



Newsletter

The 2025 Nautical Skills Competition Master Mariners of Canada (MMC) NL Division



The 13th annual <u>Nautical Skills Competition</u> (NSC) was hosted by the <u>Master Mariners of Canada (MMC)</u>, (NL Division), in collaboration with the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI). The event ran from 1700 to 2030 on Friday, February 7th, 2025 and continued on Saturday, February 8th, from 0800 to 1700 at MI's Ridge Road campus in St. John's, NL. A reception was held at 1830 in the MI student lounge followed by a Gala Awards Dinner at 1930 in the cafeteria.

Using six state-of-the-art marine simulators, five from the MI and one from local company Virtual Marine, the competition included nine challenging exercises (six simulation-based and three non-simulation-based) designed to test the knowledge and ability Marine Institute Nautical Science and Marine Engineering students. Marine Engineering students participated in the competition, for the first time, and two engineering specific exercises were added to the competition. Members of the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering (CIMarE) provided assistance with the judging of the new engineering exercises. The competition aimed to promote the maritime sector, encourage team building and professionalism, and foster a safety culture.

The NSC started in 2012, as a way for the Master Mariners of Canada (NL Division) to mentor and reach out to the younger generation of upcoming seafarers. It has become a flagship event in the Division's annual calendar. It has also become a way to engage the maritime industry, locally, nationally, and internationally through sponsorship and participation. Industry support helps facilitate the event and enables the MMC to promote leadership, strong work ethic, diversity, and inclusion with any new person entering the nautical field.

Captain Eben March, MMC National Master said: "We are thrilled to announce that the marine engineering students will participate in this year's competition. This year, we've added two exciting new exercises specifically designed for marine engineers, which will enhance their competition experience," said Captain March.

The marine engineering cadets will join their nautical counterparts in all 9 exercises, bringing together their unique engine room and bridge experiences. We can't wait to see them compete."

Forty-nine Nautical Science and fifteen Marine Engineering students demonstrated their skills in ship maneuvering, navigation, stability, seamanship, dynamic positioning, emergency management, and offshore operations to veteran master mariners and marine engineers from the Newfoundland and Labrador region. Twenty-three Canadian maritime companies supported the competition, providing opportunities for cadets to interact with the region's most experienced mariners. Thirteen high school students, from across Newfoundland and Labrador, also participated in the event, contributing to the Master Mariners of Canada's mandate to promote the marine profession to younger generations.

The 1st place winners of the NSC are presented with a plaque named in honour of Captain Jim Thorpe (R. James Thorpe), who was a member of the Master Mariners of Canada (NL Division) and a valuable mentor to the Marine Institute's Nautical Science cadets. Captain Thorpe's passion for student success was palpable as he proved to be a valuable source of information for the cadet technical reports. He was often found volunteering at the school, sharing memories of his own cadet and sailing experiences with the students. The



Captain Jim Thorpe

plaque honours the memory of this lifelong respected and professional mariner.

Captain Jim Thorpe was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a son of a sailing family, all of whom were active in the Housatonic Boat Club, the oldest yacht club in the state of Connecticut. An avid yachtsman, he attended Maine Maritime Academy, where he was involved with sailing and club activities. Jim sailed the world with American Export Isbrandtsen Lines as Deck Officer and Navigation Officer, obtaining a USCG license of Master, any gross tons. He also held a distinction of having served on the NS *Savannah*, the first, and one of the few ever built, commercial nuclear-powered ships.

Jim retired to Newfoundland with his family. He collaborated with the Master Mariners of Canada, among other projects. Jim was a mariner of the old school, a community builder, and a loving family man with an active circle of friends. His legacy remains an inspiration to young and seasoned mariners alike. Captain Thorpe passed away in January 2009 in St. John's, NL.

At the first Nautical Skills Competition held in 2012, his wife Dawna Vivian and his son Lydon Thorpe presented the 1st Place Award in his honour.

The Sponsors









THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

MASTER MARINER LEVEL









CHIEF OFFICER LEVEL













SECOND OFFICER LEVEL





THIRD OFFICER LEVEL

























This year, the NSC had twenty-three sponsors that contributed \$51,070 in support of the event.

Sponsorship Levels: Master Mariner Level \$5,000 +.

Chief Officer Level \$3,000 to \$4,999.

Second Officer Level \$1,500 to \$2,999

Third Officer Level \$500 to \$1,499

Cadet < \$500



The Company of Master Mariners of Canada, NL Division, would like to thank the sponsors for the support they have provided for the Nautical Skills Competition. Without your financial support, the competition would not be possible. Once again THANK YOU, to all the sponsors.

The Venue









2025 Group Photo, including Students, Judges and Volunteers.

THANK YOU, to the Marine Institute. For once again hosting the competition.

The Teams

Team 1 – Wrecks, Tugs & Rock n' Roll

Tavish Mason1st Year Marine EngineeringLogan Ryland1st Year Nautical ScienceWilliam Taylor1st Year Nautical ScienceMatt Babin2nd Year Marine EngineeringJames Hawco2nd Year Nautical ScienceReilly Planke2nd Year Nautical ScienceWalker Johnston3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

Team 2 - Ready Oar Knot

Jacquelyne Beland-Metcalfe 1st Year Nautical Science Logan Pike 1st Year Nautical Science Ethan Rose 1st Year Nautical Science Jack Greene 2nd Year Marine Engineering 2nd Year Nautical Science Morgan Hackett **Taylor Osmond** 2nd Year Nautical Science 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science **Bradley Barker** 3rd/4th Year Marine Engineering Simone Hodder 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science Tyler Sheppard

Team 3 – Not Under Command 2.0

David March

Jerry Sturge

Dylan Pumphrey

Matthew Sheppard

Henry Wolff-Ouellon

Cameron Pelley

David March

1st Year Nautical Science

2nd Year Nautical Science

2nd Year Marine Engineering

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

3rd/4th Year Marine Engineering

Team 4 - Boaty McBoatface

Jason Barron 1st Year Nautical Science Michelle Caul 1st Year Nautical Science James Green 1st Year Nautical Science 1st Year Marine Engineering Michael Uhuangho 2nd Year Nautical Science Josh Batten Robert Hodge 2nd Year Nautical Science Logan Knee 2nd Year Marine Engineering 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science **Emily Galway** Alex Pulchan 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

Team 5 – Knotty by Nature

1st Year Nautical Science Addison Isnor Altass Madison Dovle 1st Year Nautical Science Maxwell Piercey 1st Year Nautical Science Jayden Reardon 1st Year Marine Engineering Allan Bambury 2nd Year Nautical Science 2nd Year Nautical Science Megan Fiander Ryan Ricard 2nd Year Marine Engineering 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science Scott Brown 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science Nicholas Spearns

Team 6 – Red Hot Chili Skippers

Nicholas Allen 1st Year Nautical Science 1st Year Nautical Science Jack Griffith Yassin Labib 1st Year Nautical Science 2nd Year Nautical Science Nathan Childs 2nd Year Marine Engineering Nigel Lewis 2nd Year Marine Engineering Jonah Rowsell Ethan Strickland 2nd Year Nautical Science 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science Hayley North 3rd/4th Year Nautical Science Julia Young

Team 7 – Pro-Pellers

Noah Harnett

Warren Hayden

1st Year Nautical Science

1st Year Nautical Science

1st Year Nautical Science

2st Year Nautical Science

2rd Year Nautical Science

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

Jaycen Russwurm

3rd/4th Year Marine Engineering

Brock Tulk

3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

Team 8 – Gulf of America

Jack Moulton1st Year Nautical ScienceJesse Richards1st Year Nautical ScienceKolby Maynard2nd Year Marine EngineeringEdmund Pelley2nd Year Nautical ScienceBradin Burden3rd/4th Year Marine EngineeringJoseph Curtis3rd/4th Year Nautical ScienceLogan Rennie3rd/4th Year Nautical Science

$High\ School\ Students \qquad \qquad {\tt Marine\ Engineering\ (MENG)}$

Nautical Science (NASC)

Luke Adams	Mount Pearl, NL	O'Donel High School	MENG
Jaden Churchill	St. Lawrence, NL	St. Lawrence Academy	NASC
Brayden Hodder	Carmanville, NL	Phoenix Academy	NASC
Seth Martin	St. John's, NL	St. Bonaventure's College	NASC
Jaxson Mclaughlin	Lewisporte, NL	Lewisporte Collegiate	NASC
Blake Normore	Horwood, NL	Riverwood Academy	MENG
Thomas Pardy	Lewisporte, NL	Lewisporte Collegiate	NASC
Zachary Randell	Deer Lake, NL	Elwood Regional High School	MENG
Melissa Ricketts	Bell Island, NL	St. Michaels High School	MENG
Hunter Spence	Port Aux Choix, NL	French Shore Academy	NASC
Nicholas Turpin	St. Lawrence, NL	St. Lawrence Academy	MENG
Carter Walsh	Marystown, NL	Marystown Central High School	MENG
Yicheng Zhang	St. John's, NL	Gonzaga High School	MENG

The Volunteers

Dynamic Positioning					
Captain Glenn Fiander	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain Eric Alyward	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Richard Edwards	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Samantha Strowbridge	Judge Member MMC				
Emergency Management					
Captain Victor March	Exercise Lead				
Captain Troy Nolan	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain Ray Dalton	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Roy Marsh	Judge Member MMC				
Christopher Refuse	Assistant Judge Associate Member MMC				
Engineering Workshop					
Paul Bishop (Marine Engineer)	Exercise Lead Marine Institute				
Don Hartley (Marine Engineer)	Judge Member CIMarE				
Nicholas Thomas (Marine Engineer)	Judge				

Offshore Operations					
Captain Eben March	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain Sheldon Anstey	Judge Member MMC				
Captain James Careen	Judge Marine Institute				
Captain Jeff Murrin	Judge Member MMC				
Regan Clements	Assistant Judge Associate Member MMC				
Propulsion Plant					
Crystal Hanlon (Marine Engineer)	Exercise Lead Marine Institute				
Nadine LeBlanc (Marine Engineer)	Exercise Lead Marine Institute				
Joe Earles (Marine Engineer)	Judge Member CIMarE				
Mia Hicks (Marine Engineer)	Judge Member CIMarE				
Brian Kelly (Marine Engineer)	Judge Member CIMarE				
Seams	anship				
Captain Kent Waddleton	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain John Ennis	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain Philip Bulman	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Phil Lind	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Sean Quinlan	Judge Member MMC				
Search an	nd Rescue				
Captain Dawn Patten	Exercise Lead Virtual Marine				
Dan Fournier	Judge Algoma Central Corporation				
Captain Chris Whelan	Judge Member MMC				
Alex Phillips	Virtual Marine				
Shiphandling/Navigation					
Captain Chris Hearn	Exercise Lead Member MMC				
Captain Drew McNeil	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Fabian Mulrooney	Judge Member MMC				
Captain Allan Keeping	Judge Marine Atlantic				

NSC Volunteers				
Maria Halfyard	NSC Coordinator Honorary Member MMC			
Jennifer Howell	NSC Coordinator Associate Member MMC			
Captain Kristopher Drodge	Member MMC			
Capt./Dr. Jim Parsons	Member MMC			
Elizabeth Clouter	Marine Institute Honorary Member MMC			
Dr. Paul Brett	Marine Institute			
Dr. Angie Clarke	Marine Institute			
Bernie Brockerville	Marine Institute			
Shelby Fudge	Marine Institute			
Paula Fulford	Marine Institute			
Mackenzie Luff	Marine Institute			
Kate McLeod	Marine Institute			
Chelsey Oldford	Marine Institute			
Kate Saunders	Marine Institute			
Krista Sweetland	Marine Institute			
Kimberly Thornhill	Marine Institute			
Stacey Walsh	Marine Institute			

THANK YOU, to all the volunteers. Without your dedication and hard work, the competition would not be possible.

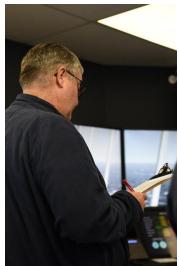
A special THANK YOU, to our two event coordinators, Maria Halfyard and Jennifer Howell. Without you organizing all the elements and keeping everything (and everyone) on track, the competition would not have been the great success that it was.

The 2025 NSC video will be posted on the Newfoundland Division section of the MMC website. http://nsc.mastermariners.ca/media/

The Competition

Dynamic Positioning (DP). The exercise utilized a DP equipped shuttle tanker on approach to a Floating Storage Unit (FSU). The approach was underway at exercise start. Using the specialized DP functionality on the tanker, participants continued with the approach and connection to the FSU (hawser & hose). Participants were required to follow specific operating procedures, as defined by the field operator.







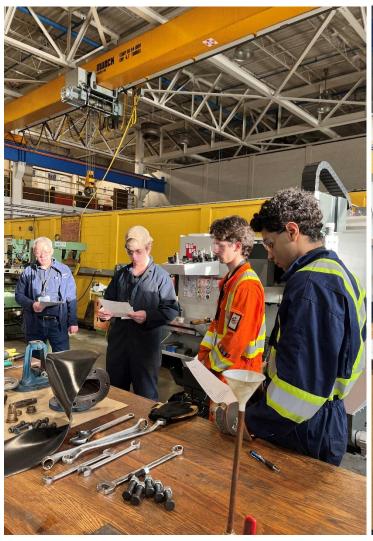




Engineering Workshop. Participants were presented with a disassembled valve. Using the tools and materials provided, they were required to re-assemble the valve. The aim was to have the valve operational, after assembly. The re-assembled valve was pressure tested, to ensure correct assembly.





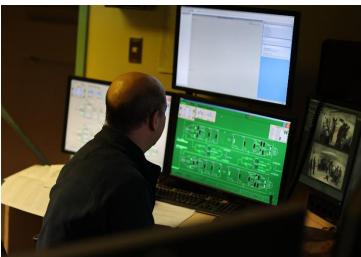




Emergency Management. Participants were given a situation where they were in the control room onboard a semisubmersible drilling rig. The rig and all of its systems came under a cyber attack from a malware computer virus. The students were tasked in making and keeping the rig and its crew safe, as they began to lose control of the systems onboard. Isolating systems, reverting to manual operations, and verification of the status of actual systems, were key elements that were evaluated as part of the exercise.







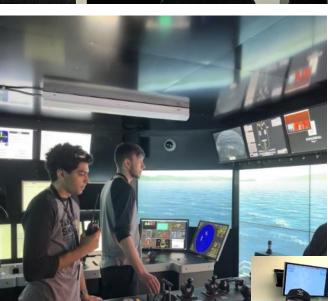




Offshore Operations. Participants had to maneuver an anchor handling supply vessel, stern to a semi-submersible drilling rig, and pick up a chaser pennant. After connecting the pennant to the vessels work wire, they had to chase out to the anchor. They were then required to bring the anchor on the deck of the supply vessel.











Propulsion Plant. Participants had to stand a watch in the engine room of a VLCC tanker. Fitted with a slow speed MAN B&W engine. They were responsible for following standing orders, ensuring adequate power supply for operational requirements, ensuring steering remained operational, ensuring CPP remained operational, ensuring the main engine was running within normal parameters, communicating with the bridge (as required) and responding to alarms.











Seamanship (five sections).

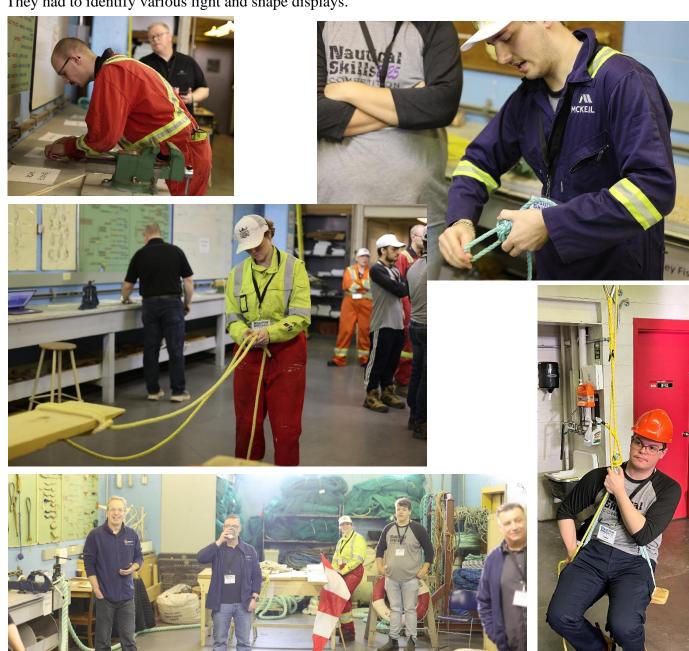
Participants encoded and decoded messages using the signal flags of the International Code of Signals.

They had to tie a heaving line knot (monkey fist), attach it to a heaving line and throw the heaving line through the center of a life ring.

They had to demonstrate various knots, bends, hitches and splices and the proper use of various mooring line stoppers.

They had to assemble items for working aloft or over the ship's side, rig various purchases and discuss/demonstrate the use of this equipment.

They had to identify various light and shape displays.



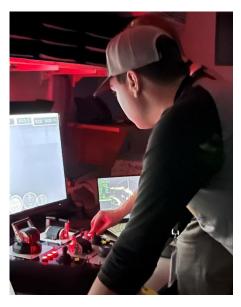
Search and Rescue. The participants completed a pre launch inspection and launched a fast rescue boat (FRC) from a supply vessel. The FRC crew rescued a person in the water, triaged them, and then decided how best to proceed (back to the vessel or transport ashore).

THANK YOU, to Virtual Marine, for the use of its FRC simulator.











Ship Handling and Navigation. Using a Marine Atlantic ferry, Ala'suinu, participants had to depart a dock in Port aux Basques harbour. They then steamed outside the harbour, turned the vessel around and steamed back into the harbour. There they made a 180° turn and docked the vessel where they started.











Marine Emergency Duties (Team Relay). Held on the Friday evening, in the Marine Institute gymnasium, before the main competition day on Saturday. It was a timed competition where teams competed in pairs. Marks were based on overall time to complete the tasks and proper execution of those tasks. Marks received counted towards overall team scores for the competition.

Part A: Donning a fire suit/bunker gear.

Part B: Attach a nozzle to a fire hose /deploy hose.

Part C: Recover rescue manikin to a safe area.

Part D: Don an immersion suit and life jackets. Carry life raft.















The teams ran the exercise in pairs. Before the teams started the exercise, there was an exercise demonstration provided by two temporary teams of volunteers. One, a group comprised of Marine Institute managers. The other a group comprised of members of MMC, NL Division. THANK YOU, to our volunteer teams.

The Reception and Gala Dinner

After the competition, a reception was held in the Marine Institute student lounge and a gala awards dinner was held at the Marine Institute cafeteria. The students had an opportunity to meet representatives from the sponsors (potential future employers) and the sponsors had an opportunity to meet with the students (potential future employees). In addition to the representatives of the sponsors, some special guests were also invited:

MHA James Dinn, St. John's Centre	Government of NL
Tom Davis	City of St. John's
Earl Ludlow Chancellor, Memorial University	Memorial University
Chancenor, Memorial Chiversity	
Dr. Jennifer Lokash Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Memorial University	Memorial University
Lisa Browne Vice-President (Administration, Finance and Advancement), Memorial University	Memorial University
Dr. Paul Brett Vice-President, Memorial University (Marine Institute)	Marine Institute
Dr. Angie Clarke Associate Vice-President (Marine Institute), Academic and Student Affairs	Marine Institute







THANK YOU, to the Marine Institute cafeteria staff, for an excellent meal.

The Awards



1st Place, Team 8. MMC National Master, Captain Eben March and Vice President, Memorial University (MI), Dr. Paul Brett., presenting the team with the Captain Jim Thorpe plaque and a \$1,500 cheque for each team member. Highest combined score, for all nine competition events.





 $\underline{2^{nd}\ Place},$ Team 3. For each team member, a \$750 cheque. Second highest combined score, for all nine competition events.



 3^{rd} Place, Team 7. For each team member, a \$500 cheque. Third highest combined score, for all nine competition events.



Honorable Mention, 4th Place (sponsor Marine Institute). Team 5. Presented by Dr. Paul Brett.

- Team that showed good understanding and performance of most exercises and a commitment toward meeting all objectives.
- Had an overall great attitude.



Leadership Acknowledgement of Excellence (sponsor Fry Family Foundation Student Leadership Initiative). A \$500 award presented to Logan Rennie. Presented by Captain Kristopher Drodge, Head, School of Maritime Studies MI.

To quote the Fry Family Foundation Student Leadership Initiative, "It has been shown that students who began to understand the complexities of leadership at an early stage in their university education were more likely to step forward to take a leadership approach to their own personal and professional development". This acknowledgement is a reflection of their

- Effectively communicates with team members and demonstrates strong operational group management.
- Consistently exhibited exceptional and dynamic leadership skills by recognizing and harnessing the strengths of each team member in solving the tasks presented.
- Encourages and maximizes group participation and contributed to effective bridge resource management.
- Demonstrates the development of leadership qualities that can be applied at home, in the classroom, at work and in the community.



Safety Award (sponsor Algoma Central). Team 6.

- The safety briefing was relevant and had a direct bearing on the exercise at hand.
- The team showed a good knowledge of safety practices and/or protocols and the information was relayed accurately.
- The team added creativity and demonstrated originality to relay safety protocols.



Achievement Award in Dynamic Positioning (sponsor Woodwards Group). Team 8. Presented by Gary Bishop.

- Had the highest mark in manoeuvring a shuttle tanker using DP for approach and connection to a FSU.

No Photo. See Team 5 photo below.

Achievement Award in Marine Emergency Duties (sponsor Atlantic Towing). Team 5.

- Came first in completing the four MED tasks in the proper and safest manner, and with the fastest time.



Achievement Award in Engine Room Fabrication Duties (sponsor DOF). Team 5. Presented by Chris Tibbo.

- Team with the highest mark, in Engine Room Shop. They most efficiently and correctly assembled a valve, which when tested, worked correctly.



Ship Manoeuvring Award (sponsors Canship Ugland and NTL). Team 8. Presented by Nelson Stone. Award of \$300 for each team member.

- In memory of Captain Brian Bishop, our friend and a huge contributor to this competition.
- Came first place in ship handling skills and in this case brought the new Marine Atlantic ferry into Port aux Basques.



Problem Solving Award (Horizon Maritime). Team 3. Presented by Vicki Peddle and John Pendergast.

- Identified the problem in a timely fashion and communicated to the appropriate team members.
- Showed analytical and critical thinking skills, to evaluate the problem.
- Presented a logical and methodical approach, to solve the problem in a safe and effective manner.



Teamwork and Leadership Award (Canada Steamship Lines). Team 3.

- Each individual recognized their role and were able to encourage a cooperative approach to complete the exercise.
- The team can demonstrate a high degree of planning and organization collectively and thereby quickly responded to changing conditions.
- The team leader was easily identifiable and, as a role model, communicates and supports feedback from all members of the team in an open and respectful manner, particularly during critical situations.



Spirit Award (sponsor Horizon Maritime). Team 6. Presented by Captain Chris Fleming.

- Creative and enthusiastic in their approach to the exercise.
- Great team camaraderie.
- Makes the overall environment more enjoyable for each other, observers, and the judges.
- Shows a positive attitude, especially in stressful moments.



Social Media Award (sponsor Marine Institute). Team 6. Presented by Mackenzie Luff.

The social media challenge was designed to engage the Master Mariners of Canada, NSC sponsors, and the overall MI/MUN community in the Nautical Skills Competition. Throughout the event, partners and supporters followed the action on social media, while each of the eight NSC teams shared their progress through Instagram posts and stories. Before the competition, each team created a unique name and Instagram account to showcase their completed tasks, with some even designing their own team logos. This year, teams completed 12 tasks focused on both the Nautical Science and Marine Engineering programs.



One \$1,000 Tuition Award (sponsored by CSL Group). Tuition voucher presented to Grade 12 student Nicholas Turpin. Presented by Stephanie Aubourg, CSL Group.



One \$1,000 Tuition Award (sponsored by Woodward Group of Companies). Tuition voucher presented to Grade 12 student Carter Walsh. Presented by Gary Bishop, Woodward Group.

One \$1,000 Tuition Award (sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineers). Awarded to Yicheng Zhang who was not at the awards dinner.



Three \$1,000 Tuition Awards (one sponsored by the Master Mariners of Canada, NL Division and 2 sponsored by the Master Mariners of Canada, Foundation). Tuition vouchers presented to Grade 12 students (left to right) Thomas Pardy, Jaden Churchill and Seth Martin. Presented by MMC NL National Master, Captain Eben March.



Participation Award for High School Students (sponsor SEA1). Presented by Captain Ray Dalton.

- Recognition of the 13 high school students that participated in the competition.









The 13th Nautical Skills Competition was a great success. We look forward to the 14th Nautical Skills Competition in 2026. See you next year.