



the Ensign

Volume 26, Number 2

Spring 2017



**news, views and seagoing tales from the
Naval Museum of Alberta Society**

Our Cover

“The Easterners” — A painting by J. Franklin Wright. This painting and its partner “The Westerners,” together depict the first seven corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941 and is on display at the NMAS Annex, along with many other paintings and prints. Prints of both “Easterners” and “Westerners” are available for sale at \$100.



From the Editor

Scott Hausberg

Last issue, I updated you on some of the activities I had been up to with respect to Navy Days and reconfiguring the Annex storeroom. Once we had the new storeroom organized, I decided to tackle our large collection of art. Over the years, NMAS has collected approximately 120 pieces of art and all of these, some years ago, were wrapped and stored on the second level mezzanine (above the workshop and across from the offices). Wondering if there were any non-naval or non-Canadian pieces that could be sold in the next Navy Days, I proceeded to peek inside each package and determined that half the collection did not support our mandate. These I fully unwrapped, photographed and moved into the storeroom for possible sale.

It was then pointed out to me that there was a significant amount of art in the office areas and I decided that the best way to determine what we had in Canadian naval art was to put it all on the office and hallway walls. All the mezzanine art was moved downstairs and then back upstairs to the former Valour Canada office. The paintings and the better prints were hung in a gallery format (see photos) and the rest were hung in the hallway and two other offices.

With all of our Canadian naval art now up on walls, it is

an easy matter to determine if there are pieces which might be used in a display at the NMA. The next step is to have the best pieces appraised. If you would like to view what we have, I suggest dropping by the Annex on a Monday morning.



Art, left wall.



Art, centre wall.



Art, right wall.

President's Report

Ken Sivertsen



Mike Potter may be covering some of the following in his facility report but it deserves a lot of coverage. As you are probably aware the Society still occupies its building on the *Tecumseh* site while the Naval Museum of Alberta itself is located as part of The Military Museums complex at 4520 Crowchild Trail SW.

We call the building on the *Tecumseh* site the "Annex" to the museum site and use the building as our workshop and archive storage area. As there is a fair amount of space in the building, we have a few tenants in the building, including the offices of the Calgary Branch of the Navy League, RCSCC *Undaunted* and NLCC *Captain Jackson* in the northern half of the building and the workshop, archival storage and offices of the Society as well as the offices of Valour Canada in the southern half of the building. The offices of the Society are in the offices located on the mezzanine level.

To consolidate our space usage and accommodate the needs of Valour Canada, we recently built a new office for Valour Canada in the southeast corner of the building and gathered our stored archives in a space just north of that area. We have also gathered all of the artwork still located in the Annex and have it on display in the office previously occupied by Valour Canada on the mezzanine level. In order to have all of this accomplished in the last three – four months required the efforts of a number of people, including Mike Potter and Mike Gervais as the main carpenters with Scott Hausberg, Eric Kahler and David Eng as the movers, sorters, etc. Scott Hausberg was also the main person in setting up our artwork. Our workshop is now quartered in the southwest corner of the building.

If you haven't been to the Annex yet drop by some Monday morning between 0900 and 1200. The artwork display is remarkable. Many thanks to the above volunteers for their hard work.

I would also like to invite everyone to view the main museum if you haven't been there lately. There have been a number of changes there, including the addition of a virtual display of a submarine attack which is getting a lot of atten-

tion from museum visitors especially the younger ones.

Notwithstanding that NMA is only in its first of three extensions to its land lease with DND, we have received notice that we may have to vacate our premises in March of 2018. We have received verbal confirmation that this won't happen but it still leaves us in a tenuous situation. Apparently, no firm decision will occur until DND and Canada Lands have settled the DND situation in Calgary generally. More as the situation develops.

Happy Easter! May the Giant Bunny be good to all the kids.

Fair Winds

Project Manager's Report

Brad Froggatt



The military museum world is "full ahead" with the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. This event brings to mind not only the contribution that sailors had in the First World War effort on the ground, but also in the air over the battlefields of France.

In the previous edition of *The Ensign*, I outlined the stories of Redford Henry Mulock and Joseph Stewart Temple Fall—two decorated Canadians in the Royal Naval Air Service who contributed in support of the major battles of the First World War. This issue will deal with another aspect of war: the navy on the ground during the conflict—the Royal Naval Division—in which many Canadians served with distinction.

At the outset of the First World War, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) was in its infancy. The RCN began the war with only two ships and fewer than 350 men. There were modest patrols off the East and West coasts at the beginning of the conflict, but it was felt that the best way for Canada to contribute to the war effort was to send men to fight on the Western Front in Europe and leave the defence of our coasts to the navies of Britain and other allies.

Canada's colonial ties with Britain were still strong and Canadians of all stripes answered the "call of empire" with more than 3,000 Canadians serving with the Royal Navy, the Royal Naval Reserve, and with the Royal Navy Canadian Volunteer

Reserve (RNCVR). Many Canadians who volunteered with the Royal Navy found themselves in brigades of the Royal Naval Division, later to become the 63rd (RN) Division.

The Royal Naval Division

In Britain, at the declaration of war on 4 August 1914, there was a surplus of some 20-30,000 men of the reserves of the Royal Navy who would not find jobs on any ship of war. It was recognized that this was sufficient to form two naval brigades and a brigade of marines—to form the Royal Naval Division—for operations on land.

On 20 September, the Royal Naval Division (RND) arrived at Dunkirk with orders to assist in the defence of Antwerp. The two other brigades moved to Dunkirk for the same purpose on 5 October 1914. RND units that managed to successfully withdraw from Antwerp returned to England, arriving 11 October 1914. Approximately 1,500 troops of the 1st Royal Naval Brigade crossed the Dutch frontier to escape from Antwerp and were interned in the Netherlands.

In February 1915, a Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was raised to the Dardanelles. The Royal Naval Division took part in the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915. Before the 19,000 officers and men were evacuated from the Gallipoli Peninsula on 8 January 1916, they were to suffer 15,528 casualties. 2,491 were to die, 5,037 were wounded, and 9,000



Sub-Lieutenant Davidson

suffered from dysentery.

63rd (Royal Naval) Division

The division was transferred from the authority of the Admiralty to the war office in April 1916, and was re-designated as the 63rd (RN) Division as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The Division was sent to France.

The Division moved to France in May 1916, after which it remained on the front for the rest of the war. On 1 July 1916, the Division was in the line at the Battle of the Somme, which lasted over four months. From early in the year 1917 through to 11 November 1918, the Division was constantly in action. It fought at Arras, Gavrelle, Passchendaele, Cambrai, Graincourt and were in the vicinity of Mons when the war ended.

Canadians in the Royal Naval Division

Many Canadians, including at least two from Alberta, found themselves in the RND. One such example is S/Lt. George Thorvold Davidson. Prior to volunteering for service at the outset of the First World War, he was a barrister practising at Medicine Hat Alberta. In August 1914, he enlisted in the Calgary Rifles, but after reaching England he received his commission in the RNVR, and served for a time in the Channel patrol. He then served with the Royal Naval Division and was sent to the Aegean for service at Gallipoli, but when he reached Mudros, the peninsula had been evacuated.

He then proceeded with the Hood Battalion, RND to



France and served in the Somme campaign. On September 25th, at Beaucourt, he volunteered to go into no man's land to reconnoitre the enemy trenches. Near the wire he became separated from the petty officer accompanying him, who eventually returned wounded.

A search party the next night failed to find any trace of him. Several months later it was reported that, being wounded and captured, he had died next day in a German hospital.

Research into Canadians who fought with the Royal Naval Division indicate that at least 38, and likely many more, fought with the RND and the 63rd (RN) Division. These "sailors" who served with the division, tend to be an overlooked facet of the war effort.

Bibliography:

The (63rd) Royal Naval Division
Sailors in the First World War Trenches
by Eric R.J. Wils, translation by Guido Blokland

The Royal Naval Division
Douglas Jerrold, London 1923

Bluejackets in Khaki
Frank Saies Jones,
Naval Museum of Alberta, 2002

From the workshop

By Mike Potter



The new office for Valour Canada has been completed and they have moved in. The new facility is bright and airy with new windows and a door to allow for outside use of the grounds. There are still a few finishing touches required as the weather warms up such as window trims and door latch.

Mike Gervais is working on the ship model stands for the hallway to the Valour office. Brass lanterns were discovered in the artifact collection and they have been cleaned, polished and are mounted on the hallway wall.

Bruce Connelly is working on refurbishing the model of HMS *Nabob*, an early second world war CVE (carrier vessel

escort). The original model was not built to scale and needed some tender love and care.

Sean Campbell, one of our faithful watchkeepers (a software engineer), has volunteered to help us with several projects. Sean is an officer with a Sea Cadet corps and has informed me that some of the cadets would like to work on the rope ladders and ratlines for the HMS *Victory* Admiral Horatio Nelson display. They will be working on that during one of the first parade nights in April. Sean has also informed me that he would like to assist with the design and building of the model of HMCS *Protecteur*. He is able to provide us with computer produced drawings of the frame members which can then be produced using our CNC machine, recently finished by myself.

I would also like to welcome another new member to the workshop, John Davies, a retired naval architect. We have tossed him into the deep end by putting him to work on the new model of HMCS *Protecteur*.

A huge volunteer contributor is Miles Chester. For those who don't know it, Miles has been building model ships for many years and has presented us with models such as HMCS *Calgary* (the corvette, the frigate fitted out prior to Rimpac 2013, and the current frigate showing her new configuration), HMCS *Saguenay* and the refurbished HMCS *Bonaventure*. Now he is finishing HMCS *Edmonton* the new patrol vessel as shown below.



Below is a picture of the nearly finished HMCS *Calgary* with all the latest improvements as of Dec 2016.



David Eng continues to work in the artifact storage room classifying the various items and producing ships' badge displays. David has also volunteered to help with the mounting of all the cap tallies currently displayed at the NMA in a rather large cabinet across from the mess deck display. I am working on this display (see photo below) and it should be done very soon.



Special mention must be given to Scott Hausberg. Scott has done a magnificent job in locating and hanging much of the very valuable artwork that has been not been viewed for many years. Scott has also been responsible for moving and relocating all of the artifacts and putting them into proper order in the new storage room, after the construction of the Valour Canada Office.

Future projects include:

- New stands for mannequins to replace the current cabinets.
- Cabinets for the ships named after Alberta cities.
- Cabinets for Cold War model ships.
- A large cabinet for all the Second World War ship models and their histories.
- The addition of the chart and Asdic room at the front of the corvette ship's bridge. In addition, we anticipate moving the 4" gun and putting it onto a stand to complete the display by adding a breakwater, ship side panels and a Hedgehog case.
- Creating an historical diving diorama, with Canadian Navy hard hat and scuba safety divers. This is currently under discussion and design.

Environmental Solutions," a large company constructing, amongst other things, office structures and spaces with products that are reuseable and recyclable. They use a significant amount of MDF (medium density fiberboard) and through careful creative design and CNC machines they are able to save on the amount of off cuts they have to recycle. DIRT have offered the NMAS workshop some of the off cuts that we can use from time to time. As we use a large amount of MDF, it will save NMAS a significant amount of money in the displays we create. My thanks go to Andree Iffrig and Katelyn Adley for their help and support.

Work on a large scale model of a Restigouche-class destroyer is going to start again (after much delay building other projects) and the display will consist of all four sections from frame 12 to 53, from the weather decks to the keel. We will be cutting the model in half down the centre line and placing the hull side against the west wall of the lower deck, behind the 3"70 and 3"50 guns. This will allow us to open up the ship to show the public the inner workings. You will be able to see the model 3"70 gun and the loading rings along with the shell racks and hoists from the magazine to the gun. The various decks will show food storage areas, offices, mess decks, sonar room, bridge, boiler room, and engine room including turbine engines and the shaft gear boxes.

For anyone wanting to put their hands and brains to good use, the workshop is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 0900 hrs to 1400 hrs. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer and working with us on our projects, call Mike at 403-981-0275 up to 2000 hrs during weekdays. Bring your hammer and/or stories.

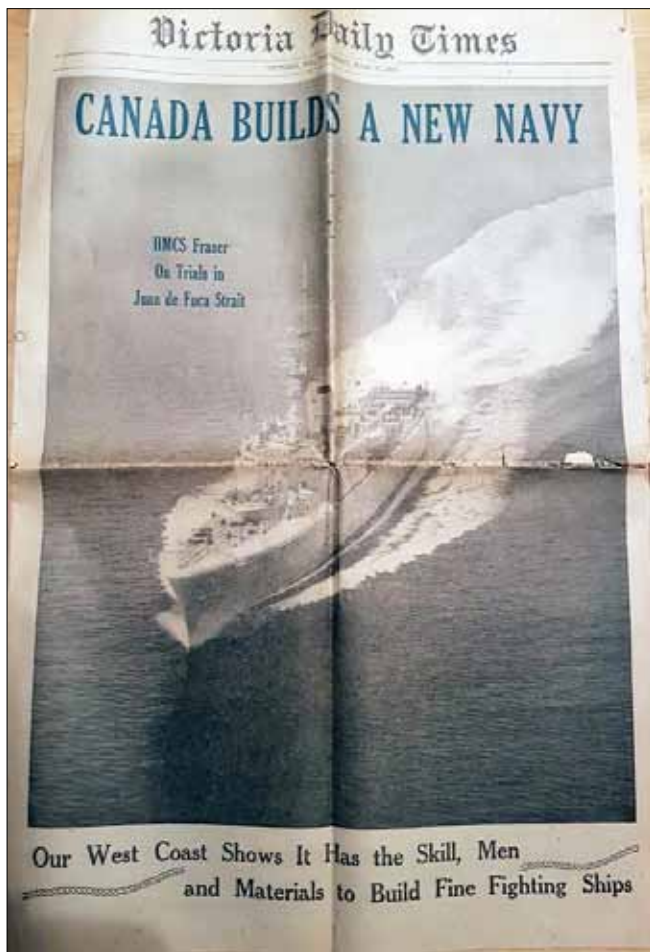
HMCS Fraser joins the fleet

By Scott Hausberg

Former NMAS president Glenn Hardy recently came across a special section of the *Victoria Daily Times* dedicated to HMCS *Fraser* joining the Pacific fleet. The section was published on June 27, 1957 and, as it was folded twice, is in a very fragile state. Carefully, I turned the pages to see if there was anything in it that could be used in *The Ensign*. While I didn't feel it was worthwhile to re-type any of the articles, I did find a couple worthy of summarizing.

One article featured ships crests which I assume were for the larger ships of the Pacific fleet in 1957. There was *Ontario* (a cruiser), *Athabaskan* (a Tribal class destroyer), *Cayuga* and *Crescent* (C class destroyers), *Sioux* (R class destroyer) and *Antigonish* and *Beacon Hill* (Prestonian class frigates).

Another article celebrated that the *Fraser* was 100% built locally by Victoria Machinery Depot. It added that VMD also built *Terra Nova*, three minesweepers including *Fortune*, five corvettes (*Kamloops*, *New Westminster*, *Dawson*, *Dundas*, *Quesnel*) and the gate vessel *Porte De La Reine* (which brings back memories for me). I had never heard of VMD, so I looked it up in Wikipedia and learned that it came about in 1888 and lasted until 1994. Adding to the list of navy ships built at VMD is my old ship *Saskatchewan*. In the 60's, ship building was mostly ferries and it never built another ship after 1968.



The Victoria Daily Times • June 27, 1957.

Londonderry

By Greg McKenzie

Editor's Note: *Dave Eng served in the RCN for 42 years, retiring in 2001 as a CPO2. He now volunteers a good deal of his time at the museum annex and was the 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Greg McKenzie has put into words some interesting stories from Dave's career.*

Before the Irish "Troubles", Canadian warships would regularly visit Londonderry. Dave says it was a great port for sailors. It seems that where the ships berthed was directly across the harbour from a garment factory that was primarily staffed by women. When a ship came in young woman would rush out and be within hailing distance of the ship. There would be many a name exchange and promise to meet up after work. It led to at least one marriage of ship-mate Freddy Sullivan to a local girl. Seems everyone loves a sailor!

Room of Honour

The Naval Museum of Alberta's Room of Honour highlights the naval service of a number of prominent Canadians. *The Ensign* will feature some of the Room of Honour narratives over several issues.

Captain T. D. Kelly, RCNR, CBE

Prior to the war, Commander Kelly was employed by Canadian Pacific in their west coast shipping operations and on the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve. He was appointed the commanding officer of the infantry landing ship HMCS *Prince David* (originally an armed merchant cruiser) from April 1943 until June 1945. During this period the ship operated under Combined Operations Command and participated in the landings of Operation Neptune (Normandy June 1944), Operation Dragoon (south of France August 1944) and landed the British 9 Commando at Piraeus in September 1944 (the liberation of Greece).

Decorations: Order of the British Empire (Commander)

Awards: 1939/1945 Star, Atlantic Star, France/Germany Bar, Pacific Star, Italy Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, War Medal and Greece Medal



Navy Days ... Can you help?

Last year's **Navy Days** illustrated a fairly robust demand in Calgary for naval memorabilia. Models, shell casings, lanterns, plaques, books and badges surplus to the Naval Museum of Alberta Society's needs were put up for sale and over \$6,000 was raised.

It is intended to have **Navy Days** again this October and more naval memorabilia will be offered for sale. In that regard, NMAS has only so much surplus material and so the call is being made for your surplus items.

Many of us have homes full of plaques, prints, plates, bells, etc., and there comes a time when some of it has to go. If you are at that point, please consider donating some or all of your collection to the Naval Museum of Alberta Society to be sold at a future garage sale.

All funds raised will go towards the preservation of our naval history and heritage.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the NMAS Annex at HMCS *Tecumseh* — the first building on your right when you enter the grounds. There is almost always a volunteer there on Mondays from 0900 to 1400.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Hausberg at scott.hausberg@outlook.com

PLEASE COMPLETE, CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW...

PLEASE RENEW OR PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAVAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 2017

YES, please renew/accept my Naval Museum of Alberta Society membership for 2017. A cheque for \$20.00 payable to the Society is enclosed to cover my membership for one year and my information is included below (kindly print):

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please check this box only if you would like to receive The Ensign by mail rather than by email (because we do not have a colour copier, (these will be in black and white while emailed copies are in full colour, PDF format and save the Society both paper and postage.)

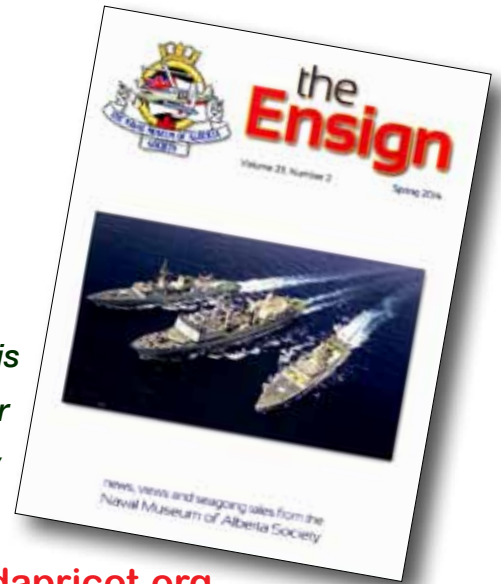
Please check this box if you would like to make a donation to the Society. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations in excess of \$20.00.

**Please return this form with your cheque payable to NMAS.
Mail to: Naval Museum of Alberta Society, c/o HMCS Tecumseh,
1820 - 24th Street SW, Calgary, AB T2T 0G6**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



... that back issues of 'The Ensign' are available on the NMAS website?



The NMAS website has many great features but surely the best is the ability to view past issues of 'The Ensign.' Read them over and over again in magnificent colour (for those who have only seen the black and white versions). The site is located at...

<http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.wildapricot.org>

Sailors Pulling the Gun Carriage at Funerals

On February 2, 1901, Lt the Hon Algernon Boyle, commanding the Royal Navy guard of honour at Windsor GWR station, awaiting the arrival of the coffin of Queen Victoria, took charge of the gun carriage from the Royal Horse Artillery when their horses became restless. The sailors ground-

ed arms and using some of the trappings of the horses towed the gun carriage to St George's Chapel. The Royal Navy has towed the gun carriage for state funerals ever since: thus are traditions established.



Royal Navy sailors pulling the gun carriage bearing Sir Winston Churchill's remains in January 1965.

Wikipedia

The Last Tot



The last issue of rum in the Royal Canadian Navy (then called Maritime Command) occurred on March 11th, 1972.



We always have a 'pressing' need for volunteers to serve as Naval Museum Watchkeepers!

If you would like to enlist in our fine body of Watchkeepers, please contact Bill Buchanan at 403-274-7535 or by email to cutknife@telus.net and we will promise not to send the Press Gang to your door!

2017 Membership Drive

The Naval Museum of Alberta Society is actively seeking new members! Every new member adds to our ability to provide credible support to our museum. Kindly do your part ... help us grow in 2017!

Content is always wanted for The Ensign

If you have any material you think would be appropriate, please send it to Editor, Scott Hausberg scott.hausberg@outlook.com

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Telephone 403-974-2807

Admission Prices

Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$5.00, Youth 7-17 \$4.00
Serving personnel (past and present) and their families FREE
NMAAS members FREE • Ample free parking

Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Weekends and holidays 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

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