

## UNTDA 2023 Committee – Report to Board for 8 December 2020

1. The 2023 Centennial of the Naval Reserves is expected to be launched in November 2022, less than 2 years from now. Given current reporting by Canada’s public health officers, that is about 1 year after Covid 19 will have been addressed by vaccines across Canada.
2. The UNTDA Board has been discussing the potential participation and contributions of the UNTDA in the Naval Reserve Centennial since late 2018. By the spring of 2020, seven iterations of a discussion paper were presented and discussed and a committee was then formed.
3. The UNTDA 2023 Committee on the Naval Reserve Centennial has been meeting monthly since August 2020. Members:
  - Dave Craig – *DISCOVERY* 74
  - Roger Elmes – *STAR* 60 – Past President UNTDA
  - Stephen Rybak - *TECUMSEH* (Edm) 64
  - Bill Thomas – *PREVOST* 59 – Past President UNTDA
4. This report contains 5 appendices, some of which have been discussed at previous meetings but are included for easy reference and for the benefit of new Board members. Background papers are available for each Executive Summary from the committee chair at [mcroger@shaw.ca](mailto:mcroger@shaw.ca)
5. Contact has been made with COMNAVRES, Deputy COMNAVRES, and CDR Beth Vallis who has been appointed as the lead on the 2023 Centennial. We received a preliminary outline of their thinking and presented our ideas on ways in which the UNTDA might contribute. (Appendix 1: *UNTDA and the 2023 Naval Reserve Centennial: Executive Summary*). We await more detailed responses and updates.
6. The Committee subsequently considered the concept of an Oral History project involving the NRDs (Appendix 2: *UNTDA COMNAVRES NRD Oral History Project - A Proposal for the 2023 Centenary: Executive Summary*).
7. The Committee has made substantial progress on its goal of establishing local liaison persons with each NRD. All have strong connections with their local NRD and many are former CO’s. (Appendix 3: *UNTDA 2023 – Local Liaison to NRDs*)
8. Mementos of the Centennial have been considered and two are recommended. (Appendix 4: *UNTDA 2023 – Lapel Pins and Challenge Coins*) Specific ACTION is proposed.
9. Preliminary planning has begun for a national UNTDA event in Victoria in September 2020. (Appendix 5: *UNTDA 2023 – Rough 4th Draft Programme of National Event – Victoria*) Specific ACTION is proposed.

On behalf of the UNTDA 2023 Committee

Roger Elmes, UNTDA Past-President  
Chair, 2023 Committee on the UNTDA and Centenary of the Naval Reserves  
[UNTDA of Canada](#)  
[We welcome all former Naval Reserve Officer Cadets](#)  
[mcroger@shaw.ca](mailto:mcroger@shaw.ca)  
778-294-0211 (Home)  
604-880-5873 (Cell or Text)

## UNTDA and the 2023 Naval Reserve Centennial: Executive Summary

### Objectives

1. Make a meaningful contribution to the Centennial.
2. Engage current UNTDA Members, both [Active and Passive](#), in the Centennial.
3. Increase the number of both Active and Passive UNTDA members.

### Potential Activities

**Proposed projects involving COMNAVRES or Chief of Reserves and Cadets are in bold red.**

#### A. Legacy of the UNTD and ROUTH+

- Continue, and publicize, the free access to the e-version of *UNTiDy Tales* on website
- **Make *UNTiDy Tales* e-version available to Sea Cadets through the Navy League**
- Create a NR Centennial page on website outlining the legacy of UNTD and ROUTH+ to Canada and the Navy; list events and activities
- **Distribute print copies of *UNTiDy Tales* to NRDs** and naval museums
- Work towards an e-version ROUTH+ Tales
- Create plan to sustain the website until 2050

#### B. Local and National Naval Legacy

- **Award the [UNTD Trophy](#) annually to an NRD with the best collective training outcomes for officer cadets**
- **Create annual prizes for best and runner up officer cadets**
  - **Officer's Sword**
  - **Telescope**
  - **A major book prize**
- Help initiate a Naval Reserves Division Oral History Project
- Donate to, or organize fundraising events locally or nationally to assist
  - Local naval museums not supported or inadequately supported by DND funds
- National legacy projects could include:
  - The Shipbuilder's Monument (\$3000 already donated by the UNTDA)

- SACKVILLE Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (\$3000 already donated by the UNTDA)
- The Crow's Nest in St. John's
- [HMCS Kings](#) which graduated 4,000 officers during WW2
- National Naval Museums on each coast
- 

**C. UNTDA Event(s)**

National Event in 2023 to celebrate the Naval Reserve Centennial; the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNTD and the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the ROUPT, **possibly, in conjunction with, or in coordination (timing) with COMNAVRES.**

**D. UNTDA Participation in Events Planned by local Naval Reserve Divisions (NRD)**

- Identify UNTD and ROUPT+ members who would like to be involved as a liaison to, or member of the LOC of particular NRDs
- Publicize local NRD events to our Active and Passive Members

**E. UNTDA Participation in COMNAVRES Planned Events**

- **Continue and enhance our liaison with COMNAVRES**
- **Propose that COMNAVRES mount a project to create presentation photographs, colour photos of ships' badges, and brief ship's histories for formal presentation to mayors and councils of selected towns and cities.**
- **Publicize COMNAVRES led events to our Active and Passive Members**

**F. UNTDA Encouragement of Participation by Individual UNTD and ROUPT+**

**G. Other Suggestions - that might fit in any of the above categories.**

## APPENDIX 2

### UNTD COMNAVRES NRD Oral History Project - A Proposal for the 2023 Centenary

#### Executive Summary

##### A. Concept

1. Universities, since the 1960s, have increasingly embraced oral history as a means of gaining insight into the experiences of individuals and groups.
2. Oral history is in widespread use at universities across Canada; it forms part of research methods and often course work at universities in virtually every city which houses an NRD.
3. This provides a useful source of trained researchers whose talents could be leveraged to create or broaden the oral history records of all ranks in each NRD.
4. Historically the bulk of oral history interviews have been conducted face-to-face followed by an often-lengthy time to produce transcriptions. New technology and the Covid 19 pandemic have created new methods of online interviewing which can meet all the ethical requirements of the more traditional face-to-face methods. Moreover, programs like Zoom allow simultaneous video and audio recording as well as the simultaneous production of a transcript while Microsoft Teams allows video and audio recording which can then be processed through another programme to produce a transcript.

##### B. Process

5. COMNAVRES could instruct each NRD CO to participate in the oral history project
6. COMNAVRES would contact the relevant person(s) in the local university to request their assistance in creating and housing the local NRD Oral History Project.
7. Each NRD would provide a list of up to 50 all ranks retired individuals who have agreed to take part in a one-hour interview about their naval reserve experience. Generic topics to cover would include:
  - a. Recruitment
  - b. Training
  - c. Postings
  - d. Positions in the NRD(s)
  - e. Promotion
  - f. Retirement
  - g. Post-retirement naval participation

##### C. Outcomes

8. The principal outcome would be up to 1200 transcripts and recordings of all ranks' interviews with a likely concentration from 1970-2010.
9. These would be lodged in local universities across Canada and possibly also in the national Directorate of History and Heritage.

##### D. Timelines

10. A local NRD oral history project involving up to 50 interviewees can easily occupy 100 weeks of calendar time.

11. While there will be overlap it is useful to think of a two-year time frame to complete a local project.

**E. Conclusion**

12. This is a viable project that could be undertaken by COMNAVRES at minimal cost, with guidance and advice from the UNTDA.

### APPENDIX 3

#### UNTDA 2023 – Local Liaison to NRDs

<i>Malahat</i>	Dave Craig (DY 74)	
<i>Discovery</i>	King Wan (DY 72)	
<i>Tecumseh</i>	Greg McKenzie (TH) 67	
<i>Nonsuch</i>		
<i>Unicorn</i>	John Dalzell (UN 62)	
<i>Queen</i>	Ken McCaw (UN 70)	
<i>Chippawa</i>		
<i>Griffon</i>	Ray Zuliani (GN 70)	
<i>Hunter</i>	Walt Pastorius (HR 63)	
<i>Prevost</i>	Wynn Downing (PT 61)	
<i>Star</i>	Neil Bell (SR 69)	
<i>York</i>	John Anderson (YK CFR 75)	
<i>Carleton</i>	George Ingraham	
<i>Cataraqui</i>	Ron Raquin (CA 60)	
<i>Donnacona</i>		
<i>Champlain</i>		Chicoutimi
<i>d'Iberville</i>		Rimouski
<i>Radisson</i>		Trois-Rivières
<i>Jolliet</i>		Sept-Îles
<i>Montcalm</i>		
<i>Brunswick</i>		
<i>Scotian</i>		
<i>Queen Charlotte</i>	Don Patton (BR 60)	
<i>Cabot</i>	Ed Williams (CT 60)	

## APPENDIX 4

### UNTDA 2023 – Lapel Pins and Challenge Coins

The UNTDA 2023 Committee proposes that we purchase 200 RCNVR Lapel Pins and 200 Naval Reserves Challenge Coins at a total cost of approximately \$2000.

#### Challenge Coins



This design on the Obverse in centre with outside ring including “1923-2023” on top and “Years 100 Ans” on bottom, and listing of various versions of Canadian Navy/Reserve on Reverse (with dates?)

200 at \$5.9957 = \$1199.14 + tax & shipping

#### Lapel Pins



This design with crest in centre with outside ring including “1923-2023” on top and “Years 100 Ans” on bottom.

200 at \$2.8943@ = \$578.86 +tax and shipping.

#### Why the RCNVR Pin as One Memento for the Centenary

“Ottawa caught up with the volunteer movement as the threat of a major war in Europe loomed, and officially established the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve [RNCVR] in 1914.” *Citizen Sailors*

Chapter 1

The RCNVR pin captures, better than any other symbol, our historical beginnings. While the RNCVR can be traced back to the Great War, the 1923 authorization of a peacetime RCNVR created the Citizen Sailor concept taking the Navy to communities far from the sea - what the Naval Reserve is still about today.

In the 1920s officialdom increasingly realized that to create an effective naval force within the navy's inter-war budget it would be necessary to ensure an ongoing reserve force while recognizing that "in Canada a large majority of the people live far from the sea and do not visualize the necessity for safe sea communications" ... and the most effective method to do so was to bring the Navy to their doors, into the lives of families and friends" *Citizen Sailors* Chapter 1 The outcome was the creation of the two component naval reserves in 1923 – the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR) with 70 officers and 430 men (only in Charlottetown, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, and Vancouver); and the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) with 70 officers and 930 men (Halifax, Charlottetown, **St. John**, Quebec, Montreal, **Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton**, and Vancouver.) The genius of Walter Hose and others had been realized with the creation of a widely distributed RCNVR which would bring the "necessity for safe sea communications" to the "large majority of people [living] far from the sea." (Ibid)

This brings us to WW2 which would see the largest and most important iteration of the Canadian Navy in terms of numbers of personnel and ships. "At the peak of World War 2, nearly 96,000 Officers, WRCNS and Men wore Navy Blue and of those, more than 77,000 were proud members of the Wavy Navy and another 5,300 belonged to the RCNR." Rybak, Stephen (2011) *The Canadian Naval Reserve From War to War* [http://nauticapedia.ca/Articles/Rybak3 From War to War.php](http://nauticapedia.ca/Articles/Rybak3%20From%20War%20to%20War.php)

The Citizen Sailors "in only for the duration, who made up 90% of the navy of the Second World War, went back to their homes as eagerly as they had come to sea." (*The Far Distant Ships* 431)

### **Sales and Proceeds**

Each item will be sold at approximately 2 times cost (+ shipping where applicable). The lapel pin would sell for about \$10; the Challenge Coins would sell for the same price that Canex charges for its coins - about \$15. All proceeds would go to a fund to support the sword/telescope/book awards for the best naval reserve Officer Cadet as previously discussed. This information on proceeds would be included in all marketing.



## APPENDIX 5

### UNTDA 2023 – Rough 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Programme of National Event - Victoria

No interest has been expressed from other parts of Canada to plan and host a national event likely in early September 2023 (4 to 5 days sometime between 6 and 15 Sept) focused on the UNTD and ROUPT+ as part of the Centenary of the Naval Reserves. These **preliminary** thoughts are offered as an outline of what **might** be possible on the west coast.

Initially a two-city programme was considered. On sober second thought it was decided that given the age of participants, a programme should be limited to either Vancouver or Victoria – one hotel for the duration. Feedback was decidedly in favour of Victoria over Vancouver primarily because Victoria/Esquimalt has the Navy connections, ships and related facilities.

It may be possible to fit this event within a larger, broader event involving media, Admiral – celebration for all naval reservists. But the key is to have an event which can stand alone if necessary or fit within a larger nexus.

#### Victoria-Centered Programme

At this point, given the stated preference for that city, our inquiries and planning have focused on Victoria.

**Day 1** Registration at host hotel - [Inn at Laurel Point](#) (Rates TBD) or [Hotel Grand Pacific](#) (Quoted rates ranging between \$249.00-\$269.00 plus taxes) – both are located on Victoria’s picturesque “Inner Harbour” near the BC Legislative Buildings and downtown. It is a 5 minute walk to either the historic [Empress Hotel](#) or the [Royal BC Museum](#) with a replica of Captain George Vancouver’s H.M.S. *Discovery*. A specific hotel will be designated later. It is a reasonably short walk to [Beacon Hill Park](#) on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Some of you might have used the very prominent Beacon Hill flag pole for your abeam bearing for fixes when steaming up Juan de Fuca Strait.

Meet and Greet at HMCS *Malahat* or at the host hotel.

**Day 2** Buses to Dockyard for Ship day – Orcas/Frigates/MCDVs/ new Joint Support Ship

Weepers and light supper at CFB Esquimalt Wardroom.

Buses return to hotel

**Day 3** Victoria area bus tours – maybe lunch at former HMCS *Royal Roads*, now [Royal Roads University](#) – the link shows a wedding but the former Wardroom and grounds of Hatley Castle are used for many types of events.

Buses return to hotel by 1600

Buses to Reception by the Lt. Gov. of BC at [Government House](#) . Currently under renovation this magnificent castle will reopen in later 2021. Check the photo gallery to see large reception rooms.

**Day 4** Southern Gulf Islands Tour by boat or Saltspring Island by Charter Bus(es)

**Day 5** Buses to Dockyard and CFB Esquimalt Tour - incorporate a display by [CFB Esquimalt Museum](#) with focus on UNTD/ROUTP

Catered Mess Dinner at HMCS *Malahat* – preliminary arrangements underway

**Note 1** The order of the days and events might vary depending on availability.

**Note 2** Individual Program Years are welcome to organize a year or years-specific event before or after the National Event. Alternately individual years could make arrangements to travel on the same charter bus for at least one day of the National Event.

**ACTION: To ensure that we are on the right track with our planning all UNTDA Board Members are asked to indicate by 15 December 2020 whether it is their intent, the pandemic being over and other factors being favourable, to attend this National Event in 2023.**