

The Canadian Maritime Law Association



L'Association Canadienne de Droit Maritime

Website: www.cmla.org

P. Jeremy Bolger, President

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 900
Montreal, QC H3B 5H4
Tel: 514-954-3119 Fax: 514-954-1905
E-mail: jbolger@blgcanada.com

Robert C. Wilkins, Secretary-Treasurer

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 900
Montreal, QC H3B 5H4
Tel: (514) 954-3184 Fax: (514) 954-1905
E-mail: rwilkins@blgcanada.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 3, 2011

To the Members of the Association:

This will serve as my report as President since our last Annual General Meeting in Halifax June 2010.

It has been my honour and distinct pleasure to serve as your President since June 2009. During that time and shortly prior thereto I have had the good fortune of representing the Canadian Maritime Law Association both nationally and internationally, having presided over a number of meetings domestically and attending more internationally, including meetings in London, New York and Buenos Aires to name but a few. During that time I have represented our Association on several occasions at conferences and seminars, annual meetings of other associations and annual gatherings, including those of the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters, the Maritime Law Association of the United States, the Marine Club at its annual dinners in Toronto, the Grunt Club Inc. at its annual dinners in Montreal and various meetings of our own Association in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax. It is with some considerable regret that during my term as President I was unable to attend meetings or visit the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, but I remain optimistic that I shall be able to do so in a different capacity in the near future.

As has been customary in the past, our Association has organized open meetings across the country which have proved to be both extremely interesting and educational, aside from giving members an opportunity to meet with one another in a social context.

The Canadian Maritime Law Association has continued to host dinners annually for Judges of the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal to enhance and better understand the very valuable and cherished relationship between the three institutions.

Similarly, and very importantly, our Association has maintained its very close relationship with our friends South of the border, the Maritime Law Association of the United States, representatives of whom are with us here today and who very graciously proposed that our Association join with the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand to participate in the winter meetings of the MLAUS in Hawaii in December of this year.

We also continued to host our annual meeting with representatives of the Government of Canada from Transport Canada, Environment Canada, The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Transportation Safety Board and the Administrator of the Ship Source Oil Pollution Fund, our own former secretary-treasurer Alfred E. Popp, Q.C. Those meetings have always been followed by a luncheon hosted by the Association at which we have had guest speakers from the shipping industry, including Allister Patterson, former president of Seaway Marine Transport, Tim Keane of Fednav Limited and Michael H. Board, the President of the Shipping Federation of Canada, with a view of, among other things having our friends and government better understand and appreciate the concerns and objectives of the merchant shipping industry.

Save this year, we have offered a seminar to members and non-members alike on developments in maritime law. This year has been somewhat different as, in conjunction with the National Judicial Institute, the Canadian Maritime Law Association organized a full day seminar in Ottawa at the request of the Chief Justices of the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal which was open to all members of the Association and was enhanced by the strong participation of the majority of judges from both Courts, as well as their judicial and administrative staff. That seminar was organized principally by M. Robert Jetté Q.C. of Saint John, New Brunswick as the primary CMLA representative, together with assistance from David Colford of Montreal, Quebec. That event and the requisite detailed preparations for our 60th Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner Dance undertaken by our secretary-treasurer Robert C. Wilkins of Montreal and John G. O'Connor were such that the organization of a maritime law seminar this year would simply have put too much strain on the resources of our tireless volunteers.

It has been a singular pleasure to represent the Canadian Maritime Law Association and all of its members over the past few years particularly at the Colloquium organized by the Comité Maritime International at Buenos Aires, Argentina last Autumn. Issues such as the Rotterdam Rules, proposed amendments to the Salvage Convention and Piracy were discussed and debated and I am proud to say that our Association took a leading role in many of these discussions as it did at the CMI conference in Athens in October 2008.

Acting as your President has offered me the opportunity to develop new relationships with friends both in Canada and abroad and, of course, to strengthen those that already existed.

I am both very pleased and proud to report that our Association is vibrant and remains in good health as far as both membership and finances are concerned.

I wish to express my thanks to the Executives of the Association, the Directors, Committee Chairs and volunteer members for their contributions over the past twelve months in particular

and I know that I step down from my position as President assured by the fact that our Association will continue to develop and improve and be guided by the experience and wisdom of my successor and the incoming Board of Directors.

In closing, I wish to thank each member of the Association for their confidence and support and for allowing me to serve as your President.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Jeremy Bolger". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

P. Jeremy Bolger
President

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