

The Canadian Maritime Law Association



L'Association Canadienne de Droit Maritime

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 19, 2011

To the Directors of the Association:

The following will serve as my report.

I represented the CMLA by accepting an invitation to appear as a head table guest at the Marine Club Dinner in Toronto on January 15, 2010.

As your President on May 6, 2010 I attended the General Assembly at the Spring meeting in New York City of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and attended the annual dinner as a guest of the MLAUS.

I was invited to and did address the semi-annual meeting of the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters held in Montreal in May 2010. At that time I was asked to introduce one of the speakers, Commander Steven Waddell of the Royal Canadian Navy who had just returned to Canada after having been in command of HMCS FREDERICTON in the Arabian Gulf and Horn of Africa area for some 6-8months.

A CMLA maritime law seminar and the Annual General Meeting of our association was held in Halifax on June 3 and 4, 2010 respectively. The maritime law seminar was a tremendous success and I once again express my most sincere appreciation and thanks on behalf of all members of CMLA to A. William Moreira, QC, chair of the seminar committee, his very able committee members Sandra Attersley and Matthew Williams, as well as all of the speakers for their contributions in organizing the event and their exceptional presentations. Both the seminar and the AGM, as well as the luncheon following the annual meeting were very well attended and most successful. There will not be a seminar coinciding with the Annual General Meeting in June 2011 due to the

need to organize other events during the course of the year, including the 25th Silver Anniversary meeting of CMLA with representatives of government, as well as a Federal Court Judges' Seminar in April of this year. I sincerely hope, however, that the recently initiated tradition of organizing seminars to coincide with our annual meetings can be maintained as they are most informative, educational and provide an excellent opportunity for social discourse between CMLA members.

On April 7, 2010 a dinner was hosted at the Rideau Club in Ottawa by members of the Executive of the CMLA and Judges of both the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal. This dinner has become a tradition over the years and has been held the evening before the annual meeting of CMLA and government representatives. It is very much anticipated and enjoyed by those CMLA representatives in attendance and the justices of the Courts themselves. Save exceptional circumstances, the Chief Justices of each Court are in attendance. On the following day, our annual meeting with representatives of Transport Canada, The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada and the Transportation Safety Board was held. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Kristine Burr, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Transport Canada and your President. Considerable preparation was undertaken in the weeks prior to the meeting by Jerry Rysanek and Genevieve St-Amour of Transport Canada and a number of CMLA representatives, including your President, Christopher J. Giaschi, our Secretary-Treasurer Robert Wilkins, our Immediate Past President, Michael J. Bird and several CMLA members who made presentations, including Shelly Chapelski, Gordon Hearn, Marc Gauthier, William Sharpe, David Colford, John O'Connor and Tom Hart to whom I am indebted.

As one might expect the three hour morning session was most successful and was followed by a luncheon at the Rideau Club at which Tim Keane of Fednav Limited acted as the luncheon speaker on the subject of Arctic shipping. The luncheon was followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors of CMLA,

In October 2010 I had the honour of leading the Canadian delegation at the CMI Colloquium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Our delegation was one of the largest, but we certainly could not compete with our colleagues from the China Maritime Law Association the delegation of which consisted of some 26 people. The colloquium was well attended, although there was a significant presence of members of South American National Maritime Law Associations as one might expect. My thanks to Cecily Strickland for her contribution with respect to issues discussed concerning a possible new Protocol to the Salvage Convention and to William Sharpe with respect to the Judicial Sale of Ships.

At the CMI General Assembly in Buenos Aires, the Executive of CMI made it very clear that it is very seriously exploring ways to make CMI more relevant to maritime law practitioners on a day-to-day basis and, in doing so, it is extremely mindful of financial restraint to which many, if not most of the national maritime law associations are subject. In consequence, CMI is taking serious and concrete steps to minimize its own expenses, including limited face-to-face meetings of the executive, a greater number of meetings by

way of teleconference or videoconference and so forth. It has actively sought suggestions from NMLA's as to changes they would like to see in the CMI as an organization and CMI has explored increasing not only its stature as a world leader in the development of International Conventions relating to maritime law, but also as a business and social networking entity. I anticipate that CMI will transform itself and become much more relevant to its member associations and CMLA members themselves over the course of the next few years.

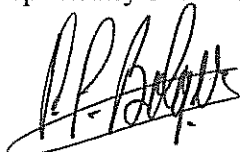
I accepted an invitation to represent our Association at the head table of the Grunt Club Annual Dinner in Montreal on December 3, 2010. The presence of the president of our Association at the head table of the Grunt Club has become a tradition since I served as President of that Club in 1997 and one which I am confident will continue long into the future. The event is unique and affords an excellent opportunity for not only the President of our Association but its members to interface with our colleagues and members of the shipping community both nationally and internationally, as well as to promote our Association.

Again this year I have accepted an invitation to represent the CMLA at the head table of the Marine Club Dinner to be held in Toronto on Friday evening January 21, 2011.

I wish to remind all members that the 25th Annual Silver Anniversary meeting of CMLA and government representatives will be held in Ottawa on April 14, 2011. The CMLA will be holding a seminar for judges of the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa on April 15, 2011 at the Chateau Laurier hotel. Arrangements are well in hand for this seminar under the chairmanship of M. Robert Jette, QC with the invaluable assistance of David Colford. The seminar promises to be an extremely informative undertaking and I encourage all CMLA members to register and attend if at all possible, particularly our younger and student members.

Finally, I also wish to remind everyone that our Annual General Meeting will be held in Quebec City on June 3, 2011. This will be the 60th anniversary of CMLA and will be celebrated by a gala dinner at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel. Please reserve the date and I warmly welcome as many members as possible to participate. We are fortunate to have a vibrant and active Association and this will afford a terrific opportunity for us all to celebrate the creation of CMLA and to explore and enjoy beautiful Quebec City. The organization of both the AGM and the celebrations are well in hand by John O'Connor to whom I express my sincere thanks for his tremendous contributions in respect of this particular event and as Quebec Vice-President.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Jeremy Bolger', written over a horizontal line.

P. Jeremy Bolger,
President