



## President's Corner

Fellow Ontario Underwater Council Members:

As I write this letter to you, it looks like the first real snow of the season is falling outside my kitchen window here in southern Ontario. Not so the case in the north-west, where in Chapleau (just came back from a business trip there) they've already had snow for weeks (by the way, if you're ever in that neck of the woods, be sure to ask about diving in crystal-clear Emerald Lake, it's nothing short of incredible!).

For me, the onset of wintry weather gets me thinking about diving down south, but before I let my thoughts drift to diving in warmer, sunnier climes, let me brief you on something important that we (your OUC) have been representing you on that impacts diving right here in our province. As you may know, legislation protecting underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, aircraft, submerged buildings, etc.) has recently been passed in Ontario (see the Ontario Heritage Act at: [http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90o18\\_e.htm](http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90o18_e.htm)), and regulations supporting that legislation are now in the early stages of being written. The Ministry of Culture has held stakeholder consultations throughout the province to ensure that everyone who will be impacted by these regulations will have a say. Naturally, we (board members & members-at-large) were very vocal in representing what we felt were the best interests of the Ontario diving community as well as those of Ontario's numerous underwater cultural heritage sites. In short, we summarized our position as:

- 1) In favour of helping the Ministry identify, protect, and promote underwater cultural heritage sites.
- 2) In favour of helping promote low-impact (and no-impact diving) practices (good for coral reefs as well as shipwrecks!)
- 3) In favour of stiff penalties for people violating provisions of the Heritage Act.
- 4) Opposed to the creation of a "no-diving-within-500-metre-without-a-permit zones" for specific underwater cultural heritage sites.

Be sure to check out the full response we submitted on your behalf at <http://www.underwatercouncil.com/> in the Programs section under "Voice of Divers".

Next thing I'd like to update you on is what happened at the OUC's annual general meeting on Sunday, November 13th. 6 out of 23 OUC-member clubs sent delegates and observers to participate in proceedings. Reports were submitted and elections were held, with final results as listed on the last page of this newsletter. Past President Mike Briggs was awarded the Lieutenant Commander Ken Grant trophy for long and distinguished service to the OUC. Mike now lives in New Brunswick and was notified by telephone of his award.

For the minutes of the OUC annual general meeting please visit the website under the "Events" section.

In the Fall 2005 issue of this newsletter, I shared with you my goal of growing our organization to 5,000+ members over the course of 4 years. I also committed to sharing with you the steps in the plan to make that happen. The first step was to build a strong leadership team, and that has been pretty much completed now. From speaking with many of you over the course of the past few months, the next steps I see are to:

- 1) Improve the delivery of our existing services to our current base of individual, club, and commercial members
- 2) Expand the range of services we offer to attract new individual, club, and commercial members
- 3) Develop and promote a membership offer directed towards divers certified by Dive Retailers\*.

*\* Scuba Clubs used to certify the lion's share of divers in Ontario. The pendulum has long since swung the other way, with Dive Retailers now certifying the vast majority of divers. I know we can be successful in this and that it will go a long way to helping us reach our goal.*

- 4) Raise the visibility of our sport within the province and help promote it at every turn.
- 5) Make information available on how to form a scuba club.

I commit to working with Membership Director Carolyn Lough and my fellow board and regional coordinator members to make these things happen and will look to all of you to help us with this.

Now back to where my thoughts were drifting to earlier! If you, like me, are planning on heading down South this winter, remember that your OUC liability policy covers you around the world, providing you adhere to the terms and conditions of the policy. These terms and conditions include: ensuring all members of the dive team are OUC

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## We would like to hear from you...

Our next newsletter is planned for an early March release. If you have any news to share, diving humour, information on recent or upcoming events, info on new or favourite dive sites we might enjoy visiting or plan for this winter, or an invitation to an activity... please send us a note at [ouc@underwatercouncil.com](mailto:ouc@underwatercouncil.com) so that we can share it with other members. We would appreciate input for the next issue by **February 16, 2006**.

*If newsletter release dates are not timely for your news, we can at least post your bulletin on the OUC website; please send us a notice.*

## Dive Destinations:#6

### Lock 21, Ingleside

When I was growing up, I lived right on the St. Lawrence Seaway, but I didn't get certified until I moved away. I got a chance to go back this summer and dive this fine dive site. It is most definitely an advanced dive – the current is powerful. If you don't watch out, you could be finding yourself getting to know the Robert Saunders Power Dam in nearby Cornwall! The strategy is to let yourself drift around the south side, grab hold at the south-east corner, and then pull yourself back (and I do mean pull) using the railings on the north side of the structure. This is definitely a challenging dive, but one that is enjoyable and gives you an appreciation of an event that changed many lives almost fifty years ago.

### Directions

Take highway 401 to exit 778 (Moulinette Road, Long Sault). Head south until you hit the stoplights, and continue going straight. There is a small entrance fee to access the Long Sault Parkway (about \$5 per car). Head along the main road for about one kilometre, until you reach MacDonnell Island. Follow the instructions on the display for directions to get to the site. And make sure to have fun!

*by Ryan Vickers*

## News

### Another Diving Record

One year ago, in the December 2004 newsletter, we featured an article "Once-a-month AI hits 100". AI Veenhizen from the Ontario Underwater Explorers Club has been lucky to have a regular buddy for most of those dives. In fact in August this year, his daughter Nicolien achieved the same claim to fame: 1 dive per month for 100 consecutive months. Congratulations Nicolien! Whether they succeed in enlisting other divers or not, this amazing diving duo continues the tradition.

### Club Anniversaries in 2006

This year, the Ontario Underwater Explorers Club is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a dive club. Club members met for a family dive and BBQ outing at Gulliver's lake in August.

In 2006, the Etobicoke Underwater Club celebrate its 50th anniversary! Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming celebratory events... and invitations.

SWODA will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in September 2006.

Scarborough Underwater Club is celebrating its 45th anniversary next year as well (and no, Raimund has not been there quite that long!). They too are working on plans for their celebration.

*Any other notable anniversaries, please let us know!*

### More than a Sinking Feeling!

At the AGM, SWODA announced that it is working with the Goderich Marine Heritage Association on an endeavour to sink a vessel next year in the Goderich area. Another dive site to look forward to...

### Reef Project

At the OUC AGM, the Etobicoke Underwater Club announced the completion of their 3rd Reef Project in Lake Simcoe. Through government grants EUC has been successful in repairing 'Four Friends Reef' and creating two new plastic reef fish habitats. Last year's endeavour was named 'Royal Reef' and this year's was named 'Penny's Pipe Dream'. Environment studies have already shown and increase in the fish population at the reef locations.

## *A Little Diving Humour*

*If you like cartoon strips, check out the Sherman's Lagoon Collections by Jim Tooney available in paperback on amazon.com. Such titles as "The Illustrated Guide to Shark Etiquette", "The Shark Diaries" and "Surfer Safari", to name but a few, make great stocking stuffers.*

# Welcome

## to our new Membership Director

*We are very pleased to announce that Carolyn Lough will be actively assuming the position of OUC Membership Director and look forward to working with her!*

### A word from Carolyn:

I'm excited to be your Membership Director for our Ontario Underwater Council and look forward to hearing from you and working with you, our members.

I am an active member and qualified PADI Divemaster with my club "Canadian Sport Divers" in Belleville, Ontario – a stone's throw away from great wreck diving in Lake Ontario in and around the Kingston area, off Point Traverse in the Prince Edward County area, and in the St. Lawrence River. Our East I area is also home to the annual Treasure Hunt at Presqu'île Provincial Park, and most recently, the revived Ice Floe Races in Peterborough. Who needs the Caribbean when there is diving like this to be had in our own province!

As your Membership Director, I have the opportunity to meet diving enthusiasts from all over our province who are as passionate and crazy about diving as I am; to talk with them about their diving experiences, hear about issues related to their diving that affect them directly, and show

them how the OUC can work for them, and how they as members of our OUC, can be part of the driving force that will make their diving better, more accessible and safer.

It's important that our diving community recognize that the OUC has the strength, the desire, and the voice to make things happen in this province. Working with our regional representatives, speaking to our clubs and our dive operations, presenting and attending at functions across our province and meeting brand new divers who have just discovered Ontario's plentiful and diverse marine heritage opens avenues to build our organization to a level that demonstrates the commitment your OUC has as a visible organization helping to support and promote the sport of scuba diving.

Our Board of Directors and our Regional Representatives have the initiative and energy to development projects and strategies that will benefit you, our members. It is these unique opportunities among others that will provide you with fun, information and education on a personal level that will benefit all of our diving experiences and help ensure the continuation and growth of our OUC.

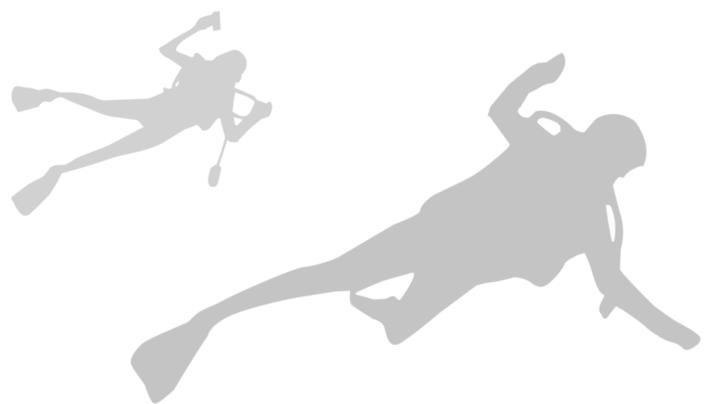
On behalf of our board members I would extend to you an open invitation to become more actively involved in your Ontario Underwater Council. Together, we can make the voice of Ontario's divers stronger.

*Carolyn Lough*

## A Word

### From a New Board Member:

Hello there! My name is Ryan Vickers and I am pleased to be a part of the OUC, in the role of Northern Regional Coordinator. I am an AOW diver with 4D Diving in Barrie and have been actively diving for two years. In my new position, I hope to increase membership in my region, while actively promoting dive sites, known and not so well known – that can be found in the mid northern part of the province. If there's anything I can do, please let me know.



# Events & Announcements

## R E C E N T E V E N T S

### OUC – AGM

OUC Annual General Meeting was held on November 13th at the Sports Centre. The financial report was presented, the year ending once again with favourable results. Cost-reduction measures continue to be a primary objective of the Board. The Election ratified nominations for all board positions except the one of Director Finance, which we are still recruiting for. Regional Coordinator positions still open:

East 1 - Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston, Cornwall

East 2 - Ottawa area

N.West - The rest of Ontario west to the Manitoba border (North = Barrie north to approx Sudbury & Sault Ste. Marie)

We welcomed 2 new regional coordinators:

West: Ron Sisson and North: Ryan Vickers.

Congratulations to all members and best wishes for another successful year.

This year, the Board approved Mike Briggs as the recipient of the Lt. Cdr Ken Grant Memorial Trophy for his many years of dedication to the OUC. Well deserved, Mike!

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members in good standing, having a certified dive master lead every dive, having safety divers available at all times while dives are being conducted, having serviceable oxygen and first aid kits on site, keeping records of dive logs, staying within sport diving (no-decompression) limits, and notifying the OUC at least 24 hours in advance (e-mail is fine) of all planned dives. For a complete list of OUC safe diving practices, please visit the OUC website under the Safety section.

In closing, I wish you and your families and friends the very healthiest and happiest of holiday seasons and safe diving in 2006!

Yours in safe scuba diving,

*By Raimund Krob  
President*

# Upcoming Events

Scuba World at the Advil Outdoor Adventure Show will be held on February 24 – 26. The dive industry will again be well represented and OUC member clubs will be given the opportunity to promote their clubs and the sport of scuba at the Cayman Islands Scuba Tank and, (for the first time!) at the OUC booth. See your Club President for information on how to participate! Check the inside of this envelope for your show discount coupon. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and a lot of new ones... bring a friend and get them diving!

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The OUC Ice Floe Race will once again take place in Peterborough area, on Saturday March 11th, 2006.

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Niagara Divers Association Shipwreck Symposium 2006 is expected to take place in Welland on March 25th, 2006

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OUE will be hosting its 14th annual Scuba Swap on Saturday April 29th, 2006.

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The 2006 Great Lakes Chapter Hyperbaric Seminar is tentatively scheduled for Saturday October 21st, 2006.

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*Stay tuned for details on the OUC website and in upcoming newsletters.*

# OUC Log Books, Shirts & Caps make great year round gifts!

Looking for gift ideas? Big or small we have some great ideas for everyone on your list.

Help divers keep track of all their dives with the OUC Log Book and refill pages. We have T-shirts, warm and cozy sweat shirts, ball caps, and crests too!

And don't forget about our memberships! They're a great value and it's never too late to renew your dive buddy's membership or get a new membership for anyone on your list. Your OUC membership gives you opportunities to join in all sorts of events year round like our zany Ice Floe Races, and our annual Treasure Hunt. You will also be helping support the sport of scuba diving in Ontario - something that makes diving safer and more fun for everyone.

It's easy. Just email us, or call our office and we'll take care of the rest.

# Safety

As we trade our fins for skis and dive mask for snowmobile mask, let's remember:

## **NO DRINKING AND DRIVING !**

The buddy system works great here too... take turns being designated drivers...



*Have a  
safe and  
enjoyable  
Winter!*



## Rest & Relaxation

If you would like to suggest some interesting R & R or submit a short book or movie review for upcoming newsletters, please send your contribution to the Editor at [Chantal-ouc@sympatico.ca](mailto:Chantal-ouc@sympatico.ca) or the general OUC email with caption: newsletter input. Thanks

## Web Site News

*by Bill Doran, OUC Webmaster*

Our OUC web site continues to grow. Visit us at [www.underwatercouncil.com](http://www.underwatercouncil.com) for the latest Ontario news and diving tips.

- 1 OUC Club Standards** – Are you measuring up! We are proud to say that our clubs are great forums for safety.
- 2 Dan Insurance** – Are you current? Reasons to do so!
- 3 Weather Link!** – Heading out and not sure on the weather? Check this link before you leave!
- 4 Dive Planning!** – Are you ready? Here are some tips, ideas and even printable plans and packing list. Even a sample briefing that you can share with your divers!
- 5 Upcoming Events!**

Please take the time to go on line and review this area. We would appreciate any ideas or input which you may have.

### What is next?

Attention all OUC members. We are looking to make the OUC web site the very best it can be to suit the needs of our members so that we can best promote the interests of divers in Ontario. Please take a few moments and answer the short questionnaire by going to the web site, click on the MEMBER SURVEY button and fill out the online survey. It is less than 10 quick questions, which will benefit all of us.

## Invitations OYÉ OYÉ OYÉ History Buffs

Part of the OUC website revamp includes updating the *History of OUC* section. Though the early years are covered off quite well, the 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's are somewhat skeletal. We would appreciate the contributions of the membership at large in putting some "meat" on those bones and sending in photos to put in the gallery. (We can arrange to scan your photos and return them to you if you are not able to send them to us electronically.) Our Regional Coordinator for Central will be spearheading this effort for us. Please contact Dorine How at [OUC.CENTRAL@gmail.com](mailto:OUC.CENTRAL@gmail.com) and send her your contributions. We are still looking for input in order to identify any remaining gaps, consolidate the input and update the website over the winter.

Editor's note: unless stated otherwise, articles are written by the editor, Chantal Gagnon, OUC Communications Director, and based on the most accurate information available at time of writing.



# OUC Board of Directors

**President:****Raimund Krob**

raimund.krob@sympatico.ca

OUC President since June 2005, a qualified Teaching Status PADI Instructor, past OUC Director of Sport Safety (2004), past OUC Regional Coordinator Central, and past President of Scarborough Underwater Club Inc.

**Finance Director:****Mike Briggs** (interim til replacement found)

mikjudit@nb.sympatico.ca

Member of Toronto Super Turtles and the OUC since 1984. A qualified NAUI Divemaster since 1986, he has been involved with the OUC in many Board capacities since 1988.

**Safety Director:****Ron Irvine**

Irvine@hp.com

A qualified PADI instructor and avid diver. Assumed the role of Safety Director in June 2005.

**Membership Director:****Carolyn Lough**

sclough@sympatico.ca

Member of the Canadian Sports Divers Club and a qualified PADI Divemaster. Also holds the position of past Secretary on the Executive of Preserve Our Wrecks.

**Communications Director:****Chantal Gagnon**

Chantal-ouc@sympatico.ca

Member and instructor at the Ontario Underwater Explorer Club and pool coordinator at Dive for a Cure (Lillypad) 2001- 2003. A qualified PADI Instructor and co-owner of AAA aquasports inc.

**Regional coordinators:****John Raso****SOUTH**

raso.john@gmail.com

President of the Steel City Sport Divers Club. A teaching Assistant who has been assisting as a "Blue Shirt" pool helper. NAS-1 certified (Nautical Archeology Society). Also lent a hand to cover the West Region in 2005.

**Ron Sisson****WEST**

ronsisson@rogers.com

Certified diver since 1985 and certified NAUI divemaster since 1986. Current and past president as well as founding member of SWODA (South Western Ontario Divers Association).

**Dorine How****CENTRAL**

Ouc.central@gmail.com

Member of the Scarborough Underwater Club since 2004, an avid diver NAS-1 Certified in 2005.

**Ryan Vickers****NORTH**

Vtown7@yahoo.ca

An active member of 4D Diving Club in Barrie and Advance Open Water diver, Ryan is passionate about all he does and wants to see an increase in youth participation in the organization.

## CONTACT US AT:

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