

NLNAC

PRESIDENTS REPORT MARCH 2020

The past year has been a most interesting learning curve as a new President with a new executive. I enjoyed lots of support from all members of the executive and many not on the executive and I wish to thank you all.

During the year seven well attended luncheon meetings were held, each with a guest speaker. The speaker's topics were varied and proved to be very interesting. These meetings were held at the Crows Nest, with which we have an excellent affiliation, and Branch 36 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and one at the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club. The Crows Nest provides an interesting setting for the group given its historical Naval significance; however, it is proven to be somewhat difficult for some of our aging members to navigate the 54 or so stairs to enter and leave. In addition, parking is most difficult during the lunch period when we are there. The Legion facility located on the Boulevard has ample parking and the meetings can be held on the main floor level making it more accessible for all. The Yacht Club venue also proved to be popular with its nautical environment and the ease of parking. We will try to find a balance for future meetings to make sure the majority of members can attend.

I wish to thank the social committee for their excellent work in arranging the meetings and obtaining such high calibre speakers.

The Branch has maintained a close relationship with HMCS Cabot, and we participated in their 70 anniversary celebrations at which we presented a Naval Cutlass to be worn by the Unit Coxswain to commemorate this historic milestone.

Honourary Counsel Bob Andrews updated our constitution and submitted it for consideration. The Board has reviewed it and recommends the changes for approval.

We have recently made an application in the amount of \$2,000. to the National Board NAC for funding to support the restoration of the periscope at the Crows Nest.

Perhaps the most important item discussed during the year was the future of the Branch as the members are aging and there has been limited membership expansion. Bob Lucas was tasked with reviewing the status of the Branch and offer options for future consideration. Bob did a good job in presenting several options and after considerable debate by the Board it was agreed to recommend the continuation of the Branch as is. The current executive agreed to stand for re-election at the AGM to provide continuity. Margaret Morris also agreed to let her name stand as a Director. Others may be added as members wish at the AGM.

We plan on continuing with the pub lunch for members and guests with guest speakers for the next year. Members are encouraged to attend, bring your spouse or friend in order to justify a speaker giving up their time to speak to us. Also, the luncheon is a great opportunity to socialize and reminisce with old comrades and friends.

Donald Peckham

NLNAC Branch President

11 March 2020