

# *Fort Erie*

## *Underwater Recovery*

### *Unit Log*

*August, 2008*

Despite the wet weather, I hope you've been able to get out to – get wet. There are lots of opportunities to do some quality diving this season. Out unit dives seem to have fallen by the wayside, but from time to time, there will be some scheduled dives to partake in.

We are still hosting visiting dive groups, so if there are groups out there wishing to dive the mighty Niagara, drop us a line and we can still schedule you in! All we need is a small deposit up front to reserve a time, and your group can use our facilities right on the waters' edge. We'll fill your tanks and even host a barbeque to recharge your batteries! Come see what's it's like to be a Niagara diver!

As a reminder to everyone, especially newer members, please make sure you turn off all lights, make sure the banks and stations are closed, that the security system is re-activated and that you lock the door when leaving the facilities. Thanks!

#### **NEW OR GNARLY**

##### **Vintage Diver Treasures**

If you are interested in vintage decals to refurbish your old tanks, or just would like to have a few, or if you'd just like to see how many

companies made scuba back in the day (50's-70's), check out this website. ([vdt@vintagedivertreasures.com](mailto:vdt@vintagedivertreasures.com)), or Google Vintage Diver Treasures. (Clicking on 'appreciations', you'll see Mike in vintage stuff, and Gloria diving with a genuine vintage diver in unique local settings.)

They primarily sell their decals on e-bay, but they have a store as well. It's worth your while to check it out and relive the glory days of diving. The decals are marine grade and attention to detail is fantastic. Oh, and check out their other stuff too!

### **PADI e-RDPml Electronic Recreational Multi-Level Dive Planner**

The times they are a changin'. Move over dive tables. Move over 'Wheel'. Move over e-RDP. PADI has just come out with its latest decompression table surface planning computer designed to greatly assist new divers taking their first course, as well as older divers to plan their multiple level dives.

Available next month, the eRDPml is not a dive computer per se, but an electronic dive table that gives users the capability to plan single dives or a two or three level dive when in the Multilevel mode.

The unit displays Dive Planning; Maximum Depth; Surface Interval Modes. You will access multilevel dive planning in the Dive Planning mode.

The most difficult part of dive training for most is mastering the no decompression dive tables. PADI has changed all this with the economical eRDPml. No more calculations, and a good back-up to your computer when you want to correlate a simulated dive profile. And it's pretty cool too!

## **DIVE JIVE**

### **Requiem of an Older Diver**

I've been diving for 36 years now. And there have been a lot of changes both within the diving community as well as the equipment itself. It seems that today's divers are rushed through their training, feverish to get all their gear before they have even had a chance to recover from their first course. Then it's off to exotic and remote locales. For some, local diving just isn't fun.

But I beg to differ. I HAVE been all over, diving the seas, oceans lakes, rivers and quarries of this hemisphere. True, the diving is great and many lasting memories have been made throughout. But I always enjoy just 'letting my hair down' diving in Windmill Point Quarry. My first dive was in Windmill with an old friend of mine who no longer dives.

I ordered a non-standard size 42 cu. ft. tank from Berry Scuba Supply in Chicago. I had to put a block of wood between the tank and the tank band of my back pack to be able to use it because it was thinner than the back pack was designed for.

Dive after dive was made in the quarry. I remember we got to be friends with the old fire chief of Fire Company #4, Chief Everett. We called him 'Chief-y'. He charged us \$5 to fill our small tanks at the fire hall which I lived directly behind back in the 60's. That was a lot of money back then, but it saved a prohibitive trip to St. Catharines to Bob Jackson's Dive Shop for a fill. Our parents wouldn't do that for us on a continuing basis and of course we didn't drive, as we were in our mid-teens.

The quarry back then was our ticket to adventure. Each dive was spent looking for treasures – anything we could bring up that was remotely cool; lost masks, the odd fin or snorkel. And bottles – lots

of bottles. The quarry was a veritable treasure trove of old vintage pop bottles. It was like going down to the sea in a time machine. Some I even have to this day.

Gloria, Scuba Steve and I were there again last weekend. It was another pleasure dive. The vis wasn't the greatest, but the sun was out and we made the circuit - the dive platforms; the four sunken boats, the old Ford truck cab, the three or four scuba tanks welded end to end; then, we swam up under the dive platform for a chat before laying in a course back to where our vehicles were waiting our return.

I never got tired of diving Windmill. A lot of memories have been made there. Even Gloria has her scuba roots there as it was there she successfully completed her PADI Open Water certification. We always look forward to diving Windmill. It's just a place to relax, have an easy dive, and soak up the sun afterward; memories ever in the making.

Sometimes to enjoy your future, you need to revisit the haunts of your past. It may be good therapy to return to the roots of YOUR diving past. Relive the excitement of hooking up your gear. Look into the depths with a beginner's mind, as the Japanese say. Live the moment as though it was your first. Taste anew the rubber scented air. Take your time and *feel* the experience as though it was your first underwater. If you can do that, you will truly appreciate your dive experience anew.

**THINK DEEP, MATES!**