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Bottomtime:

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council



18th Annual NSUC Treasure Hunt and Family Picnic

events

In the spring of 1980, Guy Pelland approached the owners of The Dive Shoppe, which was located in Halifax's Historic Properties, about a new event for NS divers. It was to be for all divers regardless of their affiliation with a shop or agency. It was to be slightly competitive so that prizes could be given to winners. It was to be safe. And it was to be a day long event that divers and their non-diving family members could attend.

Guy (who can still be found working at TAM Dive in Toronto when not guiding tour groups in Africa) suggested the event would be run like the OUC's Treasure Hunt held each year with camping, picnics and prizes donated from wherever they could be secured. It was a time where old friends could renew old friendships. And this was the beginning of what has become a NSUC tradition.

That first year prizes were provided by Timberlea Dive Shop, Aqua Dive, Nautilus, Scotia SCUBA and the Dive Shoppe. A grand prize was arranged for a trip from Sun Quest and Harvey's Travel. And T-shirts were arranged for all participants. I remember successfully phoning requesting a donair prize from Tony's! There was a barbecue, a bonfire and all of life's problems were left behind in Halifax for the day. This was the beginning and is the longest continuous running dive event held in Atlantic Canada.

Over the years others stepped in to keep the event going. Some years a dive club would organize it. Other years a dive shop would step up to help. Some years the weather cooperated, others were just disastrous. Some years the Treasure Hunt

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Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Kennie MacAskill, with NSUC President Rick Welsford, presenting a special award to the NSUC as one of seven provincial organizations who have participated in the Parks are for People programme in all ten years since its inception. It was presented at a special ceremony at Oakfield Provincial Park on August 25, 1998



1998 TREASURE HUNT
Crystal Crescent Beach, Rt. 349 from
Herring Cove Road. SCUBA equipment and
C-cards a must. Registration fee includes
1999 membership renewal.

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In This Issue:

Shipwreck Photo Exhibit

shipwrecks

Diver Magazine has agreed to support the Council's underwater photo contest which concludes at the NSUC Under the Sea Exhibit in February. All submissions will be displayed at the 1999 Halifax International Boat Show. At the end of the show prizes for various categories will be awarded.

RULES: (there is only one rule) Photographs must be of a shipwreck in Nova Scotia waters.

Anybody can enter, you don't need to be a member of the NSUC. It does not matter when the picture was taken. It does not matter what wreck it is. It does not matter what country your film was developed in.

SUBMISSIONS: should be 8 X 11-inch prints, unframed. Your name, address and phone should be clearly printed on the back. Additionally, a short description of the photo should be included, preferably identifying the wreck, giving some basic information about the subject. (This information may be typed and displayed next to the photo during the exhibition).

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO: 'Shipwreck Photo Exhibit' c/o Nova Scotia Underwater Council, P.O. Box 3010 South, Halifax, NS, B3J 3G6. Or delivered to 'Shipwreck Photo Exhibit' c/o NSUC, 5516 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS.

Prints submitted will only be returned if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope.

JUDGING: Yet to be determined but will likely be based on public vote by Boat Show attendees.

PRIZES: Yet to be finalized, but it is expected that win-

ning photographs would be used for further display, with credits, and permission (web sites, other exhibits, etc.) Cash or other prizes will also be awarded based on sponsorship.

So if you have some photos you took years ago or if your heading out diving next weekend be sure to get your best pictures ready for display and possible prizes in this exhibit/contest.

WANTED: Sponsors to donate prizes. Also seeking sponsors for prizes for specific subjects, Saguenay for example, or photo of a tank on the Kolkosnik. Prize sponsors will have their name associated with their prize, this information will be publicly distributed prior to, during, and after the contest.

Winning photographs from this contest will be seriously considered as cover photos for a future issue of *Diver* magazine.

DIVER

Please distribute this information to anyone you think that may be interested.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Greg Cochkanoff

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Gold a Success

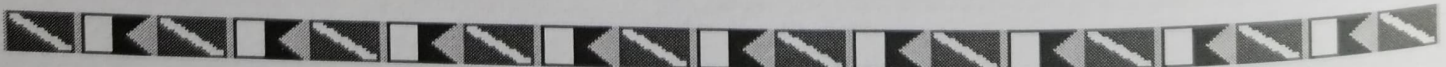
events

The sixth annual GO FOR GOLD diving event organized by the Nervous Wrecks Diving Club was held under sunny skies on Sunday, July 26, 1998 at Groves Point Beach in Cape Breton. The fun-filled day saw another \$2,800 raised for the Children's Wish Foundation. Dive Master, Ken Jardine, and several rescue divers were on hand to ensure the safety of the 65 participants.

All entrants received a goodie bag on exiting the water, filled with valuables which easily exceeded the \$25 entry fee.

Everyone received a unique t-shirt, once again designed by local artist Cheryl Bray.

In addition, over 100 prizes were handed out to the lucky draw participants. Local businesses, too numerous to mention, contributed to the prize list which included the \$200 in Gold, won by divers Steve and Sheila McVicar. The NSUC provided a \$25 cash donation, as well as two subscriptions to *Diver* magazine. Exclusive diver prizes were donated by Scuba Tech and by Sydney Scuba. These included a Mares computer, knives, clothing items, gear bags, and other dive accessories. All who participated in any way were thanked by master of ceremonies and organizer, Keith Burchill.



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Pictured here are this year's recipients of the Roger G. Aggett Memorial Award, Greg Cochkanoff and Grant MacLeod

ROGER G. AGGETT MEMORIAL AWARD

*For dedicated contribution to the NSUC
"Safety, Service, Sport"*

Gordon Murray	1988
John Pothier	1989
Robert Semple	1990
Lyn Gallant	1991
Colin Whitlock	1993
John Webber	1994
Rick Welsford	1995
Grant MacLeod and Greg Cochkanoff	1998

Diver Evacuation Seminar

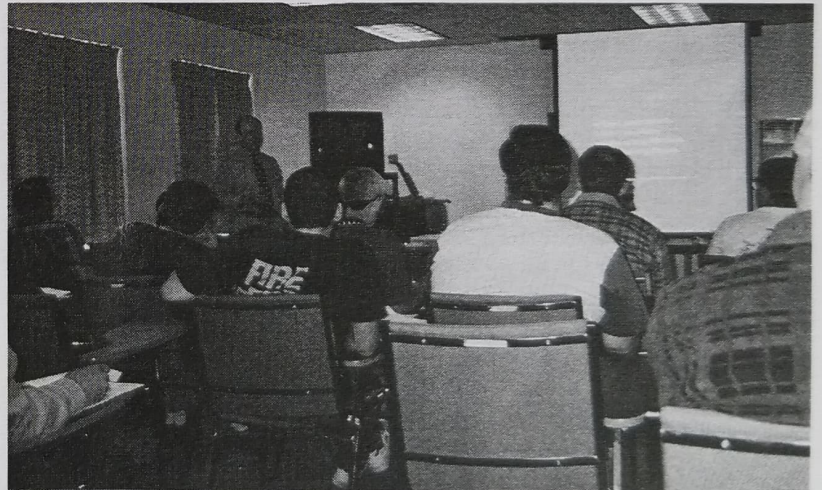
seminars

On Saturday, June 13, 1998, following the NSUC Annual General Meeting, a DIVER EVACUATION SEMINAR was held at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital, Sydney, N.S. The event, coordinated by Cape Breton Area Director Roland Lewis, was attended by 17 divers.

James Perkins, Coordinator of Hyperbaric Medicine, QEII Health Sciences Centre, gave an illustrated talk on Decompression Physiology supplemented by a 27-page handout on Diving Emergency Guidelines. Also presenting was Calvin Hann, Cape Breton Emergency Medical Services, who detailed the minute-by-minute procedures involved in arranging transport from a dive site to the hyperbaric chamber. Mel Wiseman, Rescue Coordination Centre, Halifax, discussed the role of the military in such emergencies both on land and at sea.

All who attended were impressed with the quality of the services and the ease of access. In the words of one presenter: "Do not hesitate to seek assistance; every minute is valuable and may save a diver from injury or death."

A postscript is that only a few weeks later, a commercial diver from Newfoundland who presented at the Regional Hos-



*James Perkins, Coordinator of Hyperbaric Medicine,
QEII Health Sciences Centre, speaking at the
Diver Evacuation Seminar*

pital with DCS, had the medical staff scrambling for information on what to do and whom to call. Physicians had been invited to attend but chose not to take the opportunity. Those who did attend agreed it was well worth the \$20 registration fee, which included NSUC membership.



Boat sinks amid cheers in Port Mouton

shipwrecks

by Beth Bowers

Originally printed in the *Liverpool Advance*
on Aug. 12, 1998

The Matthew Atlantic did not surrender easily, Aug. 8, as efforts were made to sink the vessel in the Port Mouton Harbor. When she did give in, at 2:19 p.m., spectators aboard the more than 60 vessels surrounding her, weren't deprived of a good show.

The plan to sink the vessel to create an artificial reef, as the newest addition to the Spectacle Marine Underwater Dive Park, was carried out a little later than planned.

With the help of fishing boats, the large rusty vessel took time to position in preparation for the sinking. Once the boat was towed to the planned location, she was anchored in place and awaited her fate.

On the Selchie II, the boat that carried members of the Queens County Marine Park Association and the Artificial Reef Society of Nova Scotia, spirits were high and it was clear that all were relieved to finally see their efforts pay off.

Soon after the Matthew Atlantic's valves were opened, she began to slowly lower into the water and two men could be seen on her deck, reluctant to leave.

Rick Welsford and Greg Gatzke, who worked relentlessly to see the realization of the reef's creation, stayed aboard as long as possible before they bid farewell to the boat they would see again, 15 metres below the surface.

Several attempts were made to hasten the Matthew Atlantic's descent that included forcing water into the boat with another boat's wake and finally pumping water in with a hose.

The stern lowered as the bow rose slightly and with only a moment's warning, she tilted and the stern sank out of sight. With the bow raised in the air, the vessel twisted and did what some onlookers described as "pirouette."



*Matthew alongside HMCS Fraser at
Bridgewater Marine Terminal*

With this motion she began to sink on her side, much to the pleasure of the Marine Park Association and the Artificial Reef Society, as they would otherwise have to pull her onto her side at a later date.

With air forced from the bow during her final moments, geysers burst forth until she slipped permanently out of sight for all those who do not wish to venture to her resting place.

Spectators cheered and honked their horns and the water above the Matthew Atlantic was swarmed with chaos and congratulations.

According to David Callan of the Artificial Reef Society, the name Matthew Atlantic is visible from the surface through Port Mouton's exceptionally clear water.

As the boats found their way back to shore and activity waned, the atmosphere on the Selchie II made it clear that although the excitement was ending for the general public, for divers the fun had only just begun.

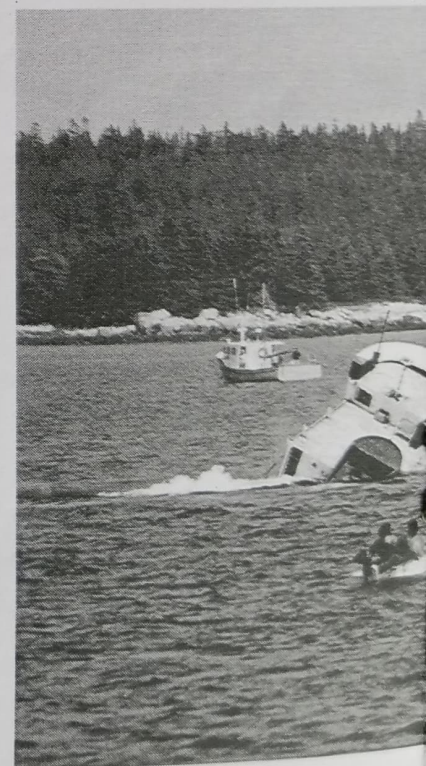
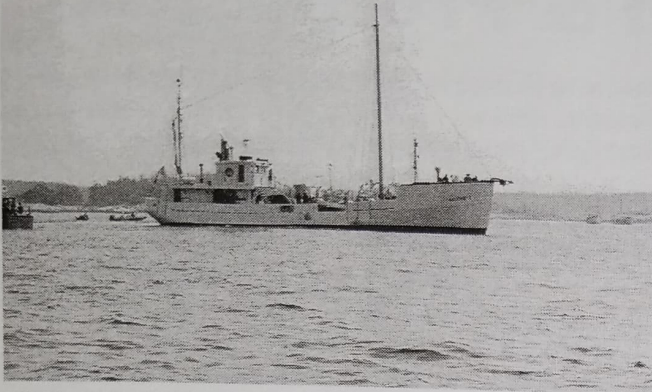


Photo below: Final sinking after approximately 2:30 hours of flooding

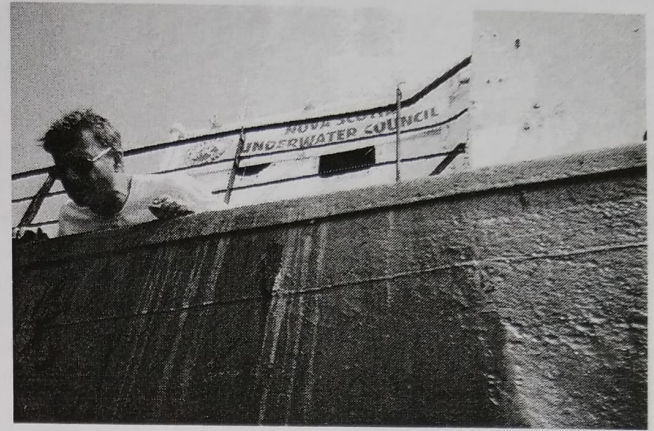




Sinking operations and media on board M/V Selchie No. 1

Thank You from Queens County.

Greg Gatzke, President of the Queens County Marine Park Society, has sent the Council a note thanking us for both financial and moral support during the Matthew Atlantic artificial reef project. The Council provided the group with a small grant two years ago to assist with cash flow. Our then South Shore Director, Dave Williams, also took responsibility for the vessel while it was relocated to Bridgewater. Every day for almost two years the ship and her lines had to be checked, and at least once, she had to be brought back to the surface. Greg invites all members to come and see the result of this great project and can be located at 683-2188.



Rick Welsford on board F/V Matthew Atlantic



Banners tied to the vessel (including NSUC's banner)

Photo below: Final sinking after approximately 2:30 hours of flooding



One of many federal government vessels attending the sinking and offering support



Paddy's Head & Prospect

dive site concerns

by Colin Whitlock

The two diving sites at Paddy's Head and Prospect are particularly sensitive to local people getting up in arms about the diving activity. The sites in particular are the site by the bridge at Paddy's Head and the site where the road comes to an end at Prospect, Sandy Cove.

In the past years, a lot of PR work has gone into keeping these sites open to the diver by myself, John Webber, Rolly Lewis, Lynn Gallant, and Lynn Eric Hebb — four past presidents and a board member. Other sites such as Duncan's Cove and Bear Cove have come under pressure as well. Most of these sites are only approachable over private land, all be it in some cases a small piece. It is not easy to try to repair the damage to our credibility.

At one site in Prospect, mainly due to the efforts of Lynn Eric Hebb, and a small amount of mine, we stopped "no parking" signs being put up, a garbage bin was put out by the residents for us which they would empty, and we retained the use of an outhouse.

Behavior in these at these sites is critical if we are to retain access. Areas to watch out for:

1. Parking.
2. Noise.
3. Litter.
4. Some decorum on changing before and after a dive.
5. Take your litter.

6. Being abusive to the local inhabitants when asked to do something.
7. Don't consume alcohol at the site
8. Keep your dive gear in a small space. (I have seen photographs at Prospect where two drive ways were blocked by dive gear being spread unnecessarily)

Advice to clubs and shops who use these sites.

1. Brief your divers before the dive.
2. Take the least vehicles possible.
3. The dive leaders should take black garbage bags with them and make sure the site is cleaned up afterward, if it is not your rubbish still pick it.

Shop owners should make sure their instructors are well-briefed about any site they use for training and even do the occasional check of the site after the course has left.

Bottomtime:

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council

This newsletter is provided not only for our members' benefit but also for distribution to those organizations or individuals with an interest in our activities. If your organization would benefit from having a copy sent to them on a regular basis, let the Executive Director know.

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.



Treasure Hunt and 'Parks are for People' Program

...continued from page 1

became the Sea Hunt, but then returned to the Treasure Hunt once again. Others have run their own for their customers only. Some are simply proud to say they have a T-shirt from each years event.

The Treasure Hunt has always been held at Crystal Crescent Beach, a Provincial Park now managed by the N.S. Department of Natural Resources. This month, the NSUC was recognized by that Department for continuous use of the site for our event. A plaque honoring a minimum of 10 years supporting Parks are for People Program was given to the Council by the Minister, Hon. Kennie MacAskill. This latest recognition may open the door a little when proposing future marine parks with the Department.

Some year's hurricane-generated storm surges have threatened the event. I remember a heated discussion on safety and the surf which can be considerable at Crystal Crescent. In

those days, all the training manuals had a section on how to enter and exit through the surf. Yet none of us had the occasion to try out these intriguing California-style techniques. Despite the surf, there has never been a serious accident at a Treasure Hunt and credit goes to the dedicated volunteers who keep it that way.

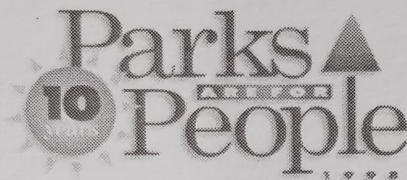
On Sunday September 13, the Treasure Hunt will be held again barring a direct hit by a hurricane. It is proposed that some of the original concepts of making it a day at the beach with family and friends be emphasized again. Perhaps there will still be a free hot dog or two, but bringing ones own picnic, to share with friends or even cook on the NSUC barbecue, is being encouraged again. Events of

the day will be spread out so bringing the family along, diving or not, is recommended. Registration begins as always at 9:30 AM.

And who knows, perhaps this year we will really find out what happens on that last beach.

This year's Treasure Hunt events have changed to provide more family entertainment and challenge — so as not to compete with other commercial treasure hunts being sponsored by dive shops. The following contests are to be held on September 13th:

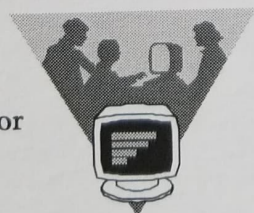
- the person who provides the most T-shirts from previous treasure/sea hunts (there have been 17);
- the youngest certified diver to register;
- the parents of the youngest certified diver;
- the diver with the ugliest, oldest, working SCUBA equipment;
- a sand sculpture contest; and
- an underwater navigation contest using SCUBA (a compass per buddy pair is highly recommended).



The Nova Scotia Underwater Council participated in Parks Day Celebrations at Dollar Lake Provincial Park, Halifax County, on July 18, an annual event attended by hundreds of people.

Diving information on the web!

Check out this web page for great diving information!



www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/EastCoastDive/ns.htm

Important Dates

- **September 13** — NSUC Treasure Hunt '98, Crystal Crescent Beach, NS
- **January, 1999** — DEMA, New Orleans
- **February 18-21, 1999** — NSUC Under the Sea, Halifax International Boat Show
- **February 26-28, 1999** — Underwater Canada, Toronto



St. John Ambulance Wilderness First Aid Program

A four day course designed to promote specialized First Aid education with an emphasis on practical skills, improvisation, transportation, and extended care in areas where medical help is more than 1-2 hours away.

To arrange a group course or for more details, contact St. John Ambulance at:

Mainland N.S.

phone: 463-5646; fax: 469-9609
toll-free: 1-800-565-5056

Cape Breton

phone: 564-4189; fax: 539-2730
toll-free: 1-888-633-1115

Prescheduled course is set for Nov. 7/8 and 14/15. Seating is limited. Participants must be 18 years of older and have previous First Aid knowledge.

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.

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

Executive Director, Michael Haynes

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Dana Shepard
455-5720 (h)

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NOVASCOTIA
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