



the Ensign

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www.navalmuseum.ab.ca

Happy New Year!





OUR COVER – This remarkably clear image of HMCS MIDLAND, a corvette of the 1940-41 Flower Class Short Fo'c'sle Program, with a tug assisting on her starboard quarter, was taken in early 1945 following her Galveston, Texas refit from March to May 25, 1944, which included the lengthening of her fo'c'sle.

Department of National Defence HS-0343-110



The President's Bridge

By Earle Shirley

SEASON'S GREETINGS! Well, 2009 will go into the NMAS record books as a pivotal year in the history of our Society. Through the excellent leadership of my predecessor, Glenn Hardie; the dedication of the entire board; and the never-ending hard work of our volunteers, we have seen the culmination of a long journey with the opening of the 'new' Naval Museum of Alberta, a facility already recognized as the 'flagship' of the Naval Museum of Canada. This journey has not always been on calm seas, but the vision endured, and I believe that all of you can be truly proud of the legacy that you have established, not just for Calgary, but for all of Canada.

While most of the 'heavy lifting' may have been done, there is still a lot for our Society to do. Some details remain with the transition, but those will be worked out in due course. The NMAS is going to be changing from its role as one that was involved in the day-to-day operations of the museum, to a more supportive role. One of the tasks of your new board will be to help lead the Society through this change. We can do this by staying firmly 'on course' as described in our Statement

of Purpose and By-Laws. The first purpose, as stated in that document, is for the Society to promote an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the Naval Museum of Alberta as a component museum of the Naval Museum of Canada, and to create awareness of the role played by the Navy in our Country, our Province, and our Community. Now, there are about a dozen other purposes laid out in that document, too many to repeat here, and all of equal importance, but I think this first purpose sets the tone for us. This purpose requires us to continue to support 'our' museum, not just for its own sake, but to connect with Canadians to "Remember-Preserve-Educate." So, while some huge accomplishments have been achieved, there is much left to do. I look forward to working with the board, the volunteers, and the membership, as we alter course toward this new direction.

I am sure some of you are wondering, "Who is this guy?" So, let me wrap up

my first 'Ensign' article by telling you a little bit about myself. I was born and raised a Maritimer from northern New Brunswick. My father was in the RCNVR during World War II, and served on board a Bangor-class minesweeper. He told me he did more convoy escort work on the 'Triangle Run' than he did sweeping for mines. Those and other stories got me interested in the Navy at an early age, so I joined the Navy in 1971, fresh out of high school. Fast forward to 2009, and I have just turned over my command of HMCS TECUMSEH to LCdr Rob MacLeod. So, as you can see, I have been associated with the Navy, one way or another, most of my life.

In closing, let me say that it is indeed a privilege and an honour to be able to represent you as your President. I look forward to working with the new board and the opportunity to keep NMAS on track toward our new future!

Very best wishes for a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

General Manager's Cabin

By Murray Bialek

As usual, your museum has been very busy and quite a number of changes have taken place since the last issue. Here's a short list:

- Bob Orthlieb did a great job selling a 1965 Jaguar which had been donated to the NMAS last year by Merritt Chisholm.

- A number of 'sailors' participated on behalf of the museum in the HMCS Calgary Cup Regatta on the Glenmore Reservoir in September. Bob Orthlieb acted as team captain, and although we didn't win, our sailors managed to stay 'dry.' Thanks go to Bob, Anita Von, Milton Shirley, Jenn Anderson and Bill Sinka.

- Our Casino fund raiser this September, spearheaded by Johanne Aylett, was a huge success. A huge Bravo Zulu must be extended to Johanne for her hard work and excellent organization.

- Also in September, some members of the Canadian War Museum's board of directors who were visiting in Calgary, were provided with a tour of our museum.

- A grant application was submitted to the Department of National Defence and one of our requests was for funding of a Korean War exhibit.

- In October I attended an Alberta Museums Association conference in Calgary which included a variety of very useful topics such as, issuing tax receipts for artefacts and pest management strategies.

- Many thanks must go to Terry Thompson and Marvel Evelyn who spearheaded the opening of our new Canada's Submarine Service exhibit, and also the Admirals' Medal presentation to Bill Wilson, both on October 21st, 2009.

- The museum took delivery of 20 new display stands.

- On November 6th, a Citizenship Court was held in our museum when over 100 new Canadian citizens were sworn in.

- Remembrance Day this year saw an estimated 12,000 in attendance. Our museum had thousands of visitors on November 11th, and the extra watchkeepers laid on did a great job.

- The torch was passed from Terry Thompson to Linda Bialek with regard to our newsletter, 'The Ensign.' Linda will now coordinate the compilation of the newsletter and all article submissions must now go to her for review before being submitted to the editor, George Moore.

- Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch was held at a new venue this year, Mewata Armoury. Thanks go to Dana of "Who's in the Kitchen." Although the weather was quite cold, we had over 50 hardy souls show up. We Canadians sure are a hardy bunch!

Remembrance Day 2009



All photos Murray Bialek



It is estimated that upwards of 12,000 people attended the Remembrance Day services at The Military Museums this year.

- Did you know that The Military Museums, which includes the naval museum, had over 60,000 visitors this year!

- My next major undertaking will be membership renewals and tax receipts.
- I would like to thank all of our volunteers, especially our many watchkeepers, as well as: Bruce Connolly, Gary Hansen, Bill Wilson, Jack Fletcher, Jack Pidgeon, Jim and Anne Cowie, Norm Holden, Ron Miller, Barbara Murray, Bob Bryden, Kay Hyde, Wing Low, Ian Christie, Frank Saies-Jones, Harold Hutchinson and Don Connolly. And finally, I would like to welcome a new volunteer, Adam Haus-

berg.

RECENT DONATIONS (small sample)

Examples of recent donations are: uniforms, time/tide chronometer, cap tallies, bosun's call, photos, numerous books, high frequency receiver, RCN diving log, gunner's helmet, cap badges, kit bag, U899 escape goggles, ship models, medals, postcards, life jacket, flags, knot board, torpedo history sheet, and an original Group of Seven, Arthur Lismer print.

DONORS RECOGNIZED

I would like to thank a number of donors

who recently made artefact donations: Bert Little, George Crewe, Patricia Zambory, Al Zambory, Holly Dick, Kay Hyde, Glen Power, Don MacMahon, Gwen Zurawel, Al McBean, Doug Bourne, Gary Hansen, Ted Bailie, Fred Molyneaux,

Sandford McGrath, Ron Miller, Len Birkenes, L. J. Harris, Vern Harvey, Skip Gillham, Doug MacLean, Ken Rosadiuk, Kevin MacLean, Marguerite Perry and R. J. Bob Adams.

CMMS and CF Part Ways

(Excerpted from Backgrounder to CMMS Press Release by Bob Millar)

First of all, what is CMMS? The Calgary Military Museums Society (CMMS) was created in the late-1980s by prominent Calgary volunteers. It started with a \$6.5 million campaign to convert the former Sir Sam Steele Junior High School into the Museum of the Regiments. The museum was officially opened in 1990 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In the early 2000s CMMS, the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, Canadian Air Force veterans, all three levels of government, corporations, foundations, and the general public, raised \$26 million for an expanded facility which has become The Military Museums (TMM). This facility is both the largest military heritage education centre and the largest tri-service museum outside of Ottawa.

CMMS continued to grow, and it has continued to raise funds, over \$50 million for capital and programming, since its inception. These funds have been used to create world-class programs and award-winning education activities. The CMMS grew to a level of performance that, in fact, exceeded the written mandate of its colleagues in the Canadian Forces (CF) for their museums. TMM is more than a 'warehouse' for aging military artefacts and memorabilia; it is instead a world-class facility housing the original Army Galleries; the Naval Museum of Alberta; the Air Force Museum of Alberta; a major military library and archives managed by the University of Calgary, which is used by many students and scholars; a 'Found-

ers' Gallery, currently hosting an impressive display of war art featuring Group of Seven artists; interactive education facilities; and visitor amenities. The TMM has seen an 80% growth in attendance over the past two years.

CMMS' record is one of success, and is unmatched anywhere in Canada: success in raising funds; success in developing award-winning education programs; success in working with the galleries and the CF; success in increasing volunteer and membership base; and, its success in promoting what the museum is, what it stands for, and its importance to future generations. However, despite all this success, the CMMS will cease day-to-day operations effective December 31st, 2009. Six staff members, who are essential in running programs, have been terminated. The CF may continue programs or not. Why, you might ask, is this happening?

The departure of the CMMS comes after 12 months of extensive work, including mediation, with the CF. At the

heart of the matter is a disagreement over the CMMS' role in the expanded TMM. Essentially, the CMMS is not prepared to regress to the role of being the main fund raiser without much say in, or control over, the disbursement of those funds. Nor does it wish to have little or no say in oversight, management, and fund raising opportunities in order to fit into the CF rules and regulations, which CMMS considers inappropriate for a one of a kind operation, TMM.

CMMS, the Area Support Unit Calgary Commander, and the Area Support Group Commander in Edmonton agreed in 2005 and 2006 on a unique way of running the programs at TMM. However, some problems in the CMMS relationship with CF came to a head in 2008. The CF was concerned that CMMS, according to the CF's interpretation of Non Public Property and Use of Federal Real Property rules and regulations, was operating illegally.

The two critical issues that were impossible to resolve were oversight or governance and control of, and flow of, funds. The CF deems these as non-negotiable. However, the Chief of the Defence Staff has significant authority to tailor the Non Public Property rules to suit a particular purpose. But, no such response or tailoring of rules to fit the TMM circumstances was forthcoming from the CF. As a result, the Calgary Military Museums Society will cease operations at the end of this year.

The Naval Museum of Alberta cruises into uncharted waters

By Terry Thompson

Twenty-five years or so ago the Tecumseh Historical Society was born, later becoming the Naval Museum of Alberta Society (NMAS). The NMAS and the Naval Mu-

seum of Alberta (NMA) were synonymous, and the two terms were used interchangeably throughout the evolution of the museum until fairly recently after the NMA was designated as an accredited

DND museum.

Although letters of agreement have been approved, because of other priorities, including the war in Afghanistan, shortages of personnel within DND, and budget considerations, the assumption of full command and control of NMA operations by DND has been slow to occur.

A permanent civilian position has recently been created in Ottawa — Director of the Navy's History and Heritage team under the Chief of the Maritime Staff. While final selection is in progress, the position has been filled temporarily by LCdr (Ret'd) Graeme Arbuckle, in an acting capacity.

Understandably, there will be some confusion as we make the transition to full DND/NMA control over routine museum operations. For the time being, Alison Mercer will perform the function of assistant curator of the NMA at The Military Museums (TMM), reporting directly to Mr. Arbuckle. She will be responsible for the coordination of day-to-day activities within TMM, dealing with volunteer scheduling in support of tours and other museum events, liaison with TMM staff, and her counterparts in other galleries.

In the meantime, our own Murray Bialek will continue to manage the business of the NMAS, 'The Society,' as distinct from the NMA.

The Society will still have an important role to play as we move into this new era of museum operations. The Society is still the owner of the artefact collection, which is now on loan to DND. The John Burgess Library, the Macpherson [photo] Archives, and the Convoy Records, are still owned by the Society. As the National Naval Museum of Canada begins to spread its wings, it is intended for the navy's archives to be housed within The Military Museums, and for the NMAS's archives to also be loaned to DND.

There will be growing pains to be sure. I prefer to use the term 'speed bumps' to describe the problems we have encountered along the way to our suc-

cessful transition to the new TMM complex. These 'speed bumps' sometimes seemed insurmountable, but as we rolled up our sleeves to tackle each problem as it arose, the solutions became more obvious, only momentarily slowing our progress to final success.

As your new board of directors assumes a fresh and challenging role, there will be changes in how we relate to 'our' museum. While we are responsible for bringing the Naval Museum of Alberta to where it is today, henceforth it will be the responsibility of DND, and we, the Society and its members, will now play a supporting role.

The new Naval Museum of Alberta will rely on us, the Society, to provide the support needed to ensure the continuation of its reputation as the best naval

museum in Canada. We will accomplish this by maintaining the face of the museum to the local community through our support of the various programmes, and participating when necessary, in fundraising activities in support of new exhibits and displays.

NMAS participation, along with that of the Calgary naval community, will be essential during 2010 as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy. The standards we establish during the coming year will set the pattern for the future success of the NMA.

Terry Thompson is a long-standing member of the NMAS board of directors, past member of the Calgary Military Museums Society board, and has been part of the team developing The Military Museums into the institution it has become today.

Upheaval at the Naval Museum of Alberta

A Different Perspective

By Linda Bialek

As many of you may be aware, there has been a bit of turmoil and some drastic changes at the Naval Museum of Alberta. For many years the Naval Museum of Alberta Society and the Naval Museum of Alberta were basically synonymous. However, all this abruptly changed on October 20th, 2009^o at an NMAS board of directors meeting where Graeme Arbuckle, representing the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, announced that he was taking over control of the Naval Museum of Alberta. He indicated that while the Naval Museum of Alberta Society will always be briefed on what is going on in the museum, it will have no say in the operation of the facility. In fact, Mr. Arbuckle stated he had consulted directly

with (four) volunteers about upcoming changes in the museum prior to informing the board, and to the exclusion of the Curator and General Manager. It would seem that Mr. Arbuckle has chosen to bypass the Naval Museum of Alberta Society altogether.

While the Naval Museum of Alberta Society has been gradually moving from the role of day-to-day operations to a more advisory role, these announcements were quite a shock to almost all board members. As of November 30th, Mr. Arbuckle relieved Murray Bialek of his position as the curator of the museum, appointed himself as curator, and hired Murray's summer student, Alison Mercer, to act as the assistant curator. Our new NMAS President, Earle Shirley, met

with Mr. Arbuckle to try to smooth things over, and a lot of things will have to be worked out between the NMAS and NMA.

As we move forward there will be growing pains, but for the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, the long term good of the museum will continue to be our main focus. The NMAS intends to draft

Terms of Reference to establish cooperative ways of operating between the two, now separate entities, NMA and NMAS.

It should be noted that almost all of the artefacts in the NMA are on loan to DND by the NMAS. It should also be noted that donations to the NMA will no longer be accepted by Alison Mercer until prior approval is granted by the Naval

Museum of Canada and Mr. Arbuckle in Ottawa.

In the interim, the NMAS has asked Murray to carry on as General Manager for the Society, and he will reassess his options with regard to the future once things have settled down and Terms of Reference are agreed upon.

Annual General Meeting 2009

The 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society was held on November 17th, 2009 at 1900. Thirty-one members attended. In addition to the regular business of the AGM, a Special General Meeting was held to repeal the old By-Laws and to adopt a new Statement of Purpose and new By-Laws.

The NMAS board said goodbye to two outstanding individuals, Terry Thompson and Bill Buchanan. Terry has worked tirelessly on behalf of the NMAS for the past fifteen years. As Vice-President he was singularly instrumental in

creating the new "Battle of the Atlantic and Convoys" exhibit, as well as "Canada's Submarine Service" exhibit. Bill Buchanan, who spearheaded the fund raising committee, was almost solely responsible for raising about \$200,000 for the transition from our old museum to our new one. Both Terry and Bill are irreplaceable, and the NMAS thanks them for their amazing contribution to the Naval Museum of Alberta.

Glenn Hardie also stepped down as President of the NMAS, but fortunately will stay on as a director. Glenn has provided even-keeled direction throughout

the choppy seas of transition, and neither the Naval Museum of Alberta Society nor the Naval Museum of Alberta, would have weathered this time of change without him. His contributions have involved leadership, an enormous amount of time and excellent legal advice.

Meanwhile, we welcome four new directors: Earle Shirley, our new President and former CO of TECUMSEH; Mike Ervin and Greg McKenzie, also both former COs; and Vern Harvey, a WWII Merchant Navy vet.

A full list appears on the opposite page.



Some of the interested on-lookers. We thank all those who took the time to attend the Annual General Meeting.



L to R: NMAS Treasurer Lorne Hanson, Chairman Tom Glover, Past President Glenn Hardie and Secretary Linda Bialek.

Photos by Murray Bialek



NMAS 2009-2010 Board of Directors and Appointments

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Glover (Chairman)
Earle Shirley (President)
Scott Hausberg
Johanne Aylett
Greg McKenzie
Lorne Hanson
Linda Bialek
Carl Souchereau
Marvel Evelyn
Vern Harvey
Bill Payne
Nancy Olmstead
Glenn Hardie
Mike Ervin

OFFICERS

Lorne Hanson – Treasurer

Linda Bialek – Secretary
Murray Bialek – General Manager

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Bill Wilson
Merritt Chisholm
Terry Thompson
Laraine Orthlieb
Jim Cowie
Rob Macleod (CO HMCS Tecumseh)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tom Glover – Chairman
Earle Shirley – President
Glenn Hardie – Past President
Lorne Hanson – Treasurer
Linda Bialek – Secretary
Murray Bialek – General Manager

Mark Your 2010 Calendar Now!



The Naval Museum of Alberta Society is proud to be the sponsor of the

Naval Centennial Veterans Dinner



Come and celebrate the Canadian Navy's 100th Anniversary
at our Mixed Veterans Dinner for Calgary's entire naval community
to be held aboard the Naval Museum of Alberta

Saturday, May 1st, 2010
Cocktails at 6:00 pm • Dinner at 7:00 pm

Finalized details will follow in the next issue of 'The Ensign'

Terry Thompson

The Naval Museum of Alberta Society (NMAS) is pleased to announce its 2009 Volunteer of the Year, Mr. Terry Thompson. Terry has just retired from his role as Vice President of the Society. In that capacity he spent countless hours working for the Naval Museum.

He is the man primarily responsible for the "Battle of the Atlantic and Convoys", and the "Canada's Submarines" exhibits. Terry has worked tirelessly for the NMAS and has been instrumental in developing numerous aspects of the new Naval Museum of Alberta. He has now been appointed as an Honorary Director of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, one of only six such directors. The NMAS is proud to recognize such a dynamic and productive volunteer.

The following article written by Terry to accompany his retirement, explains how he originally became involved in the Naval Museum of Alberta Society. Terry is an outstanding Volunteer of the Year and we congratulate him.

Bravo Zulu Terry!

I have been asked on many occasions over the past few years what a raggedy-assed old air force fighter pilot was doing associated with the naval museum. Well, it's a long story, which I shall try to encapsulate as best I can.

Following my retirement in 1981, I took to special event organising quickly, and it became a career calling on its own. Papal tours, world fairs, and major sporting events all became the fun of retirement.

On joining the Calgary Olympic Committee, I was introduced to a gentleman whose name was 'Chief Smoking Stick.'

It wasn't until a day or so later that I discovered that 'Smoking Stick' was none other than Captain Bill, otherwise known as 'the Rabbit-ter' Wilson. During the games' planning and execution, I used his transportation system, and he used my media facilities. During the course of our many contacts, we developed a lasting friendship.

Fast forward to 1993, the year I decided to retire back to Calgary. Our contact was renewed, and as you might guess, it wasn't long before I found myself manoeuvred onto the board of directors for the NMAS. It was Jim Cowie's first year, and he had just come aboard as chairman. All Jim and I had in common at the time was our relative 'new guy' status and an abiding desire to do something for the 'Little Museum That Could.'

Looking back, I have grown up in the museum the hard way. From cleaning the heads to representing the NMAS at four-course dinners, it has been an experience that I shall never forget. But the memories will include the many familiar names and faces of those fine naval officers, men and women, who have served their country.

As a post-WWII officer, who in my early days as a staff officer at NDHQ, lived, or perhaps the word is survived, the Canadian Forces integration process. My understanding of things military took on a different perspective. They say war is hell, but at the time integration was much worse. At war there is a cause, but with integration the cause could never be positively identified. However, the experience



Outgoing NMAS President Glenn Hardie (left) presents Terry Thompson with the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award.

had a longlasting effect on me. Prior to being thrust into the mêlée, I had a healthy disdain for both the navy and the army. The air force could always do better, and with one hand tied behind its back. Integration changed all that for me. I discovered that the army, navy and air force all had much in common.

As we closed ranks, we discovered that our allegiances, our principles and our determination were not only the same, but to some extent interchangeable. Healthy inter-service rivalry continued unabated in the field, but when our principles became threatened at senior headquarters levels, we were united.

And so the good natured banter remains. I am proud of my contribution to the naval museum over the years. I am equally proud of my colleagues in air force blue, who from nothing, scratched together one of the finest air force museums in the country.

As all three services march together into a new kind of integration, we have learned a lot about each other, and in the end we have discovered that while our uniforms may have been a different colour, our patriotism and loyalty to our country are the same. In the end, we are all Canadian men and women who have

devoted parts of our lives to the service of our country.

I cherish my time spent in uniform and with sincerity, my more recent association with the members of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society. Together we have ach-

ieved success beyond our wildest expectations.

Indeed, all members of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society can proudly boast that their museum is the best in Canada, and will continue to tell the story of Cana-

da's navy well into the future

To you all, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

Terry is retiring from the NMAS to contemplate his next special event.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

By Murray Bialek

The annual Naval Museum of Alberta Society's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch was held on December 13th at a new venue, Mewata Armoury. Though the temperature was -27°C, fifty-one hardy souls turned out. It was a pity though, that the twenty volunteer 'no shows' didn't call us to cancel.

I not only put up a 'Free Parking' sign in the city parking lot, but also played Frosty the Snowman. doing doorman duty at the side door so that volunteers did not have to walk all the way around to the main doors.

Although the bartender was delayed by the weather, most of our volunteers took advantage of the free bar tickets as soon as the bar opened, and availed themselves of a libation "to warm the cockles of their hearts!"

Dana, of "Who's in the Kitchen," the

in-house caterer at Mewata, did yeoman's duty by cooking and serving the brunch all by herself because her help did not make it due to car problems.

There was a large selection to choose from: bacon, eggs, sausages, mini-potatoes, French toast, banana bread, danishes, fruit, cookies, shortbread, juices, coffee and tea. The food was excellent and plentiful, and her efforts were greatly appreciated!

Tom Glover spoke briefly about the Calgary Military Museums Society severing its ties with DND and The Military Museums, as well as how the DND representative Graeme Arbuckle, abruptly took over the naval museum from our Society.

Earle Shirley, our new President, introduced himself and thanked all the volunteers for their many hours devoted to

the museum. He said that without our volunteers, the story of the navy in Canada would not be told, and future generations would be unaware of the important role played in the history of Canada by its navy.

Our Volunteer of the Year, Terry Thompson, was honoured with a plaque thanking him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society. Terry has been involved with the NMAS since 1995, has played a pivotal leadership role throughout all those years, and has been instrumental in getting the 'new' Naval Museum of Alberta up and running.

Though the eggs, bacon and shortbread have all been devoured, the appreciation for the extraordinary NMAS volunteers remains.

Thank you one and all!

Photos by Murray Bialek



Admirals' Medal Presentation



The Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, presenting the Admirals' Medal to Bill Wilson.

After successfully being nominated for the prestigious Admirals' Medal by LCdr (Ret'd) Graeme Arbuckle, Bill Wilson was presented with the medal on October 21st, 2009 by the Hon. Norman L. Kwong, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, at the

Naval Museum of Alberta.

The Admirals' Medal is awarded to individuals who are determined to have made a significant and permanent impact on the development of maritime affairs in Canada.

Bill joined the RCNVR in 1942, and for

three years served as a seaman gunner in destroyers and minesweepers on the North Atlantic, English Channel and the Bay of Biscay. After the war he served in the Naval Reserve in Winnipeg, Montréal and Toronto. His close ties with the naval community continued after his retirement in 1993.

He serves on numerous boards, including the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, the Calgary Military Museums Society and the Advisory Board of the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. He is a past National President of the Naval Officers Association of Canada, President of the Royal Alberta United Services Institute, and the Calgary Board St. John's Ambulance. He is also a member of the Navy League of Canada and currently serves as Hon Capt of Maritime Operations Group 4 in Esquimalt. Bill is also a driving force at the Naval Museum of Alberta.

Congratulations on this achievement Bill!

Canada's Submarine Service Exhibit

By Terry Thompson

On October 21st, 2009, Canada's Submarine Service Exhibit was officially opened by the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

This exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Wayne Holmes who was a Past President and very strong supporter of the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, and a Canadian submarine officer who served during the Second World War.

Assisting His Honour was Karen Sadlier-Brown, Wayne's eldest daughter, who was representing her sister Shelly and younger brother, Robert. Karen

spoke of her early memories of her father and his love and dedication to the naval community, as well as his untiring support for the Naval Museum of Alberta.

It was in 1942 that Wayne left his civilian job with the Bank of Montreal to join the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. In 1944, Wayne received his commission as a Lieutenant, and was sent to the United Kingdom for officer training where he volunteered for submarine service. He passed his submarine officer training course in 1944, and subsequently served in the Royal Navy's Submarine Service until the end of hostilities in 1945.

Every Canadian officer to serve in submarines during WWII had come from the RCNVR. Wayne was one of only twenty-two Canadians who served as submariners in the Royal Navy during WWII.

One of Lt Wayne Holmes' last assignments was his appointment as Executive Officer of U889, a captured German U-boat, as she transited from Halifax to the US Navy in New Hampshire in late 1947.

The submarine exhibit at the Naval Museum of Alberta is proudly displayed in the southwest corner of the main deck. This exhibit was made possible through

generous donations by BMO (Bank of Montreal) and Wayne and Thelma Holmes. Digital Heritage, under the direction of Robert Curtin, designed a state of the art interactive display. This display takes the visitor through the full story of the development of undersea warfare from its earliest beginnings.

While the story itself is complete, more detail can be added to the interactive display over time, thanks to the wonders of digital technology.

Some space has been saved for the inclusion of additional artefacts as they become available, and we welcome this new exhibit that tells our visitors of yet another phase in the development of the Canadian Navy.

The full story of Canada's Submarine Service is now available for all to see as we enter the Canadian Naval Centennial in 2010.



U889 is shown above on the occasion of her surrender to the RCN at the end of WWII. Following extensive testing, she was taken to sea and sunk by torpedo by the US Navy toward the end of 1947.



The Canadian Submarine Service exhibit. Lt Wayne Holmes RCNVR is visible in the top right corner of the upper left photograph of the exhibit.

Exhibit photos by Terry Thompson

Lunch with Cliff Series...

No. 2 – Le Grand Charles

As told by Cliff Stewart to Greg McKenzie

During Canada's Centennial Year in 1967, Maritime Command Atlantic provided at least one guardship in the Port of Montréal for the duration of Expo 67. The Third Escort Squadron (CANCORTRON 3) comprising HMC Ships SKEENA, RESTIGOUCHE, ANNAPOLIS and TERRA NOVA, drew the assignment many times. On three occasions SKEENA, wearing the Squadron Commander's pennant, rotated in and out of the port. The guardship was considered to be one of the pavilions, was open to visitors daily, and hosted many a VIP during those port visits.

An occasion that I'll never forget was when it fell to our squadron to escort President Charles De Gaulle to Canada upon his arrival in Canadian waters aboard the French flagship, the cruiser COLBERT. Our Squadron Commander, Capt(N) I. B. B. 'Snarky' Morrow had his Command Pennant in SKEENA. Prior to joining the squadron he had served on a NATO assignment in Paris and was a personal friend of the COLBERT's commanding officer. It was Capt(N) Morrow's idea to add to the pomp

and circumstance of the occasion by having our squadron provide escort with two ships ahead and one on each quarter of the COLBERT. Ottawa and Halifax liked the idea, and it was an impressive sight as we escorted the President from St. Pierre & Miquelon through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and up the river into Québec City where we spent the night. It was the next day when President De Gaulle, accompanied by his entourage including the ship's captain, embarked in a grand motorcade along the north shore from Québec City to Montréal. The COLBERT and our squadron proceeded up river to Montréal. Meanwhile, in SKEENA we prepared our flight deck for a reception in honour of the President. I was one of 30 officers to be in attendance, along with the 'Who's Who' of VIPs in Canada.

Earlier that day, President De Gaulle was the guest of honour at the Montréal City Hall luncheon hosted by Mayor Jean Drapeau. In the afternoon the COLBERT CO came flying down the jetty, and as he crossed the brow barked orders for the COLBERT to come to immediate notice for steam. To his utter horror, and unbeknownst to him ahead of time,

De Gaulle had uttered his infamous: "Vive le Québec libre!"

Captain Morrow immediately headed over to the COLBERT to see his old friend and learned of his consternation. Both of them knew that an international incident had just occurred and had enormous potential for disaster. 'Snarky' counselled him to let the politicians be political, yet to allow the good relations between navies to continue. He persuaded him not to slip and proceed as he initially intended. However, 'Snarky' was not able to persuade him to attend the reception that evening. The COLBERT CO felt that neither he nor any of his officers could hold up their heads, given the circumstances. The COLBERT sailed the next day. The incident stayed political and did not affect relations between allied navies, although by then, President De Gaulle had removed France from the military arm of NATO.

It is my view that the incident was more than a spontaneous gesture on the part of the President. It was political mischief at least, for after visiting the Expo site, President De Gaulle cancelled the Ottawa portion of his visit. Rather than departing aboard the COLBERT, he headed to Dorval Airport where the French Presidential aircraft was sitting on the tarmac with engines running to fly back to France (perhaps sparing Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson the task of throwing him out).

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Frank Saies-Jones, who was the curator at the Naval Museum of Alberta for almost 20 years, has finally completed his book entitled:

JOINING THE GREY FUNNEL LINE

The Story of a Canadian Boy who Entered the Royal Navy in WWII at the Age of Fifteen

This is a true story of a young boy with a burning desire to join the Royal Navy, and who made plans to enter the training ship HMS CONWAY as a Naval Cadet at the age of fifteen. Reluctant to allow their son to travel to Britain after the outbreak of World War II, his parents wanted him to continue his education in Canada and enter the Canadian Navy on attaining the age of seventeen. When this was not possible, they reluctantly allowed him to leave home in early 1941, and the unorthodox manner in which he joined 'The Grey Funnel Line' makes for interesting reading.

The book (ISBN 978-1-42690-255-0) can be purchased from Trafford Publishing at <http://www.trafford.com> for the price of \$25.99.

Sale Before the Mast

Selling the Kit of a Dead Man

By Frank Saies-Jones

The practice of selling the kit of a deceased sailor by auction was not confined to the Merchant Navy, but also one that was followed for many years by the Royal Navy for both sailors and marines. Up until 1852, when major social reforms (including pensions) were introduced in the Royal Navy, widows and families of seamen who died in service were often left destitute, thus the main purpose for the sale of a dead man's kit and personal belongings was to raise money for his widow. Being notoriously sentimental individuals, sailors would covet a personal item in order to remember a highly regarded and beloved dead shipmate, often paying an outrageous sum of money for an item of doubtful value. Furthermore, in order to ensure that the sum of money raised was substantial, purchased articles were often returned to the auctioneer for resale.

One of the earliest accounts describing a 'sale before the mast' was written by Chaplain Teonge of the Royal Navy in his 1675 diary. In it he states [the kit of the dead man] "was sold at the maine mast at an

extreme deare rate." It has been recorded that in 1914, the kit of a stoker petty officer who died in HMS GLASGOW was sold on board for £212.

In 1760, an Act of Parliament was passed whereby for every hundred men in the navy, the sum of money spent to maintain one able seaman in pay and victuals over the period of one year, was to be set aside for the relief of widows of commissioned and warrant officers. This scheme remained in force until 1832, but no such provision was made for the relief of the wife of a poor sailor or marine in the event of his death. It was only from the sale of a man's kit that any form of a legacy could be received by the family of the deceased seaman or marine. The pro-

ceeds from such sales were passed by the captain of the merchant vessel or, in the case of a warship, by the master-at-arms to the deceased's widow or next-of-kin.

In Richard Henry Dana's classic, "Two Years Before the Mast," first published in 1840, he tells of the loss of a shipmate who fell overboard from the futtock shrouds of his vessel while rounding Cape Horn. The ship, having hove to, the watch on deck lowered a boat in a vain attempt to save the life of the unfortunate sailor. Resigned to the fact their shipmate would not be found, they gave up the search an hour later and returned on board. Before getting underway, the captain called all hands aft and asked if they were satisfied that everything possible

had been done to save the man, or if anyone thought there was any point in remaining in the vicinity on the chance of recovering his body. Hearing that all were of the opinion the unfortunate sailor had drowned, the ship continued on her course but not before the captain had auctioned off the personal belongings of the deceased man to his former shipmates.

In 1852, major



HMS GLASGOW in 1909. A deceased sailor's personal effects were still auctioned off aboard the Town-class cruiser as late as 1914.

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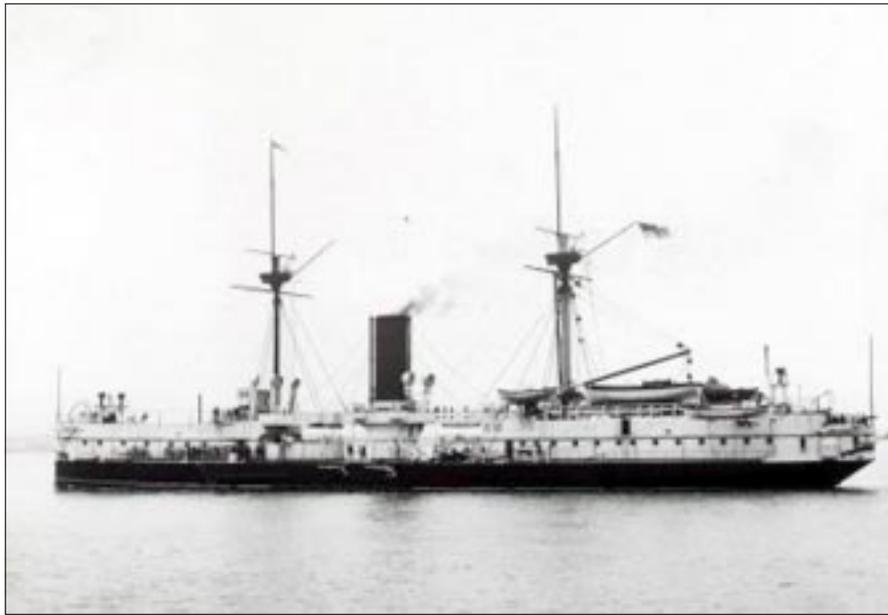
social reforms were introduced in the Royal Navy. Not only was pay increased, but long-service pensions were instituted for those men who had completed twenty-two years of continual service. A widow's pension was also available for wives whose husbands had died while in service.

Despite these improvements, the naval pay scale was not on a par

with that of the average working man in Britain, and the sudden and unexpected death of the head of a household often resulted in real hardship for his family, even though his widow was eligible for a pension.

A case in point is that of Chief Petty Officer George Ashton of HMS COLOSSUS in September 1891.

The battleship COLOSSUS was at anchor off Port Sigri near Rhodes in the Mediterranean when CPO Ashton, an experienced deep-sea diver, was given the job of locating a mine that had been lost overboard. In an age when a great deal remained unknown of the dangers of deep diving, CPO Ashton (who had been below for some time) suffered a case of the 'bends' on surfacing from which he did not recover. Following his burial at sea, his widow in Portsmouth was offi-



HMS COLOSSUS ca. 1909. She was the sister ship of the battleship HMS EDINBURGH and was launched in 1882.



cially notified of his death by the Admiralty. In due course, this was followed by a personal letter to Mrs. Ashton from her husband's commanding officer, Captain Jackson RN, expressing his sympathy and informing her that there would be no difficulty about her pension. At a later date, Mrs. Ashton was the recipient of a letter of condolence from the chaplain in COLOSSUS enclosing the sum of £38 subscribed by the captain, officers and men of COLOSSUS. It is evident CPO Ashton was a popular member of the ship's company, but these expressions of sympathy sent to his wife and family might also have been from any ship in the Royal Navy during the Victorian era.

The sum raised by the sale of the stoker petty officer's kit in the GLASGOW, mentioned earlier, might not be regarded as significant today, but when one con-

siders that in 1914 the rate of pay for a petty officer was about £5 a month, the £212 that went to his widow represented close to four years' wages.

Unlike the case of naval widows, there were no pensions available for the wives of merchant seamen who died on the job. In the early days of sail however, the death of a merchant seaman, whether in his ship or as a re-

sult of having been swept overboard and drowned, brought recognition in death seldom accorded him in life, and his name and the circumstances leading to his death were duly recorded in the ship's log.

The greatest compliment messmates could pay a beloved shipmate was to purchase an article of clothing that had belonged to him in life, and in so doing raise a sum of money to be sent to his widow.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you a poem that came to my attention when I was curator of the Naval Museum of Alberta. As with many items of maritime doggerel, this poem by an unknown poet reeks with sentiment. It is nonetheless descriptive of the brotherhood of the sea, familiar to all who go down to the sea in ships.

Acknowledgements to Roger R. MacPherson, Honorary Skipper of the Edmonton Branch of the Cutty Sark Club.

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Jack's Requiem

*I don't want none of 'is stuff, said Jack, nor I don't want none of 'is gear
I don't want things that I've knowed 'im use, nor things I've seen 'in wear
For it ain't such things as them he said, and that's God's truth my son
That'll make me think of Mike, now that Mike is dead an' gone.*

*There's Bluenose Pete, 'e wants is palm, and the knife 'e wouldn't sell
An' Jake, 'e wants 'is 'igh sea boots, as 'is own they leaks like hell;
An' one wants this, an' one wants that, the way chaps do at sea ...
Well, let 'em 'ave their pick, said Jack. They can 'ave the lot for me.*

*An' they can 'ave 'is teakwood chest, with the paintin' that 'e did
Of the Southern Cross off Sydney 'eads ... full sail inside the lid
An' the marlin' spike 'e always used, an' the bottled ship 'e made
Rollin' up the Western Isles, close-'auled on the Nor' East trade.*

*For Mike an' me was pals, said Jack, an' I couldn't bring my mind
To fight an' scratch like a greedy gull for the gear 'e left behind;
For we sailed together rough an' smooth, an' 'ave stuck it, sink or swim
An' it ain't Mike's bit of thing, God Knows, that will make me think of 'im.*

*It's icy gales when off Cape Stiff, while clingin' to the yard
An' busted fingers furlin' sail that's frozen stiff an' 'ard
An' steerin' by the Southern Cross with the wind abaft the beam
That'll make me think o' Mike, my pal, an' see 'im in my dream.*

*It's sun an' stars, and fog and frost, in fair weather an' in grey
An' rollers curlin', green as glass, afore they break in spray
An' darkened skies on tropic seas, that droop like a blind that's drawn
An' stormy sunsets off the Capes, an' strange landfalls at dawn.*

*It's sailors shoutin' scraps o' songs in waterfront saloons
An' two-stringed fiddles, Chink girls play, a-thrumin' queer ol' tunes
An' the papery noises palm trees make, when off-shore winds are wakin'
An' my mates all singin' on the brace, an' the Royal clue a shakin.*

*It's the thing you eat, an' the things you drink, in all the ports you know
An' the raspy twang o' Spanish wine, an' mule trains tinklin' slow
An' the heady reek o' Eastern towns, an' stuffy smoky smells
Where great pot-bellied Gods sit, a-smilin' to themselves.*

*It's the things you 'ave seen, an' things you hear, an' things you feel an' do
That brings the dead alive again, an' make the ol' years new
An' it ain't Mike's bits o' things I need, an' that's God's truth
That'll make me think o' Mike, my pal, now Mike is dead an' gone.*

Anon



Yes folks ... it's that time of year!

Membership fees in the Naval Museum of Alberta Society are due once again.

Still a bargain at only \$20 per year. Please make your cheque payable to the "Naval Museum of Alberta Society" and send it to us at 1820 - 24th Street, SW, Calgary AB T2T 0G6. (Please note this is the old address at HMCS Tecumseh.) Many thanks!

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NMAS and CMMS Members FREE
Ample free parking

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
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