



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.

April 2011

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On August 10th 2010 a ceremony was conducted for Cadets graduating from the Marine Campus of BCIT. The ceremony was held on board the BC Ferry, *Coastal Celebration* as it sailed from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay and back. It was a grand location for such an event and the weather made it all the more enjoyable.



The Society was there to make book awards. Both books were on the subject of "Marine Firefighting". Brian Silvester presented one book to Nautical Science graduate, Eric Duffley while Andy Patterson made the presentation to Marine Engineer graduate Zaid Kadir.



Shipping in the school syllabus: How can we convey something of the interest and fascination of ships and shipping to a new generation? How can we make children and young people aware of the contribution that shipping has made, and continues to make, to their lives?



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These are important questions, and are asked a lot as shipping people worry about how to recruit their own replacements. Is it possible to persuade educationalists to include something of maritime trade and transport in their various syllabuses? But even in so-called maritime nations, there has been something of a reluctance to do this, not least because for teachers, like anyone else, shipping tends to be below their everyday horizon.

But it could be introduced to quite young children as part of their geography work, as they learn about the interdependence of nations, and where their food and manufactured goods come from. Shipping has a strong environmental message to convey and the younger it is given the better. Shipping is also very "visual" and, properly simplified, something of its amazing technology can be illustrated.

With older children the importance of ships and shipping, command of the seas and the link between sea power and trade can be a strong component in the history syllabus. The voyages of discovery, the search for the North West Passage or the charting of unknown oceans are fascinating tales that more children need to know about. Science curricula could benefit from an "applied" message about ship stability, magnetism and even navigation.

Economics, logistics, the basics of trade are educational messages that ought to have a strong resonance in a global village where there is scarcely a person on earth whose life is untouched by merchant ships. A better understanding of the natural sciences could well be provided by more attention to the seas and oceans, their effects upon the environment and the need to protect them for the benefit of future generations.

There is a need for far more positive thinking in the provision of maritime-related learning materials. Environmental messages are strong and compelling, and the shipping industry needs to add its weight, to ensure that young people do not only receive negative aspects of ships and shipping.

The shipping world is a fascinating, important, all-encompassing study that, with a little thought, could be exported into the curriculum. The worry is that otherwise, shipping will be completely ignored, or worse, children and young people will believe it to be an industry that has a cavalier attitude towards pollution, and the environment in general and the most famous ship in the world will continue to be that terrible maiden voyage failure - the Titanic!

[Seascapes 02.01.09](#)

Can I spend my career in shipping? (Source: BIMCO Seascapes). While the sea might seem an attractive career choice for a young person, with good rewards, long holidays, interesting work and responsibility at a young age, reality shows

that few people will spend their whole career afloat. Family ties in particular bring seafarers ashore, and many might be put off a life at sea because of the possibility that a course change will be necessary at some stage.

In fact, sea experience and qualifications can be an excellent pathway to a whole career in the wider maritime world, in a whole range of different occupations. The actual operation of ships is supported by a whole infrastructure of shore side occupations, which can provide a rewarding career for somebody who has a background of seafaring and appropriate qualifications. In both commercial and technical fields, in ports and ship operations, these opportunities exist and it is recommended that any ambitious ship's officer should take notice of them, while still enjoying life afloat.

In the shipping company itself, whether in ownership or ship management, vessels will be managed and operated by operational and technical superintendents. Manpower and personnel is a specialised business, which offers opportunities. Former seafarers find themselves in senior positions in classification societies and surveying and inspection companies, while they have moved successfully into law firms and in "Protection and Indemnity" Insurance where they have made a major impact in accident prevention and in casualty investigation and claims. Ports and terminals employ large numbers of former seafarers in stevedoring and terminal management, in marine and engineering services and in pilotage, which offers an interesting half-way house for mariners who enjoy the challenges of ship handling. A career as a Harbour Master can itself be a fascinating further career.

There are other opportunities in government services and maritime regulation, for both deck officers and marine engineers, in surveying, the development of regulation, port state control and regulatory inspection services, examination of mariners and numerous other tasks in marine administration. Maritime education offers an interesting further career for academic high-flyers with good communication skills and teaching ability. And there will be many more opportunities for seafarers with ambition and a wish to serve an essential industry. Seafarers tend to be adaptable and flexible, but it needs to be appreciated that a further career will inevitably mean further study and application, possibly demanding extra qualifications. But it is perfectly possible for any well-qualified seafarer to excel and build a successful whole career in this large and comprehensive industry.

<https://www.bimco.org> October 2009

Since the last issue of Seatimes we have made two cheque presentations, each worth \$1,000.

The first was made in November of 2010 to Nautical Science Cadet Brian Weber (right) from the BCIT Marine Campus, the selection being made by the faculty. Making the presentation is David Whitaker during the "Fall Scholarships and Awards Ceremony" for the BCIT Schools of Energy and Transportation.



The second, the NPESC Bursary for 2010, was made in February of this year at the BCIT Marine Campus. This was to the student selected by our Selection Committee. John Lewis, who is now the Society's Chairman, made the presentation to Nautical Science Cadet David Denton-Cardew (left). He was at sea when our selection was made last November.



These two presentations bring our total amount awarded to \$15,275 since the year 2001 when we began to invest our funds with the BCIT Foundation and the Vancouver Foundation. At the 2010 AGM it was decided that the awards for this year will be worth \$1,500 each.

The Society welcomes any financial contribution you can make. Donations should be made payable to the **NPESC** and mailed to: **Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada, 20 – 1030 Hulford Street, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3B6**

When making a donation please complete this form to accompany your cheque. Thank you.



Yes! I wish to support the aims of the Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada.

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