



Small Commercial Vessel Association – Ontario Division

Website: www.safeworkboat.ca

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Newsletter #1

Winter/Spring 2013

The Small Commercial Vessel Association – Ontario Division was established in 2012 to provide a unified voice for all small commercial vessels at large in the Georgian Bay, Muskoka & Parry Sound regions, to thereby establish a true consultation process with Transport Canada. The decision was made to go Province wide, and we are happy to have members from all across Ontario. Further, we have a strong liaison with the Pacific Region Small Commercial Vessel Working Group, who have many similar challenges and together we are a strong alliance in our consultation process with Transport Canada.

The Small Commercial Vessel Association – Ontario Division strategies include an **annual conference** where members share information that impacts their industry. During this event, the issues addressed include laws and regulations commercial vessel owners must follow, insurance issues and procedures. The association also keeps members informed through an updated website www.safeworkboat.ca.

To promote the industry and its growth and challenges presented to the Association SCVA lobbies politicians about the issues vessel operators are concerned with. The organization regularly meets with Transport Canada to ensure key industry issues are addressed.

Our executive met with **Transport Canada** in the **Spring Regional CMAC** in Hamilton and at both **Federal CMAC** meetings in spring & fall in Ottawa. Concern items the SCVA brought forth to **Transport Canada in 2012** are listed on the following page and are of concern to you, as an operator of a small commercial vessel. We will continue to pursue these issues with TC.

Endorsement of the Small Commercial Vessel Association (Ontario) from the Transportation Minister, the **Honourable Denis Lebel** was sent to the **Honourable Tony Clement** stating that he “would encourage small commercial vessel operators to continue to pursue an organized engagement strategy with Transport Canada and to continue to participate in the CMAC at both the national and regional level”.

Armin Grigaitis, SCVA president met with **Tony Clement** early 2013 to discuss the need for streamlined approvals from all levels of government for **dredging** due to the low water levels on Lake Huron including Georgian Bay. The request was made to allow a more expedient approval process to allow required dredging to be completed without red tape delay. Currently dredging and shoreline structures require Provincial (MNR) and Federal (DFO) approvals which create longer review periods and legislation this is sometimes at cross purposes for work permit timing (i.e.: Fisheries Act vs. Species at Risk Act). The matter is being considered.

GREAT NEWS FOR 2013

The Small Commercial Vessel Association is pleased to announce the launch of their **Marine Insurance Program**. Preferred rates and coverage's are available to SCVA members and include Liability and Physical Damage for all your marine vessels. See the attached information for details.

Training programs for 2013 are being arranged with Georgian College for Med A-3 and SVOP training. Our courses meet the Transport Canada requirements, while focusing on items relevant to the small commercial vessel operator. See the safeworkboat.ca website for training dates.

Procedures and industry "**Best Practise**" manuals will be available spring 2013 for members to share and implement, assisting members to understand and meet the regulations required to operate a commercial vessel.

TRANSPORT CANADA 2012 – ITEMS BROUGHT FORTH FOR CONSIDERATION

- Need for relevant training & costs
Current training is costly with many irrelevant aspects of training for Small Commercial Vessel operators and based on "Big Ship" mentality
- Tug/Push boat regulation clarity
Confusion on what training & vessel requirements are required for compliance for barges
New endorsements for tugs are being offered soon, but many push boats are not considered tugs
- Red tape & understanding regulations
Many operators are ignoring legislations as they are not well informed on what is required
- Review of Sheltered waters boundaries (Ontario)
Submitted a request for extension of sheltered waters boundaries on Georgian Bay waters
- Review of Sheltered waters Time period (Ontario)
Requested the extension of timing to May 1st to November 15th annually
- CDN number issuance & required documents
Economic hardship to meet the submission requirements/location of TC offices
- CMAC representation for Small Commercial Vessel Operators
Request DVRO standing committee including SCV representation
- Blue Decal Program compliance
Vessel regulations are not understood/followed because some provisions are "Big Boat" oriented
Compliance costly for those trying to comply
- Little enforcement of requirements on the water with Commercial Vessels
Companies in compliance expend considerable expense, not enforced with other companies
- SVOP license should be increased to 15GT in Class 2 or Sheltered waters
Operators may under power their vessel or push boat in order to avoid Masters Limited training costs, which are extensive
- TC's cancellation of vessel inspections
High costs to hire surveyors to complete the inspections
Lack of surveyors willing to verify compliance
- PCOC License easily attained without actual compliance
Unqualified/unskilled operators of commercial or personal vessels cause a potential risk to other vessels on the waterways

Small Commercial Vessel Association – Marine Insurance Program

The Small Commercial Vessel Association is pleased to announce the launch of their **Marine Insurance Program**. Preferred rates and coverage's are available to SCVA members and include Liability and Physical Damage for all your marine vessels.

The insurance program is being offered through **Lackner McLennan Insurance** who has both the knowledge and expertise to provide you with the right coverage at the right price.

Some of the highlights of the program include:

- **Barges, Tugs, Work Boats, Air Boats and more**
- **Sudden & Accidental Pollution Liability**
- **Claim Protection on First Claim**
- **10% Member Discount and**
- **5% Member Continuity Bonus** (based on individual member's claims experience)

This is a member benefit exclusively for SCVA members.

Our contact at Lackner McLennan is **Tim Pawlowski**
And he can be reached at **1-800-265-2625 ext. 314**
or by email at tpawlowski@lmicanada.com

Give him a call to arrange for your no obligation quote.

Just a reminder.....

Construction workboats are eligible for a rebate on gas tax

Check out the details on the Service Canada:
Ontario Gasoline Tax Refund Program

We would like to thank our 2012 members for their support in our first year of learning the ropes! We hope you will join us for an exciting 2013.

2012 Members

- * A & A Services and Marine Contracting Ltd
Brandy's Island Marina Inc.
Chantler Barging Ltd.
- *Coulson Bros. Scow Service
- *Craganmor Point Resort Inc.
- *DRB Property Management & Contracting
Georgian Bay Landing Inc.
*Granite Claims
Hall Construction Inc.
Harbor Vue Marina Limited
Henderson Homes
John Griffiths
Muskoka Septic Services
Nordecap Steel Docks Inc.
Northshore Barge & Marine Ltd.
Northshore Roofing Ltd.
Paul Gerow Construction
PJ's Cottage Care and Maintenance
Richard Robitaille Construction Ltd.
Rieger Contracting & Dockside Welding
Rockscape Design
Rose Point Contracting
Severn Cottage Services Inc.
Severn Falls Marina & Metal Works Inc.
Sixth Great Lake Marine Service
Stratus Construction Muskoka
The Crew Docks & Barging
- *Uncharted Waters Consulting Services
- *White Contracting & Barging
Wood's Landing

*Denotes Member is on the Executive Committee

2013 Membership fees are now due.

Cost for returning members: \$200

Cost for new members: \$250

Please see our website for membership forms (enter the link) below:

http://safeworkboat.ca/files/5213/5906/1249/REGISTRATION_FORM_2013.pdf