



Submariners Association of Canada (East)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Friday 17 July 2026 at Somme Branch Legion,
Dartmouth, N.S. & Via ZOOM
Conference Meeting



The AGM Meeting of SAOC(E) was held at the Somme Branch Legion in Dartmouth 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. 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 21 members & guests were in attendance and 3 on Zoom. Those attending were Chris Assuncao, Paul Bailey, George Byzewski, Jeff Cameron, Terry Chatham, John Clahane, Bill Cleal, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Robbie Fraser, Jim Gordon, Bert Houde, Brian Lapierre, Andy Lovasi, John Madison, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Scotty Parsons, Sylvain Rouillard, Bill Venator & Tim Wood. Connected on Zoom were Robert Clements, Sherm Embree, & Shaun MacDougall. Regrets received from Ron Butchart & Lee Thompson.

The Chairman then announced that we would pay respects to our departed since our last AGM in 2025. 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.

2025-2026 Departed Brother. From AGM 18 Jul 2025 to 17 Jul 2026. A total of 24.

Francis Zareski – 6th Submarine Division 1958.

John Hill – 18 September 2013, HMCS Onondaga

Tom Hedley – 08 July 2025. HMCS Grilse, HMCS Rainbow (CC)

John “Jack” Goodman – 16 July 2025. HMCS Rainbow (CC).

Bernie O’Leary – 24 August 2025. HMS Acheron, HMS Narwhal, HMS Ocelot, HMCS Onondaga (CC).

Edward Hinch – 14 September 2025. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan.

David Brygadyr - ??????. HMCS Grilse, HMCS Rainbow (CC).

Joe Haddock – 30 October 2025. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan, HMCS Victoria, HMCS Corner Brook.

Gilles Poirier – 03 November 2025. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan.

James Mitch Ewan – 05 November 2025. HMCS Rainbow, HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan.

Kelly Lough – 26 November 2025. HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan.

Lloyd Dyck – 18 December 2025. HMS Otter, HMS Onyx, HMS Sealion, HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan

James Dickens – 22 December 2025. HMCS Windsor, HMCS Corner Brook

Ian Gibson RAN – 11 January 2026. HMAS Ovens, HMAS Orion, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan

Bryan Elson – 12 January 2026. HMS Sidon, HMS Ambush, HMS Explorer, HMS Excalibur, HMS Osirus, HMS Alderney

Donald Childs – 31 January 2026. HMS Thermopylae, HMCS Ojibwa

John Hopkins – 20 February 2026. HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan

Luc Rollin – 03 March 2026. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan

Kevin Stephens – 16 April 2026. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan

Ron Perks – 01 May 2026. HMS Opossum HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, SM1

Eric Fischer – 04 May 2026. HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan
Sam Edgar – 18 May 2026. RN Exchange Officer. Served in SM1 as A/STO
Chris Andrew – 22 June 2026. HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Okanagan
Ken Capron – 02 July 2026. HMCS Grilse, HMCS Rainbow

May they be always remembered for their good deeds. May we also remember Jon Carpenter, Lloyd Blagdon, Gary Hopkins, Rob Braye, Brian Cooper, 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 2025 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

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

It has been 4 1/2 years since my assuming the role of President in the association and I have managed 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. Their contributions have made my job as chair flow smoothly.

Again, this year a special thanks to Brian for planning and executing another Rum purchase.

I would also like to thank Andy Lovasi for stepping up and taking the lead with updating and for maintaining our SAOC East website.

Like to extend a heart felt thanks to Brian LaPierre for his many years of being our association secretary and now with him stepping down Jeff Cameron will be stepping up to the position. Also Chris Assuncao will be stepping up to the position of VP and this should be ratified this evening.

2025 / 2026 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 19th, 2025 our annual dinner Christmas gathering at Seamus David's Pub in Dartmouth on Dec 13th. Brian Cooper also organized "Beer Call's" at Seamus David's on April 15th & Oct 22nd.
3. We conducted formal wreath laying ceremonies on Nov 11th, for Battle of Atlantic Sunday on May 4th, at the Point Pleasant Park Memorial.
4. SAOC(E) conducted two Top Student Awards
5. In September Alvin Carrier and his father's ashes were spread at sea from HMCS St John's in the Med.

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. I would like to thank everyone for the last two years as a vacate this position and turn it over to Chris Assuncao. I will be taking over the position of Secretary from Brian Lapierre. I have done a turnover with Brian and I may need his help at times which he has offered.

Secretary – Brian Lapierre. I would like to thank everyone for the past nine years. I have turned over the position to Jeff Cameron.

Last week Jim Northrup and I were invited to MOG5 by the Canadian Submarine Force. It was a briefing on the new submarines and the challenges ahead. SAOC East was recognized by CSF personally by Captain Kooiman for our participation of the NEP Program. Upon completion there was a BBQ held at MOG 5. I talked in length with CPO2 Trish Inglis (Coxn of Windsor) and extended an invitation to CSF to our BBQ. I did not receive and response. Also CPO2 Inglis told me at the C&PO's next meeting they were going to propose that CSF on a Regular basis invite SAOC East to an informal function at the mess. We will wait to hear on this.

Back in February there was a young female student who was extremely interested in serving in Submarines. So enthusiastic that in fact she just completed her Victoria Class BSQ on the 10 July 2026 and is now serving on the West Coast.

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.

The Secretary has been sending out to Members a digital Birthday Card for each month on their day.

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 31 July 2026 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 54 Life Members, 89 Members for a total of 143. 4 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 2026.** Four member is yet to pay for 2026. Brian will be turning money over to Ron as necessary when money is received before the next monthly meeting.

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 2026 and the AGM. The first report is the Monthly Financial Statement for July 2026.

02 Jun 2026 – Closing Balance was \$20,070.16.
02 Jun 2026 – Cheque #414 for \$250.00. Scott Parsons, Donation to Ojibwa Museum (Spring Work).
03 Jun 2026 – Cheque #416 for \$209.02. Brian Cooper. Pizza Fund.
08 Jun 2026 – Cheque \$415 for \$2,170.49. Golden Silk Screening for Golf Shirts.
02 Jul 2026 – \$3.75. Monthly Fee to RBC.
17 Jul 2026 – Deposit of \$125.00. Pizza Fund \$50.00, 50/50 \$48.00, Kyle Denny Donation \$27.00.
17 Jul 2026 – Closing Balance. \$17,561.90.

Yearly Breakdown

RBC Balance - \$16,160.34 as of 2025 AGM.

Membership Dues – In: \$3082.00.

Slops – Out: \$144.00. Golf Shirts In \$2,179.49. Golf Shirts Paid Out \$2,179.49.

50/50 – In: \$609.00

Raffles - \$255.00. Ojibwa 60th Rum, Wooden plaque by Andy Lovasi.

Donations /Gifts Out - \$1,262.60. Ojibwa Museum \$250.00, Souls Harbour Rescue \$500.00, Ojibwa 60th for Original Crew \$512.60.

Donations/Gifts In – Compass Distillery \$1200.00. Donations by Brian L., Jeff C., Wayne B., Tim W., Conrad P., Sylvain R., & Kyle D.

Web Site/Zoom – Out: \$404.36. Zoom Account, Web site.

Royal Bank – Out: \$161,84 Monthly Fees & Cheques..

Misc. - \$115.00. Secretarial Supplies.

Luncheons - \$277.71 for Beer Calls.

BBQ/AGM – \$558.88.

Meeting Pizza's – Out: \$1, 254.55. In: 555.00. AVG full cost \$114.05. AVG less \$ collected \$63.60.

Christmas Dinner – Out: \$700.00.

Total – Out: \$4,734.94. In: \$6,136,50. Balance as of 2026 AGM \$17,561.90.

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 – Brian Lapierre. The purchase of the Golf Shirts & Ties is complete and delivered. We have 15 ties for sale at \$20.00 shipping included so if anyone wants one contact Brian. Money is being calculated and will be submitted to

Ron Cooper for the August Monthly Meeting. Invoices for the Golf Shirts and Ties has been submitted to the Treasurer for payment. We currently have inventory totalling \$1829.75.

Social – Brian Cooper. Thanked everyone for attending the Social events. We had one beer call in April which was at Seamus Davis Pub with another slated for the 04th November 2026. SAOC pays for appetizers, and you pay for your food and drinks. It is proposed to spend a max of \$1000.00 for AGM & for the BBQ on the 18th of July. As of this meeting we have 60 names on the list for the BBQ. It is proposed that a Christmas Luncheon be held instead of a Dinner. Time of day, cost of items. Slated for December 19th but the date could change. It is proposed to be held at the Dartmouth Common off of Portland Street. (Details to follow).

This is a non Election year but we have various positions being changed. Jeff Cameron is taking over from Brian Lapierre as Secretary. Chris Assuncao is replacing Jeff Cameron as Vice President. All in favour. Passed.

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

Old Business – The Ojibwa Rum Project went very well. We sold 600 bottles and got a rebate of \$1.200.00.

New Business – Brian has suggested that we do another Rum Project for HMCS Onondaga. He will approach Compass Distillers in January to have something available in May/June time frame. The Museum in Rimouski is planning events for this occasion. It will be sent out in a separate email to members.

Submarine Congress. Bill Venator gave some information on the Submarine Congress and what they have tried to achieve.

History of the ISC.

In the early sixties, two key men in the international submarine environment, the Frenchman Commander Jean Blanchard and the German Commander Adalbert Schnee had the opportunity to meet. They both had brilliantly served on submarines during the Second World War. Schnee, a key man in the German submarine force, was decorated with medals of merit. The two men shared their common experiences in submarines and became friends. The harsh reality of the war, in which they had fought on opposite sides with courage and determination was now over, and they found strong ties of solidarity and understanding. As a result of this strong understanding, they planned to arrange a meeting between the submariners from both countries. No one is aware, which of the two proposed this gathering first. However, it is certain that the other one accepted immediately with such enthusiasm that perhaps he was about to ask the same thing. We can say that it was a spiritual need, like a surge of the soul deeply felt by both men. Hence, in the spring of 1962, the first meeting took place in Paris, the success was so great that the following year another was arranged in the same place. Mean while, the two Commanders got in touch with Admiral Perona, Commander of the Atlantic base of Italian boats in Bordeaux, who gladly decided to join the initiative. So, from 1963, the year of the second meeting in Paris there was a numerous participation of Italian Submariners. The first Italian meeting took place in Venice in 1965. Since then these meetings have taken place every year in the rotation, starting in Germany then France and then Italy, with the only exceptions of 1968 and 1996. After a few years Austria, Great Britain, and the United States decided to join. In recent years we have been joined by Russia, Poland, Chile, Israel, Argentina and the Ukraine. We are delighted to see our "family" growing with Poland and the Scandinavian countries participation. We all feel real harmony, the brotherhood, and the solidarity that derives from us all being "sailors" and "submariners" and from our common experiences of life at sea, besides, of course, our strengthened friendship which has developed throughout the years. This atmosphere is very much in tune with the times we are living, an era characterized by an ever-growing international flow of cultural, economic, political and tourist exchanges between various European and other nations, in search of a more stable integration and peace between nations. The late Commander Schnee at NATO headquarters in Paris during the 5th meeting [1966] uttered words which are indelible in everyone's minds and hearts, words which now seem prophetic: There is someone who wants to build Europe starting from above us submariners

will build it from below, the abyss... Without a doubt, the "construction" of Europe goes ahead, not lacking problems, in the belief that it should not stop. But us submariners can affirm in all modesty but with pride, that "our" Europe, "our" World has already been born.

Bill and his wife have attended a couple of these events.

Around the Room. Sylvain Rouillard thanked the Executives for the past year of service. Brian Cooper mentioned that we could possibly due a Rum for HMCS Windsor. She Commissioned on 04 October 2003. George Byzewski thanked the Secretary for sending letters to people who don't have email. Andy Lovasi mentioned he will be selling tickets for the Bottle of Rum donated by Bill Cleal at the BBQ. Chris Assuncao again thanked Brian. Brian is the reason that he joined SAOC East. Thanks again. Chris also said he is waiting approval for the "Spinning Dits" YouTube Channel approved by DND. Ron Cooper stated that Juno Tower no longer takes bookings due to training requirements. What happened to the CSF BBQ. It was cancelled due to Security reasons. To many people and the system couldn't handle it. It was mentioned about the NEP Program. It has been a success so far. It has approved successful in trying to recruit new submariners. This is why SAOC East supports the Canadian Submarine Force. Sherm Embree again thanked the outgoing Secretary for his dedication to the Association. Jeff Cameron stated that over half of the Members who attending the AGM is both Oberon and Victoria Class Qualified. So SAOC is not just for Oberon submariners. The President Scott Parsons mentioned that his email Scott.parsons@ahydro.com will no longer be in service by the end of July and if contacting Scott please use sparsons61@hotmail.com. Brian Lapierre mentioned that The Naval Museum is officially closed. All artifacts and documents have been removed, Renovations will begin.

The date for the next AGM will be 16 July 2027.

The date for the next BBQ will be 17 July 2027.

50/50 Draw The 50/50 draw was held. The winner was Jim Northrup. \$55.00 to winner & \$55.00 to SAOC East. Also the bottle of Rum donated by Bill Cleal will be raffled off at the BBQ. Thanks Bill.

Submariners Prayer was read by Jim Northrup.

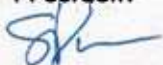
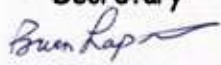
Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by Robbie Fraser and seconded by Sylvain Rouillard. The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hrs. **Carried.** Everyone gathered for a Group picture and upon completion Pizza was served to members.



2026-07-17. SAOC(E) AGM held at Somme Branch Legion, Dartmouth, N.S.
 Front Row (L-R) Chris Assuncao (Incoming Vice President), Brian Cooper (Social Chairman), Brian Lapierre, (Outgoing Secretary & Slops/Membership Chairman), Scott Parsons (President), Jeff Cameron (Outgoing Vice President & new Secretary), Ron Cooper (Treasurer). Middle Row (L-R): Jim Gordon, Sylvain Rouillard, John Clahane, Robbie Fraser, Andy Lovasi, Bill Cleal, Bert Houde, John Madison. Back Row (L-R) Paul Bailey, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Terry Chatham, Tim Wood, George Byzewski, Bill Venator.

The next MGM will be held at the Somme Branch Legion and via Zoom on Tuesday 04 August 2026 at 18:30 (6:30pm) Atlantic Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Parsons President 	Brian Lapierre Secretary 
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