



## Symposium #19: The Year of Change

This is our 19th Annual Symposium. These annual events are designed to review the ongoing work of the Association over the past year and to present plans for the continued development of our working waterfront.

On a sad note, former LWAI chair Gerry Rolfsen died last summer from a rare brain disease. Gerry had been with the LWAI from its inception, creating the vision of a working waterfront with the rendering that you see on the wall today. You can remember Gerry at <https://www.gerryrolfsen.com> and by sitting for a moment on the dedicated bench placed by family and friends in front of the gym on King Street.

In the summer of 2022, the Nova Scotia Government announced their reorganization of several Crown Corporations, of which Develop Nova Scotia was one. Develop Nova Scotia has been incorporated in the newly established Build Nova Scotia. We are pleased to be having as keynote speaker today the CEO of Build Nova Scotia, Mr. David Benoit to tell us about the new arrangement and how Lunenburg will relate going forward.

At our last Symposium, it was announced that a Letter of Intent would be granted to the Sustainable Ocean Applied Research (SOAR) group to develop their business case for this Zwicker Building. Build Nova Scotia has worked with SOAR for the past year to try to reach an agreement that would result in a lease. While an agreement was not reached, we understand the Province intends to engage with partners to review the planned program for the Zwicker building. In the meantime, the SOAR group is moving forward with their ocean related work on premises at Ocean Gear next door. We wish them well, and they will give us a short presentation about it in our program today. Look them up at: <https://sustainocean.org/>

The LWAI believes the 5-year review of the Lunenburg Master Plan is needed. Immediate concerns are: The "Picton Castle Wharf"; way-finding signage along the length of the waterfront; finding a suitable tenant for this Zwicker Building, and continuing the good utilization of the infrastructure with which we have been blessed. We also need to pay attention to the "Working Waterfront" of the whole harbour. This goes beyond the traditional fishery and marine skills, to include opportunities in new ocean technologies and research.

In the last year, the Lunenburg Foundry and the Marine Railway ceased operation and were put up for sale. The LWAI spoke publicly and with Government about our concerns that this piece of our core industrial infrastructure be maintained. We are pleased to hear that it has recently been purchased. We have on our program today Capt. Brad Boutilier, the new owner to inform us of his plans.

The LIGHTHOUSE on Battery Point breakwater has benefitted from renewed interest by the Federal Government. In 2015, Gerry Rolfsen had organized and won for us a contest for lighthouse preservation funding, campaigned to raise additional funds, and the LWAI took on the responsibility to maintain the exterior.

Last summer while we were preparing to paint the structure again, we were delighted to be told that a Canadian Coast Guard crew would arrive to completely repair the outside, re-shingle it and paint the lighthouse with their own crew. They finished it this spring. It looks great. As a result, we have relinquished the responsibility that we had taken on to maintain it. We promise to continue to monitor its condition. We thank you, our members, for your support over these years.