

[View this in your browser.](#)



Volume 4, Number 3

August 2023

A periodic publication of the UNTD Association of Canada designed to provide news and short stories in a lighthearted fashion. Back issues can be found on the web site here: [Gunroom Shots](#)

In this Issue

- NRAC Commissioning
 - Conference Postscript
 - Tidbits
 - Tiller Talk
 - Count Yourself In
 - Do You Hear There!
-
-



Naval Reserve Association of Canada Commissioning

From the Bridge:

Graham W.S. Scott, President of the Naval Reserve Association of Canada

There was a “happening” in Victoria on May 12, 2023! Together, we officially, happily, and enthusiastically launched the Naval Reserve Association of Canada.



It is now the challenge for the [new Board of Directors](#) to get the ship properly fitted out and crewed, complete effective workups and proceed with its mission. Through the creation of this new national association, the UNTDA is adapting its organization, resources and culture to the contemporary naval reserve to include active and retired reservists at all rank levels.

The AGM was one of several highlights of the conference, and this issue of Gunroom Shots is sprinkled with participants' impressions. Everything you ever wanted to know, including a number of great photographs, can be found on our [website gallery](#). By the way, keep sending in those pics to help complete our historical inventory of the Conference celebrations!

The conference was so well run by Roger Elmes (STA 60) and his team of Paul de Champlain (TEC 70), Michael Clark (DIS 61), Dave Craig (DIS 74), David Winkler (DIS 62), and Russ Cape (CHI 62), that it generated a healthy financial surplus. Subsequently, in recognition of the great work of the sailors and air force members who showed us around their ships and facilities, NRAC donations have or will be made to HMCS Malahat, Venture Gunroom and to 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron:



Shown above in the hangar at Pat Bay, Paul de Champlain presents a NRAC cheque to Sergeant Dan Doucet, Mess President(left), with Captain Cody Hansen, tour guide for the visit. On this same day, Captain Cody was promoted Major.

Attendees at the conference will have varied memories, but who will be able to forget the conference ending on such a high note as the mess dinner – 165 diners on 6 legs, 30 dignitaries at the head table, inspiring address by Commodore Marta Mulkins (DON 88) and the highly entertaining banter between VPs Daniel Haché (DON 78) and Nancy Olmstead (DIS 78).

Our challenge now is to re-charge our batteries and engage members from the expanding membership pool in order to mount the next broad-based national conference. In the meantime, I encourage the organizers of local or regional gatherings in support of or in connections with Naval Reserve Divisions to connect with new and existing members. And don't forget to post those photos of NRD centennial celebrations to our [website gallery](#).

As we move forward together, caps off to all of you who are continuing to work so hard to make our new Association a welcoming and appealing home for all those interested in Naval Reserve matters.

-- **Graham**

Victoria Conference Postscript

"It was an honour to be associated with the organization of this conference and to share the experience of being among so many qualified naval reservists including several female officers who broke glass "deckheads" at many levels during their career. This event would not have happened without the tireless work of the LOC who planned it by numerous Zoom meetings through the depth of the pandemic and executed the plan with precision and enthusiasm: Michael Clark (DIS 61), Dave Craig (DIS 74), Paul de Champlain (TEC 70), David Winkler (DIS 62) and Russ Cape (CHI 62) who stepped in to organize that wonderful Mess Dinner. None of this would have been possible without the larger team that built the foundations of the UNTD Association, created those wonderful nominal lists reaching well beyond the UNTD years, ran many events in the past and kept the camaraderie alive with local, regional and national activities. We all stand on the shoulders of those who led before us. I look forward to the first of many NRAC/ARNC events."

- **Roger Elmes**

"The recommissioning of the UNTDA as the NRAC at the AGM was a giant step in the ongoing commitment to provide a venue for all past current and future Naval Reservists of all ranks to stay connected. Great to reacquaint with friends from the past. Some we just carried on as if we had just parted yesterday. Outstanding results from well organized and executed events."

- **Ray Zuliani**

"The Conference was a wonderful opportunity to become more up to date on the professionalism of today's Navy in Canada. I really enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm brought to our gathering by the attendance of post UNTDs - the women and men of ROUTH, NROC and successor groups.

- **Greg McKenzie**

"In response to a question from a UNTDA member about the liberalization of personal grooming a CPO with a long slicked back Pompadour which made him look like a 1950s matinee idol stated, 'Everybody decided to grow their hair because they could. I have an appointment this afternoon to get a haircut because it (his Pompadour) is driving me nuts.' "

- **John Dalzell**

"I enjoyed so many of the events but was particularly enamoured with the partners' visit to Ross Bay Historic Cemetery. Since I am interested in historical matters and in my ninth decade, I thought this event would be more interesting and useful than updating my knowledge of ship firefighting and damage control. And so it proved to be.

Ross Bay, and hence the cemetery, was named after Isabella Mainville Ross, an indigenous person, who was the first woman to be a registered landowner in British Columbia and owned the remote slope overlooking the bay. She was the widow of Charles Ross, a chief trader of the Hudson Bay Company who oversaw the building of Fort Victoria in 1843. The City of Victoria purchased the land for use as a cemetery in 1872. Several prominent people are buried in the cemetery, including Sir James Douglas, the first governor of British Columbia; Emily Carr, the artist; and Billy Barker, the main responsible for the Cariboo Gold rush. It is a fine example of a Victorian cemetery, and I strongly recommend a visit."

- George Bain

"I have finally reached an age at which I am not embarrassed to admit I do not know the difference between a snorkel and a re-breather and therefore was able to approach the tours of HMCS Winnipeg, the Fleet Diving Unit, the Firefighting School and the Helicopter squadron with a completely open (if empty) mind. One of the highlights of this great conference was the enthusiasm of our well-prepared guides, the articulate explanations and descriptions of their work, exemplifying the professionalism in today's navy."

- Ross Connell

"It was great to be back in Victoria; the place where I got all my training as a Naval Warfare and Diving Officer. I also got re-acquainted with old friends and made new ones."

- Daniel Haché

"It was a Centennial Celebration to remember! A well-planned interesting program for all. A time to realize the huge contribution of UNTDs and the Naval Reserve to our country. We renewed friendships and shared many laughs. BZ to all those who organized this huge success!"

- Laraine Orthlieb

The **ROUTP 73** cohort attending the centennial conference met at the Union Club to share a few ditts.

Back row: Bill Susak (Griffon); David Collins (Cataraqui)

Front row: Mike Ervin (Brunswicker); Ted Iwanowski (Chippewa); Dick Fadden (Donnacona)



TIDBITS

Thanks to Jim Beatty (York UNTD '57) who squirrelled away some coffee mugs from the 2018 UNTDA reunion and sold them off at the Toronto NRAC Weepers on May 25 at P.J. O'Brien's pub. The cash has been deposited in the NRAC bank account and may perhaps wind up seeding a scholarship fund for indigent Logistics types.

Ron Thompson (Unicorn NROC '76) was at the lunch and provided a card promoting his upcoming book:

The Wind From All Directions



Coming in 2024 – a nautical adventure, a diplomatic drama, a swashbuckler, a mystery, a romance, a tragedy. An historical novel set in the Pacific northwest:

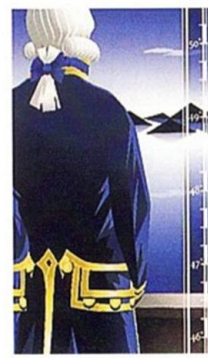
The Wind From All Directions

Find updates and read more at:

ronaldthompson.wordpress.com
facebook.com/RonThompsonAuthorPage1
Twitter: @thompson

DOUBLE DAGGER

Canada's only conflict and military-focused publisher



Nootka Sound, 1792. British naval lieutenant George Vancouver and Spanish commodore Juan Francisco Quadra meet to negotiate possession of the Pacific northwest. Their crews fraternize and a man is killed. The seamen blame the natives and demand revenge. Tensions rise between European and Indigenous, between Spaniard and Briton. Quadra and Vancouver are all that stand between peace and bloody conflict.

The Wind From All Directions
by Ron Thompson

Contact him at Ronald.Thompson@bell.net

Based on actual events. Exhaustively researched. Grounded in history.

DOUBLE DAGGER

Canada's only conflict and military focused publisher

Air Canada free baggage allowance increased to 3 full-sized bags for holders of the CF One card. Check out the [Benefits](#) page on the NRAC website.

UNTDA 2023 – RNSA Mess Dinner – CMDRE Pat Montgomery

To celebrate the Centennial of Canada's Naval Reserve, the RNSA BC Squadron will welcome Commodore Pat Montgomery, Commander of Canada's Naval Reserve (COMNAVRES) as guest of honour and speaker at its annual Mess Dinner on Friday 6 October at the beautiful Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The BC Squadron has run single-handed races from Vancouver to Nanaimo and return for many decades and a number of naval reservists have participated in it. The BC Squadron's Captain and Mess President is a [well-known marine artist](#) whose work ranges from the explorations of Captains Cooke and Vancouver to the 2002 documenting of the RCN in fighting terrorism in the Arabian Gulf to current naval and civilian ships and vessels. For more information on the Mess Dinner contact touws@telus.net or john@johnhorton.ca

Tiller Talk

Editor: We like to think that Gunroom Shots can be a catalyst for some good banter amongst our members. Our last issue provoked

this insightful exchange between John Graham and Bill Clearihue re UNTD attendance at Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953. With indulgence from John and Bill, we'll let you eavesdrop:

Bill Clearihue

BZ on the latest Gunroom Shots and to Phil Anido for reporting on Glenn's revival of the BYTOWN "Nooners", many of those there from the original "Nooners", albeit in a different venue. Good to see Peter Milsom there as he was one of the original Old Oars going back to 2005 which morphed into the Nooners. John Graham and David Lee look great and they will be two of the very few still around who actually attended the last Coronation. We had no less than 80 UNTDs there, along with an aircraft carrier, 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer, 2 frigates and a co-founder of Tim Hortons. John was a UNTD and David was then a Sea Cadet from VICTORY in Montreal.

John Graham

Good grief, Bill– what a memory! I am alarmed to think what else you remember. I am proposing to write a short piece about the coronation cruise and about how HMCS La Hullose, stuffed to the gunwales with cadets in hammocks, staggered across a stormy Atlantic despite broken condensers and no fresh water for hygienic purposes. At Spithead, where the Queen passed us in her yacht (HMS Redpole –converted for the purpose) I suspect that, in returning our salute, she held her nose. We were a very stinky ship's company. And following a liquid pre-review bash the previous night in the gunroom of the Maggie, one of our number, Tony ?, fell off the carrier. He was fished out. Note the size of the fleet we were able to send to Spithead and still leave ships at home.

Bill Clearihue

John, you give me way too much credit, memory-wise. If I relied on that I'd have been "screwed, blued and tattooed" a long time ago. When you were doing the "Havana" book back in 2015, you mentioned that the editors didn't want you to include any of the Navy hijinks, but at that time you had sent me some or all of that latter material. It was around that same time frame, that I received from Carl Zanon, a wealth of material on his experiences at the Coronation. Like David Lee, Carl was there as a Sea Cadet and like David, also joined the UNTD later. Of the 12 Sea Cadets, 4 ultimately became UNTDs. Mention of this was made in the Dec 2016 UNTDA Newsletter. From that time on I've been accumulating "Coronation" info, on the UNTDs present for sure, but others closely associated who were also there.

One of the UNTDs present for instance, later became our High Commissioner to the UK, where he no doubt had a much closer look at QEII than he did while manning the rails of a frigate.

Bruce Oland was there in Maggie as a LT(N), and while there, boarded the USSR Cruiser at anchor at Spithead. He was later a CMDRE and the father of Richard, a post-Unification NavRes Cadet and CO of both GOOSE BAY and SCOTIAN.

Jackie Bouvier was there, as a photog-reporter for a Washington paper. 3 months later she married JFK and 2 years after that, JFK entertained a group of UNTDs at a family resort north of Boston, one of those

UNTDs was Oscar Wells, a CATARAQUI division-mate of John Graham's. It goes on with other mentions, a very robust story but not quite ready for prime time.

John Graham's naval bona fides precede his UNTD time; his father was an INSTR LCDR at Royal Roads during the WWII years.

John Graham

Incidentally, the chap who fell off the Maggie was Tony Hendrie (York). In fact, he was nearing the end of the ladder that ran down the side of the ship when , at gathering speed, his feet began to skim the steps. I followed – although almost as zonked, I managed to keep my feet on the steps and helped the two sailors waiting for us in the bum boat to pull Hendrie out of the water and aboard.

Re my dad – he also served in two convoys and wrote up the experience. Scary stuff.

Editor: We understand that John Graham hopes to assemble a piece on the Spithead Review and the Coronation cruise. Stay tuned...

And we received this recollection of the Queen's Coronation from John Richard...

John Richard

UNTD cadets drawn from all regions of Canada served on board the Frigates La Hullose and Swansea at the Coronation Review of the Fleet by Her Majesty at Spithead on Monday June 15,1953.The Canadian contingent included the aircraft carrier HMCS Magnificent,the cruisers HMCS Quebec and HMCS Ontario as well as the Destroyer HMCS Sioux.Including warships from the United kingdom and from other countries there were over one hundred warships participating in the review.

Her Majesty reviewed the Fleet in the afternoon followed by the illumination of the Fleet and a fireworks display in the evening.I was one of the cadets selected to participate and served on board HMCS La Hullose.

Editor: Now to be a little more contemporary, our readers would appreciate hearing from any of you who were involved with the recent Coronation of King Charles III.

Count Yourself In!

All former and current Naval Reservists are welcome to join as members of the newly commissioned **Naval Reserve Association of Canada**.

During this transition and recommissioning from the UNTDA to a national naval reserve association we want to add to our contacts lists in order to keep everyone informed of the membership expansion, planned events, opportunities to become a Board member and ways to stay connected with shipmates!

Please share this info and encourage others to go to the home page at NavalReserveAssociationofCanada.ca and give us their preferred email and current city. Another way is to email their coordinates to Membership@NavalReserveAssociationofCanada.ca.

Vous Compter!

Tous les anciens et actuels réservistes de la Marine sont invités à devenir membres de la nouvelle **Association de la Réserve navale du Canada**.

Au cours de cette transition et de la remise en service de l'UNTDA vers une association nationale de la Réserve navale, nous souhaitons ajouter à nos listes de contacts afin de tenir tout le monde informé de l'expansion des membres, des événements prévus, des opportunités de devenir membres du conseil d'administration et des moyens de rester en contact avec les compagnons de navire!

Veillez partager cette information et encourager les autres à se rendre sur la page d'accueil sur NavalReserveAssociationofCanada.ca et à nous donner leur adresse e-mail préférée et leur ville actuelle. Une autre façon est d'envoyer leurs coordonnées par courriel à Membership@NavalReserveAssociationofCanada.ca.

"Do you hear there!"

-Gunroom Shots in Transition-

We have had a good run in Gunroom Shots since our inaugural issue four years ago. Now we want to alert you to our eventual transition to a new name and look which will appeal to the broader membership of the newly commissioned Naval Reserve Association of Canada.

The NRAC transition team is working on a new badge and brand for the Association and this publication will come under that umbrella. Expect changes later this year.

We are pleased to run your stories and anecdotes as a reminder that the Naval Reserve legacy continues to live on through you. Waiting to hear from you.....



Naval Reserve Association of Canada/Association de la Réserve navale du Canada

Send your letters, anecdotes or suggestions to Barry Frewer, Editor at:
Gunroom.Shots@NavalReserveAssociationofCanada.ca

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)

MailPoet