



Seatimes

The Newsletter of the Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada
(Society founded in 1995 by the British Columbia Branch of the Nautical Institute)
Affiliated Members: The Company of Master Mariners of Canada, The Canadian Institute of Marine Engineers.

May 2005

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The 10th Anniversary

It was February 10th 1995 when the Society was born. Much had been accomplished in the months prior to this event. In 1993 members of the British Columbia Branch of the Nautical Institute became increasingly concerned for the numbers of Canadian Junior Deck and Engineering Officers who were finding their career progression blocked by the lack of positions at sea for them. In contrast there was a developing shortage of officers qualified to fill the senior positions, both at sea and ashore. If only the Junior Officers could accrue the watchkeeping service necessary to enhance their qualifications they could then secure more senior positions in Canadian or foreign-flag vessels.

Early in 1994 a group of the concerned members of this Branch of the Nautical Institute raised over \$3,000 by donation and secured an agreement with a major international shipping company, with offices in Vancouver, to place four Canadian Junior Officers in training positions. The ships were fully crewed and there was no incentive for the company to replace their low-cost officers with Canadians. However, there was an undertaking to provide board and lodging at no cost to the trainee and to ensure that a broad range of training opportunities was available. The funds raised by donation were used to pay each trainee a stipend of \$400 per month. Reports received from the shipping company indicated a high level of satisfaction with the trainees and one trainee was accepted into a salaried position as a Junior Officer. Unfortunately the initiative had to be abandoned due to lack of further funding.

However, the success of the initiative stimulated further discussion amongst the Branch members. They recognised that a structure with tax exempt status, separate from The Nautical Institute, was essential to further develop the scheme and to encourage fund raising. With the benefit of input from the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineers (a Society) application was made to incorporate a Society. The immediate priorities of the Society would be to: -

- secure sea-going training positions for unemployed or under-employed Junior Officers resident in British Columbia.
- screen and select suitable trainees for these positions.
- pursue sources of funding to provide a stipend to Junior Officers while in training.

The Certificate of Incorporation of the Society was issued on February 10th 1995. Within one month the Nautical Institute, BC Branch, became an Affiliated Member of the Society. In due course, the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineers and the Company of Master Mariners of Canada also joined as affiliated members. At that point a change was made to the Society's name, replacing the words "British Columbia" with "Canada".

While the Society was being created, a profitable link was being established with the BC Government's Department of Skills, Training and Labour. In time a total of \$72,000 was received from that Department.

The money was held in the custody of Camosun College and disbursed to the Society over a period of three years. It was then used to provide stipends for Canadian Junior Officers for whom the Society had found positions on foreign flag-vessels. This program proved to be highly successful.

About six years ago, priorities changed. There was now no longer a market for Canadian Watch Keeping Mates on Foreign Flag vessels. But, at about the same time the Cadet Program was introduced to the Marine Campus of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. The Society then sought a way to assist Cadets in the program. The establishment of endowments proved to be the answer in order to generate funds for scholarships.

We now offer two scholarships each year. One is open to both Nautical Science and Engineering Cadets. Starting this year the other scholarship will alternate from year to year between the two groups of Cadets. We also provide book prizes to graduates of the Nautical Science program.

In the past year scholarships have been issued as follows: -



British Columbia Institute of Technology Scholarships & Awards Ceremony November 3, 2004

First Year Nautical Science Cadet Denvor Pereira receiving his \$1,000 award. Denvor has been accepted by Teekay for the sea-going portion of his training.

Four other cadets received scholarships from different sources at this award ceremony. Andrew Costa received the "President's Entrance Award" and Jeffrey Pelton received the first annual award created by the Fraser River Port Authority in memory of Rick Pearce, a former CEO of the Port. Andrew and Jeffrey are Nautical Science Cadets. Engineer Cadet Sandepan Bose won a "President's Entrance Award" while Engineer Cadet David Malubag was presented with the "Ramsay MacDonald Memorial Entrance Award".

NPESC Scholarship for 2nd or 3rd Year Cadets – awarded to Nautical Science Cadet Brook Walker who has been sailing with P&O Princess during his sea training. Brook is seen here with David Whitaker, Stan Bowles and John Clarkson, Associate Dean at the Marine Campus.



Book prizes were awarded at a combined Nautical Science and Engineering Cadet Graduation ceremony on July 24th 2004, on board the Princess Cruise Line vessel, "Island Princess". This ceremony, conducted in a marvellous setting, was attended by representatives of Teekay Shipping, Fairmont Shipping, Valles Shipping, Elf Lubrications, Seaspan Ship Management, Upper Lakes Shipping, Holland America, Germanischer Lloyd, Princess Cruises, Gearbulk, Windjammer Cruises, and Fednav. Transport Canada, the Port of Vancouver, and BCIT were well represented. Senator Ed Lawson and his wife attended. Stan Bowles, Bob Kitching and David Whitaker represented the Society.

The book prizes awarded to two Nautical Science Cadets were both Nautical Institute Publications. Tyler Jeske received "Bridge Watchkeeping". Michael Fuller was presented with "Watchkeeping Safety and Cargo Management in Port". (Another NI publication was given to Nautical Science Cadet, Robin Lynn Dalrymple. This was "Lumber Deck Cargos" written by B.C. Branch member Mike Fothergill. It was presented by the Conway Club of Vancouver).

After our one Corporate Member announced they could no longer afford to support us, funding the Society has relied upon the generosity of Branch members. Ten years ago, the budget envisaged 100 members joining the Society, thus generating \$4,000 annually. That situation never was realised. At best the Society has no more than 12 paying members. If it was not for a certain few who have been generous supporters of the Society, the accomplishments would not be as great as they are.

It would be nice to increase the size of our investments within the BCIT Foundation and the Vancouver Foundation. Failure to do so will mean that the scholarships they generate will never keep pace with the costs of education. It would be great to increase the size of the BCIT fund so that we can support an annual scholarship for both Nautical Science and Engineer Cadets.

Please consider how much Canada needs people such as the cadets who have been entering the programs at BCIT. Please consider where the industry, which has provided so well for many of us, will find its future leaders. With your help, your Society can continue to provide support for worthy cadets.

Ten years ago the Society suggested that the benefits to you will be: -

- Knowing that you are preparing Canadians to take over senior positions in all aspects of the Marine Industry including Surveying, Port Operations and Education, and
- Knowing that young Canadians are being placed in very worthwhile work at sea.

These reasons still apply.

If you have recently made your annual gift, thank you. But if not, please give as generously as you can to show your support for your Society and for those who will benefit from the Scholarships. The annual membership fee is \$40.00 but any amount is welcome.

Contributions should be made payable to the NPESC and mailed to: -

Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada,
13375 14A. Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V4A 7P9

When making a donation please complete the form below to accompany your cheque.

Yes! I accept your invitation to join the Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada and to support its aims.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of: \$.....

Name..... Telephone.....

Address..... E-mail address.....