



MISSION TO SEAFARERS – HALIFAX

Flying Angel

Caring for seafarers around the world



SPRING 2025

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL APPEAL!

Dearest Friends,

Welcome to 2025. The times they are a 'changing! While our challenges are no less than they were 13 years ago when I joined MtS Halifax, our financial sustainability is significantly better and thank goodness it is. It is a testament to you, our donors, community and church partners that last year and this winter we were able to address some large, costly and immediate needs that 13 years ago would have been a major challenge. It meant that we didn't have to shut down waiting to find funds to address those major problems.

We had to replace part of the roof and ceiling over the kitchen area due to water leakage and the heating unit on the roof needed to be repaired. Due to security issues the front doors had to be replaced. This past month, our mission van had to be replaced. You can appreciate the drain these expenditures have placed on our savings and now as the political and financial uncertainties of 2025 loom, we are bracing for higher costs for every-

thing from gas and electricity to mission supplies.

Knowing you 'have our back' makes facing the future less stressful. There is still so much more to do. After you view the photos of joy that our partnership brings to seafarers visiting our beautiful Port of Halifax, take time to check out the Seafarers Happiness Index. The results are not great. The realization that there is a growing disparity and continued inequality at sea proves that there is so much more support needed. There is a greater need for suicide awareness, which to some extent has been addressed by SafeTALK training for our volunteers. We look after medical needs through our Praxes Medical Group partnership.

Our ship welfare volunteers visit ships to engage crew members to establish their needs and address those concerns on the day of or over the weeks and months moving forward. We transport crew for shopping, money transfers to family members at home, or a visit for

respite at our mission. These services alone demonstrate the value of a warm and secure mission building and a reliable mission van and the value of your continued support.

We continue to advocate for shore leave, social justice and spiritual support. With a team of one full time manager, a part time assistant manager and thirty volunteers backed up by partners like you, our wee mission in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada is renowned internationally as a model mission. The work we do is critical as is the support you provide. We once again appeal to you to continue your financial support so that together we can continue to support our seafaring friends. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Halifax Mission to Seafarers, either by mail, through our website at www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca, Canada Helps or PayPal.

Kindest regards,
Helen Glenn, Mission Manager

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.*

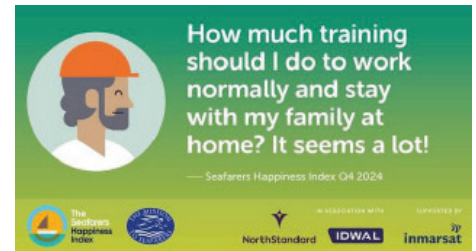


LIGHT AND HOPE TO SEAFARERS WHO KEEP OUR GLOBAL ECONOMY AFLOAT!

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SEAFARER HAPPINESS Q4 2024 - 6.91/10, DOWN FROM 7.16 IN QUARTER 3 2024

Q4 results are not great. We've seen the first downturn for four quarters, with restrictive port policies highlighted as a significant impediment to seafarer welfare. https://www.seafarershappinessindex.org/wp-content/uploads/Seafarers_Happiness_Index_Q4_2024-1.pdf



Rev'd Andrew Cooke performed a full Communion and a Carol Christmas Service over Christmas at the request of the Captain. Following the service refreshments were served and Andrew received a very informative lesson on under- sea cable fiber optics. The turnout was amazing! The Master took photos and video of the service. Last year Rev'd Andrew performed mass via ZOOM when this crew were at sea. Thank YOU, Rev'd Andrew Cooke. You are truly a blessing.



Gihan Suranga first came to our Mission in 2007. About 18 years later, while in Halifax to visit his cousin, he purposely visited the Mission and relived the memories with his wife, Sanduni Wepola. Both now reside in Montreal.



Above: The bulk carrier CECL at anchor 14 January 2025 in Halifax Harbour after loading Soya Beans for export. Below seen the captain (red shirt beside John Attersley) and crew when John visited on behalf of the Mission to Seafarers in Halifax with a donation of breads and treats donated by local bakery Cobs Bread. John Attersley

Please Donate

Website: www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca
Mail: Mission to Seafarers Halifax
P.O. Box 27114, NS B3H 4M8
Drop in: 844 Marginal Road.

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SHORE LEAVE PROMOTES GOOD MENTAL HEALTH & HAPPINESS



MSC LISA crew jamming at the Mission



Pat Thompson with ONE OWL/MSC KIM crew



Captain Mike with ATLANTIC SUN crew



Crew members of VOLGA MAERSK & TROPIC HOPE enjoy billiards, guitars and songs! Seen here with volunteers Jeanie Burke And Captain Michael Montgomery.



ONE CYGNUS & TROPIC hope crew enjoy shore leave



MSC BALTIC III

Incredibly, MtS chaplain Jason Flinn and seafarers, Jatan and Nyein (above) while recently visiting Halifax's Titanic gravesite had no idea that history would soon repeat itself, involving both seafarers from the MSC Baltic III. The men also visited the Titanic gallery at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, where entrance fees are waived for seafarers. On February 15th, the Baltic III lost power in the Gulf of St. Lawrence resulting in the vessel running aground on the southwest coast of Nfld near the Bay of Islands. Unlike many crew from the Titanic all 20 seafarers from the Baltic III were rescued by the Canadian Air Force. This ironic coincidence is a reminder to us all how the risks of life at sea are not confined just to history. Thankfully for Jatan, Nyein and their crew mates, they did not suffer the same fate as those seafarers who now lie a Fairview Lawn Cemetery.



Jennifer and Theresa above, made the trip all the way from PEI to deliver family Christmas gifts to their cousin, a wiper on the CMA CGM J. ADAMS. They did not know how to get the presents to him. John Attersley explained how they might be able to do it. Captain Mike Montgomery got back to the mission just in time to take the presents from them and drop them off at the ship for their cousin. We believe they all connected downtown at a local pub later in the evening. Hallelujah.

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SEAFARER WELFARE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



Assistant Manager, Joseph Loot met with Kenz Albert Ambid, a messman onboard the MSC Sagitta. (Seen here receiving the \$200 cash and a Megga Sim from MtS Halifax.) Reverend Andrew Cooke delivered the items December 18th, at the Halifax Hotel.

While working in the kitchen,

he injured his left-hand index finger, which became infected. He was brought to QEII Hospital on December 8th for surgery. This prevented him from working and, on the doctor's advice, was disallowed to return to the ship to avoid infection and complications. He stayed in the hospital for four days and then transferred to the hotel until his repatriation seven days later. Upon his transfer, he did not have money even for a cup of coffee. He lived on McDonald's meals for lunch with the \$100 the ship Agent gave him. Kent left Halifax on December 19th for his long trip home to the Philippines. He travelled to Montreal, Tokyo, Manila, and finally to his home in General Santos City in a southern Philippine province. With his repatriation, he has been spending his



These seafarers from the CMA CGM GEORGE WASHINGTON illustrate the importance of enjoying physical activity in the wide open spaces even it is cold and snow-covered!

first Christmas with family since 2020. Kenz is a young seafarer who has been sailing for four years. His elder brother has also been an international seafarer for seven years.

For Kenz, the \$200 financial assistance was used to buy food while waiting for his departure and when travelling back home. The Megga Sim will allow him to contact his family.

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Last October 30, 2024, Joseph Loot donated a basketball to the crew of the Augusta Luna. Their last ball went overboard in the high seas. Note on one of the photos how the half court is set up onboard the ship. Note further the Mission logo painted on the backboard of the basketball ring. It is interesting to see how a small thing such as a basketball (or pool cues we gave before to the Gotland) can give big relief to the crew of a ship from the grueling work and monotonous life onboard. Sports are good examples of how seafarers relieve stress while the vessel is at sea. Thanks Joseph Loot!

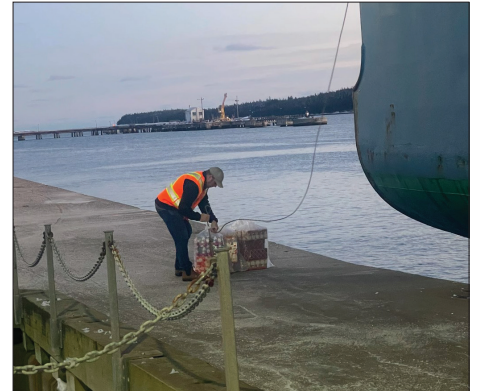


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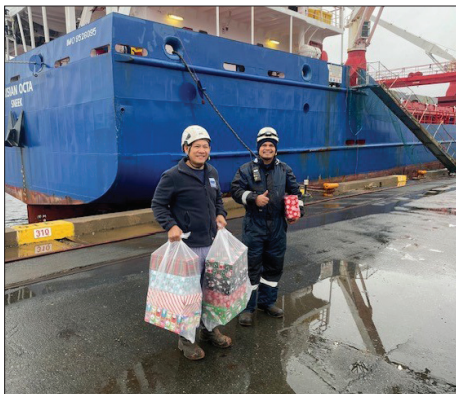
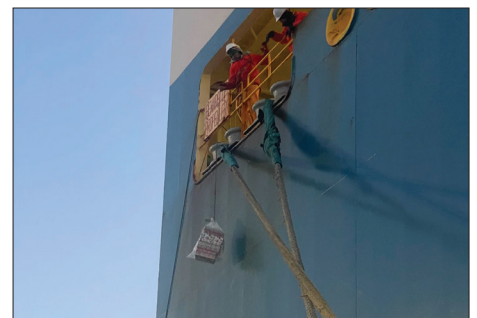
1003 SHOEBOX GIFTS DELIVERED IN DECEMBER 2024

Captain Takanori Furuhashi, Master of ONE MINATO sends thanks to the Anglican Parish of New London, PEL. His note: "This is to say thank you for your Christmas presents for all of our crew member. 26 pcs received at last Halifax port stay, and please kindly convey the same greeting to Church Anglican Parish New LONDON. Have a nice Christmas to all and happy new year 2025!"



Rev Andrew met with crew of the NYK Rumina to deliver Christmas Shoe Boxes and Cobs Bread before transporting crew members for a shopping spree.

Seen at right: Captain Mike was creative in his approach to deliver shoebox gifts to the crew members of the Glorious Ace, which was ready for departure alongside Autoport. Great work Michael. Crew were ecstatic.



FRISIAN OCTA receive gifts from Glenn Taylor



Charlie Flinn with crew members



Jason & Charlie Flinn

Kevin Piper, President, Longshoremen's Union delivered a truckload of shoebox gifts from the Parish of Ecum Secum/ILA 269. Kevin has been doing this for as long as I can remember. We were saddened to hear that shoebox coordinator Margaret Jewers passed peacefully. She was instrumental in overseeing this initiative for over 33 years. Deepest condolences to all and we thank you for carrying on this incredible tradition. Blessings in abundance to all. Here with Asst. Mgr. Joseph Loot.



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1003 SHOEBOX GIFTS DELIVERED IN DECEMBER 2024



John Attersley delivers shoeboxes to the YASA PELICAN at Imperial Oil



MSC ANNICK crew delighted with gifts delivered by Captain Jim Calvesbert



CARMEN crew blessed by a visit from Jason Flinn



ONE MILLAU at PSA



The BAKKAFOSS crew with award winner, John Attersley



BOX ENDURANCE crew excited by 20 shoebox gifts delivered by Rev'd Andrew. Critical timing as they are off to Panama



Rev'd Andrew delivers to TANNAUSER



Sue Slauwhite delivers to SPRING LOTUS



MAERSK VOLGA

SHOEBOX ELVES SHARE JOY OF THE SEASON



Left: Members of Armdale Yacht Club seen here with seaman Adrian Gonzago, Tropic Hope, Elaine Schnare, Karen Smith, Nancy Morrison, Grey Baker, Stuart Schnare. Thank you very much!



Margie and Marianne



Marriott Event Team Jaime & Sarah



Jenn Pace-Vader, HPP

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Board member, Captain Jim Calvesbert with grandsons (Brody and Keegan), wife Priscilla and Bethany Dunnet of CMA CGM helped put together 88 Christmas Shoeboxes. Thank you so much for your time.



Carol, Susan and Aurora SHOEBOX ORGANIZERS!

THANK YOU to church and community partners for bringing this critical initiative to fruition. We could not do what we do without your support. Donations of shoebox items, hand-knitted neck warmers, toques, mittens are all gratefully used by our seafaring friends. The monetary donations permit our frugal shoebox ladies to shop for items in short supply. Special thanks to Aurora Ulloa-Parsons, Susan Picton and Carol Streeter who kept everything organized. We thank all staff and volunteers for their contributions during this very busy month. Thank YOU.

We thank Ann Dease and members of the Crafting for Community Program, Fall River for their contributions to our shoebox campaign. Ann started this group while working at the local recreation centre because of her love for working with fabrics and fibres and joy of being with people.



She researched the possibility of a free program incorporating both principles. The program started at the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre in

Fall River in September 2023. Meetings are held twice a week, one in the morning and one in the evening. Ann says they laugh a lot and learn the value of community each time they meet.

Community giving also includes afghans for Cancer Care, baby items for IWK, pillowcases and dishcloths for Phoenix House and reusable bags for Beacon House, the Food bank and placemats for Meals on Wheels. They are always looking for how they can help. New participants are always welcome to join us and can contact the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre at 902-860-4570 to register for the Crafting for Community program.

TOQUES KNIT BY EDITH STEFFENS

Susan Picton visited Edith Steffens of Hubley. Edith has been a long-time supporter of The Mission to Seafarers. In the last 10 years has knit 480 toques for the shoebox program. Before covid Edith attended the monthly luncheons regularly.

On December 5th, 2020 Edith lost her eyesight from macro-degeneration but has tirelessly continued to knit toques for Seafarers. Edith is assisted by her husband Jim who

chooses all the colours for each toque. Her friend Elaine Forhan corrects any mistakes and sews them together. Elaine is a member of St. Lukes Church, Upper Tantallon. Edith also teaches piano.

The Toques go first to the Parish of French Village which encompasses St. James, St. George, St. Margaret's & St. Paul's Anglican Church's in St. Margaret's Bay. Then they are donated to the Halifax mission in shoe-boxes



each year. What a spectacular array of 47 toques. Blessings in abundance. Edith, Jim and Elaine! INCREDIBLE!

By Susan Picton

The Mission to Seafarers works worldwide in support of seafarers who have been mistreated or abandoned. Please keep the seafarers in your prayers.

Please Donate

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16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT PIER 21

Held on 11 December 2024, the MtS Christmas Luncheon, always an anticipated event, kicked off the holiday celebration at the Port of Halifax. It is the time when the MtS staff, volunteers, sponsors, patrons, and friends gather to celebrate and meet industry colleagues. It is a time when we celebrate our STAR PARTNERS who consistently support our Mission mandates. We welcome LeeWay Marine to our community family. Congratulations on your STAR plaque. We were pleased to break bread with Mayor Andy Fillmore at our Christmas table. Andy has been a long-time supporter. Thanks for all the Canada pins! Blessed be.



Pat, Rita, Jill, Margie, Joy, Marianne, John, Helen, Jason, Carolyn, Mike, Deacon Art, Rev'd Andrew, Rev'd Judith Alltree, Bishop Sandra Fyfe, Glenn, Jack, Colm, Mike, Elaine, Peter. For more photos go to: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/199129224@N05/54204458343/in/dateposted-public/>



Halifax MtS volunteer, John Attersley was presented with the prestigious Peter G. Bernard Volunteer Recognition Award by Regional Director of MtS Canada, Rev'd Judith Alltree for his extraordinary commitment as a ship visitor volunteer for the past 12 years. John is well known to our visiting seafarers and brings with him extensive experience in the marine industry worldwide onboard vessels as an engineer as well as ashore in roles such as Sea Training Officer with the Canadian Coast Guard College Officer Training Program, casualty investigator with the Transportation Safety Board and past senior surveyor with Hayes Stuart Inc.

John and his wife own Quay Marine Associates Inc.

John has mentored many seafarers and has been actively involved in our shoebox delivery program. John is our “on call go to” for extra shifts particularly during evening hours and usually on very short notice. Having traveled extensively as a seafarer, John is familiar with missions around the world. He fully understands the importance of providing help to the 1.89 million men and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat. Always serving up great conversations



The Unifor Team, Halifax Shipyard



Halifax Marine Pilots Capts. Ian Swan, Daniel Forrestall, Andrew Rae, Rob Forsyth, Daniel Steele, Ross Calder, Gary O'Donnell



Volunteer, Jack and Chris Hall, President, Shipping Federation of Canada

with a smile, we are grateful for his resourcefulness and all that his pleasing personality brings to our mission. He is a valued member of our volunteer family. While he would never admit it – John's enthusiasm and proactive attitude makes a BIG difference to many. John epitomizes everything volunteerism stands for. Congratulations John. Thank YOU for being YOU!

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MTS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT PIER 21



Jill Chappell, Emcee



Mayor Andy Fillmore – thanks for thousands of Canadian flag pins for seafarers!



Bishop Sandra Fyfe – a poetic blessing



Winner of Lindt Basket



Mark Wilson, Owner, Northumberland and Bay Ferries wins stained-glass lighthouse.



Volunteer Rita Karsten with Elaine Selig prize winner



Blake Fisher, Regional Director, CSL is the winner of the Mike Cowie Kitchen Concert. Blake and CSL are major supporters of the mission. Seen here with Mike Cowie and Lori Mancini, Payroll Manager. Congratulations Blake!



The East Coast Carollers

MTS 2024 CAR RALLY

KUDOS to Elaine & Peter Selig for organizing this awesome event involving twenty-nine teams and some very generous sponsors. Attendees drove along Route 1, starting at Grand Pre and ending up at the lovely Digby Pines. Along the way, participants visited several places including Stirlings, Scotian Gold, Spurrs, the Elephant Cafe and Seaglass by Chris. After a long day of driving and solving clues and riddles (including writing a poem with your team name in it) we were treated to a fabulous buffet dinner at the Pines, followed by a Live Auction, prizes for our winning teams and then prizes for everyone. Thanks to our generous sponsors! The best part of all is that the event raised \$7,230 for the MtS Halifax. ZIM Shipping was major sponsor. Thank you all for your support!



1st Place Matt & Jenn Michaelis



2nd Pl. Tracy Nelson/Kenzie McNeil



3rd Pl Susan Nelson/Mary Lewis



Peter Selig, Smit Jadav-ZIM, Elaine Selig

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NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ALWAYS A SMASHING SUCCESS

Cathy Holmes and her husband Mike are avid supporters. Cathy has provided over 360 melt-in-your-mouth shortbread for our luncheons over the past few years, and the rest for visiting seafarers. In November we served 200 luncheons. We are grateful to our community partners for their orders, and to the Halifax Marriott Harbourside Hotel for their help.



It was a frosty day at the mission when our heating system failed, however, we were delighted to receive a substantial donation from our partners from Federal Fleet Services/Asterix who visit us annually in December. God bless you all!

Chief Officer-Matt Henry, Captain-Dale Pomroy, Helen Glenn, Mission Manager, Chief Steward-Mark Dawson, 1st Engineer-Stephanie Duchesne-Tremblay.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE - THE BILL BLACKMORE

We welcomed Bill Blackmore to our Mission family three years ago. Since then Bill has filled many shifts as a ship welfare visitor enjoying the camaraderie of both our seafaring friends and mission volunteers. While he was born in St. John's Newfoundland, Bill has happily resided in Nova Scotia since 1999. It was while attending Memorial University that Bill's connection to the sea began. Bill started working for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as a summer student. After graduating with a BSc in 1980 that summer job turned into full time employment. During his tenure with the DFO, Bill took many trips to sea on both research and commercial vessels. He has never forgotten the first time he returned to St. John's through the narrows after a 10 day trip. It put in perspective for him how seafarers must feel when they return home after being away for months at a time.

Bill left the DFO in 1984 and spent a few months in real estate before settling into a lifetime career in Pharmaceutical sales. Upon his retirement three years ago Bill became an avid volunteer at the Mission. Bill had been familiar with the Mission to Seafarers through volunteering at his church (Saint Peter's Birch Cove) where he and his wife heard about the Christmas shoebox campaign. Bill has been instrumental in delivering these gifts of love to seafarers visiting the Port of Halifax. It was when a friend and fellow parishioner Glenn Taylor suggested that he might enjoy volunteering at the Mission that Bill agreed to check us out. After shadowing Glenn, John, Bud and Colm, Bill was hooked and has been with us ever since.

Bill has shared that one of the highlights of volunteering at the Mission is the rewarding feeling he gets from spending time with seafarers, taking them shopping,



While crew members of the Delphinus C celebrated Christmas at Sea they had not received Shoebox gifts from any Port they visited along the way. Bill and Rita scavenged items to ensure each crew member received a balaclava, toque, gloves, warm socks and toiletries to share with crew who were not on shore leave. As you can see, they were elated.

visiting local landmarks or just spending time at the Mission talking with them. He loves transporting them in the mission's van and listening to their stories.

Bill and his wife of 38 years, Laurie, also coordinate their church's contribution to the St. George's Hot Meal programme. Bill and Laurie have one daughter, although their family has expanded to include one dog, two cats and at time two grand cats. We are blessed to have Bill on board and we thank him for his commitment of time and skills.

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VOLUNTEERS SUSAN AND NORMAN PICTON VISIT PORT OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA!



Khon from vessel Ruey 1 Shyang



Fr. Rico Talisic, Regional Director of Stella Maris



Susan, Norman, Clive Naidoo-Ship Visitor

Norman and I have been active volunteers with MtS Halifax, Canada for 11 years. Before a recent visit to South Africa, we learned there was a Mission to Seafarers in both Cape Town and Port of Richards Bay.

In Cape Town Clive Naidoo, Pastoral Ship Visitor, met us on our first day and showed us around the Port of Cape Town. We were very fortunate to meet Khon from the vessel Ruey 1 Shyang, a Filipino at M. Berth. Clive then took us to

the former location of the Mission, which unfortunately was closed after Covid, here we met Temo, a service provider. We then visited Stella Maris, who have shared their facility to create a new Seaman's center to enable the Mission to continue their valuable work. Fr. Rico Talisic is the Regional Director of Stella Maris, he gave us a tour of this facility and described some of the programs they were heading up. His dedication to Seafarers was

uplifting.

We were grateful to Clive for showing us around, a great start to our 3-week vacation. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet Mark Classen, Port Chaplain, Port of Richards Bay, however, he followed our journey through S.A, which was very much appreciated. A trip of a Lifetime. We wish them all the best in their continued support of Seafarers.

By Susan Picton

VOLUNTEERISM EMBODIES A SPIRIT OF SELFLESSNESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

I have the distinct privilege of working with caring individuals who have the grace to willingly contribute their time, skills and resources to support our seafaring friends. I am proud of our success as we manage the priorities of the day during changing and often challenging times. Our volunteers engage seafarers answering questions, offering treats, a friendly chat and listening ears. We celebrate diversity, spirituality and community. We give thanks to those who go the extra mile to show their devotion. Thank you all for your loyalty and commitment. Seen above are five award winning volunteers being presented Elizabeth Bertrand pins for their support of Jonecar Ermino, a young seafarer whose leg was crushed by a gangway in 2024. Thank you Regional Director, MtS Canada, Rev'd Judith Alltree. Congratulations to all.



Andrew, Joseph, Judith, Art, Colm



Carolyn, Mike, Margie, Marianne, Joy



Susan welcomes Captain of the MS NAUTICA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are excited to announce we have purchased a 2024 Pacifica. We thank Steele Chrysler for negotiating a trade-in for us. We thank Paul and Bill Jamer for sourcing and purchasing the tires from Shaw Service

Centre Ltd. for a great deal on winter tires (shawservice@outlook.com 506-273-3500)

We are delighted to share that His Honor Lieutenant Governor Mike Savage has agreed to serve as our Honorary Patron, for the duration of his tenure as The King's representative. His Honour very much looks forward to continuing the association which the Mission to Seafarers has with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and Government House. We are honoured.

- Please place your orders for the Spring Luncheon on April 10th. Butter Chicken, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread and Dessert \$16.50 Place your order by Friday April 4th at picton902@gmail.com
- Toast to Spring On-Line Auction, 0800 April 23rd 0800 -April 29th 1800
- International Day of the Seafarer June 25th
- MtS Annual Golf Tournament at Avon Valley Golf & Country Club, September 9th, 1300
- CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS Join our team and see the world through seafarers' eyes. Call Helen or Joseph at 902-422-7790 or check out our website at www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

MtS Halifax VOLUNTEERS - TRULY THE BACKBONE TO OUR MISSION

John Attersley
 Bill Blackmore
 Jeanie Burke
 Captain Jim Calvesbert
 Reverend Andrew Cooke
 Michael Cudjoe
 Nancy Eisener
 Carolyn Graham

Howard Gray
 Maxime Gauvin
 Palma Heming
 Rahim Ibrahim
 Rita Karsten
 James Kennedy
 Dianne Lavoie-MacDonald
 Joy MacDonnell

Deacon Art Mitchell
 Aurora Ulloa-Parsons
 Captain James Parsons
 Susan Picton
 Norman Picton
 Captain Andrew Powell
 Captain Peter Randall
 Caroline Scott

Captain Colm Stockdale
 Bud Streeter
 Carol Streeter
 Glenn Taylor
 Pat Thompson
 David Ward

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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 9:30-4:30. flex time when ships are in Port. Closed Sundays.

Helen Glenn, Mission Manager
 Tel: 902-456-1658
 Email: hglenn@missiontoseafarershalifax.ca
Joseph Loot, Assistant Manager
 Tel: 902-989-3388
 Email: jloot@missiontoseafarershalifax.ca