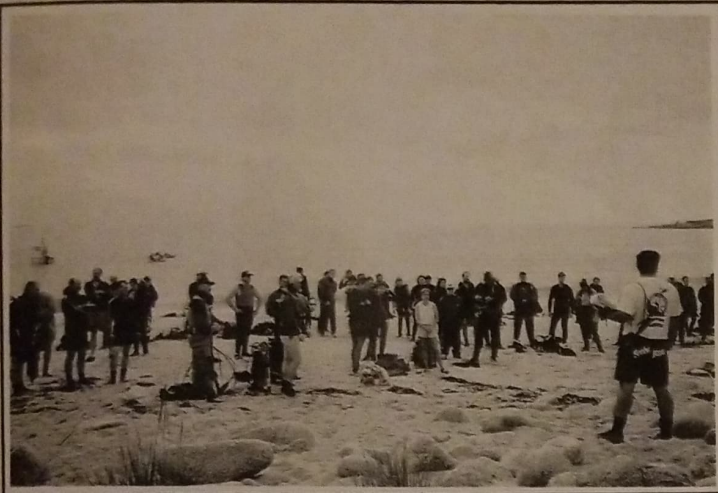


Grand Prize winner Stephen Foster (seated, front middle) poses with NSUC Board and friends

luncheon for six, including several pitchers of a favourite beverage, was donated by the Thirsty Duck. A propane barbecue was donated by the Nova Scotia Underwater Council.

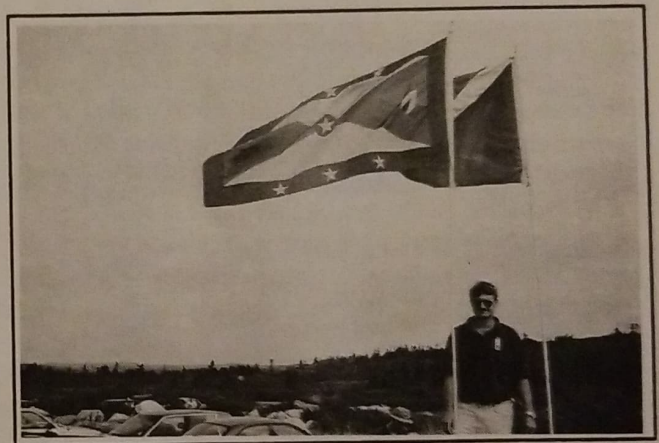
The NSUC Treasure Hunt is one more tradition of the NSUC that many wish to see preserved. Some participants have been to many since 1980. This year's Treasure Hunt chairman, David Allan, kindly offered his time and coordinated the many tasks required prior to the day's event. While appearing to be sitting on the sidelines, David had to be everywhere to deal with those "little challenges" which often crop up during the event. We wish to thank David for always being there when asked. Our dive master, Ken Jardine, has become a tradition and we welcome Ken's mix of Cape Breton wit and reassuring experience. Mike Chamber's assistance again with prize giving ensured a smooth operation and saved us from having to rent a public address system. Paul Miles, Roland Morrison, Dave Barron, and the whole NSUC executive all worked hard to find the necessary support equipment and volunteers which guarantees that no harm comes to any participant during the day's event.

At a time when NSUC traditions are being challenged, this year's Hunt was another milestone in our 25 history. Some of Nova Scotia's most experienced SCUBA instructors attended this year mostly to visit with old friends. The message was clear. Some traditions are worth saving. Volunteer your time for next years hunt. The planning starts now. NSUC Treasure Hunt 1998 will be held on Sunday, September 13.



Left: Divemaster Ken Jardine provides instructions to the participants minutes before they enter the water

Below: NSUC President Rick Welsford standing beneath the flag of Grenada, the major prize donor of the 1997 Treasure Hunt



Left: Divemaster Ken (not in rubber suit) gives helpful directions to a team just out of the water

SCUBA Instructor Listing

This list will be undergoing major revisions prior to the next *Bottomtime* newsletter. Please contact the NSUC office with any corrections or omissions.

David Allen, Halifax 876-0555
 Marc Boutot, Sydney 562-6061
 Brian Boye, Halifax 876-0555
 Travis Carter, Bedford 835-6565
 Mike Chambers, Halifax 454-4296
 Darin Connors, Halifax 479-1631
 Harry Dort, Bedford 835-6565
 Gary Edwards, Halifax 876-0555
 Gary Field, Halifax 479-2981
 George Gardnier, Sydney 539-5111
 Ray Gentile, Sydney 562-6061
 Ken Jardine, Sydney 562-6061
 Roland Lewis, Sydney 562-2457
 Robert Mack, Fall River 860-0634
 Dwayne McLaughlin, Windsor 798-8862
 Gordan McVicar, Sydney 562-6975

Frank Meeks, Bedford 835-6565
 Blaine Montroy, Bedford 835-6565
 Roland Morrison, Dartmouth 463-3796
 George O'Neil, Sydney 564-5671
 Dennis Pitts, Bedford 835-6565
 Donnie Rodgerson, Bedford 876-0555
 Joe Rossiter, Lunenburg 565-3773
 Don Saunderson, Halifax, 454-4296
 Joanne Shadbolt, Lunenburg 634-4822
 Caroline Smith, Halifax 454-4296
 Dale Smith, Chester 275-4471
 Stephen Tate, Bedford 835-6565
 Ralph Tomlinson, Lunenburg 634-3443
 Rick Welsford, Mahone Bay 624-1557
 Sean Wilkie, Lunenburg 543-9317

Message from the Lunenburg Marine Park...

marine park

BY RICK WELSFORD

Wow.

If you were lucky enough to have visited Saguenay this summer you would have noticed two incredible things. One was water clarity. Like most of the coast of Nova Scotia this summer, water clarity was exceptional. While swimming mid-ships among the smoke stacks and the main antennae tower, one could often see to the bow over the ship almost to the stern. And you could see well out on the sand flats on either side of the ship. It offered the diver an interesting view of how she finally settled, and how the surrounding sand has filled in the trench along side the hull. One could even see the two antennae sections removed after the initial scuttling sitting on the bottom beside the ship. The water had rarely been that clear since the very first week-end after the scuttling.

The other incredible thing is she is covered in juvenile kelp. Except for some of the mostly commonly visited areas where divers fins have kept the decks clear, dark brown kelp plants have settled in for what will probably be the beginning of a more permanent colonisation, such is found in the adjacent rocky areas. Many of the unusually high numbers of juvenile scallops, nudibrachs and hydroids have been displaced by crabs, starfish and mussels. Adult lobster have also moved in.

The wreck is remaining virtually intact. Credit is given to hard working volunteers which prepared her so well prior to the scuttling and to those responsible divers who have agreed to a program of hands off. Only one area of wear from the continuous swells has been reported and that area is being monitored. Access to the internal sections of the ship, via "Burma Road", is still unrecommended and sealed off completely to the best of knowledge. It would be appreciated that divers visiting the vessel who discover accessible areas into the vessel or who have knowledge of souvenir taking by others, let us know, either c/o the NSUC, or on e-mail (saguenay@fox.nstn.ca).

As an experimental stop-over this summer, a proposed Nova Scotia based live aboard dive boat spent a day visiting the Saguenay. After completing morning dives, guests were served a three course lunch on table and chairs (water proof)

set up on the deck by the first mate. And following afternoon dives, unlimited fresh water showers were available during a leisurely cruise towards the final stopping point for the night. Hopefully, the operators will consider making diving along the South Shore part of a regular itinerary.

Fingers are crossed for the speedy conclusion of the Matthew Atlantic artificial reef program for Port Mouton. Three permit applications to three different government departments are being considered concurrently basically following the same procedures as was required for the Saguenay. Unlike the USA, artificial reef applications have to fit into existing legislation which was either designed for pollution reduction or obtaining permission to build a wharf! Applications are unusual and require a different type of scrutiny than is normal for the government department. And it takes a little time to get them approved. As these applications are reviewed, it is important to remember that concerns prior to the scuttling of the Saguenay proved to be an over reaction and that project is a proven success. Permits continue to be approved on the West Coast following a proven procedure. And the economic and recreation benefits to the communities which sponsor these projects continue to grow. Let's hope that the Matthew Atlantic program concludes in time for a spring diving trip to Queens County.

An exciting project is unfolding with the HMCS Fraser, a sister to the Saguenay and the very last of the seven St. Laurent class helicopter carrying destroyers. Details are scarce but it is anticipated that one would be able to visit the floating Fraser one day and dive on her sister the Saguenay the next. How about that for a pre-dive briefing! There are even plans for being able to eat on board and spend the night. All up to the Minister of Defence now.

Finally, the Park will be closed again in late November for the winter just prior to the opening of the lobster fishery in the Bay. You will remember that this was a promise made to the inshore fishermen avoiding the possibility of a conflict between a dive boat and surface fishing gear. Our experience with our fishing neighbours sharing the Bay has been excellent and we need to keep things that way. Many inshore fishermen who had concerns about the program in the early days either have dived on the Saguenay by now or have a friend or family member who has. Two of those fishermen offer charter services to the ship during the summer and have assisted us with various things when we need to work out and around the wreck. And that is more often than some would think. Cheers.

Access to South Shore Scallop Fishery Possible

marine life

BY DAVID WILLIAMS, SOUTH SHORE DIRECTOR

At a meeting of an Area 29 advisory committee made up of divers and inshore fishermen, recommendations were made proposing limited access to the scallop resource again by divers holding a recreational scallop license. Not the perfect solution, but these recommendations were an improvement over the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' complete closing of Area 29 until licence holders came up with a responsible "resource management plan." This was not really completed, but proposals were made to protect two areas



suspected of being important to the future resource.

During the discussions, there were often critical biological questions remaining unanswered as decisions were made.

For three months during the winter, it is proposed that the fishery be reopened, with a fifty scallop per day limit. A minimum size was discussed as well as a system of logging effort by each diver. The areas known in Lunenburg County as Second Peninsula and Bayport will remain closed to divers collecting scallops.

These were only recommendations and the final word is up to the Ministers of Fisheries, Hon. David Anderson. Please contact your local DFO office for exact details.

NSUC Membership

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council has made several substantial changes to its membership fee structure. This revision comes after a process of reevaluating the goals and mandate of the Council, and attempting to discover how best to serve the diving community in Nova Scotia

Individual Memberships: \$10.

Newly Certified Diver: Free. (Yes, we mean it). If anyone needs to know impartial news about the diving community in Nova Scotia, it is the newly certified diver. We want to assist these people to enjoy their new hobby as much as possible, and we believe that it is vital that they become connected to the greater community. There is no better way to ensure they join than this. We hope you agree. Just enclose a Xeroxed copy of the newly issued basic certification card in place of the \$10 fee.

Family and Commercial Memberships: All person are members individually.

Questions on the new membership fee structure can be answered by contacting the Executive Director or your Area Director. Join the Council today.

Hot Website: Natural History of N.S.

Anyone wanting to know anything about the geology, plants, animals, weather, or the coastlines of Nova Scotia, had only to consult the *Natural History of Nova Scotia* for the answer. These two thick, informative volumes, released by the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in 1989, have long been one of the most valuable resources available for those curious about the great outdoors of this province.

The newest edition of this publication will soon be in the museum bookstore, and libraries around the province. There is, however, another way to access the work. The museum has placed the entire text of the *Natural History of Nova Scotia* on the internet, available to everybody with a modem. Much of the information in this next edition is new, and the format used previously has been extensively revised. Excellent photographs and other helpful supporting material make the *Natural History* a pleasure to browse through, and although the text is huge - more than 900 pages - worthwhile to download.

To "visit [their] new habitat", access: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/museum/summer.html>

Nova Scotia Underwater Council

Since 1971



OBJECTIVES

- 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 government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreation activity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE

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Nova Scotia Underwater Council

c/o Sport Nova Scotia

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Andrew Harvie

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Lawrence Taylor

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South Shore Director

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(902) 454-5720

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



Sport and Recreation Commission

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council is a sponsor of DAN.



Bottomtime Newsletter Advertising

The editor of the *Bottomtime* will consider limited advertising in future issues of the newsletter. At the back of each issue, a special space has been reserved to acknowledge specific private or public support for each *Bottomtime* issue.

As a service to our membership, commercial brochures or flyers may be enclosed with the mailing of the Newsletter,

for a reasonable fee. For example, equipment sale flyers, certification course announcements, etc. can be inserted without editing by the Council (or responsibility for the content). Inexpensive copying or assistance for this service can be arranged with the Executive Director at the Council's office. Please note the dates of newsletter publication in another section of this issue.

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 first day of every other month beginning January.

Submissions, address corrections, comments or general suggestions should be sent in writing to:

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