

JANUARY 2016

Soundings

NEWSLETTER FOR THE COWICHAN WOODEN BOAT SOCIETY

Boat Construction Continues at the Cowichan Maritime Centre in Spite of Rainy Winter Weather

Charming little mariner to be...**Hudson**, visited the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre to build one of our kid's boats and decided that the huge puddle was just the "ocean" he needed to launch his craft. Children have been coming to our centre and building these wonderful boats for more than 25 years...The wood is donated by **Victoria Truss** and **Western Forest Products** mill across the bay from the centre...last year volunteers cut over 2500 of these little boats for children to assemble.



President's Message

Ion Barnes

Our first 'Meet & Greet' of the year was a great success, with about 30 people attending, so soon after the New Year celebrations and we had people from as far away as Saturna Island and Metchosin make the trip to visit. Thank you.

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photo by Mel Robinson

Mark Your Calendars

General Membership Meeting Sat. February 20
Telus will be presenting the Pier Committee with a generous donation at the public meeting.

Maritime Centre Garage Sale Sat. April 16
Bring excess marine treasures, tools and artwork to sell (and to buy more cool stuff).

Feds Visit Our Maritime Centre

When Director **Len Mayea** called and left a message to our newly elected Member of Parliament (MP), **Alistair McGregor** to congratulate him on his successful election and to introduce him the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre and its community efforts, he didn't expect a visit. **Alistair** was elected as a Member of Parliament to represent the federal electoral ward Cowichan-Malahat-Langford during the 2015 federal election. Alistair's secretary called back and mentioned that the new MP's portfolio included 'Senior Affairs' and 'Heritage Issues' and was presently touring the riding with his assistants, from Ottawa, to introduce them to the area and - yes - he would like to visit our site. Len quickly pulled together a few staff members and other directors to provide a tour. Starting in the mezzanine (by the fireplace), past the shop and then down the pier to the Supercargo Pavilion, where **Tony Owen** had set up coffee and local pastry. We certainly appreciated Alistair's time to explore our centre and see all we offer to the community.



President's Report - continued from page 1

Our lighting upgrade has begun. **Steve Taylor** and **Tony Owen** recently spent a day changing out the old incandescent lamps with LED versions and now we will have to wait for the next couple of power bills to determine the power reduction. At the same time, the pods are much brighter and the prospects of not having to change light bulbs every month are side benefits that we can be thankful for.

Dave Sharrock and I attended a meeting of the Vancouver Island Marine Heritage Network which is, as it implies, a roundtable of maritime heritage and museum sites on Vancouver Island. There are 6 groups represented; BC Maritime Museum in Victoria, Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre, Ladysmith Maritime Society, Alberni Heritage Network, HMCS Alberni Project and the Campbell River Maritime Heritage centre. We are all different in our makeup but the end result is the same. We have been ex-

changing ideas and concerns and how to engage the public. You will soon begin to see links to the other sites on our webpage and I encourage you to take in a visit to these other sites if you are in their vicinity. I will speak about each one in later issues of the newsletter.

On a business note, our treasurer, **Dale Gagne** and myself attended a seminar regarding changes in the new Societies Act of BC which comes into effect on November 28, 2016. As is to be expected, not everything pertains to our circumstances but will assist us in the near future organization of our society.

And lastly, Saturday, February 20 is an important date. We are holding our General Meeting and will be starting the meeting with a presentation of a cheque from Telus for our Pier Restoration Fund. We would like to have as many of our members to be present for the photo op to show our commitment towards our project.

Thank you, Ion



2016 Winter/Spring Courses

Victor Lironi

To register for these courses call 250.746.4955
for information visit: cwbs@classicboats.org

We acknowledge the financial support
of the
Province of British Columbia.

FEBRUARY

Greenland Paddle Making Workshop

Date: Friday February 26 at 7pm and Saturday
February 27 at 9am

Make your own Greenland Paddle, custom fitted to your hand size, shoulder width and arm length. Instructed by **Mark Reuten** of Nomad Boatbuilding, this course will run in the workshop of the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre. Class size is limited to six students.

The course fee includes instruction and all materials. Payment in full is required to secure your spot. The course fee is non-refundable.

The course fee of \$155 plus GST is an absolute bargain. A standard off the shelf paddle retails for as much as \$225.



Google: Greenland Paddle, and read the article by **Chuck Holst** to appreciate just what you will be getting. \$55 is needed to book your spot, with the \$100 balance due on Feb 13th, non refundable after that date.

MARCH.

Marine Photography with Cim MacDonald

March 5th 9:30am-3:30pm

Dates for this very popular Course have just been announced. Sign up soon!

Digital Post Processing - How to improve the photos you have already taken

Cost \$48

Dates TBA (probably late March or early April)

Learn To Sail a Cruising Keelboat

Using our flagship, Halcyon, and the Competent Crew Standard of the International Sail and Power Association, you will complete twenty hours of onshore study and instruction, and twenty hours of hands-on instruction afloat. The manual and log-book, included in the fee, will be in your hands the first week in March, and the afloat portion of the

course will run over the weekend of March 18/19/20, starting late on Friday afternoon, or earlier should participants be available. Google: *International Sail and Power Association (not Academy)* for information about the organization.



Your instructor is **Victor Lironi**, an ISPA advanced instructor and one of your board of directors.

The fee for the course is \$375 plus GST. A non refundable deposit of \$175 is needed to book your spot, with the balance due by March 1st, after which the fee is non-refundable.

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Class size: minimum three, maximum four. Should we have to cancel the course for any reason, all funds will be returned. This course covers a lot of ground, and is recommended even for those who have already attained basic sailing skills.

A copy of the manual and logbook will be available in the office for you to look at. However, it may not be taken off our premises.

Should you wish to ask me any questions, please leave a message at our office. **Victor Lironi**.

April & May Courses

Build a 10' Lapstrake Acorn Dinghy
April 3rd - 10th (Sunday - Sunday)

Family Boatbuilding Weekend
May 13th at 7pm & May 14th/15th at 9am

Build a Skin-on-Frame Greenland Kayak
May 21st/22nd at 9am

Visit our web site www.classicboats.org for details.

Floatsam & Jetsam

Facilities Rentals

Mezzanine Rental bookings are increasing as the word gets out that the insurance fees are now included in the rental agreements for meetings and functions, as long as there are no live music played or alcohol being consumed. In the past, small events were often economically prohibitive because renters had to provide their own liability coverage for their events. Our new policy automatically covers such events and eliminates those extra costs for these groups. Call our office to book a date to ensure your event is scheduled.

Remember:

General Membership Meeting Feb. 20th (with Telus Presentation)

CWBS Garage Sale, April 16 2016. This year we will sell tables for \$25.00 ea. for people who want to sell their own items. Items must be marine or construction related or crafts, art etc. *No junk please.*

Maritime Museum of British Columbia's "13th Annual Massive Marine Garage Sale" will take place April 3, 2016 Pier-A Ogden Point Victoria



The Tale of Two Dinghies

Facilities Manager **Tony Owen** was approached by a visitor from Germany last fall and asked about purchasing two of the Acorn lapstrake dinghies that had been built in our popular boatbuilding classes held at the Maritime Centre. At first glance this seemed like the perfect win-win situation. The fellow from Germany was receiving a great deal as the purchase price just barely covered the high quality materials used to build the craft and the low Canadian dollar even increased the bargain. We, in turn, use the funds from the sale of the vessels to keep the student cost of the courses down and felt that the sale could open the way to open a new market for future builds. Shipping plans were made and crates were designed and then we ran up against the regulations. Yes – deals that seem to be too good to be true, are often simply too good to be true. To import the craft to Europe

the wood had to be certified to be “bug free” (which isn’t an insurmountable problem) but all wood, even the crate, must be certified to have come from a “sustainable forest”, cut and milled by certified “sustainable” logging operations. Negotiations (and the learning processes) are continuing.