

## **Ships' Officer Shortage Focus of Marine Seminar**

Delegates from the country's marine transportation industry heard a strong message on Wednesday – their industry needs more people.

That was the conclusion of a one-day seminar organized by the Company of Master Mariners of Canada - Newfoundland & Labrador Division held at the Marine Institute. Entitled *Human Resource Solutions in a Dynamic Maritime Industry*, the event was attended by 69 delegates, with seven presentations focused on many different human resource issues facing the industry.



“The message flowing from the seminar was clear, the profile of the maritime industry needs to be lifted and made more viable before we can contend with the current shortage of marine personnel globally,” stated Captain Jim Parsons.

Glenn Blackwood, executive director of the Marine Institute, echoes Captain Parsons' concerns.

“The theme of the seminar was very timely and relevant. The growth of the marine transportation industry and oil and gas sector represents an enormous opportunity for young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians,” he said. “A large number of major developments have recently been identified by the Province and they will all require a very large number of marine personnel at all levels. I congratulate the Company of Master Mariners on providing this forum for the discussion of a critical issue.”

It is predicted that by the year 2015 there will be a global shortage of 27,000 ship's officer. One of the key message flowing from the seminar was that industry, government and maritime training institutions need to work together to ensure that the demand for highly qualified personnel is met.

“Numerous attendees and presenters have expressed their satisfaction with the seminar and look forward to our next Human Resources seminar in October 2008,” said Captain Parsons. “The profile of the Newfoundland Division of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada has been significantly raised and we have already added five new members to the local division as a direct result of the seminar.”

The Company of Master Mariners of Canada is a corporation established to serve the shipping industry, further the efficiency of the sea service and uphold the status, dignity and prestige of Master Mariners.