



MISSION TO SEAFARERS – HALIFAX

Flying Angel

Caring for seafarers around the world



Spring 2016

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL APPEAL!



Did you know that seafaring remains one of the world's most dangerous occupations, with over 1,000 deaths each year through vessels sinking, grounding or collisions? More than 1.5 million seafarers' lives are frequently filled with danger, loneliness and, at times, despair. Injuries and sickness are frequent. Their families are often on the other side of the world with no means of contact until the next port of call. And as noted in the Chaplain's message, seafarers often arrive in Halifax during the winter with inadequate clothing.

The Mission to Seafarers is here for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. Our Seafarer Centre is a critical rest and recovery facility, and a vital resource where crews can relax in a safe and friendly place and contact home by phone and internet. We provide ship visiting and transport services, practical, emotional and spiritual support, and our dedicated staff and volunteers offer a listening ear as well as advice on welfare or emergency concerns.

The Mission, and the seafarers who rely on us, are thankful for your past generosity. However, our ability to continue providing much-needed services depends on the ongoing support of caring people like you. With even quicker ship turnarounds we have more to accomplish with less time and fewer resources, and your financial support is crucial.

We are reaching out to businesses and individuals alike"were you aware that 90% of everything comes to Halifax on ships that arrive at the Port of Halifax?" Yet it's an industry that goes largely unnoticed. Please reflect upon how seafarers impact your life and indeed, your livelihood.

We ask for your help so we can continue to serve the seafarers passing through our port. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, either by mail or through our website at www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca. Thank you for making a difference!

*Kind regards,
Sandra Attersley
Chair, Board of Directors*

www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

• BULLETIN •

2015 Christmas Luncheon



Patricia, Ross, Alex, David, John, Aage, Gloria, Gail

Our dedicated sponsors are a testament to the depth of community partnerships, and we thank all of you for ringing in the Christmas season with the Mission to Seafarers volunteers and patrons. Kicking off the Christmas season, this major fund-raiser enables us to provide services to seafarers visiting the Port of Halifax. Thank you to RCR staff, the East Coast Carolers and Mike Cowie for creating a perfect

setting. We were honored to have The Lieutenant Governor J.J. Grant in attendance. The Halifax Port Authority graciously donated a striking original of Kiln Art fused glass hanging which was won by Ann Galbraith. Finally, thanks to our organizing committee headed up by Richard Edwards with Joan MacLeod!



The Mike Cowie Band



Doug, Aurora, James, Norman, Susan

• BULLETIN •

Halifax Port Days

This celebration was timely with the Halifax Port Authority being awarded 2015 Port of the Year by the International Seafarer's Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)! We thank the Port of Halifax for the generous donation in lieu of gifts to the speakers.

Halifax photographer Steve Farmer's talent for capturing a moment in time, was featured during Port Days as he, and the HPA, donated two framed photographs to raise money for our Mission. We appreciate the continued generosity of our friends at the Halifax Port Authority and as well as Steve's creativity.



Carolyn, Aurora, Maggie, Steve, Rob, Helen, Sandra, Patrick



Patrick, Steve, Shannon, Aurora, Helen, Carolyn, Maggie, Sandra

2015 Shoebox Campaign



Our shoebox ladies, Martha, Emma, Sylvia and Cathy worked tirelessly during November and December to ensure all the boxed gifts are to standard. They take this task very seriously! We are grateful for their dedication, commitment, sense of humor and the smiles of joy from their hearts. 1,610 shoeboxes were gift wrapped and delivered by volunteers and staff to each seafarer who visited the Port of Halifax in December and January. We thank individuals, corporations and parishioners who dropped off gift boxes and items. Thank you all.

What is in a shoebox gift? Mittens or gloves, scarf, toque, socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, hard candy (no chocolate or alcohol), soap, shampoo, shaving foam, razors, deodorant, Lypsyl, playing cards, a memento of NS, PEI or Canada, a pen, notepad, envelope. No sharp objects or flammables are included.

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on Lower Water Street is instrumental in spreading the news to the public, with an on-site booth where shoeboxes may be dropped off by the public. Noteworthy is that seafarers are permitted free entrance for museum tours. We value this partnership with our museum friends.



Barkald Seafarers receiving Shoebox gifts.



Stacy MacDougall, and Kevin Piper, President, I.L.A. LOCAL 169 deliver shoeboxes from Ecum Secum Ladies Auxillary.

Halifax Pilots

James Parsons, Andrew Rae, William Denton, Colin Milar, Jim MacKelvie, Shaun Dauphinee, Gary O'Donnell, Ross Calder, Jacob Sarty, Ian Swan, Martin Murrin, George H Hilchie, Dan Forrestall, John Bellwhat do all these men have in common?

They are Marine Pilots. Responsible for guiding ships into port, these highly skilled mariners make a vital contribution to the protection of the environment, safeguarding the lives of seafarers, and to preserving and promoting the economic wellbeing of our Ports. Halifax Pilots share news of our Mission and our mandate of service to seafarers of all ranks and nationalities. We know this because the officers and crew of ships share it with us. THANK YOU, Halifax Pilots for passing along news of our services, the "home away from home" we offer to all seafarers who visit our Port. We also appreciate your on-going support by attending fund-raisers, sponsorships and personal donations. Thank you very much for your service!

Volunteer Profile – Captain Douglas Roe

Originally from Brampton, Ontario, Doug moved to Halifax in 2006 after graduating from the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, NS. Since then he has worked on various Coast Guard ships carrying out various missions such as Search and Rescue, Science Research, Fisheries Patrol and Icebreaking. This work has taken him all over Canadian waters from the Great Lakes to the high Arctic and along the Greenland coast. He joined the fleet in 2006 as 3rd Officer and is now Chief Officer, filling in as Captain when required. In 2012, Doug took a leave of absence to sail as Navigation Officer for a major North American cruise line in the South Pacific and Northern Bahamian waters.

"I began volunteering at the Mission in the winter of 2009. I have volunteered primarily on Tuesday or Thursday mornings over the years whenever I'm not at sea myself. I enjoy interacting with the seafarers and feel particularly comfortable visiting them on their ships. As I have spent long periods of time at sea away from my family, it is very easy for me to appreciate some of the challenges they face. I met Melissa in early 2014 and we began dating shortly thereafter. We are in the midst of planning our wedding and we look forward to being married at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in early April 2016."

Doug is a multi-skilled, seasoned volunteer who is involved with ship visits, transports and many of the necessary chores at the Mission. We congratulate Doug and Melissa on their upcoming wedding plans.

No Rainy Day Mondays Here....



*Gail Logie & Kate Finlayson –
Volunteers Extraordinaire*

Our Mission sages Gail and Kate have been overseeing Monday afternoon operations since May 2012. Greeting everyone with warm smiles and many treats from their homes, these ladies actively engage seafarers from all over the world. Both enjoy merchandising and keeping our Free Room of clothing stocked and organized. As a retired Nurse Manager, Gail brings a wealth of skill sets to her Mission role. Gail's "bedside" manner is exemplary as she attends

to tourists each year, who wipe out on the railway tracks just past the Mission, while cycling. Kate's background includes conference organizing and research projects. She is an active member of St. Benedict Church. She was born in Liverpool, England and is an avid traveler. Kate has three adult children and keeps busy with grandchildren. We are truly blessed to have Gail and Kate on board, proactively taking on various tasks at the Mission, including money transfers, bank deposits and year-end inventory! Thanks so much for all you contribute ladies!



Doug and Melissa will be married on April 2, 2016

• BULLETIN •

2015 Volunteer Appreciation

How do you thank generous souls who share their talents and kindness with visiting seafarers every day to provide them a place of respite from their ships – a “home away from home”. How much time are we talking about? These gracious individuals assist Mission operations upwards of two hundred volunteer hours each year usually in four hour weekly shifts. With the average work week being 35 hours, that translates to six weeks a year which they share their time and passion. It is impossible to thank our volunteers enough. (Photos of volunteers, staff and the East Coast Carollers)



The December Volunteer Appreciation evening was held at the Mission to Seafarers and commenced with the joyous voices of the East Coast Carollers. We enjoyed a delicious feast of Chinese food. We thank those who came early to decorate and provide delectable home-made desserts. The Secret Santa Swap was most enjoyable with volunteers stealing gifts from each other. Thank you SANTA for gracing us with your presence.

• BULLETIN •

Volunteer News



We extend a hearty welcome to new volunteers Christine Booth, Mel Earley and Jamie Horton. Welcome back! Retirees Elwood Gotell & Bob Lancashire (photo) return to their volunteering gig.

We are forever grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers who enable the Mission to continue its valuable ministry of practical, emotional and spiritual support to all seafarers. The Mission is open Monday-Saturday from 9:30am to closing, when ships are in Port. Please drop in for a coffee anytime to learn more about how you may help!

Aage Roren
Alex Vyblov
Anne & Barry Reed
Ann & Jim MacKelvie
Aurora Ulloa-Parsons
Bernie Leonard
Bob Lancashire
Carolyn Graham
Colm Stockdale
Carole & Wally Thorne
Christine Booth

Doug Roe
Elwood Gotell
Gail Logie
Gail Bruhm
Glenn Taylor
Greg Naugle
Jack Gallagher
Jamie Horton
Jasmine Du
John Huczel
John Attersley

Joseph Loot
Joy MacDonnell
Kate Finlayson
Leon Goguen
Leslie Miller
Mel Earley
Nancy Eisener
Palma Heming
Pat Thompson
Sherree Vickers
Susan & Norm Picton

Norman Crewe awarded Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation!



Norman Crewe with Rev. John Morrell and Captain Earle Wagner

Norman Crewe was recently presented with the "Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation". He has a long history of volunteering at Camp Hill Memorial Hospital where he would visit some of the 170 WWII veterans each week as well as veterans in other hospitals in the

area. He has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 57 years, and for the past 20 years has been a member of their colour party. He has also served as their Sergeant at Arms. He is a past member of the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans' Association of Halifax and Dartmouth and has attended numerous Remembrance Day ceremonies, Battle of the Atlantic Memorial ceremonies and is a long-time parish-



Norman Crewe presents a painting of Hospital Ship Lady Nelson to Captain Sean Griffiths, vice chair of the Mission to Seafarers Halifax.

ioner of St. Marks' Anglican Church in Halifax where he has volunteered in many capacities. Norman holds all but one of the Royal Canadian Legion medals as well as many other medals for his service during WWII and since. Norman, and his lovely wife Millie are patrons and avid supporter of our Mission. Congratulations Norman!

• BULLETIN •

Chaplain's Notes

Chaplain's Notes

Isaiah 4:6

There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.

I am writing this on the first of February. It is warm by our standards, but for visiting seafarers it is desperately cold. Many seafarers hail from warmer climes than ours and never become accustomed to the brutality of our winters. This past winter we have seen many seafarers who are seeing snow for the first time in their lives. I always enjoy the initial excitement they exhibit but after a few minutes in our snowy backyard they come indoors questioning how we can live in such a place. I must admit that there are days when I am inclined to agree with them.

So what does the Mission do to enhance the comfort of the cold seafarers? Physical cold is easy to deal with. We give away warm, gently used clothes that come from parishioners around the Diocese and other members of the general public. The actual kitting out of the seafarers can become a joyful event and we have seen some weird and wonderful fashion combinations. The crew members really don't care about the fashion aspect, all they care about is warming up and remaining that way. In December and the early part of January we give out shoebox gifts that have so generously been donated, and inside these boxes are the tools for making life a little more comfortable: a hat, gloves, socks and scarf, but we are often dealing with much more than physical coldness.

Seafarers frequently find themselves dealing with a psychological coldness. They are isolated from family and loved ones for up to nine or ten months at a time, missing important events in the lives of the people back home, and dealing with these feelings whilst perpetually fatigued by a watch system that ensures they never get more than a few hours' sleep at any one time. Added to the fatigue is the worry of sailing into pirate infested waters where every noise raises an alarm in your mind as well as dealing with storms that have you wondering if you'll ever walk on dry land again. When we are faced with concerns and worries here on land we have the opportunity to take some action to solve the problem; not so on a ship, you have to depend on loved ones or friends to solve the problem for you whilst you worry about it which detracts from your ability to safely carry out your job.

As a Mission Chaplain I attempt to lighten the seafarer's burden by listening to their worries, hearing their stories, and praying with them or for them. I am privileged to be told that by just lending an ear I have lightened their burden. Sometimes that shelter mentioned in Isaiah is not a physical thing at all.

• BULLETIN •

Announcements

Please give generously to our Annual Appeal! There are many ways you may help!

- Businesses may become corporate sponsors (STAR PROGRAM)
- Individuals may donate in lieu of birthdays, memorials or leave a gift in your will
- Churches may create a "parish link" on their website to promote the Mission
- Companies may sponsor coffee mornings, casual days, payroll deductions, luncheons – ideas are limited only by your own imagination!

Mark your Calendars NOW! Don't miss out!

- Wine Fest on Saturday April 23, Halifax Seaport Farmer's Market @ 6:30 – 8:30pm. Reserve your tickets now!
- MTS Golf Tournament at Avon Valley Golf & Country Club – July 14, 2016
- MTS Christmas Luncheon, Cunard Centre – December 14, 2016

- Monthly luncheons last Friday of every month except December

We welcome new Mission to Seafarers Board Members:

- Karl Risser, ITF Inspector
- Rachel Taylor, F. K. Warren Ltd.
- Jonathan Bourget, Lloyd's Register

We thank outgoing Board Members for their contribution and commitment:

- Gerard Bradbury
- Jack Gallagher
- Tim Brownlow

We thank Trevor Simms, Executive Chef, Marriott Harbourside for gifting the Mission with an industrial warming oven, and for sponsoring the November turkey dinner luncheon.

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

Atlantic Towing Ltd.
Atship Services Ltd.
Atlantic Container Line
Atlantic Pilotage Authority
Blue Water Agencies Ltd.
Cerescorp Company
Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering
Canadian Steamship Lines
Colley Motorships Ltd.

CN
F. K. Warren Ltd.
Halifax Pilots
Halifax Port Authority
Halifax Shipping Association
Hapag Lloyd (Canada) Ltd.
Holland America Line
Logistec Stevedoring
Metcalf & Company

I. H. Mathers & Son Ltd.
International Sailors' Society Canada
Northrop Grumman
Partner International Inc.
P & H Milling Group
Protos Shipping Ltd
Spectacle Group
Svitzer Canada Ltd.
Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics



Mission to Seafarers Halifax

P.O. Box 27114 Halifax, NS B3H 4M8 Canada
Tel: 902-422-7790 Fax: 902-420-9786
Website: www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca
Location: Opposite Pier 24, Ocean Terminals
Open: 09:30 weekdays / 10:00 weekends

Chaplain: Rev. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont
Cell: 902-456-7029
email: magwhitt@ns.sympatico.ca

Mission Manager: Helen Glenn
Cell: 902-456-1658
email: hglenn@bellaliant.com