



MISSION TO SEAFARERS – HALIFAX

# Flying Angel

Caring for seafarers around the world



February 2015

## Christmas Luncheon 2014



The Mission To Seafarers Volunteers: Leon, Glenn, Barry, Susan, Norman, Aurora, Bernie, Patricia, Helen Glenn (Manager), Alex, Wally, Gail, Anne, Carolyn, Edna, Kate, Colm, Aage, Maggie Whittingham-Lamont (Seafarer Coordinator)

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon proved to be an excellent kick off to the season with over 320 patrons in attendance. This would not have been achieved without our Christmas Committee Chair, Richard Edwards, and Joan MacLeod who worked diligently to pull everything together. We thank you both very much. The East Coast Carollers greeted guests with angelic voices, and the Mike Cowie Trio provided entertainment during the luncheon. The STAR Awards Program was well received again this year with 26 STARS presented. We thank our community sponsors for their on-going support through-out the year.

## A Year In Review

by Maggie Whittingham-Lamont

2014 was a good year for the Mission and many things happened during the course of the year.

There were several ships in port for repair at the start of year. The most noteworthy one being the Asian Emperor, a vehicle carrier that had suffered a major list and loss of power during a storm on Valentine's Day. It was a cold climb for Mission staff and volunteers up many flights of stairs in sub-zero temperatures to make the daily ship visits. The Roman Catholic Mass held onboard was a very moving experience.

There were also some sadness in the early part of the year. Long-time Mission supporter Captain Peter Hutchins died and the Mission was packed to capacity for his funeral. Maggie was also on hand when a Polish seafarer died suddenly onboard ship and was able to arrange a service onboard ship as well as support the crew in their time of stress and sadness.

The cruise season started early and ended late! On certain days the Mission was buzzing with crewmembers waiting to transfer money and use WiFi. The crew's truly appreciate having somewhere to contact their families with ease and this was made even easier when we enhanced our WiFi capacity.

The Mission was open through all holidays. As usual it was busier when other shops and services were not available. Shipping does not stop for holidays as time is very much

money in the shipping industry so for a ship to be not working for just a few hours costs many thousands of dollars. Seafarers are kept informed of any holiday celebrations that are going on in town during their stay and in 2014 crew from a tanker that was here because of mechanical problems were able to enjoy the New Year's festivities at Grand Parade.

The monthly luncheons continued at noon on the last Friday of the month from January through November. In total four hundred and twenty people attended the luncheons. We also hosted our Annual Christmas Luncheon in December at the Cunard Centre. We are thankful for all who gave their support to this event. Our Golf Tournament was held in July at Avon Valley and proved as popular as ever.

One of the many joys at the Mission in 2014 was the blessing of our volunteer Alex's marriage. It was followed by a wonderful afternoon of celebration and good food.

Of course the Mission's year ended with the Shoebox Campaign. The shoebox volunteers did an amazing job of checking, wrapping and augmenting shoeboxes and once more Matthew Hughson at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic spearheaded a very successful campaign involving all at the museum in his keenness to beat last year's target.

So, with nearly 10,000 visitors to the Mission last year, 9832 to be exact, 2824 transports and 451 ship visits the Mission eagerly anticipates 2015 and hopes you will continue to support us in the many ways you have done so in the past.

## A Remarkable Woman – Aurora Ulloa-Parsons



When this charismatic woman dropped into my office to share her interest in volunteering, her radiance and sincerity was apparent. Aurora epitomizes the essence of what volunteerism is all about. Her proactive nature grants the energy to be consistently filling a need somewhere. Whether assisting with the monthly luncheon or filling in for others who are away, Aurora tackles all that she does with passion and vitality.

A retired Dispensing Optician for 30 years, Aurora has been part of our family for two (2) years, typically on Thursday mornings. She is a key holder prepared to open or close the mission when needed. Stepping up comes naturally for Aurora, who enjoys coordinating events such as Alex & Anna's wedding reception, enlisting our culturally diversified volunteers to prepare home-land dishes to be enjoyed by all who attend.

Aurora and her husband, Halifax Pilot Captain James Parsons, donated and installed a new toilet for the ladies' wash-room and were instrumental in providing a new Christmas tree last December. Aurora shares wonderful stories with seafarers, and when she returns from visits to her home in CHILI, she brings back the best organic oregano in the world.

Aurora also volunteers with Adsum House, Nursing Homes and Palliative Care Units.

We are most fortunate to have a visionary within our volunteer family who not only sees what needs to be done – but moves forward and “makes it so”. Thank you Aurora Ulloa-Parsons. We salute YOU.



## Halifax's Finest



Sgt. Joe Collins, Kent Roulston and Gary Rogers escort our volunteers to the bank, and check in regularly to ensure our safety at the Mission to Seafarers Halifax. Rumor has it, two of Halifax's finest may retire soon. Please know you will be missed, and we hope you will drop in to visit regularly! Lunch on us? Thank you for all you do!

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## Chair's Message

**By Sandra Attersley**

As I write this note, we are waiting for a Nor'easter to arrive in Halifax along with snow, then ice pellets, followed by lots of rain and a flash freeze as temperatures swing from -13C to +8C and then back to -15C! This rapidly changing storm can be likened to activity at the Mission to Seafarers. A quiet day at the Mission can ever so quickly become busy when two dozen seafarers drop in to use the phones, internet, play pool or just to relax watching tv or speaking with our volunteers.

This time of year, many seafarers take advantage of the Mission's clothing room, which through community donations and volunteer effort, is kept well stocked with winter clothing – sweaters, fleece jackets, toques, trousers, etc. Many seafarers are from more tropical parts of the world and often do not have sufficient warm clothes for our climate, so this service the Mission provides is very welcome.

So, as we hunker down for six more weeks of winter (sadly, Shubenacadie Sam saw his shadow), please continue to keep the Mission to Seafarers in your thoughts. The Mission could not serve the seafarers as it does without the generous donations of time, talent and treasures of our supporters. Please accept the sincere thanks of the Mission staff, volunteers and Board of Directors.

# • BULLETIN •

## Farewell Donald Miller – Volunteer Extraordinaire



If you've attended our month-end luncheons, you will recognize the kind face of Don Miller, as our Friday morning concierge! Luncheon set up, mail pick up and banking are only a few of the many duties Don has had, as well as grace us with his gentle persona. Opting to spend more time in Florida this winter with family, Don has retired his gig with the mission.



You will be sadly missed Donald! Please join us for lunch, so we have an opportunity to serve you and your lovely wife. Blessings and many, many thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

## A Salute to our Volunteers

We welcome Halifax Pilot James MacKelvey, wife Ann Savoy, Carole Thorne, and Coast Guard Captain, Greg Naugle to our volunteer family. Serendipitous timing as we say farewell to Edna Vieau, and our Friday morning volunteer of 12 years, Donald Miller. Blessings and prayers to heal well to Gail Bruhn and John Huczel.

Aage Roren  
Ann Reed  
Ann Savoy-MacKelvie  
Alex Vyblov  
Aurora Ulloa-Parsons  
Barrie Reed  
Bernie Leonard  
Bob Lancashire  
Carole Thorne  
Carolyn Graham  
Colm Stockdale  
Doug Roe  
Gail Logie  
Gail Bruhn  
Glenn Taylor  
Greg Naugle  
Jack Gallagher

Jasmine Du  
Jim MacKelvie  
John Attersley  
John Huczel  
Joseph Loot  
Kate Finlayson  
Leon Goguen  
Leslie Miller  
Norman Picton  
Palma Hemming  
Paula Canning  
Pat Thompson  
Raymond Miller  
Sherree Vickers  
Susan Picton  
Wally Thorne

## Dedicated Hearts

Dedicated hearts like yours  
Are not so easy to find.  
It takes a special person to be  
So generous and kind.

To care so much for your fellow man  
Is a quality all too rare.  
Yet you give of your time and talents,  
For all in need to share.

So thank you for being a volunteer,  
We're privileged to work with you.  
We want you to know how appreciated you are,  
Not just today, but the whole year through.

## Find us on Facebook

Mission to Seafarers, Halifax, Canada



## Volunteer at the Mission and See the World

We are looking for people who would like to become volunteers at the Mission to Seafarers. There are a wide variety of tasks that may interest you.

Using the Mission van, you may be trained for ship visits. This entails visiting the crew on their ships and transporting them to the Mission, or taking them shopping, providing phone cards or maybe just talking to a seafarer who has not seen a fresh face in many weeks. Errands may include: banking, shopping, picking up used clothing or books, and later in the year picking up shoe boxes for our Christmas shoebox campaign.

Some volunteers prefer to work at the counter of our small shop, where there is ample opportunity to converse with seafarers from all parts of the world.

Training in all aspects of the work is provided.

We are asking that volunteers try to commit to one four-hour shift per week. If you are interested and have any questions, please contact Helen or Maggie at 422-7790.

We are open 9:30 – 22:00 weekdays (when ships are in port) and 10:00 – 22:00 Saturday (when ships are in port). Please feel free to drop by to look around. We would be very interested in speaking with you and discussing the tasks that most interest you.

## Announcements:

- Please give generously to our 2015 Annual Appeal in March!
- Join us for our monthly luncheon the last Friday of every month, only \$10 per person
- Watch for details of our 2nd Annual Wine Beer Fest... coming soon!
- Become part of our Community Partner STAR PROGRAM. Contact [hglenn@bellaliant.com](mailto:hglenn@bellaliant.com)

## Mission Wish List

- New stove to prepare monthly luncheons
- Larger industrial stainless steel dishwasher
- Our back shed needs to be replaced
- A BARBECUE for the summer

## Monthly Luncheons

Our monthly luncheons continue to be held on the last Friday of each month at noon. Please come in and join us for a home-cooked meal, dessert, tea or coffee. The cost is \$10 per person. We thank our monthly sponsors for their on-going support! Should you be interested in sponsoring a luncheon – please contact Helen at [hglenn@bellaliant.ca](mailto:hglenn@bellaliant.ca)

## The Mission is thankful to our major sponsors without whom we would not be able to offer our services.

Atlantic Towing Ltd.  
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Atlantic Pilotage Authority  
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