



# THE NEWSLETTER

Of the U.N.T.D. Association of Canada



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EDITORS: R. Williamson / W. Clearihue Volume 3, Number 38 ISSN 1709 - 3406



## THE UNTD CRUISE TO ENGLAND PART 2

In this issue, cruise members head ashore to visit University Royal Navy Units and other landmarks in the Southern United Kingdom. UNTD Association President, Bill Thomas, poses with a renowned naval attraction. See Cover Story page 2.

## 1812 BICENTENNIAL EDITION

**GATHERING in KINGSTON**  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 –**  
**REGISTER NOW!**

Among the best kept secrets of Canadian history is that the navy played a major role in winning the War of 1812, a defining point in the development of our nation. The principal naval base in the heart of the action was Kingston on Lake Ontario. The Kingston area team under the coordination of Ron Paquin and Ed File, have put together an excellent program of speakers and meals to encourage us to again gather in Kingston, to learn more about the naval and social elements of the War of 1812, and to consider, at a General Meeting, the recent and future actions of the Board of Directors. We will also look at how we will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the commencement of the UNTD program in June 1943. And as our youngest members are in their mid-sixties, we need to give some serious thought as to the legacy we graduates of the best leadership development program ever developed in Canada will leave. **Join us in Kingston for more fun, fellowship and a book launch!**

### UNTiDy TALES OF NAVAL OFFICER CADETS



The Story of Canada's  
**University Naval Training Divisions**

Commander Robert J. Williamson CD  
RCNR Retired

After twenty years of collecting anecdotes and photographs as our Newsletter Editor, Bob Williamson has assembled it all in a 425 page 70th Anniversary Edition of our UNTD history to be launched at the Kingston Gathering.

## COVER STORY THE QM2 UNTD CRUISE PART 2

With the completion of the Sea Phase of the trip, participants took up the Land Phase with equal vigour. As on the QM2, each day started with a briefing in the lobby of our home base, the Victory Services Club, where final arrangements for that day's activities were made. Each day concluded with a similar debriefing usually held in the bar, with a Weepers format. Chuck and Lisa Svoboda joined us for the week, having come up from their idyllic digs in Spain.

Monday, October 31st was the day of the pivotal event of the trip; the presentation by CDR David Wilson, RN, CO of the University Royal Navy Units (URNU). The venue was the prestigious Naval Club in Mayfair about a 20 minute walk south from the Victory Service Club (VSC). CAPT(N) Harry Harsch RCN, spoke first then CDR Wilson and after an elegant lunch break, renowned author, columnist and documentarian, ex-UNTD Gwynne Dyer, a London resident, regaled us all with his unique perspective on the current state of global geo-politics.

The Naval Club building at 38 Hill St. dates back to the late 1700s when an early occupant was John Pitt, 2nd Earl Chatham, the elder brother of William Pitt, a former Prime Minister of Great Britain.



The Naval Club in Mayfair, 38 Hill Street

*Photo credit Bill Clearihue*

The building was acquired by the RNVR Officer's Association in 1946 and named the RNVR Club. In 1954 the building was declared a RNVR Memorial Site. In 1969 it was renamed The Naval Club but is still the HQ of the RNVROA. A Roll of Honour is maintained there, dedicated by HRH Prince Philip in 2000, containing the names of some 6,200 Commonwealth naval volunteers, all ranks, who died in WWII. 1,200 of those names are Canadian.

CAPT(N) Harry Harsch, OMM, CD, started his military career as a Sea Cadet, then Army Reservist, before joining the Navy in 1976. He has held a widely varied series of sea and land appointments including Commands of the Frigate FREDERICTON and the Destroyer ATHABASKAN. It was in his capacity as Naval Advisor, to the Canadian High Commissioner in the UK that he spoke to us of the unique Canada/UK bonds and some of his poignant experiences in that regard. He was also very much involved in paving our way for the other elements of our trip.



CAPT(N) Harry\_Harsch. DND Photo

CDR David Wilson, RN, holds the conjoined Commands of 1st Patrol Boat Squadron and University Royal Naval Units. 1PBS consists of 14 P2000 Archer-Class Fast Patrol Boats, all commissioned HM Ships, with each one being assigned to one of the 14 URNUs and generally home-ported nearby its assigned University. CDR Wilson gave a concise yet comprehensive presentation as to the purpose, origin, development, current status and structure of the URNU's and painted a vivid picture of the life of the Cadets, whose rank is that of Honorary Midshipman, RNR.

The first URNU was formed in 1967 at Aberdeen University. This was followed up with 7 more Units at London, Manchester, Southampton, Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow and Sussex. The final 6 Units were formed in 1994 at Cambridge, Birmingham, Cardiff, Hull, Newcastle and Oxford.

The URNUs are generally co-located on their campuses, with the Army's OTCs (Officer Training

Corps) and the RAFs UASs (University Air Squadrons). The OTCs were established over a century ago and the UASs in the Inter-War years.

The Mission of the URNU is to "Educate a wide spectrum of high calibre undergraduates who show potential as society's future leaders and opinion formers in order to better inform them of the need for and role of the Royal Navy, and to develop awareness of career opportunities in the Service."

The URNUs and Midshipmen have only a loose, if any, connection with their closest RNR Units. They are self-described campus clubs, limited to 51 members in each unit. Unlike other clubs though, they are run by full-time RN personnel and they receive uniforms and pay for their week-day training nights and while deployed on weekends or in the summer on their Unit's Boat. There are striking similarities between the URNU and UNTD programs as well as some striking dissimilarities, which are well explained by the distance between them, both temporal and geographic.

It is noteworthy that 30% of URNU graduates, go on to become further associated with the RN or RNR. This number is similar to the percentage of UNTD graduates who went on to serve in the RCNR/CF(R).



Cdr David Wilson RN URNU with Bill Thomas UNTD  
Bill Clearihue photo

After his presentation CDR Wilson was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by UNTD Association President Bill Thomas. CDR Wilson joined us for lunch in the elegantly appointed dining room of the Naval Club where we were thoroughly entertained by luncheon speaker Gwynne Dyer, a CABOT UNTD and well-known CORNWALLIS Term-Lieutenant, who now makes his living writing and lecturing. His talk was an eclectic mix of humour and the serious state of the world. Gwynne Dyer has the rare distinction of having served in the RCNR, USNR and RNR.



Gwynne Dyer and Bill Thomas at the Naval Club  
Bill Clearihue photo

Tuesday, Nov 1st, the entire group departed the VSC by bus to visit the URNU in Oxford. The Unit is housed in the purpose-built Falklands House, opened by QEII in 2000. A welcome and overview of the Unit was given by the RN LT commanding and a more detailed presentation was given by a 3rd-year URNU Midshipman. The information mirrored that of CDR Wilson, with additional detail specific to the Oxford Unit. We were all impressed by the visit. Only a travel writer could describe the grandeur and history of the City of Oxford as the group later dispersed to explore this ancient venue.

Wed./Thu., Nov. 2nd/3rd, smaller groups were detailed to visit URNUs in 5 other locations; the London URNU and as far west as Cardiff and as far north as Liverpool. The team leaders reported equally warm receptions as had been the case in Oxford, with the RN personnel and Midshipmen eagerly adding local colour to their consistent URNU message. In some cases the Unit's Boats were at hand and were visited.



John-Heighton on the Liverpool UNRU boat HMS CHARGER.  
Clearihue photo

Thursday, Nov 3rd, a reception and Dine-the-Ladies Mess Dinner was held in the large El-Alamein Room at the VSC, with CMDRE Kelly Williams, OMM, MSM, CD Commander Canadian Defense Liaison Staff at the Canadian High Commission UK and his wife as Guests of Honour. CMDRE Williams has had an impressive career that included six sea appointments. He spoke to us of many of his interesting experiences and brought us up to date on the current status of DND naval procurements.



CMDRE Kelly Williams. DND photo

Friday, Nov 4th, the group travelled by bus to Portsmouth to visit the Historic Royal Naval Dockyard, and lunch at The Maritime Club followed by a short stroll to HMS VICTORY. To stand next to the spot on the upper deck where Nelson was fatally shot and below deck where he died, invokes in an instant, the root of the Naval Traditions in Canada.

Nearby VICTORY in this functioning dockyard was HMS DARING, lead ship of the newest class of stealth Destroyers with a price tag of about £1B. In that small gap between them stood 200+ years of RN history.

Returning to the VSC from Portsmouth, signaled the end of the official itinerary. The trip proceeded so seamlessly throughout because of the efforts of Andy Shaw and his team. UNTDs proceeded independently to further travels in the UK and Europe, or directly home, mostly by Air although some returned on the QM2. It's very difficult to pick a single highlight of the trip but being able to meet and spend time with UNTDs and their significant others, had to be on the top of most lists.

Bill Clearihue

## UNTD-ROUTP

by Bill Clearihue

I've had a series of insightful moments in the last while, concerning our post-1968 brethren (Reserve Officer University Training Plan (ROUTP) who trained and/or served as Officers in the Naval Reserve and who still do, some 44 years later.

In the course of creating and maintaining our various Archive lists, I just keep bumping into them (mostly figuratively, but sometimes literally). Whereas UNTDs ran the NAVRES up into the 90s, the UNTD-trained/mentored ROUTPs have been running the show completely since the millennium.

They are a younger, less numerous, version of "us". Their VIP list is impressive and will continue to be more so as time goes on. UNTDs commanded the NRDs, now ROUTPs do. They occupy the current hierarchy of the Naval Reserves.

We all know them, deal with them on various levels, but other than that, largely ignore them. They are the current key-holders, they know what is going on today and what will be going on in the future. Yet we really know little of them, or their training programs, in the past or present.

They however, in large measure, are aware of us, the UNTD Association, and I've heard us referred to as their 'Uncles'.

I have a strong sense that we should be reaching out to this 44-year old group of people and perhaps welcoming them into the fold in some manner. There is no global "ROUTP Association" but some of their class-years hold reunions.

If we were to create an "ROUTP Group" I'm sure we'd get members, a good thing in its own right, but it would put us in direct contact with what is going on today, which is something I think we lack.

I would point out that RADM Jennifer Bennett, and CMDRE David Craig and any number of their recent predecessors are all ROUTP graduates. Bob Duncombe adds that Vice Admiral Bruce Donaldson, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, was an ROUTP at HMCS *Carleton*, and so was David Collins,

Ambassador in Seoul, High Commissioner in Islamabad, Kuala Lumpur and Nairobi. Their ROUTP background doesn't seem to have done them any harm.

## UNTDs QEII Diamond Jubilee Medal List

by Bill Clearihue

The Naval Association of Canada NAC(NOAC) has recently released a list of members who are well-deserved recipients of the QEII Diamond Jubilee Medal. Out of a total of 80 names, 23 are UNTDs, as follows:

**Abbott**, Frederick F (Fred) UNTD *Donnacona?* 1952

**Andrews**, Robert B UNTD *Cabot* '66

**Cameron**, Mervyn Dee UNTD *Unicorn* '49

**Cambell**, Brooke Shaw UNTD *Discovery* '59

**Douglas**, William Alexander Binny (Alec) *York* 1946

**Drent**, Jan Jansz UNTD *Discovery* '54

**Fournier**, Lawrence Joseph (Larry) UNTD *Discovery* '58

**Harrison**, Ronald Eric (Ron) UNTD *Discovery* 1965

**Hayes**, Bruce Edwin UNTD *Carlton* '51

**Herrndorf**, Frederik Wilhelm K (Fred) UNTD *Chippawa?* '52

**Houle**, Pierre UNTD *Montcalm* '66

**Humphries**, James A (Jim) UNTD *Tecumseh* (Edm) '64

**Keeler**, Barry M UNTD *Carlton* '62

**Kowalchuk**, Reginald W UNTD *Chippawa* '59

**Marshall**, Roland Collinge (Rollie) UNTD *Hunter* '47

**McCloy**, Roderick H (Rod) UNTD *Discovery* 1965

**McIlwaine**, Robert H (Bob) UNTD *Discovery* 1959

**Nixon**, Robert Charles (Bob) UNTD *Discovery* 1960

**Stuart**, John T UNTD *Scotian* '56

**Thain**, Christopher Edwin UNTD *Chippawa* '57

**Thomas**, William Campbell (Bill) UNTD *Prevost* 1959

**White**, Robert UNTD ?

**Williams**, Edgar R UNTD *Cabot* '60

**Wilson**, Richard T (Dick) UNTD *York* '51

This represents 30% of the NOAC List. Not bad for an outfit that ceased to exist 44 years ago. I've already hoisted my virtual BZ to all of them, whether UNTDs or otherwise. We recognize that other medals have been awarded but have no record other than the NOAC affiliation.

## MEDICAL TRAINING IN THE UNTD

by Murray Boles MD

There were many experiences that I had during my time in the UNTD. But the one that stands out began during my first summer of training. I arrived at the West Coast on a Sunday. The next day I was aboard the frigate, HMCS *Antigonish* preparing to go to sea. I was disorientated in my new surroundings because as a medical student my year was longer than most students and therefore I was late arriving. However, I became acclimatized rapidly.

My division was the fo'c'sle and the petty officer in charge was the gunnery PO. While alongside I was assigned duty as Officer of the Watch one evening with the gunnery PO.

Across the jetty was the destroyer, HMCS *Cayuga* preparing to leave the next day for war in Korea with Ferdinand Demara (the great imposter aboard) impersonating the medical officer, Dr. Cyr. A decade later, Universal Studios would make a movie about the exploits of the *Great Imposter*, starring Tony Curtis. However, on this quiet evening the PO filled the time pointing out all of the armament and radar controls on the destroyer. In retrospect, it was a memorable evening for me.

The next summer I went back to the west coast, this time for medical duties. There was a story going about that a Japanese mine from WWII had drifted ashore on the coast of B.C. earlier that year. An officer and a petty officer were dispatched to deal with the mine. The officer was handling the mine while the PO was a short distance away. The mine exploded killing the officer and wounding the PO.

Later I was on duty in the outpatient clinic of the hospital when a patient was admitted and placed in an examining room. He was being given the celebrity treatment and a half dozen doctors crowded into the tiny examining room. I was finally told that the patient was the gunnery PO who had been sent to deal with the mine and had several shrapnel wounds.

There was something familiar about the patient and it troubled me until at last it came to me that he was the same gunnery PO who had spent the evening on watch with me the previous year reviewing all the weapons on HMCS *Cayuga* before she sailed for her adventures in Korea. It's a small world !

## UNTIDY LICENSE PLATE

by Bill Clearihue

Dave Freeman UNTD *Nonsuch* / Discovery '60 U-1079 has had a lifelong association with the Navy, from the UNTD to the Naval Reserve and Regular Force. After a decade or so as an Advisor to the Ships' Names Committee, he wrote the definitive book on the subject, "Canadian Warship Names" - Vanwell 2000. With a keen interest in naval heritage, he volunteers at the CFB ESQUIMALT Naval & Military Museum. His current project is the documenting of the Unofficial Badges of the RCN in WWII.

In a casual conversation a few months back it surfaced that he had the personalized BC License Plate "UNTIDY". While not the only UNTiDy in BC he surely is the only one clearly identified as such on the highways and byways. He has kindly acquiesced to our request to do a story on the Plate.



Dave Freeman & his UNTIDY plate. Freeman photo

"I transferred from *Discovery* to the RCN in 1967 where the Canadian Forces identity and the green uniform caught up to me in HMCS *Cornwallis*. In 1977 I returned from a three year tour with the RCN to CFB Borden, an army/air force base, still wearing a green "unibag".

There were only about eight naval officers on the base and in a moment of inspiration, I

obtained RCN 001 and RCN 002 plates for our two vehicles. As time passed and I was posted about Ontario, these were transferred to newer vehicles but on finally being sent back to the west coast in 1993, the plates had to go.

I was now back in a naval blue uniform and serving in the Naden portion of CFB Esquimalt. The province of BC had already issued the RCN series of plates so I was out of luck. For Christmas 1994, however, my wife handed me a gift – the UNTIDY license plates seen here.

It seems “UNTD” had already been issued to a person unknown, so I have carried this plate on various cars since.

This unique plate arouses a lot of curiosity from the general public. The normal first response I get is a request to buy my plates for an unkempt family relation. The other main response is something like: 'Oh, but your car looks so clean!' Where possible I take the opportunity to explain the meaning to the uninitiated.

From older naval types throughout the province, however, I get the recognition the plate deserves and sometimes a free drink! I am usually to be found in the Naden Wardroom on a Friday lunch time, with other "curmudgeons."

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### LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Sent: Tue, Mar 20, 2012 7:48 am  
Subject: Spring Edition, UNTD Newsletter

Please accept my congratulations on the most recent edition of The Newsletter, which I received in the mail yesterday down here in sunny Savannah. What an issue !. And the cover photo gives new meaning to the expression "rogues gallery." It was great fun to read about the QM crossing and to see photos of folks I haven't seen for years. I haven't seen Mike Mace since he and I served together in DONNACONA in the 60s. I deeply regret I was unable to be on that trip but trust my message was appropriately transmitted to the delegates by Andy Shaw. I can't wait to read the next installment of the trip. It is looking more and more as if I will be joining you for the November reunion in Kingston.

Best personal regards,  
Yours aye,

Bob Baugniet

### A NEW MISSION STATEMENT

After a long and at times intense debate, in May of 2012, the Board of Directors approved a new mission statement, to be considered at our next General Meeting in Kingston in November. It reads as follows:

**Introduction** - The University Naval Training Division Association of Canada is an unincorporated, non-profit, network of persons who participated in that officer training program from 1942 to 1968.

**Mission** - *Our mission is to identify, preserve, and promote, the history and values of the UNTD program.*

#### Activities -

1. Promote and support reserve and regular naval officer training programs which provide a visible presence on university campuses and a continuing link with their local Naval Reserve Division.
2. Seek to identify and support current naval reserve officer cadets.
3. Facilitate camaraderie and communication between our members.
4. Maintain an archive of information relating to the UNTD Program, its members, and their accomplishments.
5. Publish semi-annually, a newsletter, and occasionally, other articles, books, and press releases.
6. Maintain a web site containing news, information, photos, archives, and links to members and other web sites of interest to our members.
7. Promote regional and national gatherings of our members.

**Methods - Maintain a Board of Directors** of not less than 6 nor more than 16 persons, with at least one member from each of the Atlantic, Central, and Western Regions of Canada.

**Hold a General Meeting** of our membership at least once every 24 months, to affirm the appointment of Directors and their actions.

**Collect such voluntary fees and donations** as will enable us to maintain our archives, newsletter, web site, and provide publicity and seed money for national gatherings.

## IN MEMORIAM

**James Cliff Mackay** UNTD *Brunswicker* '66

Born: Vancouver, B.C. March 15, 1948

*Died: Ottawa, January 26, 2012 in his 64<sup>th</sup>*  
year after a brave battle with cancer.

Career: Naval Reserve 1966-1984

- Graduate of the University of New Brunswick, B.A. (Hons.), Economics and History, 1970
- McMaster University, M.A. Economics, 1971
- Various positions at Department of Industry Canada 1971 – 1992
- Senior Vice-President, Spar Aerospace Ltd. 1992-1997
- President and CEO, Air Transport Association of Canada, 1997-2006
- President and CEO, Railway Association of Canada, 2006-2012. His tenure resulted in increased railway capital cost allowances that generated significant savings and investment for the industry and new infrastructure support for short line railways.

**The Honorable John J. Kinley ONS, CD,**  
LCdr RCNR (Ret'd), UNTD *Scotian* 1943



Sep. 23, 1925 - May 1, 2012

29th Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, 1994-2000.  
Professional engineer, Lunenburg Foundry.

*"We the remaining few old men tell our tales,  
Embellished more and more as memory fails.  
We who remain can pay no greater honour,  
Than to lift a glass in joyful memory  
of past friends, adventures and camaraderie."  
(Edited from a tribute by Martin Shubik RCNVR)*

## UNTD 70th ANNIVERSARY GATHERING IN VICTORIA June 2013

Our West Coast UNTDs in association with NOAVI and NAC, are planning another great program as follows:

Thursday, June 6, 2013 - a Day sail possibly Coastal Patrol Vessels; Weepers in the Esquimalt Wardroom; Buffet Dinner in the Wardroom afterwards (hosted by UNTD with NAC as guests) – entertainment Peter Chipman et al.

Friday, June 7, 2013 - Participate with NAC in Conference at Laurel Point Inn being organized by Dr. Jim Boutilier, ex UNTD and Advisor to the Admiral and NATO on far eastern military and political affairs. Topic: Asia Pacific: It's Impact on Canada and the RCN. NAC President's Reception at Laurel Point Inn afterwards with dinner to be arranged.

Saturday, June 8, 2013 - NAC President's Dinner at the Laurel Point Inn (likely a formal Dine the Wives format).

Sunday, June 9 2013 - Church Parade and Up Spirits with NAC.

There will also be an opportunity to participate in an Alaskan Cruise with NAC attendees, immediately following the conference. Keep an eye on [www.untd.org](http://www.untd.org) for updates and registration forms.

**The UNTD Association of  
Canada publishes this Newsletter  
twice a year.**

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