

BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Dale Buckley

We are coming up to our third annual general meeting (May 9, 2000), a good time to consider our accomplishments and goals. Our now well-established association has a growing membership and activities list. The excellent newsletter is improving and expanding with each edition. We have an active social program that is providing an opportunity for members to meet and enjoy each other's company. Our growing list of projects can challenge members to participate in contributing to projects that will lead to a greater recognition of BIO and the people who made this institution a national treasure.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the first recipient of the Beluga Recognition Award (see articles on pages 7 and 8). It was a great challenge to select this honouree from among the excellent list of nominees that were made, and we are looking forward to recognizing these nominees as well as others in future years. We are hopeful that many of the BIO-OA members, as well as staff and friends, will attend the Annual General Meeting where the award will be formally announced [see last page].

There are a number of projects that are underway and need participation by BIO-OA members. The BIO Library has possession of a large number of photographs that have not been catalogued or properly identified. Our members can be a tremendous help in identifying the subjects and people in these photographs. Please contact Clive Mason if you think you can help. We are fostering an effort to document the history of some of the ships that worked on BIO projects. If you are willing to help in this effort, please let us know. Next fall, there will be a BIO Open House and we are asking members to help with this very popular public relations activity. We are considering participation in this Open House by having a booth that will feature BIO-OA and our projects. If you are willing to participate, please let Bob Reiniger know.

I am very grateful for the excellent support and help I have received from the executive of BIO-OA over the past year. They have all worked very diligently to see that our association is vibrant and enjoyable. I look forward to continued success in the coming year.

WHEN IN FLORIDA, DON'T MISS MOUNT DORA

By Jackie Dale

For those of you who have plans to go to Orlando and Disney World (with or without grandchildren), a day in Mount Dora makes for a pleasant side trip. Located 25 miles northwest of Orlando, just off Route 441, the town of Mount Dora is a Mecca for antique enthusiasts, and is said to have more varied antique dealers per square foot than any other place in Florida. Shoppers will be delighted with the medley of gift shops, fashion boutiques, art galleries, and cafes – all within walking distance of each other.

Most of the shops are open every day of the week. Special events throughout the year include art-and-craft festivals, spring-and-fall bicycle meets and auto shows, a sailing regatta, and the very special Christmas "Lighting of Mount Dora". Offerings to culture enthusiasts include live theatre, concerts and recitals, gallery openings, and ongoing exhibitions.

Comfortable B & Bs and several inns and lodges provide enjoyable overnight accommodation, and the cafes and restaurants are excellent. Regardless of how long you want to spend in this beautiful little town, a trip to Mount Dora can provide a welcome change of pace in what might be otherwise a very busy holiday.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Betty Anderson

Membership increased by 12, and 12 did not renew, giving a total of 139 for this fiscal year, 2000/01. Since the January newsletter we welcome our fifth life member, Richard Haworth, and our latest new member, Paul Brodie.

Membership fees for 2001/02 are due April 30. If your membership card shows an earlier expiry date, renewals can be made at the Annual General Meeting on May 9th, or mailed to me at 79 Flamingo Drive, Halifax, NS, B3M 1T2, cheques made payable to the BIO Oceans Association. Fees are \$5.00 per year, \$25.00 for five years and \$100.00 for life membership. Seventy-three have already renewed for 2001/02.

We are still trying for new members. We haven't received much response from the membership, and would truly appreciate receiving names and addresses of your co-workers. Also, kindly advise if you have a change in address, phone number and e-mail.

SPRING FLING 2001

Our spring social was held on Saturday, March 24, in the Hospitality Room at Admiralty Place, Prince Street, Dartmouth. In a very pleasant and casual setting, members enjoyed bridge, 45s or cribbage, while several others used the time to chat. Finger food was available, supplied on a potluck basis. Coffee and soft drinks were supplied, and members were free to bring other beverages as desired. Thanks are extended to Clive and Liz Mason through whose efforts we were able to use such comfortable premises. Thanks also to Don and Sharon Locke for their efforts. It was again a fun evening, but not as well attended as we would have liked. Any ideas for future socials would be welcome.

BIO CALENDAR 2001

By Jackie Dale

A limited number of copies of a BIO calendar were produced and placed on sale in the BIO shop early this year. Although Art Cosgrove is known to say that other people have had input, the calendar is really his baby.

With only a vague idea in his mind, Art began to examine pictures of people, structures, and equipment, spreading them out on his work table. He was unprepared for the interest they generated from clients and visitors to his office. His creative juices began to flow, a more concrete idea was conceived, and, after several weeks involving many hours of work, a really terrific calendar took form.

Many of the photographs used in the collages created were taken by Roger Belanger, who was always combing BIO for human interest shots, as well as those he took to historically record and promote the science carried out both within the Institute and on board the BIO research ships. Art made every effort to create a good balance of group pictures from the massive number in storage at BIO.

The chronology for the calendar was provided by Anna Fiander through the BIO library archives. As Art says "The material was all collated and even typed, so all I really had to do was cut and paste".

As far as the creation of any future calendars is concerned, Art would certainly be very interested, but he would need a crew of volunteers to help sort through the mountain of photographic material available. Anyone interested? If so, please call Art – he will keep your name and you *will* be called. His phone number is 426-3494.

BIO-OA MEMBER TO RECEIVE HONOURARY DOCTORATE

In June of this year, Dr. Ying Wang, our member in China, will receive an Honourary Doctorate from the University of Waterloo. Ying is presently a professor at Nanning University, where she is also Director of the Coastal Studies Unit. Ying was the first Chinese woman scientist to visit Canada after the Maoist government was formed. Her work with the Atlantic Geoscience Centre and Dalhousie University involved research in sediment texture and deep sea radioactive waste.

She was responsible for setting up the first visits of Canadian scientists to China during the Maoist regime. The first of these scientists was Gus Vilks, the second, our President, Dale Buckley.

Ying also helped establish cooperative projects between China and CIDA. She is a past *Chinese Woman of the Year*. Those who know her well admire her not only for the scope and quality of her research, but also for her friendly, cooperative, and effervescent nature.

Her last professional visit to Canada was in 1994, when she attended the Coastal Zone Canada Conference, held in Halifax at the World Trade and Convention Centre. She has two daughters who live in North America, one in Canada, one in the United States.

Sincere congratulations go out to Ying Wang, an outstanding example of global womanhood.

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY

- We extend our sincere congratulations to Stefan ("Steve") Michael Blasco, who was recently named a Member of the Order of Canada, the first BIO scientist or staff member to be so honoured. Steve, a marine geophysicist with the Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), is well known, among other things, for his Arctic and polar research and for his excellence as a public lecturer and promoter of science. Steve served as a science advisor and accompanied the expedition aboard the Russian oceanographic vessel *Keldish* and its Mir submersibles that were used in filming the IMAX motion picture "Titanica".
- The next BIO Open House will be held October 11-14, 2001, and the BIO Oceans Association will be there. Last time some of our members provided general assistance with the overall event and some of our emeritus members helped to staff displays. This time we will be providing the same sort of assistance and we are considering having our own display. All members are invited to join our BIO Open House Team.!
- Members may wish to note that our Treasurer Betty Anderson has joined the cyber revolution: she can now be reached at bettyvanderson@hotmail.com as well as by more traditional means. (Reliable sources also report that this not her only plunge into the computer world: Betty is currently learning WordPerfect in her role as a volunteer at the Rockingham Community Centre.
- Members may wish to get a copy of the latest "BIO Review" which will soon be available. Among the articles of interest is one on the BIO Oceans Association written by President Buckley: it appears on pages 61-62. Copies will soon be available from the BIO library and also from the editor, Dianne Geddes (426-8487).

OBITUARIES

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of the following friends and colleagues. At this time, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to families and friends.

Theodore James "Ted" Corbett, 73, Lower Sackville, passed away suddenly March 14 in the QEII Health Sciences Centre. Ted worked for ten years with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources at BIO. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Helen Rita (Campbell), sons Michael and Tony, and daughter Patti.

Captain Claude Kenneth Darrach, 97, MBE, died in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building on August 5, 2000, at the age of 97. Captain Darrach's entire career involved the sea, as a crew member of the *Bluenose* during her racing years; an employee of DFO; a member of the RCN(R) 1940-46; and finally with DND. He is survived by his daughters Jean, Ruth, and Carol.

Captain John Neville Lewis, 66, died at his home in Bedford on February 4, 2001. His career covered periods with Cunard Lines, the Royal Naval Reserve (RD), and for the last 20 years, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (*CSS Baffin* and *CSS Hudson*). He is sadly missed by his wife Rita Olivia, two sons Julian and Giles and daughter Sara.

Ed Lischenski, 66, one of our members, passed away on Sunday, March 3, in Winnipeg. Ed joined the federal public service in 1956, and spent the next 36 years with the Canadian Hydrographic Service. We are told that Ed considered himself fortunate to be able to spend 18 of these years at BIO, where he made many friends, and pursued his two main hobbies, carpentry and cooking. Many of you may remember Ed as a past contributor to our newsletter.

Stan Lord, 88, passed away in December 2000. Stan was coxswain on the *CSS Hudson* for ten years. Upon retirement, he moved back to his native Prince Edward Island. Stan was predeceased by his wife Emma.

R. Bruce Pinsent, 52, died suddenly at Shubie Park in Dartmouth on March 25, 2001. Throughout his career, Bruce worked with the RCMP, BIO and Achaean Resources. He is survived by his daughter Ashley.

Ralph Savoury passed away on January 17, 2001 in the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. He fished the banks off Lunenburg, worked for National Sea Products in Louisbourg, and on the research ships of the Bedford Institute. He is survived by his wife Eleanor, son William, and daughters Frances and Helen.

Ronald Nicholson Sinclair, 68, Dartmouth, passed away at the QEII, July 25, 2000. Ron was a member of the Royal Canadian Navy for 31 years, after which he worked as a commissionaire at the Bedford Institute. He is survived by his wife, Helen (MacFarlane), daughter Debra Ann and son Charles James.

John Westwood Watt, 88, died at the Veterans' Memorial Building, QEII, on July 30, 2000. He was a member of the Canadian Army 1942-46, then joined the Department of Fisheries. He became Acting Deputy Minister of Fisheries in 1973, and retired in 1976. He is mourned by his wife Clara, stepson Peter and stepdaughter Penny.

Captain Ernest Joseph Wilson, 88, passed away recently in Yarmouth, N.S. Capt. Wilson joined the Canadian Hydrographic Service in 1953 and served on CSS Hudson and CSS Fort Francis. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Myrtle.

Sea Quotes

"For whatever we lose (like a you or a me) it's always ourselves we find in the sea."

E.E. Cummings, US poet, 1894-1962. From "maggie and milly and molly and may".

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"The Mediterranean has the colour of mackerel, changeable I mean. You don't always know if it is green or violet, you can't even say it's blue, because the next moment the changing reflection has taken on a tint of rose or gray."

Vincent van Gogh, Dutch painter, 1853-90. From a June 1888 letter to his brother Theo..

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"It is easier to sail many thousand miles through cold and storm and cannibals, in a government ship, with 500 men and boys to assist one, than it is to explore the private sea, the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean of one's being alone...It is not worth the while to go round the world to count the cats in Zanzibar."

Henry David Thoreau, US philosopher, author, and naturalist, 1817-62. From "Walden 'Conclusion'", 1854.

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EAGLE WATCH 2001

By Jackie Dale and Michael Latrémouille

On Saturday, January 27, a group of us took advantage of a cold but sunny winter's day to attend the 10th Annual (and our first) Eagle Watch in Sheffield Mills in the heart of the Annapolis Valley. Each year at about this time, farmers in this area spread chicken parts, and sometimes whole chickens, on their fields. This draws thousands of birds including the majestic bald eagle, as well hundreds of people

who come to learn about, photograph, and observe the birds at various points overlooking farmer's fields along the highways and byways in this neck of the woods.

The starting point for this event is a church hall in Sheffield Mills where a pancake breakfast served by local scouts and volunteers can be purchased on the main level and, on the second level of the building, a display on eagles complete with preserved specimens of various kinds of birds can be enjoyed. Local bird enthusiasts are on hand to give tips on how to distinguish juvenile and adult bald eagles on the wing (the latter have much whiter undersides) and to answer questions. It was from them we learned that there were about 530 bald eagles in the area this year. The estimate is made by a wildlife biologist from data collected by a group of 4 or 5 volunteers who count the eagles seen in a few places over the same 1-2 hour period on the same day. Most of the eagles in this area fly here for the winter from their summer home in Cape Breton (making them true snowbirds). In captivity, bald eagles have life spans approaching 30 years but in the wild, where they fall victim to injuries much more easily, they generally live only 10-12 years.

On our outing, we saw a few dozen eagles, but not so many as we had hoped. This may have been because the eagles we saw were clearly vexed at having to compete with the large number of other birds for the chicken, notably the more nimble gulls and crows. Nonetheless, we thoroughly enjoyed the day and the company, and several of us took some photos for our scrapbooks. [If you decide to take in Eagle Watch 2002, note that we found that a very powerful telephoto lens of probably 300 mm or greater is needed to focus in on individual eagles in a farmer's field!]

We all met for lunch at the King's Arms in Kentville. It was good to be able to chat with Florrie and Rick Meadwell, two of our members who now live in Kingston and who invited us to visit them sometime during the upcoming summer months.

After lunch, we took advantage of an invitation to tea, extended to the whole group by Pat and Roger Pocklington, who have recently returned from an extended stay in Bermuda and who now reside in Wolfville. Pat and Roger were most gracious hosts in their beautiful new home – it was the culmination of a perfect day. A heartfelt thanks to both of them for making us so welcome.

Many of us will no doubt want to take in the Eagle Watch another year. We would hope then to see the larger masses of eagles that some people have reported, but in any case a trip like this with friends is always welcome. We hope you can join us next time!

GENESIS OF BELUGA RECOGNITION AWARD

In 1999 the idea of a BIO recognition award was first conceived to pay tribute to those who had contributed their talents and work to making BIO a successful and well recognized oceanographic institute. At the BIO OA Annual General Meeting in May 2000 this concept was presented to the membership for approval of the draft criteria for selection of any person who had worked or was still working at BIO. The membership approved the general concept, with the executive given the responsibility to select an appropriate symbol to be presented to a person chosen to receive the award.

During the summer and fall of 2000 work was begun on choosing a symbol of the awards. Initial thoughts were that the symbol should have a well-recognized association with oceanography. It was also desirable that this symbol be as "Canadian" as possible. Dr. Paul Brodie was asked to develop ideas for a model of a marine fish or animal that would serve this purpose. He readily selected the beluga whale as an ideal marine mammal that could be used. It was hoped that the symbol could be made as a work of art that would be proudly displayed in the home of any award winner. Paul made a model of a beluga whale that was about 11 inches (28 cm) long. This model was formed in clay and baked. Paul, who is an expert on the beluga (he did his PhD on this animal) formed the whale so that its head was turned slightly; a feature that represents a unique ability of this species of cetacean.

The next step was to find a material and technique for fabricating the beluga that could be used for presentation. A molding and casting technique was most desirable in order to preserve the details of the model made by Paul Brodie. Several fabrication companies were contacted to see if they could fabricate from the



model. Only one firm was willing to attempt a mold and cast of such a large item; Amos Pewter of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. They had never attempted such a large item in all of their casting experience. Part of the problem was to make a large mold of silicon-rubber and then to get molten pewter to flow uniformly into all extremities of the mold. The second problem would be to have the metal cool in the mold at uniform rates so that no changes in crystal sizes would form. After several attempts they were successful in producing a prototype and a production item that weighed about 6 lbs (2.7 kg). The final step in the whale fabrication was to achieve a satin polish finish on the pewter.

In some respects there were additional difficulties in finding a suitable stand on which to mount the pewter beluga whale. Again several companies were consulted for ideas and materials. It was desirable, if possible, to mount the beluga in such a way that it could be picked up from the support stand and could be examined in all aspects. It was finally decided that a black granite base would be used to complement the metallic luster of the pewter. An acrylic support was attached to the granite to raise the whale above the base. The weight of the pewter whale on the acrylic support would provide sufficient stability to the entire piece. The base and support are fabricated by Atlantex Creative Works, East Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia.

Ten productions of the beluga will be made to provide awards for the next ten years.

BELUGA RECOGNITION AWARD

With great pleasure we announce that Roger Belanger will be the first recipient of the BIO-OA Beluga Recognition Award. Roger's contributions to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography embody many ideal characteristics envisioned in the criteria for this award.

Roger, who hales from Nouvelle, Gaspé, Quebec, began a career interest in photography after joining the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1955. He worked with photo reconnaissance units in the military for 11 years before coming to join the photographic unit at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in 1966. In the words of Roger's nominator for this award, (Roger) "went well and way beyond his official duties – both during work hours and outside them." This characteristic was exhibited in numerous research projects for which he provided photographic records, archives, and technical documentation. Some examples of the diversity of projects in which Roger was involved serve to highlight his contributions. Early oceanographic expeditions included a HUDSON voyage to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and a multidisciplinary project in the Caribbean. In his first decade at BIO Roger expanded his photographic techniques to include applications using scuba equipment. For this application Roger had to qualify as a diver.

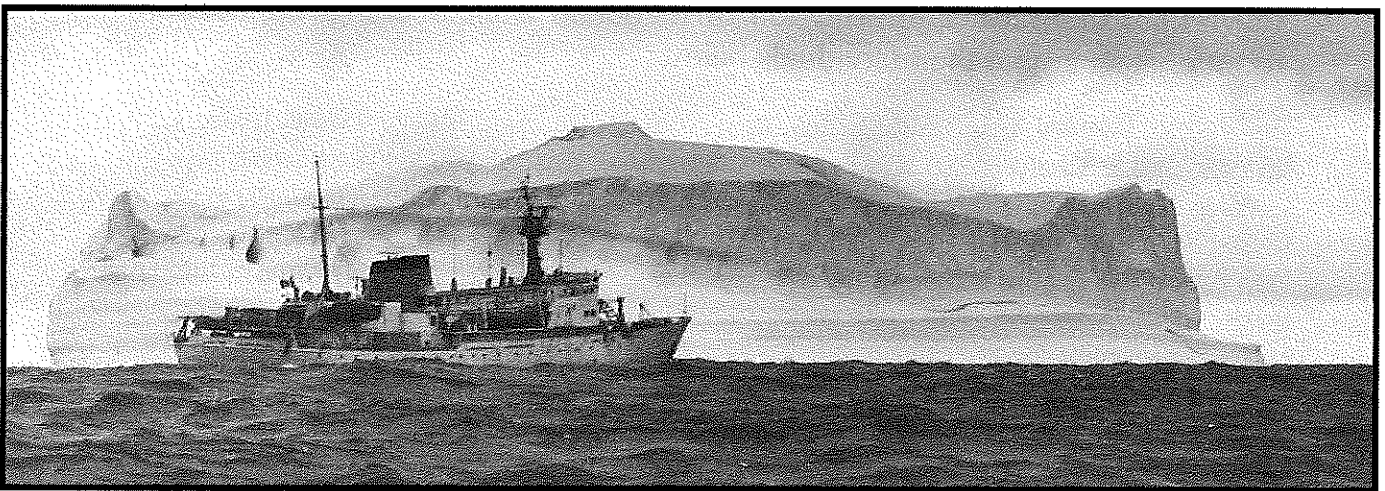
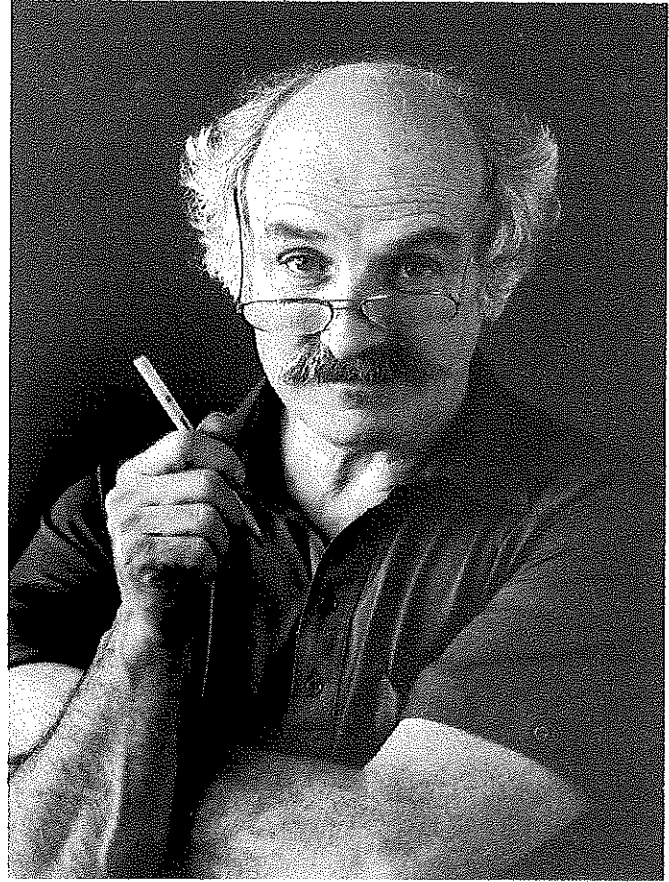
After the major oil spill from the tanker ARROW in Chedabucto Bay in 1970, Roger was involved in photographic documentation of the immediate impact of the spill, as well as follow up studies over the next two decades. He was also instrumental in developing photographic techniques for sampling programs in the Canso Strait Environmental Marine Geology Study in 1973. Studies of sediment dynamics in the Magdalen Islands (1975-76) and Martinique Beach were enhanced by photographic contributions of Roger.

Other expeditions and projects took Roger on many trips far from the BIO base. He was a participant in the HUDSON '70 Expedition from Hershel Island in the Beaufort Sea in Resolute Bay. In 1974 he was with CSS *Baffin* in the Guyana hydrographic survey. Roger's several Arctic experiences included expeditions with CSS *Hudson* and *Baffin* in 1977, 1978, and 1980. An expedition without ships was a pioneering survey of the Arctic Ocean from an ice camp on the LOREX experiments (1979) where Roger worked with Norm Fenerty to develop a system to lower and recover deep-sea cameras through the ice. Roger was also involved in a successful expedition to photograph the sunken hull of the *Breadalbane*.

Roger made a number of innovative contributions to oceanographic photography and TV imaging using scuba. He was involved in developing photographic and electronic imaging technology from submarines and remote operated submersibles, such as the SDL deployed from the *Cormorant*. He helped to develop a photographic system for remotely monitoring sediment movement in intertidal areas of the Bay of Fundy using a tethered balloon. In the later years of his career he developed a photographic system to be used on Coast Guard helicopters to document coastal features, oil spills, coastal erosion, and sewage effluents.

Not all of Roger's contributions were strictly scientific or technical. He has an artist's eye for aesthetic aspects and has provided much evidence of his talents in photography now found around BIO and in treasured memories of many who have worked at BIO. His sense of humor is a topic of many tales of BIO folklore.

Roger has worked with BIO staff from all organizational units and all scientific and technical disciplines. He was a positive influence for cooperation and success that enhanced the concept of this oceanographic institute. Roger retired in 1991 to devote his time to his estate in Grand Desert (near Lawrencetown, N.S.) where he makes wine, grows vegetables and enjoys his dogs. He also devotes time to assembling his personal photographic memoirs of his career at BIO.



The CSS *Hudson* in front of an iceberg. Photo by Roger Belanger.

YOU ARE INVITED

Our Brd Annual General Meeting will be held on
May 9, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. in the BIO Main Auditorium.
The BIO-OA Beluga Recognition Award to Roger Belanger will be formally
announced at the meeting. Come see the beautiful Beluga sculpture
especially designed for the award. Hope to see you there.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association [L'Association des amis de l'océan de l'Institut océanographique de Bedford] was established in 1998 to foster the continued fellowship of its members; to help preserve, in cooperation with the Institute's current managers and staff, BIO's history and spirit; and to support efforts to increase public understanding of the oceans and ocean science. Membership is open to all present and past employees of BIO and to other past and present employees of the federal departments of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources (or their predecessors) located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Membership is \$5.00 per annum, \$25.00 for a 5 year membership, or \$100.00 for a lifetime membership. Payment for membership renewals should be sent to: Ms. Betty Anderson, Treasurer, 79 Flamingo Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 1T2. For further information or to obtain a membership application form, contact any of the individuals below:

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