



# THE NEWSLETTER

Of The UNT D Association of Canada



FALL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2007

EDITOR Robert Williamson Volume 3, Number 28 ISSN 1709 -3406



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY U.N.T.D REUNION

THE UNT D OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARE FEATURED IN THIS NEWSLETTER WITH THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REUNION IN KINGSTON ON MAY 2 – 4, 2008 ON THE OCCASION OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNT D. SHOWN HERE IS CAPTAIN DEBBIE PIERS INSPECTING PROBATIONARY QUEEN'S UNT D CADETS AT HMCS CATARAQUI IN THE FALL OF 1954. *STORY INSIDE ON PAGE 2.*

Photo courtesy Phil Neroutsos

## COVER STORY QUEEN'S UNTD REUNION

*The material used in this cover story was supplied by Art B. Harris, CDR (Ret'd) RCNR, UNTD Queen's 1943 – 1947 of Windsor, ON and Dr. Phil Neroutsos, Lt. (Ret'd) RCNR, UNTD Queen's 1954 – 1957 of Victoria, BC.*

In the fall of 1954, Captain Desmond Piers, RCN, came to Kingston from Ottawa to inspect the UNTD Division of Queen's University at HMCS Catarauqui. **Phil Neroutsos**, a future dentist and UNTD Association member (see UNTiDy Tales, pp. 153-55) is the tall cadet in the centre of the front rank of the cover photo. They are probationary cadets, not having yet been issued with their white twist lapel badges, and about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime with the navy. It appears that Captain Piers is talking to one of two cadets who are likely attending Queen's from a Commonwealth country. It is a little known fact that Commonwealth students were welcome to participate in the UNTD program.

Accompanying the inspecting officer are LCDR Martin, Commanding Officer of the Queen's UNTD and later a physics professor at McGill's cyclotron, CDR George Walley, Catarauqui's Commanding Officer and coincidentally Phil's English professor, and an unidentified UNTD Term Lieutenant. Keen eyes may notice that CDR Walley is wearing a medal on his right chest. It is the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society presented to him for jumping into the icy Atlantic to rescue a German sailor during WW II.

After his inspection, Captain Piers had all the cadets gather around him informally in one corner of the drill deck while he told stories of his amazing WW II experiences. They included yarns about Gibraltar, the Mediterranean fleet and naughty stories about Prince Philip.

One would expect that Piers eventually retired to the wardroom for refreshments and it is very likely that it was on this occasion that he met SLt. Conyers Baker, UNTD Queen's 1950 – 53. Conn came to Piers' attention while playing the piano and leading a singsong. He later married Captain Piers' daughter, Anne, a legendary story related in the September 2005 UNTD Newsletter.

*Editor*

**Art Harris** joined the UNTD as a Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> class when he attended Queen's University in the fall of 1943. He is (inset) in the second platoon of the four – 24 men platoons formed up on the lower campus. It is the official photo of the first UNTD Division at Queen's University in the fall of 1943 (see accompanying photo on adjacent page). At the end of the war, naval training was no longer mandatory but Art stuck around the old Catarauqui in the former Kingston Tennis Club. He had heard rumours that there would be a post-war UNTD program. However, he graduated in 1947 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering before the UNTD program got re-established.

His experience in the UNTD fortified his interest in ships so he entered the University of Michigan to get another degree in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture. There were few jobs in the shipyards, post WW II, so he turned his engineering and stoker experience to thermal power and got a job with the Detroit Edison Company (electric utilities in SE Michigan). In 1986 he retired as the General Director of the Generation Engineering Department.

In 1948 Art joined HMCS Hunter and served over forty years in the Naval Reserve, including an appointment as Commanding Officer of HMCS Hunter from 1965 to 1968.

Art sent the following information to your editor from the Queen's Alumni Review.

*Plans are underway for a Queen's UNTD Reunion in Kingston on the **weekend of May 2 – 4, 2008**, in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic Sunday by HMCS Catarauqui.*

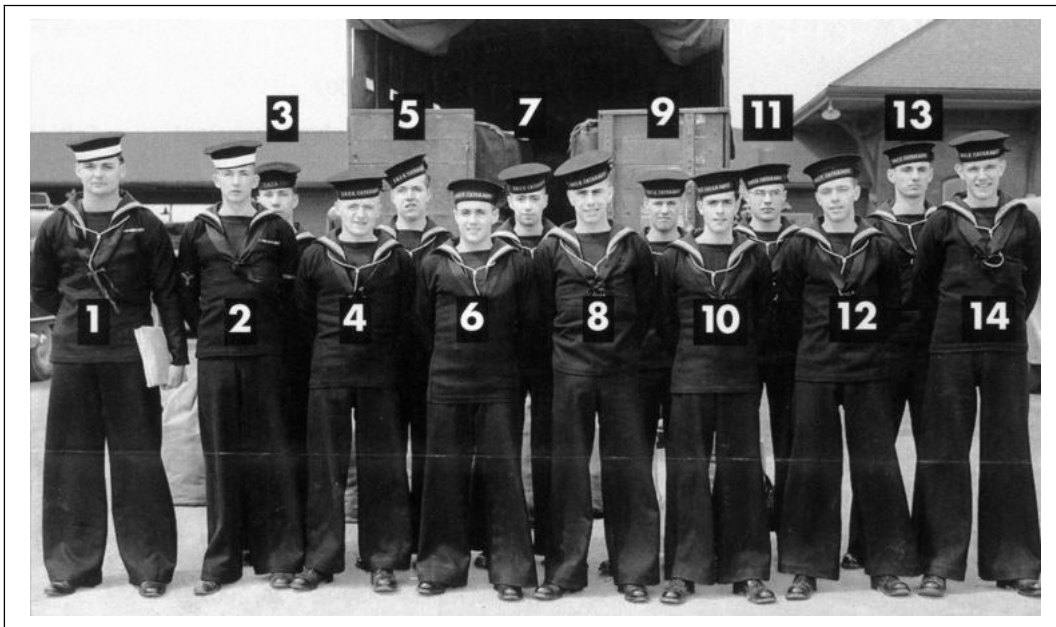
*2008 will mark the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the UNTD in 1943. You are invited to show your interest in the Kingston Reunion by sending your current mailing address, telephone number, and an email address to **Gordon Sedgwick, 803 – 40 The Driveway, Ottawa, ON, K2P 2C9**, or by email [review@post.queensu.ca](mailto:review@post.queensu.ca)*

*The upcoming Reunion will feature displays of UNTD memorabilia (photos, journals, stories) at HMCS Catarauqui. If you have any contributions to make, please contact the Ship's Historian, Chris Varley at (613) 634-1032 (home), (613) 967-3200 ext, 3276 (Office), or email [<navall@kingston.net>](mailto:navall@kingston.net)*

*Editor*



Photo courtesy Art Harris



In the summer of 1948, these Queen's UNTD cadets posed for their photo at the Kingston Railway Station. They were traveling to Halifax where most of them would board the Tribal Class Destroyer HMCS Nootka. Cadets number 1 & 2, wearing WW II ribbons, are unidentified veterans in their senior years. Their white cap tallies indicate that they are Officer Candidates. The other cadets who have been identified are: 3 Wm. Chown, Sc'50, 4 Robert MacArthur, BPHE'51, 5 John Clement, Arts'51, 6 Loic Scheult, '51 8 Charles Ramsden, Meds'53, 9 Steve Baker, Arts 51, 12 Robert MacAuly, Meds'54, 13 Joe Errington, '51 14 Jerry Henry, Arts'51.

*Photo by George Lilly*

## AN EXTRAORDINARY PIECE OF NAVAL HISTORY – PART 2

*Editor's note: Selecting the cover page for the last issue of the UNTD Newsletter was a joy. Response from readers has been very positive, revealing that there is more to the story.*

Murray Boles, MD, FRCPC, FACR (UNTD Prevost '53) was pleasantly surprised to see the picture of HMCS Hunter on the front page of the Spring Issue of the Newsletter. Besides Tom Smith in the front row on the left he recognized Roland Marshal in the same row on the right. Roland was a classmate of his in elementary school.

Murray wrote that, "When WWII ended I was two weeks short of my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Roland, however, had earlier enlisted in the navy as a boy seaman. I believe he was older than I was by at least a year. In 1946 I started grade 13 and Roland showed up in the class. He didn't last more than a week and I assumed he entered a "Cram Course" that was available to veterans at that time and enrolled in Assumption College the next year. The next time I ran into Roland was in 1951 or '52 when I was a Surgeon Cadet on the West Coast. Roland was a Sub-Lieutenant. I visited him aboard HMCS Ontario. That was the last I saw of him and I would be interested in knowing what happened to his career."

Bob Willson, CDR Ret'd, RCN, (UNTD Star, York 1951-52) replied that, "I think Rollie was in something called NAUS (Naval Assistance to University Students) which was a "sort of" predecessor to ROTP. They drilled and did summer training with the UNTD, and then had some obligated service to the RCN." (*Keen eyes may have noticed that in the photo Rollie wore a plain HMCS cap tally while the rest of the UNTDs wore HUNTER cap tallies*).

"When I went to the old HMCS TORONTO as a Midshipman in 1954, Rollie was a Lieutenant RCN, and the NavO. At Christmas 1955, he was best man at my wedding, which is a long story."

"The next time I ran into Rollie was about 1968. I took a course in philosophy at St. Mary's and he turned out to be my Professor. He remained there until his retirement. I believe he is a past president of NSNOA. He helped us out a bit in our UNTD Reunion in Halifax, although I don't think he is a member. We saw him at the Meet

and Greet and also at the big reception before the Tattoo."

Editor's comment: "I attended a navy historical conference in Halifax in 1993 and met a CDR Rollie Marshall, ex UNTD (See **UNTiDy Tales** p. 32, 'Making An UNTiDy Impression'). I did not make the connection with R. Marshal in the picture until Murray Boles pointed it out."

*Noel J. Gaspar, Lt. (Ret'd) RCNR (UNTD, HMCS Brunswicker, 1952-53) was also particularly interested in the newsletter cover picture showing both Dick Rohmer and Tom Smith back in 1947.*

He wrote, "I did not realize that their association went back that far. I knew Tom well as he was my CO in HMCS Hunter for a period but more closely when he joined the training department of Imperial Oil, my own (former) employer. I had the pleasure of participating in several management courses that Tom facilitated. At that time Tom was Senior Naval Reserve Officer and Dick Rohmer was the Chief of Reserves. There was no love lost between the two of them after Tom learned that Rohmer had referred him to as, 'That little, fat sailor'. I retired from Imperial Oil in 1991 and last saw Tom at the UNTD reunion in Halifax in 1993. At that time I also received an autographed copy of **UNTiDy Tales**, an excellent compilation of UNTD stories."

"I really appreciated receiving the Newsletter. I have been disconnected from the UNTD for some time now but in more recent times met Andy Shaw who, coincidentally, was a friend and neighbour of my daughter in Markham. I think that it was through his efforts that I received a membership application. Thanks to the Association for helping reacquaint me with my UNTD memories."

### **OOPS! THE SUMMER OF '52 - WAS REALLY 1953!**

I was very pleased to receive the March 2007 issue of the UNTD Newsletter. I found it interesting, informative and entertaining. I did, however, have a problem with the article by Bill Farrow on **Micmac Division, Summer of 1952**. That was the same year that I was a first year cadet at Stadacona and it bothered me that I did not recall any of the cadets pictured. I thought that perhaps it was the beginning of 'old age' creeping on. However, I was relieved when I pulled out my 1952 White Twist. In that

publication I could find no record of Micmac Division and very few of the named cadets in the Registry. The mystery was solved when I perused my 1953 White Twist. There, I found the Division and the names and addresses of the aforementioned cadets. And 1953 was the summer I spent on the West Coast so I would not have met those cadets. Further, I was sure that all the East Coast cruises in 1952 were European cruises. I was in Crescent for cruise Able (as was Cdr. Herbie Little) to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean (See UNTiDy Tales p.114) and cruise Baker went to Dieppe and Paris for Bastille Day celebrations (See UNTiDy Tales p. 83). I think that in 1953 the only European cruise was to the UK for the coronation and the Spithead Review (See UNTiDy Tales p. 85). The others cruises (as mentioned by Bill Farrow) were more local.

*Noel J. Gaspar Lt. (Ret'd) RCNR  
UNTD, HMCS Brunswicker, 1952-53*

***Dr. Jim Rodgeron was in the MICMAC DIVISION photo in the last newsletter and he also recalls that it was the Summer of 1953. He wrote the following as part of his reminiscences.***

I had great times during summer training, but my memories seem to be pretty episodic. Now, thanks to the UNTD Newsletter, I have started to think about them in a more organized fashion.

I remember my first cruise in HMCS Swansea in (I think) 1953 (that's a hell of a long time ago!). I remember the first morning on board ship, after we had stowed our hammocks, we fell in for divisions on the quarter deck, and I found myself assigned along with a few others to the charge of the permanent Captain of the Heads, Leading Seaman William Shakespeare. We, in short order, learned to dunk for floaters, and other essential skills, not the least of which was how to cooperate with, appreciate, and respect seamen like William S. who I found to be typical of many men in the old navy. With all his personality quirks, I remember him fondly, as one of my most important teachers.

Swansea had not had a refit since WWII, so the wild life on board were not all human, and we used to have races for our insect friends across the deckhead whilst we were lying in our micks! I found it amazing how well cockroaches could accelerate when encouraged by judicious application of heat to their sterns.

I remember being ashore in the Gulf of St. Lawrence - I can't remember which island - training in how to assist the Civil Power. Translated that means wearing a bloody great pack and carrying a weapon up interminable hills in a race with another division to the top to win the prize - a case of beer whose life was measured in nano seconds once we took ownership. That long, hot, dry and dusty walk certainly reinforced my belief that I never wanted to be a pongo.

I also remember being chosen as part of the Division for the CAMID program in the Summer of '53. We went to Little Creek, Virginia via the U.S. Naval Academy to train with the Midshipmen and Cadets of West Point in the theory and practice of landing a force on a hostile beach. For our graduation ceremonies, the beach was certainly hostile as huge bleachers had been erected and they were filled with senior officers come to see whether we had learned anything. I remember that the Canadian Cadets had various jobs to do. I steered a landing barge, and we were totally integrated with the Midshipmen. (See CAMID, p.52 UNTiDy Tales)

That was a great experience, and we certainly learned a great deal, including how to be suckered by the Americans. As mentioned, we were integrated with the Midshipmen, and formed some great friendships in the time that we were together. Some brilliant Cadet challenged the "Mids" to a schooner race on the beach in the evening. The thought was that we Canadians were all university students, and many of us were fraternity members, so we had some extensive experience in the rapid downing of beer. We thought that we should have no trouble at all in beating the "Mids" at that game.

When the moment of truth came, and we met the opposite team, it dawned on us that the friendly faces across the beach were not the fuzzy-cheek teenagers of the Academy but rather senior "Mids" whose cheeks were anything but fuzzy. It turned out that the "Mids" had named a team of "Mustangs" (men promoted to the Academy from the Fleet) so the outcome was never in doubt. Clearly we were never going to be the victors despite the loyal support of the barley farmers of Canada over the years.

*Jim Rodgeron, MD, Lt. (S) (MED) (Ret'd 1960)  
RCNR, (UNTD HMCS Discovery - York 1952-54) <jsrodgeron@sympatico.ca>*

**THE UNTD  
&  
A SHRINKING MILITARY FOOTPRINT**

To enhance the image of Canada's military, UNTD Association member, Andy Shaw, and your newsletter editor have met with representatives of the **Breakout Education Network**. The network has a 50/50 partnership with the Department of National Defence and works with the Chair of Defence Management Studies at Queen's University. **Breakout's goal is to engage Canadians in a way that would bring about positive change in the public's perception of the military as a national institution.**

With a concept labeled, **The 7-Year Project – "Saving Canada's Armed Forces"**, **Breakout** is conducting research and producing materials to educate Canadians about the **Capability-Commitment GAP** of the Canadian military. This gap is the result of a "disconnect" between the armed forces and our citizens, politicians, civilian employers, schools and academic institutions. Breakout's first education endeavor is the production of a DVD entitled "**Citizen Soldier**" by Stornoway Productions of Toronto. It illustrates the contributions that members of our Reserve Forces make to our society. It also identifies the problem of military isolation in our Canadian culture and suggests solutions.

Once respected as one of the worlds leading peacekeeping nations, Canada now ranks 36 in world peace keeping. Of the 309 members of parliament, only 12 have any military experience or an appreciation for defense spending. Most new immigrants from war-torn nations have an anti-military sentiment. School children are taught very little of our great military heritage. Amongst our university academics, militarism is an unpopular subject.

**Breakout** has been looking for ways to re-establish military connections with universities under a plan called The Canadian Leadership Program. The university link was lost when Defence Minister, Paul Hellyer, shut down the campus offices of the former COTC (Canadian army Officer's Training Corps), URTP (University Reserve *air force* Training Plan) and UNTD (University Naval Training Division). Some of the possible outcomes that could be achieved in this Breakout program are:

- *University students would be introduced to defense and security issues*

- *Future leaders would be familiar with the role of the military*
- *A pool of potential officers would be available in the event of mobilization*
- *A constituency of military support throughout the nation*

It is here that the UNTD Association enters the picture. **Breakout's** research consultant, Colonel (Ret'd) Eric MacArthur, reported to your editor that their research "led us to your excellent works like: The UNTD and Canadian Society in the Maritime Warfare Bulletin; your book, UNTiDy Tales; and your Association's Newsletters in the National Archives". He also found our outstanding UNTD Website and was eventually directed to Jim Speight's book, UNTIDIES BONDING A NATION.

Colonel MacArthur was amazed to find such a comprehensive record of the navy's role in the education of future Canadian leaders and the part they have played in the fabric of Canadian society. It was noted that of the three former military programs connected with universities, only the UNTD has recorded its history and maintained an association of former members. Breakout wants to capture and use that positive experience; that spirit of camaraderie; that ethos of service to the nation. They want to instill in students, those guiding beliefs and national values commensurate with the UNTD.

Breakout has discovered something that UNTiDies have always known. Given the inconsistency of our political system and the history of the government's benign and sometimes malicious neglect of its armed forces, the history of the UNTD demonstrates that our navy's investment in people has proven to be its strongest legacy.

The time is right! Breakout feels that there is currently a window of opportunity to reverse a shrinking Canadian military footprint. Now, there is wider awareness of the public to current military operations. The media is providing more coverage of our armed forces and their families. The current Chief of Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier, has a personal leadership style that could work to the program's advantage.

Editor

The Breakout Educational Network wants to hear from you. Send your response & suggestions to Eric MacArthur [n.h.c.@sympatico.ca](mailto:n.h.c.@sympatico.ca) ph.(905)973-7157, Rob Roy [rroy@stornoway.com](mailto:rroy@stornoway.com) ph.(416)923-1105

UNTD DINE THE LADIES LUNCHEON CRUISE June 7, 2007



Almost 40 guests enjoyed the luncheon cruise on Hamilton Harbour followed by a tour of HMCS Haida and the hospitality of HMCS Star's Wardroom. Doug Hain took his turn at the wheel of the Hamilton Harbour Queen while John Heighton and friend, Christine Wiggins enjoyed the scenery from the upper deck with HMCS Haida in the background. *Photo's by Bill Thomas and Bob Williamson*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **2008 NOAC – AGM UNTD REUNION IN QUEBEC CITY**

**DATE: Thurs. May 29 to Sun. June 1, 2008**

#### Booking Information

NOAC has a block booking at the Hotel Chateau Laurier, 1220 Place George V Ouest, Quebec, G1R 5B8, Phone 1 800 463-4453, email [www.vieuxquebec.com/laurier](http://www.vieuxquebec.com/laurier)

**Room Rates: Economical Rm. #200082 \$129.00  
Standard Rm. #139951 \$141.00 plus tax**

**Note:** Rooms are available at convention rates during the period 26 May to 4 June for those who wish a longer holiday in Quebec City.

This will be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quebec City and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNTD. Rooms will be at a premium.

Conference applications will be available in the Spring.

### **MESS DINNER**

**The Annual Reunion Mess Dinner  
will be held at the  
Canadian Forces Staff College  
on  
Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**It will be a Dine Your Sweetheart  
format and invitations will be sent in  
the mail.**

### **The UNTD OTTAWA Old Oars Weepers**

**When:** Saturday, October 20, 2007 @ 3:30 pm on Parliament Hill. \$49.00 per person. Guests, spouses and partners welcome.

**Program:** The Honourable Noel Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate will host two experts speaking on the Past, Present and Future of Canada's Arctic Interests, in terms of the Northwest Passage, sovereignty, geography, economics, international trade and politics, maritime strategy, etc. -- with time for questions.

**Place:** The Senate's new high tech Aboriginal Committee Room will be the venue for the two-hour seminar. There will be a stand up dinner

with an open bar in the Speaker's Suite adjoining the Senate Chamber. Songbooks and a piano are not far away.

The Senate itself will be open to tour, including the large panels of war art associated with Canada's World War One history and the Canadian throne at the head of the royal red chamber.

For "out of towners", if you are planning to attend the Weepers and visit the National Capital Region and its ever-growing variety of world class attractions before the autumn colours fade completely, contact [bobduncombe@gmail.com](mailto:bobduncombe@gmail.com) or phone (613) 851-1645

### **THE CANADIAN NAVAL CENTENNIAL 2010**

Planning for this great event is beginning to take shape.

**Theme:** Bring the Navy to Canadians

**Slogan:** Commemorate, Celebrate, Commit

**Events:** Activities will focus on honoring the past, showcasing the current navy and reinforcing the requirements for the future.

There will be Fleet Assemblies in Victoria in June 2010, Halifax during the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, and Toronto during the CNE. In addition there will be frequent port visits on both coasts, the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes.

A Traveling Road Show consisting of a musical review and naval exhibits will tour the country.

There are plans for a Naval Centennial Coin, Postage Stamp and Commemorative Sword as well as historical conferences, parades and dinners.

<http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial>

The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this Newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to Newsletter Editor: CDR Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave., Hamilton, ON. L9A 4R2; Phone (905) 383-6084 or e-mail [williamson@mountaincable.net](mailto:williamson@mountaincable.net)

**VISIT THE UNTD WEB SITE**

<http://www.unttd.org>

Printed by Stirling Print Solutions, Hamilton, ON.  
Newsletter back issues are available by contacting the Editor