



THE THIBAUT AWARD - 2010

TO KEN MULLINGS

Growing up with a love of schooners influenced by early exposure to a model of the classic Bluenose, Ken Mullings came to diving around 1982, when he had exhausted the challenges presented by swimming. His early days of diving were primarily spent in and around Trenton, the Bay of Quinte and Prince Edward County. He was strongly involved with the Quinte Chapter of Save Ontario Shipwrecks for many years.

Discovering the wrecks in Kingston's waters, and especially the Annie Falconer, on which members of Preserve Our Wrecks were conducting a survey, he began to spend more time with POW, by the late 1980s occupying various appointments on the Board.

Recognizing a need for better coordination of the mooring efforts of the Organization, he assembled the City's dozen or so charter operators, convinced them to make financial and practical contributions to the task and expanded the number of moorings serviced by POW from about 5 or 6 to the 20 or more we still maintain. It was largely due to his personal efforts that buoys, lines and blocks were obtained, placed and maintained. He was the focal point for mooring work for more than 10 years. A notable achievement was to enlist the assistance of the Canadian Coastguard in the placement of several mooring blocks. Ken's own boat was used for the majority of mooring tasks.

Divers today will particularly appreciate the fact that Ken played a leading role in sinking the Effie Mae, a retired dive charter boat and former East Coast trawler. The episode was not without its excitements and there are tales to be told of a boat that proved reluctant to sink - and then needed to be moved on the bottom, when it became a little too familiar with its neighbour, the Aloha.

Besides his strong involvement in managing the annual mooring effort, Ken found time to serve as both Vice President and President of POW at various times. He was instrumental in promoting a program for monitoring the status of wrecks and active in combating the removal of artifacts from underwater sites. He also promoted the Organization by taking displays and information to various dive shows and other events.

In 2001, when commitments to his family and to his real occupation forced him to do so, he finally relinquished his responsibilities to the Organization.

It is worth noting that, during all the years that he worked so effectively and well for POW, Ken resided in Trenton, at least an hour's drive from Kingston.

And finally, it is worth noting that Ken left an indelible mark on POW by designing our current logo.

In recognition of truly remarkable contributions to the preservation of marine heritage over many years, the Thibault Award for 2010 is presented to Ken Mullings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hill", is written in a cursive style.

Michael K Hill
President
Preserve Our Wrecks, Kingston

January 24th, 2010