

[Name]
[Address]

SUBJECT: Donation request for fundraising event to help Gary Bridges

Dear ____,

The Vancouver Maritime Museum, in conjunction with the Underwater Council of BC and the Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C., and UrtheCast will be hosting a fundraising event to help Gary Bridges who suffered a terrible accident last summer that left him quadriplegic. Gary is a well-known character in the diving community and this event is meant for Gary to be celebrated, honoured and enriched by his friends, many of who are from the diving community.

The event will feature live music, food and refreshment, all of which will be donated. The underwater explorer and storyteller James Delgado will be the guest speaker at the event. We expect to host about 150 people.

We are seeking donations for the silent auction in order to raise funds to purchase Gary a state-of-the-art \$20,000 motorized electric wheel chair equipped with an iPad, and a Sip 'n' Puff interface to the iPad. If you are able to donate an item for the silent auction or for any questions, please contact Elora Oades at eoades@urthecast.com or at 604-669-1788.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Peter A. Fox
Director of Research and Development (UrtheCast)
Board of Trustees (Vancouver Maritime Museum)



Gary in his old Mark V dress (at Expo 86)

About Gary Bridges

Gary, a well-known and well-loved member of the Dive Community and the Underwater Archaeology world in B.C., has a long and varied history of adventure. Unfortunately, due to an untimely accident, Gary now finds himself a C-6 quadriplegic; with almost no movement in his arms, and no movement in his hands. He can now drive a wheelchair; and owns a very old Corvette (soon to be sold), so we thought it would be a good idea to get him some suitable wheels. These wheels are not cheap.

Gary has had a long and varied career, making movies as a partner in Subsea Enterprises Inc. with Neil McDaniel, finding shipwrecks galore, and even having valuable bits of shipwrecks fall off into his hands, after many dives to the same spot at 120ft (on good old air). He even got a bit of stunt work, doubling for Robert DeNiro in "We're No Angels."

Gary is a local hero too! He acquired a chronic shoulder injury some years ago; awakening smelling smoke, seeing a house in his neighbourhood in flames and being a good samaritan, Gary rushed over to find a woman in panic trapped on an upper floor. She jumped; he caught her (as he had promised), and ended up in hospital, not for the first (or last) time, requiring surgery on his shoulder.

Gary has been involved in many different aspects of diving and the marine world, including commercial diving, film and video production, still photography, high-pressure air compressor servicing, marine coordination in the movie industry, etc.

In 1994 a historical documentary about Operation Hailstone at Truk Lagoon was shot during the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Truk Lagoon during WWII. Gary and Wet Film Productions (a division of Subsea Enterprises) partnered with Dusmar Productions and "Arts and Entertainment" to produce a film, titled "The Legacy of Truk Lagoon." Gary was co-producer and production manager. There they discovered the long-lost *Katsuragisan Maru*.

Recently Gary formed Trieste Productions and commissioned a screenplay based on the true story of two men trapped at the bottom of the North Atlantic in the Pisces III submarine. The book about the actual event is called "No Time on Our Side."

Now, instead of having time to dive, and play, and drive his Corvette, and rescue people, and find shipwrecks. Gary finds himself limited to his wheelchair. While he has time on his hands, his hands can no longer do much with that time.

We want to raise \$20,000 for a fine wheelchair with some interactive features, such as an iPad that he can control through a sip 'n' puff interface.

Please help us help Gary become more mobile and more engaged with the world he had so much adventure in.

