



Submariners Association of Canada (East)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Friday 18 July 2025 at Escape Tower, Snr Rates Mess,
MOG 5, HMC Dockyard, Halifax, N.S. &
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



The AGM Meeting of SAOC(E) was held at the Escape Tower, Snr Rates Mess, MOG 5 in HMC Dockyard, Halifax, N.S. & via Zoom. Emails had been sent out and a posting made on Facebook Group to inform everyone that the meeting would commence at 1900 Halifax time and via Zoom. With the assistance of Chris Assuncao, serving submariner it was posted in MOG 5. Members attending were allowed into the Dockyard to park. With the assistance of Chris Assuncao, John Dunn and Jim Donovan for making this happen. After setting up the meeting a Zoom connection was established so members could connect.

Opening

the President, Scotty Parsons, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at about 19:00. He greeted all attending members and those connected via Zoom.

Attendance 23 members & guests were in attendance and 7 on Zoom. Those at MOG 5 were Chris Assuncao, Paul Bailey, George Byzewski, Anton Carter, Terry Chatham, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Mike Davis, John Dunn, Robbie Fraser, Claude Gendron, Jim Gordon, Bert Houde, Brian Lapierre, Matt Larkin, Andy Lovasi, John Madison, John Meehan, Marc Pallard, Scotty Parsons, Sylvain Rouillard, Justin Wetlaufer & Tim Wood. Connected 7 members on Zoom were Robert Clements, Sherm Embree, Robert Grace, Gary Hopkins, Shaun MacDougall, Jim Northrup & Luc Rollin. Regrets received from Jeff Cameron, George Roach & John White.

The Chairman then announced that we would pay respects to our departed since our last AGM in 2024. The Secretary then read off the names one by one with the Bell being rung for each one. A total of 23 names were read off and bell sounded. Below is the list of our Departed Brothers & Sisters from July 2024 to July 2025.

2024-2025 Departed Brother. From AGM 19 Jul 2024 to 18 Jul 2025

Ralph Gruendel – 31 October 1993. Sailed in all three Oberons.

Brian Parrott – 25 March 2007, Served in all three Oberons.

William Sturgess – 04 April 2008, Served in RN Submarines Aurochs, Alderney, Astute, Auriga, Sentinel, Seneshel

Glenn Steen – 11 January 2018, Served in RN Submarines, HMS Dolphin (Submarine Training), HMS Anchorite 1957, HMS Amphion 1957-58, HMS Ambush 1958-59, HMS Thule 1959-61, HMS Finwhale 1961, HMS Acheron 1961-64

Marie Kamermans – (Wife of former Member William Kamermans – 30 August 2024.

William Seward – 20 September 2024. Served in HMS Alcide & Trespasser. Part of the 2nd Block Draft in 1955.

Paul Robinson – 26 September 2024. RN Exchange Officer. Served in HMCS Onondaga Jan 1979 to Dec 1980. Retired as a Commodore.

Ken King – 28 September 2024. Served in HMS Odin, HMCS Onondaga (CC) and HMCS Okanagan (CC).

Frank Scherber – 06 October 2024. Served in HMS Oracle, HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan (14th CO) and 13th SM1. Served in HMCS Protecteur as XO during 1st Gulf War. Served in HMCS Huron as 13th CO.

Ed Farrelly – 07 October 2024. Served in HMCS Onondaga & HMCS Okanagan.

Ron (Alvin) Carrier – 26 November 2024. Served in HMCS Ojibwa & HMCS Onondaga. Being buried at sea in July 2025 from HMCS St. John's.

Stephen Foster – 03 December 2024. Served in HMCS Okanagan

Richard (Dick) Newman – 16 December 2024. Served in HMS Walrus, Porpoise, HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga (CC), HMCS Okanagan.

Sally Tovey – 03 January 2025. (Wife of Brum Tovey).

Angus MacLeod – 13 January 2025. Served in Oberon's.

Robert (Dolly) Gray – 17 January 2025 – Served in HMCS Ojibwa (XO) & HMCS Onondaga (XO).

William Wright – 21 January 2025. Served in HMCS Grilse (CC).

Denis Chitouras – 11 February 2025. Served in HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga & HMCS Okanagan.

David Caldwell – 10 March 2025. Served in HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga & HMCS Okanagan.

Jake Allen – 23 April 2025. Served in HMCS Rainbow, HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga & HMCS Okanagan.

Robert MacNeill – 02 May 2025. Served in HMCS Ojibwa.

Douglas Griffith – 21 May 2025. Served in HMCS Grilse, HMCS Rainbow, HMCS Onondaga & HMCS Okanagan.

Roland Lanouette – 03 July 2025. Served in HMS/M Tapir, HMS/M Trespasser, HMS/M Amphion, HMS/M Ambush, HMS/M Artemis, HMS/M Onslaught, HMS/M Alderney, HMS/M Scotsman, HMS/M Sentinel & HMS Dolphin. Also served in HMCS Quebec

May they be always remembered for their good deeds. May we also remember Jon Carpenter, Gary Hopkins, Luc Rollin, Rob Braye, Lloyd Dyck, Gilles Poirier, Jim Gordon & Brian Lapierre and Charlie Longsdale who have had medical issues this past year. If you have medical issues, please keep the Secretary informed. It is still confidential but at least the Association is aware.

The Minutes of the last AGM in July 2024 were distributed electronically, and copies are here at this meeting. There were no errors or omissions. The minutes were accepted and adopted as distributed.

President's Report – Scotty Parsons

It has been a nearly three years since my assuming the role of President in the association. I have tried to balance my work life, social and SAOC requirements with occasional rescheduling of MGM and Friday zoom meetings.

Next, I wish to acknowledge the individual and team efforts of our executive members in the performance of their duties and offer my sincerest thanks to Jeff Cameron, Brian Lapierre, Ron Cooper, Brian Cooper and Claude Gendron who recently stepped down from managing the slops. Their contributions have made my job as chair flow smoothly. Again, this year a special thanks to Brian for planning and executing the Rum purchase.

I would also like to thank Ted Hirtle for maintaining our SAOC East website. Unfortunately, due to Ted's health he is unlikely able to continue managing our web site and we have been looking for a replacement. In late July it has been taken over by Andy Lovasi.

2024 / 2025 in Review:

1. We held 11 Monthly General Meetings with all being held here at the Somme Branch Legion and about 20 "Friday Night at the Mess" zoom meetings.
2. Functions: Summer BBQ at John and June Mehan's residence on July 20th, Dec 14th, 2024 our annual dinner Christmas gathering at Seamus David's Pub in Dartmouth. Brian Cooper also organized "Beer Call's" at Seamus David's on October 16th and April 17th.
3. We conducted formal wreath laying ceremonies on Nov 11th Brian Cooper and Sylvain Rouillard in Halifax and Alvin Carrier and Gord Hamilton in Moncton, for Battle of Atlantic Sunday Brian Lapierre and Sherm Embree on May 4th, at the Point Pleasant Park Memorial.
4. SAOC(E) conducted two Top Student Awards
 - BSQ #2025-0083 Brian Lapierre and Jim Northrup on March 27th,
 - BSQ #2025-0084 Brian Lapierre, Scott Parsons and Sylvain Rouillard on July 17th which also had members from the Philippine Navy who took the course.

5. We presented a laser etched submarine silhouette to Velda Doucette of Somme Branch and I would like to thank Andy Lovasi for his contribution.
6. SAOC East provided the Crossing the Bar ceremonies for our old friend Ronald (Alvin) Carrier who passed away on 26th Nov. Celebration was held in Salisbury, N.B. on 03 May 2025. Special thanks to Sylvain Rouillard arranging this and communicating with Marie Therese, Alvin's wife and families, a special thanks to JJ Surette for speaking at Ron's celebration of life on how to rent a car based on an experience he and Alvin had over 40 years ago.
7. We've recently released an updated set of By Law and Constitution sent to all members by e-mail. These changes have been agreed during our 2023 and 2024 AGMs.

I'm looking forward to serving you again for another year. I would like to thank all the membership for their support.

One final point is regarding membership, we have good numbers and we are finally recruiting new members and members currently serving.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,



Scott Parsons

President

Submariners Association of Canada East

Vice President – Jeff Cameron. Absent.

Secretary – Brian Lapierre. 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 and the receipt of junk mail has been eliminated. Please note this and also the mailing address has been changed on the website. All correspondence is being received electronically. This is good. Brian continues to write a one-page report for the West Coast "Run Silent" Newsletter. Anybody who would like to contribute a document or article to increase the presence of East Coast Submarines please send Valerie Braunschweig the article. She will accept it. Her email is **valerieanddick@telus.net.** 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.

Back when Rob Gray passed away in January, Neil Lake contacted me and said that possibly the Gray family would like a "Crossing of the Bar" Ceremony conducted. I had been in contact with Neil Lake these past few months, but I guess conflicts in the family it was decided not to proceed with a "Crossing of the Bar". I never heard nothing from Neil Lake so that is it.

The Secretary has in his possession all of the Slops Items received from Claude Gendron. With what we have which is mostly pins will be available at the BBQ.

We have continued in holding our Zoom Meetings bi-weekly. Generally those who join in enjoy them. Normally the same people all of the time but periodically we will get someone who hasn't connected in a while. Everyone receives

the link in the email and it is posted on Facebook in the Submariners Group as well. The next Bi-Weekly Zoom meeting will be on 01 August 2025 at 1900.

Membership – Brian Lapierre. In the past year I have done a concerted effort in trying to get new members into the Association. We now have four serving submariners in the Association which is good. I continue to post on Facebook Reported there are 52 Life Members, 89 Members for a total of 141. 1 outstanding Membership not paid for a current year. Our Life Members are decreasing because Brian has been searching to find out the status of some of the Veterans and have found that a few have passed away and the Association did not know. He is continuing this task. Brian encouraged people to find out their status and pay their dues. As a reminder if people have not paid their dues and are lapsed for one year then their name will be taken off the list and they will no longer receive any emails from SAOC(E). **Dues are now outstanding for 2025.** One member is yet to pay for 2025. Brian will be turning money over to Ron as necessary when money is received before the next monthly meeting.

Welcome our newest member Kevin Stephens.

Send Dues via E-Transfer to: lapo48@gmail.com

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

Treasurer – Ron Cooper. Ron gave his financial report for July 2025 and the AGM. The first report is the Monthly Financial Statement for July 2024.

03 Jun 2025 – Closing Balance 03 Jun 2025 was \$17,320.53.

02 Jun 2025 – \$0.14 - Branch in Service fee (not posted until after June Meeting).

04 Jun 2025 – Cheque #196 for \$136.41. \$116.41 to Brian Cooper for Seamus David's, \$20.00 for Pizza.

04 Jun 2025 – Cheque #197 for \$167.39. To Sylvain Rouillard for Web Site Hosting.

04 Jun 2025 – Cheque #194 for \$632.95. To Ron Cooper for X-mas Dinner Gift Certs, Monthly Pizza.

17 Jun 2025 – Cheque #198 for \$329.55. To Scott Parsons for Printing of Bylaws to Minute Man Press, \$200.00 for Donation to Ojibwa for September Maintenance.

02 Jul 2025 – RBC Monthly Fee of \$3.75.

18 Jul 2025 – Deposit of \$110.00. 50/50 was \$50.00, Pizza Cash \$60.00.

Yearly Breakdown

RBC Balance - \$15,820.95 as of 2024 AGM.

Membership Dues – In: \$3085.00.

Slops – Out: \$240.00 paid for Decals. In: \$649.75 sales.

50/50 – In: \$607.25/

Donations - \$395.00. Out: Ojibwa Museum, Rum to UK & US. In: \$339.50. Brian L., Brian C., Jeff C., Tony P., Boyd T.

Web Site/Zoom – Out: \$696.76. Zoom Account, Web site, Web Camera.

Royal Bank – Out: \$46.50 Monthly Fees.

Misc. - \$426.43. Out: Wreath, Secretarial Supplies, MM Press – Bylaws. In: Sold 1 btl. of rum.

Luncheons - \$305.11 for Beer Calls.

BBQ – Out: \$744.86.

Meeting Pizza's – Out: \$1046.15. In: 220.00.

Christmas Dinner – Out: \$690.00.

Total – Out: \$4591.31. In: \$4951.50. Balance as of 2025 AGM \$16,160.34.

According to the Treasurer this report may be modified at the next meeting to ensure correct figures. The financial statements are included in these minutes.

Slops – Vacant. Up until when Claude turned the Slops over he had tried to get rid of much of the items. He managed to get rid of a lot of stock at a reduced price. Some to the Ojibwa Project in Port Burwell. Our big purchase this year was the 50 Blazer and 50 Beret badges. The Secretary is currently in hold of the Slops items. We currently have inventory totalling \$1947.75.

Social – Brian Cooper. We had one beer call in April which was at Seamus Davis Pub with another slated for the 16th of October. SAOC pays for appetizers, and you pay for your food and drinks. It is proposed to spend a max of \$1000.00 for the BBQ on the 19th of July. As of this meeting we have 63 names on the list for the BBQ. The last Christmas Function was held at the Seamus David Pub in Dartmouth Crossing and it was successful, and this year will go ahead. Each couple is allocated \$35.00 towards there meals.

By Laws – The By Laws have been updated. Copies of the new Bylaws are available for members.

Review of Dues – It was recommended by Ron Cooper to keep the dues at \$20.00 per year.

Old Business – Brian mentioned about the Rum Project for the 110th Anniversary went very well, and we sold 500 bottles in 16 days. Thanks to everyone who participated in purchasing this rum.

New Business – Brian approached Compass Distillers in April to see if another batch of rum could be produced for the 60th Anniversary of the Commissioning of HMCS Ojibwa. She will be 60 on the 23rd of September 2025. We have proceeded to get the rum produced and it went on sale on the 15th of July 2025. There is a total of 600 bottles that went on sale. The price per bottle is \$48.00 after you enter the code which is Ojibwa72. After entering the code, you get the preferred price.

Around the Room. Ron Cooper asked how the Submarine Gala went? Robbie Fraser said it went very well. Well turned out. Sylvain thanked the Executive again for there performance for the last year. Robbie Fraser mentioned in that another organization he belongs to they use Google Meet instead of Zoom. Apparently it is free. The President said that this is something the Association will look at. George Byzewski mentioned that our friend in the UK Charlie Longsdale that his health is not good. He is now 86. He really wanted to come to the BBQ but he cannot travel. We wish him well. Terry Chatham mentioned that he has one seat available in his vehicle if someone wants a ride to the Central AGM in Port Burwell. He will be departing on the 21st of August. If anyone wants to take up Terry's offer contact him. Jim Gordon would like to thank everyone who supported him since the spring during his medical issues. His support "pickle" and everyone else. Chris Assuncao appreciated the invite to the meeting. Good to see we held it at MOG 5. Brian Lapierre thanked Chris for his support in getting the message out about the AGM to Submariners and also his initiative in getting an AC unit for the Commissionaires at Rainbow Gate. Well done, Chris. Justin Wetlauffer mentioned that he was excited about being at the meeting. Brian Lapierre wanted to thank everyone who attends the meetings and supports the Association. Sherm Embree again thanked the Executive for what they do. Sherm would like to talk with John Madison after the meeting is over on Zoom. Bob Grace asked if anyone was going to the UK this year. He would like to get something from the Museum in Gosport. I said that I would send him an email with some contacts names. Scotty Parsons mentioned about the Submarine Gala which was very good indeed.

Brian Lapierre stated that in his capacity at The Naval Museum of Halifax, the Museum has a good working relationship with The Canadian Submarine Force.

The date for the next AGM will be in July 2026. Tentative date to be announced in the future.

50/50 Draw No 50/50 draw was held as it will be held at the BBQ on the 19 July 2025. Also Andy Lovasi has donated one of his Wood Burning Projects and tickets will be sold at the BBQ and proceed donated back to SAOC(E). Also the bottle of Rum donated by Bill Cleal will be raffled off. It was re-donated by Brian Lapierre as he won it at the Christmas function in Dec 2024.

Submariners Prayer was read by George Byzewski.

Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by George Byzewski and seconded by Terry Chatham adjourn the meeting at 2011 hrs. **Carried**. Everyone gathered for a Group picture and upon completion Pizza was served to members and guests.



2025-07-18

SAOC(E) AGM at MOG 5, 18 July 2025.

1. James Gordon, 2. Claude Gendron, 3. George Byzewski, 4. Andy Lovasi, 5. Tim Wood, 6. John Meehan, 7. Terry Chatham, 8. Bert Houde, 9. John Madison, 10. Sylvain Rouillard, 11. Paul Bailey, 12. Marc Pallard, 13. Matt Larkin, 14. Robbie Fraser, 15. Brian Lapierre, Secretary, 16. Scott Parsons, President, 17. Brian Cooper, Entertainment, 18. Ron Cooper, Treasurer, 19. Mike Davis, 20. Anton Carter, 21. Chris Assuncao, 22. Justin Wettlaufer. Missing is John Dunn.

The next MGM will be held at the Somme Branch Legion and via Zoom on Tuesday 05 August 2025 at 18:30 (6:30pm) Atlantic Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Parsons President 	Brian Lapierre Secretary 
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