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Bottomtime:

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council



Saving lighthouses for the 21st century

heritage

According to CBC's Land and Sea, the Canadian Coast Guard has been given the word from Ottawa; sell them if you are not using them. Canada has the worlds longest coastline and lighthouses were positioned there to mark places of the most danger to navigation. Modern electronic technology, such as DGPS and radar, has made many of these lighthouses redundant.

One shouldn't be surprised at that immediately surrounding the shoreline of many lies ship wrecks from the beginning of modern history. A careful look beneath a boulder often reveals a few rusty links from an emergency anchor chain or a plate of steel from the remains of a ship hull. Something a little less well known, these sites are often the most biologically productive where sharp points of land and their associated shoals cause the ocean to rise and crash on whatever dares to block its path. Only SCUBA divers witness the caverns and boulders covered with lush kelp and larger invertebrates. These sub-aquatic sites are the most beautiful to be found in Atlantic Canada.

Nova Scotia has some of North America's oldest lighthouses. The first was built for military purposes at Louisbourg, in Cape Breton, and thus was subject to attack for military purposes. Sambro, guarding the approaches to Halifax, is perhaps the oldest surviving North American light. This is the light you can see while standing at Crystal crescent beach, and was built in 1760 by the Nova Scotia Legislature and funded by a liquor tax, a lottery and payments made by ships using the harbour

Surrounding each of these is a buffer zone of federally owned property and often has houses and outbuildings supporting the lighthouse operations. Today, many of the non-essentials have been allowed to deteriorate beyond the point of no return. The light at the top of the lighthouse is often no more than a one hundred-watt bulb. This technically keeps the lighthouse in use, but what happens when these bulbs burn out? Will they be replaced?

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Chebucto Head lighthouse overlooking entrance to Halifax Harbour

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In This Issue:



R.O.D.I. – A Registry of Dive Injuries

health & safety

Let me introduce myself—I am a physician with an interest in dive medicine, looking for input from members of the dive community in the development of a Registry of Dive Injuries.

Most divers are familiar with DAN, the Divers Alert Network, a U.S. based organization that provides information and assistance to injured divers. As well, DAN collects and analyzes data regarding dive accidents and has quite a comprehensive database. We Canadians however do not have a similar organization. In fact, if a Canadian dive accident is reported to DAN, it is excluded from their database unless the injury has been sustained by an U.S. citizen. I discovered this when I attempted to do some research about dive injuries in Nova Scotia. There are no Canadian stats! It became obvious that the first step would have to be the development of our own registry.

So, how would such a registry benefit divers? What would it be used for? What questions could be answered?

R.O.D.I. will enable research and trend surveillance to occur. This leads to an understanding of why certain dive

accidents occur and how they might be prevented.

How do emergency personnel in our province handle dive injuries? R.O.D.I. could play an educational role regarding the treatment of dive injuries.

R.O.D.I. could be useful in promoting the sport while emphasizing safe diving and the importance of certification courses. How would this work? My idea is to develop an anonymous central registry, similar to DAN, for the collection of information about dive injuries. This would begin as a local effort with the possibility of spearheading a national registry. There would be no ability to identify specific individuals or businesses or to link them with specific events.

How can you participate? I am looking for thoughts and feedback from individual divers, dive clubs/organizations, instructors, and dive shops. Are there any particular details you think would be important to include? Any concerns? What would prevent an individual or an organization from reporting the details of an accident? Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your time. Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to: Renée Lutwick at relutwick@hotmail.com.

by Dr. Renée Lutwick

Saving lighthouses

Continued from previous page...

There are examples where community groups have prevented decommissioning of their light. Cape Forchu guards the approaches to Yarmouth and points the way for shipping arriving at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. The Friends of the Yarmouth Light have taken on the management of the station, built a museum and protected a lighthouse in an area with history going back to early European explorers.

Divers also have protected lighthouses from full decommissioning. Adjacent to the Empress of Ireland, known now as the largest accessible shipwreck in North America, lies the Pointe-au-Pere Lighthouse. This wreck near Rimouski, Quebec, was a disaster equivalent to the more famous Titanic. Adjoining the light house is a museum describing the ship, its demise and the diving explorers who first salvaged the contents, then developed it into a popular tourism destination.

Let's face it, if tourists are going to come to Nova Scotia, they are coming for the marine experience. About half of all of them visit historic sites of some sort. Some of them feel there is not enough to do. Why not get better organised and turn a problem of coast Guards into an opportunity for recreational development?

It might be time to combine these sites with the inevitable plans to build a network of marine parks. These sites may be the last unspoken for, publicly accessible, shoreline sites. If marine park justification for establishment include conservation, recreational, ecological, historic, research, educational or aesthetic value measurements, then most of these sites are perfect. If you have an idea for one, there is help. There is the Atlantic Lighthouse Council formed to support community groups and promote their preservation in Atlantic Canada. If you know a Coast Guard employee, ask for their advice. Nobody wants to preserve these lighthouses more than them. SCUBA divers and Coast Guard; sounds to me like a marriage made in heaven.

Think of your favourite lighthouse; everyone has one. Shut your eyes. You are either looking up from the surface of the ocean at something huge while waiting for your buddy to surface. Or you are imagining the sound of the foghorn while looking way, way down at a dive site. You may even think you hear a little diddle by Stan Rogers or Natalie MacMaster.

by Rick Welsford



The Marine Heritage Vision Project

heritage

Beginning in the fall of 1998, the Nova Scotia Museum held a series of three meetings with groups and individuals interested in wrecks and marine heritage — scientists, recreational divers and wreck enthusiasts, tourist industry representatives, dive shop and charter operators, government regulators, professional salvors, conservators, and museum staff. These meetings were held in Halifax, Sydney and Bridgewater, and marked the beginning of the process to develop a common Vision for Marine Heritage Resource Management. The purpose of the vision is to come up with a widely available and accepted approach to managing important parts of our marine heritage.

Notes from the first round of meetings were compiled into a draft "vision" document, which was widely distributed for comment and posted on the Museum Website. Nine "Strategic Goals" were identified in the first round, and a second round of meetings, also held in Halifax, Sydney and Bridgewater, helped clarify the outstanding issues. This paves the way for development of a strategic plan, which will outline the projects needed to implement the vision described in the document.

Each consultation session was unique, with the flavour of the meeting very much set by the participants. The overall response was very favourable in all of the meetings. The most

contentious part of the vision was strategic goal number 6, which deals with the exploitation of the resource for commercial use. Interestingly, one group wholeheartedly supported this section, another was totally opposed, and the other was more or less split. This part of the vision will need further discussion before the Museum will proceed.

The overall flavour of the Vision is of cooperation, training, and partnership. The Strategic Plan cannot be solely undertaken by the Museum, nor should it be. This resource belongs to the people of the province, and the principle users should play a major role in how its used and managed. If you have any interest in our marine heritage, there will be a role for you to play.

The Museum will soon produce and distribute the final Strategic Plan, which will also be posted on our Website. We will also be sending out a listing of all the projects and looking for input on priorities

- we want to know which of the many projects is most important to you. If you have attended any of the meetings, we will send a copy to you. Anyone else should contact me at the Museum. I can be called at (902) 424-7344, faxed at (902) 424-0560 or emailed at ogilvirr@gov.ns.ca.

Bob Ogilvie
Curator, Special Places
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

Excuse Me.

But you guys amaze me. I mean, How does someone misplace something as big as a frigate? This thing's been down here for 120 years. Somebody, please claim this thing. Do I look like the lost and found to you?

the Ocean

Highlights of the NAUI Atlantic Canada Annual Meeting

by Roland Morrison

- The meeting was held on October 15-16, 1999, at the HMCS *Fraser*, Bridgewater, NS.
- There are plans for a NAUI instructors' course in June, 2000, probably at Shearwater.
- Check out the NAUI booth in the International Boat Show in February, 2000.
- The meeting was attended by NAUI instructors and dive masters, including two members from Gaspé, Quebec.
- George Muise of Glace Bay, NS, was appointed NAUI Atlantic Canada coordinator for 1999-2000.
- NAUI is sponsoring a DAN oxygen administrator course at Shearwater the weekend of January 15, 2000.
- Next meeting scheduled for late August, 2000 in Sydney, NS.



Sea Hunt 1999

events

Surprisingly warm, sunny weather greeted the 65 divers who showed up at Crystal Crescent Beach on Saturday, September 20, for the Annual Nova Scotia Underwater Council Sea Hunt. Just two days prior to the event, the eye of a hurricane had passed through the region and lashed the province with high winds and rain. However, except for rougher than usual breakers making entry and exit somewhat tricky, conditions were ideal.

This year's organization was superb. Roland Morrison, a former executive member of the NSUC, acted as Chair of the event, and his meticulous attention to detail was evident in every aspect of the activity. Roland put together an experienced and thoroughly prepared team who ran the day without a hitch. In addition, Roland secured almost all the prizes that were presented to the participants.

Many persons volunteered their time to provide this social activity for the diving community. Special mention should be made of the Shearwater Diving Club. Under the immediate supervision of their president, SGT. Paul Emile Langlade, the Shearwater Club rapidly and efficiently transformed the quiet parking lot at the beach into an administrative centre for the dive that was to follow. Tents, boats, parking attendants — all were taken of by club members. Dive Master Paul Miles was from Shearwater, as were most of the rescue divers. The club supplied one zodiac, communications (wireless radios), two tents, a carryall (cargo truck), marshals and one volunteer for the kids' scavenger hunt.

In addition, a number of other people contributed their



Ken Jardine and Mike Chambers giving away Sea Hunt prizes (Photo: Mark McLean)

time and talents to make this day a success. Once again the popular and witty Ken Jardine from SCUBA Tech Dive Shop in Sydney was the Master of Ceremonies. Mike Chambers from Nautilus Aquatic Centre in Halifax handled registration. Dave Barron, author of the recently published *The Combined Atlantic Diver Guide*, the scavenger hunt, and whichever Council members helped, we are grateful for their help.

Of special note: Emergency Medical services had an ambulance on hand throughout the event, and even reduced their rate for the occasion. However, their services were not needed; for the 19th time the Sea Hunt was conducted without serious accident or injury.

What would a day on the beach be without a barbecue? Council Board Members Philip Oakes and David Williams assembled a team of family and friends (and food) who grilled enough hamburgers and hot dogs to fill even the hungriest divers. Everyone was satisfied by the time the prizes were awarded.

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council has organized the Sea Hunt for twenty years, with only the interruption caused by the crash of Swiss Air 111 causing cancellation. This is the longest running recreational diving activity in Atlantic Canada (perhaps all of Canada?). We look forward to seeing you and your friends at Sea Hunt 2000.

by Michael Haynes

Prize-giving was enhanced with donations from SCUBA Tech, Nautilus, Torpedo Rays, and Dive Masters dive shops. Grand prize was an Abyss drysuit donated by the NSUC.



1999 Sea Hunt participants waiting for the starting gun (Photo: Mark McLean)

NSUC Under the Sea Halifax International Boat Show

events

Many of us are working on what may be the last year of a three year experiment of having a large diving exhibit at the Halifax International Boat Show held February 17-20. Last year the exhibit included photo contests, underwater collections of artefacts, saltwater observation tank, photos and video by famous Nova Scotia photographers, and a ship wreck information terminal. These were supported by some other groups displaying complimentary marine products and services.

The choice of the boat show was a natural one given many of the complimentary things divers are interested in can be found in the main section. And those who are already interested in water, boating or swimming come to the show and

may just find something at Under the Sea to get them to try diving. We are grateful to the Boat Show operators who worked on this with us and are the primary sponsors of the exhibit.

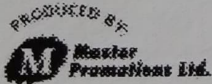
The commercial section of the boat show is sold out already proving that this year's show will be interesting. Our section has been enlarged to accommodate a larger exhibit. If your favourite store, club, group, business, wants to participate and support this program, there is still room in Under the Sea. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Council's section, either as a life guard at the salt water observation tank or in one of the artefact display areas, then let us know. The most enthusiastic of the Council's critics over the years agreed last year that the effort was worthwhile. This is the only thing we have in Atlantic Canada that comes close to a dive show. Please come by and see us February 17 to 20th.



Atlantic Winter Fair
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
FEBRUARY 17-20, 2000

Over the years, the Halifax International Boat Show has established itself as Atlantic Canada's premier marine event. The thousands of boating enthusiasts who flood through the doors of Atlantic Winter Fair know that they will see building after building, jam-packed with the latest lines of boats and up-to-the-minute trends in equipment and services.

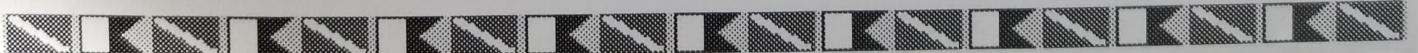
Power and sail boats; inboard, outboard, gas and diesel engines; fishing boats; electronics; personal water craft; canoes; kayaks; marine hardware and accessories; sportfishing equipment; docks... the Halifax International Boat Show has it all!

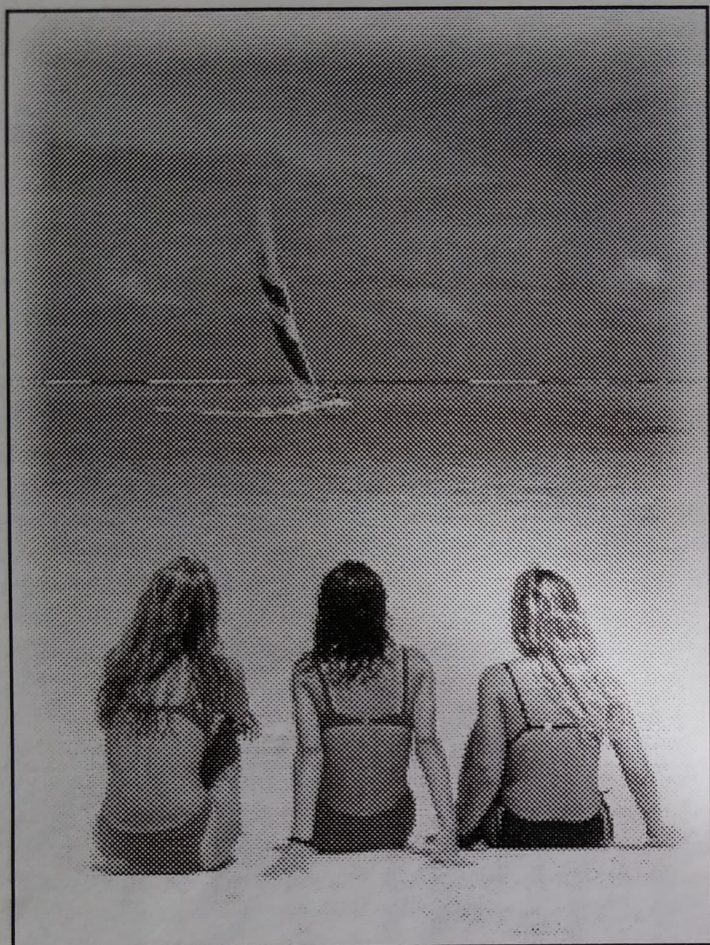


UNDER the Sea



For more information, contact the Nova Scotia Underwater Council at (902) 425-5450, ext. 325.





Winter diving stories wanted

*Are you going diving somewhere interesting? We want to know!
Submit your stories to Bottomtime!*

IMPORTANT DATES • 2000

MARCH 3-5

- Underwater Canada, Toronto

JUNE

- NSUC Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 16

- NSUC Sea Hunt, Crystal Crescent Beach

Check out these diving websites!

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/museum/mma/index.htm>

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
The Jewel of the Halifax Waterfront

<http://www.tallships2000.ns.ca/main.htm>

Tall Ships 2000 • July 19-24
The Wind Will Bring the World



ATLANTIC DIVER GUIDE

Northern Maritime Research is pleased to announce the release of the 432-page *Combined Atlantic Diver Guide* combining the best dives sites to be found in Canada's four Atlantic Provinces.

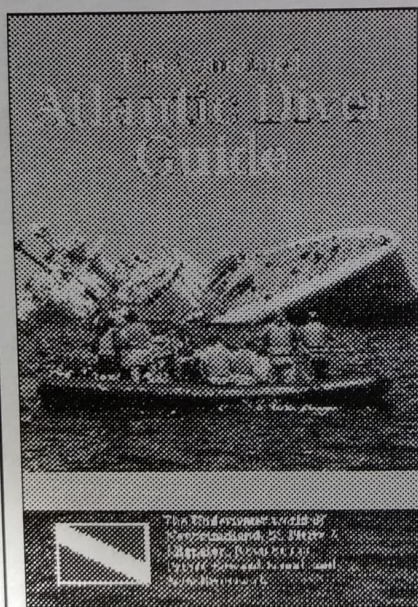
This is a no-nonsense, no-frills guide, including:

- 414 pages detailing site information,
- 8-page directory of 40+ regional diving services,
- 5-page Table of Contents,
- 2-page introduction, and
- 3 pages for title page, publisher info., and summary page

This is a guide for the adventurous diver, and includes such sites as:

- the 2nd largest whirlpool effect in the world accessible during slack tide,
- the historic remains of the French Man-O-Wars sunk in 1758 when the British attacked the Fortress Louisbourg (now a national park)
- four intact & upright iron-ore carriers sunk at anchor by German U-boats within 2 km of each other.
- a drift dive along a 200-foot vertical wall, and
- some of the warmest waters north of Virginia, plus so much more.

Now available at
the NSUC office for
\$32 (tax & shipping
included)



Diver scallop licences usually expire December 31st each year. Please use this application when applying for a renewal or a new licence, and enclose a cheque payable to the *Receiver General for Canada* for \$11.50. Questions about this application should be directed to your local DFO office.

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
FISHERIES AND OCEANS**

LICENCE APPLICATION

This is not a fishing licence. If the application is not approved, any fees submitted with the application will be refunded. No financial commitment for fishing gear or vessel should be made by the applicant unless the application is approved and a licence is issued.

A. APPLICANT'S IDENTIFICATION

Family Name	Given Names		
Address		Date of Birth	
		Home Port	
Postal Code	Phone Number (		

B. LICENCE REQUEST DETAILS

Species	Scallop	Gear type	Dipnet/Diver	Gear amount	
Area to be fished					
Vessel if used		GFV No.		Length overall	(feet)

Comments:

Fee:	Receiver General for Canada \$11.50	Commercial/ Recreational	Recreational
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THIS APPLICATION IS NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

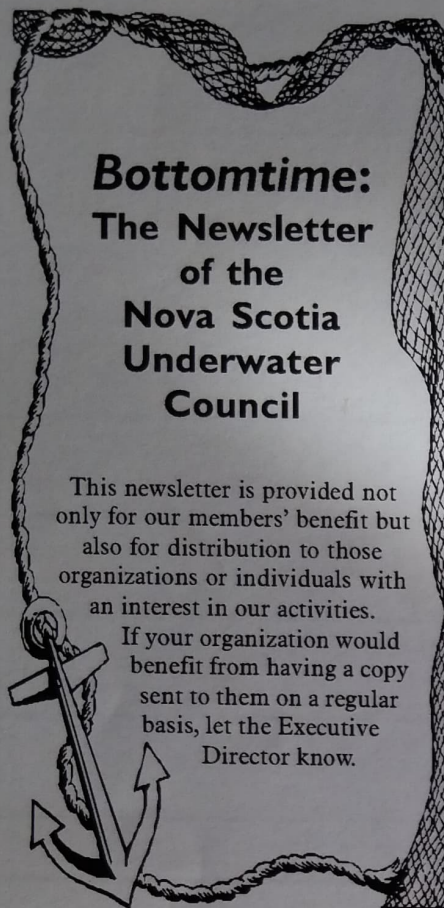
Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Approved _____ Denied _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Fisheries & Oceans Canada
176 Portland Street, PO Box 1035
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4T3
Attention: _____



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

Become a member of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council today!

Questions about the NSUC membership can be answered by contacting the Executive Director or your Area Director.

- **Individual Memberships:** \$10.
- **Newly Certified Diver:** Free. 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:** There are no group memberships. All persons are members individually.

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
Sport and Recreation Commission

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The Editor, **Bottomtime: The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council**
P.O. Box 3010 South, Halifax, NS B3J 3G6; (902) 425-5606 (fax)

Bottomtime Newsletter Advertising

The editor of the Bottomtime will consider limited advertising in future issues of the newsletter. A special space will be 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.