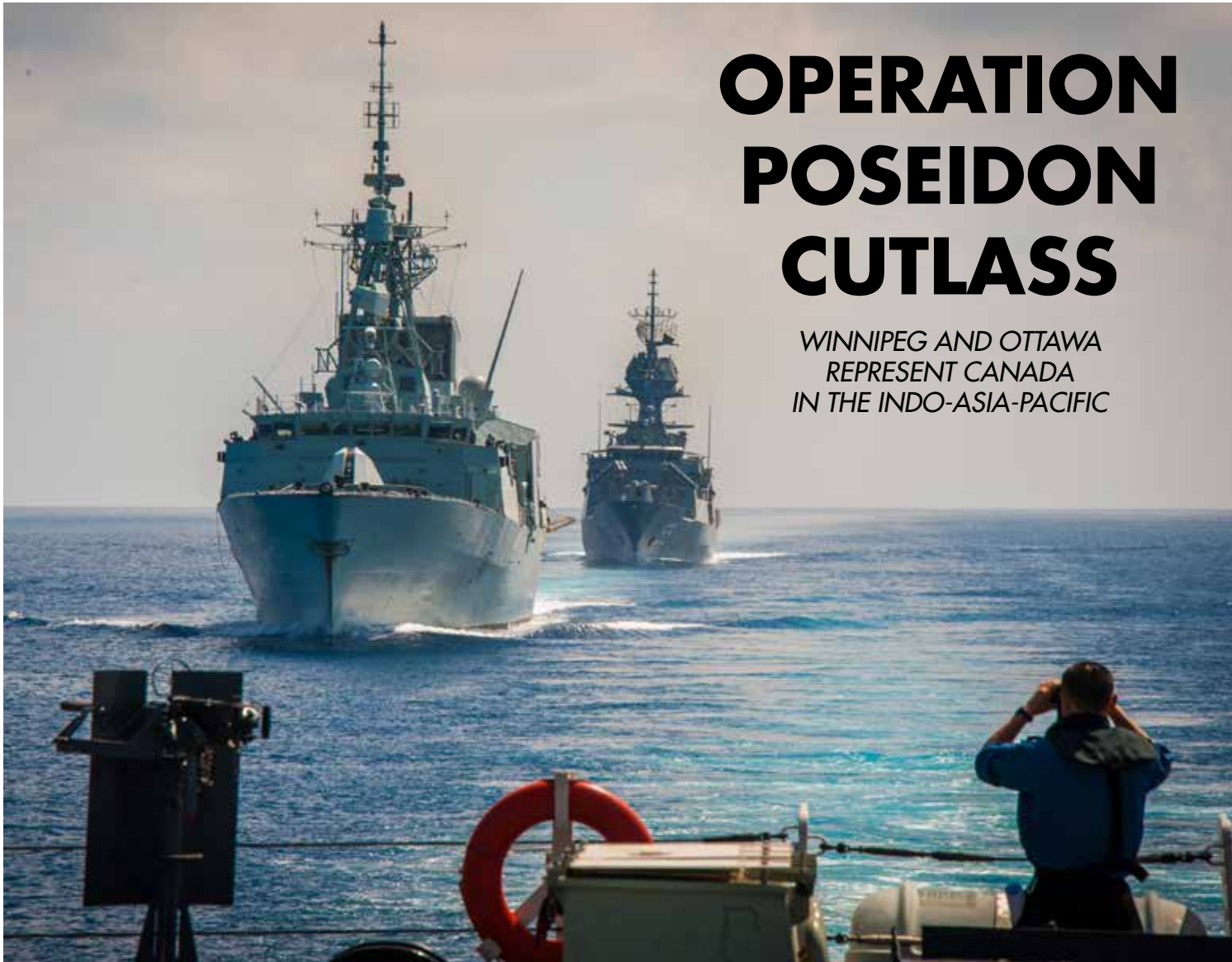




May – June 2017 • Volume 32, Issue 3



# OPERATION POSEIDON CUTLASS

WINNIPEG AND OTTAWA  
REPRESENT CANADA  
IN THE INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC

Leading Seaman Qing Li of HMCS Winnipeg observes HMCS Ottawa and Her Majesty's Australian Ship BALLARAT (FFH 155) as they sail in formation during Op Poseidon Cutlass.

– Photo by Cpl Carbe Orellana, MARPAC Imaging Services

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2	Cadet Vimy experience sparks pride .....	8–9
Captain's paintings adorn Wardroom .....	4	Divers search shipwreck for ordnance.....	12
New and Retired officers gather .....	5	One last sail in HMCS Athabaskan .....	13
Veteran's Corner .....	6–7	Naval trades amalgamated.....	14

# MEMBERSHIP AND EVENT UPDATE

A lot has happened in the last few months and a lot is planned as we move forward.

Membership Director, Bill Macdonald is working to get our membership up to date for 2017. Our membership dates have now settled on the calendar year and were due at the beginning of January. We are still a few short on our renewals. If you are currently in arrears I encourage you to contact him and bring yourself up to date.

Many of you have taken advantage this year of our ability to accept memberships via our website and to pay your dues using Paypal. This simple process immediately brings you up to date and saves the cost of an envelope and stamp. While renewing, there is also an opportunity to make sure all your information is up to date. A few members have been missing emails and this is primarily

due to changed (or miss-typed) email addresses. Again, Bill Macdonald has been working hard to make sure all areas of our database are in sync. If you have any concerns or need help checking your account info, please contact him.

Our move to the Yacht Club for our lunches and presentations has been very successful. Many have commented to me that they enjoy the ambiance, round tables, easy parking, and good sound and visuals. Your Executive continues to work on bringing in excellent speakers and appreciates any leads or opportunities you suggest.

We have also had one very successful "Weepers" with Venture MARS trainees, and have another planned for May. More info will follow as details are confirmed. This is part of an initiative that was started when they were RMC Cadets



Bill Conconi

and connected as introductory members in Ottawa. We look forward to their active involvement as their careers unfold.

May is also the time to consider recipients for NAC Awards and to apply for an Endowment Grant. Please check our, and the National, website for details. Let me know if you have an interest or would like to make a proposal for either of these and I will help you make it happen.

Starting at our own AGM we

will also be looking to gather proxies for the National AGM in St. John's in October. As soon as I receive information I will send this out to you all in an e-letter.

Finally, it is time for all of us to consider helping build our membership. I encourage you to identify someone who wishes to work with us while we support, and educate about, our Navy. Invite them to become involved. At the same time, they can enjoy good fellowship and educational opportunities. It is an important time right now in Canada as our government looks to rebuild our fleet. Serving members of our Navy, retired former members, or those just keen on supporting our Navy are eligible.

Please help us move this forward.

Yours Aye,  
Bill

## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

**May 25, 2017**

Speaker: Dwight Owens

"Hot, Sour and Breathless: Oceans Under Stress." Our global ocean is under stress from warming, acidification and oxygen declines. Why are these changes happening and what impacts can we expect? This talk outlines these three interrelated stressors, examining the impacts and the actions we can take to counteract them.

Luncheons are held at the **Royal Victoria Yacht Club, 3475 Ripon Road** (Cadboro Bay) starting at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. \$25/person. Members are asked to confirm their attendance with Peter Bey, 250-652-2225.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Church and Canada's 150th Community Celebration Walk with the Naden Band

May 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The community celebration walk will start at the Wardroom (1586 Esquimalt Rd) and end at the Parish Hall Yard (1379 Esquimalt Rd). Celebrations following the walk.

### Battle of Atlantic Ceremonies - Sunday, May 7

- Victoria Legislature Cenotaph

10:45 a.m.

- Qualicum Beach Legion, 180 Veterans Way

10:15 a.m.

Followed by a parade along Veterans Way from Memorial Drive to the Legion and a wreath laying ceremony.

- Comox Marina Park

1:00 p.m.

HMCS Alberni Museum and Memorial in Courtenay (625 Cliffe Ave) will be open before and after the ceremony.



# EXECUTIVE ASSISTS WITH MALAHAT DIVISIONS

Left: Commander (Retired) Rod Hughes presents the Navy League of Canada Certificate of Appreciation to Lieutenant (Navy) Kay van Akker. The Navy League Certificate of Appreciation is awarded in recognition of significant contributions to the Canadian Sea Cadet program.

Right: Commander (Retired) Bill Conconi presents the Naval Association Sword to Lieutenant (Navy) Andrew Janes. The sword is presented to an officer that best exemplified the overall leadership qualities expected of his or her rank and who represented Malahat throughout the year in an outstanding manner.

*Photos by PO1 Al van Akker, HMCS Malahat*

## NAC-VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Bill Conconi	billconconi@me.com	250-652-1634
Past President	Michael Morres	mfmorres@shaw.ca	250-592-8897
Vice President	Rod Hughes	rhughes@shaw.ca	250-472-8905
Secretary	Mike Brossard	mbrossard1@shaw.ca	250-544-1425
Treasurer	Peter Bey	peterbey@yahoo.ca	250-652-2225
Membership Services	Bill Macdonald	becalmed1@shaw.ca	250-661-3731
Director at Large	David Collins	birchinall@gmail.com	778-265-0872
Director at Large	David Cooper	drecooper@shaw.ca	250-472-8905
Director at Large	Gerry Pash	gwpash@shaw.ca	250-658-6509
Director at Large	Steve White	solsken@shaw.ca	250-652-8215

## SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Editor	Carmel Ecker	leadandlineeditor@gmail.com	250-661-1269
Photography	John Webber	pacificsafety@shaw.ca	250-920-4159
Historian	Stan Parker	esparker@shaw.ca	250-734-3360
Webmaster	Eric Griffiths	eric.griffiths2012@gmail.com	250-537-0608

Naval Association of Canada – Vancouver Island (NAC-VI) mailing address: P.O. Box 5221, Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 6N4



## WATERCOLOURS PAINTED BY HONOURED CAPTAIN ADORN WALLS IN THE WARDROOM

By Rachel Lallouz

Reprinted with permission from  
*Lookout Newspaper*

Hanging in the Wardroom's lower level are nine realist watercolours that take viewers back in time to ships of Canada's naval past.

Painted by Commander (Retired) Ernest Maurice Chadwick, who died in 2008 at the age of 87, the detailed works are made up of tiny brush strokes in tones of blue and gray – a tribute to his time as a sailor on ships ranging from HMCS Uganda to Skeena to Nootka.

Each of the Wardroom paintings features a ship cutting confidently through breaking waves, capturing Cdr Chadwick's spirit for adventure and dedication to a life at sea.

"These paintings demonstrate remarkable stories," said Captain (Retired) Kevin Carlé, who arranged for the pieces to be displayed at the Ward-

room. "When you see this imagery you can recognize that some folks have done some pretty important and powerful things in our history. They are a beautiful reminder of what the navy has done."

Cdr Chadwick was born on May 6, 1921, and served with distinction in the Royal Canadian Navy. He participated in the Battle of the Atlantic and served, most notably, as an officer on Tribal

Class Destroyers. He retired in 1968, embarking on a successful career as a marine artist in Victoria before passing away on May 19, 2008.

A member of the Chadwick family donated the watercolours to the Naval Association of Canada Vancouver Island Branch in 2010.

In 2011, Carlé joined the association and decided to help find a permanent home for the art.

He ensured that they were properly framed, and researched locations where they could be mounted that did not have direct exposure to the damaging rays of sunlight.

When the Wardroom was suggested as a potential location, the Wardroom Mess Committee agreed and found a place for them.

"I think we're all delighted that they are in an accessible place where not only navy folks, but civilians can come in and take a look," says Carlé.

### Ships in the collection:

HMS Sardonyx  
HMS Vindictive  
HMCS Gatineau  
HMCS Uganda  
HMCS Skeena  
HMCS St. Stephen  
HMCS Nootka  
HMCS St. Stephen (again, oddly enough)  
HMCS Saguenay

# BRINGING GENERATIONS OF LEADERS TOGETHER

*By Jeremie Fraser, NOTC Venture*

The relationship between past and future officers of the navy is vital to the strength of the naval community. The Naval Association of Canada plays a key role in fostering this growing relationship.

On March 31, the NAC VI helped to strengthen the relationship between past and future officers as the future MARS Officers of the Chaudière MARS 4 class at Naval Fleet School (Pacific) Venture Division hosted the first NAC social at Work Point.

The night was filled with fun, social interactions of people from all aspects of the naval community, and a presentation that not only intrigued attendees, but also aided in the education of future officers in the fleet.

Members of the Naval Association as well as current Reserve and Regular Force members joined Venture students for the evening event, which began with a social gathering and cocktail hour, followed by a barbecue dinner.

The main event was a presentation by NAC VI member John Webber on the Top Ten Frigates in the World. The presentation went into great detail about sensor and weapon systems, both long range and close distance. He also included aspects such as surface defence capabilities and air defence capabilities. Not only was his presentation interesting, but it was also extremely educational and played in closely with the curriculum the MARS4 students were following.

Many of the MARS students were able to apply the knowledge they gained to their classes in days following on discussions about weapons and sensors on ships of war today and their ability to identify ships with clever radar identification methods, such as the “meat ball”.

Following the presentation was a social event that went until later into the night. A lot of enjoyment was found in sharing stories of the past and present. Comparisons were made in how training



Above: NAC VI President Bill Conconi welcomes everyone to the evening's presentation about top frigates operating in the world today. Below: Venture students are all smiles during the event.



has been conducted in the past versus how it is done today, and the differences in how navigation was conducted on the different classes of ships. It's safe to say that both the members of NAC and the students of Venture learned a lot from each other that night.

On behalf of the Venture students, I would like to thank the NAC for allowing us to mix education and fun into one

night. My first contact with the NAC was at RMCC when I was still a naval cadet. The NAC provided an insight into what being an officer in the RCN really meant in a school that was predominately army based. Attending NAC events in the past has given me a new perspective on life in the Navy; listening to the salty dips made me realize the extent of the potential adventures I could have in my future.

## DEFENCE COMMUNITY BANKING

BMO Bank of Montreal has announced an enhanced Canadian Defence Community Banking (CDCB) Program designed to better serve the banking needs of veterans, Regular Force personnel, Reserves, recruits, and military families, as well as Department of National Defence civilian personnel and the RCMP.

The new benefits, based on suggestions from CDCB customers, include:

- Free banking with the Performance Plan
- Free unlimited Interac e-transfer transactions
- BMO Employee Pricing on a range of mortgage options
- No annual fee for the BMO Support Our Troops Mastercard

BMO has served as the Official Bank of the Canadian Defence Community since 2008, offering discounted banking rates and other special benefits, such as the BMO Support Our Troops Mastercard, through which a portion of each transaction goes to Canadian Forces morale and welfare programs.

CDCB is specifically designed for the defence community and offers cost-effective banking plans with unique features tailored to the military lifestyle and needs.

For further information: visit <http://www.bmo.com/cdcb>.

## MILITARY PENSION RENEWAL

*This piece is taken from the Veteran's Corner of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) Spring 2017 Sage magazine. The NAFR is an excellent federal pensioners advocacy association representing their members.*

It's been a year of big change for Canadian Armed Forces pension plans. In July, the administration of pension plans for active CAF members was transferred to the Government of Canada Pension Centre at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). In early January 2017, administration of pension benefits for retired CAF members, their survivors and/or children was also turned over to the Pension Centre.

What does this require of you? Not a thing. The Department of National Defence is responsible for the transfer of your pension plan files and their conversion to electronic files, which should make answering questions about your pension easier and faster in the future.

You'll still be able to use epost, Canada Post's secure online delivery service,

to receive paperless e-versions of your pension documents online as soon as they're issued. To learn how to sign up for epost, visit [www.epost.ca](http://www.epost.ca).

Moving the pension plans to PSPC will bring CAF pension service into the 21st century, employing industry-standard technology. You can expect faster, more accurate processing of transactions and payments. You'll have access to a secure web portal and online Pension Benefits Statements. And you'll still be dealing with professionals who know the pension plans and understand the unique challenges faced by active and retired CAF members.

Automating pension services will give PSPC staff more time to help pension plan participants with any problems they may be having. And getting rid of all that paper is good for the planet.

For more information, visit the Government of Canada's pension page at [www.tpsgc-pwpsc.gc.ca/fac-caf/accueil-home-eng.html](http://www.tpsgc-pwpsc.gc.ca/fac-caf/accueil-home-eng.html). Or call toll-free 1-800-267-0325 (outside Canada and the U.S.: 613-946-1093).

## SPECIAL LEGION BREW RELEASED

*Royal Canadian Legion*

The Royal Canadian Legion has joined forces with the Whitewater Brewing Co. to produce a new co-branded craft beer. Sales from the beer will help raise awareness and funds for Legion programs for veterans.

"We're thrilled that Whitewater has partnered with the Legion to support Canada's veterans by donating five per cent of the brand's sales to Legion programs," says Dominion President David Flannigan. "Those funds will help support programs to improve the lives of veterans and their families."

Sales from Legion Lager purchases will support Legion Branches and the important work they do.



Legion Lager is only available in Ontario at the moment, but plans are underway to expand nationally.

Chris Thompson, one of Whitewater's three owners/founders is also pleased with this partnership: "We're honoured to have been chosen to brew a brand exclusively for an organization that does so much to help veterans. It's a cause that is close to our hearts."

# \$1.1 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

By Peter Mallett

Reprinted with permission from the *Lookout Newspaper*

Canada Company's mission to assist veterans in their transition to the civilian workforce has received a \$1.1 million boost from the Government of Canada.

Minister of Veterans Affairs Kent Hehr made the funding announcement on behalf of the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour at the Canada Company's 2016 National Transition Exchange Conference on Nov. 15, 2016, in Ottawa.

The funding will be used to create a searchable online database and forecasting tool to help former military personnel transition to existing high-demand private sector jobs and compatible educational and skills upgrade programs.

"Helping Canada's veterans find good jobs in the private sector is truly a win-win for everyone involved because veterans get to put their training and hard-earned skills to good use following their release from the military, while Canadian businesses benefit from the unique skills veterans offer," said Hehr.

Canada Company, a Toronto-based non-profit, was established in 2006 with its pledge to "stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the troops for the sacrifices they make every day". Now boasting 600 members, it has become a growing outreach between the Canadian Armed Forces and the business world.

Canada Company President



Angela Mondou said the funding announcement by Minister Hehr was "a massive boost" that will assist her group's efforts to reach out to members on digital programs with new interactive job-search software.

"Put simply, the new software operates much like a [dating service] and is a two-way street for veterans to showcase their skills to potential employers, and for the corporate world to get information about their employment needs to veterans," said Mondeau.

Mondeau was a Movement Control Officer for the Canadian Armed Forces and did tours in the former Soviet republic of Yugoslavia and Iraq. She has first-hand experience of the struggles former military personnel go through when making the transition to the civilian work force.

"When I transitioned in the mid 1990s we really didn't have the support network to make the transition. My biggest resource during my transition was the careers section in the newspaper. There was very little guidance back then."

## VAC'S VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

The Veterans Independence Program (VIP) helps you remain independent and self-sufficient in your home and your community. Depending on your circumstances and health needs you may qualify for financial assistance to obtain services such as grounds maintenance, housekeeping, personal care, access to nutrition, health and support services provided by a health professional.

VIP complements existing federal, provincial and municipal programs to help meet your needs.

You may qualify for VIP, if you meet one of the following criteria:

- You have qualified for a disability benefit
- You have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance
- You are in receipt of Prisoner of War Compensation
- You are a Veteran who is eligible for, but is unable to access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed)
- You have been the primary caregiver for an eligible veteran or civilian
- You are a low-income or disabled survivor of an eligible veteran or civilian





# VIMY 100

## VIMY TRIP BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE FOR LOCAL CADET

By CPO1 Erin Lawless

One hundred years ago on Easter Monday, more than 100,000 Canadian soldiers took to the battlefield at Vimy Ridge alongside British allies. Facing a barrage of German gunfire, wave after wave of soldiers slowly pressed forward, eventually forcing the German forces to withdraw and retreat. It was a watershed moment not just for the Canadian military, but also for our allies.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to be at the Commemorative Ceremony at Vimy Ridge on April 9 this year as part of Canada's National Cadet contingent. This trip was part of centenary celebrations in which Sea, Army and Air Cadets, as well as student groups from across Canada, participated in various events.

I have been a cadet for the past five years and am presently the Coxswain of RCSCC Beacon Hill in Langford. I hold the rank of Chief Petty Officer First Class and in addition to working at Beacon Hill, I have served as a staff cadet at HMCS QUADRA where I was employed as the Cadet Chief Boatswain's Mate onboard one of the Royal Canadian Navy's ORCA Class Patrol Craft. While I have enjoyed and learned from many experiences through my cadet career, including deployments on HMCS Yellowknife and an international exchange onboard the Tall Ship Royalist in England, my trip to Vimy Ridge has been a distinct

highlight of my cadet career.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was the first time that all four Divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were engaged in the same battle. They achieved their objectives and defeated the German forces occupying the ridge, but suffered heavy losses. By the end of the Battle, the Canadian Corps had casualties of roughly 3,600 killed and 7,000 wounded.

Of note, four Canadians were awarded the Victoria Cross during this battle – the highest award for Valour in the Commonwealth. Of greater import was the sense of national pride and accomplishment that came to be associated with the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which led to Canada's seat at the Paris Peace Conference and then at the Treaty of Versailles.

When I was first learning about the Great War two years ago, I was often confused by all the different battles and campaigns and how they affected each other, but when I actually stood on the land where soldiers had once braced themselves against enemy fire, where they fought and where they died, everything seemed to piece itself together.

Before this year, my only real interactions with learning about history, particularly war history, were out of dull or outdated textbooks. This year, I actively tried to learn about Canadian and Commonwealth war history, and this trip has taught me more than I ever expected.

During my time visiting the various memorials and cemeteries in Belgium and France I gained an even greater respect for Canadian and Commonwealth Servicemen and women. One of the highlights of this trip was going to the only two Canadian National Historic Sites that are located outside of Canada: Vimy Ridge and Beaumont Hamel.

The most impactful memorial I visited was Beaumont Hamel; being able to stand beside “the danger tree” and see the scars on the land from the trenches and bombs made everything real to me. Another memorial that was meaningful was St. Julien—a statue designed by Regina architect Frederick Clemesha, who was wounded in battle—because the “brooding soldier” was one of the shortlisted designs for the memorial for Vimy Ridge.

Overall, I have come away from this trip with a renewed sense of pride in Canada and the sacrifice of Canadian service members. I am also inspired to reinforce in my cadet subordinates, and others, the importance of service, citizenship and leadership as we remember the sacrifice of others, which has given each of us the opportunity to live in a free society.

I want to recognize and thank the Naval Association of Canada - Vancouver Island Branch for your very generous donation that aided me going on this trip; it will impact me for years to come.





Photos courtesy of Cadet CPO1 Erin Lawless

Above: Cadet CPO1 Lawless kneeling beside a soldier's grave.  
 Right: Cadet CPO1 Lawless and PO1 Gingras at Vimy Ridge.



Photos by MCpl Jennifer Kusche, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

Above: Replica aircraft from the First World War were transported to France for the ceremonies.

Below: MWO Jones leads the CAF contingent into position carrying the sacred Eaglestaff during the signature ceremony.  
 Left: Empty boots placed on the Vimy Memorial represent the 3,598 soldiers who died at Vimy, France.





## DOCUMENTARY SERIES HIGHLIGHTS CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREAT WAR

*A Nation Soars* is a trilogy of documentaries narrated by Dan Aykroyd and accompanied by a suite of educational initiatives that explore how aviation changed the course of the First World War, such as its vital part in Canada's nation-defining victory at Vimy Ridge.

Produced by Sound Venture Productions and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society in collaboration with a number of key supporting partners, the documentaries — *Drawn to Victory*, *Wings of Courage*, and *Flight Path of Heroes* — highlight the lesser-known, distinctly Canadian aspects of the war.

From the early days of flight in 1914 to the aerial photography that produced the battle-winning maps of Vimy Ridge, *A Nation Soars* offers a fascinating and refreshing look at Canada's part in the Great War.

### Drawn to Victory

*Drawn to Victory* is the first in the trilogy of documentaries, activities and educational initiatives.

In this first instalment, narrator Dan Aykroyd tells the story of how aerial photography (with some clever Canadi-

an innovations) led to the development of the greatest tactical weapon of the First World War — accurate battlefield maps. It also shows how, in the post-war years, the new technology was applied to Canada's vast swaths of unmapped land, and the first detailed maps of the country's interior were created.

### Wings of Courage

Aviation experienced a massive technological and tactical progression during the course of the First World War that forever changed the nature of warfare. *Wings of Courage* showcases the various roles Canada's early aviators played through the moving profiles of five notable Canadian pilots.

### Flight Path of Heroes

The past and present come together during a flying celebratory road show that spans two nations and two treasured anniversaries of nationhood. *Vimy: Flight Path of Heroes* adds to the visceral and visual impact of two significant dates in Canadian history — our 150th anniversary of nationhood and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

### Why now?

It has been 100 years since the first trenches were dug on the Western Front. Five generations of Canadians separate today's youth from the men who helped define Canada's place in the world on the battlefields of Europe.

Only a few members of that wartime generation—those who witnessed the conflict but were too young to take part—are still alive. The war is slipping beyond the fringes of living memory. And as we live through the centenary of 1914-18, there is a great opportunity, and some might even say an obligation, to make sure Canadians do not forget.

If we want to understand today's world we need to know what happened yesterday. Through its films and educational material, *A Nation Soars* makes that crucial connection to the past. It reminds Canadians—particularly young Canadians—about their nation's important role in the Great War and how that role forever changed Canada.

Watch the trailers for *A Nation Soars* on youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFK5R\\_wUUvICVhhwV3zFALQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFK5R_wUUvICVhhwV3zFALQ)

# ENVIRONMENTAL DREDGING UNEARTH'S ARTEFACTS FROM ESQUIMALT HARBOUR'S PAST

*Article republished from IE Focus*

Contaminated sediment isn't all they're dredging up in Esquimalt Harbour. Clean-up crews have recovered buttons from military uniforms, several service medals, and a few thousand pairs of leather boot soles.

Today, our modern Royal Canadian Navy has a very strict "nothing over the side" policy, but that wasn't always the case. After more than 150 years of naval history at Esquimalt Harbour, Duane Freeman, a Senior Environmental Officer at CFB Esquimalt, expected to find some contamination, but he did not expect to find so many pieces of tangible naval history.

A now-retired Vice-Admiral's personalized coffee mug that disappeared 30 years ago was recovered, and has since been returned to its rightful owner. Crews also found a perfectly preserved wallet, with a Navy ID card from the 1940s or 1950s.

"It's really interesting to try to reunite people with some of their items. We realized that it was actually telling a bit of the history of the navy," said Freeman.

Historians are cataloguing the thousands of items and determining which ones have historical value. Freeman estimates that before environmental remediation is complete in 2020, thousands more items could be recovered.

The Department of National Defence has set aside up to \$160 million to dredge



Esquimalt Harbour to remove contaminated sediment and encourage a healthier aquatic environment at the home port for Canada's West Coast navy.

Several other areas of the harbour will be remediated as part of the Esquimalt Harbour Remediation Project, along with the modernization of jetties at the base. Special cranes, equipped with GPS technology are being used to accurately scoop up the top metre of sediment in areas that have been found to contain

pollutants.

The dredged material is then sifted and contaminants are disposed of in a way that meets environmental standards. It is during this process that many items of historic interest have been discovered. The dredging and harbour cleanup work is happening in conjunction with the replacement of the aging 1940s-era A and B jetties at CFB Esquimalt and is vital to the environmental clean-up of the Esquimalt Harbour legacy sites.

## STAY CONNECTED

The Naval Association of Vancouver Island has started a Facebook Group. This is a closed group for members only. From the left hand panel of your Facebook home page, select "Groups" and look for the Naval Association. When you request access it sends a message to a member of the executive who will quickly welcome you. This will be a great opportunity for us to stay connected and generally get to know each other. This will also will be a great place to post pictures and videos of naval interest.



# DIVERS SEARCH SHIPWRECK FOR ORDNANCE

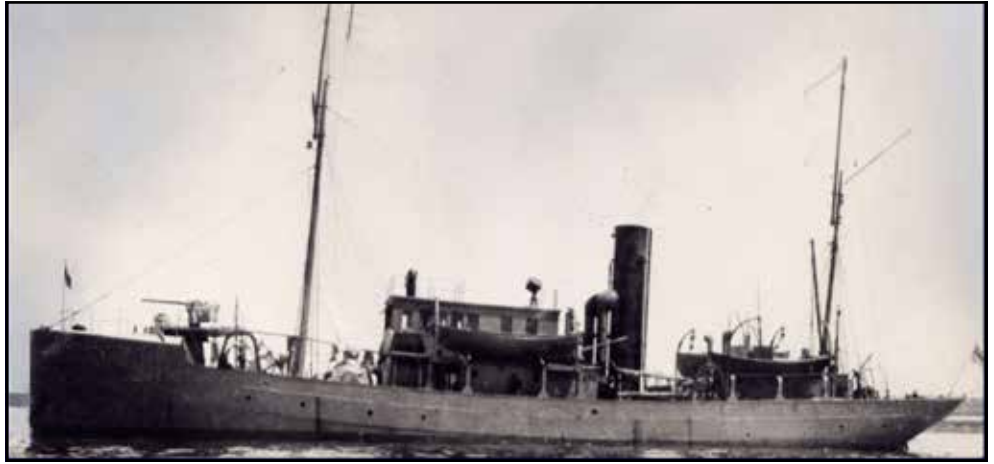
The site of a Canadian naval shipwreck will soon be a bit safer.

Divers from Fleet Diving Unit Pacific (FDU(P)) spent four days in early March surveying the wreck of HMCS Thiepval off the Broken Island Chain of B.C. in preparation for the removal of ordnance.

HMCS Thiepval was a 44 metre-long Battle class trawler, built in Kingston, Ontario in 1917 and was commissioned into the navy in the final months of the First World War.

The ship sank on Feb. 27, 1930 after it struck an uncharted rock during a patrol in Barkley Sound, between Turret and Turtle Islands.

The wreck of HMCS Thiepval has been under the management of Parks Canada's Pacific Rim National Park since 1970 and is considered a 'Shipwreck of National



Historical Significance'.

Because HMCS Thiepval is close to shore and at a depth of just 12 to 17 metres, it is easily accessed by civilian divers, so the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are obligated to remediate the site.

The naval diving team searched for unexploded ordnance that may pose a danger to anyone who visits the site.

FDU(P) will return to the wreck in the summer to complete the removal of ordnance and dispose of it safely.

# WEST COAST FLEET STATUS UPDATE

## Op Caribe

HMCS Saskatoon returned last week from Operation Caribe.

During its two and a half month deployment, the ship worked with American and Mexican ships to stop drug trafficking in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

With its partners, Saskatoon assisted in the seizure of 660 kg of cocaine on March 12 and then another 464 kg on April 6. A week later, the task group's presence in the region forced the occupants of two more suspicious vessels to toss 1,500 kg of cocaine overboard.

## Op Poseidon Cutlass 17

HMC Ships Winnipeg and Ottawa are currently conducting operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

The two frigates left CFB Esquimalt on March 6 for a six-month deployment, which will include numerous opportunities to exercise with regional partner navies at sea, as well as key events and engagements in port visits across the region.



The Executive Officer of HMCS Saskatoon, Lt(N) Christopher Shook and a crewmember move bales of cocaine into a net for transfer to United States Coast Guard custody.

"This deployment is an example of Canada's enduring commitment to the maintenance of regional peace and security in the strategically important Indo-Asia-Pacific region," said Rear-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific.

Winnipeg and Ottawa will make a num-

ber of strategic port visits throughout the region to countries including the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea and Japan.

## HMCS Oriole

HMCS Oriole is on her way to Rendez-vous 2017, a Tall Ships Regatta taking place throughout Quebec and Atlantic Canada to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation.

Oriole will spend more than three months in transit, conducting 12 ports visits in seven countries before participating in Rendez-vous 2017 from June 30 to Aug. 20.

This will mark the first time that Oriole will be returning to the East Coast since she last participated in a Quebec Tall Ships festival in 1984.

After the festival, Oriole is scheduled for a maintenance refit in Halifax, which will include general maintenance and upgrades to the electrical system. Upon completion, Oriole will return to Esquimalt in the spring of 2018.

# ONE LAST SAIL IN HMCS ATHABASKAN

By Ryan Melanson

*Reprinted with permission of Trident Military Newspaper*

As the final crew of HMCS Athabaskan prepared to say goodbye to the storied ship, they took her out for a final day sail from Halifax Harbour on Feb. 8, but they weren't alone.

More than 100 retired sailors, former personnel, and even a few former Commanding Officers answered the invitation to spend the day with the crew.

This Athabaskan was the third RCN vessel to bear that name, and all three ships were represented in some form during the final day sail.

Second World War veteran David Stewart, now in his 90s, travelled from Ontario to be on board. A former naval communicator, he sailed during the war, but it was his brother, Signalman Bill Stewart (RCNVR), who was lost at sea when the first Athabaskan was sunk in 1944. He shared the memory of coming back to shore and learning that his brother's ship had been downed by a German torpedo, but said it was a positive experience to step aboard a modern destroyer, meet some of this generation's sailors, and feel the rocking of the sea once again.

"I'll remember this day for the rest of my life," he said.



LS Matt Corbett, a hull tech in Athabaskan, was presented the plaque from the ship's Junior Rank Mess by CPO1 Fred McCrea, who came back to his former ship for the final day sail.

Gordon Stewart, 82, left the navy as a Leading Seaman almost 60 years ago, and his final ship was the second to be given the Athabaskan name, a Tribal-class destroyer. A former TAS (Torpedo Anti-Submariner), he said he was excited to get a glimpse at what he considered new weaponry, even if the ship is old and on its way out of service. He was also pleased to send a few letters to friends and family that would be post-marked from the ship, just as he did as a young sailor.

"There's just no comparison; the newer ships are amazing. And we certainly didn't have helicopters and hangars or anything like that," he said.

The bulk of those on board, which added up to 500, counting current crew and visitors, made their naval memories on the latest Athabaskan.

PO1 (Retired) Peter Rigby counted 19 years serving in the ship at various times through his career, with the longest stretch being two postings back to back from 1983-1991. He left the ship for the last time in 2015, but said some of the most vivid memories go back to 1990 and the deployment to the Persian Gulf on Operation Friction.

"There were 80,000 people waving us off when we sailed out of the harbour; that's something I'll never forget."

He recalled the crew going to action stations due to a missile alert in the middle of the night, closing up in four minutes from a dead sleep as a Scud missile soared 100,000 feet above the ship.

"It missed us, but we were ready, and if it came close we were going to shoot it down," he said.

The ship was buzzing with activity through the day as sailors, young and old, chatted about the changes that have come to the modern RCN and the changing nature of different trades and naval practices. The ship's bridge was packed to capacity at 11 a.m. when Athabaskan's 76mm gun fired its final volleys, and the cooks on board were kept busy with a steady stream of guests dining in their messes like old times.

There were also hints of sadness as the ship came alongside in the afternoon and the former crewmembers walked off the gangway for the last time. But Rigby and many others said they were happy to get the chance to say a proper goodbye.

"It's bittersweet, but she's old and she's put in her time. We'll still have all our fond memories," he said.

Athabaskan was paid off during a ceremony at HMC Dockyard in Halifax on March 10. The last of the four Iroquois-class Area Air Defence destroyers, the ship served the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) with distinction for more than 44 years. The ship was built in Québec and commissioned on Sept. 30, 1972, and was, at the time, the most modern anti-submarine warship in Canada.

A helicopter-carrying, anti-submarine warfare destroyer, the ship was designed and built for operations in the stormy North Atlantic, enforcing Canadian laws in its territorial waters.

From 1991-94, HMCS Athabaskan underwent a major conversion and was modified to become an anti-air warship. This transformed the warship into a modern area air defence platform with state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, and command and control systems.

# NAVAL TRADES AMALGAMATED

A new training program will launch at Naval Fleet School (Pacific) this month following the amalgamation of four naval trades.

Approximately 1,500 Regular Force marine engineers, electrical technicians, and hull technicians, as well as Naval Reservist Marine Engineering Systems Operators from across the country have been united under one trade – Marine Technician.

The first phase of training is a pilot project that will focus on new recruits.

The first wave of junior ranks training will take up to eight months. Training will then move through the ranks and finish with the most senior, experienced tradespeople.

Marine Technicians will continue to retain a sub-occupation of mechanical or electrical designation.

The new trade was created in an effort to address critical shortages of specialized personnel.

It will increase the number of qualified sailors needed to support operations at sea and address upcoming fleet recapitalization.

The three new classes of ships on their

way into the fleet "will have technology that crosses traditional occupational boundaries," says Chief Petty Officer Second Class Shaun Perry, a member of the Occupation Analysis team that developed the new occupation. "Future, leaner crews will demand more broadly-skilled marine systems engineering sailors capable of operating and maintaining the plant in battle scenarios, extreme climate, and isolation."

The new trade was created in an effort to address critical shortages of specialized personnel.

An information document created by the Director Naval Personnel and Training notes the Naval Reserves will see a notable change with a reduction of 655 to 385 marine systems operators.

## NAVY HUMOUR

### RECRUITING FOR NOAC BRUSSELS BRANCH

In the early 1990s, Cdr Bob Lancashire, then president of the branch used the following lines to recruit new members.

Q - Are you now or have you ever been a commissioned officer in the RCN or its Reserves, or of a Commonwealth navy or its Reserves?

A - No.

Q - Have you been an officer in the Merchant Marine of Canada or any Commonwealth country?

A - No.

Q - Have you ever been a yachtsman? Or interested in maritime or naval affairs?

A - No.

Q - Have you got ten bucks?

*(Submitted by David Collins who was a member of NOAC Brussels during two separate postings at NATO HQ. He notes that the branch had more army members than naval!)*



## DINE THE PARTNERS MESS DINNER

Celebrating Canada's 150th Anniversary: "Canada and the Sea"

ROYAL VICTORIA YACHT CLUB, CADBORO ROOM

JUNE 29 • 1800 HRS • \$80/PERSON

The 3 course dinner will feature Smoked Salmon and Prime Rib complemented with wine and port.

No host bar before and after the dinner.

Dress is black tie, dark suit or navy blazer

To purchase tickets, email [russcape@shaw.ca](mailto:russcape@shaw.ca)

Hosted by the University Naval Training Division Association, this event is open to ex-UNTDs, ROUTPs and other NROC programs, and civvy ROTPs.



ONLY 60 tickets available!

# NEW SATELLITE WILL ENHANCE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES' COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES

Representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Department of National Defence (DND) were on hand at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on March 18, to witness the launch of the ninth Wideband Global Satellite Communication (WGS-9) constellation satellite.

A United States Delta IV rocket was used to launch the WGS-9 at 8:18 p.m. from the United States Air Force Space and Missiles System Center in Cape Canaveral. The satellite will aid in meeting CAF strategic satellite communications (Satcom) requirements for many years into the future.

“Military operations are increasingly dependent on capabilities based in space,” said Brigadier-General Blaise Frawley, the director general space for the Royal Canadian Air Force. “The WGS-9 will further enhance a reliable Satcom network and ensure our forces can communicate effectively to enable success on operations.”

Canada contributed \$340 million to the development of the WGS-9 program, which represents the largest financial contribution of the project’s five partner nations. Canada’s participation was made under the Department of National Defence’s Mercury Global Project, which leverages the capabilities of eight other WGS satellites already in orbit.

Canada gained access to the WGS constellation in May 2013 and has used this capability to support the communications needs of several missions around the world.

“Canada’s contribution to this effort provides essential communications support for Canadian Armed Forces operations around the world,” noted Defence Minister Harjit S. Sajjan. “Investing in innovative solutions like the Mercury Global Project will keep the



Canadian Armed Forces on the leading edge of defence capabilities, while further enhancing relationships with our international partners and allies.”

Mercury Global Project will ultimately access its full allotted bandwidth from the WGS constellation through anchor stations in Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, Ontario; Great Village, Nova Scotia; and Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, B.C. — all of which are home to the antennas and associated ground infrastructure.

The ability to exchange large amounts of information between headquarters and deployed forces has become critical to modern military operations. The Mercury Global Project is an effective way of meeting the CAF’s communication requirements for domestic and expeditionary operations.

**Military operations are increasingly dependent on capabilities based in space.**

In total, Canada has allocated \$452 million to the Mercury Global Project. This includes the contribution to the ninth satellite acquisition, WGS constellation support, large-scale antennas at three sites in Canada, and strategic deployable terminals.

Sharing costs with international partners and allies is a more cost-effective option than building and maintaining a uniquely Canadian satellite system.

Besides the United States, which owns and launched the satellite, other international partners involved with the WGS-9 include Denmark, Luxembourg, New Zealand and The Netherlands.

# NAVAL RESERVE ENROLLS FIRST CANDIDATE THROUGH EXPEDITED ENROLMENT

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) enrolled its first recruit via the Expedited Reserve Enrolment process at HMCS Donnacona, Montreal's Naval Reserve Division (NRD).

The enrolment process has been streamlined so new applicants can now enroll in a matter of days, not months, and begin their basic training almost immediately.

Expedited Reserve Enrolment will allow applicants who meet security, medical, and basic fitness standards to enrol in as few as 21 days or between two to three visits after initial contact with NRD recruiters.

The order to shorten the enrolment process came from Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Jonathan Vance. The RCN estimates the new process will assist with retention and grow the Naval Reserve by at least 200 members over the next two years.

Under this new initiative, HMCS Donnacona's recruiters enrolled Naval Cadet Alanna Grace—an aspiring Logistics Officer and the first applicant to the Naval Reserve to be enrolled under the Expedited Reserve Enrolment Programme—within 21 days of her first contact with the recruiters at HMCS Donnacona. This is a significant improvement over previous recruiting timelines and supports the

Chief of the Defence Staff's initiative to strengthen the Primary Reserves.

"In addition to streamlining the reserve recruiting process through Expedited Reserve Enrolment, the RCN will also synchronize the enrolment for reserve recruits with basic training," said Commodore M.B. Mulkins, Commander Naval Reserve. "This measure will be achieved by modularizing the basic military qualific-

tion, which will permit training modules to be taught immediately to new recruits in their Naval Reserve Divisions. This is a positive and necessary step forward in preparing for the RCN of the future."

Naval Reserve units are situated in 24 cities across the country. Naval reservists are an essential element of the RCN as they work to support RCN domestic and international operations.

## Expedited Reserve Enrolment process

**Initial contact** – Typically, following an online application process, an applicant will make contact with a Naval Reserve recruiter at which point there will be documents including a medical questionnaire, reliability screening forms as well as other miscellaneous documents to complete before their first visit to the Naval Reserve Division recruiting office.

**First Visit** – The applicant conducts the Canadian Armed Force physical fitness test called FORCE and the medical questionnaire is sent to the Recruiting Medical Office. At the end of this visit, and following review at the Recruiting Medical Office, eligible applicants will have their file transferred to the local Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre (CFRC) Detachment for completion.

**Second Visit** – The Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Detachment administers the Canadian Forces Aptitude Test (CFAT). The Military Career Counsellor will conduct an interview, the next phase of the medical intake process is completed and the reliability screening (RS) process continues.

**Third Visit** – All steps of file processing are completed and final documentation is administered, which readies the file for enrolment. The enrolment ceremony is conducted and the new recruit will commence elements of basic military training within their respective Naval Reserve Division.



## Special Medal available to WWII Veterans

Since 2014, the Government of France has been awarding their highest medal, the Legion of Honour, to Canadian veterans who participated in the liberation of France in 1944.

The Legion of Honour is a significant official medal, equal to the Order of Canada. Living Canadian veterans who saw service in France or directly supported the liberation campaign between June 6 and Aug. 30, 1944, may be eligible. There is no cost to you. Simply fill out the one-page application on the Veterans Affairs Canada website or contact Guy Black at [korea19501953@yahoo.com](mailto:korea19501953@yahoo.com) with the subject "Canadian Veteran", or send a letter addressed to Legion of Honour C/O 515 – 95 Moody Street, Port Moody, B.C., V3H 0H2.