



## **Submariners Association of Canada (East)**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday 04 February 2025 at  
Somme Branch Legion &  
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



The Monthly Meeting of SAOC(E) was held at the Somme Branch Legion, Dartmouth and via Zoom. Emails had been sent out and a posting made on Facebook Group to inform everyone that the meeting would commence at 1830 Halifax time so members could attend or connect.

**Opening** The President, Scotty Parsons brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at about 18:30. He greeted all and those connected via Zoom. You can get your own drinks tonight.

**Attendance** 19 members & 6 were connected via Zoom. Those attending were Doug Birch, Cliff Boettcher, Wayne Buzzard, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, Claude Gendron, John Gullion, Wynn Jones, Brian Lapierre, John Madison, Marc Pallard, Scotty Parsons, Conrad Petrikowski, Sylvain Rouillard, J.J. Surette, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey, Nigel Walsworth & Tim Wood. 6 connected via Zoom were Shaun MacDougall, Dave McLaughlin, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, George Roach & Mike Sylvain. 16 Regrets received from Pete Braun, Ron Butchart, Jeff Cameron, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, John Dunn, Sherm Embree, Robbie Fraser, Jim Gordon, Gord Hamilton, Andy Lovasi, Geoff Mawdesley, Marc Osmond, Gilles Poirier, Willy Waugh & Phil Webster.

President – The President would like to welcome everybody to the meeting.

**Health and Wellness** A moment of Silence was held to honour fallen and ailing brothers. Our thoughts and prayers to everyone.

Luc Rollin, Willie Waugh, Gary Hopkins, Jon Carpenter, Brian Lapierre, Gilles Poirier, Rob Braye, Lloyd Dyck, Brian Cooper, Joe Haddock & Jim Gordon are all dealing with issues. Tim Wood mentioned that Chris Jones is also dealing with cancer. Gilles Poirier on the Zoom meeting told us his situation. He feels good but has decided not to go for any more treatments.

It was good to see everyone who attended the Celebration of Life for Sally Tovey on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. Well done to all. Condolences to the family.

William Sturgess passed away on 04 April 2008. He served in RN Submarines and lived in BC.

Rob Gray passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 after battling Dementia for a long time. Served in Oberon's.

William Wright passed away on 21 January 2025. He was Commissioning Crew in HMCS Grilse

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For those who have passed away the Secretary does up their Obituary Profile and they are posted on [www.forposterityssake.ca](http://www.forposterityssake.ca).

**Minutes** The 07 January 2025 MGM minutes were distributed by email. The minutes have been adopted. They have been adopted as read & distributed at the MGM. The minutes for the AGM will be adopted at next years AGM.

**Correspondence In** Emails received from various Submarine Organizations Newsletters. They have been forwarded to the Membership for Info. Also I sent out the link for the You Tube Presentation carried out by Vice Admiral Robinson about Canadian Submarines.

The West Coast is having their event on 30 March 2025 and not getting a very good response. It has been sent out to the Membership.

Received an Email from Valerie Braunschweig about the new type of Newsletter. It is called "Run Silent". It is a

shortened version now. She wants articles and dits to be published in the Newsletter. Her email is [valerieanddick@telus.net](mailto:valerieanddick@telus.net).

On the Zoom Meeting on 29 of November we had a Representative from Veterans Affairs attend. Her presentation was very informative, and we hope everyone learned something and it is up to the individual to contact Veterans Affairs if you have issues. SAOC(W) hopes to have a similar Zoom in the New Year.

**Correspondence Out** Nothing sent out other than letters to members who do not have email. Emails sent out for any correspondence received. Brian continues to write a quarterly report that he sends to Valerie for the West Coast Newsletter.

Letters were mailed out to members who do not have email.

The Secretary has a good contact in the UK. Barrie Downer sends me the latest edition from the Barrow Association. All Obituaries are sent to Barrie Downer so they can be published in the Barrow newsletter.

**President** Thanks for everyone attending. Thanks again for everyone who attended Sally's Celebration of Life. The Association still owes Ron Cooper \$500.00 for the Christmas Event.

**Vice President** No present at this meeting.

**Secretary** Brian Lapierre is recording the meeting and will transcribe it. Effective on the 21 April 2021 our mailing address is **73 Portovista Drive, Portuguese Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1P3**. Most everyone pays their dues with E-Transfers. Please note this and also the address has been changed on the website for the mailing address. Brian stated that his dialogue with the Submarine Force has been good in trying to establish a good working relationship for obtaining information on the Submarine Force and on serving members. Ted Hirtle continues to support the Website and is making progress on it. There are still a few issues that have to be resolved with the website. Sylvain Rouillard is supporting Ted in this process. Ted is having issues with his health. With respect to the website this needs to be addressed.

**Comment from John Dunn on 11 January 2025, Member of SAOC(E)**

Hey Brian, I'm positive we could accommodate the meetings now at the mess. I honestly can't see why not. Covid is over. If not the mess at the MOG at the very least the mess at Stad. I'm the CSEC on the WSR BTW.

The feeling at this time is that the Somme Branch Legion has treated us well and we will continue to hold our meetings here.

There also was a response from a former Submariner (not a Member of SAOC(E) on Facebook about the posting I did with respect to acquiring new Members. He said perhaps the SAOC Badge need to be updated to reflect the current Submarines. My comment was as follows.

The badge doesn't make the Association. The badge is not an Oberon Submarine but a generic badge to depict a Submarine. It is not Grilse, Rainbow, or "A" Class when SAOC was formed or Oberon Class. SAOC(E) has 135 Members in it. Only a couple of our members served in A Class. The majority of our members served in Oberon's and a few have served in Grilse, Rainbow, Oberon's and Victoria Class and some only in Victoria Class. Regardless of the badge design that is not the reason you shouldn't join the Association. We are losing 30 to 35 Submariners a year these past few years.

The reason I work so diligently on our Submarine history is to preserve it so that we will remember all of us who served regardless of if you are a member or not or which class of submarine you sailed in.

The Secretary continues to send out letters to those who do not have email.

The Secretary stated that he had sent emails to SAOC(W) and Central Presidents & Slops Chairman about us

having Blazer and Beret Badges with absolutely no response from either.

**Treasurer** Scott Parsons read the Financial Report received from Ron Cooper as follows:

Financial Statement for February 2025

07 Jan 25 – Closing balance was \$15,138.87

08 Jan 25 – Cheque #192 to Brian Cooper. Christmas function \$200.00. Pizza \$152.00

30 Jan 25 – Deposit of \$1,981.00. Dues \$1,684, Slops \$80.00, 50/50 \$52.00, Pizza fund collected \$130.00, Return from Christmas function \$10.00

03 Feb 25 - \$3.75 for RBC Monthly Fee

04 Feb 25 – Closing balance for February 2025 is \$16,764.02.

We need to have in the minutes who had signing authority. They would be the President (Scott Parsons), Vice President (Jeff Cameron), Treasurer (Ron Cooper), Secretary (Brian Lapierre) & Entertainment Chairman (Brian Cooper).

Buster Brown would be proud.

**Social** Brian Cooper is absent. There is still a plan to have our Beer Call on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at the Seamus David Pub at 1300. The Secretary will do up a poster and send it out.

The new Pizza fund started in November's meeting covered 90% of the costs so that is going well.

**Slops** Claude Gendron gave the Secretary \$95.00 to be turned over. Will be turned over for the March meeting.

**Membership** The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:

An email was sent out on the 05 January 2025 informing Members who had not paid for 2025 that their dues are due.

I have had a reasonable good response of payments so far.

**The Secretary has posted a notice on the Facebook Group canvassing for new members.**

**3 Members that were still outstanding for 2023 as of 05 November 2024 have been removed from the list.**

**I have purged four individuals from the Life Membership list. They were members since 1993 and we have had no contact with them since I took over in 2017. Their emails or phones don't work so they are either dead or otherwise disposed.**

**The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:**

**Life Members = 46**

**Regular Membership to date = 86**

**Total Members = Total 132**

**Welcome to new Member Anton Carter, serving submariner.**

**Welcome to new Member Greg Cottingham. Retired LCdr. Served in HMCS Okanagan, HMS Osiris & HMS Opossum**

**Welcome to new Life Member Chuck Stoakley. Turned 80 last July and a Member in good standing.**

**Welcome to new Life Member Gilles Poirier. Turned 80 in April 2023 and was missed in the list.**

**Welcome to new Life Member John Meehan. Will turn 80 in March 2025 and a Member in good standing.**

**Welcome to new Life Member Ian Mitchell. Ian served in the RN on HMS Sealion, HMS Osiris & HMCS Onondaga in 1994.**

**Welcome to new Life Member Don Childs. Don served in HMCS Ojibwa.**

**Welcome to new Member Duncan Carter, retired Submariner.**

**Welcome to new Life Member John Cascadden, retired CERA who has joined.**

**Welcome to new Member Mike Marchant, former Submariner.**  
**Welcome to new Life Member Richard Lawson, former Submariner.**  
**Welcome to new Member John Dunn, current serving Submariner.**

29 Jan 2025 - \$1,724.00 was sent via E-Transfer to Ron Cooper from dues & slops received.

Send Dues via E-Transfer to: [lapo48@gmail.com](mailto:lapo48@gmail.com)

Send Dues via Canada Post to: **Submariners Association of Canada East, C/O 73 Portovista Drive, Portuguese Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1P3**

**All members are reminded that if your dues are up to date then you will not receive any emails about not having paid your dues.**

There will be setting up another Zoom Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 for the West Coast with Veteran's Affairs. Stand by for future information.

SAOC Central is preparing for their AGM in August of 2025. It will be held on 22 to 24<sup>th</sup>. Ojibwa Museum has obtained Sea Cans containers which they hope to have in place and have a Grand Opening of displayed items. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ojibwa is in September 2025.

#### **Notice from Meeting 26 July 2017**

A CD was received from SAOC West Past President Paul Hansen containing the Dolphin March. The Chair stated that he will make copies to be passed out at the next MGM. Ray Hunt was asked by the Chair to speak on this subject: Ray restated the information on the Dolphin March which he had passed to us at last month's meeting. Ray stated that the composer, **PO2 Robin Jutras**, a musician of The Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, **should be made an Honorary Submariner for her excellent work in writing this march** and lasting contribution to the Submarine Service and our Association, and that all three SAOCs should agree to this. It was moved by Ray Hunt and 2nd by Dusty Miller that the chairman write a letter to SAOC Central and SAOC West Coast branches recommending this. Carried. **Note: I don't know if this letter was ever written and passed to Central and West.** The Secretary has reached out to the Naden Band to try and find PO2 Robin Jutrus.

**Old Business.** Scotty is still working on the By-Laws. Once our monthly meeting day has been finalized then the By-Laws will be amended to reflect the change.

**New Business.** I have been in contact with Andy Lovasi. As you know Andy does his Wood burning projects while it is not snowing or raining when he is in Florida over the winter. He is working on a project for the BBQ event in 2025 but he also wants to know if SAOC(E) would be interested in doing something up for the Somme Branch Legion that we could put in the meeting room. Andy will make the decision on what he wants to do. Brian will send him any info or pics he requires.

In SAOC(E) one of the items that keeps us focused is Anniversary dates of significance. One of these dates is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa on 23 September 2025.

Rum Project 2025 for the 60 Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa-  
HMCS Ojibwa will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commissioning in September 2025. If there is interest perhaps, we could do another Rum Project to Honour her. I thought we would seek out a different distiller for this project. It is in the early stages but want to bring it to the Membership's attention and get a feel for it and see if we want to. Comments are that the Rum produced by Iron Works for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was better tasting than the Rum produced by Compass Distillers for the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If there is interest, then a committee should be formed to pursue this Project. Interested parties should come forward. We would have the rum available no later than 15 June 2025 to get it sold and be available for the Central AGM in August at Ojibwa.

**Blazer & Beret Badges.** The remaining Blazer & Beret badges have been turned over to Claude for Slops inventory. Brian has 13 Blazer & 12 Beret Badges if someone orders he can fill the order. The Blazer Badge is now on sale for \$23.00 and the Beret Badge is now on sale for \$17.00. This includes Shipping and Handling. The Secretary is still being contacted about sales.



**Around the Room.** Wayne Buzzard mentioned if it was possible to have a Social night. Perhaps cards, darts etc. George Byzewski said that this would have to be brought up at the AGM. Sylvain Rouillard mentioned if it would be possible to have a dinner again to honour for instance the current submarines. Sylvain also again mentioned the issue with the website and Ted Hirtle because of his health. Sylvain will look into it. John Madison was looking for a Submarine Sweater. Brian Lapierre has created a new Facebook page for SAOC(E). It is in its infancy stage and he hopes to work on it and add more pictures and files to it.

**50/50 Draw** Won by Scott Parsons. \$47.00. \$48.00 to SAOC.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Scott Parsons.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Sylvain Rouillard and seconded by Conrad Petrikowski to adjourn the meeting at 1928 hrs. **Carried.**

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Somme Branch Legion on Tuesday 04 March 2025 at 1830.

Pizza tonight downstairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

<b>Scott Parsons</b>	<b>Brian Lapierre</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
	