

## **UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING DIVISIONS of CANADA**

Directors Meeting - Thursday, Jan 19, 2012

Albany Club

Regrets : R. Williamson, B. Duncombe, W. Maxwell, R. Elmes, M. Mace

Present : E. File, W. Thomas, B. Clearihue, R. Morris, D. Hain, A. Shaw, G. Scott, R. Wilson, J. Heighton

**Approval of the agenda** : Moved, R.Wilson, seconded, A. Shaw. Carried.

**Acceptance of Minutes of Sept. 22, 2011 Meeting** : Moved J. Heighton, seconded G. Scott. Carried

**The Gil Hutton Plaque** will be presented to HMCS Star on Wednesday, January 25. The Hamilton contingent of the UNTD/NOAC, together with members of the Hutton family will be present. To celebrate, two bottles of 35 year old "Pusser" rum, belonging to Gil, will be shared.

**Fall, 2012, AGM and Dine the Ladies at Kingston** : Ron Paquin has been busy exploring dates, venues, and hotel accommodations. Initially, the dates proposed were the weekends of October 20/21 or 27/28. The former seemed preferable; however, the President is unable to attend on that weekend. Bob Morris moved that we attempt to make arrangements for November 3/4, with October 20/21 as a contingency date if the former is impossible. Seconded by Andy Shaw and carried.

Several venues were proposed, most directors opting for the Senior Officers' Mess at RMC as preferable, but the Fort Frontenac Mess was a possible alternative. Both can provide bar and dinner services. Ron provided rates for several Kingston hotels. Prices ranged from \$189 at the Marriot, \$175 at the Sheraton, to \$165 at the Holiday Inn. All are reasonably close to RMC. Graham Scott recommended that we reserve rooms at the Sheraton if available that weekend, and to ascertain whether there was an appropriate meeting room there as well. Ron Paquin will be asked to enquire. Ron has identified several speakers on the War of 1812 . Andy Shaw advocates an expert on the naval history aspect. Bob Morris suggested that a social perspective might be of more interest to the female attendees, and recommended that we invite Professor Jane Errington (Dept. of History, Queens and RMC) to speak at dinner. Professor Mike Hennessy of RMC will be invited to speak on naval history in the afternoon. The Faculty Club at Queens was recommended for the Sunday morning activities - church, brunch, and up spirits. Ron will be asked to investigate, and if the Club is unavailable, to seek another venue.

### **The Queen Mary II and University Royal Navy Unit Expedition :**

Andy Shaw provided a preliminary report on this excursion, providing some background for those directors who did not attend. Activities in England began with a luncheon address by Commander Wilson, officer in charge of all the URN Units, from whom we learned some basic facts. For example, there is a ship (boat) assigned to each unit. The boat's CO is also in charge

of the university unit. Surprisingly, the URNU is not about training future RN officers : there is no requirement or expectation that graduates of this program join the RN. The unit is more like a university club. It's graduates are designated "Honorary Midshipmen". The RN benefits because, although most of the grads of this program will not serve in the navy, they will eventually assume influential roles in the greater community as friends and advocates of the navy. The training, especially in leadership, gives the participants an advantage in seeking employment.

UNTD emissaries visited seven of the fourteen URNU units in the UK. Andy Shaw complimented the association members who submitted reports on their unit visits, commenting on the uniformly high quality of the submissions. In analyzing the reports, Andy sought answers to several key questions :

Did our reports support our aim to revive the UNTD in Canada? Ninety- six percent of the reporters were positive.

Did those reporting think that it (the renaissance) would be viable in light of the indifference and/or antipathy of the current political and military brass? Most said yes, but Richard Wilson maintains that Canadian military, hard pressed for funds, would not support the diversion of resources to a program which it considers to be frivolous. Conclusion ? We have our work cut out for us to change their minds.

Would the URNU model work here, or would one closer to the original UNTD model be preferable? No clear decision here.

Andy Shaw suggested that we might consider beginning a membership drive, to enlarge the body of proponents of the revival. We would assign a membership fee of \$100, for one year only, to raise funds for lobbying and presentations. To be considered further.

**V3 : Voyage Three:** Andy Shaw (irrepressible and indefatigable) broached the possibility of third voyage (the first was around Toronto harbour, the second an Atlantic crossing). The third would be a Pacific venture, in 2013, sailing from Vancouver to San Diego, or the reverse, with visits to the US Fleet at San Diego and conversations with US naval personnel and university naval reserve establishments. To be considered further at future meetings.

Vice President Shaw requested reimbursement of \$2024 in expenses, mostly spent on UNTD caps, and on audio recorders for UK unit visits. A motion for reimbursement was made by Treasurer, Richard Wilson, seconded by Doug Hain, and carried. VP Shaw noted that the recorders were to be held in trust by the current holders, pending future use for UNTD activities.

**Financial Report for 2011** Treasurer, Richard Wison reported that for the calendar year 2011 we emerged with a profit of \$1988. However, the additional expense (\$2024), of the UK excursion, noted above, pertains to 2011 and results in a loss, for 2011, of \$36. The Balance Sheet shows total assets of \$14,299 as of Dec.31, 2011. Richard reports a (Dec.2011) paid-up membership of 163. Another 18 receive the newsletter but are not members. He noted that the newsletter costs approximately \$3.00 per copy to print and mail.

**Newsletter** Reporting for Bob Williamson, Bill Clearihue reports that the new edition of Untidy Tales is almost ready for printing. It may be obtained via downloading or as a hard copy. The

books are expected to cost about \$19 per copy, and Bob recommends that we sell them for \$30 per copy. Andy Shaw recommended that Bob Williamson “launch” the book at the Kingston AGM/reunion in November. President, Bill Thomas requested that the UNTD Association pay for the set-up cost and legal deposit cost of one book, plus mailing expense, and of any other books to be distributed gratis to organizations such as the Directorate of History at NDHQ ,and the Naval Museum, amongst others. All directors agreed. Bill Clearihue expects the forthcoming newsletter to have Andy Shaw’s report on the UK excursion, and some details concerning the Kingston AGM/ reunion. Bill distributed a CD containing the updated archives as of this date.

Bill Thomas also requested that we consolidate our web operations, transferring from “Name Secure” to “Angelfire”, at an annual cost of \$110. So moved by Andy Shaw, seconded by Doug Hain, carried.

**Next meeting**, (tentatively) Thursday February 16, Albany Club