

# LEAD AND LINE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

<i>The Art of War</i> <b>Page 3</b>	<i>Statue of John McCrae</i> <b>Page 4</b>	<i>The Great Imposter</i> <b>Page 5</b>	<i>Tow your own iceberg</i> <b>Page 10</b>
--	---	--	---



*Prince Charles, Commodore -in-Chief Canadian Atlantic Fleet, visited HMC Ships Montreal and Windsor in Faslane, Scotland in October. See page 8.*



### **NAC-VI 23 Nov Luncheon**

*Speaker: Jim Boutilier on China*

*Cost: \$25 per person.*

*Guests - spouses, friends, family are most welcome*

*Lunch at the Fireside Grill at 1130 for 1215  
4509 West Saanich Road, Royal Oak, Saanich.*

*Please contact Bud Rocheleau [bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca](mailto:bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca)  
or 250-386-3209 prior to noon on Thursday 22 Oct.  
Please advise of any allergies or food sensitivities.*

**\*\*\*EARLY NOTICE\*\*\* NAC-VI  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IS  
SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 14 DEC  
1130 FOR 1215. COST \$30.  
Please contact Bud Rocheleau to  
make reservations.**



# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE



## President's Message Nov 2015



Well, fall is fully upon us, the leaves that started to fall last month are down now with a vengeance. I am just back from three weeks in Europe to a fully carpeted lawn and driveway. The good thing I guess as it could have been snow as has already been experienced in other parts of the country, one of the joys of living on the island.

Please welcome David Collins to our Board. A recent change in his employment commitments that had prevented him from coming on board at our last AGM has now allowed him offer his involvement. We welcome him and look forward to his contribution.

One of the outcomes of the National NAC Meeting in June was a decision to change the fiscal year back to the calendar year and to change the membership year to match. As you may recall, that is where we used to

be. At our recent NAC-VI Executive meeting it was decided to change our year yet again to match the change at National as there are obvious advantages for us as we issue receipts and match member lists. You will recall the last time we changed we gained three months of membership (we had a 15 month year), now as we return to where we were, we will lose those months as our next year will now start on January 1, 2016. The good thing, I guess, we will be able to issue receipts for monies submitted by the end of the year. New invoices will be out shortly. If you are quick in your response you could get a double receipt this year.

Be sure to put our Christmas luncheon on your calendar, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We again have an excellent menu planned and look forward to a good festive social time. More information to follow in future Lead and Lines.

Yours Aye

Bill



NAC-VI Executive Committee				Special Appointments			
President	Bill Conconi	<a href="mailto:billconconi@me.com">billconconi@me.com</a>	250-652-1634	Editor	F Hanington	<a href="mailto:felhan@telus.net">felhan@telus.net</a>	778-440-0395
Past President	Michael Morres	<a href="mailto:mfmorres@shaw.ca">mfmorres@shaw.ca</a>	250-592-8897	Member Services	Stan Brygadyr	<a href="mailto:swb44@icloud.com">swb44@icloud.com</a>	250-727-2243
Vice President	David Cooper	<a href="mailto:drecooper@shaw.ca">drecooper@shaw.ca</a>	250-652-6580	Photography	John Webber	<a href="mailto:pacificsafety@shaw.ca">pacificsafety@shaw.ca</a>	250-920-4159
Secretary	Kathie Csomany	<a href="mailto:csomany@islandnet.com">csomany@islandnet.com</a>	250-477-4175	List Master	Michael Morres	<a href="mailto:mfmorres@shaw.ca">mfmorres@shaw.ca</a>	250-592-8897
Treasurer	Peter Bey	<a href="mailto:peterbey@yahoo.ca">peterbey@yahoo.ca</a>	250-652-2225	List Master	Jim Dodgson	<a href="mailto:jjgolf2000@telus.net">jjgolf2000@telus.net</a>	250-592-0264
Director at Large	Ken Summers	<a href="mailto:kensummers@telus.net">kensummers@telus.net</a>	250-370-9954	Historian	Stan Parker	<a href="mailto:esparker@shaw.ca">esparker@shaw.ca</a>	1-778-441-3933
Director at Large	Derek Greer	<a href="mailto:Derek.Greer@telus.net">Derek.Greer@telus.net</a>	250-595-1864	Webmaster	Eric Griffiths	<a href="mailto:eric.griffiths2012@gmail.com">eric.griffiths2012@gmail.com</a>	1-250-537-0608
Director at Large	Rod Huges	<a href="mailto:rhughes@shaw.ca">rhughes@shaw.ca</a>	250-472-8905				
Director at Large	Geri Hinton	<a href="mailto:pege398@shaw.ca">pege398@shaw.ca</a>	250-477-7334	Director at Large	Gerry Pash	<a href="mailto:gwpash@shaw.ca">gwpash@shaw.ca</a>	250-658-6509
Director at Large	Bill Macdonald	<a href="mailto:becalmed1@shaw.ca">becalmed1@shaw.ca</a>	250-661-3731	Director at Large	David Collins	<a href="mailto:collinsdb@hotmail.com">collinsdb@hotmail.com</a>	778-265-0872

# THE ART OF DAZZLE AND WWI

## The Art of War

It appears that war, while undoubtedly good for economies, can also be good for art. Of the many creative efforts made to improve one's chances of survival at sea, the most intriguing was the use of "Dazzle Camouflage" by the British Navy, used to confound the eye of the attacking submariner.

Each British pattern was unique, and many of the designs were created by women from the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Designs were tested on wooden models, and viewed through a periscope in a studio in order to assess how they would work at sea.



Arthur Lismer

The patterns were not meant to conceal but to make it difficult to estimate range, speed and heading.



RMS Olympic in dazzle returning with soldiers Halifax 1919

Arthur Lismer (Canadian artist and member of the Group of Seven) was fascinated by examples he saw arriving in Halifax during World War One.

Lismer had spent much of 1917 sketching and painting records of the disastrous Halifax Explosion, work which came to the attention of Lord

Beaverbrook (Max Aitken of New Brunswick). This led to a commission in 1918 as a war artist to paint ships returning home with troops. Paintings include the camouflage for RMS Olympic and RMS Mauretania.

His best-known work from the war years depicted what he observed and learned about in Halifax, Nova Scotia: Mine sweeping, convoying, patrolling and harbor defense.

RMS Mauretania in dazzle paint, arriving at New York with returning troops, 1918



# WE REMEMBER



## 2015 - the 100th Anniversary of In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



The Canadian doctor who penned the poem “In Flanders Fields” in the midst of one of the bitterest battles (Ypres in Belgium) of the First World War has been commemorated in Ottawa with a statue.

Ruth Abernethy’s statue portrays LCol. John McCrae in army uniform, writing his famous poem in 1915, with poppies at his feet. The statue was unveiled in Green Island Park, Ottawa, to mark the centennials of the writing of the poem, the Second Battle of Ypres and the gas attacks at St. Julien. The ceremony included an honour guard of members of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Royal Canadian Medical Service. The RCA Band provided music and the Army Voices choir sang an arrangement of “In Flanders Fields” and a medley of First World War songs. Attending were a number of McCrae’s relatives, including Geills Turner, accompanied by her husband, former prime minister John Turner.

McCrae was with the Canadian forces when they first saw action during the Second Battle of Ypres. It was here on April 22, 1915, that German forces unleashed chlorine gas, killing 2,000 Canadians and wounding another 4,000. McCrae dealt with much of the carnage in his makeshift dressing station in a bunker at Essex Farm.

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## *The Great Imposter, the RCN and the Korean War*

*Ferdinand Waldo Demara*

By Peter Chance

In April 1951, when I was in Halifax as the NOi/c of the Navigation/Air Direction School, I received an appointment, which in those days was called 'pier-head jump,' to proceed to Esquimalt to join HMCS *Cayuga*, a Tribal Class Destroyer destined to sail to Tokyo to relieve HMCS *Nootka*, one of the three-ship RCN contribution to the UN action initiated a year earlier to drive the Chinese Communists from the northern half of the Korean Peninsula.

In Esquimalt, on the steps of the old Wardroom Mess I was greeted by the Command Supply Officer, Captain Charles Dillon, an ex-Montrealer whom I had met several times through the Ottawa Drama League when my father had been a founding direction in 1920.

I told him that my first need was to get to RCN hospital to deal with a very infected left toe. I was concerned about possible septicemia. "Why bother going to the hospital?" he replied, "Better to go down to your ship. You'll meet your new doctor, Surg Lt. J. C. Cyr RCN. I feel sure he will be able to help you. He's an American and very likeable. We all call him 'Joe.'"

Having settled my family in a comfortable bungalow, among a similar cluster of units off the Gorge Road in Victoria, I drove down to my ship. Sure enough, my new doctor was all that I had been told. It was a pleasure to meet such a likeable man. He had a good look at my offending toe and

then said, "Well, I tell you what. As it's going on five (o'clock) why don't we leave it until the morning? The extra delay won't make any appreciable difference. How about coming back at eight o'clock tomorrow morning and we'll do it."

What could I say? "Ok, I'll be back tomorrow morning."

At the appointed hour, I was greeted by my doctor in his scrubs and ready for action. Deftly injecting a local anesthetic all around the infected area, he removed the nail and the infection with his scalpel, wrapped me up like an Italian peach, and with a pair of crutches sent me on my way.

By the time we reached Hawai'i I was healed until a new nail grew. Like Lourdes I threw my crutches away. Hurray!

For two weeks with a berth in the USN Navy Yard there were daily sailings to conduct firing practices on an uninhabited island, Kahoolawe.

One afternoon before we set off on the next leg of our journey to Korea, we officers met at a watering hole, the Pearl City tavern, outside of the dockyard gate. It was a most convivial gathering as we relaxed with our rum and coke drinks, Cuba Libre. Joe graciously declined.

Then when we asked him if he would care to join us for our photograph he declined again by saying, "Oh, no thanks. I'm an American after all and what's more, I'm only going to be with you for this one



*Ferdinand Waldo Demara*

cruise." We accepted his views without further thought.

Having relieved *Nootka*, we proceeded to Sasebo to report to the UN Commander for the Yellow Sea, Rear Admiral AK Scott Moncrief RN.

From that June until the following July, our duty was to conduct operations, including shore bombardments, in support of ROK forces, plane guard support to aircraft carriers – US and UK – and a special operation to seek and destroy Chinese radar controlled guns.

Two incidents raised our doctor in our estimation. On one occasion, with our ship lying close offshore and parallel to it, our duty was to provide support to ROK forces engaged in an action against Chinese forces trying to take possession of Seoul.

A string of motorized junks steamed close to the shore and disembarked their soldiers to the beach. We provided inflicting fire ahead of them as they moved inland and then similarly as they retired back to the beach.

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## *The Great Imposter*

During this exciting although short time, with firing and lead flying around, I watched from the bridge as our doctor in his white scrubs tended the wounded (and, it seemed, DOA as well), without any sign of danger around him. His credibility soared.

Later, with the ship close to the northern end of the Yellow Sea, near the Yalu River – the border between North Korea and China – our Captain's face swelled like a balloon. Weeks away from a dentist, something had to be done. Joe was sent for. As Ops, I was there as well. When his opinion was sought, he replied, "Well Captain, we didn't get a lot of dentistry in Med School, but I've got the books."

Hours later, with Captain's cabin now configured as an operating theatre and with the SBA (Sick Berth Attendant) Hotchins, providing backup, and a full table of instruments (I called them 'spanners'), Joe appeared, dressed in full operating room attire, including headgear.

With calculated and exact movements, local anesthetic froze the adjacent gums, and with proper pliers the infected molar was removed. Soon the much-relieved sufferer was comfortable. The swelling subsided. There was no septicemia and our doctor's credibility soared to new heights.

Our PR Officer Lt Jenkins was encouraged, near demanded, to seek recognition for our doctor's remarkable prowess. Soon a message was sent from the ship to Naval Headquarters (NSHQ), which was also picked up by Reuters, AP, CP, etc.

It was not long afterwards that a Dr. J.C. Cyr in Edmunston New Brunswick



contacted NSHQ to advise in no uncertain terms that he was not *Cayuga's* medical officer, but that someone else was using his identity.

With our ship close to the Yalu River estuary, a message was received stating, "Captain's eyes only. Have reason to believe your medical officer is an imposter. Investigate and report."

When our Joe was shown the signal, and despite outbursts from his supporters exclaiming, "Those armchair critics in Ottawa are all wrong!" he blew up, shouting, "You don't believe me!" "Of course we do," we replied, but to no avail.

He withdrew to lock himself in his cabin and tried without success to end his life. At last brought back on deck with a 'chummy ship's, surgeon coming alongside Joe was very pale and as he was about to get into Ceylons' boat he said to Don Saxon and me, "You know fellas, I just wish that we could have got back to Esquimalt and that I could have just left."

When he reached Victoria he was subsequently escorted to Blaine, Washington by Surg LCdr Little and we heard that he was allowed to reenter the United States without

any charges. There were red faces in the Medical Branch in Ottawa for having been duped by an imposter.

Later, we learned that as a young man in a small town in Maine near Bangor, Ferdinand Waldo Demara had been fascinated by the various characters played in the movies in his father's string of movie.

This led him to assume different roles, each persona separated by a six month's retreat to an ecclesiastical establishment where he called himself 'Brother John' or 'Father Will' or whatever. After each retreat he would emerge with yet another new persona.

We learned subsequently that he had operated a successful Boys Town outside Los Angeles; he similarly succeeded as the warden of a prison in Texas, taught philosophy at Duke University, was an Anglican priest on San Juan island in the Gulf Islands quite close to Victoria, and finally was on the staff of Laurentian College on North Bay Ontario.

This wasn't the end of the story. In 1969 a *Cayuga* reunion was held in the Chief and Petty Officer's Mess in Naden, Esquimalt.

At the congenial gathering with a large number of the earlier crew in attendance, who should appear as a Baptist minister in a dark appropriate suit and wearing a large bronze cross but, 'The Reverend Ferdinand Waldo Demara,' whose business card read 'Resident Chaplain, Anaheim Hospital, Anaheim, California.'

There were two men in white scrubs standing in a corner on the large reception room.

It was a hugely happy reunion.

He died not long afterwards in his mid 60's.

## NAC ENDOWMENTS

### *NAC Endowment Fund at Work*

This year, the NAC Endowment Fund will be providing \$3,000 to the Maritime Museum to help cover the \$ 9,000 cost of new chart storage units. One of the new units is shown. They are located at 4000 Seymour Street (the old BC Systems Building just off Blanshard & Mackenzie) where the bulk of the museum's collection is being moved into storage. The museum has a large collection of charts with some dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

NACVI members Eric Waal and David Winkler have been reviewing the holdings before they are moved. The funds to be advanced by the NAC Endowment are welcome help. The Museum Society office has moved to Nootka Court along with some exhibits and part of the reference library.

Meanwhile the Board continues looking for a new museum location.

Some large artifacts such as Tilikum and *Trekka* have been moved to Ogden Point.



# PRINCE CHARLES VISITS RCN SHIPS

by Lt Kelly Boyden

The visit aboard *Montréal* and *Windsor* was the first opportunity His Royal Highness has had to visit CF Atlantic ships since being appointed Commodore-in-Chief on May 5, 2015. As Commodore-in-Chief, His Royal Highness is kept informed of all important Canadian Fleet Atlantic activities and engages with the fleet in a ceremonial capacity as opportunity allows.

The ship and submarine, along with HMC Ships *Halifax*, *Athabaskan*, and *Winnipeg*, are participating in Exercise JOINT WARRIOR from October 4 to 15. The Canadian Armed Forces will also be represented by two CH-124 Sea King helicopters embarked on HMCS *Athabaskan* and one Sea King embarked on HMCS *Winnipeg*, as well as a CP-140M Aurora aircraft, during the semi-annual military exercise hosted by the Royal Navy.





## NACVI LEAD AND LINE

### *The only remaining commissioned ship in the USN to have sunk an enemy ship*

The USS Constitution is now the only commissioned ship remaining in the U.S. Navy to sink an enemy vessel in action. The *USS Simpson*, the only other ship to share that title, was decommissioned after 30



*Actors in 1907 dressed up as the original ship's crew*

years of service in September. Launched in 1797, *Constitution* was one of six original frigates authorized for construction by the Naval Act of 1794, and the third ship constructed. The Constitution took part in the war of 1812 defeating five British warships: *HMS Guerriere*, *Java*, *Pictou*, *Cyane* and *Levant*.

She was retired from active service in 1881 and designated a museum in 1907. She sailed under her own power in August 2012 to celebrate the Victory over *Guerriere*. She is currently un-

dergoing refit in the Charlestown Navy Yard.



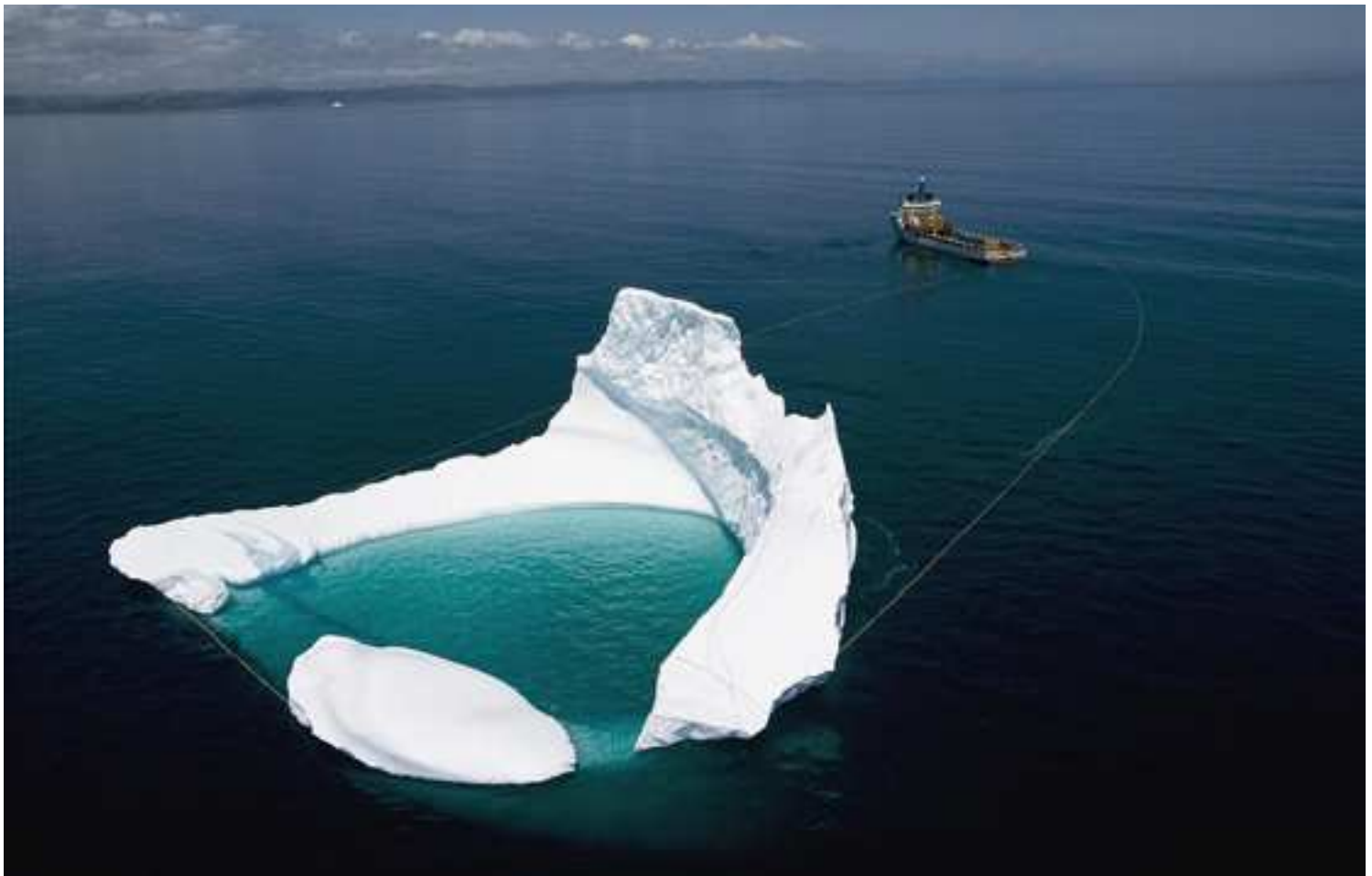
# NAC-VI DO IT YOURSELF

## DIY - How to tow your own iceberg

First, grab all available polypropylene tow ropes which are eight inches in circumference (400 metres long please). Next, attach rope to buoy and sail around the iceberg, paying out the rope. Attach rope to a three inch tow cable and maintain at least 800 metres distance in case berg topples while being towed. Also be careful to avoid large waves caused by toppling bergs. Expect job to take three days and ten hours to reach a speed of one knot. If you can't tow iceberg, use your powerful water cannons (3,200 litres per hour through 5" nozzle) to push berg out of the way. Expect to do this 70 to 100 times per year. Ed.



*Lassoing an iceberg - not for the faint of heart*



*A ship towing an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland to prevent the iceberg from hitting an offshore drilling platform.*

# HERE THERE BE MONSTERS....



## Mysteries of the Sea

by Mathew Dawe



Barely the size of a child's palm, one would think that the species of the blue-ringed octopus would be little threat to the cautious diver. However, members of genus *Hapalochlaena*, as they're called, are possibly the deadliest octopus in the sea.

Living primarily off the coasts of Australia and feeding on small crabs and shrimp, these octopi (like their larger relatives) possess chromatophore cells, which allow them to change the colour and even the texture of their skin to camouflage to their environment. Coupled with the fact that their bite is almost painless, most divers do not realize they have been bitten until the venom begins to take effect.

Their venom is a cocktail of various toxins and

toxin called tetrodotoxin, a substance also found in pufferfish and some poison dart frogs that is 1,200 times more deadly than cyanide. The typical blue-ringed octopus carries enough of this venom to kill 26 adult humans in minutes.

The first signs of the venom beginning to take hold include a tingling sensation on the skin and shortness of breath. Eventually this leads to other symptoms such as nausea, severe paralysis, being unable to breath, and even blindness. Death is usually as a result of suffocation through paralysis of the diaphragm.



Perhaps the only mercy in this deceptively endearing creature is that they are usually docile and keep to themselves, and will not attack humans unprovoked.

Blue-ringed octopi were a symbol of the secret organization of women criminals in the James Bond film "Octopussy", appearing on clothing and in tattoos. When it comes to these creatures in real life, it's probably best to follow that rule that James Bond seemed to ignore:

*Look but don't touch.*

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE



## VETERAN'S CORNER

BY ROD HUGHES

In the last edition of Lead & Line I started what I hope to be a series of articles for veterans and their families. The local office of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has kindly given me a written précis of a hot issue that would appear to be not well understood. Below is an abstract of the current benefits associated that a widow/widower is entitled to once the veteran spouse has passed away.

### Continuation of Disability Pension

When a disability pensioner dies, if he or she was pensioned at 5% or greater, the survivor will continue to receive (for a period of one year) the same Disability Pension or Prisoner of War compensation that was being paid to the pensioner. This includes any Attendance Allowance and/or Exceptional Incapacity Allowance the pensioner was receiving at the time of death. After one year period a survivor's

pension will be automatically paid. This pension is based upon a formula that is explained below.

### Survivor's Pension

The pensioner's benefits continue in full for the first year. If the pensioner was receiving a pension of 48% or greater, the survivor is entitled to a full survivor's pension. If the pensioner was receiving a pension between the 5% and 47% rate, the survivor will receive one-half of the Disability Pension that was paid to the pensioner.

Surviving spouses/surviving common-law partners who remarry will continue to receive the survivor's pension. Children and other qualified dependents may also qualify for benefits following a pensioner's death. For more information, visit your VAC Office located in the Atrium Building, 1321 Blanshard Street, Suite 320. The office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 or call toll-free 1-866-522-2122 or e-mail [information@vac-acc.gc.ca](mailto:information@vac-acc.gc.ca)

### Service Officer's report

Mrs. Margaret Bartlett,  
Mount St Mary's Hospital,  
861 Fairfield Rd.

Lt. Sheila Davis  
Oak Bay Lodge,  
2251 Cadboro Bay Rd.  
V8R 5H3 Ph: 250-595-4844

Captain (N) Robert Peers  
Broadmead Lodge  
tinda@shaw.ca

LCdr. Ward Palmer 3101 Dolphin Dr.  
Nanoose Bay B.C. V9B 9J2  
Ph 250-468-7101

Cdr. W. Walker and  
Nursing Sister Catherine Walker  
3225 Exeter Victoria  
Ph 250-592-0769



*If you would like to join the Service Officer's Report and Visitation Committee,  
phone Irvine Hare 250-853-5493 or Peter or Elizabeth Campbell at 250-478-7351*