

The Bosun's Call



"PASSING THE WORD"



Editor: Doug Thomas 462-4049, doug.thomas@eastlink.ca Spring 2015



AGM – 23 May at the Wardroom

Ken Isles, the NS-Naval Association Branch President, has decided to step down after the AGM on the 23rd of May. It would be greatly appreciated if one of you would offer to take on this position.

The current Executive is very experienced, and includes four previous Presidents including two who have done it twice – but we would prefer to have someone else take it on. If anyone is interested, could they contact Doug Thomas, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at doug.thomas@eastlink.ca or call him weekday mornings at 902-721-1206.”



Overview of NS-NAC activities during 2014-2015, by Ken Isles

May 23, 2014 - Spring luncheon at the Saraguay House, Guest speaker LCdr. Victoria De Vita
Donations were collected for the service dog.

August 14, 2014; Garden party at RA Park. Special guests included Vice Admiral Murray, Medric Cousineau with three service dogs and President, Nova Scotia Royal Canadian Legion, who was presented with a cheque to the Royal Canadian Legion to pay for one service dog.

October 23 2014; Trafalgar Luncheon at the Saraguay House. Guest Speaker; Base Commander Capt. (N) Angus Topshee,

Bryan Elson was presented with a Gold Medallion for his many contributions by Past president Doug Thomas and Bernard Derible was presented with the Bronze Medallion by President Ken Isles.

Beth Vallis, presented the NSNOA shield to the most valuable member of HMCS Scotian (showing our relationship with Scotian).

December 12, 2014; Christmas Reception and Luncheon at RA Park

In response to a request from NAC HQs, Vice President Bob Lancashire agreed to fill the position of Branch Outreach Coordinator

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AGENDA

68TH ANNUAL MEETING

NOVA SCOTIA NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Wardroom Officers' Mess: Nova Scotia Room

0830 for 0900, Saturday 23 May 2015

1. Welcome by President – Ken Isles
2. Crossed the Bar – TBP
3. Reading of the Minutes of the 67th AGM – Des Nugent
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. Approval of the minutes of the 67th AGM
6. Report from the President – Ken Isles
7. Report from the Treasurer – Don Uhrich
8. Report from the Secretary – Des Nugent
9. Report from the Past President – Doug Thomas
10. Report from the Chairman NSNOA Bursary Trust – Guy Chauvin
11. Nominations from the Committee for the 2015 Executive
12. Request for nominations from the floor
13. Election of Officers and Directors for 2015 – Doug Thomas
14. Discussion issues, Resolutions
15. HMCS Sackville Report – Jim Reddy
16. Service Dogs – Bernie Derible
17. Editor for Bosun's Call? – Doug Thomas
18. Items from the floor
19. Adjournment

Coffee Break

Guest Speaker: Cdr. Ian Wood – Introduction by Doug Thomas

Ian will present the NAC National Outreach Briefing, which presents the case for “Why Canada needs a Navy.”

Admin Notes:

You will need picture ID (Retired ID Card or Drivers' Licence) to get in through the Lorne Terrace Gate. There will be free parking available near the Wardroom on Saturday morning.

Cost of refreshments for each attendee is \$10, to defray costs. Also, if anyone wishes to pay their membership dues, Don Uhrich will be available to take your cheques or exact cash please: \$65.

The Sea Room Bar will be available for cash sales after our meeting. I hope Ian Wood will be able to stay for a glass.

WANTED: A New Editor for Bosun's Call!

Folks – I have been editing Bosun's Call for about 12 years, and will be leaving the position after this year's AGM. The Branch needs someone else to take it on. It is not that arduous a task, I assure you! All that is needed is a little knowledge of desk-top publishing, and the time to put it together. Some of our membership forward items to me in order to help, and I would be happy to support a new editor. If you are interested, please contact me at 462-4049 or doug.thomas@eastlink.ca

NAC-NS Program for 2015

Please "pencil" in the following on your CNMT Naval Heritage calendars

AGM - Sat. 23rd May 2015 0830 for 0900 Stadacona Wardroom

Spring Luncheon - Thurs. 11th June 2015 1130 for 1200 Saraguay Club

Summer Garden Party – Date TBA – RA Park

Trafalgar Luncheon -Thurs. 22nd Oct 2015 1130 for 1200 Saraguay Club

Christmas Party Fri. 11th Dec 2015 11:30 for 12:00 RA Park

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Government welcomes increased air power for the Royal Canadian Air Force



The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) today accepted delivery of its fifth CC-177 Globemaster III aircraft, increasing its flexibility to respond to both domestic and international emergencies and support a variety of missions, including humanitarian assistance, peace support and combat.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney joined Lieutenant-General Yvan Blondin, commander of the RCAF, to witness the aircraft's inaugural landing in Canada. The aircraft, tail number 705, augments the current fleet of four CC-177 Globemaster IIIs operated by 429 Transport Squadron at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario.

"Our five CC-177 Globemasters give Canada a huge advantage in projecting our presence around the world," said Defence Minister Kenney. "In the past, Canada was completely dependent on other countries for strategic airlift capability. Now we can move personnel and equipment around the globe in short order. This is essential for our ability to respond quickly to urgent military and humanitarian missions."

The additional Globemaster will extend the life expectancy of the entire fleet by about seven and a half years. Moreover, with the purchase of an additional aircraft, the RCAF is projected to have at least three Globemasters available more than 90 per cent of the time to respond to concurrent international or domestic crises. This represents an increase of approximately 25 per cent.

The current Globemaster fleet has been playing an integral role in ferrying supplies and troops to establish and resupply the Canadian camp in Kuwait during Operation Impact. It has also delivered essential materiel to CF-188 Hornet crews deployed in support of NATO as part of Operation Reassurance and the international response to the Putin regime's aggression against Ukraine.

The Globemasters are also used to support domestic operations, including more than 75 missions to Canada's North to deliver 1.5 million litres of fuel, seven million pounds of equipment and 3,120 personnel to locations such as Alert, Iqaluit and Resolute Bay in Nunavut.

“We’ve chalked up enormous successes with our first four Globemasters,” said Lieutenant-General Blondin. “With the arrival of our new Globemaster, we will be more agile, more flexible, and better able to respond when the Government of Canada calls on the RCAF.”

Using resources the Government had previously set aside for National Defence to implement the Canada First Defence Strategy, the acquisition project cost is estimated at \$415 million, including the cost to purchase the aircraft, spare engine, ancillary equipment, specialized systems, project costs and contingency for exchange rate fluctuation. The cost for 12 years of integrated in-service support for the additional aircraft is estimated at \$30 million.

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CAF MUSIC BRANCH

By Katelyn Moores, MARPAC HQ

The Naden Band hosted live auditions for musicians interested in joining the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Music Branch from March 9-12, 2015 at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. The live auditions are the second phase of a lengthy audition process which includes both solo and ensemble performance assessments.

This year, there were 60 applicants in the first phase of auditions, with only 20 candidates making it through to the live auditions in Esquimalt.

“We’re looking for flexibility in musical styles,” said LCol Stephen Murray, Supervisor of Music for the Directorate of History and Heritage. “It’s a small branch, so it’s all hands on deck.”

There certainly is a great deal of talent among the applicants. In most cases, they are seasoned musicians with degrees or diplomas from renowned colleges, conservatories and universities. Their ability to play a variety of different styles of music, and for some even multiple instruments, is essential because all CAF bands must be able to play anything from military marches and jazz, to chamber music and rock.

“Applicants are already at a high calibre,” explained LCol Murray. “We are not teaching them how to be musicians. We are teaching them how to be leaders – how to be members of the Canadian Armed Forces.”

With a long and distinguished history within the military, music fosters morale while serving to preserve military customs and traditions. Military bands bring Canadians together at countless events every year, including Remembrance Day ceremonies and Canada Day parades.

The history behind the music is what attracted Matt MacLean to audition this year. An accomplished trumpet player, Matt is currently finishing a master’s degree at the University of Victoria.

“The music means something to the audience,” Matt explained. “It moves them. It would be an honour to do that for my country.”

As an air cadet, Matt played in the service band in Cold Lake, Alberta; however, he didn’t know he wanted to join a CAF band until, as a member of the University of Victoria’s Wind Symphony, he had the opportunity to play with the Naden Band during a performance in support of the Naden Band Scholarship in Music Performance. Since 1994, the scholarship has been helping to support many budding musicians at the University who demonstrate excellence in performance in the areas of brass, woodwind, or percussion.

“As a musician in the Forces you get to play with a group of talented musicians every day, and you get to travel while doing what you love,” explained Matt. “It’s a great career.”

After completing basic training, successful candidates can serve in any of the Regular Force bands across the country as positions become available. Matt isn’t worried about the prospect of moving if he gets offered a job.

“If the other bands are anything like this one, I’ll be happy anywhere,” he said.

The Naden Band, who is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, has 35 members and is one of 6 full-time Regular Force bands. There are also 53 part-time Reserve Force bands and 15 voluntary bands throughout the country. Together a total of 1400 musicians provide support to the CAF, the Department of National Defence and the Government of Canada at a variety of events, ceremonies and concerts throughout the year.

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National Sentry Program

April 9, 2015

Since the launch of the new National Sentry Program (NSP) in 2014, a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) sentry is posted at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in front of the National War Memorial, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily from April 9 to November 10 from 2014 to 2020.

This duty reinforces Canada’s commitment to remember and honour those Canadians who served in the major wars of the twentieth century, including both World Wars, as well as those who have contributed to Canada’s long-standing tradition of military excellence through to the present day.

The year 2014 was a significant year for the National Sentry Program. Due to restorative work on the National War Memorial, the first sentries were posted on August 4, the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. The daily presence of the sentries enhanced public awareness that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is to be treated with dignity and respect.

However, it was the tragic death of Corporal Nathan Cirillo on October 22nd that stunned Canadians across the country. Sentry duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier now holds a deeper meaning for both the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian public.

The Canadian Armed Forces has been posting sentries at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the months of July and August since 2007. The NSP has expanded on that program with a rotation of sentries from the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force. Special military anniversaries are recognized with additional sentries from the associated units, ships, squadrons, branches and Corps.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Canada’s most iconic and visible reminder of the service and sacrifice of members of the Canadian Armed Forces. In May 2000, the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in the First World War were repatriated from France and, with great ceremony, were buried in a special tomb in front of the National War Memorial in Ottawa. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was created to honour the more than 116,000 Canadians who sacrificed their lives in the cause of peace and freedom. The

Unknown Soldier represents all Canadians, whether they be navy, army, air force or merchant marine, who died or may die for their country in all conflicts – past, present, and future.

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DRIVERS

A German lorry driver in a pub in Newcastle gobbing off about how lazy the British are, he drives his load from Hamburg, goes through Holland, Belgium, up to Newcastle and back to Hamburg in two days.

This old Geordie man mutters.....Way Ay man....I used to pick up my load in Newcastle drop off in Hamburg and be back in Newcastle the same day.

The German trucker snorted and said....Oh Yeah....what rig were you driving?

The old fella replied..... a LANCASTER BOMBER!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dad's car

(Kids are smart but (once in a while), Dad is smarter)

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

The father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went..?"

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Naval war veteran surprised with Arctic Star medal

Navy News / April 13, 2015, by Darlene Blakeley

Naval war veteran Gerry Butler received an unexpected gift on his 90th birthday. Nearly 70 years after ending his wartime service he has been awarded the Arctic Star.

A military honour unveiled by the Government of the United Kingdom in 2012, the Arctic Star is granted for operational service of any length north of the Arctic Circle from September 3, 1939, to May 8, 1945. It commemorates and recognizes the particular severity of the conditions experienced by those who served in the Arctic during the Second World War, and is available to all Commonwealth forces including those from Canada.



Mr. Butler was overcome by emotion when the medal was delivered to him at his apartment in Montréal March 23. His son-in-law Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Rick Bowes, a 23-year veteran of the Canadian Army who was instrumental in getting the medal for Mr. Butler through Veterans Affairs Canada, joined other members of the family to surprise Mr. Butler with the medal.

“He had tears running down his face,” says LCol Bowes. “You know, these old veterans don’t expect anything. They are humble to the core.”

During the Second World War, many Canadians served on Allied convoys as they sailed across the Arctic Ocean to deliver vital supplies to Russia. Commonly known as the Murmansk Run, ships departed from North American ports and sailed to the northern Soviet Union in an effort to assist them in their fight against Germany.

Mr. Butler joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in 1942 and served in Her Majesty’s Ship Jamaica through the North and Baltic Seas to Murmansk between June and August 1944.

Mr. Butler is one of a few Canadian naval veterans entitled to wear both the Arctic and Pacific Stars as he also served in Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship Uganda.

“He joined Uganda in Charleston, South Carolina at some point in late 1944,” explains LCol Bowes. “The ship then sailed north where it came to be based out of Scapa Flow, Scotland for a short period. From Scapa Flow it sailed south through Spanish and Portuguese Atlantic waters and then transited through Gibraltar on its way to the Pacific theatre of operations. Employed as a Captain’s plotter, Gerry recalls the ship taking part in operations as part of the Battle of Okinawa.”

LCol Bowes says that it has only been in recent years that Mr. Butler has felt comfortable talking about his wartime experiences. “During the last couple of years he has begun telling stories about the war,” he says. “He vividly recalls seeing the rivets on a kamikaze airplane as it flew overhead to bomb an American warship.”

Mr. Butler has also been awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and the War Medal (1939-45) for his wartime service.

After demobilization in early 1946 as an Able Seaman, Mr. Butler returned to his native Montréal, re-commenced his university studies and went on to a long and successful business career. “He is the father of seven children, all of whom are extremely proud of his wartime service,” says LCol Bowes.

All eligible veterans and next-of-kin can apply for the Arctic Star. Applications can be found online by visiting www.veterans.gc.ca.

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NSNAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Members are reminded that it is time to renew your NSNAC membership for 2015 if you have not already done so. Please complete the form below, include a cheque or money order for \$65.00 payable to Nova Scotia Naval Association of Canada, and mail it to:

Treasurer NSNAC
P.O. Box 801
Halifax N.S.
B3J 2V2

Name:-----

Address:-----

Phone #:-----

E-mail address:-----

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QUESTION

It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts..
Here are the facts about the three candidates.

Candidate A:
Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses.
He also chain smokes, and drinks 8 to 10 Martinis a day.

Candidate B:
He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college, and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening.

Candidate C:
He is a decorated war hero, he's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer, and never committed adultery.

Which of these candidates would be your choice? Decide first ... No peeking, and then scroll down for the response.

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Candidate B is Winston Churchill.

Candidate C is Adolf Hitler.



CNMT's 2015 calendar is still available and the price is reduced to \$5.00, tax included. Available from Sackville's Gift Shop or Doug Thomas at execdir@canadasnavalmemorial.ca

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From the Archives

By Ken Isles

Further to an earlier conversation, I have attached a couple of news items you might consider for the Bosun's Call. These were among my military files and were prepared by ships' officers and cadet following the training exercises and cruise during 1952. During recent years, I have met up with retired naval officers who were with the UNTDs and JOLTC program when I was in training as an Engineering Technician in La Hulloise during 1952

I might mention that we had a very hospitable visit to Havana and was hosted by the Royal Back Of Canada, prior to the reign of Castro. You might recognize some of the names and especially H E Porter who was appointed as CO of La Hulloise.

HMCS Magnificent, HMCS Crescent and HMCS La Hulloise, 1952

The third and final East Coast Training Group cruise of the summer of 1952 for UNTDs, was made by the destroyer HMCS Crescent and frigate HMCS La Hulloise to Gibraltar; Dover, Cornwall, and Antwerp.



The third cruise on the- West Coast took the Sioux, Beacon Hill and Antigonish- to San Diego, California

Two cruises, late in the year of 1952, took these training ships to sunny, southern climes. HMCS La Hulloise, in company with HMCS Magnificent, visited Norfolk, Virginia, where the carrier embarked Sea Furies brought from England by USS Midway. Until the ships returned to Halifax they were busy working up the Support Air Group, with ships'

companies basking in mid-ocean sunshine or drenched by Virginia's autumn rains.

On return from Norfolk, Lieut. Cdr. A. H. McDonald, commanding officer of the La Hulloise, was relieved by Lieut.-Cdr. H. A. Porter (Ed. - later VADM Harry Porter, now living at Camp Hill), formerly communications officer in HMCS Magnificent.

In December La Hulloise and Crescent paid an informal visit to Havana, The main purpose of the cruise was to exercise a class of JOTLC officers in navigation. Havana proved to be a popular and hospitable city. The ships' companies enjoyed a wide variety of activities such as softball, swimming, sight-seeing and shopping. Some of the personnel witnessed a game of jai alai, which is very popular in Cuba. Players strike a hard rubber ball, called a "pelota", against a wall, using wicker scoops strapped to their wrists. The pelota can be given the greatest velocity of any struck, thrown or kicked ball in the world of sport. The weather was warm and the temperature was in sharp, but welcome, contrast to that experienced in Halifax when the ships sailed December 4th Eight members of JOTLC Class "C "were on board for navigation instruction at- sea, delivered by Lieut. John (Slide Rule) Mahoney, of the ND School in Stadacona.

On the return leg of the cruise, when Crescent was 240 miles off Halifax, AB Ashley Perry, of St. John's, Nfld., one of the ship's cooks, was stricken with appendicitis. Crescent immediately detached and raced

for Halifax through rough weather. The ship arrived December 16; AB Perry's appendix was removed in an emergency operation in the RCN Hospital and the next day, his twentieth birthday, found him resting comfortably.

Later in the month the ships exercised for three days in the Halifax area for benefit of JOTLC officers and LR2s under training in Gunnery.

Pre-Christmas social events included two smokers - one put on by the Stokers' Mess and the other by the Chiefs and POs, both at HMCS Scotian. Christmas festivities included a children's party at the Stadacona gymnasium on December 20.

(German U-boat U-1302 was sunk in St George's Channel, in position 52°19'N, 05°23'W, by depth charges / hedgehog from the Canadian frigates HMCS La Hulloise (Lt. Cdr. J. Brock, RCNVR), HMCS Strathadam (A / Lt. Cdr. H.L. Quinn, DSC, RCNVR) and HMCS Thedford Mines (Lt. J.A.R. Allan, DSC, RCNVR). After the war, La Hulloise retained her war-time appearance except for modifications for a training role. She was paid off in 1953 and converted to a Prestonian Class Ocean Escort.)

Does anyone know why the name La Hulloise was chosen? Hint – why not HMCS Hull?

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Mystery Ship: What ship, when, who was the CO?

