



Atlantic Pilotage Authority



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THE DISPATCH

2004 Awards Banquet

On December 2, 2004 APA held its 8th Annual Service Award Night, honouring those members who reached 10, 15, and 20 years of service as well as those who retired in 2004. APA employees, senior management and board members from across the Atlantic Region attended the event. Also in attendance from the UK was Captain Chris Clarke, a Senior Lecturer at the Warsash Maritime Centre in Southampton, UK. Entertainment was provided by local magician Rod Dorion. Following is a list of those who were honoured:



Retirement Capt. James May, Pilot & Area Chair, Saint John, NB (27 years service) Ret. Dec. 28/04



Retirement Capt. William Petite, Pilot Saint John, NB (24 years service) Ret. Mar. 23/04



Retirement Wilfred White, Deckhand, Halifax, NS (17 years service) Ret. Apr. 27/04



Retirement Capt. Robert Pennington, Pilot, Saint John, NB (15 years service) Ret. Nov.11/04

From the Editor

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Dispatch* – the Atlantic Pilotage Authority's newsletter. This bi-annual publication is aimed at keeping you up-to-date on the latest APA news. Whether it be new technology developments, profiles of past APA employees or milestone announcements, you'll find it all here.

We would also like to hear your feedback. If you have a story idea or information to share, you can reach me at:
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Submission deadline for the next issue is August 31, 2005.

Enjoy!

More pictures from our 2004 Awards Banquet



15 Years Capt. Michael Furlong, Pilot, St. John's, NL



15 Years Capt. Steve Mullin, Launchmaster, Saint John, NB



15 Years Bryan Scott, Deckhand, Halifax, NS



Donna Pardy and Anne Soucie



Nancy Gordon, Anne Soucie, Sylvie Lepine and Elaine Lockhart



15 Years Capt. Robert Pennington, Pilot, Saint John, NB



15 Years Capt. Ken Raisbeck, Pilot, Halifax, NS



15 Years Capt. Gerry Titus, Pilot, Halifax, NS



Brian Bradley won the draw for the Bluenose Replica.

Also recognized for their years of service:

20 Years Capt. Peter Davidson, Halifax, NS

15 Years Capt. Byron McLean, Pilot, Bathurst, NB

15 Years Capt. Nelson Pittman, Pilot, SE Placentia, NL

10 Years Capt. Frank Durnford, Pilot, Humber Arm/Stephenville, NL

THIS ISSUE'S PROFILE

A life-long love of the sea – Captain James May's story

From the time he was a child in Grand Banks, Newfoundland, Captain James May knew he was destined to work on the sea. "As a kid, no matter what I was doing, I used to pretend to be a captain," he recalls. "I'd watch the schooners and trawlers sail by and think of how I couldn't wait to bring those in!"



Fulfilling that childhood dream was a long time in the making. Eventually May settled in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he married and raised his family. For years he held jobs with Canadian Pacific and Canadian National on the Digby-Saint John and Newfoundland ferries, and the Canadian Coast Guard. But May's desire to be a marine pilot never wavered – he took advantage of every opportunity he had to learn from others. "I was fortunate in that before I even wrote the exam [for pilot certification] I had already completed 200 assignments [under other pilots]."

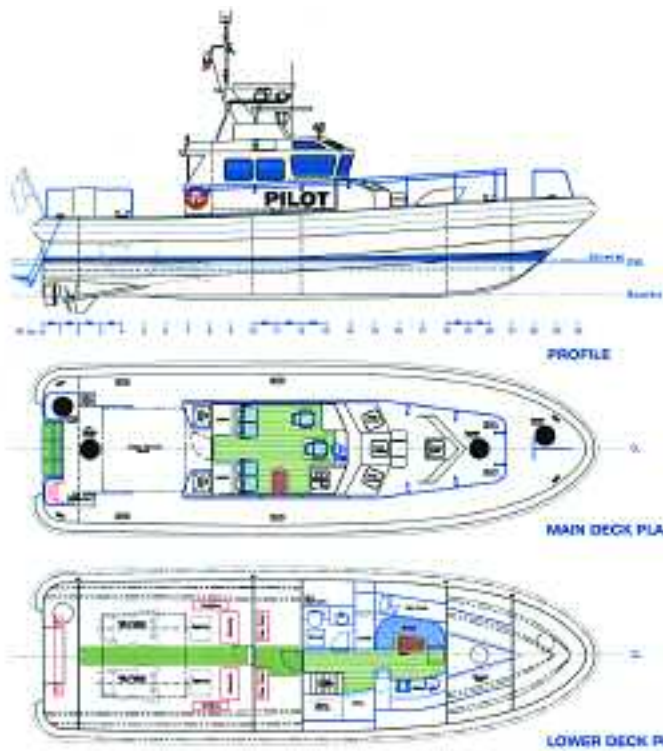
Even though May passed his pilotage exam in 1978, four years went by before an opening with the APA became available in Saint John. During his prolific pilot career, May amassed over 6,000 assignments, all of which he faithfully recorded in his log book. "When I first started, the other pilots said 'yeah you'll write in that log book a few times, but after a while you'll tire of it.' Well, I recorded every single assignment I ever went on, from those early days to the day I retired. Now it holds a lot of memories." May also recorded the highlights his career, such as in 1993 when he brought in the *Acropolis*, a 410,000-tonne tanker and the largest ship to ever cross the North Atlantic at the time. Or the day five years ago when the QE

Il came to the port in a blanket of dense fog. "No one even saw it coming until it was along side the dock," laughs May.

May has also had his fair share of troubles on the job – from being nearly thrown from the pilot station on a tanker when disembarking after an assignment in stormy weather ("I held on to the rails and let the sea roll over me"), to having a ship stall in the middle of the harbour. "With this job there is a lot of risk. You have to be very agile and need a lot of nerve to do it – it takes a special kind of person."

Despite the rough times, May treasured every day he was out there. "I loved the challenge. I looked forward to every day – even on my days off I still went to the office to answer phones or do what was needed." Even though May officially retired at the end of last year, he still plans on helping out at the port during the summer months. "I still have a key and a license, so I'd like to fill in during the other pilots' summer holidays as long as I'm able."

As for the future of pilotage, May believes marine pilots will always have their place in maintaining the safety of our Atlantic harbours. "Even with today's technology, there's nothing better than the naked eye and the human hand on those shifts. Pilots are very knowledgeable and skilled. I'm proud to say I was one of them."



Technology: New Pilot Vessel on the Horizon for Placentia Bay

A new APA pilot vessel is planned for construction this August for the compulsory pilotage area of Placentia Bay, NL port. Plans for the vessel have come from CAMARC Limited. CAMARC is based in Sussex, UK and is recognized as a leader in Small Craft Design throughout Europe. The 19m Fast Pilot Boat has an overall length of 19.45m, with a beam of 6.0m and draught of approximately 1.71m.

CAMARC vessels are found throughout the world – the Persian Gulf, UK ports, American ports, European ports, etc. Both the PPA and APA have CAMARC designed vessels. The majority of the new pilot vessel will be designed by LVE, an independent naval architecture and marine engineering firm based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The firm has been appointed as project manager to oversee the building of the vessel. The vessel will also be built to “class” (Lloyd’s).

The completion of the new vessel is tentatively scheduled for March 2006 – stay tuned for more updates.

Online Centralized Dispatch System Proves Effective

Throughout the Atlantic region, the APA provides dispatching services from a dispatch centre located at its head office in Halifax. Established in May 1999, it has been available online ever since via access-controlled web pages, allowing pilots, customers, port authorities and management to view the information in a secure and timely manner. The web pages are continuously updated from the APA’s Dispatch and Billing System as the dispatcher enters data. Customers and pilots are then able to contact dispatch by telephone, e-mail, facsimile, VHF radio and telex. As the service continues to evolve, it is

expected to increase the overall efficiency of the APA’s operations as well as proving to be a valuable tool for customers and employees.

‘Non-compliance’ forms were also developed to address stakeholder complaints/issues. Both the Director of Operations and the Dispatch Supervisor meet with various stakeholders across the region to discuss any issues that have arisen. Given that there are approximately 12,000 assignments per year with little or no complaint, it’s safe to say the centralized dispatch system, which is entering its sixth year, is proving its worth.

Gerald Tanner at work in front of the Dispatch terminal in our office.



Port at a Glance Strait of Canso

Here are a few quick facts about the Strait of Canso:

- **Number of Cape Breton District Pilots . . . 7 full-time and 1 part-time**
- **Number of assignments in 2004 . . . 1,004**
- **Types of vessels . . . tankers, paper carriers, coal**
- **On the horizon, an LNG terminal is planned**
- **The newly constructed coal berth recently came into operation**

Upcoming pilot training

April 16-17: Star Centre – AZIPOD Training; 4 pilots attending

April 23-24: Star Centre – AZIPOD Training; 4 pilots attending

April 30-May 1: Star Centre – AZIPOD Training; 3 pilots attending

May 31-June 1: Star Centre – QM2 Simulator Training; 2 pilots attending

September 5-9: Warsash, UK – Advanced Shiphandling Course; 4 pilots attending

Where are they now?

See what past APA employees are up to now...

Captain L. Marmaduke Collins, Ice Pilot (Retired) and Author

Having spent over 40 years as an ice pilot off the coasts of Newfoundland, Captain Collins was always intrigued by the Titanic and the myth surrounding the cause of the disaster. After his retirement from the APA in 1995, his fascination soon took the form of a book. "I had always wanted to write a book on the subject, to set history straight," recalls Collins. "I checked into what had already been published, and found that no mariner had ever written a book on the disaster."

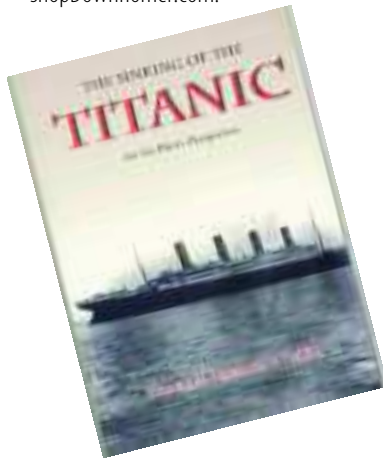
Collins applied his first-hand knowledge with years of research into the accident, including reviewing transcripts of the American and British inquiries. "What struck me is that [passengers] didn't feel the impact when the Titanic supposedly hit the iceberg. If that 50,000 ton ship had hit an iceberg at 40km/hr, they would have definitely known it!" he adds.

In 2002, his book *The Sinking of the Titanic: An Ice Pilot's Perspective* was published by Breakwater Books. Just last year, the rights

were bought by Southam Publishing in the UK, and has since re-released it under the title *The Sinking of the Titanic: The Mystery Solved*.

Presently Collins is also a marine consultant and instructor with the Centre for Marine Simulation, the School of Maritime Studies, and the Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

For a copy of Captain Collin's fascinating new interpretation of what caused the Titanic disaster, you can find his book at most local book stores and online at shopDownhomer.com.



Board Departure

Donna Pardy.

Appointed August 27, 1997 and re-appointed March 1, 2001, Ms. Pardy contributed her working knowledge of marine pilotage to the board through the expertise she gained at the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Throughout her career she has worked in many government departments and agencies, specializing in policy and regulations work. She is also actively involved in several other committees such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization for Women and the Smallwood Business Development Corporation.



Board Arrival

Douglas A. Tilley. Appointed April 18, 2005. A graduate of Memorial University (B. Comm.), he began his career with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans working on a study of fishing vessel enterprises. Mr. Tilley then became Fisheries Wartime Emergency Planning Officer for the Newfoundland Region. Before leaving public service, he was Director of Operations for the Northern Cod Assistance and Recovery Program. He was also a naval officer in the Canadian Naval Reserve Unit for 20 years. Currently, Mr. Tilley has membership in the Naval Officers Association of Canada and the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Recommendation

Anne Soucie, Chair of the APA, has been recommended for re-appointment by Transport Minister Jean-C. Lapierre. Says Mr. Lapierre, "I am very pleased to recommend that Ms. Soucie continue to serve in this leadership role with the Atlantic Pilotage Authority. Her extensive experience in administration and as a member of numerous boards and committees will be a tremendous asset for the authority."



Milestones

Congratulations are extended to **Laurie Bernasky** and her husband John on the arrival of their baby girl, Mary Jacqueline Elizabeth Steele. Born on March 5, 2005, Mary Jacqueline weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces. Laurie is a Human Resources Administrator at APA's Halifax office.

Congratulations are extended to **Tina Theoharopoulos** and her soon-to-be husband Dimitri Panopolis whose wedding is planned for September 4, 2005. Tina is a Human Resources Administrator at APA's Halifax office.

Atlantic Pilotage Authority Board

Name	Position	Date of Approval	Term	Term Expiry Date
Anne Soucie	Chair	Recommendation (recommended April 5, 2005)	1 year	To be confirmed
Douglas Tilley	Director	April 13, 2005	3 years	April 13, 2008
Capt. Torbjorn Bordevik	Director	May 7, 2002	3 years	May 7, 2005
Gerard Fitzpatrick	Director	December 6, 2004	3 years	December 6, 2007
Yvon Dufour	Director	June 3, 2003	2 years	June 3, 2005
Capt. Terence Pittman	Director	April 26, 2004	3 years	April 26, 2007
Capt. Donald Duffy	Director	February 5, 2002	3 years	February 5, 2005

Send us your news for inclusion in the next issue of *The Dispatch*. Deadline for submission is August 31, 2005.