

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

GORDON BAIN – FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND CEO OF OCEAN

Ocean is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. To mark this key milestone, this month, the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES) presents an interview with Gordon Bain, Founding President and CEO of Ocean.

Gordon Bain is Founding President and CEO of Ocean, a company he founded in 1972 under the name Aqua-Marine. Today, Ocean is one of the most prosperous companies in the Canadian marine sector and an industry leader. A passionate visionary and skilled businessman, Gordon Bain continues to strive for innovation and perfection. He recognizes talent and expertise and, over the years, has surrounded himself with highly qualified, specialized, loyal managers and employees, who have helped Ocean grow into a company that has revolutionized the techniques and equipment used by ship operators, shipping agents, ports and shipbuilding entrepreneurs in Eastern Canada.



A respected leader, Gordon Bain has built a healthy, flourishing organization, using his expertise, know-how, professionalism and in-depth knowledge to contribute to the various sectors of activity in which Ocean and its many affiliates operate.

Certified under the advanced National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI Worldwide) training program and a graduate of the Northwest School of Deep Sea Diving in Vancouver, Gordon Bain diligently continues to consolidate his knowledge in the fields of management, engineering and accounting. He is a Governor of the Musée Maritime de Charlevoix and a member of the Cercle des grands bâtisseurs maritimes de Québec, an honour awarded by Groupe maritime Québec to recognize his work and efforts, which have contributed significantly to developing Quebec's maritime industry.

This year, Ocean is celebrating its 45th anniversary. Mr. Bain, to what do you attribute your company's success?

First and foremost, Ocean is the story of a team. It's thanks to the people working with me that we have been able to make Ocean what it is today. We have an outstanding team that contributes tirelessly to the company's success. We are willing and accustomed to placing our trust in the people we hire. They are often very ambitious and want to see the company grow.

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the same way. His team is currently the company's heartbeat and Ocean's future.

What are your company's priorities and goals for the coming years?

Over 45 years, Ocean has become a Canadian marine industry leader, developing unique expertise that has allowed us to embark on a key turning point in our development strategy. We are bigger than ever and continue to grow.

My associate and friend, Jacques Tanguay, works

Currently, we are developing services, like dredging, that can be internationalized. Since 2013, we have developed dredging contracts in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Jamaica. We intend to continue developing our markets internationally. Our vision for the future is *to become a world-class organization and be a trusted business partner for our customers.*

"Being a SODES member means belonging to a community and a team that promotes our industry's interests."

In your opinion, what are the main challenges the marine industry will face in the coming years?

Currently, human resources are our biggest challenge. Worker scarcity, especially outside major urban centres, is a daily problem. We are working hard to recruit and keep qualified workers.

What does being a SODES member mean to your organization?

Being a SODES member means belonging to a community and a team that promotes our industry's interests. SODES also rallies industry players around different issues, consults us and has a direct impact on the St. Lawrence economy.

SODES has been involved in many key, strategic files, such as helping to create Green Marine and participating in preparing the Québec government's first Marine Transportation Policy in 2001.

We are proud to be members of a dynamic organization that advocates sustainable development and promotes our industry.

