

UNTDA 2023 Committee – Report to Board for 8 June 2021

Background

1. The 2023 Centennial of the Naval Reserves is expected to be launched in November 2022, less than 1½ 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.

Indeed, in less than two years our major national UNTDA event in Victoria will have concluded.

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. In the summer of 2020 contact was made with COMNAVRES, Deputy COMNAVRES, and CDR Beth Vallis who was 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- Updated to 21 May 2021*). Subsequently, Stephen Rybak, a committee member, shared a copy of the report on the 50th anniversary of the RCNR on which he worked.
4. LCdr Dave Arsenault was recently assigned as the Project Manager for the Naval Reserve Centennial 2023 project, working for Cdr Vallis who remains as the Project Director. I consulted with UNTDA 2nd VP Daniel Haché before contacting Dave Arsenault to ensure congruity. I had a ½ hour Zoom meeting with Dave on 14 May 2021 (Appendix 2: *UNTDA 2023 - National Planning and UNTDA Liaison with NAVRES – 21 May 2021*)
5. Glenn Davidson has made contact with the President of the University of King’s College, the WW2 location of [HMCS King’s](#). The President expressed support for the possibility of placing a formal plaque prominently in the university and Glenn continues to explore costing and location. (Appendix 3: *UNTDA 2023 - HMCS King’s Commemorative Project – Update for 8 June 2021*) Thanks to Glenn for his leadership on this potential project.
6. The UNTDA 2023 Committee on the Naval Reserve Centennial has held 10 monthly meetings 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 UNTDAIts Mandate was previously approved by the Board.
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. A report (Appendix 4: *UNTDA 2023 – NRD Liaison – Preliminary Planning*) detailing local planning

across Canada will be circulated separately prior to 8 June. **Hugues Létourneau and Daniel Haché are identifying Liaison Persons for Québec NRDs.** Thanks to Bill Thomas for his leadership on this initiative.

8. The UNTDA 2023 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for a national event in Victoria BC 8 -12 May 2023 has met 5 times in 2021. Members
 - Michael Clark *DISCOVERY* 61 (Saltspring Island)
 - Dave Craig *DISCOVERY* 74 (Victoria)
 - Jean **Paul** de Champlain – *TECUMSEH* 70 (Victoria)
 - Roger Elmes – *STAR* 60 – Past President UNTDA (Greater Vancouver)
 - David Winkler - *DISCOVERY* 62 (Victoria)We continue to seek about 8 additional members.
9. The 2023 Committee and the LOC have made substantial progress on a draft programme of 4 days. (Appendix 5: *UNTDA 2023 – Rough 10th Draft Programme of National Event – Victoria*). Provision is made for programs and years to organize separate events.
10. The 2023 Committee and the LOC previously recommended and the Board approved on 9 March 2021 the signing of a contract with the Hotel Grand Pacific for 112 rooms from 9-12 May 2023; and for 50 rooms on 8 May 2023 to accommodate attendees at the separate events for programs and years.. There are potential penalties for outright Cancellation and for certain reductions of the rooms. The contract has now been signed.
11. **Bill Thomas will report separately on memorabilia. At present we await approval of NAVRES to use the NAVRES badge as previously circulated to the Board.**
12. This report contains 5 appendices. Background papers are available for any Executive Summary from the committee chair at mcroger@shaw.ca

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
778-294-0211 (Home)
604-880-5873 (Cell or Text)

UNTDA and the 2023 Naval Reserve Centennial: Executive Summary UPDATES to 21 May 2021 in Bold Blue

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 the [UNTDA website](#)
- **Make *UNTiDy Tales* e-version available to Sea Cadets through the Navy League** [We have not had any response from NAVRES and should now move this to the Chief of Reserves and Cadets.](#)
- 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 [NAVRES doesn't see any problems with this](#)
- 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.** [NAVRES remains interested in this but it will need to go forward to the NAVRES Honours and Recognition Committee for discussion sometime in June however the upcoming Change of Command within NAVRES may affect this date somewhat](#)
- **Create annual prizes for best and runner up officer cadets** [INAVRES remains interested in these but it will need to go forward to the NAVRES Honours and Recognition Committee for discussion sometime in June however the](#)

upcoming Change of Command within NAVRES may affect this date somewhat

- **Officer's Sword**
- **Telescope**
- **A major book prize**
- Help initiate a Naval Reserves Division Oral History Project **NAVRES has expressed some interest**
- 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 3,000 **officers Exploratory talks continue with the university**
 - National Naval Museums on each coast
 - Virtual Cenotaph for RCNVR and RCNR **This project is being planned and led by Kim Kubeck (DA 88)**

C. UNTDA Event(s)

National Event in 2023 to celebrate the Naval Reserve Centennial; the 80th Anniversary of the UNTD and the 55th Anniversary of the creation of the ROUPT, **possibly, in conjunction with, or in coordination (timing) with COMNAVRES. NAVRES has wished us well and the incoming COMNAVRES has tentatively indicated informally that he would be interested in attending if timing works. A four day event is being planned for Victoria 9-12 May 2023.**

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 **Liaison Persons have been identified and volunteered for all NRDs except those in Quebec, NB and NS**
- Publicize local NRD events to our Active and Passive Members **When they are promulgated or known we can do this.**

E. UNTDA Participation in COMNAVRES Planned Events

- **Continue and enhance our liaison with COMNAVRES Ongoing – led by Daniel Haché**
- **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. NAVRES noted that this was done for RCN 100th. It should likely be dropped.**
- **Publicize COMNAVRES led events to our Active and Passive Members When they are promulgated or known we can do this.**

F. UNTDA Encouragement of Participation by Individual UNTD and ROUTH+

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

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Appendix 2

UNTDA 2023 - National Planning and UNTDA Liaison with NAVRES – 21 May 2021

The RCN is part of the larger society and does not exist in isolation. Not surprisingly, over the last 15 months, attention has been focused on the pandemic and its impact on the RCN including the Naval Reserves. In addition, as you will all be aware there have been recent impactful changes in senior leadership of the CAF.

This has all naturally had an impact on planning for the 2023 Centennial of the Naval Reserves. Recently LCdr Dave Arsenault was assigned as the Project Manager for the Naval Reserve Centennial 2023 project, working for Cdr Vallis who remains as the Project Director.

Moving forward our “working level” discussions will take place with the NAVRES project team led by Dave. In his civilian life he is a project manager and in his naval life he is a former CPO1 and Chief of Formation for the Naval Reserves. He thus brings to the table extensive experience in Canada’s Naval Reserves.

At present the NAVRES team are focused on getting the Commander of the RCN to review and approve the overall project management structure and a bare-bones plan for the celebration of the Centennial. Initially this was anticipated some time ago. Once that initial approval and guidance is in place they will continue with more detailed planning. At present they are, therefore, unable to share much outside the RCN. But they are fully aware of the UNTDA’s desire to help celebrate the Naval Reserve Centennial, and see common ground that can be shared between our organizations while respecting the need for NAVRES to act within Government guidelines as far as partnering with civilian organizations.

I had a very fruitful 1 ½ hour Zoom meeting with Dave Arsenault on 14 May 2021 and we will maintain regular contact. See the attached document “UNTDA and the 2023 Naval Reserve Centennial: Executive Summary” which has been updated to 21 May 2021.

Appendix 3

UNTDA 2023 - HMCS King's Commemorative Project – Update for 8 June 2021

Background

On 24 May 1941, in the midst of the huge World War II expansion of the armed services, Canada's Department of National Defence leased the University of King's College campus for training officers of the Royal Canadian Navy. The UNTDA agreed to explore the feasibility of a commemorative project and Glenn Davidson has been in contact with the University. There is interest in a commemorative plaque which would include the following text:

From 24 May 1941 to 19 May 1945 the University of King's College campus was the main wartime Officers' Training Establishment for the Royal Canadian Navy. HMCS KING'S as it became on 1 October 1941 provided intense training of 12 and later 20 weeks duration, giving junior officers basic instruction in seamanship, navigation and operations. From HMCS KING'S the officers went to sea, most to convoy escort and other operations in the North Atlantic. By May 1945, 96 classes of naval officers, some 3100 in all, had graduated. HMCS KING'S played a critical role in the RCN's great contribution to the Allied war effort, and the University of King's College, in putting its own role aside, earned a proud place in the history of the RCN and of Canada.

Donated by the UNTD Assn to mark the 100th anniversary of the RCNVR in 2023

Total text 697 characters

Update

The **University remains very interested and supportive**, however the team there is very small and most of the academic oxygen has been absorbed in keeping the programs running under the covid restrictions.

Glenn Davidson has reworked the **proposed wording of a commemorative plaque**, and shortened it to stay under 700 characters (see above), the limit for one of the possible providers, and has concentrated on a **cast brass/bronze plaque with raised lettering**, of the sort used for official commemorations (a sample example is below).

He has obtained **3 quotes**, one from a firm in Alberta, another from a firm in Toronto, and the third from the Lunenburg Foundry in Nova Scotia. The quotes were all quite high: \$7466, \$4840 and \$3600 respectively, all before tax and shipping.

Of the 3, the **Lunenburg option is the most attractive**, as it is least expensive, local, we could avoid shipping, and we could sight the product before it is finalised. Their proposed size would be about 22 inches by 36 inches.

It is felt that this project will stimulate senior naval engagement for a suitable ceremony, with attendant publicity.

Next Steps

More information will be available by the September 2021 Board meeting at which time a proposal will be submitted for a one-time grant in accordance with the process and criteria circulated in the President's Report to the Board for 8 June 2021.



Many thanks to Glenn for his work on this project.

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Appendix 4

UNTDA 2023 – NRD Liaison – Preliminary Planning

Written updates have been received from the UNTDA Liaison Persons from *Cabot, Carleton, Cataraqui, Queen, Unicorn, and Tecumseh*. These will be circulated along with others prior to the 8 June Board meeting.

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Appendix 5

UNTDA 2023 – Rough 10th Draft Programme of National Event – Victoria

Pre-day Monday 8 May

This day is left open for events planned by Individual Year/Specialization and other groups – separate planning, cost and registration. The National Event Committee will provide liaison with the Hotel Grand Pacific but is not responsible for these events.

Day 1 Tuesday 9 May

0900 - 2100 Registration at host hotel - [Hotel Grand Pacific](#)

0900 – 1800 Events Planned by Individual Year/Specialization and other Groups – separate planning, cost and registration. The National Event Committee will provide liaison with the Hotel Grand Pacific but is not responsible for these events.

1900 Board 4 Buses for Meet and Greet at HMCS *Malahat* or at Hotel Grand Pacific

2100 Board 4 Buses for return to Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 2 Wednesday 10 May

0800 – 1000 Registration at Hotel Grand Pacific

0830 5 Buses to Dockyard for Ship day – Orcas/Frigates/MCDVs/ new Joint Support Ship

OR

Dockyard and CFB Esquimalt Tour - incorporate a display by [CFB Esquimalt Museum](#) with focus on UNTD/ROUTP – tour of [Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton](#) completed in 2018.

1200 Lunch at Naden Wardroom CFB Esquimalt

1300 4 Buses to Bridge Simulator and [Virtual Reality](#) Demonstrations at [Venture Division \(Workpoint\)](#) – click on NOTC Venture

OR

One Bus to [443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron](#), Pat Bay – CH-148 Cyclone Tours

1700 Board 5 Buses for return to Naden Wardroom

1730 Weepers followed by light supper at Naden Wardroom CFB Esquimalt.

2030 Board 5 Buses for return to Hotel Grand Pacific

(A possible alternative for partners or those less interested in things naval would be a day-long trip to [Butchart Gardens](#))

Day 3 Thursday 11 May

0830 - Board 4 Buses to [Colwood NBCD, flooding control and Firefighting DCTF GALIANO](#)
potential for partners to join us at Royal Roads

1200 – Board 4 Buses - Onward to 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. There are [4 excellent gardens](#) including the peaceful [Japanese Garden](#) which leads to the former residence of the CO.

1530 Board 4 Buses for return to Hotel Grand Pacific

1830 Board 5 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. Contact - Private Secretary "Brownridge, Jermy" Jermy.Brownridge@gov.bc.ca

2100 Board 5 Buses for return to Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 4 Friday 12 May

Morning – Continuation of Events Planned by Individual Year/Specialization and other Groups

OR

0830 – For remainder and perhaps partners - [Southern Gulf Islands Tour by boat](#) - from Hotel Grand Pacific, walk along the waterfront walk to the marina at the Coast Hotel where Orca Spirit is located – same for return to hotel at 1300

OR

Individual Visits to Downtown Attractions like the BC Museum, Empress Hotel, Beacon Hill Park, Maritime Museum

1300 – **Board 4 Buses** for return to Hotel

1400 - Keynote Speakers/Panel “Canada and the Pacific” potentially involving Gwynne Dyer, Jim Boutilier (for years Pacific Advisor to MARPAC); Jonathan Manthorpe (Claws of the Panda: Beijing's Campaign of Influencer and Intimidation in Canada); and Richard Fadden (Head of CSIS 2009-2013). Dyer, Boutilier are former UNTD while Fadden is former ROUDP.

1530 -AGM at Hotel Grand Pacific

1800 for 1830 Mess Dinner at Hotel Grand Pacific

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

Note 2 Have a look at Venture’s 11th quinquennial reunion (2019) including ½ day on 4 Orcas; Bridge Simulator at Venture Division (Workpoint); and Tour of Helicopter Base at 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron <https://www.lookoutnewspaper.com/hmcs-venture-alumni-re-unite/>

Note 3 The Committee will provide information on potential sites and activities to visit prior to, during and after this national event. These can be arranged by individuals at their own cost. The list will include but not be limited to:

Victoria – Walking Distance or Short Harbour Ferry Ride

[The Bateman Gallery directly across from hotel](#)

[Point Ellice House](#)

[Maritime Museum of BC](#)

[Whale Watching](#)

[Beacon Hill Park](#)

[Fisherman’s Wharf](#)

[Ogden Point Breakwater and Dallas Road Waterfront](#)

[Chinatown Walks](#)

[Food Tours](#)

[Emily Carr House](#)

[Victoria Harbour Ferry —Tours and H2O Taxi Hops](#)

Victoria Area

[Butchart Gardens](#)

[Butterfly Gardens](#) —close to Butchart Gardens

[Abkhazi Garden](#) – beautiful rhododendrons and tea house

[Government House Gardens](#)

[Ross Bay Cemetery](#)

[Art Gallery of Greater Victoria](#)

[Craigdarroch Castle](#)

[Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse](#)

[Picturesque town of Sidney by the Sea](#)

[Winery Tours — Saanich Peninsula](#)

[Finnerty Gardens](#) at University of Victoria

Further Afield

[Salt Spring Island](#)

[Chemainus](#) – the Mural Town

[Nanaimo](#) and [Newcastle Island](#) walking trails

[BC Ferry from Port Hardy \(Northern Vancouver Island\) to Prince Rupert on Mainland](#)

A taste of the Inside Passage

[Cathedral Grove](#) – BC’s Big Tree Heritage

[Pacific Rim National Park](#)

bounded by [Ucluelet](#) to the south and [Tofino](#) to the north