



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 04 March 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 18:33. He greeted all and those connected via Zoom. You can get your own drinks tonight.

Attendance. 16 members & 5 were connected via Zoom. Those attending were Doug Birch, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, Robert Clements, Ron Cooper, John Dunn, Claude Gendron, John Gullion, Wynn Jones, Joe Keast, Brian Lapierre, Marc Pallard, Scotty Parsons, Conrad Petrikowski, Boyd Thomas & Nigel Walsworth. 5 connected via Zoom were Sherm Embree, Shaun MacDougall, Ian Mitchell, Jim Northrup & George Roach. Regrets received from Pete Braun, Wayne Buzzard, Jeff Cameron, Brian Cooper, Jim Gordon, Greg Hallonquist, Gord Hamilton, Andy Lovasi, John Madison, John Meehan, Marc Osmond, Sylvain Rouillard, Gilles Poirier, Brum Tovey, Willy Waugh, Peter Wilkins & Tim Wood.

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, Jake Allen & Jim Gordon are all dealing with issues. Susan Hallonquist wife of member Greg Hallonquist in not well. Our thoughts to everyone.

Ralph Gruendel passed away on 31 October 1993. His death information was recently found and added to posterityssake.ca.

Denis Chitouras passed away on 11 February 2025 in Ottawa area. Served in all three Oberons.

For those who have passed away the Secretary does up their Obituary Profile and they are posted on www.forposterityssake.ca.

Minutes. The 04 February 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 Secretary then read a text message from Chris Richardson that I sent to all members. This had to do with Veterans Affairs and the work that some 3rd party companies are doing. They are charging VA for work not completed or services received. If you want more information, contact the Secretary. Members beware.

An article on Flipboard about Project Ojibwa and paying off the debt. This email received from Dave Anderson was passed to the Members.

In our meeting with VA back on 29 November 2024 VA discouraged members from using 3rd party companies. The

Veteran can deal with VA himself.

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.

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.

Vice President. Not 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.

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

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. Ron Cooper gave his Financial Report as follows:

Financial Statement for March 2025.

04 Feb 25 – Closing balance was \$16, 764.02.

17 Feb 25 – Cheque #193 to Scott Parsons for \$245.41 for Pizza & Web Camera.

03 Mar 25 - \$3.75 for RBC Monthly Fee.

04 Mar 25 – Deposit of \$30.00 from Pizza Cash.

04 Mar 25 – Closing balance was \$16,544.86.

The Secretary still has \$468.00 in an envelope at home. Will pass to Treasurer for next monthly meeting.

Blazer & Beret Badges

Initial Cost \$1,447.00

Sales to Date \$1,068.70

Balance (\$405.30)

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 15th 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 is going to check with a supplier in getting perhaps Golf Shirts or T Shirts in the cost and amount. Perhaps even hats. We should have some in stock.

Membership The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:

An email has been out on 02 March 2025 on the informing Members who had not paid for 2025 that their dues are due. Only four members are outstanding.

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

The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:

Life Members = 47

Regular Membership to date = 86

Total Members = Total 133

04 March 2025 – No money was sent to Ron Cooper for dues & slops received.

Send Dues via E-Transfer to: 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 12th 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 24th. Ojibwa Museum has obtained Sea Cans containers which they hope to have in place and have a Grand Opening of displayed items. The 60th 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 Robyn 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 Robyn Jutras. I got a reply saying that Robyn Jutras had retired but I was given her email address. I sent an email to Robyn Jutras, but I have not heard anything from her and probably won't.

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 60th Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa on 23 September 2025.

Rum Project 2025 for the 60 Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa.

HMCS Ojibwa will celebrate the 60th 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 100th Anniversary was better tasting than the Rum produced by Compass Distillers for the 110th 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.

The Secretary has sent emails to Compass Distillers and Iron Works but has not heard from either of them. Need to follow up.

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. John Dunn thanked everyone. He is happy he has joined and attended. Conrad mentioned about a story of Denis Chitouras. We will remember him about his lost lighter. George Byzewski said that The Veterans Farmers has treated him well. Sherm asked if John Madison got his submarine sweater. Yes, Claude gave him one. Brian Lapierre mentioned that he was down at MOG5 and received 7 more photo albums that mostly had to do with the 75th Anniversary in 1989. They will be scanned and put into the museum.

50/50 Draw. Won by Boyd Thomas. Donated back his share. \$85.00 to SAOC.

Submariners Prayer. Was read by John Dunn.

Adjournment. There being no further business, it was moved by Conrad Petrikowski and seconded by Claude

Gendron to adjourn the meeting at 1930 hrs. **Carried.**

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Somme Branch Legion on Tuesday 01 April 2025 at 1830.

Pizza tonight downstairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Parsons

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Parsons', written below the printed name.

Brian Lapierre

Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Brian Lapierre', written below the printed name.