



Reflections

2016 REPORT

Members and Friends: Please join us for our **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday March 2, 2017, at 7 pm at Cedar Hill Golf Clubhouse. Meet our 2017 crew and enjoy a slide show about our past season.



This past year was a very positive one for our community, and before it quickly fades from view astern, we have much to celebrate.

PEOPLE

We are immensely grateful for:

- The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the international spotlight they brought to our program during their sailing on October 1.
- The dedicated and gifted service in 2016 of Captains Tristan Hedley and Tony Anderson, First Mates Rebecca Hedley and Sam Vaale, Bosuns Aron Koehn and Steve Atkinson, Watch Officers Cayla Coleman and Elske Vaale, and Cooks Saily Coyne and Beth Cowin.
- The leadership of staff-members Loren Hagerty, David Eggert, John Andrachuk, Kelly Wilkinson, Sherilyn Thomson, Glynis Gittens, Patrick Sharman, Shannon Gregg (until August 2016), Chris Judge (until June 2016), and Sarah Gray (starting Sept 2016).
- Our volunteer Board of Directors including Derek Rand (chairperson), Ryan Smith (vice-chairperson), Megan Parrish (treasurer), Thelma Kooijman (secretary), Cathy Clarke, Jim Huzzey, Kerri Morash, and Jason Nassichuk. Special thanks to Cathie Makaroff who stepped down from our Board in December after almost eight years of diligent Board service, including time as Board chairperson (plus previous experience as a SALTS crew-member some years ago)! We are deeply appreciative of her gifted leadership.
- A group of highly dedicated volunteers who assist us, including several who do so on a weekly basis.
- A baby girl named Kate born to John and Andrea Andrachuk in May 2016; A baby boy named Rowan born to Sam and Elske Vaale in October 2016.
- New 2017 crew-members Phoebe Sidwell, Van Law, and Rachel Onsorte.

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PROGRAM



Photo: Aron Koehn

We are thankful that:

- Our expanded voyage routes have been well received by trainees and the communities we are visiting. For decades our coastal sailing routes were limited to the Gulf Islands and a summer circumnavigation of Vancouver Island. We now traverse the entire BC coast from Victoria to Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii (and still circumnavigate Vancouver Island). Access to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve is strictly limited but last summer both of our schooners and their crew/trainees were able to visit the park (a first for Pacific Swift).
- Our care for others was recognized with the "Outstanding Customer Service Award" from the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.
- We could participate in more beach-clean ups in remote areas of the BC coast.
- Trainees responded very positively to our program.

2016 Trainee Survey (221 responses)	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
"Overall, the trip was a great experience"	96.83%	3.17%	0%	0%

Day Sails

Our next day sails for the public will be held on June 10 and September 3, 2017. Online Registration opens at noon on April 4 at www.salts.ca/daysail.

Summer Sails

Limited berths remain for our summer 2017 program for ages 13-25. Book now at www.salts.ca/coastal.



TRANSFORMATION

A program participant had this to share:

“Sailing aboard a SALTS tall ship is kind of like hitting the ‘refresh’ button on the page of my life. Everything just gets reset. It gives you time to look inward on your life and to look at what you have accomplished. It helps re-define you as an individual because you are surrounded by so many different types of people. It helps you figure out what type of person you are yourself. You don’t need to wear a mask and be the person everybody wants you to be; you can just be yourself. You can continue to be yourself when you come back and not worry about others judging you. At mealtimes, you get to open yourself up entirely and share who you really are with those you don’t know very well.”

A young person wrote to us about her struggles with depression and the hope she found through a SALTS voyage:

“My parents, in an attempt to restore happiness to my life again, signed me up for the school sailing trip... I had no idea the magnitude of the effect it would have on me... As I set foot on the ship for the first time I felt as though I had been awakened. A passion I hadn’t felt for years coursed through my body and I could see the beauty in the world so clearly again... during my time on the boat I began to see myself as a beautiful person with endless potential... SALTS gave me my life back.”

A parent wrote to us about our impact on his son:

“I wish I could be a major donor to SALTS, for that would be proportionate to the major contribution SALTS—its voyages, and its outstanding staff and crew—has made during the teen years of my son.”

A teacher passed us this note outside of class:

“I am amazed by the crew and their ability to work with young people in a subtle yet effective way. Their ways of being are perfect role models for the trainees [who] leave the ship being transformed.”



BURSARIES

We were blessed to be able to:

- Provide more bursary support in 2016 than ever before in our history (\$122,000) thanks in large part to a \$100,000 grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation as part of their five-year commitment of \$500,000.
- Provide three full bursaries for 10-day voyages to young people with Type 1 Diabetes.
- Award the Martyn J. Clark Seafarer Bursary, Robyn Sheppard Memorial Bursary, Lucas McGregor Memorial Award, Rhett Mutch Memorial Bursary, Jim and Linda Findlay Bursary.
- Give full or partial bursaries to 124 young people in total.
- Multiply our impact by having bursary recipients serve as a volunteer at a charity of their choice.
- Offer bursaries for young people chosen by many partner organizations (see sidebar).

SALTS ANNUAL BURSARY BUDGET



Our Bursary Partners: Cridge Centre for the Family, Power to Be Adventure Therapy, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Victoria, District of Port Hardy, Prince Rupert Port Authority, Extreme Outreach, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria, Parksville Rotary Club, United Kingdom Sail Training Organization, First Nations in Haida Gwaii, Central Coast, and Vancouver Island.

SCHOONERS

We were thrilled to:

- Complete the refit of Pacific Grace by adding over 5 tonnes of internal ballast, reinstalling her topmasts, and passing stability tests. It's wonderful to have her back to her full rig for our 2017 season.
- Celebrate the 30th birthday of the launch of Pacific Swift and the 15th anniversary of the commissioning of Pacific Grace.
- Substantially increase funding for tall ship maintenance so we meet the growing needs of the ships as they age.
- Recommit ourselves to the construction of the new SALTS designed schooner after exploring and ruling out the purchase of an existing vessel that had become available.

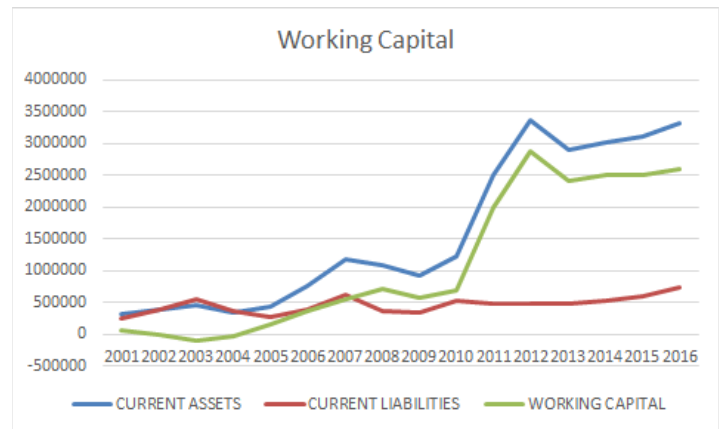
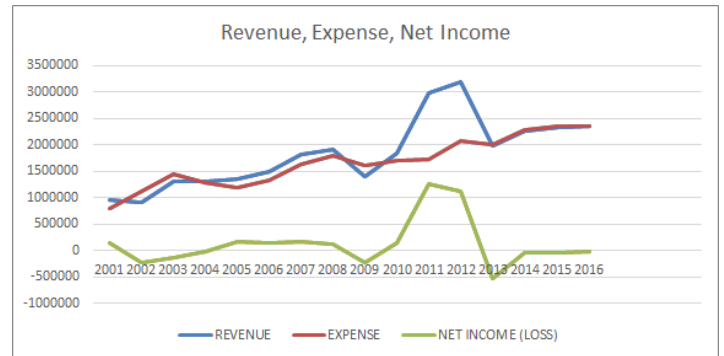
New Schooner Update: We are working with naval architects to prepare a bid package for shipyards so that we can select a yard for steel hull construction. Timelines are still fluid but our hope is to begin construction in late 2017 or early 2018.



FINANCES

We were pleased to:

- Have a positive, break-even financial year (revenues and expenses ~0.5% apart)
- Receive over \$517,000 worth of donated boats and sell \$409,000 worth of boats
- Benefit from \$276,000 in cash donations from individuals, families and foundations
- Fund substantial upgrades to our administrative systems.
- Be able to move \$250K from our general fund to our new schooner project fund due to strong fundraising performance in recent years.
- Audited financial statements for 2016 are posted at www.salts.ca/member until March 2, 2017 (after which they may be requested by contacting info@salts.ca).



Thank you to our volunteers, donors, members, staff-members, crew-members, and their families for your faithful support of our work to *train young people, by the sea, for life.*

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Photo credits: SALTS trainees and crew.

