Autumn 2019

Volume 20 Issue 1

The Watch Keeper MISSION TO SEAFARERS PORT OF THUNDER BAY

Happenings in the Port



CHUNCOLOUR

Tim Heney, CEO Thunder Bay Port Authority presents Canon Ed Swayze with the Port's donation to the Mission to Seafarers.



James St. Bridge Open

This bridge, which connects Thunder Bay and Fort William First Nation across the Kaministiquia River, reopened on November 9. It had been closed to vehicular traffic since a fire damaged it on October 29, 2013.

For ships berthed at facilities at the south end of the Port: MobilEx, G3 Terminal and Superior Terminal, reopening of this bridge means that the round trip driving time to these berths has been reduced from 60 minutes to 40 minutes. For the Mission to Seafarers, a shorter driving time will make it easier to visit ships and transport crew.

Keefer Terminal Reconfiguration

Reconfiguration of the Port's general and project cargo terminal is in the final stages, with the commissioning of a new 50,000 sq. ft. heated facility expected in the first half of 2020.

Recognizing a growing demand for cargo staging, storage space and increased rail capacity, the Port of Thunder Bay launched the \$15 million dollar reconfiguration project in 2018 with the additional objectives of enhancing terminal cargo flow and increasing safety. Construction to date has included:

- 2,800 feet of upgraded railtrack and a net increase of 18 railcar spots. The railtrack has been reconfigured to improve cargo handling efficiency.
- Six acres of new cargo laydown space adjacent to the reconfigured track.



The new warehouse facility is clear-span and suitable for cargo storage and staging, fabrication and light manufacturing. It replaces an aged on-dock storage shed that will be removed to improve cargo flow and terminal safety.

This capital investment adds value for shippers moving project and general cargo to Western Canada by increasing both indoor and outdoor storage capacity, streamlining cargo handling operations, and expanding capacity for cargo fabrication. The Port of Thunder Bay received funding totaling \$8.5 million dollars from the National Trade Corridors Fund and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

From the December edition of the Port of Thunder Bay newsletter.

Midcontinent Terminal



Pictured here is the M/V Victoriaborg, berthed at Midcontinent Terminal in December 2019.

Inspection by the Port Warden and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) takes place when a ship is at anchor. When the ship may ice up, making it more unsafe for inspectors to board the ship, the ship may come alongside for a 'lay by berth' for inspection as per Transport Canada regulations.

The Watch Keeper PORT OF THUNDER BAY

Thinking About How Our Ministry Operates



From time to time we need to look at what we are doing and determine how we adapt to changing circumstances. This article will also give you a sense of the work we have been doing since the last newsletter.

The number of ocean-going ships increased in 2014 and has stayed steady since then. This is due to the Canadian Wheat Board being closed and the subsequent increase in grain shipments. So for the foreseeable future, the number of ocean-going ships coming to the Port of Thunder Bay will remain constant.

The Mission to Seafarers Statistics graphs shows that the Centre has been open and that we have been consistent in transporting seafarers, but the number of seafarers visiting the Seafarers Centre declined. Seafarers' Centres across the globe are experiencing this trend.

Crew from ships alongside at Keefer Terminal, where the Seafarers'

Centre is located, tend to use the Centre more than ships berthed elsewhere in the Port.

The decline of the Centre's usage is due in part to the availability of Wi-Fi aboard ships and the ability of cell phones to connect to the internet. Newly built ships have improved access for Wi-Fi: a satellite link is used and the seafarers have to pay for usage, but costs are dropping. When they come into port they can access the Internet through their cell phone using a pay as you go SIM card (Subscriber Identity Module) or get free Wi-Fi at a number of places including the Seafarers' Centre. A SIM card is a small removable card that is inserted into the back of a mobile device; all cell phones require a SIM card. Its function is to give access to a particular mobile network.

The Mission to Seafarers has been adapting to changing technology and needs of seafarers. Like many of us, they now carry smart phones; previously they used phone cards, desk top computers and lap tops.

In 2014 we sold 293 SeaFare Cards, a phone card, and in 2017 6; so we discontinued selling them.

Seafarers stopped using phones and computers at the Centre, so we discontinued 2 dedicated phones for their use and reduced the computers for seafarers to use from 3 to 2.

In 2014 we started to sell the iVittamobile SIM card and credit voucher (top up), and sold 37 SIM cards and 79 credit vouchers.

The iVittamobileSIM card is designed for seafarers and they can use it around the world for data, messaging and voice. In 2019 YTD we sold 118 SIM cards and 251 credit vouchers. Talking with seafarers and other chaplains, this is something seafarers want.

Technology is important in that it enables us to connect with our family and friends, who support us and whom we support. Facilitating access to technology is a form of pastoral care.

Another factor is how the port is operating: loading has gotten faster at most elevators. It used to be common that crew had 2 nights to go ashore, now 1 is common.

Mission to Seafarers Statistics







Thinking about how our ministry operates, the Seafarers Centre is our base of operations. In the evenings when ocean-going ships are alongside, it is staffed with 1 or 2 Watch Keepers and a Driver. Watch Keepers answer the phone and coordinate pickups with the Driver; visit with seafarers and assist them in contacting their families by selling SIM Cards, souvenirs, stamps and post-cards; distributing clothing, Bibles and magazines; and assisting seafarers in any way possible. This work involves looking after petty cash. One Watch Keeper said that, even though they have access to Wi-Fi, those that come to the Seafarers Centre are looking for a change from their ship and to talk to someone different.



The Centre is staffed March 25 to December 21, with the busiest times in May and October to December. Watch Keepers and Drivers are scheduled one night per week; and they are called in if a ship is alongside, which is about 55% of the shipping season or 133 nights.

Thinking about adapting our ministry to our present context, Watch Keepers expectations may need to be adjusted. Answering the phone and coordinating pickups will continue to be a necessary role. Seafarers will continue to visit the Centre, but it will not be as busy.

If a volunteer is both a Watch Keeper and a Driver, it gives more flexibility in terms of staffing the Seafarers' Centre: they could take turns driving the seafarers and when there is one ship alongside, one person could do both jobs.

Ship visiting is another ministry of the Mission to Seafarers. Canon Ed visits ships as do volunteer ship visitors. Ship visiting orients seafarers to the Port and what the Mission can offer, arrangements may be made to transport crew and SIM cards may be purchased. It is an opportunity to talk with seafarers.

As Canon Ed is part-time and had other responsibilities, ship visitors help the Mission to

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do its ministry. We would like to have 3 active ship visitors, who would cover a day a week. They need to be qualified as a Watch Keeper and Driver, be physically fit and must take the Ship Welfare Visitor course.

In conversations with other chaplains, improving ship visiting is a strategy being used at other seafarers' missions.



The Christmas Gift Bags are a relatively new ministry. Starting in 2016, we delivered Christmas Gift Bags to ships in port in December. When we delivered bags to a Polish ship last Christmas, the captain said to me that the gifts mean a lot, as seafarers they feel invisible and the gift bags make them feel that they are not invisible.

As I think about how our ministry operates, I am grateful for the good working relationships we have with Lake Superior Shipping and Thunder Bay Shipping. Both Ship's Agents assist us in making arrangements to look after the seafarers, which is what we both want to have happen.

We talk about ministry; we provide services to seafarers; not unlike a business. But we are not a

business, our clients do not fund the ministry; the Diocese of Algoma, Thunder Bay Port Authority, International Sailors Society, churches, organizations, businesses and individuals do. What makes a ministry is a belief that one is answering a call to serve, which stems from faith in God. When one is in changing times, one must remember that the God who called us, still calls us. As we think about our ministry, we need to trust that God will help us to adapt to evolving circumstances and meet the needs of seafarers.

Christmas Gift Bags

Throughout the Diocese of Algoma we have a great group of ladies who knit and collect items for the Christmas gift bags. The churches in Thunder Bay-North Shore have been very

generous in providing a large variety of goodies to add to the bags. This year, due to the increased number of ships arriving in December, we have put together just over 300 gift bags. Thank you so very much to those who donated and to the awesome group of ladies who arrived to pack the bags. We had a lot of fun doing it and we know how much the sailors appreciate being remembered.







Upcoming Events

- April 17 5:30 p.m. Symposium, 6:15 p.m. Annual Fundraising Dinner at the Current River Community Centre, 450 Dewe Ave.
- April 29 12:30 p.m. lunch, 1:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting at the Seafarers' Centre.
- May 3 11:45 a.m. Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration at the ANCHORAGE at Marina Park.
- June TBA 10:30 a.m. **Blessing of the Fleet** at the Royal Canadian Navy Pier - Pier 3, Prince Arthur's Landing Marina Park

September 27 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Open House** at the Seafarers' Centre, a light lunch will be provided.

The Watch Keeper

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Chaplain-Rev. Canon Ed Swayze

Just a couple of notes on some projects that I have been working on.

Intern

In Irene Wyrozub's note 'Seeds of Growth', she wrote of her experience as an intern with us in 2018. We were pleased to assist with Irene's learning and she has helped us carry out our ministry. The commitment on the Mission's part was for a 4 month period. I met weekly with her to provide supervision and volunteers met monthly with her as a learning support group.

Training

A theme from Mission to Seafarers International Headquarters (IHQ) is that training would equip chaplains and volunteers to more effectively meet the needs to seafarers.

I completed the Ship Welfare Visitor course and we are making it a requirement for volunteer Ship Visitors. It is a computer based course along with 6 ship visits that are written up in a report.

We have been updating the <u>Ship Visitor, Watch</u> <u>Keeper and Driver's Handbook</u>, which is the main training tool for our volunteers.

We are preparing to hold training sessions with Watch Keepers and Drivers and intend to hold them in the spring of 2020.

Mission to Seafarers: Canada

MTSC is intended to assist with developing the standards at the Canadian stations and providing support to them, and will work with the IHQ in London, England.

I attended the MTSC Conference in Halifax in May 2018 and hosted the conference in Thunder Bay in May 2019. At each conference a business meeting is held and I was elected to the Board of Directors and subsequently the Board appointed me secretary.

The Chaplain's Corner

The Primate appointed the Rt. Rev'd David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, as the Liaison Bishop to Mission to Seafarers: Canada in September. The Rev'd Maggie Whittingham-Lamont resigned as Regional Director at the end of September and the Rev'd Judith Altree of MTS Southern Ontario accepted an appointment as Regional Director in October.

There will be a MTS conference in Ottawa in April and a MTS world conference in England. Janet Pike and will attend representing the Board.

The Blessing of the Fleet

The Blessing of the Fleet was held on June 22 at the Waterfront, Pier 3, Royal Canadian Navy Pier. It is always a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beautiful site of vessels as they participate in the Parade of Sail: 18 vessels participated including the Harbourmaster and the Cape Challion.





Seeds of Growth

In the spring of 2018, a new seed of learning was planted, when the Board of the Mission to Seafarers agreed to accept the challenge of having their Centre as my Supervised Field Placement. A team was set up, consisting of: the Chaplain, five Board members and myself to design a tailor-made course for my Bachelor of Theology course THEO3600, from Thorneloe University at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

I was introduced into the world of shipping, especially those whose livelihood depended upon it. Within the Seafarers' Centre I have been active in a variety of essential jobs: such as Watch Keeper, assisting the treasurer, retrieving the mail and assisting with the Christmas Gift Bags. Yet, the greatest pleasure for me was welcoming the crew members of a ship to the Center and assisting them in finding a piece of clothing, a cup of coffee with home-made cookies, and offering them a comfortable chair as they talked to their loved ones back home, via the Centre's free Wi-Fi. This pleasure was extended when I visited a ship or drove crew members from and to their ships. Not only have I been rewarded with a pass for my University course, but I have been greatly enriched by the knowledge each crew member has shared with me. The seed of

learning has taken hold at the Mission to Seafarers, which has nourished my life greatly.

Submitted by Irene Wyrozub



The Watch Keeper PORT OF THUNDER BAY

Comments from the Chair of the Board

As usual it has been a busy year for us. In January we celebrated the volunteers on whom we rely to serve the Seafarers who come to our Port. There are many challenges to operating any organization that depends on volunteers. We have a great group here and are so very grateful for their commitment. We can always use more help and encourage anyone interested to consider joining us.

Our 2019 Fundraising Dinner took place on April 5 at the Current River Community Center. Dr. Michel S. Beaulieu, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of History, Lakehead University was our guest speaker. As 2019 marked the 60th Anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway and his talk on the history and development of the Seaway was entitled 'A Great Lakes Romance': The Lakehead's Highway of Destiny'.

Our other major fundraiser is our Meat Sale held in early May. European Meats provides us with quality local meat products. Through the diligence of our sellers and with addition of new items on the list we have increased our sales. It is great to be able to support local meat producers while enjoying delicious smokies, steaks, chicken and other products.

Donations and these fundraisers provide the finances to run the Mission. We are very diligent in managing our expenses; however, we had our roof re-shingled and are in the process of replacing the furnace at the Centre. While these replacements were anticipated at some point, to have both done in such a short time puts some strain on our finances. We hope that donations will come in to help us cover these costs. As well, we are planning for further repairs to our aging Centre building.

We hosted the Mission to Seafarers Canada Conference in May. Unfortunately I was going out of town, but was able to enjoy dinner at the Red Lion with some of the participants before I left. Thank you to Suzy Thornes, Vice-Chair, for being available for the Conference.

Board of Directors 2019/2020 Chair Vice-Chair Secretary Treasurer (non-voting) Janet Pike Suzy Thornes Cecily Hewitt Brad Yeo Directors Ingrid Koropeski **Dorothy Playle** Ingrid Price **David Stephens** Barbara Williams Non-votina **Ex-officio** The Reverend Canon Ed Swayze The Venerable Dr. Deborah Kraft

On July 3, 2019 the First Annual General Meeting of the Mission to Seafarers Canada was held by Zoom Conference. The By Laws of Incorporation were ratified. Canon Ed was recognized for the ten years of hard work in setting up the structure and content of the former Constitution and groundwork laid for the new Bylaw #1 for MtSC. Archbishop Fred Hiltz was thanked for his support and guidance as our acting Liaison Bishop and given well wishes on his retirement.

We worked on our Strategic Plan this fall looking at how we operate and what we may need to do to adapt our ministry to changes in the needs of sailors arriving in our port. As always we can use more volunteers as Watch Keepers and Drivers.

Currently we have three vacancies on our Board of Directors. Directors serve a two year term and may be re-elected for a maximum of five consecutive terms. The Board meets monthly as required on the first Wednesday of the month. We are also in need of someone willing to take the position of Secretary.

Increasing our Chaplain, Canon Ed's time from 47.5% to 50% will help with operations, recruitment and management of volunteers and maintaining donations. Implementation of recommendations from our planning sessions will be dependent on our financial position.

Thank you to our Chaplain, Canon Ed, and to our Board members, Congregational Reps and all of our Watch Keepers, Drivers and other volunteers who serve in different capacities to support the work of the Mission to Seafarers. We are blessed to have such a caring group of volunteers and a supportive community.

Janet Pike Chair Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay

16,000 14,000 10,000 8,000 4,000 4,000 4,000 10

Report from Our Treasurer

As you can see from the chart above, donations during the first 11 months lag behind the traditional donations in December.

Unfortunately, this means that we will need the December gifts to be in line with the last two years in order for us to meet our expenses this year. It makes it challenging to monitor our finances; if donations could be sent in earlier in the year, it would help us to better manage the finances.

We have been able to keep up with our commitment to the Diocese this year. However, December's stipend payment was only able to accomplished by dipping into the Capital Fund with the belief that He will bless us with special Donations in December to cover that and our commitments in January and February.

Your assistance is appreciated.

Brad Yeo



The Watch Keeper PORT OF THUNDER BAY



Her Majesty's Canadian Ship GRIFFON – Proud to Serve

Prima In Lacubus (First on the Lakes) is the motto of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) GRIFFON. The motto and name link GRIFFON with that of the first European vessel to sail the Great Lakes – Rene Robert Sieur de LaSalle's *Le Griffon* in 1679.

HMCS GRIFFON is a Naval Reserve Division (NRD) of the Naval Reserve, part of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Since commissioning in 1937, GRIFFON sailors have played an active role in both domestic and international operations in peace and war. Located on Lake Superior in Thunder Bay, HMCS GRIFFON was built at its' current location in 1942. Its purpose at that time was to enlist and train sailors from northwestern Ontario and central Canada for the RCN during the Second World War.

Throughout World War II, GRIFFON's sailors fought during the Battle of the Atlantic, ensuring the protection and safe arrival of merchant ships and cargos to the UK and European theatres from North America. Sailors trained here were also crews for 30 corvettes and minesweepers built at Port Arthur Shipyard in Thunder Bay for the Royal Navy, (RN) and the RCN. After World War II, many served in the Korean War and participated in domestic and international operations in support of Canada, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations (UN). Today, HMCS GRIFFON as one of 24 NRDs in Canada continues to serve. Its current efforts remain focused on recruiting and training personnel capable of supporting and augmenting RCN operations domestically and internationally.

Recently, GRIFFON sailors have served on RCN, CAF and NATO Operations (OPs) on RCN warships or at shore establishments:

- OP PROJECTION in Suva, Fiji training with foreign navies and other international security partners;
- OP CARIBBE CAF operations supporting a United States-led multinational mission against illicit trafficking by transnational organized crime in international waters and airspace of the Caribbean basin and eastern Pacific Ocean;
- OP REASSURANCE part of a NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe, and
- OP LENTUS, CAF support to assist in response to forest fires, floods and natural disasters in Canada. In the spring of 2019, GRIFFON sailors provided support in response to flooding in Ottawa, working from HMCS CARLETON, another NRD in Ottawa.

The sailors of HMCS GRIFFON are proud to serve the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Navy and the Thunder Bay community.

Submitted by HMCS GRIFFON





Ship Visit

The M/V Fearless is shown at anchor. Canon Ed arranged for members of HMCS GRIFFON to tour the M/V Fearless while it was alongside at Keefer Terminal. Canon Ed is also the chaplain at HMCS GRIFFON, and this was a good way to provide training for GRIFFON's sailors and give them awareness of the world of merchant seafarers. Many thanks to the Captain, Chief Officer and crew and to the **Phoenix Shipping & Trading S.A.** of Greece for allowing GRIFFON's sailors to visit.

IN MEMORY OF

Olive Ede - Olive died in December 2018. She was a Director and Secretary-Treasurer from 1995 to 1999; Watch Keeper 1997 to 2007 and St. Paul's parish rep 2006 to 2015. The Board of Directors made Olive a Life Member in 1999. Olive had worked as a bookkeeper and did the bookkeeping for the construction of Keefer Terminal.

Doreen Herckman - Doreen died in November 2018. She was a Watch Keeper from 2000 to 2007 and a Director 2004. The Board of Directors made her a Life Member in

2007. Doreen worked at the Mission with Ray, the love of her life and who died in 2007.

The Rev'd Charlene Scriver

- Charlene died suddenly on October 21, 2019. Charlene was the incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church. Her association with the Mission began when her husband, Capt. Ernie Scriver was appointed as the chaplain in 1993, and who died the same year. Charlene continued a Watch Keeper from 1993 to 1994. She studied and was ordained as an Anglican Priest and in that capacity filled in as a celebrant at our monthly Eucharists from 2016 to 2019.

She was a Director 2016 to 2019.Charlene is also the sister of David Stephens, one of our volunteers.

The Watch Keeper

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Crew from the M/V Americaborg with their Christmas tree, December 2018.



Christmas Gift Bags

Donations may be given to your MtS Congregational representative or brought to the Seafarer's Centre no later than the second last Monday in November.

Money donations also accepted that will be used to purchase additional items for the gift bags.

For more information go to www.missiontoseafarers.ca/ thunderbay and click on Solade Nicol 'Christmas Gift Bags'.

Capital Work

Seafarers' Centre - level trailer, renew skirting and build new stairs \$11,000



Mission To Seafarers Port of Thunder Bay Seafarers' Centre - Keefer Terminal Suite 450 100 Main St Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6R9 (807) 344-8241

flvingangel@tbavtel.net www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay www.facebook.com/missiontoseafarerstbay

You may donate using www.CanadaHelps.org or the Electronic Offering Program; see www.dioceseofalgoma.com or an Anglican parish.

Volunteer Appreciation 2018

5-year gifts David Robertson and Suzy Thornes

10-year gift Brad Yeo





Volunteer Appreciation 2019

New Volunteers

Haakon Dagsvik Charlie Mintenko Ingrid Price Darryl Storey **Eleanor Watts** Irene Wyrozub

5-year gifts

Peter Bound Cecily Hewitt Teresa Parr Rev. Charlene Scriver

10-year gift Gordon Bailey

Barbara Williams





Plans for 2020

Recruit Volunteers 2 or 3 Watch Keepers/ Drivers need to be recruited annually to keep our volunteers at a good strength. For more information go to www.missiontoseafarers.ca/ thunderbay and click on 'Volunteer Opportunities'.

Our treasurer could use the assistance of a CPA or equivalent. It is possible that someone could give us some time to assist with how to properly handle the finances of the Centre and advise on how to best make of use of QuickBooks?

Would you like to help us with computer/admin work? We are looking for someone to come in for 2 hours a week who either has background using Microsoft Office or is willing to learn; must also be willing to function as a Watch

Keeper and help seafarers who drop into the Centre.

Clothing Donations Needed I

The Mission to Seafarers is in need of clean, used or new, but usable, warm, small-large men's clothing to distribute to seafarers. Please bring clothing to the drop off box at the Seafarers' Centre, Keefer Terminal 100 Main St. or call (807) 344-8241.

Knitting

We welcome the donation of toques and mittens. We have patterns for knitting and crocheting toques, available upon request.



Thank you to Those who Financially Supported the Mission

December 1, 2017 to October 31, 2019

CORPORTATE DONORS

Master

\$3,000 +

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USWA/TCU, Unit Lodge 650, THUNDER BAY

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St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church, THUNDER BAY

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