



**Boats Chair Annual Report
Ottawa Branch Navy League of Canada:
2018-2019**

Chairperson: Luis Matos

PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVE 2018-2019

General:

- Provide cadets a safe environment allowing:
 - Opportunities to sail,
 - Develop lifelong skills of teamwork and preparedness through experiences on the work boat and sailing program.
 - Learn to operate work boat and safely use canoes.
- Maintain all watercraft in safe condition of repair and compliant with Navy League of Canada (NLC) direction.
- Remain cognisant of and a participant of decisions directed toward:
 - Annual canal fees,
 - Transport fees to/from winter storage,
 - Winter storage fees and
 - Storage yard maintenance package costs.

Specific:

- Need more personnel trained and qualified to operate Howard motor work boat.
- Obtain suitable replacement for Boston whaler.
- Maintenance program for Howard to achieve future economic viability.
 - This is to include survey of steering system, bilge cleanliness and charging system.
- Dispose of Boston Whale and downsize assets lacking usefulness and training value.
 - This includes stripping whaler of useable items (steering, motor, cabling and stainless-steel railing).
- Canoe instructor courses should be made available to achieve a higher potential for the canoes use.
- Need radio equipment and personnel qualified to operate them.
- Properly recorded Boat checklists (operations and safety equipment) that cadets can follow and learn from.

COMMENTS OF ACHIEVEMENT STATUS

- Maintenance of Howard has been on the forefront to achieve a safe craft and environment for cadets to learn, enjoy and have fun with water activities. This has involved some costly maintenance to the undercoating and power systems that should increase future economical use. It went through an extensive below the waterline recoating with antifouling finishes. This expensive work that was deemed necessary as damages were beginning to compromise the integrity of the hull. Scratches and the appearance of cracks found in the hull prior to the

undercoating were investigated and were found to be normal wear and tear but not showstoppers that affected the HOWARD's integrity or safety.

- A general survey was conducted to have a better overall knowledge of the condition of the boat, its storage arrangements during winter months and regular maintenances conducted by third person service providers.
- Have obtained a propeller guard for 50hp should that motor become useful for alternate boat. NLC directed requirement to use guards on most motor propelled for safety considerations effective Apr 2019.
- New batteries acquired to replace failed items on work boat.

RECOMMENDATIONS, ISSUES AND CONCERN FOR 2019-2020 OBJECTIVES SPECIFIC TO:

General:

- Train more personnel to properly operate the work boat and any future watercraft to maintain a safe environment for cadets and to ensure long service life of assets.
- Ensure adherence to “Cadet Program Interim Activity Safety Guidance” document. This includes providing safety equipment in good working order and following applicable recommendations and procedures as outlined in the document.

Howard:

- Repair and replace wooden components in steering system that are showing signs of wear and tear.
- Inspect and correct defects with charging system. We do not want battery failure next year coming from storage.
- We have some spare parts available that can be used as preventative replacements rather than corrective repairs if needed.
- Purchase and install VHF radio (if required), making it easily removable at the end of the day for security. A VHF licence for its operation is required. That may mean courses if applicable.
- Inspect and clean bilge to track any issues that may be hiding under floorboards.
- Effort to relocate the exhaust to another area, such as the stern, were found to be labour intensive and extremely expensive. Other reasonable options are being explored.

Whaler replacement:

- At time of this report, we are still seeking a reasonable solution to replace the Boston whaler. It is not just another craft to train on as it is intended this be the safety boat for Howard and canoeing operations. Consideration to storage, maintenance and operating costs must factor in to purchase decision. Cost caps need to be stated to refine the market search for its replacement. Some opportunities pursued have fallen through as other buyers were quicker to purchase items of interest. Its replacement is becoming a concern.

Canoes:

- The canoes need some light maintenance and a proper storage rack with securing features. We need to train more canoe instructors and increase involvement of cadets. Dows Lake provides an excellent venue for canoeing adventures but safety around locks and water control dams require extra awareness and know how.

SUMMARY**HOWARD:**

The HOWARD is the workhorse for training and the main focus of the summer program at this time. The costs of transport, storage and maintenance program are an expensive regular expense that may have to be absorbed annually or some options will need to be researched. Any effort to save in these areas is a benefit to the branch and corps alike.

BOSTON WHALER:

The Boston whaler has been compromised (waterlogged) and is no longer covered under our vessel (afloat) insurance. Next step is to strip it of all useful items and dispose of the hull. A replacement has not been found yet.

CANOES:

Can't emphasize the fact that we have these resources and they are under-utilized due to lack of trained personnel and willingness to use them. Dows Lake is a prime area for their use that most other corps would be envious of.

Luis Matos
Boats Chair
June 2019