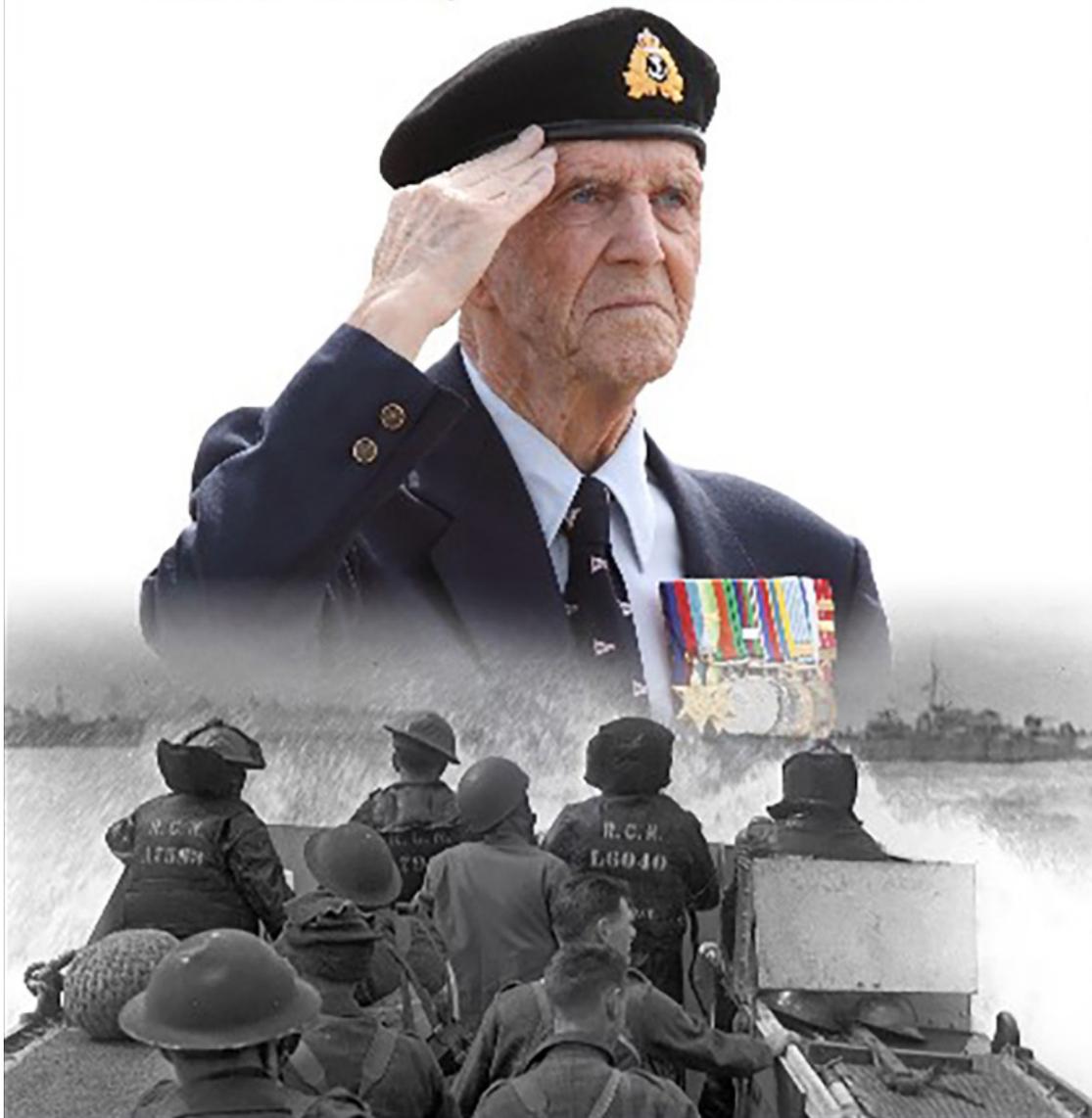




# the Ensign

Volume 28, Number 3 Summer 2019

## D-DAY 1944 JOUR J 2019 and the Battle of Normandy et la bataille de Normandie



 [VETERANS.GC.CA](http://VETERANS.GC.CA)



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Canada

**CANADA REMEMBERS**

## From the Editor: **SCOTT HANWELL**

In my last note, I suggested the story of the Canadian Navy is being written every day – and so it is. There are so many wonderful stories to tell – the selfless devotion of those willing to make sacrifices for their families, their communities, their country. At NMA, our stories are about the RCN and, I'm proud to note, the members of the Merchant Marine, but our place at TTM gives us a chance to reflect on the proud service of our colleagues in the Canadian Army and RCAF as well. It's not hard to find true inspiration in these stories and I can't help but think that reflecting on the lives of others helps each of us consider our own lives, and I hope, improve our own stories.

There is, however, one recent story about the RCN that I think we'll all be happy to close the book on: the prosecution of Vice Admiral Mark Norman. I think the facts are fairly well known but let me contrast Admiral Norman's story with that of another resident of Ottawa.

On the one hand, we have a man who has honorably served his country for 39 years, rising through the ranks under his own steam to Vice Chief of Defense Staff. Under the clear direction of the government of the day, he works tirelessly to secure an at-sea replenishment capability for the RCN.

His reward? He is removed from his post, learns of his pending prosecution by watching the news, incurs hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills and has his career permanently side-lined.

On the other, we have a man who lashed his fate to his father's coattails. After a few years of teaching (an essential, but not particularly glamorous job that is, after all, damn hard work and lacks widespread "selfie" opportunities), he studies engineering for a year, drops out, studies environmental geography for a year, drops out, and with few real prospects, turns to politics. This man is accused, in public and under oath, by the Attorney General of Canada, of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

His punishment? A few awkward moments at the podium, mumbling incoherent remarks about "lessons learned."

Very different stories, and it's hard to imagine they have taken place under the same system of justice.

Joseph de Maistre is credited with first saying that "In a democracy, people get the leaders they deserve." Can someone tell me please, what we did to deserve this?

Let's honour our past and work for a future with more inspiring stories.

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## From the Archives: Where did those planes come from anyway?

The NMA's collection of aircraft from the Fleet Air Arm are second to none.

Thanks to Greg and Laraine for passing on this clipping from 1959 covering the arrival of the Seafire to HMCS Tecumseh.



**LAST LANDING.** This Navy "Seafire" — a Spitfire adapted for flying from aircraft carriers — came down for its last landing in front of HMCS Tecumseh Tuesday. The relic of the Second World War will remain permanently in its present position as a display. On the wing is Lt. Gordon Heater and in the cockpit is Lt. Charles Ilsey, both stationed at HMCS Tecumseh.

# President's Report: SCOTT HAUSBERG

As usual, activity in the museum and the workshop continues at a high pace. **Mike Potter** and **Mike Gervais** are very close to completion of their 3"70 gun model. At the NMA, a new naval air exhibit has been completed, upgrades to touchscreen monitors are underway and a cutaway Banshee jet engine has been acquired.

At the Annex, we have upgraded the fire alarm panel and made our art gallery into a meeting room (see photo). As well, the Naval Association of Canada Calgary Branch will soon be setting up their office in the room that once was the museum's sail loft. **Cam Waddell** has been working at sorting our extensive uniform collection and our curator, **Brad Froggatt**, has moved to the NMA those that could be useful in future exhibits.

A new family membership offering is now available through [navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca](http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca). For only \$30 per calendar year, a family can join and get all the regular NMAS benefits including free access to TMM. For the purposes of this membership, a family is defined as up to two adults and two children all living in the same residence. This is ideal for cadet families.



How can they call it the Boardroom with so many exciting works of art?

I want to draw your attention to a new app called History Check. This app is an interactive map and search engine related to history and heritage sites in Alberta. It started in northern Alberta and in June launched in southern Alberta. The NMA is one of the featured museums. The app is available via Google Play and the Apple Store.

Planning is underway for two of our naval community's highlight events. First up will be the NAC organized **Summer BBQ** on **July 27**. NMAS uses this event to recognize our volunteers and market a few of our fundraising products. Next is **Navy Days** which will be **October 19 and 20** of this year. I hope to see many of you at both these events.

## Museum Products For Sale

NMAS sells NMA products through its website ([navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca](http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca)) and at the volunteer BBQ and Navy Days. NMAS members are offered the best prices. Here are some of the items available:

Item	Member Price	Non-member
NMA golf shirts (NEW)	\$25	\$30
NMA long sleeve shirt	\$20	\$25
NMA pen	\$1	\$2
NMA coffee mug	\$5	\$10

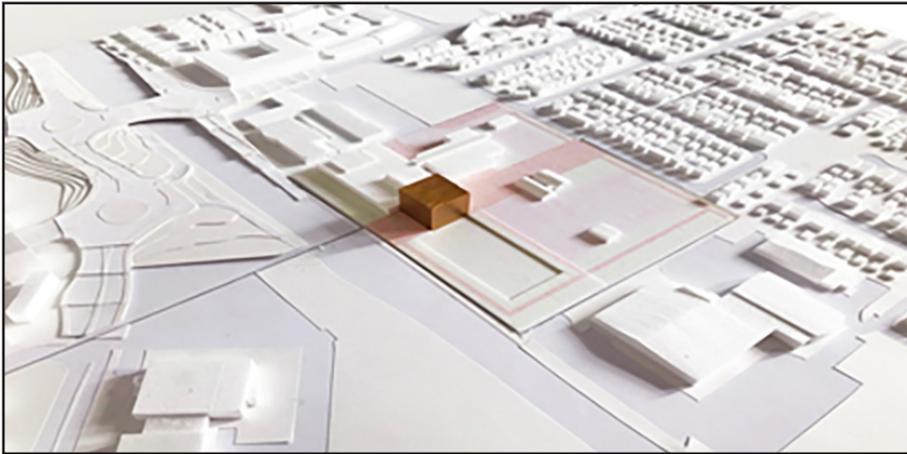


*Looking Good! Be the envy of your foursome and support the NMA at the same time!*

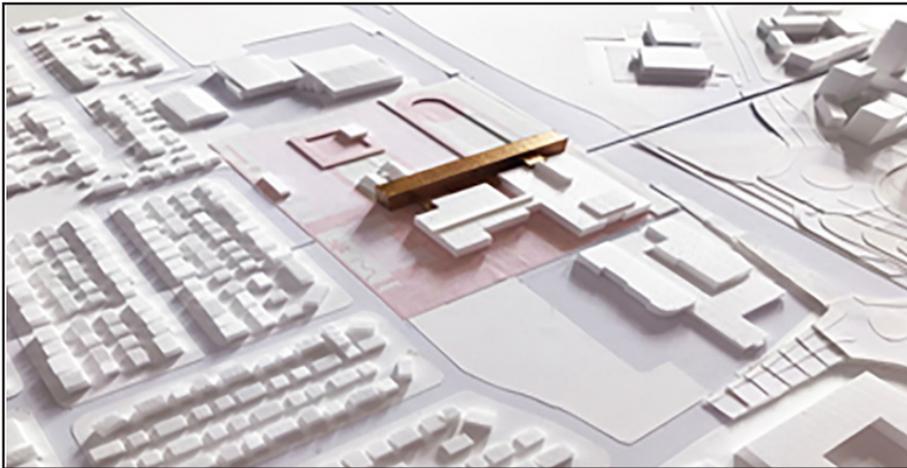
**Casino volunteers:** We still need a couple of casino volunteers for 12-13 August. Please contact Gord at [gordonmacivor@gmail.com](mailto:gordonmacivor@gmail.com) if you can help.

## Director's Report: **ERIC KAHLER**

We're warming up for the busy summer season with much activity across the NMA's many projects but for this report, I wanted to highlight some details about the potential expansion to The Military Museums complex. Things continue to progress with prototypes of the possible design having been developed. Below are three conceptual drawings of what the new museum could look like. These are very early stage and are presented here for interest sake only as nothing has been decided on the way ahead. More scuttlebutt to come!



*This first concept is a mid-rise tower type building located on the SW corner of the current museum. It would house the Afghanistan exhibit and join to the current entrance of the museum. This would be visible from Crowchild Tr and attract some interest.*



*The second concept is a sort of spinal shaped building which would run the length of the existing building complex on its southern exposure. The entrance would be on the East side and provide access to all the galleries as one walks the length of the building. This would also be quite visible from Crowchild Tr.*



*The third concept allows for a hollow square shaped building with a memorial garden for personal reflection on the interior side. This would be built to the south of the existing complex. This design seems to be the least favourite of the three.*

*Each of these design concepts have their own pros and cons and still require a lot more thought to determine the optimal configuration at the right price. I will continue to provide more information as it becomes available.*

## From the Workshop: **MIKE POTTER**

Work continues on the 3" 70 model gun display. We are currently experimenting with a main power supply and motor for the gun turret.

In order to move the turret and inner workings we require a substantial motor with high torque and slow rotation.

Fortunately we have devised a pulley system that reduces the speed from 2500 rpm to 40 rpm, but this requires the belts to be tightened to the point that it adds drag to the motor.

The concept has been proved, now we just need to match that with the right power.

All other parts are working well and we are now preparing to move some parts of the display to the museum.

We anticipate that the full working model will be on site and operational by the end of August.

The model hull of HMCS Protecteur is well underway and we anticipate adding fiberglass as soon as good weather permits.

Last but not least, the 3D printer is working overtime producing model shells for the exhibit.



*Power to the Mount! The two Mikes taking a momentary break from crushing the problems of getting the 3" 70 model gun display up and firing.*



*A sailor's lot: Chip and Paint. Is that Chuck or Michelangelo?*



*Mike showing the great progress on the 3" 70 model.*

## Curator's Report: **BRAD FROGGATT**

As part of our continued improvements to our galleries and to the interpretation of naval history, the Naval Museum has undergone some redevelopment of exhibits and upgrades to much of our electronic interactive exhibits.

### Naval Air Exhibit

The redesigned RCN Naval Air Exhibit is nearing completion. With financial assistance from the Naval Museum of Alberta Society we have been able to redevelop the exhibit to better tell the story of the RCN and Naval Air with the addition of an eye-catching exhibit featuring not only some of our pre-existing artefacts, but with some new interpretive items.

Coincidentally, as the exhibit has developed, there have been new donations from former members of the Naval Air Community and their families that will help to augment the story, which ranges from the creation of the Royal Naval Air Service in 1912, to World War One during which many members of the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve (RNCVR) served in the RNAS during World War I. One uniform of that era on exhibit was worn by one such Canadian, S/Lt. W.K. Prendergast.



Naval Air Text Panels and Uniforms

A new addition to the exhibit is the uniform of John Allen Turner. John Allen Turner was born in Central Butte Saskatchewan 7 December 1927, and passed away 22 November 2017 at age 89. At the onset of the Korean War John Turner joined the RCN (Naval Aviation) as an Aviation Technician. In 1953 he was present on parade at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation. He rose to the rank of CPO2. He retired from the CF in 1975.

The Exhibit also contains the flight jacket and uniform of Lt. (P) George Edward Pumple whose career in the RCAF and RCN began in 1948 and spanned 25 years. He was appointed as a Flight Cadet RCAF (With seniority dated 29/06/1948). He was appointed as a Lieutenant (P) RCN 21/04/1954. His experiences are too long to mention here, but included: total hours: 10,597. Total Fixed Wing Deck Landings: 263 (including 67 at night.) Service Aircraft Flown: Chipmunk, Harvard, Texan, Mustang, Sea Fury, Avenger, T-33, Otter, Bell HTL-6, Piasecki HUP-3, Sikorsky HO4S, Sea King, Grumman Goose, Expeditor, Douglas Dakota, Tracker. Civilian Aircraft Flown: Fleet 80, Piper PA-31, Piper Chieftain, Cessna 421, Cessna 150, Aeronca Champ. He retired on 19/06/1973.



An overview of the exhibit including Alan Turner's high-collar white tunic.

Though there are still some things to be added to the exhibit, it is already garnering great interest by our visitors. It is expected that the official re-opening of the exhibit will occur during Navy Days 2019.



An aspect of the Naval Air exhibit showing the new suspended cases.

# Curator's Report: BRAD FROGGATT

## COOPERATIVE EXHIBITS

### D-Day Dodgers



The Naval Museum collaborates with other museums in special events and exhibits. Recently the Museum took part in an exhibit on the “D-Day Dodgers” from 27 May to 9 June where our contribution was to highlight the role of the RCN in the Sicily campaign and Operation Husky.

### Interactive Exhibits Upgrade

Because many of our interactive exhibits are aging, and some of the software that the displays use is no longer supported, we have had to undergo an upgrade to our touch-screen interactive exhibits in the Gallery.

With funding from the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, **Jeff Plante** at Ambient Interactive has been contracted to upgrade the existing touch-screen exhibits, and to redesign the content in a desktop application format. The initial trial of the newly designed programs has been successful, and we look forward to completion of the project in the coming weeks.

### Naval Museum Summer Student Katie Judson

The Naval Museum is happy to have **Katie Judson** back this summer to continue work at the museum in our collections. Funded through the Canada Summer Jobs program and the Naval Museum of Alberta Society, Katie has been busy reorganizing our collections area at TMM, properly storing artefacts, and catching up on our accessions backlog. This is especially important as many of the artefacts previously housed at the Naval Museum Society Annex have now been moved to the Naval Museum. Katie has processed over 400 artefacts this summer and counting....



*Katie Judson documenting Uniforms. Katie is studying writing and History at the University of Victoria*

### Keepsakes of Conflict

The Naval Museum took part in the exhibit “Keepsakes of Conflict: trench Art and Other Canadian War-Related Craft” produced by the Moose Jaw Museum and Archives in 2015.

As part of the exhibit the Naval Museum of Alberta contributed artefacts that illustrated the artwork produced by Canadian Sailors including a hand-painted ditty box, and a kit bag decorated by Bob Buchanan (pictured here).



This exhibit is now travelling and can be seen at TMM at the University of Calgary Founders Gallery until 2 September 2019.

For more information on the exhibit go to: <https://founders.ucalgary.ca/exhibition/keepsakes-of-conflict-trench-art-and-other-canadian-war-related-craft/>

# HMCS TECUMSEH COMMANDING OFFICERS

**Note from the Editor:** Beginning with this issue of the Ensign, **Greg Mackenzie** will be making a regular contribution of biographies of the COs of HMCS Tecumseh. Greg has begun this research in anticipation of the upcoming 2023 Centenary of the establishment of Calgary's Stone Frigate.

## Lieutenant Raymond Clement Hinton 1923 - 1935

Born in Manitoba, he joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve at the commencement of World War I. By 1916 he was a Sub Lieutenant and a Paymaster in HMS Seagull, a Patrol Depot Ship. He saw action in a Motor Launch ML 59. He also served in HMS Hermione, an HQ Ship for motor launches and coastal motor boats.



*The start of Calgary's Navy: The First Half Company*

After the War he came to Calgary and worked as a banker. In 1923 he was part of a small planning group for a Reserve Navy establishment in Calgary, eventually being appointed the first Commanding Officer of what was known as the Calgary Half Company.

Hinton was aided by highly capable former RN, Mr. Mitchell who was the petty officer instructor. Initial enrollments were in the Navy League office which was the office of Henry Irwin, an insurance agent in the Leeson Lineham Block 209 - 8 Ave SW. Training was done in the back room of a small radio shop on Second St. West between 7th and 8th Ave which was owned and operated by W.W. Grant. There were two groups of 20 recruits that first year. Most of the first group were senior Sea Cadets. A short while later, space was rented in the old No. 2 Police Barracks 1807 2 St E - across the street from the Stampede Grounds. Training continued there until 1944. Pay was 25 cents a day with uniform provided for sailors. Officers received no pay and provided their own uniforms. The RCN consisted of a destroyer and two minesweepers on each coast. Billets were also available in British Cruisers.

## June 6, 2019: The 75th Anniversary of D-Day

This year marked the 75th anniversary of one of the most significant days leading to the Allied victory in the Second World War.

From the Canadian Encyclopedia: "Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen played a critical role in the Allied invasion of Normandy, also called Operation Overlord, beginning the bloody campaign to liberate Western Europe from Nazi occupation. Nearly 150,000 Allied troops landed or parachuted into the invasion area on D-Day, including 14,000 Canadians at Juno Beach.

The Royal Canadian Navy contributed 110 ships and 10,000 sailors and the RCAF contributed 15 fighter and fighter-bomber squadrons to the assault. Total Allied casualties on D-Day reached more than 10,000, including 1,074 Canadians, of whom 359 were killed. By the end of the Battle of Normandy, the Allies had suffered 209,000 casualties, including more than 18,700 Canadians. Over 5,000 Canadian soldiers died."

I found the media coverage of the anniversary events in Europe to be excellent, so I have no plans to try



*Troops of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade going ashore, Bernières-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, 6 June 1944.*

and retell the story here but would like to point out the excellent information provided in Action Stations, the newsletter of HMCS Sackville. It can be found here: <https://hmcSSackville.ca/wp-content/uploads/ACTION-STATIONS-Spring-2019-e-version.pdf>

Thanks to Captain (N) Wilson for bringing this to my attention.

## Folks around the Museum: **BILL BETHELL, Watchkeeper**

Bill was born in Hanna, Alberta December 17, 1931 (87+ years). His first home was a “two room shack” with a sod roof. His father was a Grain Buyer for the Alberta Wheat Pool so the family fared well during the depression. They moved to Calgary in 1936 so Bill could start school. Then, when Bill was 15, they moved to White Rock, BC.

In 1949, following Grade 12, Bill joined the Navy in Vancouver. He was an anti-aircraft gunner and served in both HMCS Cayuga and HMCS Athabaskan whilst deployed in Korea from 1952-54. He was aboard HMCS Cayuga during the ships operations to provide cover fire for the invasion of Inchon.

Bill also served in HMC Ships Ontario, Sioux and Beacon Hill as well as the Gate Vessel Bedwell Harbor and was also a UNTD instructor on weekends. One of Bill’s fondest memories was getting drafted off the training ship HMCS Ontario. It was “too pusser” for him so he was glad to leave it.

His favourite port was coming into home port. It allowed him to reunite with his family and to get in some fishing time at Bedwell Harbor.

Bill retired from the RCN in 1954 and after some odd jobs decided to join the RCAF as a Firefighter, Structural and Crash. He left the Air Force in 1957.

For a short while he was a west coast logger but he found that job too dangerous so he got into seismic



Bill Bethell

exploration with Imperial Oil. After a few years he got on with the Calgary Transportation Department. He worked in signing and road marking until retiring in 1989.

In 1966 Bill married Sharlene (a woman 12 years his junior) and even though many people thought it wouldn’t last they are still married after 53 years.

Bill continues to stay active in the Calgary Naval Community and has been working as a museum watch keeper for 10 years. In addition, he is a long standing member of the CNVA where he served as a Director and is now Master at Arms.

## **Our Next Casino is [still] Coming!**

As noted in the President’s Report, NMAS will be holding our next Casino on August 12 and 13 and we still need a few more positions filled.

This is our single largest source of funds to carry on the great work of telling the story of the Royal Canadian Navy, and gives you the unique opportunity to handle (but not keep) more cash than most of us see in a month of Sundays.

If you can help please contact Gord at [gordonmacivor@gmail.com](mailto:gordonmacivor@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Lt(N) Hampton Gray Memorial Fund.**

A memorial to the Canadian Navy’s WWII Victoria Cross winner is being planned for the BC Aviation Museum. Hammy Gray was born in Trail, BC and enrolled in the RCNVR at HMCS Tecumseh. His memorial at Onagawa Bay, Japan, is the only memorial dedicated to a foreign soldier on Japanese soil.

Should you wish to donate, a cheque should be mailed to the: Naval Association of Canada - Vancouver Island, Box 5221, Victoria BC V8R 6N4. The cheque should be made payable to the NAC-VI and write Lt Gray Memorial on the memo line. Please include a return address as tax receipt and thank you letter will be forwarded.

## Folks around the Museum: **NANCY OLMSTEAD, NMAS Board Secretary and NMA Watchkeeper**

Nancy joined the Naval Reserve Summer Student Training Programme at HMCS Discovery in 1975 at the urging of her dad who was a Naval Reserve officer. She became a Communicator and rose to the rank of Master Wren before transferring to the Naval Reserve Officer Cadet programme. On completion of that programme she was commissioned as a Logistics Officer. Concurrently undertaking university studies, she graduated with a BComm from UBC. She worked for Air Canada for a few years, then moved to Alberta with her husband, then-Lieutenant Gary Whitehead, and joined HMCS TECUMSEH.

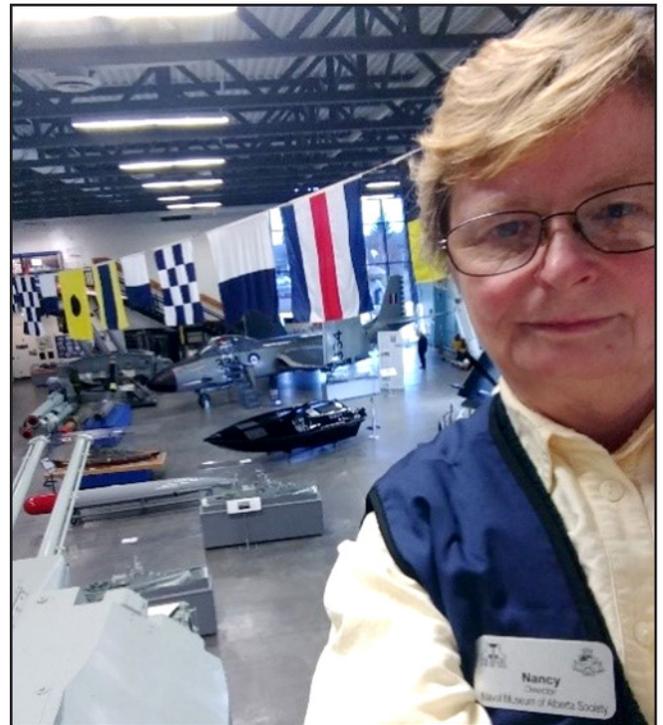


Nancy served at sea whenever possible as the Squadron Supply Officer for the Coastal Squadron, taking every chance to learn navigation and bridgemanhip. When the Navy started the

Naval Control of Shipping officer classification, she transferred to that as it was closer to being operational and afforded some opportunities to go to sea on tenders. After achieving a tender charge qualification, she taught navigation and pilotage to Naval Control of Shipping Officer trainees.

In 1988 Nancy accepted an offer to complete MARS (Maritime Surface and Subsurface, now Naval Warfare Officer) Training in the first NCS/MARS conversion course available to women. She sailed in minesweepers with Regular Force MARS III and MARS IV trainees and sat her Bridge Watchkeeping (BWK) Certificate Board and passed. Two women passed boards from the five that took the course; they were the first women qualified as BWKs in the RCN.

Subsequently Nancy served as Training Officer, Navigation Officer and Executive Officer at sea in various coastal vessels, all of these as firsts for women. Following this, she graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Power Engineering, also the



*Nancy Olmstead*

first woman to do so in its 60-year history, and started a 25-year career with Shell. While working for Shell, Nancy became the first woman to achieve a Second Class Power Engineering qualification in Alberta. Later in her career with Shell she became an internal global consultant, travelling to numerous countries to provide guidance with Operational, Technical and Behavioural Safety.

After being promoted to Lieutenant Commander, Nancy served as Executive Officer at HMCS TECUMSEH and began a 19-year volunteer stint as an Aide De Camp to four Lieutenant Governors of Alberta.

In the 1990's and 2000's Nancy served in various Maritime Coastal Defense Vessels as Operations Officer for several operations, including an Arctic deployment where her ship was the first Canadian Warship to visit Churchill in 35 years. During that time she completed requirements for Minor Warship Command Part I. Nancy retired from the Naval Reserve in 2017.

Nancy has been a volunteer with the Naval Museum of Alberta Society since 2003, currently serving as Board Secretary and as a Watchkeeper.

# JACKSPEAK

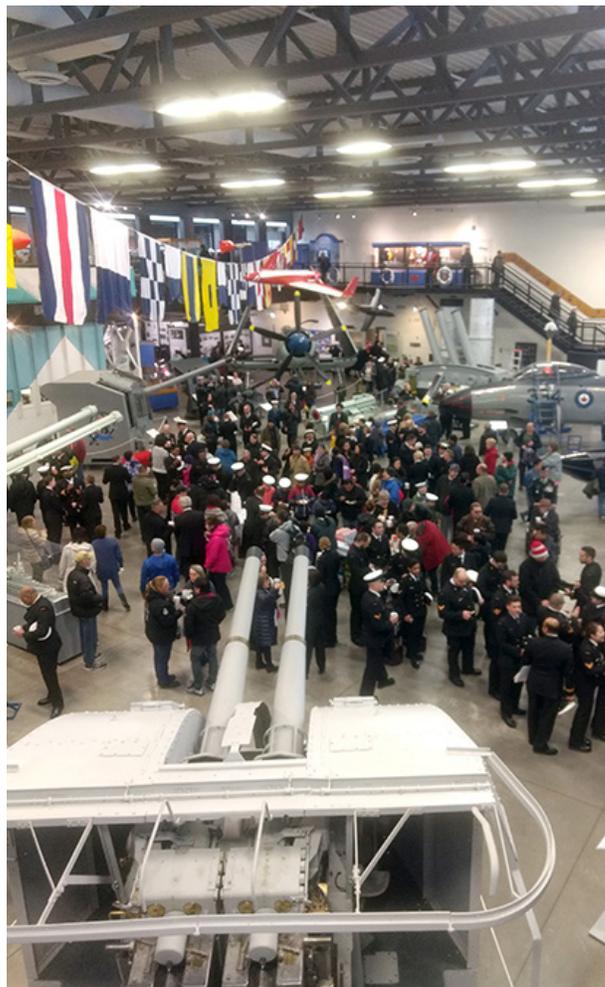
The following naval terminology comes from [ReadyAyeReady.com/Jackspeak](http://ReadyAyeReady.com/Jackspeak):

**Mae West:** A Second World War personal flotation device used to keep people afloat in the water; named after the 1930s actress Mae West, well known for her large bosom.



*Their Majesties demonstrating proper Mae West technique*

## Battle of the Atlantic



The Battle of the Atlantic parade and reception drew a large crowd to the NMA



*This year's Battle of the Atlantic Parade at HMCS Tecumseh*

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## The Naval Museum of Alberta

is located at The Military Museums  
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### Admission Prices

Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$5.00,  
Youth 7-17 \$5.00

Serving personnel (past and present)  
and their families FREE

NMAS members FREE

- Ample free parking

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### For only \$20, you can:

- 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

**It's a steal at twice the price!**

Join in just five minutes with credit card payment via: <https://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca>



## Our Next Casino is Coming!

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Please contact Gord at  
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if you can help

Thank you!