



Sun Times photo by With Schwichtenberg

William Jones (left) and Danny McLeod reminisce

## Savior, victim reunite 50 years after rescue

**SOUTHAMPTON** — Fifty years ago on Aug. 31, 1931, William T. Jones, now 71, was almost a victim of a shipping disaster off Chantry Island.

Jones returned from California this past weekend for the first time to mark the event.

He was part of a five-man crew on the Francis P. Ritchie, a 160-foot vessel, that sank one-and-a-quarter miles off the mouth of the Saugeen River after it hit a reef.

Thanks to the alertness of Danny McLeod, now 81, of Southampton, Jones was one of three men plucked from the ship only minutes before it broke up and sank.

On Monday, the two men exchanged their views on what happened that Saturday afternoon 50 years ago.

McLeod, a former commercial fisherman, said he was walking near the Saugeen River when he noticed the ship and thought it unusual for a ship to be in that location.

Immediately a crew of five local commercial fishermen ventured out in the six-foot waves to assist.

On the way out they met two crew members of the ship who left in the only lifeboat available making their way to shore.

The former fisherman recalls they had difficulty convincing Jones to jump into the lake despite a lifeline.

Jones acknowledged he was hesitant about jumping into the cold water because of his diving experience where he would always head for the bottom.

Both men gave a broad grin when Jones realized what his alternative would have been.

"I didn't really think the boat would sink and was not aware of the danger until I watched it go under from the rescue boat," he said.

"The other men were aware of the danger and were really shook up," he said.

"But when I saw it sink, I began to shake and realized what a fool's paradise I had been going around in."

To mark the reunion, McLeod presented Jones with a belaying pin which was recovered from the ill-fated ship about seven years ago by a diver.

Jones admitted part of the reason for the trip to Canada was in the hope of retrieving some small memento of the vessel and came equipped with a diver's suit for the venture.

"I can't believe your generosity," Jones said.

McLeod is the only remaining member of the rescue team and Jones said he believes only one other member of the crew is still alive.

The two had planned to visit the location of the sinking but dense fog Monday prevented that.



The official opening of the Sauble Tennis Court was held on Thursday, September 3. Reeve Harron of Amabel Township cut the ribbon to officially open the court. Cutting the ribbon were left to right: Pat Downs, Reeve Gary Harron, Cliff Bowman, Chairman of the Sauble Property Owners Association and Jim Hurley of the Tennis Association. The project has been underway for a period of two years.

Donations from Sauble residents as well as visitors contributed to the cause. Other fund raising activities included a 50 - 50 draw, raffles and garage sales. Future plans for the court include the installation of an acrylic top and landscaping the grounds. A tennis club will be formed with Iris Ives and A. Carter as co-chairpersons. Plans call for tennis instruction and tournament play for next season.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnston celebrated their 55 wedding anniversary on Sunday at the home of their daughter Mrs. Winona McTeer, of Paisley.

## Johnstons anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnston were married June 29th, 1927, at the home of the bride's parents in Skipness, Ontario. The bride was the former Olive Gertrude Foreman, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John and Hannah Foreman of Allenford. The groom

is the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William and Ellen Johnston Sr. of Elsinore.

Rev. Charles Hackett officiated, witnessed by over 80 guests. The late Mrs. Margerite Mercer of Owen Sound, cousin of the bride, acted as flower girl and ring bearer.

The couple have lived and farmed all their married life in Amabel Township. Bill is well known for his masonry trade. He especially loves building a natural fieldstone wall or fireplace with barely any mortar showing in his masterpiece. He is a 55-year member of the Allenford Orange Lodge 986 and was Master from 1941 to 1943.

Ollie has shared the farm duties with her husband and maintained a large fruit and vegetable garden. In later years they have found more time to attend auction sales. They find this very relaxing and sometimes quite rewarding, as they purchase more broad-axes, fruit jars, wrenches for horse-drawn implements or fancy dishes to add to their growing collections.

They are adherents of the Hepworth Baptist Church.

Their family includes Winona Doris, Mrs. Alvin McTeer of Paisley; William John of Owen Sound and Beverley Winston of Port Elgin, another son died as an infant. They have six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A social afternoon was spent at Winona's home in Paisley, on June 27th, followed by a delicious family dinner at the Paisley Inn. The immediate family was joined by Mrs. Johnston's brother-in-law Alva Moore of Lee Manor of Owen Sound and her brother and his wife, Harold and May Foreman of Allenford.

Messages of congratulations were received from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Opposition Leader Joe Clark, Premier William Davis, Eddie Sargent and M.P. Gary Gubin.