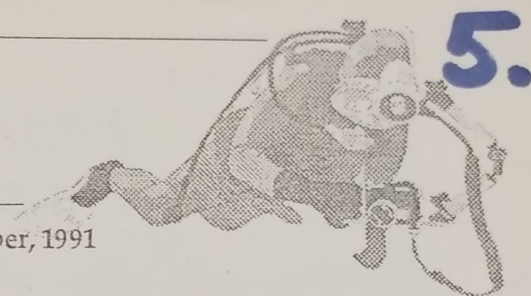


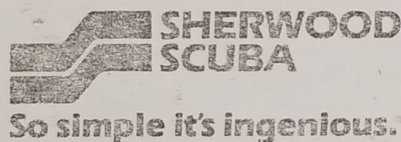
BOTTOMtime

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council - September, 1991



Diving Nova Scotia: The 1991 Sherwood Sea Hunt

The 11th annual Sea Hunt - an "underwater treasure hunt for certified scuba divers" - gets underway this year on September 8 at Crystal Crescent Beach with organizers promising a fun-filled day for divers and their families and friends.



The Sea Hunt involves a collective mass of some 150 divers or more lining up at a start line, then entering the water at 11 a.m. to search for pop tops which have been stashed along the ocean bottom in a roped-off area. Each diver turns in his top, receiving a ticket which is then entered into a draw for prizes. Safety is also a prime concern. Divers are matched with a buddy if they don't come with one. This year, the main sponsors are the

Daily News and Sherwood Scuba and many prizes are being arranged by Sea Hunt organizers - the Subsea Horizons committee. There will be free t-shirts for the first 160 divers registered. All divers, whether members or non-members of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council, are being encouraged to participate. Two dollars of every registration fee will be donated to the Abilities Foundation.

Directions Take Route 349 (Herring Cove Road) from the Armdale Rotary to Crystal Crescent Beach Park, Sambro

Details Registration starts at 9:30 am. See page 10.

Achievements of the NSUC

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council is the sport governing body for the sport of scuba diving in Nova Scotia. It has the following objectives.

- a) To be a representative body for the scuba diving community so as to preserve, support, and promote diving and diver safety within the province.
- b) To ensure that training programs are given to a recognized level of quality to foster and encourage the safe handling and usage of all approved types of equipment used in the sport of scuba diving.
- c) To make available to all members information concerning safety,

medical, technical and research data concerning the sport of scuba diving.

- d) To cooperate and participate with the provincial government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreational activity. The NSUC is partially funded through grants from the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission. It is a non-profit group of volunteers with a fully-elected democratic Board of Directors.

Membership is open to all certified scuba divers and commercial establishments whose business borders on

continues on page 12



New Home for Aggett Award Page 6



Editor's Notes

OUR AIM AND POLICY

This will be my second issue and I hope that we can produce this one to the same standard as the first. We received many enthusiastic, encouraging and positive comments about the republication of the *Bottomtime* with but one complaint.

As long as I'm editor, my aim is to provide a variety of articles. Our main focus in terms of diving articles should be about Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. This is where we are based, where we dive, where we explore. We aim to popularize our diving, get information out to both the experienced and beginner diver as well as publish new information and materials, whether just a brief note or a more detailed article or study. We try to carry an article in each edition under the theme "Diving Nova Scotia". We need your contributions. If you have a dive site or wreck that you think others would be interested in reading about be my guest and send it to me. Occasionally, we will publish articles about diving in other parts of the world by NSUC members.

Our aim is to make *Bottomtime* interesting to read from cover to cover. Thus, this would involve articles not just about diving, but about the underwater and maritime world of the diver - the environment, for instance - as well as the real world - legislation, policy, courses, health (and nutrition) and safety.

As we stated in September, 1990: "*This orientation is outward rather than inward - topical and timely and appealing to a general interest readership beyond the immediate membership and even the diving community.*"

My aim, if at all possible, is to have enough material to hold over some for the next issue. By achieving this there is no last minute panic to fill pages. I had to hold two articles back from the last issue because one came in after the deadline and secondly, due to space. On the issue of deadlines: there is no issue. They must be adhered to. And articles must come through the editor. There are two main reasons for this: a) we are working under contract; and b) it is very difficult if an article arrives late to get it to New Media Services quickly because of my work schedule. If an article arrives late, it will be held over until the next issue if it is still topical.

If you have questions you would like answered about diving or the NSUC, or comments or opinions, I will endeavour to field those questions while at the same time we can solve another problem, and start a letters to the editors section. If I can't answer them I will do best to find some one that can. I wish you all safe diving until next time

Colin Frazee-Whitelock

BOTTOMTIME

Bottomtime is published six times annually by the Nova Scotia Underwater Council. It is distributed free of charge to members. Members' fees for 1991-92 are \$16.00 for individuals, \$25.00 for families, \$10.00 for newly-qualified divers and \$50.00 for commercial enterprises. Membership is also open to clubs. Non-members may purchase a subscription for \$12.50. Wherever possible, subscriptions will commence with the current issue.

Bottomtime is published as a forum with the aim to generate opinions, communication with and feedback from our members. Submissions to *Bottomtime* are published at the discretion of the editor. Articles are the opinion of the contributory authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the NSUC. Articles may be reproduced with the written permission of the NSUC. We encourage response to any of the articles.

Advertising rates are available upon request. If advertisers require design services to prepare camera-ready copy, this must be arranged prior to the deadline.

The next edition will be published on Nov. 1, 1991 with the deadline for submissions to the editor being October 15.

Send all submissions to:

The Editor, Nova Scotia Underwater Council

26 Sapphire Crescent, Lower Sackville N.S. B4C 2T9

Publishing *Bottomtime* is made possible by the N.S. Sport and Recreation Commission.

Bottomtime

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President Roland Lewis

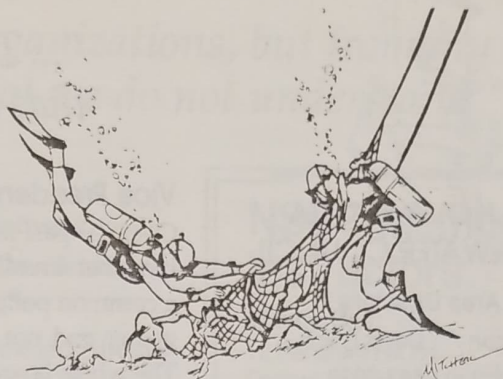
Some editorial guidelines

In order to make it easier for everyone, would you please mail articles direct to me at 26 Sapphire Crescent, Lower Sackville, N.S. B4C 2T9. When you submit articles, some technical guidelines:

- ◆ single space between the period and new sentence;
- ◆ no spacing after a paragraph; and
- ◆ please send a clear hard copy.

Your articles are not retyped. The text is scanned straight into a computer: due to this state-of-the-art method, it means your double spacing (or type-writer typing) has to be taken out by going through the text completely. Thank you.

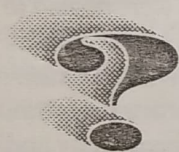
News in Brief & Comment



Artificial reefs in Canada

On August 10, a rusting, 54 metre coastal freighter *Church*, built in 1943, was sunk 8 km north of Sydney, B.C. Observers on some 150 surrounding craft cheered as she went down stern first.

This was a two-year project of the B.C. Artificial Reef Society with a price tag of \$34,000, with \$1,500 being



donated by the Parks Ministry. Could this be possible

in Nova Scotia?

The aim of artificial reefs, now common off Florida, is to provide a marine life habitat, new dive sites and promote scuba diving and tourism.

Product news

U.S. Divers has introduced a new line of knives this year. As divers know, a knife is one of the most important tools you can carry underwater.

U.S. Divers features seven knives in its Vector line. The Vector stiletto is a good choice for the fisherman. Or, if you dive around nets or lines, the double-serrated knife will probably be your choice. While the blunt-tipped Vector knife can be used to pry, the single-serrated knife will help clean your catch. To help insure maximum corrosion resist-

ance, the 4.5 inch double-serrated and stiletto models are made with type 304 stainless steel to protect against corrosion. The single-serrated, 5.5 inch double serrated, and blunt models are available in a 420 stainless steel to help them hold an edge.

All knives come with a specially-designed sheath. It has a locking mechanism called the Aqua-Latch, allowing rapid, single-handed removal and replacement of your knife. Depth-compensating rubber leg straps are included with each sheath.

The ergonomic design of the knives means it will fit your hand comfortably. They feature handles made from XE3215 nylon, that are neither supposed to soften, nor become brittle with age. They come standard with a neon yellow handle.

Also new are Blades fins. They offer a scientific innovation in the structure of the fin through a new layering process by bonding layers of polymer plastic (for stability) with rubber (for flexibility). The Blades ribbed fin surface and side channels are engineered to create a steadying effect. The flux of water is directed to aid in propulsion and reduce unnecessary torque on ankle joints. The Blades have a spacious foot pocket. The result of these innovations is maximum performance.

Nova Scotia Department of Labour

Occupational health and safety regulations - diving operations

"Commercial Diving" has been effectively defined by the Labour Department as any diving activity that benefits an individual directly or indirectly. This may include, but is not limited to "financial benefit". Provincial regulations will apply to all "commercial" divers. Currently, "heavy commercial diving" is being addressed, with the eventual development of regulations for both "scientific" and "sport" fields.

Historically, government involvement most often occurs when an actual or perceived safety hazard exists, and intervention is deemed to be in the best interests of the public. It is hoped by many members of the "diving industry" that intervention can be avoided where possible. This can be accomplished to a greater degree, if the "sport" and the "industry" is perceived by the Government to be operating in a safe and responsible manner. Responsible action is in the best interest of **everyone** concerned!

The area of government involvement not only involves the Province of Nova Scotia. Similar legislation will manifest itself in the Province of Ontario in the form of Bill 208. A spokesperson there recently stated that "it is hoped that scuba diving as a sport and an

industry will be self-regulating." B.C. has already passed laws that influence the diving activities within that province. We are not alone.

The NSUC constitution identifies the objectives of our organization, including:

a) "be a representative body for Nova Scotian divers, acting as a sounding board, disseminating information and coordinating information on the Provincial level";

b) "the organization is dedicated to service, safety and sport and exists to further the efforts of its members and clubs to ensure training programmes are given to a recognized level of quality, to disseminate recognized safety standards and to provide an information bureau at the Provincial level."

The NSUC has a safety and management responsibility for diving within the province. The N.S. government has established the Council as the representative for both the member and the non-member alike. Methods must be created that will maximize public safety and allow a degree of flexibility to both the sport and the industry. We must act in a responsible manner or any control that we presently enjoy may be lost.

Wayne Bell

THE NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

Area Directors

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Central	Danielle Gough
	864-3046
Fundy-Highlands	Garry Mattinson
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South Shore	John Pothier
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Valley	Sylvain Roy
	765-3786

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	587-2836
Vice-President	Colin Frazee-Whitelock
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Secretary	Wayne Bell
	465-3880

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Ethics	Roland Morrison
	463-3796
Membership (acting)	John Webber
	477-2662

NSUC Member Clubs

Aqualantic Scuba Club

P.O. Box 2944, Dartmouth E.
Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 4Y2
Tel.: 434-2768

Membership is open to individuals, families, clubs or commercial enterprises. Dues are set annually - usually at the AGM. Individuals may join by sending an application or letter with the \$16.00 fee to the Treasurer.

NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

P.O. Box 475, Eastern Passage
N.S. B3G 1M7



"... The AGM is drawing closer. It is essential that as many members attend as possible."

Vice President's Report

Over the past few weeks, the executive have met several times in order to present a common policy, so we are pulling together and not in different directions. The whole board has not been called to these meetings because of the extra expense of paying members to travel, to the board members wondering what is going on; there was a hiccup in the system which was partly my fault, but everything should run smoothly from now on. Recently we invited the shops in Metro to a meeting unfortunately when we set the date, which was some weeks previous, we did not know it was a holiday weekend. To the shops that did turn up, thank you for a very informative evening: I'm sure it will help us greatly in our future ventures.

The *Sea Hunt* is almost on us again and I'm sure that it will be as great as a success as it has been previously. **Don't forget to bring your C-Card** or you will have a wasted journey. The normal rules apply: you are diving wet, a BC is required, otherwise all gear must be in good working order. If you have any questions please contact Roland Morrison at 463-3796.

The AGM - October 5 - is drawing closer. It is essential that as many members attend as possible. It is your council and without you the board cannot function. The board donate a lot of free time to keep the NSUC running (a lot more time than you think) and sometimes at the expense of family commitments, so please consider giving up one afternoon to support us. Thank you,

Colin V. Frazee-Whitelock

The Roger Aggett Award

The Roger Aggett Award went this year to Lynn Gallant, past-president of the NSUC. She is a good personal friend and I can think of no one that deserved the award more. She has held just about every position on the executive over the years she has been involved with the board. She is still active behind the scenes

assisting on Sub Sea Horizons and the Sea Hunt. As well, she fields numerous telephone calls from people asking questions about the council and, at times, from the board. When we are at a loss for an answer or some background on a question in the past, I, for one, certainly give Lynn a call and she usually comes through for me. In fact, our article about the NSUC in this edition was written by her at our request. So here's a hand to a lady who has done one hell of a lot for the Council. Thanks again to Andy Desroches for displaying the Roger Aggett Award in the Aquadive shop.

Colin V. Frazee-Whitelock

SUBSEA Horizons 1991

On May 4 over 300 people attended this year's SUBSEA Horizons at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. They were treated to 16 booths and displays by dive clubs, scuba retailers, aquatic wear, commercial diving equipment, charter services, Bedford Institute of Oceanography and other activities such as in-pool demonstrations, lectures and seminars, experience scuba, photo contest and the very popular fashion show. The evening activities included a mini-casino, film/slide presentation and dance. Although the evening activities did not have the expected attendance, those present had a fantastic time and won some nice prizes. Dave Parker knows how to please a crowd with his DJ service, and the dance floor sure got a work out.

Congratulations to Lynn Hebb who won a three day dive trip to Newfoundland. Many thanks to the volunteers, sponsors, Kim Genereaux, Charlie Doucette and Gilbert van Ryckevorsal, who worked so hard on the show. Roland Morrison and the SUBSEA Committee deserve credit to produce the show. As was said by one of the exhibitors, and echoed by Wayne Bell who helped organize the first Underwater Canada, "*Underwater Canada started out this way!*"

Danielle Gough

"... I can not only learn from "other" organizations, but from my students as well! We often criticize what we do not understand."

Backbiting?

A MEETING WAS RECENTLY HELD with store representatives from the Central area. One area of concern was the recognition of training certifications and standards.

It would appear that, in order to improve sales potential, a member of the local diving industry has expressed, to a member of the public, an unfavourable opinion of the quality of certain training agencies. I am not aware of the name of the individual concerned or the store involved, nor do I wish to at this time. I cannot, however, rationalize that backbiting of this type has a place in the *professional* diving industry. It has been my experience that negative opinions of training organizations are most commonly expressed by individuals with little or no personal knowledge about the organization involved. While attending Underwater Canada in 1982, I noticed an exhibit provided by the International Diving Educators Association (IDEA). Many of the instructors I spoke to gave negative feedback about this organization. I, on the other hand, experienced curiosity, which was not ultimately satisfied until I subsequently joined IDEA as an instructor! This was accomplished by providing a copy of my current Instructor certification and paying the certification fee. Several of my peers suggested that any organization that would operate in such a manner was unprofessional. I did not feel this to be the case, as I had received my PADI Instructor rating in the same way in 1973. I perceive the PADI organization to be far from "unprofessional".

When I received my IDEA training manual, I found that it included information that was not otherwise provided by the other four instructor agencies of which I was a member. I have come to believe that I can not only learn from "other" organizations, but from my *students* as well! We often criticize what we do not understand.

Not being an instructor member of all diving certification organizations, I cannot identify the policies and procedures of each of them. I do not believe, however, that they intend to provide unsafe instruction to students.

As it is the objective of the NSUC to "ensure training programmes are given to a recognized level of quality", it is my recommendation that any complaints of this type are either reported to the Council, or directly to the "Training Agency" concerned.

The quality of scuba instruction received by a student will always be in relationship to the quality and enthusiasm of the instructor involved. It is unfortunate that, within any diving instructional organization, a number of poor instructors exist. We are all entitled to our personal opinions, however, all instructors are entitled to act within their agency's "Code of Ethics". Back biting is not conducive to growth or within the parameter of professional conduct.

Compete on a positive note: "Leave the mud slinging to those standing in the mud".

Wayne Bell

Wayne Bell has been diving since 1961 and instructing since 1972. He was recently appointed to the NSUC Board of Directors to fill the vacant position of Secretary. He has previously served two terms on the board of the Ontario Underwater Council and was appointed by the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada as the B.C. and Yukon branch chairman for diver rescue. Wayne is a graduate of the University of London Law School and has served the court occasionally in matter surrounding diving fatalities. Currently, he maintains a small interest in a B.C. dive shop and is employed by Survival Systems Limited, Dartmouth, as the manager of military training.

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Chester, N.S. B0J 3R0
Home 275-4471
Work 624-8389

up on the tailgate
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waters edge and

150 cm - were regarded as extremely
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cern to our novices, even though we

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main ingredients consisted of two
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wreck is heavily
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"Diving Doha" eh?

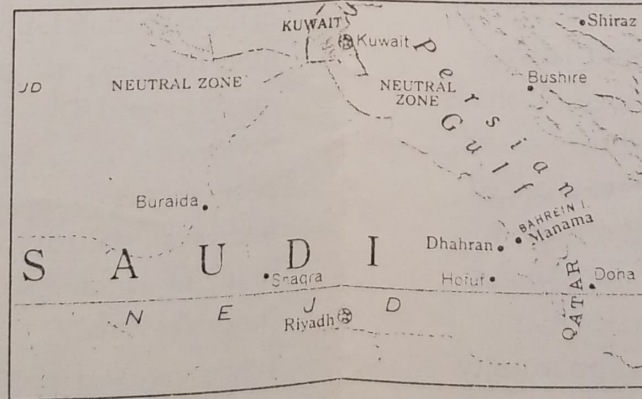
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through out the region, but nothing
really spectacular. This consisted of
various types of both hard and soft
corals - chiefly finger, brain and
staghorn, together with sponges,
anemones and fan worms. There
also were various crabs and mol-
lusks. Cone shells, cowries, and
crown shells kept a few of our



smaller cars
that had been
abandoned in
the streets of
Doha. The
struggle of
getting these
disabled vehi-
cles over the

dunes and into the sea was worth
the effort as they proved a welcome
home for the local fish life which
soon became accustomed to our
presence and handouts of bread,
peas, and boiled eggs. Of special
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group sometimes reaching up to
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Doha?, you ask. Where is that? Well it's in the Middle East, the capital city of Qatar where Canada Dry One and Two are located, the home of the Canadian CF-18s during the recent 'Gulf Crisis'. I and my family lived there from 1985 till 1990 while I was working as a Consultant Microbio-logist in the government hospital, and also - enjoying the adventure - diving and otherwise. For my oldest daughter, Allison, and myself, one of the first orders of business on arrival was to contact the local dive club. This happened to be the **Doha Sub Aqua Club** (DSAC), branch 941 of the **British Sub Aqua Club** (BSAC). Allison and I went round to the regular Tuesday night meeting and were met with the usual British 'cool'. However, being Canadian we soon broke the ice, and in spite of being PADI and ACUC divers were permitted to attend a Club dive in the company of the Dive Officer - who would assess our abilities to dive in the 25 degree water of the Persian Gulf. I'm not sure now if it was our diving skills, the jokes we told, or the number of beers we consumed after the dive, but we were judged to be suitable company for the DSAC. Thus began a most enjoyable association with a great bunch of diving enthusiasts.

Although Qatar is a desert country, with an annual rainfall of only 70 mm, it is a peninsula that has 700 km of coast line, most of which consists of deserted sandy beaches which make diving quite easy. The one to which the DSAC headed most weekends was located 45 minutes south of Doha near Umm Said. This was the oil refinery site

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and home of the liquid natural gas plant. The attraction for us lay in the fact the sand dunes of the region sloped down to the beach and then continued underwater, such that it was possible to kit up on the tailgate of the four wheel drive, shuffle a few meters to the waters edge and after less than

a minute find yourself in 15-20 meters of clear, warm, fish filled, divers paradise. No such thing as trekking through bush or risking life and limb scaling down the face of a granite cliff as we do in Nova Scotia.

The underwater life of Qatar in no way is comparable to that seen in the Caribbean and a far cry from the Red Sea or that of Australia. This is due to the high salinity which can reach to 60‰ but is usually around 39-41‰. In addition the temperature of the Gulf water in summer can reach 35 degrees. However, there are over 300 species of fish to be found, of which 35 varieties have commercial value - chief among these are grouper, mackerel, snapper, barracuda, squid and shrimp. Of more interest to us as divers were the more colourful "tropical" species. These ranged from the tiny Gobies and Blenies, often found peeking out of discarded beverage cans, through Clown fish, Pennant and Orange Butterfly, to various species of Angel fish. Sergeant major, Sweetlips and Porgies were quite common. Boxfish and Puffers were sometimes seen, and of special delight were the bold and curious Batfish. The occasional reef shark

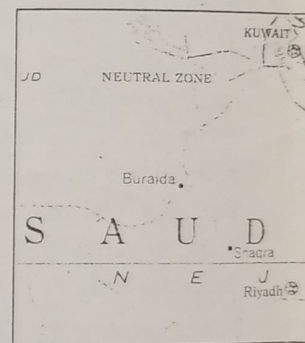
was also encountered. We did not have to worry about the dangerous lionfish or stone fish that were found just outside our area, however sea snakes - sometime reaching 150 cm - were regarded as extremely dangerous and were of great concern to our novices, even though we

W Diving D

assured them these creatures were harmless - if you left them alone. There were various types of coral found as scattered reefs

through out the region, but nothing really spectacular. This consisted of various types of both hard and soft corals - chiefly finger, brain and staghorn, together with sponges, anemones and fan worms. There also were various crabs and molluscs. Cone shells, coweries, and chonch shells kept a few of our collectors quite happy. The search for pearls in the plentiful oyster beds was an ongoing adventure. Star fish, sea urchin and cuttle fish completes the list of the usual flora and fauna seen in our area of the Gulf. Although we searched the charts, and conducted numerous surveillance dives, we only ever found one wreck worthy of a return visit.

Due to the scarcity of reefs, or other bottom topography in the Gulf -



a Landsat 1 view shows 10 coral, 45 sand, and the rest rock - the Club decided several years ago to construct an artificial reef at Fasht Al Mamlaha, near Umm Said. This was a project of no small magnitude. The main ingredients consisted of two very large busses and several

intact with the top of the massive four bladed prop and rudder found at 8 m. The fish seemed to like it also as this is where they posed for the photographers in the group. The wreck is heavily encrusted with barnacles, mussels, and a few small clams. Some hard coral is starting to

grow as well as a soft fan coral. The bad news is that she was located 30 miles out from Doha in the direction of Iran. The fact of a war going

smaller cars that had been abandoned in the streets of Doha. The struggle of getting these disabled vehicles over the

dunes and into the sea was worth the effort as they proved a welcome home for the local fish life which soon became accustomed to our presence and handouts of bread, peas, and boiled eggs. Of special delight were the large hamour or grouper sometimes reaching up to two meters in length. However, their numbers were quickly depleted as soon as the local young men took up scuba and the macho 'sport' of spear fishing.

A real treat for us was the occasional day trip to the only wreck we knew existed. This was the *Perricles*, an oil tanker that had burned and sank in 1984 under mysterious circumstances. She rested upside down in 30 meters of water, the hull accessible at 6 m. The stern section is fully

on there was secondary to the hardship of getting up at 0500 h in order to get the dhow which took five hours to get us to the site - and then five hours to get back. Like I said, it was a day trip. Nevertheless, it was a real festive affair with children, grannies, pets and anyone else who was an early riser on board. Usually seas were calm but on occasion there were a few seasick individuals, as these old traditional wooden vessels were not built for comfort. The 'heads' consisted of a roofless box built out over the stern. Using it took a little getting used to. While the outward trip was a often subdued, on the return, with the diving done, the cool boxes were opened, the lunches consumed, and the beverages flowed freely. Invariably we were treated to beautiful sunsets as we neared the harbor lights of Doha - tired but satisfied, ready for another week of toil at the job.

More frequently we would travel to Khawr Al Udayd - the 'Inland Sea' for a camping weekend. This involved a convoy of up to twenty four-wheeled Nissan Patrols and Toyota Landcruisers, together with

the occasional Range Rover, pounding 40 km over the salt flats - sabkha, and sand dunes to a long bay - 8 km by 1.2 km - on the east coast south of Umm Said. Camp would be set up on a suitable beach, the vehicles in a circle, much like the old wagon trains seen in the movies. Some would bring a tent for sleeping although most would opt for the back of the truck or just the sand. A night dive was usually planned either from the shore or the Club inflatable boats which would have been motored down from Umm Said. Later, after the barbies were done and the bonfire lit, the sing song was begun. The nights were sometimes long and more than once I saw the sun rise.

The next morning was usually slow, the main endeavour being trying to find a secluded place in which to answer the call of nature - not an easy task in a featureless desert. However, before long the sea beckoned and the boats were made ready for the dives. The Inland Sea had many good reefs in water of about five meters such that two and sometimes three dives were conducted per day. Once again, families and friends were invited on these trips and the non-divers enjoyed the sun, sand, surf and the Fosters. A very real hazard for non-divers and divers alike was the heat. Camping trips were limited to the cool season when shade temperatures remained in the thirties, unlike the summer when 45 degrees in the shade was common. Hyperthermia was stressed in the first aid courses, and more than one person suffered heat exhaustion. The trip home over the

continues on page eight

Diving Doha ... *continues from page seven*

desert was always a fun event and it was a disappointment if someone did not get stuck in the sand and require assistance. The return trip was always more difficult with some requiring three or more attempts to mount the steeper dunes. The Dive Marshall for the weekend had the additional duty of keeping track of the of vehicles to make sure no-one was left behind. There were other sites we used to visit in the north of the country, at Al Khor, Dukhan and Fuwayrit, but they were not as popular as Umm Said or the Inland Sea. We also would occasionally ferry divers to an island, Las Hatt, six miles off shore from our Club reef, where a depth of 25 m could be found - necessary for that 'deep dive'. This was a good camping place as well, but due to the transportation difficulties was infrequently used.

The membership of the DSAC was constantly changing as expatriated workers came for various postings, completed them, and then left. In my last year with the Club, there were only four original members out of nearly a hundred that were there when I first joined. As a result, one of the main activities of the DSAC was the training of new divers. It was fortunate we had nearly ideal conditions with easy

access, warm water - ranging between 15 degrees in 'winter' to 35 degrees in mid August - and relatively shallow depths - averaging 90 meters. In addition inshore wave heights rarely exceeded one foot, and the current seldom reached more than one knot. Because of my interest in diving, and my suicidal instinct to participate, I soon found myself moving up the BSAC ladder from Sports Diver to Dive Leader and then got hooked into assisting in the training as a Club Instructor. This led to more training as Advanced Diver and then Advanced Instructor. It was fun. And besides I got to hold hands with a lot of very lovely novices ... Instructing added a new dimension to diving which has persisted since my return to Canada.

Over the years my daughter Colleen and son Peter took up the sport, however wife Sandra steadfastly refused to get her face wet. It was not until I announced I was taking a dive trip to the Seychelles with the DSAC (divers only) that she realized it might be worth the effort to join the rest of us in the underwater world. Sandra got back at

me the next year when she went off to the Maldives with the Club and left me to kidsit.

One of the advantages of living in that part of the world was the easy access to various exotic dive sites. In addition to the ones already mentioned, the DSAC took annual vacation trips to the Red Sea - Ras Muhammod and closer destinations such as Dubai and Khor Khafan on the coast of Oman where, in fact, the Indian Ocean diving was superb. On vacation trips to Canada we always travelled such that stop-overs were scheduled in dive resorts such as Phuket in Thailand, Hawaii, and Townsville in Australia. Diving in Doha is not possible for everyone: indeed, conditions there may have changed drastically as you read this. However, for myself and family, it has been a great experience in many different ways and an opportunity of which I'm happy to have taken advantage.

Roland Lewis

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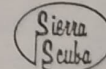
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Government of Canada

1. Archaeological Heritage Policy Framework

Archaeological heritage. Archaeological sites and artifacts, their relationship to the land and to each other - documents the lives of the people who have lived in Canada over the last 20,000 years or so.

As heritage protection is an essential element in the affirmation of our Canadian identity, and as our archaeological heritage is a source of inspiration and knowledge, it is the policy of the Government of Canada to protect and manage archaeological resources.

The Importance of Archaeological Resources. As a product of and witness to past cultural achievements, Canada's archaeological heritage is important, both to Canadians and as a part of world heritage. By protecting and managing this resource through policy, legislation and programs, the Government will achieve a general symmetry with international standards and provincial measures.

Shared Responsibility. The responsibility to preserve archaeological heritage must be shared by all: the

Government, the provinces, the private sector and individuals. Collaboration between the Government and aboriginal peoples, interest

DOCUMENTS

groups and other jurisdictions is essential to enhancing Canadians' awareness of archaeological heritage and the requirements for its protection.

2. Highlights of Future Archeological Heritage Legislation

Definition: The legislation will define the archaeological resources to be protected.

Scope of Application. It will automatically apply to sites, objects or wreck that meet certain criteria and there will be a mechanism for including other significant resources which do not meet the standard criteria. A register of archaeological resources will be maintained.

Jurisdiction. Lands, works and undertakings within the jurisdiction of Parliament will be covered. Resources managed by the *Canadian Parks Service* will be managed under existing legislation.

Archaeological Wreck. A special regime will be established to deal with archaeological wreck, with appropriate amendments to the *Canada Shipping Act*. Because of the

jurisdictional complexity around some submerged archaeological resources, the Government will be able to enter into agreements with the provinces for the mutual application of each other's laws and regulations.

Ownership. The legislation will provide for the Government to assert ownership over archaeological objects found on Canada lands after the legislation comes into force. For abandoned wreck of archaeological significance, Government ownership may be asserted as early as five years after its sinking. The ownership provision will not apply to archaeological objects recovered from reserve lands, although the legislation will ensure that those resources are protected. Through formal agreements, the Government will be able to transfer its ownership

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Sherwood Sea Hunt 1991

Sunday, September 8 at Crystal Crescent Beach

Route 349 from Halifax, just past Sambro

CONSENT

I am aware of the inherent risks associated with scuba diving and agree to assume these risks, rendering Sherwood Gas Control Systems, The Daily News, the Sub Sea Committee, the Nova Scotia Underwater Council, or other sponsor unaccountable for any loss or injury. I am informed that the bottom in the marked area is a flat sand bottom, with a depth not exceeding 30 feet and that there will be Divemasters, pickup boats, Rescue Divers and an ambulance service in case of emergency. I am also informed that the buddy system will be enforced. I acknowledge that I have read the Rules for the Sea Hunt and have understood same.

Signature: _____ Guardian (if under 16): _____
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ NSUC member: Yes: _____ No: _____
_____ Postal code: _____
Certification number: _____ Certification agency: _____
Highest certification Level: _____
This is my first time at the Sea Hunt: Yes: _____ No: _____
I need a buddy: Yes: _____ No: _____
Buddy's name: _____ Buddy team number: _____

Fees: \$12.00 for NSUC members; \$15.00 for Non-Members

Registration: Please register at the dive site commencing at 9:30 am. Free t-shirts for the first 160 divers registered.
Dive starts at 11:00 am.

For more information, call 454-4296, Monday-Saturday (10 am - 6 pm)

Survey: 1) how did you learn about the Sea Hunt?

2) have you any suggestions to make it better?

RULES

1. All divers must present a C-Card. No other substitute allowed.
2. All divers must wear a B.C. if a wetsuit is worn. All equipment must be in good working order.
3. All divers must enter and exit the water with their buddy.
4. All divers must sign a form acknowledging that they have read and understood the rules of the Sea Hunt and acknowledging informed consent to the dive.
5. Scuba must be used: snorkelling is not allowed.
6. Anyone who retrieves more than one token will be disqualified.
7. When exiting the water all divers must report to the marshalling area to check in, and to exchange their token for a ticket before leaving the beach area.
8. The decision of the Chief Marshall is final. Non-compliance with these rules will result in disqualification or refusal of entry to the Sea Hunt.

We would like to thank the following people who helped this event occur

1. The Nova Scotia Underwater Council
2. The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests
3. The sponsors
4. The Diver retailers
5. The volunteers
6. Anyone we have forgotten

Please do not litter ... Reminder: it is against the law to consume alcohol in the park

Coming Events

Coming events is a calendar of events of interest to divers in Nova Scotia and the region. To have your event included, please write to **Bottomtime**.

§ ACQUALANTIC DIVE CLUB

sponsors a full program, including regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. For information, call 434-2768.

§ NATURAL HISTORY OF ANTIGONISH HARBOUR

Join Mark Pulsifer and the Eastern Mainland field naturalists for a look at the plants and animals of this extremely productive wildlife area. The history and geology of Antigonish Harbour will also be briefly reviewed. Bring binoculars and wear boots. Saturday, Sept. 7, 8:00 am, Antigonish Wildlife Management Area. Rain date - Sept. 8. For information, call M. Pulsifer at 863-4513.

§ HIKE

Join the Dartmouth Volksmarch Club for a 6 km hike. There will be a corn boil afterwards, weather permitting. Meet at the corner of Bissett Rd. and Dyke Rd. The hike will take place rain or shine. Saturday, Sept. 7, 4:00 pm. Rainbow Haven Beach Provincial Park. For information, call E. Neifort at 415-5252.

§ NATURAL HISTORY WALK OF UISGE BAN FALLS

Come walk this spectacular trail and learn about the area's natural history. Discover how the rugged topography has influenced the plant communities. Topics will include woodland ecology and plant identification. Sponsored by Lands and Forests. Sept. 8, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Uisge Ban Falls, Victoria County. Rain date: Sept. 15. For information, call 295-2554.

§ BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE WILDLIFE PARK

Join Department of Lands and Forests staff for an exciting guided tour of Nova Scotia's provincial wildlife parks. Learn about the animals, where they originated, their habits and special diets, find out how the wildlife are cared for and any special techniques used. A great opportunity to learn the answers to those questions you've always wanted to ask. Rain or shine. Thursday, Sept. 12, 1-10 pm, Shubenacadie Wildlife Park; Two Rivers Wildlife Park; Upper Clements Wildlife Park. For information, call Bert Vissers at 758-2040.

§ HALIFAX HARBOUR-GEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL FINDS

The surface of the water gives little indication of the fascinating human story imprinted on the Harbour bottom. Geological studies conducted over the past three years have documented features such as anchor marks, shipwrecks,

dredge spoils, aircraft, old mining pits and original bridge remnants. Gordon Fader, Atlantic Geoscience Centre, will present an illustrated overview of this research with emphasis on some of the more interesting finds. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, Sept. 24, 7:30 pm.

§ HIKE

Join Dartmouth Volksmarch Club for an invigorating 16 km hike. Meet at the provincial picnic park. Rain or shine. Sept. 29, 11:00 am. Wentworth Provincial Park, Cumberland County. For information, call Lionel Conrad at 466-4421.

§ NSUC AGM

Saturday, October 5, 1-5 pm, N.S. Museum, Sumner St., Halifax, Aud. Our most important meeting - please make the time to attend.

§ DANS COURSE

The Divers Alert Network will be offering a course "Oxygen first aid in diving accidents" in Halifax, Sunday, October 6. Place: Wandlyn Inn, Bedford Hwy., 9:30 am-3:00 pm. Cost is \$100.00. Call Don Rodgerson, 468-6100 (w), 835-8833 (h) for information.

§ SUBSEA HORIZONS

Diving expo to be held May 7-8, 1991.



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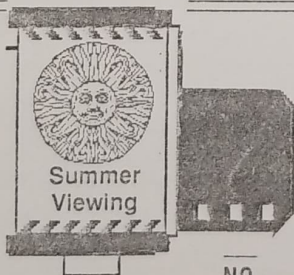
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Underwater Hockey	VIDEO	1
Hyperbaric	VIDEO	1
Hyperbaric (Beta)	VIDEO	1
Drysuit Instruction	VIDEO	1
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Sport Diver Advanced (Vol.1)	VIDEO	1
1: Diving Equipment		
2: Boat Diving		
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Sport Diver Advanced (Vol.2)	VIDEO	1
1: Limited Visibility Diving		
2: Diver Stress and Rescue		
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Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures	VIDEO	1
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All videos are VHS unless otherwise stated

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Contact Wayne Bell, Secretary, at 465-3880

The budding diver



Exploring underwater is fun! When you go snorkling it's much more fun because you don't have to come up for air because you breath threw a tube that goes up to the surface. That tube is called (A snorkle). We've been snorkling threw many different lakes but none are as good or beatiful as the Ocean. We've been there several times now. And each time, we found many pretty shells and stuff like starfish, a lobster,

crabs, kelp, mussels and water snails. At the Ocean we've done a lot. Tom and Nick have been jumping into any wave that came by, and yelling "COWABUNGA!" They made a spectacular sand castel. It is very nice.

The water in the ocean was **cold**. It was so cold that evan if you've been in the water for a long time, you still wouldn't be used to it. If you were to go snorkling in the Ocean you would find thats there is a lot of mussels that are beatiful. But on the shore they are not as big.

We also went to PEI where we went snorkling at the Rustico beach. This beach is huge. The main thing about snorkling in the Ocean at PEI is the red sand. This changes the colours of everything underwater, too. The water is also much **warmer**. We made a humungous sand castel - with a town inside the walls. It was grand. After we become 12 years old, we can learn how to **scuba dive**. I want to dive, too. I want to see with my own eyes what is underneath the water in the Ocean.

Catherine Reyto (age nine)

Reprinted from Nick, Tom and Cath's Newsletter, Volume 3, Number 1, 1991, by permission of the publishers.

NSUC achievements ... continued from page one

that of scuba diving. Others are offered an affiliate membership.

The NSUC publishes a newsletter six times per year, distributing it to all members. Articles included are items of interest to divers both safety- and interest-related.

The Council holds many events throughout the year. These include the Sea Hunt, our major fund raiser; Subsea Horizons, a combined trade show/diving symposium; the Easter Egg Hunt, a charity event co-sponsored by the RCMP Dive Team, and several dives throughout the province.

The NSUC has attended many meetings with the Curator of Special Places regarding legislation concerning shipwrecks. This helps keep the lines of communication open between the N.S. Museum and the diving public. Hopefully any legislation will reflect the divers point of view.

We have also made three submissions to the Department of Labour and attended meetings concerning upcoming

legislation regarding commercial diving. Although sport diving is our main area of concern, we were asked to look into this by one of our Commercial Members. Instructors were informed of this legislation by the NSUC, resulting in some instructors attending meetings and becoming involved with sub-committees on this matter.

The NSUC has been in contact with Department of fisheries regarding spear fishing which is illegal under the fisheries Act. We have asked to have the matter corrected. This area of concern is still on going. We have also asked to have lobster licenses issued to scuba divers but got a negative response.

The NSUC is a founding member of the Canadian Federation of Underwater Activities and hosted the semi-annual meeting in December in Halifax. To sum up, the NSUC is a group of people donating their time and talents to better the enjoyment of sport divers in Nova Scotia, promote diving safety,

and keep the lines of communication open between all provincial government departments and the sport diver.

This history has been prepared by Lynn Gallant who has served on the NSUC Board of directors in various positions for over six years, the most recent as president.

In addition to the facts given above by Lynn, we were also responsible for obtaining the right of divers to scallop diving licenses.

Recent projects have included:

- a) The production of a Hyperbaric video produced in conjunction with Dalhousie and the Hyperbaric Unit of the Victoria General Hospital.
- b) **Passport To Diving**, a booklet designed to give information to the diving tourist and local divers alike. This is still selling steadily throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

An upcoming project will be a plastic emergency card with the N.S. emergency rescue radio frequencies and telephone numbers on one side and the hyperbaric decal and telephone on the other. This will be distributed to all members free: the rest will be sold.

Editor