



the Ensign

Volume 27, Number 1

Winter 2017-18

Photo by Alan Pedley



HMCS *Chicoutimi* at sea off the British Columbia coast.

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



From the Editor

Scott Hausberg

Leading up to the Fall edition of *The Ensign*, my time was mostly consumed by planning and running Navy Days. What a relief that went off so well and, afterwards, I thought that maybe I could take it easy for awhile. Alas, no, as there was much more to do. Read in this issue how we were able to update the NMAS website and add online payments, the new Navy Calgary Facebook page and all the flags that are available for purchase from NMAS.



President's Report

Ken Sivertsen

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Our AGM was held on Saturday, November 25, 2017. There were 20 persons in attendance which was a small decrease from the attendance last year. We nevertheless did accomplish things of importance to the Society including the review of the financial statements and the election of directors. As you are aware, the Naval Museum of Alberta has had a full time Project Manager (Mr. Brad Froggatt) since July 2015, albeit on a term basis. Brad is now the Curator of our Naval Museum and he briefed the members at the AGM of his experience in the last year. Eric Kahler is now the Director of the Naval Museum of Alberta.

For your information, the following persons stood up for the task and were elected to the Society's Board of Directors for 2018:

Ken Sivertsen	President	403-281-8640	kensivertsen@nucleus.com
Scott Hausberg	Vice-Pres.	403-441-6756	scott.hausberg@outlook.com
Lorne Hanson	Treasurer	403-241-0394	lhanson@bhh.ab.ca
Nancy Olmstead	Sec'y.	403-240-1967	albertaseaweed@live.ca
Johanne Aylett	Director	403-245-4517	jaylett@telusplanet.net
Bill Buchanan	Director	403-274-7535	cutknife@telus.net
Eric Kahler	Director	587-969-7747	erickahler1@icloud.com
Bill Kane	Director	403-249-8815	-
Anita Von	Director	403-637-2110	anitavon1@hotmail.com
Gary Whitehead	Director	403-240-1967	albertaseaweed@live.ca

Glen Wilkinson chose not to run for the Board this year, as he had timing conflicts that would preclude attendance at the meetings.

As those who were in attendance are aware, Scott Hausberg was selected as Volunteer of the Year and Mike Potter and his crew at the Annex were recognized for their efforts at both the Annex and the Museum itself. These latter are: Mike Gervais, Chuck Von, David Eng, Martin (Marty) Doyle and Bruce Connolly.

Our next Casino will be held on January 17 & 18 at the Elbow River Casino on McLeod Trail across from the Stampede Grounds. We can still use a couple of Count Room staff for the 18th. If you are available to do this, please contact me at 403-281-8640 or Johanne Aylett at 403-245-4517. The shift is from 2345 to approximately 0330.



Curator's Corner

Brad Froggatt

I have the pleasure of addressing everyone as the Curator of the Naval Museum of Alberta rather than the Project Manager. As many of you already know, the Naval Museum now has a Director with the appointment of Eric Kahler in October. With a New Year imminent, we are looking forward to another year of development, outreach and education at the Naval Museum of Alberta.

This past year we have had many successes and developments. The many of you who devote your time as volunteers at the Museum will have seen the addition of the Second World War ship model case in the galley, the cap tally case, as well as the ongoing restoration of the HMCS *Athabaskan* model. Once the *Athabaskan* is complete, she will be installed in her new case alongside many of our other significant models.

The arrival of twelve air detachment briefing room seats from various HMC ships for the Doc Seaman Theatre has necessitated the enlargement of the theatre. From the outset, the theatre was dedicated not only to the contributions of Doc Seaman, but of D-Day, Coastal Command and Combined Operations, but was also intended to be a space where small-scale lectures and presentations can be held. With the re-orientation of the video screen and the enlargement of the entire theatre done, we are now in the process of re-installing

panels and models and will be able to use the space more effectively.

As part of the ongoing effort to enhance the interpretation of the naval air section of the gallery, we were fortunate to have the assistance of Marty Doyle from the Air Force Museum of Alberta and his expertise to re-orient the Seafire, Sea Fury and Banshee aircraft. Not only are the aircraft more visible upon entering the museum, but cockpits have been opened on the Sea Fury and Banshee to allow visitors better view of their interiors. We are investigating the installation of LED lighting within the cockpits and illuminating the aviation lights on the aircraft (with LED lighting). The repositioning of the aircraft also allows us some more flexibility for the installation of future artefacts and exhibits.

The process of designing and installing new interpretive panels in the gallery is being done as resources allow. The interpretive panel for the War of 1812 is installed, as are the upper mezzanine panels dealing with RCN history up to the end of the Second World War. One of the next steps in this project is to have the interpretive panels associated with our artefacts redesigned with a "common look and feel."

We have been fortunate to have the expertise of our volunteer, Jacqueline Perezini, who is undertaking research in preparation for an exhibit on the RCN contribution to the Cold War. Jacqueline is also planning to write an article on her research and possibly provide a lecture on the topic.

The Naval Museum has been working cooperatively with the TMM in hosting lectures in the Naval Gallery. One in particular saw Dr. Peter Berg presenting his interactive lecture on the Enigma machine in November which drew over 120 guests.

Of course we are looking forward to many more interesting projects in the coming year.



From the Workshop

Mike Potter

A Very Happy New Year to All and especially to Mike Gervais, Chuck Von, John Davies, Marty Doyle and not least my wife Loretta; thanks for putting up with me and my projects.

The past year has been very productive with several new projects being completed and others that have been either

moved or changed to make them more appealing to the visitors. There are still some small finishing touches required but they should be completed by the end of January.

The model of HMCS *Athabaskan* is nearing refurbishment with a new main mast and radar antenna, a new midships radio antenna and replacement of the existing six-barrel Oerlikon guns with six new twins on RN mark 25 Bofors mounts. The lifeboat stations have been replaced and their rigging is also being replaced. A new fire/combat control centre and aircraft radar antenna have been placed on the bridge deck directly behind the current open bridge. All existing rigging was removed as it was painted and beginning to rot.

The new year is going to bring some new challenges that will include making the workshop safer and cleaner. We will be installing a new cyclone dust collector and adding vacuum piping to as many standing tools as possible. All the power cables are now going to be hung over the workshop by cables. If anyone has a used furnace fan that is still usable, please let me know (403-981-0275) as we would like to add a couple of air cleaners to the area.

Along with some movement of tools and installing benches, we will be enclosing the cut-off saw and putting insulation inside the cabinet to minimize some of the noise and dust it creates. Furthermore, we will be creating a paint booth to control paint and chemical odors. While we use mostly latex paint, we still need to use cleaners and oils and must contain their smells.

Look for some new additions to the gallery this year. I cannot tell you what is planned but be sure they will be worth the wait. Stay tuned for updates on Facebook and the website.



LEFT: Illustration of twin barrel 20mm Oerlikon guns to be installed on the *Athabaskan* model.



RIGHT: New additions to the HMCS *Athabaskan* model.

CASINO



**Our next Casino
is 17-18 January
2018**

Please contact Johanne Aylett at jaylett@telusplanet.net if you are available to help. Casinos are our major source of revenue and only occur every 18 months, so we need volunteers to make it a success!

Navy Days



Navy Days 2017 was a success! Attendance was estimated at 500 (350 on Saturday and 150 on Sunday) and the goals of bringing together the naval community, raising funds and attracting new members were achieved. Between NMAS, CNVA and NAC, a total of 15 new memberships were sold. NMAS made over \$2,000 with its garage sale and silent auction. CNVA had sales over \$400 and the *John A. Hamilton* NLCC Canteen made close to \$200. The four lectures were attended by approximately 170 people, with the Dunkirk lecture by Dr. Stephane Guevremont being standing room only. Thanks are extended to Roger Litwiller and Jon Johnson for volunteering to speak. The various organizations' tables were all busy; Warrior Sailing filled most of its 2018 slots. Always popular were the splice the mainbrace and the *Tecumseh* band. Again, thanks to all the volunteers and cadets who supported this event!



Navy Days flags.

Looking forward, there are a few significant changes envisioned for 2018. First, HMCS *Tecumseh* has agreed to take the lead on this event. Bringing the naval community together is one of *Tecumseh's* mandates and it has the resources to make this an even better event. NMAS will continue to run the garage sale and auction and the CNVA is keen to offer its wares again. Second, it is planned to drop the Sunday and extend the hours on Saturday. So, the event will be called Navy Day 2018 next time.

Finally, the date of October 21, 2018 has been selected for Navy Day 2018, so as to once again coincide with Trafalgar/Niobe Day and the NAC's mess dinner. Mark your calendar.

NAVY DAY 2018 
Saturday Oct 21, 2018



Rear Admiral Jennifer Bennett addresses attendees following the introduction of World War II veterans.



NAVY CALGARY

What's happening in Calgary's Naval Community



For the first time, social media was used to advertise Navy Days. An event page was created on *Facebook* and informative posts were issued daily. They proved to be such a good medium that it was decided to take advantage of *Facebook* on a permanent basis.

The Navy Calgary page was started in November to promote all activities in the Calgary naval community. This includes NMA, NMAS, CNVA, NAC Calgary, HMCS *Tecumseh*, HMCS *Calgary* and all the Sea Cadet and Navy League Cadet Corps in the Calgary area.

At press time, the Navy Calgary page had over 120 followers. Check it out if you are on *Facebook*. If not, you can see all the Navy Calgary posts via the NMAS website.

NMAS Website

The NMAS website has been updated quite significantly over the last couple of months by volunteer Robert Sivertsen.



The first thing you will notice is a window on the home page showing content from the Navy Calgary *Facebook* page. This means that the NMAS page actually changes every day and includes all the latest news about the Calgary naval community.



The second change is that members can access their membership cards by logging into their accounts. The membership card is useful in obtaining free admission to The Military Museums. From your computer, you can print your card. Another option is to add your card to your smart phone. This can be done as a photo or can be added to an 'app' such as Stocard.

The third change is the ability to join or renew online with payment via a credit card.

The fourth change is the ability to make a donation on line. This functionality can also be combined with online invoicing to facilitate payment for goods that NMAS has for sale.



It's time...

The call to renew your NMAS membership has gone out but there are still a few people who have not done so. If you are one of these people, please go to the NMAS website at <http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.wildapricot.org/> and renew with our new online process and payment. Very simple and fast!

\$3,000 for anchor...



NAC Calgary President Doug Ewing (right) presents a cheque for \$3,000.00 to NMA Director Eric Kahler at the Calgary Naval Veterans Association's Annual General Meeting. These monies are to be used for the refurbishment of the HMCS *Protecteur* anchor.

Flags for sale!



A review of a number of bins of flags in the annex store-room revealed some pleasant surprises and a large number of flags that are not relevant to NMAS objectives. The pleasant surprises included: a 12-foot bunting white ensign from HMS *Hermes*, a 12-foot nylon white ensign from HMCS *Bonaventure*, a 15-foot reichskriegsflagge complete with swastika, a Japanese rising sun flag, a 21 foot nylon white ensign, and a Canadian red ensign from the period 1905-1921. The flags that do not support the NMAS' mandate include numerous Canadian flags and union jacks, flags from dozens of countries, states and provinces, dozens of redundant signal flags and much more. Some of these flags are shown above and are for sale.

Contact scott.hausberg@outlook.com if you are interested or come and see the whole lot at **Navy Day 2018**.

Jackspeak...

The following naval terminology comes from ReadyAyeReady.com/Jackspeak

As the crow flies ~ A direct line between two points. When lost or unsure of their position in coastal waters, Viking ships would release a caged crow. The crow would fly straight towards the nearest land thus giving the vessel some sort of

a navigational fix. The tallest platform on a ship came to be known as the "crow's nest."

Before the mast ~ Literally, the area of a ship before the foremast (the forecastle). Traditionally used to refer to men whose living quarters are located here, officers being quartered in the stern-most areas of the ship (near the quarter-deck). Officer-trainees lived between the two ends of the ship and became known as "midshipmen." Crew members who started out as seamen, then became midshipmen, and later, officers, were said to have gone from "one end of the ship to the other."



HMS *Belfast*, a World War II era cruiser which now serves as a museum ship in the Thames River. *Belfast* flew the Canadian flag at the masthead for the last two weeks of December. This was to honour the approximately eighty members of her World War II crew who were Canadians.



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'll promise not to send the Press Gang to your door!



JOIN THE NAVAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA SOCIETY

- SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF CANADA'S NAVAL HERITAGE
- RECEIVE *THE ENSIGN* NEWSLETTER FOUR TIMES PER YEAR
- FREE ENTRY TO THE MILITARY MUSEUMS AND THE NAVAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA ALL YEAR (Regular \$15 per entry)
- FREE ENTRY TO 'NAVY DAY' IN OCTOBER
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES GALORE

Only \$20.00 per year! Join in just five minutes with credit card payment via <http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.wildapricot.org/>

ISSN 1483-7080

THE ENSIGN is published on a quarterly basis by the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, and is mailed to all who purchase a \$20.00 annual membership in the Society expiring 31 December of each year. Portions of this publication may be copied without permission provided specific copyright is not indicated and full credit is given to both the author(s) and **THE ENSIGN**. The editor is solely responsible for content; any opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or positions of the Department of National Defence, the Naval Museum of Alberta Society and/or the Naval Museum of Alberta. The Naval Museum of Alberta is a fully accredited Canadian Forces museum and the Naval Museum of Alberta Society is a duly registered not-for-profit organization.



Creative services and layout are provided by
Cascade Creek Publishing®

LCdr (Ret'd) George A. Moore, President
1871 Primrose Crescent, Kamloops, BC V1S 0A5
Phone 250-314-1284 • Fax 250-314-1286 • cascadecreek@shaw.ca

The Naval Museum of Alberta

is located at The Military Museums
4520 Crowchild Trail, SW, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5J4
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
NMAS 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

The Naval Museum of Alberta Society

1820 - 24th Street, SW, Calgary AB T2T 0G8
Telephone 403-242-0002
Facsimile 403-240-1966
execdir@navalmuseumsociety.ca

The Ensign Editor

Cdr (Ret'd) Scott Hausberg
scott.hausberg@outlook.com