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# SOUNDINGS

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OCTOBER / NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COWICHAN WOODEN BOAT SOCIETY

## Annual Boat Raffle

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Our Annual Boat Raffle came to a close on October 8th. The Society puts on a lasprake course once a year teaching six students the traditional ways in lapstrake construction. The boat is then raffled off bringing in much needed funds for operations. Thank you to everyone who supported us over the six months. Thank you to Canadian Tire ( Duncan ) and Country Grocer ( Cobble Hill ) for your continued support every year. Winners are listed on page 3.

## Upcoming Events

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**Cowichan Wooden Boat Society AGM**  
Become familiar with the Society members, directors and staff. Meet our New Area D, Cowichan Bay Director, Hilary Abbot **November 23 at 7pm.**

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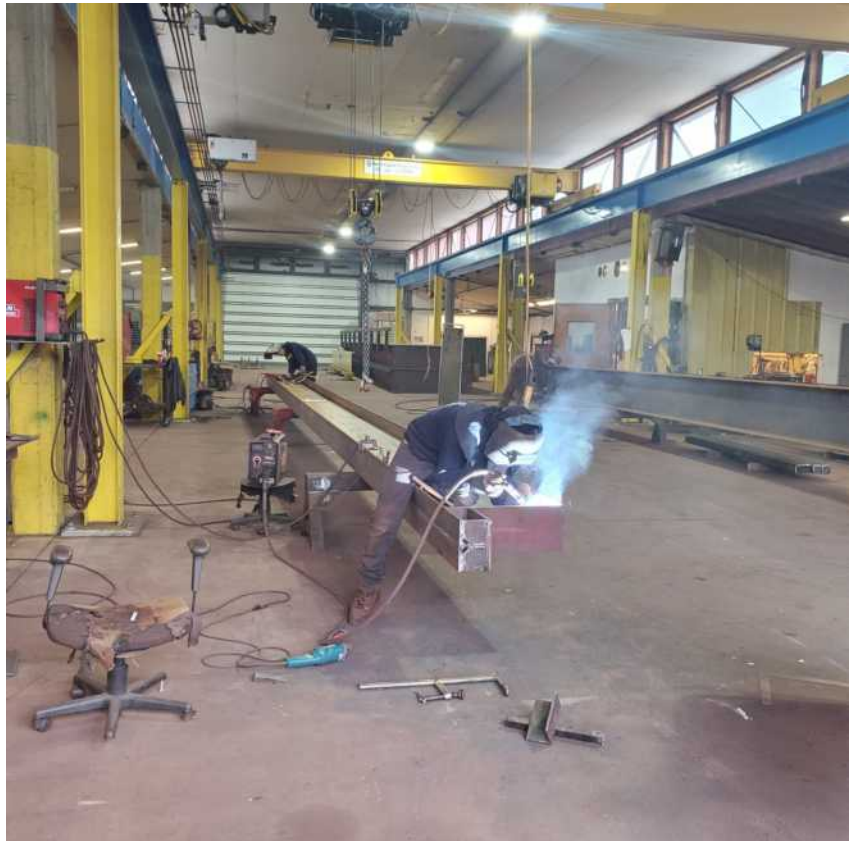
**Christmas at the Maritime Centre - November 26** at 6pm - Carols by Duncan Choral Society in our upstairs Mezzanine, Christmas tree light-up, appearance by Santa, children's Christmas boat building, decoration making, hot chocolate and goodies. Vote for your favorite decorated tree Nov.26 to Jan.1

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## Northwest Passage Adventure

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Join Don Feil February 3rd at 19:00 hrs for an exciting presentation of his may ventures across the globe. See page 5.



In October the Pier Committee from the Cowichan Wooden Boat Society visited the Pacific Industrial and Marine fabrication plant where the metal components of the new pier supports are being assembled. Witnessing this work hits home the magnitude of this Project.

Please come down and enjoy the Centre. Although the pier is closed, the Patio Portal that opened last November is open as well as our main building exhibits, our library, our woodworking shop, the marine ways, and the ever popular kids' boat building booth.

# Whats going on in the shop?

Currently we have a family boat build going on in the shop, Chacha has just turned thirteen and this is a birthday present to him. Charley Major will be mentoring the young man. Charley is a CWBS member who recently built a stitch and glue kayak for himself in our shop early this year. If you follow our Facebook or Instagram pages there will be daily updates to the build's progress.





# On The Horizon



**Annual General Meeting** - November 23 at 7pm.

**Christmas Light-Up** - November 26 at 6pm.

**Pro D Day Camp** - Children between the ages of 5 and 10.

February 17th, 2023, April 17th, 2023, May 5th, 2023

\$50 per session or \$175 for all four dates

During these camp days children will enjoy a fun-filled day of great activities including learning boat safety and rowing, crabbing, exploring the beaches of Cowichan Bay, maritime crafts, games and other age-appropriate activities.

**Women's Woodworking** - Nov.19 & 20 - 9am to 2pm each day. \$135 + GST and \$35 membership fee  
Participants will construct a quality built cutting board with Instructor Joe Murphy.

**Traditional Lapstrake Boat Building Course** - January 23 - 27 / January 30 - February

Instructor: Mark Reuten - Course fee \$2000 - 1 spot remaining

## Annual Raffle Results

**BC Gaming Event License #132743**

1st Prize: 10' Wooden Lapstrake Acorn Dinghy built at the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre, Value \$6,500

**Winner: Gordon Oper**

2nd Prize: Hand Carved Cedar Chest built and donated by Don Knudson, Value \$2000

**Winner: Steve Fingas**

3rd Prize: 'Making a Splash' Original Painting donated by artist Dominique Eustace, Value \$550

**Winner: Chris Miller**





## CHRISTMAS AT THE COWICHAN BAY MARITIME CENTRE

November 26 to January 1

Showcase your business or organization by decorating a Christmas tree, which we will supply at no charge, to be displayed inside the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre's main building. The beautiful display of trees will make Cowichan Bay Village a destination for visitors during the holiday season. It will also instill a sense of community spirit and provide an activity for individuals and families to enjoy.

Here's how to take part in this annual event...

### TREE SPONSORSHIP

1. Confirm your sponsorship with a \$175 financial contribution\*
2. Gather decorations and lights
3. Decorate your tree any time between November 16 and 25\*\*
4. Come and enjoy the display of Christmas trees with your friends, family and patrons
5. Cast a vote for your favorite decorated tree

The tree with the most votes January 1st will get the best decorated tree trophy to display within their establishment for the year. Currently Bluenose Marina holds the trophy.

*\*Media Contact Mel at 250.746.4955 or [cwbs@classicboats.org](mailto:cwbs@classicboats.org).*

*\*\*The Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre will provide the trees.*



# Presidents Report - Ron JE Parsons

November is Annual General Meeting month.

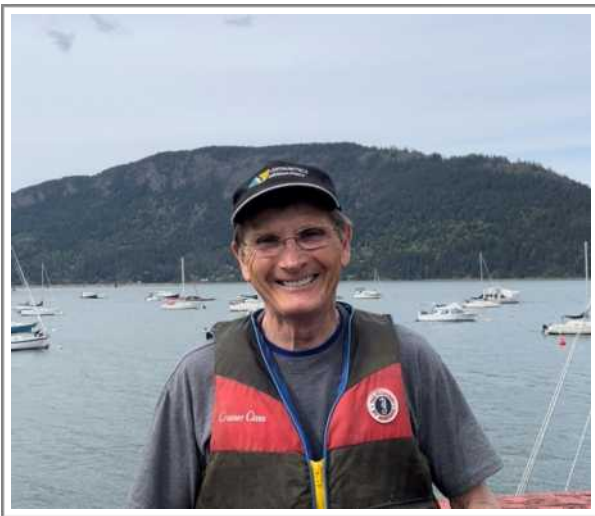
In the next week or so members will be receiving their AGM package via email. Scheduled for November 23rd at the Centre we hope to have a good turnout and as good a conversation as our October meeting with membership.

We will provide financial updates, pier update and present our goals for the next year. We would like your comments on our presentation and any additional goals you would like to see for our society to pursue.

Hope to see you there.

Ron JE Parsons

## Meet our new Director



Board member, Don Feil, will make an audio-visual presentation of his 2011 transit of the Northwest Passage as Captain aboard the 160' expedition yacht, Asteria. At the time this was the 146th complete transit of the Northwest Passage. Commencing in Reykjavik, Iceland and ending in Nome, Alaska he will share photos and narration of high Arctic landscapes and the people and wildlife that inhabit this remote wilderness. The presentation will take place February 3rd at 19:00 hrs in the mezzanine at the CWBS Centre. Entrance by donation. Please RSVP to: [cwbs@classicboats.org](mailto:cwbs@classicboats.org)

My initial boating experience was salmon fishing in Washington and Alaska. I learned to sail in the islands around St. John, USVI and lived aboard my forty-foot wooden ketch working as a scuba guide and charter captain. Moving up to larger vessels, I skippered a 75' ketch that included multiple passages between the US east coast and the Caribbean.

Returning to the Pacific and transitioning from sail to power, I worked for several years at the Alyeska Marine Terminal in Valdez managing the support boat fleet. Subsequently, I captained small expedition cruise ships for Exploration Cruise Lines and Clipper Cruise Lines. Itineraries included Alaska, the Great Lakes, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Tahiti. During my non-working time I lived aboard my 51' sloop in Roche Harbor and cruised the San Juan and Gulf islands.

During the last ten years of my nautical career I skippered a 160' ocean going tug that had been converted to a yacht. Our travels included a transit of the Northwest Passage, cruising the Mediterranean and Black Sea, trips to South Georgia and Antarctica, and diving in the Barrier Reef and Coral Triangle of Southeast Asia.

I am now retired and live in Cowichan Bay with my wife, Hilary, where we enjoy sailing our 27' sloop and getting to know this very special community and the people who live here.

# Pier Rehabilitation Project Update – Sylvia Berryman (Executive Director)

Cowichan Bay was a home to the First Nations people for thousands of years before European colonization. This is the important beginning of the historical fabric at the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre. It is now a working museum and tourist attraction located on the oceanfront.

## Original Project Scope

The scope of our project originally was to rehabilitate the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre's pier and install a new culturally sensitive Indigenous history exhibit on the pier. The pier is 97 years old, 89 metres long and the goal is to get it back to like-new condition to ensure the longevity of the pier for use for the next 50 or more years. The pier provides moorage for many teams and boats, an educational venue for children's camps, and is the focal point of many public events. The pier has a distinct trestle-like structure which houses 80% of our heritage collections and exhibits in three buildings along the pier approach, as well as a two-story pavilion at its end.

An engineer's survey deemed the pier to be in critical condition. As a result, the pier has been closed for public use since November, 2020.

This rehabilitation project includes the materials and installation of a new sub-structure to support the existing pier and the install new decking and wood railings the entire length of the pier. Project activities were to include supplying materials and replacing deteriorated creosote treated wood beams and pilings with environmentally sensitive steel beams and pilings.

Since we started on this project and did our initial cost estimates along with several grant applications, many factors have changed. Due to the ever changing supply chain issue and the quickly rising cost of materials, we no longer have the funds to complete the project as planned. As a result, we have had to break the project into stages and prioritize those stages, based on our available funding. What, hopefully, will be accomplished with the available funding is the installation of all necessary components below the horizontal deck of the pier.

To date we have the accomplished the following:

1. Construction-ready engineered drawings from Herold Engineering have been received and sent to the contractor.
2. Approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
3. Completed Bio Assessment of the project by Madrone Environmental Services
4. A commitment from Pacific Industrial Marine to commence the installation of all necessary components below the horizontal deck of the pier on December 1. (this has been delayed from our original start date of April, 2022 due to many factors including labour shortages, engineering delays, supply chain issues and lately the arrival of the salmon and the sea lions to the bay.)
5. Procurement of CVRD Building Permit.
6. Permission from the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee.
7. Agreement from Cowichan Tribes.
8. Onsite test piles completed by Pacific Industrial and Marine.



# Pier Rehabilitation Project Update cont.

8. Onsite test piles completed by Pacific Industrial and Marine.
9. Old railings assessed and removed where necessary.
10. Survey work completed to identify location of new metal pilings.
11. 3 floating docks have been temporarily relocated to the Pacific Industrial and Marine dock until work is completed.
12. Visited the Pacific Industrial and Marine fabrication plant and witnessed the detailed assembly of the metal components of the new pier supports.

Due to shortages in the labour force, we were unable to meet some of the seasonal windows recommended by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which has led to delays and increased costs. Both of these factors have led to the need for additional funding.

Some of the components we are not going to be able to complete with available funds include:

1. The complete removal of existing deteriorating creosote treated wood below the deck (estimated to cost \$130,000)
2. the replacement of wood decking above the level of the pier (estimated to cost \$40,000)
3. the installation of the new decking, railings at the seaward end of the pier to extend over the newly installed pier sub-structure. (estimated to cost \$40,000).

