## ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Commercial List File No. 14-CV-10798-00CL

IN THE MATTER OF THE RECEIVERSHIP OF CRATE MARINE SALES LIMITED, F.S. CRATE & SONS LIMITED, 1330732 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1328559 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1282648 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1382415 ONTARIO LTD., and 1382416 ONTARIO LTD.

Court File No. 31-1932502

# IN THE MATTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF CRATE MARINE SALES LIMITED

Court File No. 31-1932534 Court File No. 31-1932548 Court File No. 31-1932557 Court File No. 31-1932540 Court File No. 31-1932555 Court File No. 31-1932553

IN THE MATTER OF THE BANKRUPTCIES OF F.S. CRATE & SONS LIMITED, 1330732 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1328559 ONTARIO LIMITED 1282648 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1382415 ONTARIO LTD., and 1382416 ONTARIO LTD.

SECOND REPORT OF THE RECEIVER AND TRUSTE

**DECEMBER 19, 2014** 

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#### SECOND REPORT OF THE RECEIVER AND TRUSTEE

#### **December 19, 2014**

**A. Farber & Partners Inc.**, in its capacities as the Court appointed Receiver (the "**Receiver**") and as the trustee in bankruptcy (the "**Trustee**") of the estates of Crate Marine Sales Limited, F.S. Crate & Sons Limited, 1330732 Ontario Limited, 1328559 Ontario Limited 1282648 Ontario Limited (the "Companies") 1382415 Ontario Ltd., and 1382416 Ontario Ltd. (collectively with the Companies, the "**Debtors**") hereby reports to the Court as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. On November 14, 2014, the Debtors each filed a Notice of Intention to Make a Proposal (the "**NOI's**") pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) (the "**BIA**"), and named Dodick Landau Inc. as proposal trustee ("**Proposal Trustee**").
- 2. On November 20, 2014, the currently-known largest secured creditor, Crawmet Corp. ("Crawmet") filed motion material for a November 21, 2014 hearing seeking to (i) have the NOI's immediately terminated; (ii) appoint A. Farber & Partners Inc., as a receiver over the properties, assets and undertakings of the Companies and (iii) to substitute A. Farber & Partners Inc. as bankruptcy trustee of the Companies (the "Crawmet Motion"). At the November 21, 2014 hearing, this motion was adjourned to December 1, 2014.
- 3. At the November 21, 2014 hearing, A. Farber & Partners Inc. was appointed Interim Receiver pursuant to section 47.1 of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (the "BIA") of the Companies (the "Interim Receiver") to preserve and protect the assets, undertakings and properties of the Companies acquired for, or used in relation to the business carried on by the Companies, including all proceeds thereof (the "Property") pursuant to the November 21, 2014 Order of the Honourable Mr. Justice Penny (the "Appointment Order"). A copy of the Appointment Order is attached at Appendix "A". A copy of the endorsement dated November 21, 2014 is attached at Appendix "B".
- 4. At a December 1, 2014 hearing, the powers of the Interim Receiver were expanded and the Court made certain directions regarding the business and financial affairs of the Companies pending the next hearing on December 9, 2014. The Crawmet Motion was also adjourned to that date. A copy of the endorsement of Mr. Justice Penny of that date, along with an unofficial typed transcription prepared by counsel for the Interim Receiver, is attached at **Appendix "C"**.
- 5. The Interim Receiver served and filed its Second Report and Supplementary Report to the Second Report on December 3 and 4, respectively, regarding certain facts and matters that had been recently discovered by the Interim Receiver, and which the Interim Receiver believed were of an urgent and material nature such that they required immediate disclosure

in advance of the scheduled hearing on December 9, 2014. The Proposal Trustee also served and filed its Second Report on similar issues, which it reported constituted material adverse changes.

- 6. A hearing was held at the request of Crawmet on December 4, 2014 to renew the Crawmet Motion. The Honourable Justice Newbould directed the Interim Receiver to notify all banks holding accounts of Crate Marine Sales Ltd. that no disbursements were to be made without the prior written authorization of the Interim Receiver and further directed that the hearing that had been previously scheduled for December 9 instead proceed on December 8, 2014 before His Honour. A copy of the endorsement of Mr. Justice Newbould of that date, along with an unofficial typed transcription prepared by counsel for the Interim Receiver, is attached at **Appendix "D"**.
- 7. On December 8, 2014, The Honourable Justice Newbould ruled in favour of the Crawmet Motion and appointed A. Faber & Partners Inc. as Receiver and Trustee of the Debtors, and terminated the proposals of the Debtors. A copy of the Order of that date is attached as **Appendix "E"**, and a copy of the handwritten Endorsement of that date is attached as **Appendix "F"**.
- 8. On December 12, 2014, the Receiver brought a motion to correct a typographical error in the Order dated December 8, 2014 and for procedural consolidation of certain of the bankruptcy estates of the Debtors and other administrative relief. The Honourable Justice Newbould issued an <u>Amended</u> Order dated December 8, 2014 and also issued an order dated December 12, 2014 in respect of the consolidation and administrative relief, copies of which are attached as **Appendix "G"** and **Appendix "H"**, respectively.

#### **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

9. This is the second report of the Receiver and Trustee (the "**Second Report**"). Its purpose is to seek certain relief (i) regarding a proposed property claims process pertaining to the management of the receivership and bankruptcy estates of the Debtors and (ii) regarding increased borrowing power.

10. The Receiver has not yet completed the review necessary to respond to the concerns of certain stakeholders such as Marquis Yachts, 2124915 Ontario Inc. as landlord of the Lagoon City location operated by the Debtors, or Uplands Charitable Foundation and Romith Investments Limited. The Receiver and Trustee will report on those and other issues in a subsequent report, which will also address a proposed sales process.

#### LIMITATION OF REVIEW

11. A. Farber & Partners Inc. in its capacities as Receiver and Trustee has relied upon the financial records and information provided by the Debtors, as well as other information supplied by management, appraisers, accountants, auditors and advisors, and has not independently reviewed or verified such information. It has prepared this Second Report for the sole use of the Court and of the other stakeholders in these proceedings.

## A) OVERVIEW OF RECEIVER'S ACTIVITIES SINCE APPOINTMENT

- 12. The Receiver will report more fully in a subsequent report, at which time it will also seek formal approval of its conduct. In order to provide an overview of its activities to the Court and the stakeholders of the Debtors, the Receiver will set out below a summary of its activities since December 8, 2014:
  - Taking possession of the various properties in Ontario and Quebec including securing ongoing utility, insurance, and other premises services in the Courtappointed Receiver's name
  - Ongoing coordinating with former staff regarding their termination as a result of the bankruptcy including payment of their secured claim under s. 81.4 of the BIA and arranging T4's and records of employment
  - Retention of certain staff to assist in (i) the ongoing security of the Property (ii) the statutory reporting duties of the Receiver, (iii) updating accounting records to provide updated accounts needed for the realization of the accounts receivable, (iv) dealing with customer calls on ongoing receivership issues and collection efforts for accounts receivable; and (v) winterization of the final boats not yet winterized as at December 8, 2014, etc;

- Numerous calls, letters and emails from creditors and customers enquiring about the status of the receivership, the bankruptcy, the impact on boat owners who paid for winter storage, impact on owners that paid 2015 slip rentals, anticipated realization process and impact on marina operations for 2015, etc.
- Preparation and mailing of the Receiver's Information Circular addressing key concerns of creditors and boat owners and post the Receiver's Information Circular to the Receiver's web site. Maintenance of the Receiver's web site for background documents of the NOI and interim receivership proceedings as well as ongoing documents and information updates on the receivership and bankruptcy proceedings
- Preliminary review on the removal of certain assets and certain accounting records of the Debtors prior to the filing of the NOI and follow up of same;
- Further investigations into the disputed ownership of various of the boats leading to discussions and correspondence with counsel regarding the preparation of this Second Report and the relief being sought to establish a Court-supervised process to resolve potential competing property claims for boats owned by the Debtors as well as owned by customer-owned boats still on the Debtors' premises in storage, or otherwise.
- Engaged in discussions with certain stakeholders, such as the landlord of the Lagoon City location, Dwight Powell Investments Inc., Crawmet, and Marquis boats regarding issues and possible arrangements or agreements that may be reached to enhance administration of the estates of the Debtors;
- Monitoring and dealing with the Debtors' 7 bank accounts at 3 different banks to preserve funds on hand, freeze outflows, manage ongoing deposits, etc.

#### B) APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS OF THE INTERIM RECEIVER

- 13. A. Farber & Partners Inc. was appointed Interim Receiver of the Debtors on November 21, 2014 and Receiver of the Debtors on December 8, 2014.
- 14. The Second Report, Supplemental to the Second Report, and Third Report and the activities of the Interim Receiver and the activities, decisions, and conduct of the Interim Receiver and its counsel as set out in those reports has not yet been submitted for approval. Copies of those reports, without appendices, are attached as **Appendices "I"**, "**J"** and "**K"**, respectively.

15. A. Farber & Partners Inc. as Interim Receiver accordingly respectfully requests approval of those reports and the activities, decisions, and conduct of the Interim Receiver and its counsel as set out in those reports and then that the Interim Receiver be formally discharged.

### C) APPROVAL OF THE FEES OF THE INTERIM RECEIVER AND ITS COUNSEL

- 16. Attached as **Appendix "L"** is an affidavit of the Interim Receiver setting out its fees and disbursements. The Interim Receiver's detailed statements of account for this period are attached as exhibits to that affidavit. The total quantum of the amounts incurred and for which approval is sought is \$290,883.71.
- 17. Attached as **Appendix "M"** is an affidavit of counsel to the Interim Receiver setting out its fees and disbursements. The Interim Receiver's detailed statements of account for this period are attached as exhibits to that affidavit. The total quantum of the amounts incurred and for which approval is sought is \$106,286.76.

#### D) INCREASED BORROWINGS CHARGE

- 18. The Appointment Order limits borrowing by the Receiver to \$500,000.00. However, the activities of the A. Farber & Partners Inc. in its capacities as Interim Receiver and Receiver of the Debtors has exhausted the borrowings charge.
- 19. The Receiver has evaluated the existing and expected future expenses for the steps necessary to administer the estates of the Debtors, and has projected that, although the amount will vary with the intermittent collection of accounts receivable on behalf of the Debtors, the anticipated borrowings beyond the assets available to the Debtors will be in amounts that range up to approximately \$678,000, which is itself \$178,000 more than the current borrowing authority, by January 30, 2015. That amount does not include any provision to the payment on account ongoing retention of Debtor staff assisting in the ongoing security and realizing of the Property, the out-of-pocket expenses of an anticipated Court-approved sale

process (to be the matter of a separate report) or the fees and disbursements of the Trustee, the Receiver and its counsel (although it does for the Interim Receiver and its counsel).

20. The Receiver believes that an increased borrowing limit of \$1,000,000.00 is in the interests of the stakeholders of the Debtors, as it will allow the Receiver to continue the exercise of the powers and duties conferred upon it, and will also allow access to funds for any unanticipated expenses as the extent and nature of steps necessary to administer the estates of the Debtors is ascertained and discussed with stakeholders.

#### E) PROPOSED CLAIMS PROCESS

- 21. In the process of developing a plan to attempt to realize on the assets of the Debtors, the Receiver has encountered a recurring problem that there is substantial uncertainty about the nature and extent of the interest of the Debtors in the chattels that are in their possession, or in the possession of others on their behalf.
- 22. In a similar manner, the Receiver has encountered difficulties in ascertaining the nature and extent of the interest of third parties to the chattels that are in the possession of the Debtors, or in the possession of others on their behalf.
- 23. These problems are exemplified in the reports previously made by the Interim Receiver of the Companies. To summarize the issues that have been identified by the Interim Receiver as set out in those reports:
  - a) boats in the possession of the Debtors appear to have been sold without discharging loans against them owing by prior owners when sold to the Debtors, or by the Debtors (acting as broker or intermediary) to third parties (see paragraphs 42(a), (f) and (g) of the Interim Receiver's First Report);
  - b) boats in the possession of the Debtors were apparently financed by third parties, or pledged as security for amounts owing by the Debtors to third parties, on the basis of the third parties holding title documentation to those boats, yet those boats appear to have been nonetheless further sold by the

Debtors in several instances (see paragraphs 33-35 and 42(a) of the Interim Receiver's First Report and paragraph 26(a) of the Interim Receiver's Third Report);

- c) boats previously owned by a vendor were sold to a purchaser by the Debtors acting as broker or intermediary without payment to the vendor, and the boat remains in the possession of the Debtors with now competing claims to the boat by vendor and purchaser (see paragraphs 42(b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of the Interim Receiver's First Report; and
- d) boats in the possession of the Debtors appear to be under contract for sale to purchasers where the purchasers have already paid some or all of the purchase price for the boats, but the transactions have not yet been completed (see paragraph 26(b) of the Interim Receiver's Third Report).
- 24. The books and records of the Debtors do not record all of these transactions and similar ones that have been identified by the Receiver, and where there are such records they are not always accurate as to the nature or quantum of the transaction as recounted by third parties.
- 25. The Receiver is accordingly concerned that, in developing a sales and marketing plan for the assets of the Debtors, the Receiver is unable to have sufficient certainty about what chattels (principally, but not limited to, boats) in the Debtors' possession or held on their behalf by others are in fact owned by the Debtors and can be used to generate proceeds of sale for the creditors of the Debtors. Such uncertainty will have a detrimental impact on the integrity and outcome of a sales and marketing process. The Receiver intends to come back to Court shortly for a sales process to take place early in 2015 in order to attempt to be in a position to sell the business of the Debtors as a going concern in time for the beginning of the boating season in 2015.
- 26. Similarly, the Receiver is also concerned that it could face competing claims from third parties to boats or other chattels in its possession even though there may be no financial interest to the Debtors' estates when the competing claims are resolved. Not only would such

claims create difficulties for the Receiver in determining proper ownership and acting fairly for all stakeholders, but such claims would cause uncertainty about the customer base that makes up a marina operation for boats to be stored over winter and then housed in slip facilities in boating season. The Receiver expects that a substantial component of the value of the business of the Debtors as a going concern will be the degree of boating traffic that a purchaser will be able to expect to obtain, including historical customers of the Debtors. Accordingly, having certainty about boats owned by customers will also aid in the success of the receivership in that regard as well.

- 27. The Receiver has considered whether the process available in section 81 of the BIA might be suitable to address these concerns, but has concluded it cannot do so. The principal reason for this is that there is no particular deadline for submission or review of such claims in a bankruptcy, whereas the Receiver wishes to ensure that all claims are made by a deadline after publication and notices that are typical in a claims process have taken place.
- 28. The Receiver has accordingly prepared, with the assistance of its counsel, a proposed Property Claims Procedure Order in the form attached as Schedule "C" to the Notice of Motion. In preparing that proposed order, the Receiver has considered that it is not necessary or desirable to include unsecured claims, nor real property matters. Secured claims on chattels that are registered pursuant to the *Personal Property Security Act* are also not included in the proposed Order, because the Receiver can ascertain those claims based on the registrations and, if necessary, in further direct communication with the registered secured parties.
- 29. The Receiver is already in possession of some claims of a propriety nature, including two formal s. 81 claims. If the proposed Property Claims Procedure Order is granted, the Receiver proposes to administer claims already in its possession as if those claims were made pursuant to the Order, which is authorized by paragraph 12(a) of the draft order.

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## F) CONCLUSION

30. A. Farber & Partners Inc. in its capacities as Receiver and Trustee accordingly seeks the Orders attached as Schedules "A", "B" and "C" to its Notice of Motion.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 19th day of December, 2014.

#### A. FARBER & PARTNERS INC.

COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER AND TRUSTEE OF CRATE MARINE SALES LIMITED, F.S. CRATE & SONS LIMITED, 1330732 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1328559 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1282648 ONTARIO LIMITED, 1382415 ONTARIO LTD., and 1382416 ONTARIO LTD.

Per: Stuart Mitchell

Senior Vice President