



Submariners Association of Canada

Central Branch

193 Oakwood Dr. – Rockland, ON - K4K 1K9

SAOC Central Newsletter – November 2025

INTRODUCTION

Well the end of another year is fast approaching. This newsletter captures some of the activities that have occurred in the past few months and what members can expect to look forward to in the coming year.

2025 AGM AND OJIBWA 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

General Overview

Our 2025 AGM was held in Port Burwell Ontario, All I can say is that was a “Really Great Show”. We had a super turnout, and I was able to touch base with folks I had not seen in many years. This was my first time seeing my “Old Boat” and she was in much better shape than I envisaged – although I forgot how tight the quarters were. Terrific work to keep OJ in a good state, despite not having a very large budget, (or supporters with deep pockets!) is a credit to a small but very dedicated group of volunteers.

The Port Burwell Legion provided a great venue for the AGM and associated social events. Food, drink and local hospitality were there in great quantity. I know most of us wondered how big the chickens were in real life that were served as part of the BBQ. I certainly never want to run into one of their kin during a morning walk – the BBQ versions were huge!, During the September OJ maintenance period, Pierre Bouchard presented a cheque on behalf of SAOC as a small token in appreciation to the branch for branch use in recognizing the volunteers who supported us.

The other group that provided support for our weekend is the team from the Elgin Military Museum, led by Ian Raven. Those who have participated in the work periods and volunteer some of their weekends to act as tour guides know that Ian is very dedicated to the submarine (and in case you did not know, he actually has a full-time day job!) It was great to meet him and some of his local team. Ian is involved with everyone/everything from big projects to “did someone leave the gate access open again!” - like being XO and Coxn!

We also had the opportunity to tour the new display shipping containers that the Unseen Warrior Society (USW) has been actively engaged in putting together. While this has taken a bit longer to implement, this display area will certainly enhance the OJ visit

experience. Of interest was a refurbished old submarine rum tank used for tots that is destined for display. All to say I certainly was impressed with the dedication folks have in ensuring OJ's legacy continues.

Finally, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the efforts of Jerry Brown and Pierre Bouchard and their leadership in ensuring the weekend was a success. I know there were others involved in assisting and your efforts are appreciated.

Submarine Quilts

For me one of the more special moments during the weekend was the presentation of hand-made quilts to several members who have supported the submarine work periods and at other times since Ojibwa arrived in Port Burwell. The quilts were made during the winter months of 2025 by Karen Anderson (her husband is SAOC member David Anderson). All I can say is that this was a very touching moment – even the toughest of the tough shed a tear or two! This is perhaps one of the nicest gifts of appreciation I have ever seen. Thank you Karen, your quilts are beautiful!. Those who received a quilt will certainly keep very warm in coming winters.



(Left to right: Dave Robinson, George Roach, Max Wood, Pierre Bouchard, Karen Anderson, Jerry Brown, Dave Anderson, Yvon Desrosiers and Ian Raven



2025 AGM meeting summary

Dues – a discussion was held in regard dues for 2026 and it was decided to keep dues at \$30.

Financials – the association is in a good state and we have sufficient funds to keep our current level of programme as is. There is some flexibility to enhance activities such as support for the OJ maintenance periods or the annual AGM and associated social program if need be.

Website – most of you are aware that the SAOC Central website is very out of date and we do not have a webmaster. Prior to the AGM, there was consideration to take our site down or at least remove out-of-date material and provide a simple web page with the association's key points of contact such as a link to the East and West Coast site and an email link so that folks could contact Central branch. We do pay for a portion of the cost to host and update the site but have not used it in a long time. While the cost is not excessive, if we do not use it why pay. After some discussion and reflection the consensus was we will work on this further. Bill Hom (and one or two others) volunteered to assist me in progressing a way ahead. Unfortunately, I have not started this effort but intend to in the coming months. More to follow.

We are Veterans – David Anderson addressed the AGM in regard this statement. He reminded those present and had served, that we are indeed veterans. He urged us to consider making a contribution (essentially a 200 word record of service in one's own words) to the **Legion's Military Service Recognition Book**. Several of these have already been published and are available at your local legion (certainly in Ontario). The where, what for, and how can be found at the link below and failing that you can always ask.

<https://on.legion.ca/remembrance/military-service-recognition-book/>

As a follow-up to this discussion, one of our members is interested in potentially making a similar effort, possibly through the legion, for submariners. I am aware that we do have a good deal of information on submariners who have served in the past, but this will take a lot of work and collaboration to make happen. This initiative is in its infancy and if you might be interested in helping please let me know and I will pass on your name. I am also aware that there are a couple of folks you probably know who have some of the information and will be key in moving this along if there is interest.

2026 AGM AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The dates for the 2026 AGM and associated programme will be 14 - 16 August 2026. Gord Burns put his name forward to lead this. Pierre Bouchard has also expressed interest as well and has some ideas for this programme. More information to follow in the coming months.

OJIBWA WORK PERIODS – 2026

Here are the dates for 2026 Work Parties:

June 2026– Saturday 7 June through Saturday 14 June

September 2025 – Saturday 13 September through Saturday 20 September

More details on these activities will be forthcoming in early 2026. I want to thank those individuals who have donated money in support of the work periods. These donations help fund meals and accommodation, at least in part, and other incidental expenses that arise. Thanks again for helping out!

SAOC BLAZER AND BERET BADGES

SAOC East has procured a number of SAOC blazer and beret badges at a reasonable price. They look great and the quality is good enough. I would contact Brian first to see if these items are still available (SAOC East may have a new Slops person so check with Brian first before ordering)

Price - SAOC Blazer badge which includes tax and shipping is \$23.00. SAOC Beret Badge which includes tax and shipping is \$17.00

Orders: If you are interested, please email and e-transfer funds to Brian Lapierre at lpo48@gmail.com (Ensure you include your name and shipping address as well)

61ST INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE CONFERENCE 2026 – EDINBURGH SCOTLAND – MAY 25-28

Bill Venator our Head of Delegation over the years to the ISC, informs us that next year's event will be held in Edinburgh Scotland. I have attached [this link](#) with the relevant information in case you are considering attending this event

BITS AND PIECES

SAOC Policy Documents - As announced at the 2025 AGM, we are working some amendments to the SAOC policy documents. While some changes have been proposed, a closer review suggests there are a few other items to review to reflect how we operate. In addition we will be looking at – mainly a social organization.

Peter Heppleston Award - your executive will be reviewing a couple of nominations that have been submitted for this award. A decision will be made over the next few months (end-Jan 2026 most likely)

HMCS Onondaga 60th Anniversary Celebration – Rimouski QC 22 June 2027 (tentative)

Fellow SAOC member Donald Courcy has advised us that preliminary investigation/planning has begun to celebrate Onondaga's 60th anniversary. The events associated with this celebration (circa 22 June 2027) would most likely take place at the Site historique maritime de la Pointe-au-Pere, which is very close to Rimouski. Some of you who participated in the 2027 SAOC Central AGM may remember this venue. All to say more information will be passed to you in the coming months.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2026 (and beyond if you so wish!)

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026 (and beyond if you wish to do so) please do so by cheque or e-transfer. Dues are \$30 a year:

Cheque (made out to) Submariners Association of Canada

**Mail to: Submariners Association of Canada
193 Oakwood Drive
Rockland, ON, K4K 1K9
Attn: Treasurer/Membership**

e-transfer: treasurer.saoc.central@gmail.ca

Note: your association remains in a good financial position. Your dues allow us to continue to fund, in part, our annual AGM weekend as well as support some of the costs associated with our Ojibwa maintenance weeks.

Conclusion

All the best in 2026. Have a safe holiday season. A special thanks to those members who do the little things and help out. Trust me, your efforts are appreciated.

Next Newsletter- Early Spring 2026. And remember to have a good laugh from time-to-time, even if it is at yourself! Life is good!

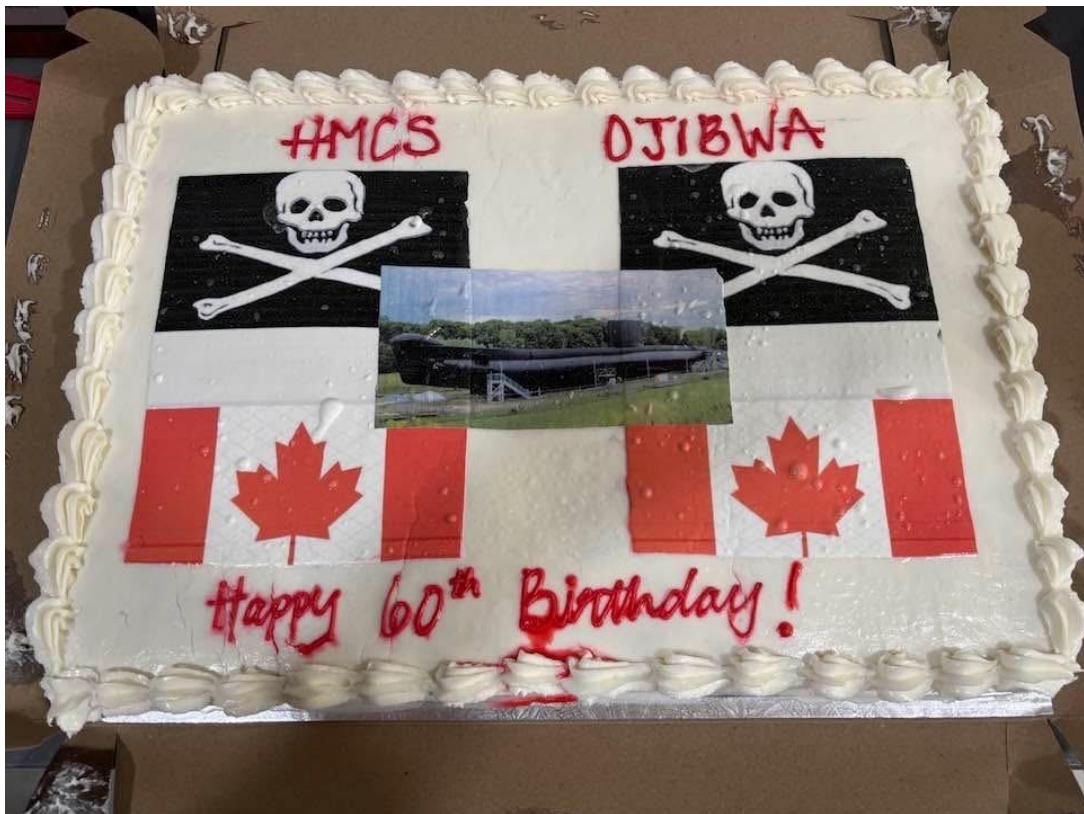
Yours,

David

David Soule
On behalf of your
SAOC Central Executive
dsouleRCN14@gmail.com



HMCS Ojibwa - post the September 2025 work period





2025 SAOC Central AGM Attendees – A cast of pirates for sure!

FR: John Clahane, not known (unfortunately), Gary Hopkins, David Soule, Mac McGillivary
SR: George “Bazoo” Byzewski, Yvon “Rosie” Desrosier, Pierre Bouchard, George Roach, Fred Rowe,
Jerry Brown, Max Wood, Mario Tremblay
BR: Jim “Chevy” Ford, Gene Joelson, Terry “Chooch” Chatham, Ron Cooper, Geoff Mawdesley, Dave
Anderson, Gord Burns, Dave Robinson, and Chris Smith



The gals enjoying lunch while their spouses/partners attended and suffered through the AGM meeting.



Ojibwa Sep 2025 work period volunteers



Pierre Bouchard (2nd from right) presents a cheque to Port Burwell Legion President Leonna Main in appreciation of their support to the 2025 AGM and associated social program.