

Gordon Laco joined the RCN as a Direct Entry Officer at 50 years of age and served as HMCS YORK's Public Affairs Officer 2006 till 2012. Subsequent to that he was Field Producer of the RCN's Film and Broadcast Unit with a roving commission till 2016..

Prior to joining the RCN Gordon was Captain of HMS BEE, the Government of Ontario's historic reproduction schooner gunboat sailing under a Royal Warrant to use the prefix HMS. During 1997-2002, HMS BEE and her consort HMS TECUMSETH were the only operational vessels in the world not formally commissioned into the Royal Navy permitted to carry that honourable prefix. Gordon is currently working with Discovery Harbour, home of the schooners, overseeing their comprehensive refit.

In Gordon's civilian life he has been a yacht and ship outfitter for fifty years, owning his own importing business serving museum ships and working sailing vessels with rigging and programme consulting. He has served as Technical Advisor and Historical Consultant to over 60 film and television productions, including Master and Commander and more recently Greyhound.

Gordon sat on the Board of Directors of Tall Ships America for ten years, and currently sits on the Board of Directors of Tall Ships Canada, specializing in issues involving operational best practices, seamanship and manning standards. These organizations are the professional bodies for operators of sailing ships. He was co-founder of Atlantic Challenge Canada, a youth-oriented seamanship programme delivered in 38' sailing and pulling gigs, and was Executive Director of Toronto Brigantine Inc, operators of the square-rigged sail training ships STV PATHFINDER and TS PLAYFAIR.

Gordon is a frequent public speaker on issues involving maritime history and seamanship.

[www.gordonlaco.com](http://www.gordonlaco.com)