



The Canadian Hydrographic Association
Association canadienne d'hydrographie



NEWSLETTER

*** January 2001 ***

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Canadian Hydrographic Association

Central Branch

2001 Executive

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Central Branch Committees

Communications and Publicity

Newsletter: - J. Weller, E. Brown, F. Oliff, L. Robbins
Web Site: - J. Weedon, J. Dixon
Lighthouse - A. Leyzack, J. Weller, F. Oliff

Education and Development

Gerry Wade Memorial Library:
- T. Janzen, F. Oliff, B. Power
Seminars: - S. Hinds, J. Dixon, A. Leyzack

Membership

Branch: - B. Power, J. Dixon, T. Janzen
International: - A. Leyzack, G. Pugach, L. Robbins,
Elections: - F. Oliff, T. Janzen

Social Events

H20 - E. Brown, J. Miles, B. Power
BBQ - T. Janzen, J. Biggar
AGM - F. Oliff, S. Hinds, T. Janzen, B. Power

Admiralty Launch Surveyor

- J. Dixon, E. Brown, H. Duller, A. Leyzack, B. Power, B. Warrender

Notes from the Branch Vice-President

Happy New Year to all our members in-house, out-house, international and those who are at sea.

For some, the Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS) examinations are once again on the horizon. Of relevance to hydrographers is the issue of water boundaries. I'm certainly impressed with the level of confusion the legal community has created while trying to ascertain the true identity of a water boundary as it applies to riparian ownership. In Canada, if a watercourse is determined to be navigable, the Crown will reserve the right to the bed of the watercourse in question to ensure the public right to navigation. Determining the boundary line between the upland and bed of the watercourse is where, case after case (*ad nauseum* in my opinion), the legal profession has contributed to volumes of text with their interpretations of what that line should be. Lawyers will argue (at \$300+ dollars an hour) what was implied in the water reservations set out in the original Crown grants. The use of words such as "bank", "shore" and terms such as the "line of terrestrial vegetation" are used in an attempt to define the "ordinary high water mark" (OHWM). The Canadian Tidal Manual does not define OHWM. The American National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Glossary of Tidal Terminology cites it as being synonymous with mean high water but the term OHWM is ambiguous and its use should be discouraged.

As undiscouraged surveyors we could (at considerably less than \$300 dollars per hour) use water level data to determine a mean high water level (the mean of recorded high waters) in a given area and nail an elevation to it. From benchmarks, the line could be then surveyed by laying out the line of constant elevation and it's a done deal. Not so. The legal profession (who must perpetuate argument at \$300+ per hour) have determined that evidence derived from measurement is nice for reference sake but intangible and inadmissible in a court of law. Surveyors will understand this as it applies to "priority of evidence", where natural boundaries hold precedence over those derived by measurement, but our ability to monitor water levels and today's survey instrumentation are a quantum leap in accuracy over the tools we used only decades earlier when a lot of the early surveyors simply eyeballed and sketched the water's edge.

But alas the legal profession, they were at odds with Sir Robert Torrens, an Australian Customs officer who in the 1850's proposed a system to register title to land because it simplified an otherwise confusing and largely non-public system (or lack thereof) in which one's title to land could never be guaranteed. Upon implementation of the Torrens' system, the requirement for legal assistance (at 300+ shillings per hour) in searching one's title to land must have been greatly reduced. Perhaps one day, a definition of the OHWM or some other convention for riparian boundaries will be clearly defined in legal survey terms and students will be relieved of a lot of dry and inconclusive reading. But for now, "send lawyers, guns (theodolites and levels) and money".

The opinions of the author do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the CHA.

— Andrew

Canadian Hydrographic Association

Central Branch 2000 Budget

Anticipated Revenue:

Membership dues		\$ 2,310.00
55 Branch	@ \$ 30.00	
17 Int'l	@ \$ 30.00	
1 Sustaining	@ \$ 150.00	
NewsLetter Ads: 2	@ \$ 50.00	100.00
Other income		365.00
		<u>Total revenue:</u> \$ 2,775.00

Anticipated Expenditures:

National dues		\$ 1,165.00
* 59 Branch	@ \$ 15.00	
* 18 Int'l	@ \$ 10.00	
1 Sustaining	@ \$ 100.00	
Postage - incl. 7 newsletters		500.00
Seminars		250.00
H2O Bonspiel		125.00
AGM and Dinner		300.00
Summer Barbecue		200.00
Newsletter		215.00
CIG MasterCard fees		20.00
Gerry Wade Memorial Library		200.00
		<u>Total expenditures:</u> \$ 2,975.00

* National Dues are also payable for our Life and Honorary Members.

Next Meeting

The next Central Branch meeting will be held at 19:00 on Thursday, 22 February 2001, in Room H122 at Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington [just west of the Skyway Bridge].

The guest speaker is Bob Rowsell, Head of Instrumentation Services, Engineering Services Section, Research Support Branch, National Water Research Institute. He'll share some of his "Adventures and Misadventures North of the Arctic Circle."

Our traditional refreshments will be served.

Minutes (continued from Page 3)

Our guest speaker, Kathy Menyes, Partnership Coordinator with Fish Habitat Management, Central & Arctic Region, gave us an enlightening talk on their recent activities, current structure and goals for the future. This division has undergone radical changes and expansion in the last few years. Their mandate is to manage and protect Canada's fisheries resources and habitat through administration of provisions of the Fisheries Act. They are currently refining several strategies through which to implement their policies, and are developing long-term partnerships with various federal, provincial, municipal and private organizations to meet their goals.

Kathy left us with several documents pertaining to FHM policy and responsibilities. For those interested in having a look at them, they are in the magazine rack near the entrance to Hydrography in CCIW.

After the talk, we enjoyed beer, pizza and discussion (and some high-test rhum courtesy of Heimo).

CHA Central Branch — NewsLetter — January 2001

Minutes of General Meeting of CENTRAL BRANCH held on 24 January 2001

1) Heimo Duller and Leigh Morrison hosted the meeting. Andrew welcomed everyone, thanked Heimo and Leigh, and called the meeting to order at 19:10.

Attendees:

Andrew Leyzack	- VP- Chair		
Tim Janzen	- Secretary		
Heimo Duller	John Dixon	Jim Weedon	Ab Rogers
Earl Brown	Sean Hinds	Jim Berry	Joe Delle Fave
Paola Travaglini	Stuffed Dog		
Regrets:	Bill Warrender	Fred Oliff	Sam Weller

Guest Speaker: Kathy Menyes, Partnership Coordinator with C&A Region Fish Habitat Management Program

2) Minutes of the 7 December AGM as circulated in the December newsletter were made available at the meeting. Andrew said that there were a few AGM programs left, if anyone wanted one. The year 2000 AGM programs contain reports on the year's committee work.

Motion to accept the minutes:

- Moved S. Hinds/E. Brown CARRIED

3) **Treasurer's Report:** (A. Leyzack for J. Weller) The year-end statement has not been audited yet, but Sam's preliminary statement balances were presented as follows: Central Branch- \$1467.83, Lighthouse Convenience Account- \$1267.19 and Heritage Launch Convenience Account- \$2616.51. Andrew presented the 2001 budget for review, saying that he had amended it by allocating \$200 for the Gerry Wade Memorial Library. This gives us a deficit budget, but we have done this before. Sean asked whether the stationery costs pertained only to newsletter materials, and Andrew answered that it is for all CHA stationery. He added that the need to purchase letterheads and envelopes has been stayed somewhat because Tim and Paola have created digital CHA letterheads that can be printed in-house. Andrew drew attention to the H2O budget, noting that the committee did not use any of the \$125 allocated and actually made money. The Treasurer's Report will appear in the newsletter.

Motion to accept the 2001 budget:

- Moved S. Hinds/E. Brown CARRIED

4) **Correspondence:** Andrew said that there was some correspondence from International Member George Pugach, regarding his recent appearance as a CHA representative at an oil & gas conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. He added that there had been some correspondence to the Directors regarding Lighthouse.

5) **Committee Reports:** The 2001 committees have been set, and their structure was circulated at the meeting [see NewsLetter cover]. Restructuring resulted in the formation of a Communications and Publicity Committee, and an Education and Development Committee.

Admiralty Launch Surveyor: (A. Leyzack for J. Dixon) Andrew said that John has taken over as Chair of the committee, and wished him success.

Three launch events have been tentatively set for 2001 so far:

- The Upper Canada Trade Fair, Odessa April 28-29
- Ft. Ticonderoga, New York June 22-24
- Battle of Georgian Bay, Penetanguishene August 23-26

Seminar: (S. Hinds) Sean said that the meetings are of a similar distribution as last year. He is seeking speakers who will promote an interest in CHA, and welcomes any suggestions. If you are willing to

host a meeting or to give a presentation please contact Sean. The tentative meeting schedule is as follows:

- H2O -Saturday February 24th - Grimsby
- 2nd meeting -Thursday February 22nd - location TBA
- 3rd meeting -Wednesday March 21st - location Sam Weller
- 4th meeting -Thursday April 26th - Brian Power
- CHA BBQ -June - Jon and Norma Biggar
- 5th meeting -Wednesday Oct 3rd - location TBA
- 6th meeting -Thursday Nov 8th - Tim Janzen
- AGM -Thursday December 6th - location TBA

H2O: (E. Brown) Earl said the 30th annual H2O bonspiel is coming up on Feb 24th. He is aiming to recruit 64 curlers (little or no experience required) and is actively pursuing sponsors for the event. The bonspiel will be held in Grimsby, starts at 08:30, and will consist of 2, 8-end games. Kathy said that she will be curling and that Fish Habitat will be entering 4 teams.

Gerry Wade Memorial Library: (T. Janzen) The Library is now in place in H122, Hydrography, at CCIW. Tim is cataloguing material and would welcome donations of any relevant written or video reference material. Earl asked if we were maintaining all CHS videos, and Andrew replied that we have not been approached to do this.

Andrew asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of a video on the Louis St. Laurent and Russian Icebreaker's rendezvous at the North Pole, which was shown at the CHA meeting in April 1997.

ACTION: Andrew to approach CHS to see if they'd like to keep any of their Videos in the Library.

Membership: (A. Leyzack for B. Power) There is no report as yet, but membership dues are steadily coming in. Al Koudys has offered to maintain the membership list and spreadsheet.

6) **Other Business:** Jim Berry asked about the CHA National President position. Andrew said we had been mistaken about when Ken's term was up and he has one more year left as President.

Jim Berry brought up the topic of a NOAA conference in Norfolk, West Virginia, coming up in May. He thinks the CHA is listed as a sponsor, and that CHA members would be eligible for a reduced entry fee. If this is the case, we should be advertising this conference in our newsletter.

Andrew said that he would be attending the Association of Canada Lands ACLS AGM/workshop/Seminars in Halifax, in March. Prairie Schooner Branch is a sponsor of the event, and PSB Director Bruce Calderbank will be there, preparing a CHA booth and presenting a paper. Sean said that this meeting should also be advertised in the newsletter. Earl suggested it would be good publicity to have Dave Gray, who is also presenting a paper at the event, introduced as a representative of the CHA.

ACTION: Andrew to investigate CHA's sponsorship of the NOAA conference and report back to the Branch.

ACTION: Andrew to supply Sam with the conference website and to approach Dave Gray about acting as a CHA representative at the ACLS conference.

7) The business part of the meeting adjourned at 19:55.

-Moved J. Berry/H. Duller CARRIED

(continued on Page 2)

The International Column

By Larry Robbins, Commander, RNZN (Ret'd)

New Year's greetings from the southern contingent of the CHA.

There is an interesting proposal to reorganise the Hydrographic Society along 'federal' lines. If agreed, the National Branches of the H. Society will become independent with a central coordinating core. There will be avenues for existing groups such as the CHA to link in should they so wish. It is early days yet and the full concept has yet to be discussed by the membership and the necessary decisions made. Initial details of the proposal can be found under 'News' at: <http://www.hydrographicsociety.org/News/welcome.html>

The New Zealand Region of the Hydrographic Society held its AGM recently. Two of the new committee members are also CHA International Members ... so all remains well!

The AGM was preceded by a 'HUG'. Before aspersions are cast upon the manner in which kiwis conduct business, may I point out that in this case we are talking about the 'Hydrographic Users Group'. This is a loose organisation whereby users get to discuss their point of view with the national hydrographic authority, LINZ. It is meant to meet at least annually although in this case LINZ did not call the meeting for around 17 months. That is somewhat disappointing as the forum was, in the writer's view, an excellent exchange of viewpoints and should meet at least annually to fulfill its purpose. The HUG was a little surprised to find that a major contract, the first NZ surveys in Antarctica, had been let by a non-competitive tender process although the actual process could not be discussed. The HUG also expressed some concerns over the short time-scale allowed for responses to another major survey but LINZ will (rightly) not discuss contractual matters. There is no suggestion that this is the case here, but the skirt of 'con-tracts' could be a convenient ground in some cases to hide behind.

In a major development in the middle of January, Terralink (which is the 'functions' arm of the old Department of Lands and Survey - the regulatory and Standards arm became LINZ) went into receivership when the government refused additional capital injections. It thus became the country's first State Owned Enterprise to fail in such financially dynamic manner. The root cause of the problem appears to be that Terralink seriously underestimated the effort required to provide the data capture services for a major computerisation project which will provide computer access to NZ land records. The project, 'Landonline', is LINZ's flagship project and it has been interesting to read of the concerns expressed in the pages of the NZ Institute of Surveyors Journal. That Terralink was the only tenderer for the contract may have been seen at the time as some form of favouritism, but perhaps it should more rightly have sounded warning bells about the viability of it at the cost. We shall see.

Finally on the subject of LINZ, an international member asked me about the relative costs of hydrography in New Zealand now as opposed to five years ago when the NZ changes occurred. A couple of years ago, at the first HUG, LINZ told us that we were getting better value for the hydrographic dollar. As a result of the query, I've asked them for specific details and will advise the member concerned (and, if appropriate, this forum) when the information comes to hand.

Well, this column should have been entitled 'Change'. One thing that doesn't change is the benefit of belonging to an organisation such as

CHA and the interchange of ideas that can be a major part of membership. If International Members have any snippets about their hydrographic activities that would be of wider interest then please email me at: larry@robbins.gen.nz We want to hear from you.

Thought of the month: 'Indecision is the key to flexibility'!!

Best.

LARRY ROBBINS

Special event — H2O Bonspiel 2001

Central Branch of the Canadian Hydrographic Association (CHA) is pleased to be hosting the 30th Annual H2O Bonspiel on Saturday, February 24th at the *Grimsby Curling Club*.

The organizing committee, Jackie Miles, Earl Brown and Brian Power, are pleased to see a good turnout by CHA members. This is a very popular curling event, which our members can be proud of.

In the past, CHA members were the driving force behind curling at CCIW, now the CCIW curling club has a large membership from all Sections and Divisions. CCIW curlers, of which many are hydrographers, are registering for this event. Your bonspiel committee would like to see more CHA and CHS staff taking part in the future.

The H2O Bonspiel is a fun event, no previous curling experience is required and you can form your own team or be assigned to a team. We have filled our roster of sixty-four curlers but can add to a waiting list. The *Grimsby Curling Club* has four sheets of ice, allowing eight teams (four players on a team) to curl at one time and we will be running two events during the day. If you are thinking about curling or would like to know more about the game of curling then please go to the CCIW Internet site www.members.home.com/cciwc. Our webmaster Lorne Laframboise has many links to the game of curling. You will be able to find all the details about the H2O bonspiel and be able to register on-line; it is so easy give it a try.

As in the past, CHA members received the lower registration rate of \$30. Check the web site for more information.

We look forward to meeting and curling with you on February 24.

Hans Walter Pulkkinen

We are sorry to report the death of Hans Pulkkinen, who died on Sunday 28 January in Ottawa at the age of 90.

Hans spent many years exploring and surveying the Canadian and Russian Arctic and was a colleague and friend of many of our CHS people. He worked with the CHS for many years, primarily on ship-based survey teams in the Canadian Arctic. Hans loved the Arctic and was justifiably proud of his contribution to northern charting and exploration.

There was a service of remembrance at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church on 1 February 2001.

Our sympathies go to his family and to our CHS staff who have lost an admired colleague.