



Bluewater Region – Running Board News February 2024



President's Report

A note from President Fred...

I trust all is well with everyone in our great Bluewater Region!

Firstly, I have to say, **“Oh What A Night”**, referring to our Christmas in January party - the weatherman co-operated. The attendance and support of so many members and friends, from near and far, was heartwarming to say the least, and the venue and fabulous food made the evening very special. Very special thanks to our birthday girl Mary Mahar (yes it was her Birthday on that very day) for arranging the set up and meal team. More thanks yet again to all who contributed items for our Loonie auction, the Lute's, Strain's, Parson's, Hall's, Novak/Czudnochowski's, Sinclair's, Norton's, Wood's, Dinsmore's, Shepherd/Hoffman's and the Bluewater Region), (hoping I have not missed someone), from tools to bird seed to gift cards, cash and more and to all who got into the act in bidding on all the great stuff that was offered and helped raise over \$550 for future club events and expenses! You are all truly appreciated! On another note, I apologize for not having a sound system set up as my voice perhaps did not carry as well as I would have liked.

Our next scheduled event is the games and pizza day on February 25th to be held yet again at the Owen Sound Legion. Bring out your favourite game to share and challenge your friends with - crokinole, board hockey games, cribbage, euchre and more. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and friendship with pizza and desserts to finish things off. There is no cost for this afternoon of comraderie and pizza.

McDonald Breakfast Club on the first Saturdays of the month is being well supported and it is great to catch up with folks and stay connected!

As spring approaches and we start thinking about getting revved up for the touring season yet again. Our club is always looking for new directions and folks to take on a leadership role, so if you have an idea for a tour or special destination you might like to share, please step up and let your executive know. Support will be there for you. Further to that note, please know that all executive meetings are open to all members and your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. All the best going forward into 2024!

Fred Parson, President

GAMES AND PIZZA DAY

February 25th – 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Games and Social until 4:30 when we will have some pizza, supplied by the Club and desserts supplied by the Executive. Plan to join us.



FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH COFFEE CLUB

A reminder that the first Saturday of each month we host our Coffee Club Social at McDonald's on the Sunset Strip. Next March 2nd is your opportunity to join us at 8:30 am. See you there.



Regular Board Meeting

March 18th at 3:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion in Owen Sound. Agenda to include, but not limited to, working out our summer schedule. We welcome you to come to our meetings and bring your energy, thoughts, and leadership.

All are welcome.

Beef Dinner – Owen Sound Legion

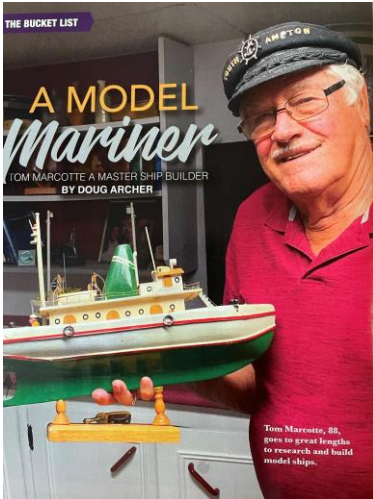
March 15th – 5:00 pm

Cost: \$18.00

Please reserve your tickets with Mary or Murray Hall at 1-226-622-7454 by Wednesday, March 13th.



*May you have the best
St. Patrick's Day
That you have ever had.*



Some Highlights from Grey-Bruce *boomers* Magazine – Winter 2023/24

Tom Marcotte – A Master Ship Builder

(Tom Marcotte is a long-time member of Bluewater Region Car Club)

At the age of 88, Tom Marcotte spends his days designing and constructing three-mast schooners, Royal Navy vessels and even warships. He has been a master ship builder for decades and despite his age, the octogenarian has no plans to hang up his tools yet. Of course, it helps that the ships he builds are not more than three feet long and four feet high.

Tom lives in Southampton with a view of Lake Huron outside his living room window. He is a member of our Bluewater Region Car Club and is the proud owner of a 55 Ford Fairlane Victoria and an 80 Ford Shay 29 Model A Roadster.



Tom has created small-scale versions of the twin ships the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, which were captained by Sir John Franklin on his ill-fated search for the Northwest Passage in 1845. He's constructed a bathtub-sized version of the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned naval warship still afloat. He has even built ships of local renown, fabricating a scale model of the Nemesis, a schooner built and sailed by Captain John Spence, one of the men who helped put the town of Southampton on the map back in the mid-1800's, and another of the HMS General Hunter, a British ship that battled in the War of 1812 and now lies beneath the sands of Southampton's main beach. Tom takes his hobby very seriously. Before beginning any new project Tom's research, to ensure that his work is meticulous and correct to the smallest detail, can take up to a year or more.

Tom's passion for model ship building comes from spending time at a YMCA camp for many summers helping his mother, then joining in the camp activities learning to canoe, taking out rowboats and learning how to sail. That started a lifelong love of boats. He took canoe trips deep into the wilderness of northern Canada and also became a canoeing instructor. Living on the water Tom and his wife rented cottages in the summer and during the long winters he started carving bits of woods and piecing them together into miniature ships. It takes a lot of research, a lot of work and a lot of time. Tom builds minaturized versions of real ships – to a scale of an eighth-of-an-inch to the foot. No small undertaking. His models are authentic down to the ladders, cannons and even the rigging the sailors used to climb through the sails.



The article in the Boomers Magazine written by Doug Archer, a local writer, has so much more detail and I encourage you to go to www.greybruceboomers.com and read the complete article. This past summer I had the opportunity to visit Tom at his home in Southampton and view his collection of ships and antiques. Tom is very knowledgeable and proud of his accomplishments, not only in ship building, but in life in general. His interest in being in and around the water has taken him on many journeys both as a hobby and as an occupation. Another story worth hearing about another time. Our Club does plan on taking a tour to Southampton this summer to visit Tom and his collection of ships, maybe go out for dinner and then join in with the weekly car show down at the end of main street. So stay tuned. Thanks Tom for letting us share your hobby.

Submitted by Sharon Norton, Newsletter Editor with permission from Tom Marcotte