

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Lew Penney
Vice-President - Colin Craig
Secretary - Len Mayea
Treasurer - Barb Hopkins
Directors
 Dave Knott
 Pete Edgar
 Hylton McAlister
 Arie Van Dyk
 Paul Donahue
 Lorraine McDonald
Past President
 Robert Fox



MEETING DATES

As we look forward to 2010 the following dates have been set for **General Meetings**: 16 January, 20 March, 15 May, 17 July, 18 Sept. 20 Nov.

These meetings are on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the library pod at the Maritime Centre.

You are encouraged to attend and be involved with your Board of Directors. You are part of the decision making process at these meetings.

The opposite months will be **Board of Directors** meetings. As a member you may attend a directors meeting as a guest. At these meetings you are not part of the decision making process, although your comments and questions are welcomed.

These meetings will take place at the same location and time on 20 Feb., 17 April, 12 June, 21 Aug., 16 October, 11 Dec.

We look forward to a very busy and successful 2009.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Newsletter Editor: Dave Knott

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another Annual General Meeting has passed and now the ship's course will be set for new adventures with new crew. As with any ship crew changes occur and for this years voyage we welcome aboard Barb HOPKINS, Lorraine MCDONALD and Paul DONAHUE and regretfully leave at the dock Mike SCHAFFER, Mike TANSLEY, Ian HAMMOCKS and Lyle KUHNERT. I want to thank those who have stepped down, for their years of hard work and dedication. Those coming aboard, thank you for making the commitment to volunteer your time and to donate your experience and leadership to the Centre. I look forward to a year of favourable winds.

One is always full of hope and excitement in starting a new voyage and this year is especially good as we have secured our lease for another 30 years of cruising. With this renewal comes the responsibility to provide a service to our membership and the community but also the opportunity to do exciting things. Some of those things are to practice your boating skills or to fulfill your dreams of building that boat. For instance, there are several boats on site that need restoration so you can join an existing work party or do work on your own, day or evening. A tremendous opportunity, go for it!

If this does not meet your interest, we have boats for sailing/rowing, a library, museum, small engines to maintain, marine ways, socials and the services of a full workshop. Informative, fun and hands on the ladies' woodworking courses are very popular, providing informative, hands-on equipment training. It includes the opportunity to create a project of your choice with the expert guidance of Eric. Let's make the Centre a place to meet, have fun and at the same time keep the Centre strong. We have a tremendous facility that is enjoyed by young and old, from far away and at home.

MANAGERS REPORT

In our last newsletter I was lamenting about what great summer weather we had. So to continue that theme I will be laying on the beaches in Punta Cana starting December 9th -25th. So enjoy your holiday season and I will follow up with everyone when I get back. Just think fewer emails from me, what a treat.

This fall we have had a few seniors groups come for formal tours of the maritime centre, these are always enjoyable times as I love to share the history of

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

the maritime centre and what we have to offer here. If you know of any groups who would like a guided tour let me know.

We have a new display in our end pod. Sitting inside a rowboat made into a china cabinet, thanks to Arie Van Dyk, we have 45 tea cups on display. Bob Weinberg, one of our members, spent many years supervising the loading and unloading of freighters and he has lent us some of the teacups he collected from the various ships. There are some interesting ones on display so come and have a look.

On the fundraising side we have had our ups and downs and on hold situation. Our fall fundraiser with Bobby Bruce as “Nearly Neil” did not give us the results I had anticipated, in fact it cost us money. On the plus side those that did attend, about 160 people, had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

We are still “on hold” regarding the WCCAP grant for the new building. Our application will not be reviewed until March 25th 2010. We are still optimistic about the future of this new building and what it would mean to the maritime centre and the community.

The good news is we were successful with our application to Heritage Canada for funds to celebrate the Olympics. We will have an Olympic torch celebration in February 2010. Our event is called “Fires that Inspire” and we will be making small wooden torches for the school children to paint and sending some of them to the east coast to promote Cowichan Bay. Stay tuned for more information and how you can get involved.

I am looking forward to a great year with our new board members and continuing to work with the board members who are completing their second year.

Happy holidays and have a great New Year. I hope to see you all soon.

Not many reports this edition so I had better fill some space.

Another AGM has come and gone with some new members on the board, with some fresh ideas and action we will carry on to, hopefully, a more fruitful year, the recession has been hard on us but, with positive thinking we can put this behind us.

Most of the boats are now wrapped up for winter, the Knarr and Sweet Pea are tarped up and staying dry, Ian Douglas did some work on Sweet Peas decks to try and stop the mushrooms from growing. Clarion Call has finally been sold to an enthusiastic buyer, expect to see her out racing next year. Eric has been busy on ‘Mona something’ at the end of the pier, much work to be done that will keep him busy till the new year, ‘Tedora’, according to the owners plans, will be in the water this May so the covered space at the back of the shop will finally become vacant for more short term projects that require covered space.

The museum has seen some changes and the first pod will eventually be completed. If all goes as planned, with possibly a new building at the front, or if not, some other improvements that will add the “Wow” factor to our centre making the 2010 season the year of change that I am sure will be appreciated by the viewing public.

A group of members have got together for a once a week evening session of rebuilding a very pretty 16ft dinghy that had been donated many years ago. Built by Lindsay & Company in Vancouver, year unknown, it is turning out to be a very interesting restoration, the boat is basically very sound apart from 5 ribs. Once it had been cleaned out of years of leaves and grunge it was discovered that the whole boat had been nailed together with galvanized nails, not a



If we get the WCCAP grant this is the vision of the building, this would be built at the front of the existing building over where the rusty tug is.

brass or bronze screw anywhere, she had also had a small Briggs type engine installed at one point. Our aim is to have her ready for Spring launching with once again a small running inboard.

This type of group get togethers is what the Maritime centre is all about, we learn how to use the machines in the shop properly under the watchful eye of Colin Craig, pool knowledge on how to tackle a job, or if not 100% sure, we give it go and see what happens, these evenings are alot of fun and laughs with the end result of a very handsome boat that will, with a bit of luck, float. This is open to all members, time is every Wednesday at 7 thru till 10, there are other boats that can also be worked on.

Here is an example of a way for members to get involved in some hands-on-project, no experience necessary. In the spring, as the evenings start to draw out, work partys will be required for some of the neccessary maintenance around the centre. So when you see the call from Suzan, make the effort to come out and volunteer, many hands make light work.

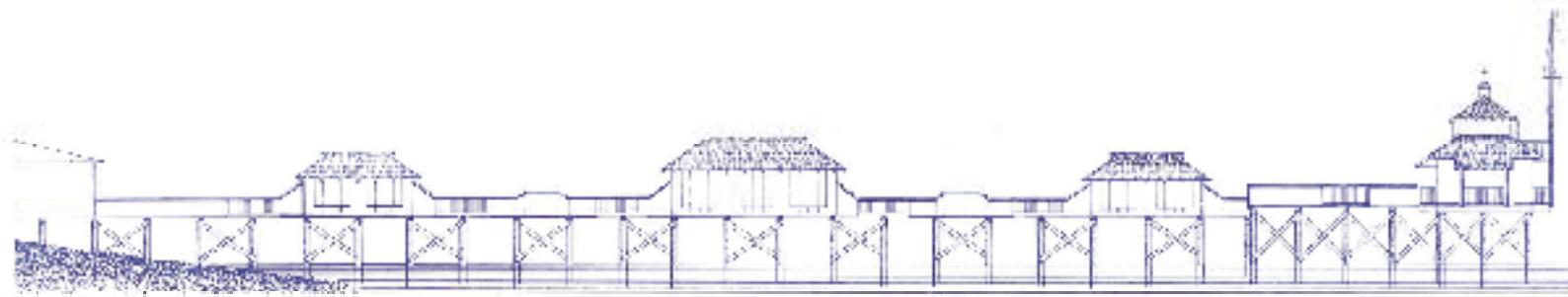
Remember this is your Society and without your support moving forward will become a tougher challenge.



Ian Douglas and Dave Knott preparing the hull prior to replacement of ribs.

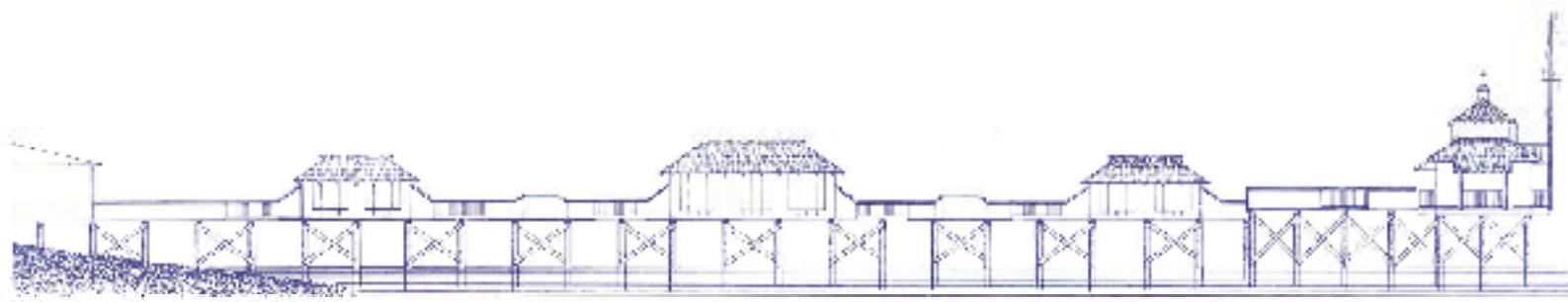
Photos courtesy of Glenn Terrell.





“Will the real Neil Diamond stand up”





DATES TO REMEMBER

Boxing Day or day after “Mince Pie Motor” weather permitting, a short motor around the bay followed by mince pies and hot mulled wine. Contact Dave Knott 250-743-9114.

10 April 2010, Garage Sale, we are already collecting small items.

18-20 June Boat Festival

16 November AGM 7pm

4 December Xmas sail past.

STOP PRESS

As some of you may know one way we can raise money to ensure the future of the centre is through the donation and sale of boats. We have just sold Clarion Call and we have also received another boat donation from Grant and Melody Blundell a 33 foot Herreshoff named ‘Wimbrel’. Info is on our web regarding the boat. I encourage you to look at this info and share it with others you might know who may be looking for a boat or wanting to donate one for a tax receipt.

Lastly I was successful at getting a grant from Heritage Canada regarding the promotion of the Olympics. We will be receiving \$13,175.00, the maximum allowed was \$15,000.00. You will be hearing more about our plans for this event. My theme is ‘Fires that Inspire’ and we will be making wooden torches, about 12 inches in height, that will have battery operated t- lites for the flame. We will be getting school kids to paint them, plus we will be shipping some to the east coast, the event will culminate with an evening event around February 20th during Heritage Week.

Suzan

What if the Battle of Trafalgar would have to take place in modern times?

Just before the Battle of Trafalgar - a conversation is overheard on the deck of HMS Victory;

Nelson: “Order the signal, Hardy.”

Hardy: “Aye, aye sir.”

Nelson: “Hold on, that’s not what I dictated to Flagg. What’s the meaning of this?”

Hardy: “Sorry sir?”

Nelson (reading aloud): ” England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability.” “What gobbledygook is this?”

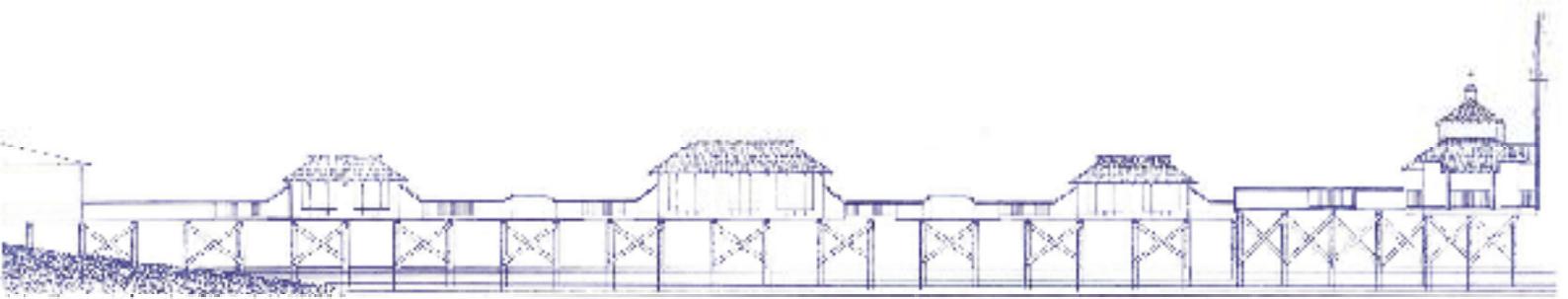
Hardy: “Admiralty policy, I’m afraid, sir. We’re an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil’s own job getting ‘England’ past the censors, lest it be considered racist.”

Nelson: “Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco.”

Hardy: “Sorry sir. All naval vessels have now been designated smoke-free working environments.”

Nelson: “In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the main brace to steel the men before battle.”

Hardy: “The rum ration has been abolished, Admiral. Its part of the Government’s policy on binge drinking.”



Nelson: "Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with itfull speed ahead."

Hardy: "I think you'll find that there's a 4 knot speed limit in this stretch of water."

Nelson: "Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from the crow's nest please."

Hardy: "That won't be possible, sir."

Nelson: "What?"

Hardy: "Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness. And they said that rope ladders don't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffolding can be erected."

Nelson: "Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy."

Hardy: "He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle Admiral."

Nelson: "Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd."

Hardy: "Health and safety again, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled."

Nelson: "Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card."

Hardy: "Actually, sir, you did. The Royal Navy is underrepresented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency."

Nelson: "Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons."

Hardy: "A couple of problems there too, sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without hard hats. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?"

Nelson: "I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy."

Hardy: "The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral."

Nelson: "What? This is mutiny!"

Hardy: "It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal-aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks."

Nelson: "Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?"

Hardy: "Actually, sir, we're not."

Nelson: "We're not?"

Hardy: "No, sir. The French and the Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation."

Nelson: "But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil."

Hardy: "I wouldn't let the ship's diversity co-ordinator hear you saying that sir. You'll be up on disciplinary report."

Nelson: "You must consider every man an enemy, who speaks ill of your King."

Hardy: "Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest; it's the rules. It could save your life"

Nelson: "Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?"

Hardy: "As I explained, sir, rum is off the menu! And there's a ban on corporal punishment."

Nelson: "What about sodomy?"

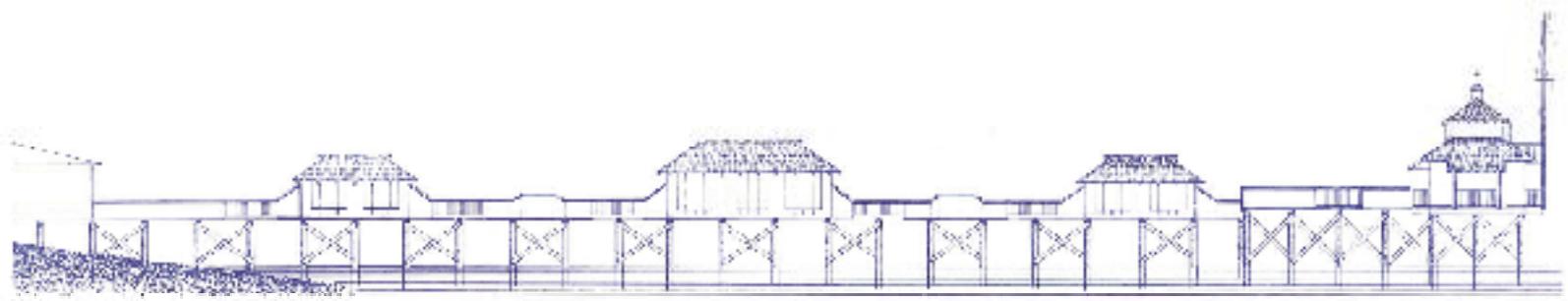
Hardy: "I believe that is now legal, sir."

God, deciding that the Earth had become too wicked again, sent down Noah to build another ark and to again save two of every living thing. "You have six months before I send the great flood." God said.

Six months later, God called in the thunder and lightning and the rain came. He looked down and found Noah very distraught and with not one plank on the boat's hull.

"Noah, I have started the storm, why is the boat not finished?"

"There have been some construction delays Lord. First I was told I needed a building permit. Then the CVRD called and protested saying that it was inhumane to put all the animals in such a small place. Then



I was told that because I lived in a flood plain I could not build the ark there. I told them that building it in a flood plain was exactly the point but that did not impress them. My new location was fine but the CVRD had to first do an environmental impact study that held up construction until just yesterday!"

Suddenly the clouds cleared up and a beautiful rainbow crossed the celestial horizon.

"I'm calling you back." God said.

"Aren't you going to destroy the world Lord?" Noah asked.

"What's the point?" God said. "It looks like someone beat me to it!"

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from us all at the
Cowichan Bay
Wooden Boat Society