

## **Commander's Report for January 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

It was my pleasure to be able to represent the Squadron at the 2023 Gabriola Remembrance Day ceremony and to lay our wreath along with those of other organisations on the island. The ceremony was very well attended this year.

2024 begins with some optimism as we move into planning a new round of courses, seminars and workshops. We are currently offering updated online versions of both the ROC(M) Radio Course and Boat Handling and Boat Navigation (Formerly Boating 2&3 combined) – trying to offer these courses with a local flavour. We expect to be able to continue to offer the advantages of small group support for these and other courses, such as the PCOC, the CPS-ECP online offering of which is currently under revision to allow it to be more competitive.

We have emerging clarity from the National office as they work to improve their communication with members - through the monthly Waypoints newsletter and the OnBoard bi-monthly digest. Important information is now shared more widely and quickly, and I would encourage everyone to take some time to read through these documents. The January edition of Waypoints has reports on all aspects of CPS-ECP operations and an interesting article by Guy Cooper, the Pacific Mainland District Commander about the PM District, which has about 1600 members.

This is Boat show season, with the Vancouver Boat Show running from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup>. Our EO will be there, attending a booth and doing seminars.

Merit Marks awarded in 2024 are based on the number of hours volunteered in 2023. We have been asked by VIND to submit the number of hours volunteered in 2023 as soon as possible, so I will be bringing this up at the next meeting.

**Respectfully submitted by Nigel Wells, Commander**