

Flying Angel

Caring for seafarers around the world

Spring 2017



Dear Friends,

2017 sees the Mission to Seafarers, Halifax celebrating 75 years of service to seafarers visiting the port on the various merchant vessels that ply their trade in our waters. This would not be possible without the generous support of community partners and individual donors like you.

One never knows what a day at the Mission will entail. Sometimes it is routine ship visits with travel from terminal to terminal and conversations with the security guards before boarding a ship. When I hear the welcoming shouts a “hello, Ma’am Maggie”, I know I’ll soon be amongst seafarers to catch up on the latest news of families, new babies, friends, and former shipmates. Of course there are many days when things are not routine often beginning with a phone call informing us of a problem onboard ship. In 2016 there were several such calls but one of the more memorable ones was regarding a crew on a ship in Port Hawkesbury. The seafarers were living in squalid conditions and there was no food onboard. They had not been paid for weeks and were not equipped for the approaching winter, having inadequate clothing and only small ineffective space heaters for warmth. In cooperation with the ITF, we traveled to the ship and the Mission supplied the crew with warm clothing, toiletries and other small necessities. We intervened with the shipowner and within a few days were able to negotiate repatriation and payment of wages owed.

Every year, the Mission helps sick seafarers navigate our healthcare system. This can be a terrifying ordeal especially when illness requires admittance to hospital where they remain long after their ship has sailed. During last year’s cruise ship season, the Mission helped a seafarer from a cruise ship who had suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized far from home. He was very worried not only about his health, but his future livelihood and that of his family, as well as his belongings because he knew that often when seafarers leave a ship abruptly they never see their personal items again. We were able to track down his belongings packed up for him by a fellow crew member before the ship departed. We liaised with medical staff, the Philippine consulate and his agent to ensure his health care went as



Mission on Barrington Street

planned. With the help of a Filipino volunteer we were able to provide some authentic Filipino food which was a great morale booster.

Of course, this care requires resources and we are thankful for your kind support. Without this, the Mission could not provide the assistance to seafarers described above. It is through your generosity that we are able to keep the Mission’s Seafarer Centre on the Halifax waterfront open and our van roadworthy. We hope you will again consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Mission to Seafarers, Halifax as we mark our 75th Anniversary. We invite you to drop by the Mission and see us at work as we care for seafarers from around the world at their “home away from home”. Remember, over 90% of the things we use in our daily lives travel by sea so we encourage you to give thanks for the work of seafarers. On behalf of our board, volunteers, staff and seafarers – we thank you. Please **DONATE**.

Sincerely ,
Rev. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont

Celebrating 75 Years Serving Seafarers - 1942-2017

A HISTORY BY GLENN TAYLOR (Volunteer & Historian)

On April 17, 1957 the chairman of the British Mission to Seamen wrote from Salisbury, England to Ms. Lilly James, Lady Warden, at the Halifax Branch of the Mission to Seamen thanking her for 16 years of “long and faithful” service to the Mission. This letter suggests that organizing for the Halifax Mission to Seafarers began at least in 1941. By 1957 the Mission was located at 1253 Barrington St. - that building is now a hostel. During World War II when Lilly James and others opened the Mission it was located at 1588 Barrington St. - now known as the Khyber Building. Archbishop Hackenley declared the Mission’s Recreation Room open on July 23, 1942. The Mission though was involved in much more than just recreation during the war. Early records tell of merchant mariners torpedoed at sea and eventually finding their way to Halifax. Unable to find immediate passage back home, the Mission became their home. It was also a magnet for merchant mariners waiting to head overseas. The Mission to Seafarers was known by several names in its early years including “The Flying Angel Mission”. One newspaper article reported on a 17-year-old merchant mariner named Raymond Rundell who survived his ship being torpedoed and sunk at sea. Both his mother and father were prisoners of war. He was unable to contact any of his five siblings. The newspaper article went on, “He has only been a week at this port, but already is a frequent visitor to the Flying Angel Mission”.

The Halifax Mission to Seafarers has welcomed thousands and thousands of visitors over the past 75 years. Most seafarers have used the Mission for social reasons, for example a place from which they can contact their families back home. However, every year for the past three quarters of a century, staff and volunteers have also had to come to the rescue of mariners in much more serious need. In 1988 a ship left Halifax without a sailor. Arriving on the dock and seeing his ship gone he walked alone to the Mission, which by then was located where it is now on Marginal Road. He had nothing but the clothes on his back - no passport, no money and very little proof he was even who he said

he was. He spoke no English. He was not repatriated to Sri Lanka for several weeks and was supported by the Mission and others until he was able to fly home. As daunting as this was for the Mission it pales in comparison to others. Mariners in the past 75 years have gone missing at sea, died at sea and sadly some have even been murdered at sea. Entire ships and their crews have been lost and each time the Halifax Mission chaplain and volunteers have responded. Crews have gone on strike due to desperate conditions on board and asked for Mission help in resolving their issues. Ships have been declared unseaworthy by the authorities, and shipowners have refused to pay their crews. The Mission has responded each time with food, clothing, phone cards and more.

On one occasion in 1991 it was the captain who put his foot down. In fact he put both feet down, one after the other walking off his ship and flying back to Europe, leaving his crew on board to fend for themselves. He had brought his ship through an ice choked Gulf of St. Lawrence and was of the opinion it should not go one wave farther. In any case he was determined that he wouldn’t!

In 1957 the Mission established a “Young Women’s Auxiliary”. Connected to parish Anglican Young Peoples Associations, the young women were to volunteer at the Mission. There was even mention of holding a dance during Port of Halifax week. As well, a local “Lightkeepers Crew” was established. Young preteen Lightkeepers raised money to purchase supplies for mariners as well as prepare small Christmas gifts. They collected magazines and books which were donated to the Mission for distribution. A regular column in the Halifax paper, entitled “Ashore and Afloat” was published. A Harbour Lights Guild was established which met once a month. The Guild held monthly luncheons, sponsored teas for former members and assisted the Mission’s chaplain as well as caring for the chapel. In 1988 the Mission launched a new service - a radio telephone truck. With help, including financial

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support, from Maritime Tel & Tel, the truck boasted four mobile telephones. Seafarers could phone home via satellite right from the dock where their ship was tied up. They could even pay for their calls in their home currency. The van was operated by volunteers from the Knights of Columbus.

The Mission's first chaplain was the Rev. F. W. Weaver. Rev. Weaver had served in similar capacities in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila and Australia. In September 1989 the Reverend David Craig was welcomed as the Halifax Mission's new chaplain. Rev. Craig was an Anglican minister who hailed from Townsville, Australia. He replaced the Rev. George France who had been the chaplain since January 1986. Rev. Craig remained with the Mission for several years and was himself replaced in 1995 by the Rev. Jack Wainwright. Rev. Dr. Brian Evans followed in 1996, the Rev. Donald Lawton in 2003, and the Rev. Alan Fry in 2008. The current chaplain is the Rev. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont who has served the Mission in various capacities since 1991 both as volunteer and staff.

Visiting seafarers often say they received royal treatment when they show up at the Mission but on July 6, 1991 the Mission itself received royal treatment. Princess Anne was visiting Atlantic Canada and had learned of the work the Mission was doing. She asked

to visit the Mission and was welcomed there by chaplain Craig, Bishop Peters and Mrs. Peters, Terrance Donahoe the Minister of Culture and Tourism and Mrs. Donahoe.

To celebrate the new Millennium in 2000 the old trailer that had served the Mission for many years was replaced by the current permanent building. Annual Christmas dinners and golf tournaments have replaced flea markets as methods of raising funds to support the Mission and its work. Nevertheless the formula that served the early Mission chaplains and volunteers continues to this day. Augmented by financial support from commercial and association sponsors from the shipping industry and generous individuals, a small army of volunteers, continues the work started here 75 years ago.

Current Manager Helen Glenn joined the Halifax Mission in early 2012. A volunteer Board of Directors offer resources to two full time staff and 45 volunteers who drive the van, serve the monthly luncheons, pack the Christmas shoe box gifts, keep the Mission building open and respond to emergencies proudly carrying on the tradition and commitment begun and maintained by countless other volunteers and staff since 1942. The Mission to Seafarers, Halifax continues to provide a ministry of practical, emotional and spiritual support to all seafarers passing through our port. Please visit our website at www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca for more information.

2016 Mission to Seafarers Christmas Luncheon



Mike Cowie & Darryl Emberly

KUDOS to Committee Chairs, Richard Edwards and Joan MacLeod for hosting another successful luncheon raising \$17,200 to go direct to seafarer services. Mike Cowie donated a “house party gig” valued at \$1,200, with Ambassadors/Murphy’s On The Water providing a Tall Ship Tour on the Silva and a Deep Sea Fishing Trip. RCR staff created the ambience and served a delectable lunch with the Mike Cowie Trio setting the perfect tone. FMAV provided sound and video systems. STARS were awarded to those sponsors who support the Mission throughout the year. We thank our community sponsors for ringing in the Christmas season with the Mission to Seafarers volunteers and patrons. Darryl – everyone is asking “when is the house party?”



A Few of our Fabulous Volunteers

*Front: Colm, Gail, Aurora, Maggie, Patricia, Helen, Gail, Carolyn, Sherree
Back: Elwood, McKayla, Leon, Barrie, Norman, Joy, Glenn, Aleksei, Aage*



STARS AWARDED TO COMMUNITY SPONSORS WHO SUPPORTED THE MISSION DURING 2016.

Presented by Bishop Ron Cutler (far right) and Chair, Captain Sean Griffiths (Ron’s left)



A welcome guest at our Annual Christmas Luncheon, Mayor Mike Savage is an avid supporter of our Mission in Halifax. We love our Halifax - a place where residents can live, belong and thrive. Thank you!

2016 Shoebox Campaign

What's 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, PE or Canada, a pen, notepad, envelope. No sharp objects or flammables are included.



Volunteer, Glenn Doucette (above) picks up shoebox gifts from The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water Street. Our partner, instrumental in spreading the news about this critical campaign, they offer an on-site booth where shoeboxes may be dropped off. The Maritime Museum management and staff are angels on Earth.

THANK YOU!



Maritime Museum of the Atlantic - Matthew Hughson with Rev. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont

We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our Shoebox Ladies, Sylvia, Martha, Emma and Kathie! 1,600 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 parishes who dropped off gift boxes and items. Our thanks to all of YOU!



Serving seafarers visiting the Port of Halifax for 75 years

Susan and Norman Picton visit the Mission to Seafarers in Australia!



If you've been to the Mission on Friday mornings or to our monthly luncheon (last Friday of the month) you will have witnessed first-hand the vim, vigour and vitality of this incredible team. In fact, they are gourmet cooks who prepare two monthly luncheons each year. Three years ago, Norman & Susan were attending St. James Anglican Church in Boutilier's Point when they heard guest speaker Maggie Whittingham-Lamont giving a presentation on "The Mission to Seafarers" and have been volunteers ever since. Norman is a retired business executive and is on our Property Committee, instrumental in planning, transporting, buying or building. Susan is a retired business manager and she keeps us all on our toes with an abundance of team-oriented ideas and social activities to enhance the Mission's volunteer environment. She also keeps us up-to-date on the best deals in town!. When not helping with community projects in St. Margaret's Bay these jet-setters enjoy travel.



On a recent trip to Australia Susan and Norman visited the Mission to Seafarers located in downtown Sydney and received a very warm welcome. The Mission in Sydney is somewhat larger than Halifax and served a greater number of Seafarers. The operation included up-to-date computer stations and similar recreational facilities to ours. They also negotiate special prices for City and area sight-seeing activities for seafarers. They face the same fund-raising challenges as Halifax and were very interested in communicating and sharing ideas with our Mission in the future. Susan and Norman epitomize volunteerism at its very best. Thank you both for always going above and beyond!

Volunteer News

We welcome new volunteers, Aleksei Rodionov, Nick Capobianco, Glenn Doucette, Sylvia Rudkowski, Michelle Steele, Peter Bartlett and Mark Clinch. We bid farewell to Gail Bruhm and wish you all the best in your retirement. Our Saturday morning ship visiting volunteer, Sherree Vickers will be moving to Ottawa. We are happy that you will be closer to family Sherree but you will be missed! Thank you for helping our Mission to continue its valuable ministry of practical, emotional and spiritual support to all seafarers. It would truly be impossible without the unconditional commitment of 45 dedicated volunteers.



Message from the Chair

By the time you read this, we will have once again made it through winter, and be anticipating the hope and promise of spring. As well, the Mission will have a new Chair of its Board of Directors, as my term ended at the AGM on March 2, 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, the friends of the Mission, for your ongoing support of our operation so we can continue to offer vital welfare services to the seafarers who find themselves in the Port of Halifax.

As well, please welcome the Mission's new Board Chair, Captain Sean Griffiths, as he steps into this leadership role for a two year term. Captain Griffiths, a Master Mariner, has served on the Mission Board for two years and as Vice-Chair for the past year. He is CEO of the Atlantic Pilotage Authority and a member of several regional and national committees related to the shipping industry. As a former seafarer, Captain Griffiths brings personal knowledge of life at sea to this position and I look forward to working with him as the Mission marks its 75th anniversary serving seafarers in the Port of Halifax.

Chair, Sandra Attersley



Sandra Attersley with The Honourable J.J. Grant CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

While Sandra will be stepping down as Chair in 2017, she will continue on the board of the Mission to Seafarers. Lawyer, marine engineer and partner of Quay Marine Associates Inc.

Sandra is also involved with several other community groups. We are grateful for the time and effort she has put in over the past few years not only as Chair, but as part time bookkeeper for the Mission for the past year. Sandra, we are grateful for your incredible level of commitment, and your resourcefulness.

2016 Volunteer Appreciation

We were blessed to participate in a special volunteer recognition program sponsored by our patron Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, to mark Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday on April 21, 2016. Mission volunteers who rendered 90 hours or more of volunteer time between April 21 and December 31, 2016 were presented with a special Certificate of Volunteer Service. We salute all of our volunteers and thank you for your unconditional commitment to the Mission. Our extended family of volunteers offers diversity, a wealth of knowledge and a friendly, harmonious environment for our visiting seafarers. **It is impossible to thank our volunteers enough.**

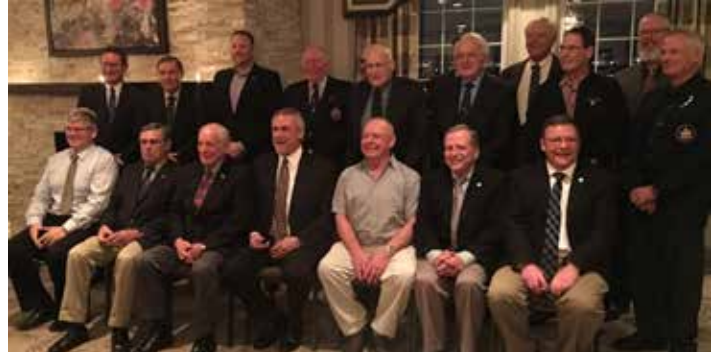
A poster for the Halifax Camerata Singers with Rhapsody Quintet. The poster features a white silhouette of a clock tower against a dark red background. Text on the poster includes: "Halifax Camerata Singers with Rhapsody Quintet", "Jeff Joudrey, artistic director", "Lynette Wahlstrom, accompanist", "with special guest Jeremy Webb, actor", "Halifax 1917: From Dreams to Despair", "March 25, 2017 | 7:30 pm", "Paul O'Regan Hall, Halifax Central Library", "HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100", "Tickets on sale now at tickethalifax.com", "125 Regular | 920 Senior | 910 Student/Underwaged", "halifaxcamerata.org", and "halifax CAMERATA singers For 30 years - the fire within... the desire to sing." Logos for Arts Nova Scotia, City of Halifax, and HALIFAX are at the bottom.

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We congratulate board member, Captain John McCann for his appointment to IMO Maritime Ambassador by the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations. Encouraging young people to consider seafaring and other maritime professions is not new to Captain John, who will continue to work enthusiastically and diligently to attract the best and brightest into the shipping industry. John came to our Mission when he moved to Halifax from Saint John, NB after retiring as Harbour Master, from the Saint John Port Authority.

Halifax Marine Pilots – Retirement



We extend a hearty farewell to retiring Halifax Pilots Captains Gerry Titus, Bill Denton, John Bell, George Hilchie, as well as launchmasters Bill Hunt and Paul Harrie. Responsible for guiding ships into port, these mariners dedicated their lives to the economic wellbeing of our Port of Halifax. Enjoy retirement but don't be strangers – visit us soon! Photo (Past, present and future Halifax Marine Pilots)

Please Donate

Website: www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

Mail: Mission to Seafarers Halifax
P. O. Box 27114, NS B3H 4M8

Drop in: 844 Marginal Road.

Announcements

- A Toast to Spring on April 29, Halifax Seaport Market – Reserve NOW!
- MTS Golf Tournament at Avon Valley Golf & Country Club is on July 11th, 2017
- MTS Christmas Luncheon, Cunard Centre December 13th, 2017
- Monthly luncheons last Friday of every month except December
- HRM Metro Transit has donated a bus shelter to be used by seafarers for WIFI access when Mission is closed and during inclement weather. We hope to have this in place by end of April!
- We thank all outgoing board members for their contribution and commitment over the past years.
- We thank Trevor Simms, Executive Chef, Marriott Harbourside for providing another terrific turkey dinner in November. Trevor is responsible for the donation of an industrial heating oven which is put to good use during our month end luncheons.
- We thank all outgoing board... and welcome new board members to our Mission family.

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

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Blue Water Agencies Ltd.
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Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering
Canadian Steamship Lines

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Wallenius Willhelmsen 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
We are open 9:30am daily, and 10am Saturdays.

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