



February 2007

President's Corner

Fellow Ontario Scuba Community members:

Welcome to the first electronically-delivered edition of Ontario Underwater Council's quarterly newsletter!

OUC is confident the move to electronic delivery will:

- a) make it easier and quicker for you to submit articles and notification of events to us
- b) enable much faster and wider distribution of the newsletter
- c) increase the kinds of content (colour, images, audio, and video) we can deliver to you
- d) reduce or eliminate many of the costs associated with the hard-copy version such as those for paper, ink, envelopes, addressing, stuffing, and postage.

Any cost savings we realize will be turned around and invested right back into the safety, education, and promotion programs that benefit you directly.

This is how it works: all OUC members who have provided us with valid e-mail addresses will receive a **one-or-two-line e-mail notification*** 4 times a year advising them that the newsletter is ready for reading or printing directly from the OUC's website.

For those members for whom we do not have valid e-mail addresses, or for those whose mailboxes may be full at the time of notification, we ask you to please go to the OUC Website

(www.underwatercouncil.com) on or after the publication date in order to read and/or

print the latest issue of the newsletter as well as all the past issues.

Publication dates and submission deadlines dates for 2007 are as follows:

Submission Deadline	Publication Date
April 23 rd	May 6 th
August 27 th	September 9 th
November 26 th	December 2 nd

Please stay tuned for exciting new developments as we learn how to make the most of this new communications medium!

Coming up very shortly are the OUC 2007 Ice Floe Race and the OUC 2007 Treasure Hunt.

The OUC Ice Floe Race will take place on Saturday March 10th in Peterborough and the deadline for registering your team will be February 28th. This year's race will be limited to 10 team entries and the starting positions will be assigned upon receipt of your team's registration including the volunteers and fees. So hurry, the race has already started!



The OUC 2007 Treasure Hunt event has been held every Father's Day weekend

since 1971 and is now the largest Treasure Hunt in the province.

At Presqu'île Provincial Park near Brighton, the family-oriented fun and activities preceding the Treasure Hunt will take place on Saturday June 16th with the Treasure Hunt itself taking place on Sunday June 17th. Presqu'île Provincial Park is a jewel on Lake Ontario's north shore and is criss-crossed with beautiful biking and hiking trails. It also features an Interpretive Centre with a fantastic display of the lost ship "Speedy".

Of this you can be sure; if you and your family want to have a lot of fun, if you want to meet hundreds of fellow Ontario divers and their families, and if you want a chance to win some great prizes, **DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!**

See you all there!

Yours in safe & fun scuba diving,



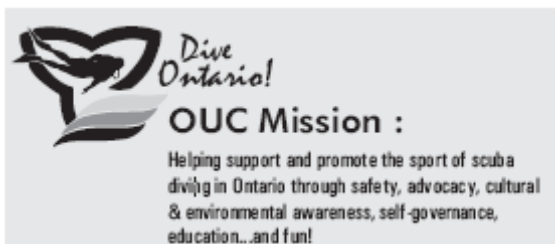
Raimund J. Krob
President
Ontario Underwater Council



Treasure Hunt 1977



Treasure Hunt 2005



We would like to hear from you ...

If you have any news to share, diving humour, information on recent or upcoming events, info on new or favourite Ontario dive sites or an invitation to an activity, please send us a note at ouc.communications@underwatercouncil.com so that we can share it with our membership. What upcoming events open to all Ontario divers do you have planned this year?

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FINANCE

Financial Summary and Outlook

By Greg Vaysman, OUC Director of Finance

The past decade has been a challenging one for OUC. A withdrawal of government funding and a shrinking revenue base made it difficult for us to deliver on all aspects of our mission.

2006 however saw the start of many dramatic and positive changes and as a result we've seen a significant improvement in the financial situation of the council.

For example, the OUC's "Canadian Air Purity Inspection Program" (CAPIP), one of our main sources of revenue, had an unacceptable number of delinquent accounts receivable. We adopted a no-nonsense approach with those few clients to ensure they fulfilled their financial obligations to us. We also made a significant capital investment in CAPIP that allowed us to serve more Customers more efficiently. As a result, our financial situation is in considerably better shape now than it was a year ago.

Looking forward into 2007, we will continue on the path of improving the financial health of the OUC budget. There are two primary areas that we are targeting. First, we will continue to work with our customers to ensure their obligations to OUC are met. We are fully committed to reducing the number of delinquent accounts receivable to a minimum by working with each one of these customers individually.

Secondly, we are in the process of developing a formal OUC Expense Policy for all council-related activities and programs. This policy will be based on fiscal affordability, Council priorities and fairness, and ease of administration. I will continue to work with the program directors to ensure that the Council's priorities are funded within the Council's financial means.

While our state of affairs cannot yet be considered completely healthy, as there is a great deal of work still to be done, we have turned a corner towards sound financial management and are headed in the right direction through a focus on timely revenue collection and expense control.

REST & RELAXATION

"Scubadoku + WordSearch"								
F		N		A	E			M
							D	
		A	S					
		I		K		A		
		S		D		E		
		M		F		N		
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K			I	M		D		F

Instructions:

1) Using only the following 9 letters: "A", "D", "E", "F", "I", "K", "M", "N," and "S", fill every blank space in the board to the left.

- Every row must contain all 9 letters
- Every column must contain all 9 letters
- Every 3 x 3 square must contain all 9 letters

2) Conduct a word search of the completed board and complete the following sentence:

"Three things not to forget on a dive trip are your

_____ , _____ , _____"

3) Email your completed board & sentence to ouc.president@underwatercouncil.com. The first completely correct entry received will win a very cool (and warm) OUC fleece sweat-top. The winner and the correct answers will be published in the May 5th issue.

SAFETY

Buoyancy

By David Noble, OUC Director of Sport Safety

I recently had a discussion with another instructor while attending a SCUBA Swap. He commented that one of the most common questions he gets is, "do I need to improve my buoyancy?" He said his standard reply was, "I need to practice my buoyancy as an experienced instructor, so what do you think I'm going to tell you?"

We all learned basic buoyancy skills on our Open Water course, so that should be good enough, right? Wrong. I followed a fellow instructor around a wreck in B.C. once a couple years ago and I was horrified at the total lack of concern for buoyancy, the wreck and the life on the wreck. I watched starfish and sea anemones go flying while he led me around the wreck.

On another dive, I followed another instructor around the interior of the Wolfe Islander while he showed me what near perfect buoyancy was. He didn't touch anything, but following him, I felt like I was a newbie. He commented that the skills he learned and practiced in his cave diving course really helped him learn to control his buoyancy.

Some examples of other diving activities and situations which require good buoyancy control are underwater photography, wreck diving, silty conditions, as well as many others. With underwater photography, you need to be able to maintain neutral buoyancy while performing tasks with your camera equipment. This is easier said than done, and requires a lot of practice. During your open water course, performing fin pivots and hovering helped you learn that breath control plays a significant role in how you adjust and maintain your buoyancy. Ask any photographer how they get that nice close-up of a drum fish, a blenny or flying gurnard without scaring them away. The trick is to sneak up on them, making very few movements while using your breath to adjust your position vertically. Taking

pictures on a wreck requires the same technique (except for the sneaking part). You often need to make small adjustments in order to maintain enough positive buoyancy so as not to stir up the silt on the wreck or the bottom since the silt causes distortion and backscatter in the images. As a photographer, there is nothing worse than following a diver who is kicking up the bottom!

So where is this going? There are many aspects of diving where buoyancy is important, not the least of which is your safety. We need to be able to establish positive buoyancy on the surface at the beginning and end of our dives, to preserve energy, adjust equipment or await others. We need to be able to control buoyancy while descending to allow equalization, prevent impacting the bottom, coral, wrecks, or anything else. On ascent, we need to ensure safe ascent rates and be able to do safety stops.

You can hold on to the ascent line when ascending and descending so that's not a big deal, right? Wrong again. I have been on ascent lines when the boat is riding in waves. As a result, one moment you could be at 15 feet below the surface, a few seconds later, you could be at the surface with 15 feet of slack line floating around you and then back down to 15 feet again. This is a very dangerous situation. You need to be able to maintain your buoyancy free of a line. This may happen down south when drift diving if the boat goes to pickup one group while your group is doing a safety stop.

There are many different techniques you should learn and a great way to learn and practice this particular skill is by taking a buoyancy tuning course. Go to your local dive store or dive club and ask about the courses they offer to help improve your buoyancy. Talk to an instructor or to more experienced fellow divers about how to improve your buoyancy skills. Ask them to evaluate you and give you some tips for improvement. Above all; practice, practice, practice!

NEWS

A Word from the OUC's new Director of Membership

Greetings!

Since this is my first message in this role, I thought that I'd try to tell you a bit about my role..

As the Director of Membership, it is my primary responsibility to help maintain and increase the OUC's membership in all its various categories.

In keeping with that goal, part of my responsibility is to ensure that all of the OUC members' information is up-to-date in the Community Directory. When the Community Directory was first created, the information was obtained with the help of many individuals. But as most people are aware, this information quickly goes out of date the industry and its participants change. We rely on your help to keep us informed of these changes (eg. New scuba retailer opening up in your area). By working

together his way, we all help in keeping the information as current as possible

With the New Year upon us, our Member Clubs are starting send in their membership information.

There are actually four levels of membership for individual divers: Individual Blue, Individual Gold, Club Blue, and Club Gold. In the past, this information had to be manually entered into our database. A new initiative we are currently working on with the clubs is to have this information managed electronically.

As the Director of Membership, I am also the liaison with Fathom Five Provincial Park for their volunteer program. More information about the volunteer program will follow in the next issue of the newsletter. Keep checking the OUC website for updates!

John Raso, OUC Director of Membership

OUC Shipwreck and Shore Dives Directories



Come and find out about the exciting new developments with the OUC's online Shipwreck and Shore Dive Directories! The latest version of this Google Earth powered directory will amaze you with its richness of information, large number of newly-added sites, and the new capability which will allow you to submit your own sites online.

Liability Insurance Policy for Clubs

Most Scuba Clubs in Ontario require proof of Liability Insurance Coverage for their day-to-day operations. If your Club is like most, these operations include renting swimming pools, instructing students, hosting experience/discover scuba events, and running dive trips.

In the unlikely event that these operations result in property damage, injury, or death, then your Club's Liability Insurance Policy is there to protect you, your Club, your Executive, your Instructors, your Dive Masters, and your Members from the risk of often-expensive liability litigation and damages that can be awarded.

Every year Ontario Underwater Council uses the collective buying power its Member Scuba Clubs to negotiate the best Liability Insurance Coverage for the best value for its

members. "Best value" means savings to Member Clubs as much as 50% compared to commercially-available coverage on the street.

As a result of this constant yearly improvement, OUC's policy is now rated #1 by the majority of Ontario Scuba Club Presidents.

If your Club needs affordable and comprehensive Liability Insurance, and would like to learn more about the policy OUC has negotiated for its Member Clubs for 2007, please click on the following link:

http://www.underwatercouncil.com/?action=cms&cmspage=membership-insurance&parent_cmspage1=membership&parent_cmspage2=membership-club

Ice Floe Conditions

As of Sunday, February 4th at 1540h ...

Temperature = -38°C with 50km/h winds
At the Start Line (15 feet from shore) = 11 inches

In the middle of the river = 8.5 inches

If the weather continues like this, we will have ice floes a-plenty for the race!

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the most recent listing of OUC News and Events, check the OUC's website (www.underwatercouncil.com). If you have an event you would like to share with the rest of the scuba diving community, please send the information to ouc.communications@underwatercouncil.com to have it posted.

Advil Outdoor Adventure Show (February 23rd - 25th)

In just a few short days, many of us will be seeing one-another at Canada's largest annual Scuba show which is "Scuba World" at the Advil Outdoor Adventure Show on February 23rd, 24th, & 25th. This is a great opportunity to meet many of Ontario's Scuba Retailers, Charter Operators, and Travel Agencies and find out what's new and exciting with the sport. Please go to the link for the Advil Outdoor Adventure Show (<http://www.outdooradventureshow.ca/toronto/index.html>) for more information. **Be sure to look for the "Special Offer" further along in this newsletter!**

The OUC will once again play an important role at the Show by coordinating the Cayman Islands-sponsored "Scuba Demo Tank" and hosting its own booth. Look for the following organizations who will be putting on exciting, entertaining, engaging, and educational shows in the tank: Etobicoke Underwater Club, Ontario Underwater Explorers, Hart House Underwater Club, Ajax Scuba Club,

Scarborough Underwater Club Inc, and Canadian Association of Freediving and Apnea.

Be sure to stop by the OUC Booth and meet the many Board Members and Regional Coordinators who will be there. Ask about the Aviva Barth Memorial Program, an OUC initiative to help increase awareness of the "Scuba Diver Down" flag within the Ontario Boating Community as well as finding out what you can do to help us help all Ontario divers.

As well, come and have a look at the OUC's re-developed "Canadian Air Purity Inspection Program", learn about the OUC's "Vessel Safety Inspection Program" for the proposed sinking of vessels to be used as artificial reefs and/or diver's playgrounds, and pick up the latest copy of the OUC's comprehensive "Ontario Scuba Community Directory" which lists every Scuba Retailer, Charter Operator, Club, and Certifying Agency in the province.

OUC Ice Floe Race (March 10th)

The OUC Ice Floe Race will take place on Saturday March 10th in Peterborough and the deadline for registering your team will be February 28th. This year's race will be limited to 10 team entries and the starting positions are assigned upon receipt of your team's registration including the volunteers and fees. So hurry, the race has already started!



EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUE 16th Annual Scuba Swap (April 28th)

The Ontario Underwater Explorers Scuba Club is proud to be presenting the 16th Annual Scuba Swap and Sale on Saturday April 28th, 2007. This event will be held at the Etobicoke Olympium, 590 Rathburn Road, Toronto.

This is a very popularly anticipated event in the dive community by dive stores and divers alike. Each year there are as many as 12 dive stores from around the southern Ontario region taking part in our event and the divers who attend come from all areas of southern Ontario and sometimes beyond that!

We have a large array of used equipment to sell in our 'Private Gear Sales Area' brought to us by many individuals who have chosen to sell their equipment at the Scuba Swap. Every year many makes and models of

equipment are available for resale; everything from masks, fins snorkels weights, wet as well as dry suits, BCD's, air tanks, regulators, knives, reels, clips, hooks, straps, etc, etc.

Our OUE members volunteer many hours of their time, expertise and resources to organize and run this popular event. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to seek out any one of the OUE members present who will be very happy to assist in any way to help make your visit a happy, helpful experience.

We all look forward to seeing you at the 'Swap'. So please mark this date on your Calendar and don't forget!

Bill Fielder
OUE Swap Chairperson

Revival of The Poseidon Circle?

For all the former members of the scuba club called The Poseidon Circle as well as anyone interested in starting up a new scuba club in the Lakefield area, please contact Terry Ethridge (ouc.treasurehunt@underwatercouncil.com / 1-866-740-1174) as he is looking to bring together some like-minded, adventurous individuals who all prefer breathing air from tanks rather than the regular way everyone else does it ...



The Poseidon Circle at an OUC Ice Floe Race

Steel City Sport Divers' Invitational Treasure Hunt (July 21st)

On Saturday, July 21st, Steel City Sport Divers will be hosting their 2nd Annual Invitational Treasure Hunt. Last year's event was rained out, but there were still a few die-hard participants who came by and

enjoyed the event. The invitation is only open to OUC members due to the stipulations of the OUC Insurance Policy. Monitor the OUC's web site for club events to stay up-to-date and register.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUC Treasure Hunt (June 16th, 17th)



Good morning Ontario Divers, I love the scent of prizes in the air, don't you? Obviously, coffee first, but right next to that, prizes; lots of 'em! I recently told my son, "I'm sorry Johnny, you may as well know early because there will be many conflicting stories later on in your life. There is no Santa Claus, no Easter Bunny, and no Tooth Fairy. Those are things I can help you work through; your parents have a multi-step program."

"The truth is son, that your mom and I always go to the Ontario Underwater Council's Treasure Hunt in Presqu'île Park on Father's Day Weekend (occurring this year on June 16th and 17th, 2007) every year where we dress up in thick rubber suits along with hundreds of other people, just like the penguins in that movie we saw last week. Then, we gather along the shore like those lemmings you learned about in school. Next, we happily wait for a jolly man on a tall tower to shoot a big pistol up into the air, aiming at, well nothing in particular (you know, kind of like our home movie of Uncle Glenn and the goose that got away). After that, we all jump in the water and look for pieces of treasure which we then give to you throughout the year. That is the REAL truth, son."

And my son, looking rather puzzled, asked, "Dad, it is OK if I keep my books about the flying reindeer, the egg-laying rabbit, and the invisible toothless lady?"

Lesson learned: It's never the story that creates the mood. It's how you tell it.

So, how will **you** tell the story of the greatest Treasure Hunt known to man ... nay, *man or beast*?

Come hell or high water this year, with all your help we have a unique opportunity to show the province and the country ... nay, *the world* how to celebrate our sport of scuba diving. This year we are doubling the search for treasure before we give you thrill of hunting for it. [translated: BIG prizes]. Stay tuned to the OUC website.

Ontario Scuba Organizations & Clubs: many hands make for light work. We need each of you to provide one or two members to sign onto the 2007 Treasure Hunt Committee by or before February 10th. This year marks the first year for the new Underwater Orienteering Competition. Deeper water and more complex tasks will make it simultaneously easier and more challenging to win the coveted first prize!

And if your group wants to sponsor and/or coordinate a "Search & Recovery" contest, just let us know,

A bit of a twist this year is that we are also looking for donations of gently-used or new Pirate Clothing for our Costume Treasure Chest as we will be asking our volunteers to walk the plank (or is that "walk the talk"?) while wearing costumes with matching head-dress. Red with stripes IS the new black! Vintage weaponry will be provided and keel-hauling will be practiced sporadically throughout the weekend. The ancient Pirate tradition of BYOP will be strictly enforced (SPCA: No parrots will be harmed in the production of this event)

Terry Ethridge
Committee Chair
37th Annual Treasure Hunt
Ontario Underwater Council
ouc.treasurehunt@underwatercouncil.com

STORIES FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

Ontario West

Weekend in Brockville

By Mike Napran, OUC Regional Coordinator, West

In Brockville this year, we had 18 adventurous souls join us who were all itching to get in the water. The weather was Hot, Hazy, and Humid but did that matter when you were going to be getting wet all weekend? Our motto for the weekend was **DIVE!!! DIVE!!! DIVE!!!**

Our first dive on Saturday took us just outside the city of Brockville to dive on the *Daryaw*. The *Daryaw* is a disorienting wreck to dive because it sits upside down. If you like "smokin' fast" current and awesome visibility, then this would have been paradise. With visibility of over 60 feet, lots of fish and a current that just won't quit, dives don't get any better than this, ... or do they???

Our second dive was to the schooner *Lillie Parsons* which is also upside down (hmm). There are a lot of artifacts to see along the side of that wreck. After checking out the wreck, some of us did a fast drift along the island beside the *Lillie Parsons*. COOL!!!

Our night dive was on the *Kingshorn*. Descending into the eerie blackness that seemed endless, we were relieved not to see any great whites - whew! At the end of the dive, two of our divers had a fight with a tough strobe (the strobe almost won).

On Sunday we plunged forward into a different country. The main reason for our stopover was at the *Keystorm*. It sits on its side in 20 to 115 feet of water. You can still see the huge rip in her forward hull from the shoal she ran into. It sank shortly thereafter (imagine that!!). There is an old stove, some engine room skylights, and a propeller to see as well as so much more.

For our second dive of the day, we did a "bottle dive" near Singer Castle. Now that we think about it, we didn't hear any singers ...

After the dives we celebrated with a barbeque and had a draw for five T-shirts which were donated by our boat captain and a great local dive shop. For our entertainment after supper, someone brought out a remote controlled airplane and proceeded to put on a miniature air show.

Afterwards, the group went for a night dive on the *Keystorm*. My buddy and I went deep inside the wheelhouse area and found all **four** bath tubs. With four tubs this must have been the cleanest crew around! We also came across some bed frames. There is always cool stuff to see on this wreck.

On Monday, eleven of us did a dive on the *Vickery*. My wife Chris and I headed straight off the wreck and out to the crow's nest which is at a **DEEP and SCARY** 147 feet and we were briefly joined by two friends from our group. Even at this depth, the water temperature was a balmy 70 degrees.

After a few minutes of cruising around the masts, we headed back up over the stern and across the deck. At our 15 foot safety stop we saw some huge fish. What a way to end a great weekend!



Mike Napran is a member of the OUC Member Club, London Skin & Scuba Club.

STORIES FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

Ontario Central-West

Does Your Gear Check Out?

By Lori Lynch

About 3 weeks ago I was aboard a charter on a warm sunny day in Key Largo, Florida on the way out to dive the *Spiegel Grove*. That is the 510' wreck that was intentionally sunk 6 miles off of Key Largo and landed upside down. In an attempt to right the vessel, it ended up on its side. Then lo and behold, Hurricane Dennis blew in and righted the ship! All I can say is "FAN-TAS-TIC"!

This time of year the ocean can be quite choppy to say the least. On this day, we were seeing 3's and 4's and the occasional 5 footer! Upon returning to the boat from my dive, I quickly learned that two of our divers had surfaced at a marker buoy quite a distance away. They must have signaled to the boat captain that they had some trouble, but indicated that they were ok because the captain asked them to stay put until the rest of the divers returned and then he would go to get them.

Unbeknownst to the rest of us on the boat, one of the diver's back plate had become unscrewed from his BCD and broke away making it difficult for the diver and his buddy to hold the gear *and* stay afloat let alone swim or even pull himself in on the Lifesaver Buoy the Divemaster deployed. Just to make it more of a challenge, the diver chose to forego a snorkel on this dive!

Another Divemaster quickly saw that there was something wrong and dove into the water with her snorkeling gear and swam out to assist the divers. She quickly assessed the situation and instructed the other buddy to return to the boat. The buddy replied that she couldn't leave because she was the one holding the other diver's gear (meanwhile the DM is trying to keep the other diver, who is now very near exhaustion, afloat). The DM in the water took the gear from her and again told the buddy to get back to the boat! She then let the gear go and towed the now exhausted

diver safely back to the boat, albeit without his BCD. [If you have taken a rescue course, you are taught to take the gear or goodies from the diver in trouble and then let the goodies (or gear in this case) go.]

I gave some very serious thought to what could be learned from all this and the first thing that came to mind was the mistake of foregoing a snorkel on an ocean dive. If for some reason you can't breathe from your primary regulator or your octopus while at the surface, a snorkel is your new best friend in rough water.

The next thing I remembered was (and we have been told this over and over and over again) drop the weight belt!!! Dropping your weight belt will help keep your head *above* water as opposed to at eye-level (if you were weighted correctly).

The third thing I thought about was regular equipment maintenance. I have been a preacher about ensuring that your vital, life-sustaining equipment has a check-up at your local dive shop once a year, at the very least. But it doesn't stop there! How about incorporating a regular equipment check as part of your pre-dive check with your buddy? Your regular equipment check could include, but is not limited to the following "head to toe" list:

- Ensure your mask fits the shape of your face so that it is leak proof, clean and that the strap is in good condition.
- Make it your personal rule to attach a snorkel to your mask on every dive!
- When setting up your tank, smell your air and check the O ring
- Ensure that all hoses are in good condition, are secured tightly and that BOTH your primary regulator and octopus are in good working order.
- Ensure your BCD is in good working condition (cumberbund and shoulder straps are not worn out and will fasten properly as well as

STORIES FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

- verifying the security of the tank
- that the inflator hose is functioning properly.
- Examine your weight belt and ensure that the buckle is not rusted, is secure and can open and close efficiently so it will remain well fastened for the duration of the dive. On soft weight belts, check for loose threads so that the contained weights don't fall out during the dive.
 - Your wet suit should fit properly and your booties, hood and gloves should provide the appropriate amount exposure protection for the environment in which you are diving.
- straps). Also ensure verify
 - Check your fin straps for signs of wear and replace when needed...don't wait until they brake!
 - Replace worn out equipment as soon as you can.
- Be a good buddy and ensure your buddy does the same! Prevent a diving accident from happening...Dive Smart, Dive Safe.

Lori Lynch is a member of OUC Member Club, Etobicoke Underwater Club.

Ontario South

Sidewheel Paddle Steamer Atlantic: Sank 1852 Lake Erie

By *Narcosis*

It was a beautiful summer's day. The air was 75°F. The lake was calm and blue. This dive was from a private twenty-eight foot boat and the team consisted of two male divers and one female sitter/bartender. The trip from the inner bay to the open lake was very pleasant.

Once we anchored over the wreck, we were excited and nervous. Once the drop tank had been placed over the side and all the procedures had been gone over, we left the security of the dive boat. We left the warm 70°F surface water and slowly sank to the chilling depths. The temperature dropped to 45°F. Through the shimmering waters at one hundred feet you could see the paddle wheel arch. It was a breathtaking view.

On the wreck, the visibility was 50+ feet. The wreck was so massive, it was uncertain what you really saw (not the effect of nitrogen). We explored the starboard (right) side from the paddlewheel to the bow. The bow had a square flagpole still standing as if it was still 1852. The bow had a gate that was standing open. Silt had filled part of the starboard side. As we came back to the paddlewheel and started to the surface, we saw a wooden box on the bottom. Due to our bottom time and our dive plan, we could not investigate.

This is a great wreck and should only be done in small groups. The trip back was better than the trip out. The boat sitter/bartender made sure of that.

The mystery author Narcosis is a member of the OUC Member Club, Barrascuba Underwater Club and has kindly given us permission to reprint this article which first appeared in their club newsletter.

DIVE DESTINATION #11

Our Trip to Belize

By: Nan Brooks

[travel log entry]

"Another standard morning in our life in Belize: Wake up when a coffee and hot chocolate are placed outside our door. Walk upstairs and to be presented with a choice of continental breakfast, eggs (any style) or french toast. After breakfast, it is off to the dive briefing on the lido deck. Hmm, a choice of a wall dive or stay above 50 feet and dive at a location where the bottom is sandy, the coral is beautiful and the water is clear. For the "Where's Waldo" fish-finding game of the morning, we are told to look for the spotted toad fish. To our delight, we do spot the fish, but we also get a wee bit distracted by the spotted eagle ray drifting by. As we swim off to get a better look at the spotted eagle ray, we come across a 7 foot long green eel. While looking at the eel, we get distracted by a reef shark. Time is up, so we hang around on the decompression bar for a couple of minutes for our safety stop and then surface from our dive. Leave the tanks to be switched by the crew and then it is off to have a rinse with a hot shower on the dive deck. The crew places a hot towel around your shoulders and gives you a shoulder massage(!!!). A nice healthy snack and it's back in the water for another dive when you are ready. It's all about you!"

Luxury and pampering are standard for Peter Hughes Diving. Some of the highlights of this pampering include, but are by no means limited to, the fresh towels in

your room each day, hot chocolate and rum after your night dives, the lounge chairs in the sun or shade on the "off gassing deck", gourmet food, and excellent training. A nice option was being able to sleep on the boat for the final off-gassing. The staff arranged afternoon trips, then we all partied (and drank our allotment and most of the next trips allotment) for the night. We felt indulged all week long and appreciated every blissful moment of it!

So what about the diving? For each dive, we were given options of a doing shallower reef dive or a "limitless" wall dive. We logged approximately 20 dives over 16 hours, but most of the divers we travelled with logged more since most were certified for Nitrox and were able to take advantage of the option to do 5 dives a day.

What about the wild life? This list is only a sample of some of the marine life that my dive buddy and I got to see: there were arrow blennies, southern sting rays, spotted drum fish, spotted eagle rays, rock lobster, helmet crab, Pederson crab, blue trigger fish, trumpet fish, squid, trunk fish, squirrel fish, reef shark, barracuda, tarpon, angel fish, jaw fish, garden eel, and many, many more.

Would we go again? Absolutely!! We've already signed up for the trip to the Galapagos Islands with Peter Hughes for February, 2008.

Nan Brooks is a member of the OUC Member Club, Etobicoke Underwater Club.

In Memory Of Don MacKenzie (1929-2006)

Dr. Donald Hugh Horton MacKenzie M.D., F.R.C.P. © (1929-2006), NAUI #1069 Physician, mentor, and Canadian diving pioneer

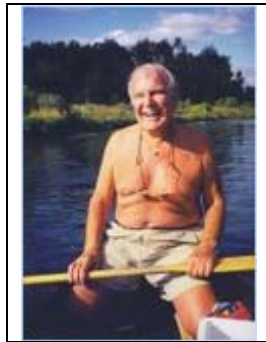
By Will Tremain

Ontario divers wish to commemorate the life of Dr. Donald H. H. MacKenzie, a longtime Canadian NAUI instructor and scuba aficionado.

Don passed away Dec. 2, 2006 in Toronto after a fight with cancer. He was 78.

Don graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine in 1954. After completing post-graduate studies in Internal Medicine, he returned to the university to begin his career as a physician at U of T Health Services. He later took on a dual role, as a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Health.

Don put significant time and effort into a number of clubs and committees at U of T's Hart House, the Varsity Blues intercollegiate teams, programs in the Faculty of Medicine and academic projects in the Faculty of Physical Education and Health.



Don was a pioneer of Canada's diving community and one of the first generation of instructors accredited by the National Association of Underwater Instructors in Canada. Following his certification as NAUI Instructor #1069 in Hawaii, Don ran scuba courses for academic credit at U of T's Faculty of Physical Education and Health, including PHE 408, a NAUI Instructor Certification Course - the first of its kind in North America.

As one of the founders of the Hart House Underwater Club in 1962, Don contributed significantly to its success throughout his long tenure at U of T.

He served as the HHUC's training director from 1968 to 1977. This was a period of tremendous growth in the dive club, due

largely to his unique ability to recruit and welcome all interested participants.

The HHUC still operates today, and awards the Don MacKenzie Silver Goblet annually to a member for outstanding contributions to the club.

In 2002, at the HHUC's 40th

anniversary celebration, the club presented Don with a Cornerstone Award, recognizing his lifetime contributions to the club.



Don was a generous colleague and mentor who believed in the importance of education and also in giving back to make a better society. Students were his most important priority. He encouraged his students and others to pursue everything they did to the best of their ability, and to above all, enjoy themselves. Don's many philanthropic gifts to organizations throughout Toronto enhanced hospitals, museums, and the arts. Former HHUC member Jason Rivers remembers, "Don's passing brings me back to a place many years ago when we all first met and shared a love for the world under the sea. Over the years, Don continually demonstrated his enthusiasm and positive attitude towards life and everything it entailed, making him a role model and mentor to many."

University colleague Sharon Bradley says, "Don was certainly passionate about the school and the students. He will be missed." For more than five decades, the University of Toronto was central to many of Don's work, leisure and volunteer pursuits. He is fondly remembered by U of T faculty and staff, and hundreds of current and former members of the Hart House Underwater Club.

The HHUC is making a memorial contribution to Diver's Alert Network in Don's name.

Will Tremain is a journalist who took up diving in 2005 with the Hart House Underwater Club. He found he enjoyed it so much that he flew to Australia to work on the

Great Barrier Reef for 6 months in order to reach higher levels of training. He became a

divemaster. He is an active HHUC member and sits on the club executive

OUC Board of Directors	
President	Raimund Krob, ouc.president@underwatercouncil.com Raimund has been a certified diver for almost 30 years and is currently a teaching status PADI Instructor. Prior to becoming OUC President in late 2005, he held the position of OUC Director of Sport Safety and prior to that, OUC Regional Coordinator Central. He is former President (2001-2005) of Scarborough Underwater Club Inc. and is currently learning the ups & downs of underwater videography.
Finance	Greg Vaysman, ouc.finance@underwatercouncil.com Greg has been diving for about a decade and became an Instructor in 2001. He is now an IDC Staff Instructor and teaches a wide variety of courses ranging from Open Water all the way up to and including Assistant Instructor.
Safety	David Noble, ouc.safety@underwatercouncil.com Dave has been scuba diving since 1997 and is currently a PADI Course Director and a DAN Instructor Trainer.
Communications	May Loo, ouc.communications@underwatercouncil.com May is a PADI Dive Master and is currently working on her Nautical Archaeological Society 2 certification. She is also on the executive committees of the Toronto Chapter of Save Ontario Shipwrecks as well as the Scarborough Underwater Club Inc.
Membership	John Raso, ouc.membership@underwatercouncil.com Currently the President of "Steel City Sports Divers" of Hamilton. Holder of Advanced, Rescue Diver, Nitrox and ACUC Diver Master certifications as well as holding his Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) 1. He is currently working on his Ice Diving and ACUC Instructor certifications. In the past, he served as OUC Regional Coordinator for Ontario South for several years before joining the Board of Directors. He loves diving here at home in the St. Lawrence River at Brockville.
Programs	Danny Hutton, ouc.programs@underwatercouncil.com Danny is a PADI, IANTD, DAN O2, AED, BLS PRO, HMLI and EFR Instructor, PADI Staff Instructor and Closed Circuit Diver (yeah, you know the type!). He's been diving since the mid-seventies and is very passionate about sport safety and underwater photography.
Regional Coordinators	
East 1	Position Vacant, ouceast1@underwatercouncil.com If you know somebody who lives and dives in the Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston area and would like to serve the Ontario Scuba Community, please refer them to ouc.president@underwatercouncil.com
East 2	Ron MacDonald, ouceast2@underwatercouncil.com Ron is owner and operator of Ron's Scuba in Cornwall and is also President of Seaway Valley Divers. He has been involved with scuba diving in Ontario since before the wheel was invented
Central-East	Paul Tetley, ouc.central-east@underwatercouncil.com Paul is a PADI Rescue Diver and recently logged in his 100 th dive. He's also doing an incredible job on OUC's online "Shipwreck & Shore Dive" directories.
Central-West	Mike Krznicar, ouc.central-west@underwatercouncil.com Michael is a member of Etobicoke Underwater Club which celebrated its 50 th anniversary in 2006. He is an ACUC Dive Master with specialty interests in Safety, Training, Underwater Photography, Historical Diving Equipment and Ice/Cave Diving. His favourite freshwater dive sites include the Waome, and Ginnie Springs in Florida. He's still searching for a favourite saltwater site
South	Elaine Elliott, ouc.south@underwatercouncil.com Elaine earned her NAUI OW certification in 1991 and has been diving ever since. Today she is a certified Dive Master and President of Hamilton's "Barrascuba Underwater Club Inc." which celebrated its 50 th Anniversary in 2006. Ask her about her adventures in Galapagos and Ecuador.
West	Mike Napran, ouc.west@underwatercouncil.com Mike is a Dive Master and member of "London Skin & Scuba Club". He has been diving since 1992 and enjoys arranging dive charters to exotic places like Brockville, Prescott, Cornwall and Michigan!
North	Jackson Young, ouc.north@underwatercouncil.com Jackson is President of the Dolphin Aquatic Club in Sudbury where it takes no less than 3 compressors to keep their Club's many divers happy!
North-West	Troy Hebert, ouc.north-west@underwatercouncil.com Troy is a member of Wally's "Thunder Country Diving" Team in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He started diving in 2000 and earned his PADI Diver Master Certification in 2003. Currently, he is training to become a Dive Control Specialist, First Aid and CPR-trained O2 Provider.

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CANADIAN VISUAL INSPECTION PROGRAM CERTIFICATION COURSE

Sunday, March 25th, 2007

10:00am – 2:00pm

Sport Alliance of Ontario Building, 1185 Eglinton Ave., East, Toronto

COURSE FEE FOR MEMBERS: \$75.00 + 4.50 gst = \$79.50

COURSE FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS: \$80.00 + 4.80 gst = \$84.80

PLEASE NOTE: *If we do not have the minimum number of 8 people registered by March 10th, registrants will be notified and automatically transferred to the next Clinic, Sunday, May 27th, 2007.*

Return application and payment by March 10th, 2007 to:

Ontario Underwater Council
Suite 104, 1185 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3C6
Phone: (416) 426-7033 Facsimile: (416) 426-7280

Pre-Registration for this course is required.

Please Print:

-
- YES, please register me for the March 10th VIP Certification Course!**
(Additional details and directions will follow receipt of your registration)

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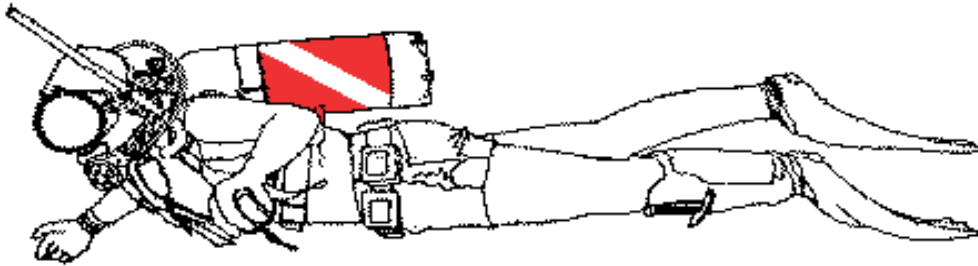
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