

Minutes of the 19th AGM of the Gabriola Island Squadron

May 31, 2015

The meeting was held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 31 at the Rollo Centre, Gabriola Island.

After a brief social time, Commander Ralph Hagen started the meeting at 1411.

Commander Hagen introduced our **guests**: D/C Barry Ensign, Betty Pearson, Alex McConnell and Frieda Bohm. He subsequently introduced the Squadron's charter members who founded the Squadron in 1996: D'Arcy Boulton, Richard De Lissa, John Hall, Mike Hoeinghaus, Hugh Sproule, Steve Wohleben and Oliver Woolcock.

SEO Bob Weenk presented Michelle Young, the only **graduating boating student** present this year, with her squadron graduation certificate, the CPS certificate of membership and the CPS pennant and passport. Tobi Elliott was presented in absentia with the **Arthur J. Nielsen Award** for obtaining the highest mark in the Boating Essentials course.

Commander Ralph and Frieda Bohm presented the **Rudy Bohm Award**, awarded to the member(s) of the Gabriola Island Squadron in recognition of exemplary performance in boating embodying the principles of CPS, to Oliver Woolcock for his work in teaching boating.

P/C and life member Hugh Sproule presented the **Windchime Award** for outstanding contributions to training, which he originally gave to the Squadron in 2004, to Ralph Hagen for his decade-long dedication to teaching the Squadron's boating courses.

Commander Ralph presented the Squadron with the **Wilf Souther Memorial Award**, VIND's award to the squadron with the highest average marks in the Piloting (now Seamanship) course.

Hugh Sproule talked briefly about the founding of our Squadron in 1996 and especially the roles played by Nanaimo Squadron Joanne Farmer, as she then was, and by charter member Michael Vann.

D/C Barry Ensign, only one day on the job, addressed the gathering briefly and informed us that there will be fundamental changes in the role of the District but that whatever those changes will be eventually, the main function of VIND will be to support the work of its squadrons.

With that, the business part of the meeting commenced. The Secretary establishing that there was a **quorum**. The Secretary then verified that two **notices of the meeting** had gone out well before the two weeks required by the *Regulations*.

Motion: to approve the Minutes of the 2014 AGM of 27 April as posted on the web site (Bob Weenk, Mike Hoeinghaus), passed unanimously.

Motion: to approve all reports as posted on the web site (Bert terHart, Mike Hoeinghaus), passed unanimously.

Motion: to approve the financial statements and review report (Mike Hoeinghaus, Bill Kalbfleisch), passed unanimously.

Motion: to appoint Alex McConnell to review our finances for 2015-16 (Bert terHart, Mike Hoeinghaus), passed unanimously.

P/C Bob Derksen, chair of the **Nominating Committee**, presented the meeting with the list of nominees for the 2015-16 Executive. See the Committee's report under Officers Reports for this AGM. As Secretary, Bob Derksen informed the gathering that no petitions had come in before the two-day deadline before the AGM. Accordingly, it was up to him as Secretary to cast a single ballot, which he did, in favour of accepting the Nominating Committee's report.

Commander Ralph Hagen then made his **closing address** to the Squadron. He asked where CPS is going. Boating, especially because of technology, has changed drastically over the last couple of decades. Technology has also changed the ways we teach boating. Past tried and true methods of conducting the business of squadrons and CPS and past methods of teaching do not seem to work any more. GPS especially has been the most fundamental innovation since the introduction of the compass over 800 years ago. Navigation and all it entailed used to be an essential component of what was taught. Boaters mistakenly take it for granted now, largely due to new technologies and this has led to the loss of safe boating skills in the boating community. Teaching safe boating, Ralph reminded us, is our fundamental task that encompasses a great deal more than GPS navigation. We must continue to stress all the varied aspects of safe boating in the courses we present to the public.

Ralph presented the new commander, Commander Mike Hoeinghaus with the commander's pennant and badge.

In return, Commander Mike presented Ralph with the Past Commanders plaque, and a marine clock given to Ralph by a Bridge grateful for all his work.

Commander Hoeinghaus adjourned the meeting at 1518.