

# The Patron News

A "MARINERS' HOUSE OF MONTREAL" NEWSLETTER

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January/February/March 2017

	Jan/Feb/Mar 2017		2017 -To Date	2016 -To Date	
<b>Service Operations</b>					
Ship visits by chaplains and staff	306		306	333	
Ships serviced by vans	200		200	323	
Seaman transported	1,201		1,201	2,776	
Prayer services held (attendance)	12 (64)		12 (64)	27 (153)	
<b>Attendance</b>					
-Daytime	119				
-Evenings	<u>828</u>				
-Total	947		947	1,718	
<b>Nationality Breakdown</b>					
Indian	417	Romanian	12	Armenian	1
Filipino	172	Indonesian	10	Bangladeshi	1
Chinese	104	Turkish	8	British & Irish	1
Ukrainian	78	Montenegrin	6	Greek	1
Venezuelan	43	German	5	Madagascan	1
Croatian	22	Georgian	4	Polish	1
Canadian	20	Samoan	4	Somalian	1
Russian	18	Dutch	2	Sri Lankan	1
Latvian	13	American	1		

## **WE RECEIVED:**

- ⚓ two bags of books from **Mr. P. Jeremy Bolger**;
- ⚓ two suitcases and a coat from **Mr. Marc Latour**;
- ⚓ winter boots from **Mme Suzanne Bleau-Myrand** and clothes from other friends at **Fednav**;
- ⚓ two bags of clothes from the **Port of Montreal**, sent by **Mme Christine Beaulieu**;
- ⚓ a new guitar with its case and stand from **Mr. Tyler Rowley**;
- ⚓ four bags of National Geographic magazines from **Mr. Bruce Field**;
- ⚓ two winter coats from **Mr. Joe Borsellino**;
- ⚓ three winter coats left anonymously;
- ⚓ books, clothes and miscellaneous items from **Mr. Murray Millett** and the folks at **Seamont Brokerage & Transport**;
- ⚓ eleven cases of energy drinks, eight cases of water, milk and cream, vegetables and fruit from **Mr. Simon Lebrun**;
- ⚓ a suitcase and three bags of clothes from **Captain Reuben Santos**;
- ⚓ two table lamps from **Mme Manon Richard**;
- ⚓ a box of more than thirty new thermos flasks/bottles from **Mr. Paul Marchand**;
- ⚓ satellite dishes, a tripod and computer equipment from **Mr. Richard Merti**;
- ⚓ three boxes of the book, 'Port Cities' from the **Port of Montreal**, organised by **Mme Josée Archambault**.

**Thank you everyone!**

## **WE GAVE:**

- ⚓ clothing to crew members of the M/V Nord Rotterdam, M/V Federal Kivalina, M/V Federal Bristol, M/V Minerva Grace and M/V Lowlands Opal;
- ⚓ coats and jackets to crew of M/V Interlink Equity, M/V Gotland Aliya, M/V Federal Bristol, M/V Federal Beaufort, M/V Torm Lilly, M/V Lowlands Opal, M/V Federal Sakura and M/V Aurora N;
- ⚓ a suitcase to a crew member of the M/V Lowlands Opal;
- ⚓ thermos flasks, jigsaws, clothes, food, books and magazines to various seafarers.

## **NEWS & ACTIVITIES:**

- ⚓ In March, we were visited by Mr. Trevor Nelson, treasurer of the Bermuda Sailors Home, which was founded in 1927.
- ⚓ Mr. & Mrs. Curtis and Maureen Fowler were volunteers of the month for two months! As always, their creativity and generous spirits made life sweeter for staff and seafarers.

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## **GRUNT CLUB NEWS:**

As our patrons know, the Grunt Club is a major supporter of Mariners' House and most of the profits generated by its activities are generously donated to us.

The St. Patrick's Day Curling Luncheon, supposed to take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> but cancelled due to the weather conditions, has been re-scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. For further information, refer to the website: [www.gruntclub.org](http://www.gruntclub.org).

## **CASH CALENDAR WINNERS:**

The following persons and companies are the lucky winners for the months of **January**,

Conrad Robitaille	Jacqueline Proulx	Maria Lardizabal
Gayle Lewis	Rudolfo Funicello	Tammy Corkum
Paul K. Marchand	Richard Hollobon	Lynda Ouimet
Fernando Pereira	Domenic Tumillo	Terry West
Eric Bédard		

### **February**

Alan Brigden	Nita Palmer	Mario Iannacci
Nicholas Brodeur	David Eng	Jan Kraskowski
Meagan Jandron	Niels Klove	Mark Humphrey
Mr & Mrs. C. Enesa	Geneviève Proulx	Robert Nadeau

### **and March:**

Shirley Cummings (\$500)	Al Mulder	Irina Soukhareva
Corinne Lecours	Paul Sauvé	Gurdip Sandhu
Marc Chénier	Daniel Dagenais	Mario Pugliese
Stéphane Bélanger	Julie Willett	Robert Jack
Kevin Dubuc	Heather Martin	

## NEW BUS:



Thanks to the great generosity of Aéroports de Montréal, The Grunt Club, Seamont Brokerage & Transport, Fednav, Eastern Canada Response Corporation and Hunt Refrigeration (Canada) and the donation of a substantial grant from the ITF Seafarers' Trust, our ailing, rickety old bus has been replaced by the handsome vehicle pictured here.

The ITF Seafarers Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, supporting "the provision of services to maritime workers" and acting "as a catalyst for positive change in the maritime community".

Apart from assisting with telecommunications and internet access, transport is one of the most popular services we offer to seafarers who are clearly delighted with the new bus!





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## **A FAMILY REUNION:**

**by Mr. Ron Ashton, volunteer, Ministry to Seafarers (M2S)**



Mr. & Mrs. Ron and Ruth Ashton

In November, my wife and I volunteered with M2S. I had just picked up a bunch of men from a ship and noticed that one of them seemed quite distressed. He was trying to get hold of his brother, who lived in Montreal and whom he hadn't seen in ten years, but his phone wasn't working properly. I happily offered the use of my phone and the call was made.

The brother turned out to be not far away and so a nearby gas station was chosen for the rendezvous point. Within 5 minutes, a car pulled up and a man and his wife eagerly jumped out of the vehicle.

With great cheers from his fellow shipmates, the seafarer ran and embraced his long separated family members with tears and laughter and even some dancing erupting from the men. How great was our joy! How privileged I felt to be part of it. I thanked God for the gift this evening had brought to all of us.

This is what M2S does best – reconnect family. Admittedly, it's not always so dramatic. Usually it's by means of Skype at the center where we offer free Wi-Fi, or through the sale of phone cards that make calling home affordable – but it's always a source of joy to be part of that most essential bond – the one with family. I cannot describe to you the pleasure of seeing a man connect and share news and laughter with his wife and children over Skype despite the miles between them.

Two brothers, 10 years and a happy ending – a formula for joy.