

## **2018 Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association Conference**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The 2018 Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association Conference took place at the Lord Nelson Hotel in downtown Halifax on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Organized by the Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association, this event drew forty-five industry professionals to hear speakers on the topic of *Finding and Keeping Young Employees*.



Adjacent to the seminar room, marine suppliers Stright-MacKay, DSS Marine, VistaCare Communications, NS Labour and Advanced Education, and the Halifax Partnership had a selection of products and information on display throughout the conference.

NSBA's student intern, **Kayla Beck** was the first speaker of the conference. Her presentation focused on the importance of having a social media presence to catch the attention of young people. Since the conference, one NSBA member company who attended the conference has already started a new social media account.

The second presentation was from **Dr. Sherry Scully**, Director of Learning and Organizational Development at COVE. Sherry showed some results of her studies that looked into high school students' perception of career opportunities in the marine industry. Alarming statistics from her studies showed that most young high school students have little to no awareness of what the marine industry is, or what career opportunities exist within it. Sherry concluded with some suggestions on how industry can help correct this situation.

The final presentation was given by **Sean Kelly**, Director of Business Development, GeoSpectrum Technologies Inc. Sean focused on measures that GeoSpectrum has found effective in helping keep young employees. A big part of this requires an understanding of what the millennial generation expect and look for in employment.

A panel discussion, moderated by NSBA's Jan Fullerton, generated some insightful discussion following the presentations. The panel consisted of speakers Kayla Beck and Sean Kelly, together with Kelsey MacLeod from NS LA&E, who stood in for Dr. Sherry Scully, and Nathaniel Stabenow – a recent graduate from the Nova Scotia Boat Builder Apprenticeship Program. Questions and discussions included many of the conference delegates in the room.



*Expert panel members L to R: Sean Kelly, Nathaniel Stabenow, Kelsey MacLeod, Kayla Beck  
Moderator Jan Fullerton stands at the podium.*

The evening industry reception kicked off with the presentation of three boatbuilder awards:

**Company Development & Growth – presented to Canadian Maritime Engineering.**



Ray Gallant received the Company Development & Growth award from NSBA’s Tim Edwards on behalf of Canadian Maritime Engineering. CME has seen impressive expansion of their facilities throughout Nova Scotia in the last two years.

## Innovation Award – presented to Rosborough Boats



Heaton Rosborough received the Innovation award on behalf of Rosborough Boats for innovations incorporated into the Rough Water™ Combatant D-Collar RHIBs for the RCN's Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships.

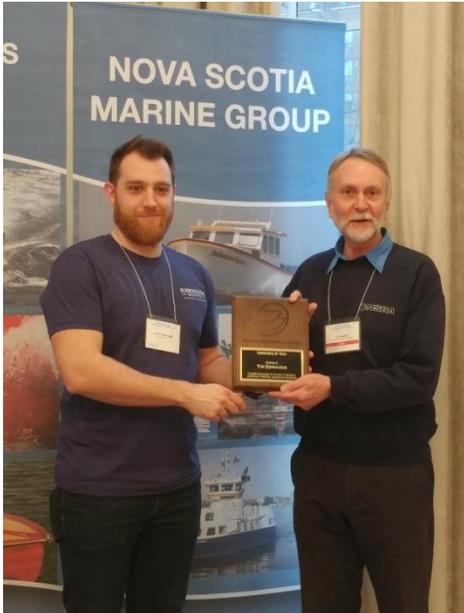
## Lifetime Achievement Award

The highlight of the evening was honouring one Nova Scotian boatbuilder for their significant contribution to the industry during their long career. **Keith Nelder**, Owner, Big Pond Boat Shop, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Executive Director, Tim Edwards.



Through the Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association, Keith has played a significant part in the teaching of boatbuilding and marine service technician skills over the past 20 years. He is an ABYC Master Technician and continues to mentor young Boat Builder and Marine Service Technician apprentices – as well as building new boats such as his current project: A Nelson Zimmer Utility Launch.

A surprise for Tim Edwards, NSBA's Executive Director came when he was honoured with a **Celebrating 20 Years** plaque. The award was presented by Heaton Rosborough, the newly elected NSBA Chairman. The NSBA celebrates its 20-year anniversary in May this year and Tim has been ED since that time – and was instrumental in establishing the NSBA back in 1998.



*Heaton Rosborough presents Tim Edwards with a special plaque acknowledging his 20 years' commitment with the NSBA*

Two plaques were presented to retiring NSBA Board Officers at the AGM before the conference:

**Glen Aylward** retired from his position as Chairman after two, two-year terms. He was unable to be at the AGM and Conference and so the presentation will be made in the Spring.

**Peter Bennett** retired from his position as Vice-Chairman and Treasurer – positions he has held since 2012. Peter was presented with a plaque acknowledging his past commitment to the NSBA.



*Peter Bennett (R) stands with Heaton Rosborough (L), showing his plaque acknowledging his terms served as NSBA Vice-Chairman and Treasurer*

An industry reception marked the final event of this year's NSBA AGM & Conference.

NSBA wishes to thank conference sponsors Stright-MacKay, DSS Marine, Mermaid Marine, VistaCare Communications, and Halifax Partnership. We also thank Nova Scotia Labour & Advanced Education for supporting our 2018 conference.