

The Foghorn



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From the Editors Desk

Welcome to the winter edition of the Foghorn!

We have had lots of very cold weather so far, so make sure your crews are ready with ice mallets!

Fair Winds and a Following Sea

Mathew Henri & Dan Rutherford

Foghorn Editors

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<https://www.mastermariners.ca/divisions/maritimes-division/>

A Message from The Master



Good Day,

Our 2025 has certainly started out on a chilly note and great for the folks who enjoy winter time sports. Get out and enjoy the great Canadian outdoors. For those who enjoy the sunshine, lots of travel destinations available and not necessarily ones in the USA. Maybe try a cruise and help support the marine industry.

A couple items of interest so far this year and one was Shipping Federations Mariner Workshop held in Vancouver Jan 20-21. An informative conference with a good turnout with Master Mariners of Canada (MMC) well represented through various businesses and I attended on behalf of the MMC. It covered a variety of topics and I did note that there are lots of ideas to help ports, shipowners, ship managers and ship staff on how to provide efficient operations. One of the side effects of this work is the turnaround time in ports. We do understand the need to ensure operations are efficient and profitable, but there can be consequences for the staff onboard and that is not being able to obtain shore leave. Quick turnarounds, increased documentation, hours required to work / rest and some terminals not allowing shore leave or lack of infrastructure to get crew ashore all exasperate the situation. Added on top of this is the continued goal of reducing crew size down to the Minimum Safe Manning levels adds to a poor quality of onboard life for the crews. Hopefully we can see an improvement in all these aspects and treat seafarers with respect they deserve considering the tremendous impacts they have on all our lives. We want to see seafaring as a career that continues to attract and retain future generations.

The other item was a visit to the MV Asterix which included a meal, a tour of the ship and then followed by our monthly professional meeting. I would like to thank Captain Andrew Powell, the great crew of the Asterix and Federal Fleet Services for allowing us this opportunity. It would be great to have high school students get onboard ships for a chance to see a career opportunity that most are not aware of and ask questions of seafarers who can give them first hand reasons why they chose this profession.

Now half way through February and soon it will be March which means that the NSCC campus in Port Hawkesbury will be hosting their Marine Skills Competition and Career Fair 2025 - March 5 - 6. The MMC will again be a sponsor and providing judges. Good luck to all involved in the competition and many thanks to NSCC for this ongoing event.



Continued...

The last thing I would like to note is that sad news of the loss of life of two seafarers as a result of the sinking of the F/V Fortune Pride. It strikes home the dangers of the marine industry, especially during the winter months in the North Atlantic. Thoughts and prayers to friends and families of all involved.

Safe sailing

Marshall



MMC Members at the Shipping Federation Mariners Workshop



In Memoriam

We would also like to note the sad news of the loss of a member of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Petty Officer Second Class Gregory Applin, 38, of HMCS Montreal was a weapons engineering technician who had just returned from a deployment to the Indo-Pacific in October. He had served with the navy for 19 years.

PO2 Applin sadly passed away during a boat exercise in the Bedford Basin this past January.

Rest in Peace





The Mission to Seafarers Halifax will be hosting a “Toast to Spring On-Line Auction” on April 23rd starting at 08:00 and running until April 29th at 18:00.

Should anyone like to donate items for this event please reach out to Jim Calvesbert, Project Leader for the auction.

Jim.calvesbert@gmail.com

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Ships Tour of MV ASTERIX

On Wednesday February 12th, we held the monthly meeting onboard MV ASTERIX. Members joined the vessel for dinner, which included a lovely steak, and proceeded to a ships tour. Capt. Andrew Powell and the officers gave an explanation of the various capabilities and equipment of the vessel.

For those who were unable to join, here is a brief summary of the ship:

MV ASTERIX is a 182-meter Auxiliary Oil Replenishment vessel owned by Federal Fleet Services and leased to the Royal Canadian Navy. She has a civilian complement of 36 personnel at all times and when the vessel deploys on missions with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will take onboard anywhere from 50-100 mission specialist. The vessel has a capacity of 9500m³ of F76 MDO and 1500m³ of F44 aviation. Fuel is passed during a replenishment at sea (RAS) through one of 4 stations consisting of wires and hoses. The vessel also has the capability of conducting dry goods RAS such as a pallet of stores or provisions.

The vessel can also carry 38 teu containers which can be accessed in the FWD part of the vessel and goods can be transported in and out to the flight deck on the stern via a tween deck that runs the length of the vessel.

The vessel also has a sophisticated hospital which includes a ward, surgery, dentist, and pharmacy.

The vessel was built for comfort with all crew having individual cabins with their own washroom. A large gym is available to the crew and a personal trainer typically sails during deployments.

Converted in 2017 at Davie Shipyard from a standard 1400 teu container ship, MV ASTERIX has not missed a single day of operation, conducting hundreds of RAS with dozens of allied nations worldwide. From the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, to the Mediterranean Sea and English Channel.

Thank you to Capt. Powell and the crew for the hospitality.







Our members onboard the Asterix at the conclusion of the evening



Exemplary Service Medals

Recently the Canadian Coast Guard presented Exemplary Service Medals to Capt. Greg Wilkie (far top right) and Capt. Doug Rowe (far bottom right) for their service with the Canadian Coast Guard.

Bravo Zulu!



Special Service Medals

Recently the Royal Canadian Navy presented Special Service Medals to members of MV ASTERIX for service with the Royal Canadian Navy during Operation Projection.

Bravo Zulu!



RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Capt. Andrew Powell



RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Capt. Dale Pomroy





RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Chief Officer Mathew Henri



RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Second Officer Dan Rutherford





RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Second Officer Adam McAllistar



RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Second Officer Joe Kernaghan





RAdm Josée Kurtz presenting to Third Officer Greg Lillington

Other bridge team members of MV ASTERIX receiving medals:

- Capt. Tim Allard
- Chief Officer Ryan Billard
- Second Officer Stéphanie Théorêt
- Second Officer Chris Riggs
- Third Officer Tyler Strickland



Operation PROJECTION is Canada's ongoing naval forward presence mission to promote peace and stability in support of the rules-based international order.



Local Shipping News



Northumberland Ferries new ferry, the MV Northumberland, arrived in Pictou this last month. She will fill the gap from the scrapped MV Holiday Island.

The MV Northumberland, former "Fanafjord", departed Norway December 23 after an outfitting period.

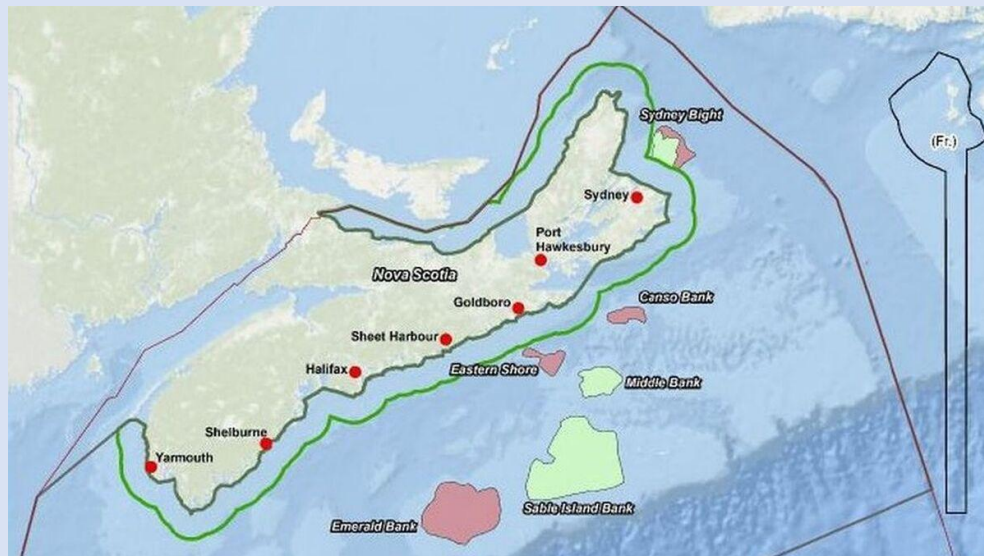


The container vessel, MV MSC Baltic III, suffered a loss of power this week and ran aground off the western coast of Newfoundland. All 20 personnel were airlifted off by search and rescue Cormorant helicopter. A salvage plan is now in the works to remove the vessel when the weather becomes favourable and a 2NM emergency zone has been established around the vessel.

The MV MSC Baltic III was approx. 12NM off the coast of Bay of Islands when it reported the loss of power.



Nova Scotia taking more steps toward offshore wind development



Offshore wind industry faces uncertain future amid hostile action from Trump.

Nova Scotia is stepping closer to the development of offshore wind farms in its open waters, but the success of the province's pursuit is far from certain.

In the past two weeks, the provincial and federal governments formalized the regulatory body that will oversee offshore wind development, announced their membership in the Global Offshore Wind Alliance, and received a report that's meant to guide their next steps.

The province reiterated its focus on offshore wind in the throne speech last week, and Nova Scotia Energy Minister Trevor Boudreau recently confirmed that the Progressive Conservative government intends to open the first call for offshore wind projects sometime this year.

But there are obstacles to overcome.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.





On Thursday February 20th, there was a presentation on the vessel life extension of the CCGS Terry Fox, which is currently in refit at the Port Weller Drydocks.

The CCGS Terry Fox is one of Canada’s two only heavy icebreakers. A multi tasked icebreaker, the ship is capable of sustained operations in the Arctic Archipelago over the summer months and icebreaking escort operations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and East Coast of Newfoundland in the winter. He vessel also assists in various CCG programs including Arctic scientific missions.

Built in 1983 at the Burrard-Yarrows Vancouver shipyard for BeauDrill, it served in the Arctic oil and gas industry until it was sold to the Canadian Government in 1991.

We would like to extend our thanks to our colleagues at CIMarE for the invitation.

Thank you to all who have contributed and we hope it was an enjoyable read. Safe sailing and good luck with the ice!

If you have anything you would like to see included in a future issue, please contact myself or Mat at:

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Trivia

The two dolphins on the Canadian Coast Guard Crest as known as what to mariners?

Answer to previous edition: Bristol Channel (Severn Estuary)

