

## PRESS RELEASE

**Blenheim, Ontario.** - Save Ontario Shipwrecks (S.O.S.) is pleased to announce that Bob (Robert) Lighthart of Charleston Lake (Athens), Ontario has been presented with the 2008 S.O.S. Director's Achievement Award and a lifetime S.O.S. membership. The plaque is inscribed: "For his 23 years service to the organization in various roles and his dedication to preserving Ontario's marine heritage". The award was presented in Kingston Ontario on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by S.O.S. President Brian Prince.

As a retired school teacher, his wife didn't want him around the house, so he founded the Thousand Island Chapter of S.O.S. He started scuba diving and achieved the rating of Master Scuba Instructor, where he enjoyed the love of diving and teaching. With a friend he operated a dive shop in Smith Falls for a while.

He served as an S.O.S. Chapter Chair in the 90's and SOS board member from the late 90's to 2005. He has spread the word of SOS well and as a Regional Representative was successful at getting the Ottawa Chapter out of dormancy and tried to get the Peterborough chapter back up and running as well. So well in fact, the Ottawa chapter is now one of the largest and most active with three of seven S.O.S Board of Directors from the Ottawa Chapter.

Save Ontario Shipwrecks is a not for profit group incorporated in Ontario Canada, dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of an appreciation of marine heritage. Incorporated in 1981, S.O.S. is a public charitable organization of dedicated volunteers. Operating through local Chapter Committees supported by a Board of Directors, volunteers have undertaken many projects and activities such as underwater archaeological investigations, historical and archival research, oral histories, side scan surveys, historical plaques and mooring buoys on heritage sites. Through chapter sponsored projects, such as plaques, surveys, buoys and internationally recognized diver training through the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS), S.O.S. not only helps protect dive sites, but spreads the important word to many others. S.O.S. believes in *in-situ* preservation of artifacts (i.e., leaving them where found) as opposed to expensive preservation then hidden from the public in museum collection storage facilities. For more information about S.O.S. please visit [www.SaveOntarioShipwrecks.on.ca](http://www.SaveOntarioShipwrecks.on.ca) and [www.DiveToPreserve.org](http://www.DiveToPreserve.org) or contact Brian Prince at [president@SaveOntarioShipwrecks.on.ca](mailto:president@SaveOntarioShipwrecks.on.ca).



Brian Prince, President of S.O.S., presenting Bob Lighthart the SOS Director's Achievement Award and a lifetime S.O.S. membership.  
Photo: M. Barker