



# NEWSLETTER

\*\*\* December 2004 \*\*\*

Vol. 18, No. 9

## Canadian Hydrographic Association

### Central Branch

### 2004 Executive

Vice-President: Tim Janzen (905) 336-4850  
Secretary: Fred Oliff (905) 336-4501  
Treasurer: Jeff Walker (905) 336-4607  
Executive Members: Brian Power (905) 319-6928  
George McFarlane (416) 512-5764  
Jim Weedon (905) 336-4841

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(Except Jeff Walker: [walkerjb@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:walkerjb@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) and George McFarlane: [george.mcfarlane@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:george.mcfarlane@pwgsc.gc.ca))

## Central Branch Committees

### Communications and Publicity

*Newsletter:* - T. Janzen, F. Oliff,  
J. Walker, L. Robbins.  
*Web Site:* - J. Weedon.  
*Lighthouse:* - Chair TBD, A. Leyzack, J. Walker.

### Membership

*Branch:* - B. Power, T. Janzen, G. McFarlane.  
*International:* - T. Janzen.  
*Elections:* - B. Power, Fred Oliff.

### Admiralty Launch Surveyor

B. Power, E. Brown, J. Dixon, H. Duller,  
T. Janzen, A. Leyzack, J. Walker, J. Weedon.

### Education and Development

*Gerry Wade Memorial Library:* -  
T. Janzen, A. Leyzack.  
*Meetings:* - T. Janzen, G. McFarlane, J. Walker.

### Social Events

*H2O:* - E. Brown, J. Leyzack, B. Power.  
*BBQ:* - T. Herron, T. Janzen.  
*AGM:* - F. Oliff, T. Janzen, J. Weedon

**Notes from the Branch Vice-President**

Happy New Year to those still observing it!

With the events half a world away dominating the newscasts, one cannot help but think that this is a portent of things to come. The need for coastal zone management has never been greater and with climate change and sea level rise, we may see this sort of event on a greater scale played out in more developed areas. Anyone who saw what happened to the city of New York in the movie “The Day After Tomorrow” knows of what I speak.

So what does this have to do with hydrography and the CHA? There will be an important role for hydrographers to play in defining the coastal zone boundaries needed for a country to make a claim to the United Nations under UNCLOS. This would seem to have mainly sovereignty and economic implications. From a humanitarian viewpoint, however, in order to save lives, one can see a need for our data in models predicting the effects of a sea level rise due to polar ice cap melting or “freak natural events” such as a tsunami on coastal areas. Here in the Great Lakes area, we may think ourselves immune to such events, but they are global in nature and affect all the world’s citizens.

I hope that this column finds you and your family well and that we might see you out at one of our upcoming meetings. We face a challenge here in the CHA Central Branch. With so many of our long-standing members going off for the greener pastures of retirement, they are not being replaced by newer folks. In the spirit of rejuvenation, I invite you to tell me what you need in this association. What would you like to see presented and/or discussed at our general meetings? Would you like us to play more of an educational role, facilitating training courses? In order for this association to succeed we need your input.

In closing, I would like to thank the past V-P of Central Branch, Tim Janzen, for all of the effort and late hours he put in toward the continued health of the CHA. And a hearty welcome to our friends in Atlantic Region in Dartmouth, who are rekindling that branch of the CHA!

-Fred.

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**REMINDER: Please see the enclosed membership renewal forms for 2005 enclosed in the NewsLetter (or accompanying it in the e-mail message), and remit your payment as soon as possible. It makes things a lot easier for the CHA Executive to get payments in early in the year.**

**Thank you very much to those who have already submitted their dues for 2005!**

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**Notice of Next Meeting:**

**When:** Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

**Where:** The Duller residence,  
2249 Mansfield Drive, Burlington  
(North of Upper Middle & west of Brant St.)

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Central Branch Treasurer’s Report  
31 December 2003 to 1 December 2004

Balance forward December 31, 2003:	\$21,110.16
Receipts:	
Membership dues	\$3,844.45
Conference Proceedings	\$0.00
2003 AGM	\$29.00
Newsletter Ads	\$113.20
CHA Branded Stuff	\$224.37
Technology Course	\$0.00
Other income	\$54.00
Bank interest	\$9.21
	<u>\$4,274.23</u>
	\$25,384.39
Expenditures:	
National Membership Dues	\$2,215.00
Postage	\$0.00
Newsletter postage	\$0.00
Newsletter paper	\$0.00
Seminars & meetings	\$913.64
H <sub>2</sub> O Bonspiel	\$172.41
Summer BBQ	\$67.02
AGM and Dinner	\$0.00
Stationery	\$0.00
Education and Development	\$0.00
Gerry Wade Library	\$37.89
CHA Branded Stuff	\$403.31
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Credit Card Expenses	\$60.33
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Subsidy to the Launch account	\$0.00
	<u>\$3,869.60</u>
Working balance 1 December 2004:	<u>\$21,514.79</u>

**Note: To help the *Lighthouse* Editorial team and the *Admiralty Launch Surveyor* Committee, the Central Branch treasurer handles their income and expenditures. The balance is held available and is passed on as required.**

Lighthouse Account

CHA Central Branch – NewsLetter – December 2004

Balance forward December 31, 2003:	\$2,793.77
Receipts:	
Advertising	\$2,936.27
Copyright	\$25.55
Subscriptions	\$857.82
Sponsorship	\$7,870.00
Close-out of Lighthouse account	<u>\$4,900.47</u>
	<u>\$16,590.11</u>
	\$19,383.88
Expenditures:	
Stationery	\$68.51
Printing	<u>\$6,779.52</u>
	<u>\$6,848.03</u>
Working balance 1 December 2004:	<u>\$12,535.85</u>

Balance forward December 31, 2003:	\$1,811.84
Receipts:	
Heritage Launch Rental Fee	\$0.00
Re-enactments	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$1,811.84
Expenditures:	
Insurance Renewal *	\$0.00
Launch repairs	\$198.91
Travel expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$198.91
Working balance 1 December 2004:	<u>\$1,612.93</u>

\* 2004 Insurance renewal was paid by CHA National as part of CHC 2004. Note that the insurance premiums have risen over 2003 and are expected to rise again for 2005.

Admiralty Launch Surveyor Account

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of CENTRAL BRANCH held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

1) The meeting was held at the Mimico Cruising Club and Tim called the meeting to order at 18:15.

Attendees:

- Tim Janzen - VP- Chair,
- F. Oliff – Secretary,
- J. Walker –Treasurer,
- D. Nicholson – Master of Ceremonies
- A. Leyzack – National President
- B. Power            B. Frederikse            R. Sandilands
- L. Sandilands      B. Thuma                  J. DuBroy
- N. Walker           E. Walker                  W. Downer
- K. McMillan        H. McFarlane            G. McFarlane
- E. Brown            T. Herron                  S. Weller
- K. Dixel             J. Samii                    R. Mahaffy
- R. Cameron        E. Sinclair                J. Weedon
- J. Medendorp      M. Bennett                C. Burbage
- Regrets: Ab Rogers
- Guest Speaker-** Ted Wickson

2) Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> November meeting were available.  
 Motion to accept the minutes:  
 - Moved T. Herron/D. Mahaffy            CARRIED

3) Treasurer’s Report: J. Walker presented the Treasurer’s Report.  
 The Admiralty Launch convenience account is now the primary account. The name has been changed to “The Admiralty Launch Surveyor Account.”  
 Motion to accept the report:  
 - Moved B. Power/S. Weller            CARRIED

4) Correspondence: (T. Janzen) Correspondence was received from Bob Hinchley regarding a survey position with the UN in Iraq. Also correspondence with Jack Wallace (THSOA) has been ongoing with discussion about federation with the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies. There has

been ongoing correspondence between Fred Oliff and Peter Knight with respect to CARIS files and other issues.

5) Committee Reports:

***COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLICITY***  
**•NewsLetter**

Central Branch publishes a NewsLetter to help our far-flung members keep in touch; it goes out after each business meeting to distribute minutes and news of coming events, as well as our finances. Two of the issues are “National Editions”. These are larger and offer more space for news and other interesting items, from all Branches, to supplement *Lighthouse*. Each issue has a message from our Branch V-P and offers a forum for individual members to share their news and views; the National issues also bring a message from our National President. Including the coming December issue, we will have had 9 issues this year.

Circulation goes to all Central Branch members, with copies going to the other Branches and to our Corporate Members, as well as other interested people around the world. The National issues are distributed to all CHA members. In 2004, the NewsLetter was distributed digitally. Our Corporate Members and those without access to e-mail still receive hard copies.

Our thanks go to all those who contribute articles and assist with the production of the NewsLetter.

**•Website**

The association's new website has been operational for just over a year and has been expanding its National coverage with the addition of information from the other branches. In the new year look for an updated and expanded website for not only Central Branch but also other Branch activities and news. For National and Branch news and events throughout the year log on to [www.hydrography.ca](http://www.hydrography.ca).

**•Lighthouse**

During this year, *Lighthouse* edition 65 was published and distributed to our worldwide members, subscribers, advertisers, and others who may have an interest in our journal. Edition 66 is currently in the production stage with an anticipated publishing date early in the new year. The duties of the editors have been passed to new personnel. A thank you goes to the past editors who have devoted their time and efforts to bring you a quality journal.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **•Branch**

Central Branch extends a warm welcome to its 2004 new members, Jean-Luc Corriveau, John Halmarick and Emmanuel Bright Takyi. The Central Branch membership stands at 71 down 28 percent from last year's number of 99 but this number is expected to increase as members continue to renew their 2004 memberships. Each year, starting in January and on into March, the membership committee sends out reminders that the yearly membership fees are now due. Many renewals, as in past years, are received early, but about 30 percent trickle in throughout the rest of the year. Paul Davies, a long time member now retired from the CHS for several years, has moved on to other interest and has retired his CHA membership. Many thanks to our continuing corporate members ASI Group, C&C Technologies, Canadian Centre for Marine Communications, Fugro Jacques Geosurveys, Interactive Visualization Systems, Knudsen Engineering Ltd., Kongsberg Maritime, McQuest Marine Sciences, NetSurvey Ltd. and Sani-International Technology Advisors Inc. Central Branch is honoured to include several special people in its membership: Earl Brown, Tom McCulloch and Ab Rogers, Life Members; George Macdonald, Honorary Member and Steve Ritchie, International Life Member.

### **•International**

Central Branch of the CHA administers the International Members on behalf of the National Office. This committee helps to maintain contact with the CHA's 9 International members and ensures they have an opportunity to voice opinions and take part in CHA activities. We encourage communication between our members abroad and are delighted when we receive news from them. All International Members receive the Central Branch NewsLetter to keep in touch between issues of the CHA's Journal *Lighthouse*.

### **•Elections**

The nominations for the 2005 Executive were opened at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and a call for nominations went out by e-mail to all Central Branch members and in the September/October newsletter. Nominations officially closed at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The number of nominations received this year is up over last year's number but the number of nominees willing to stand for election still remains low. This year we had 27 members nominated to the four positions. The 2004 executive will be by acclamation and will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-President, Treasurer and Executive positions are filled. The position of Secretary is vacant and will remain open until a volunteer can be found.

### **ADMIRALTY LAUNCH 'Surveyor'**

The launch is now eleven years old and is looking pretty good. Alan Geyer completed the marine survey report for the Admiralty Launch and the Fair Market Value is \$25,000. This

spring, crew members spent a couple of weekends scraping and painting. The hull below the waterline was cleaned and new caulking and seaming compound applied before painting. The bright work was touched up where needed and the new oars refinished. The launch committee changed insurance companies from Haas Insurance Group to ING Insurance. The change enabled *Surveyor* and her crew to obtain increased liability insurance and special events coverage as ING Insurance was already providing insurance coverage for the association and its assets. *Surveyor* and her crew participated in three events this year; the Upper Canada Trade Faire, Pioneer Days and Military Muster at Odessa in May, CHC 2004 at Ottawa also in May and Maree Haute sur la Baie at Rimouski in July. The third event in Rimouski marked the first time that another CHA Branch expressed an interest in crewing and displaying *Surveyor*. Congratulations to Normand Doucet and his crew of hydrographers at Institute Maurice Lamontagne for their enthusiasm and display of seamanship. *Surveyor* will spend the winter under canvas outside at CCIW and her crew will assemble early in the New Year to plan for the 2005 program.

## **EDUCATION and DEVELOPMENT**

### **•Gerry Wade Memorial Library**

The library storage capacity was not expanded in 2004, but may need to be in 2005, as we received several new books.

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors has expressed an interest in copying and distributing some of our resource material for use by CLS candidates.

Items added to the collection include:

- More proceedings from past Canadian Hydrographic Conferences – back to 1971
- Recent editions of *Lighthouse*
- Recent editions of *The Hydrographic Journal*
- Recent editions of Geomatica
- Mandalay to Norseman by Tom McCulloch
- The Man Who Mapped the Arctic by Peter Steele

A catalogue of the library is available on the CHA web site, and will be updated from time to time.

### **•Seminars**

Seven CHA Central & Arctic Branch general meetings were held in 2004. In addition to the business portion of the meetings, a wide variety of interesting topics were presented to members by guest speakers.

Those Speakers and their topics were:

- Mike Sarchese of R-Can Advanced Water Products – “Performance Validation of the Municipal Water U-V Disinfection Unit.”
- Dave Lawrence of Public Works & Government Services Canada – “Relocation of the HMCS Haida to Hamilton Harbour.”
- Abbas Khan of Public Works & Government Services Canada – “Refitting the Cables on the Burlington Lift Bridge.”
- We watched a video provided by the heavy lift company Mammoet - “The Raising of the Kursk.”

• CHA member Peter Knight, who is a professor with the University of Otago, in New Zealand – “The process U of O went through in getting its Cat ‘A’ accreditation in hydrography.”

• CHA National President Andrew Leyzack – “Activities of FIG Commission IV, at the FIG Working Week, Athens, Greece in May of 2004.”

• A guided tour of the Canada Marine Discovery Centre, on the Hamilton Waterfront.

Thank you to the guest speakers for your informative presentations. Your presentations were very well received by CHA members.

And a special thanks to Heimo Duller, Tim Janzen, Ab Rogers, and Brian Power for hosting meetings this year. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

#### **•AGM**

On December 11, 2003, thirty-six lucky participants enjoyed tales of high adventure in the Antarctic from our guest speaker, Todd Ford. Mr. Ford took a group of high school students and teachers aboard a converted Russian icebreaker, now a cruise ship, to the “frozen continent”, fulfilling a lifelong dream. It was a great presentation, one which we are not likely to experience for ourselves!

Tonight marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the CHA, Central Branch. The committee has endeavoured to make this an enjoyable evening for our members and guests. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to make this evening a success. Members are encouraged to offer new ideas or suggestions for future meetings. We give special thanks to our speaker, Ted Wickson, our MC Dale Nicholson and to the Mimico Cruising Club for once again making their facility available to us. Kudos to the committee comprised of Tim Janzen, Terese Herron, Brian Power, Fred Oliff and others who lent a hand or offered advice! And thanks to our sponsors for helping us out at this financially tricky time of year.

Hope to see you all next year!

#### **•BBQ**

This year the annual event was hosted by Terese Herron and Shawn Cook in Dundas. The weather was perfect to put us all in a summery frame of mind, and there was ample seating in both the sun and in the shade to suit any preference.

About 30-35 members, family and friends drifted in and out throughout the afternoon, for relaxation, discussion, general camaraderie, and of course, food and drink. The food searing services were provided under the masterful flipper and tongs of Brian Power, chef extraordinaire. Everyone was well fed and generally had to roll to their respective vehicles on the way out.

This year it was great to have representatives of the next generation present. Jessica and Keegan entertained with their bubble-making prowess and occasionally splashed those who came too close while they were practicing hydrography for kids (AKA playing in the wading pool), and Frankie enjoyed himself on the swing set.

All in all it was a great afternoon – thank you Terese and Shawn and all those who helped organize the event.

#### **•H2O**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Central Branch H2O Curling Bonspiel was held in Grimsby, Ontario on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2004. Sixteen teams were represented and this year’s winning team was Lareina Rising, Christine Simard, Ed DeBruyn and was skipped by Joe de Laronde of Sarnia, Ontario. The success of the 2004 bonspiel is due to the efforts of Earl Brown, Brian Power and Jacqueline Leyzack; they should be congratulated on organizing this fine event, getting great sponsors, and providing a day of enjoyment for curlers of all ages. As Earl reported in the spring issue of *Lighthouse*, the H2O Bonspiel was predominately hydrographers but through the years this has changed and now there exists a loyal following of curlers from other walks of life that look forward each year to this fantastic event. I would like to challenge our members and next year’s executive to support this event by entering teams composed of association members and their families. Ab Rogers continues to come out to the H2O and he is our oldest charter member.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual H2O Bonspiel will take place on Saturday February 19, 2005 and once again at the Grimsby Curling Club. Register early as we anticipate lots of interest again. Watch for information on our curling web site at:

“<http://home.cogeco.ca/~cciwcc/index.htm>”.

Motion to accept committee reports.

- Moved J. Walker/J. Medendorp CARRIED

5) Other Business: CHA National President Andrew Leyzack presented a summary of CHA National activities for 2004, as well as a summary of the 2003 National AGM, which was done by video-conference.

After this, Andrew thanked Rick Sandilands for his years of work with the Lighthouse financial account, and presented him with a silver lighthouse pin, in appreciation.

6) The business part of the meeting adjourned at 18:25.

- F. Oliff/T. Herron CARRIED.

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*Rick receiving his Lighthouse appreciation pin*



*MC Dale Nicholson*



*Chatting by the fireside*

### **International News**

*The following article was submitted by Guenter Bellach, a CHA International Member living in Phuket, Thailand. It was written following shortly thereafter the recent devastating tsunami. In a month, incidentally, Guenter will have been practicing as a surveyor for 50 years!*

#### **Update and Observations on the Tsunami in Phuket**

26 December, Boxing Day, was a sad day for peoples all around the Indian Ocean. At exactly 08:00, Thai local time, the earth (sea) quake struck with a force of 9.0 (Richter scale) off the coast of Northwestern Sumatra. There were a number aftershocks, the biggest one at 7.1 on 11:21 the same day, and 11 aftershocks in the same area measuring in excess of 6.0 on that day and on the following days and they are getting less frequent. Clearly the seismic activity is dying off. Source:<http://www.myforecast.com/bin/earthquake.m?city=V TSP&metric=false>

The main quake generated three tsunami waves, which were recorded at the tide gauge at Phuket Harbour at 10:33, 10:56 and about 12:10 local time respectively at 1.1 m, 1.42 m and about 0.4 m above tide gauge datum (Mean Sea Level) respectively. Each wave was preceded by a trough of 2.2 m, 1.6 m and 1.1 m respectively below the top of the wave, time of low water being about 15 minutes before top of the wave in the case of the first two waves. Source: Royal Thai Navy, tide gauge records can be seen at: <http://www.nectec.or.th/users/htk/20041226-quake/>.

The waves generated by the aftershocks can also clearly be seen on the tidal record, the 7.1 Richter scale one generating a wave of 40% magnitude of the first waves. It was unfortunate that the waves from the main quake coincided with high tide, although the day high tide was lower than the night one.

It should be noted that the above wave heights were measured in a sheltered location, and represent the general level of the water. Depending on the topography of the foreshore and of

the shore itself these levels would translate into much higher waves at an exposed location like the beach. For example beaches where the ocean floor drops off quickly and where the beach is relatively steep, like at Naiharn, Surin and Naithon Beach, the tsunami caused no damage to speak of. While at Kao Lak, where land and seabed contours are very flat, the damage was horrendous. An observation I am personally making about Patong is that all the "for hire" vehicles and tuk-tuk taxis parked along the Beach Road, and which clog up the road for passage and parking by beach goers, are probably responsible for a lot of the structural damage to all the buildings along that road. Perhaps the authorities will see this as a sign to put some controls on that situation in the future. Dare one hope that all the jet-skis are gone also?

Yesterday and the day before, after the beach roads had become accessible, I drove along most of the beaches and have this to report from cursory visual observation:

East coast: Hardly affected, except Phuket Fishing Harbour, where a number of fishing boats and trawlers sustained damage, mainly because they were tightly packed and coming down into the trough between the waves smashed into each other.

Rawai Beach: No damage to structures on land, but some small fishing boats anchored just offshore were damaged. The two restaurants on the beach which had not been razed by the municipality a few weeks earlier appear undamaged.

Naiharn Beach: While the wave entered the lagoon behind the beach, the beach restaurants were untouched and are open to business as usual. I understand there is a little damage at the lower level of the Yacht Club Hotel, but I did not see it.

Kata Beach: Southern half of the actual beach (public portion) appears unaffected for all practical purposes, just a bit of the fence of the Club Mediteranee came down. At the northern half, where the Beach Road and Club are closer to the sea, some cottages of the Club were flooded and trashed. As of yesterday the beach had been cleaned up and a few tourists were enjoying sunbathing and swimming. However, all the beach chairs and umbrellas were gone!! Is this a blessing or not?

Karon Beach: Southern end the sea came in and destroyed the two restaurants on the beach and some shops across the road. Sand is all over the road but rapidly being cleaned up. Main beach appears normal, but again, no beach chairs and umbrellas!

Patong Beach: Here it gets bad. Beach Road shops practically all trashed along the road and along sois (side streets) going inland about half way up to Rat-U-Tit 200 Year Road (next road up parallel to the beach), probably most damage caused by floating vehicles which were parked on Beach Road. The massive clean-up job is still underway. The beach itself is not too bad, a couple of local vessels washed up on the beach and the stones from the sea wall strewn all over the place. All the nice shade trees are still there. Up along 200 Year Road it is

business as usual. The beer bars along Soi Bangla were all being cleaned as of yesterday and should be all ready for business for the New Year's Eve party.

Kamala Beach; Bad, water went up all the way to the main road and trashed some businesses there. Most of the Beach Road was still inaccessible as of 29 January. The place will be short of tailor shops for a while. There used to be more tailor shops than restaurants!

Surin Beach: Untouched. All the restaurants that I saw, which were above the sea wall, were undamaged and business is as usual. I did not look at the extreme northern end where there is no seawall.

Bangtao Beach: There is extensive damage along the southern portion of the beach; bungalows completely washed away, even newly opened shops on the road behind the beach. However, around the Laguna Resorts there is only minimal damage. Clean-up work is underway, and the hotels there should be back to normal operation by New Year's Eve. The new resort in the Bay at the northern end of the Beach, which was still under construction, was extensively damaged, but the existing resort at the same place on the land side of the road is untouched.

Naitoon Beach: This lovely beach with a number of new resorts is completely untouched.

Nai Yang and further North: Have not been there, but I understand Nai Yang was badly hit.

I do not know anything specific about Ko Phi-Phi or Kao Lak, only what I hear or see on TV. Phi-Phi had been seriously over-built and perhaps this will be taken as a lesson to be more responsible in (re-)developing this and other areas. Some of the local people at Kao Lak seem to have similar sentiments. From Ko Lanta there are only sparse reports, but it seems to have escaped extensive damage, unbelievable when one considers how exposed the beach was to the open sea.

I hope this is of some help to people who are planning a holiday here in Phuket after this disaster. Life must go on. One of my acquaintances whose house and office was completely trashed on Patong Beach will be re-building his house. He says, this will not happen again in his life time and he is right. While it is sad that so many people lost their lives, it is important that we look into the future and think of the people otherwise affected. People here depend on the tourist income for their livelihoods. The news reports in the media only show what is "newsworthy", the devastation. The vast main portion of Phuket Island is completely unaffected. Only a very small portion of accommodations and facilities on the island have been destroyed or affected. When you go to Surin Beach or to Naithon, for example, you would not know that only as little as 2 kilometres away people lost their lives and there is destruction. The sea is quiet, the beach is beautiful, and the water clear and you can sit in a beach restaurant sipping your before-dinner cocktail watching the sun set over the Andaman Sea. Even in Patong, where on New Year's Eve the Beach Road still looked like a war zone, only 300 m

inland, New Year's Eve celebrations and partying seemed as usual, with many foreigners in evidence. True, that between 23:45 and midnight 15 minutes of silence was observed, with people praying for the victims with candles and a solitary rose, as you will have seen on TV.

I am really amazed, how well the local authorities are coping with the situation. Prime Minister Thaksin opined that probably Thailand could handle this situation virtually without outside help, and I believe this to be true. He already has allocated some US\$ 80 million from the national budget for relief and re-construction (plus US\$ 1 million from his personal fortune, as has the King), and many local people and companies are donating privately. Where the help from the developed world is sorely needed is in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, which do not have the resources to help themselves.

Personally, I was hardly affected at all. We live 10 km away from the coast. At the time of the quake I was having a leisurely breakfast on my verandah. I felt my chair swaying, thought the plastic chair was going on me, sat down on the tile covered concrete verandah enclosure, same thing. I knew I

was not drunk, and looking at my fishing/swimming pond I saw the water moving from side to side, rising and falling about 10 cm. After I had collected my wits my first thought was, this surely was offshore somewhere along the joint between the continental plates and a tsunami was going to follow. I knew a friend of mine was anchored with his yacht off the beach at Ko Lanta, about 70 km southeast of here, tried to get through on the cell phone to warn him, but was unable to do so. Later I learned, that his boat had hit bottom hard in the troughs between the waves and sustained some damage. However, he is now safe on the hard in a Phuket marina. The only thing we notice otherwise in my locality is the almost steady stream of helicopters passing overhead. We happen to be in a straight line between the airport and the commercial and fishing ports.

*Thank you very much Guenter, for this concise and very descriptive narrative.*

### Upcoming Events

#### The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics



#### **"Geomatics: Powering the Future"**

*First Announcement and Call for Papers*

June 13 - 15, 2005, Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

The 98th Annual Conference of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG), **Geomatics: Powering the Future** is just around the corner and it promises to be an exciting event for the geomatics community.

This year's event will explore the increasing role of geospatial technology in Canada and how it is moving from innovation to an everyday reality. It will provide an open forum where professionals from the geomatics community, academia and industry can discuss the latest developments in the innovative geomatics research and services available in Canada.

#### Important Dates

Deadline for paper abstracts (250 words): 31 January, 2005

Notification of acceptance of papers and posters: 1 March, 2005

Deadline for submission of full paper: 15 April, 2005

#### FIG Working Week and GSDI-8 "From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics" Cairo, Egypt, April 16-21, 2005



Read more about the technical and social programme, pre-conference workshops etc. at <http://www.fig.net/cairo> .

The organizers have received more than 450 abstracts so we are looking for the biggest FIG Working Week ever. The event is organized together with GSDI-8. The authors will be informed about the acceptance of their papers latest by 7 January 2005. Deadline for early-bird registration closes 31 January 2005. Online registration at:

<https://www.fig.net/registrations/regform.asp?eventid=13>.

Hotel booking forms are now also available on the conference web site.

Please visit the web site also for pre-conference workshops like the "Virtual Academy and the



Surveying/Geoinformatics Community" to be held April 16, 2005

**Corporate Members of the Canadian Hydrographic Association Central Branch**

Corporate Membership allows companies closely linked with the hydrographic field to become more involved with the activities of the CHA and to maintain closer contact with users of their products. Through *Lighthouse*, these Corporate Members are also able to reach a world-wide hydrographic audience. The Canadian Hydrographic Association appreciates the support of these organizations:

- **ASI Group**, St. Catharines, Ontario
- **Canadian Centre for Marine Communications**, St. John's, Newfoundland
- **C&C Technologies**, Lafayette, LA, USA.
- **Fugro Jacques Geosurveys Inc.**, St. John's, Newfoundland
- **Hydroservice AS**, Egersund, Norway
- **L-3 Klein Associates Inc.**, Salem, NH, USA
- **Interactive Visualization Systems**, Fredericton, New Brunswick
- **Knudsen Engineering Ltd.**, Perth, Ontario
- **Kongsberg Maritime**, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
- **McQuest Marine Sciences Ltd.**, Burlington, Ontario
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- **Sani Int'l Technology Advisors Inc.**, Markham, Ontario