



THE NEWSLETTER

of the UNTD Association of Canada

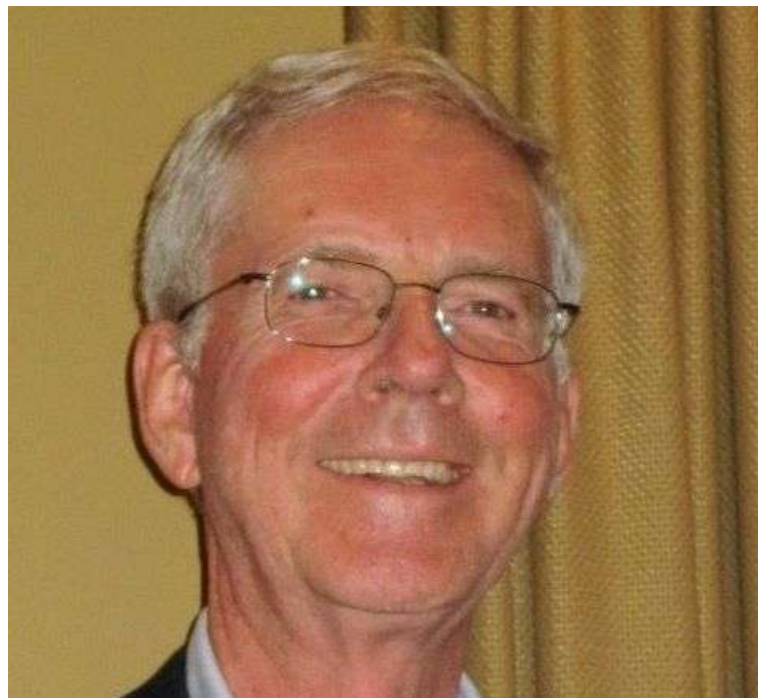
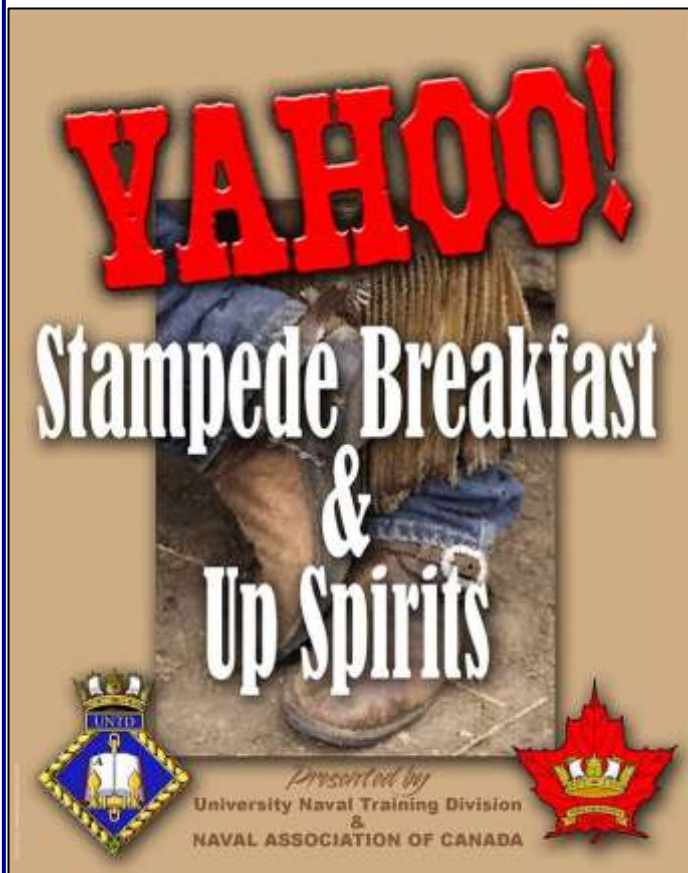


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UNTDs in Calgary - June 25 to 28, 2015



Greg McKenzie

UNTD Association Regional Director
for Alberta & Saskatchewan

In conjunction with the Naval Association of Canada's 2015 AGM and Conference in Calgary, the UNTD Association opened things up with a Weepers and closed things off with a Stampede Breakfast, Church Parade and Up Spirits. The success of those evolutions was the result of the efforts of our own Greg McKenzie.

More information inside on page 2.

UNTDs in Calgary - June 25 to 28, 2015 cont'd:

It was the success of the combined UNTD - NAC events in Ottawa in October, 2014 that prompted the UNTD Association to ask Greg McKenzie if he would undertake a similar project in Calgary.

Greg agreed to do so and with prairie gusto he established a partnership with his NAC-Calgary counterpart, Neville Johnson, incorporating a UNTD Weepers, Church Parade, and Up Spirits into the overall program. Greg's continued involvement with the Calgary Naval Community, before, during and after his Command of TECUMSEH from 1987 - 90, really paid off. With the help of Glen Power in Edmonton, they contacted every known Alberta alumnus of both the UNTD and successor programs, wherever they might be, to advise them of the upcoming events. Courtesy of prominent Calgarian UNTDs, Merritt Chisholm and Jack Marshall, the prestigious Ranchman's Club was secured as the venue for the Weepers with the first round paid for.



UNTD Weepers - Ranchman's Club Calgary - June 25th

During their remarks at the Weepers, both UNTDA President Roger Elmes and Greg, remarked that there were 75 attendees representing all 3 decades of the original program and they were from all regions of the country, from St John's to Victoria and from the USA.



Merritt Chisholm welcomes everyone to Calgary - June 25th

UNTDs in Calgary - June 25 to 28, 2015 cont'd:

A similar number attended the Sunday Pancake Breakfast Church Parade - Up Spirits onboard TECUMSEH, with Bill Thomas officiating at his patented Ecumenical Service, which was held in the Wardroom.



Up Spirits and Church Parade at TECUMSEH - June 28th.

During the NAC Dinner on the Saturday night, Gold Medallions were awarded to UNTDs Brooke Campbell and Larry Fournier; Silver Medallions were awarded to UNTDs Rod McCloy and Bob White and ROUPT King Wan, all five from Vancouver.



Larry Fournier, King Wan, Brooke Campbell - June 27th

A trip to the spectacular Naval Museum of Alberta, part of the Military Museums of Calgary, was also on the agenda. It included a tour and reception. The Museum was originally on site at TECUMSEH and includes such large items as a Banshee jet. It is a must-see for anyone transiting Calgary.

Greg McKenzie has had a lengthy and continuing involvement with the Naval Museum as well, at both locations.

During the Naval Museum tour, UNTDs Ed Williams, Fred Abbott and Ron Harrison posed for a picture (see below). They are past National Presidents of the NAC, as were UNTDs Merritt Chisholm, Mike Cooper and Cliff Chaulk.



Ed Williams, Fred Abbott, Ron Harrison

At the Weepers, UNTDA President Roger Elmes presented the last remaining hard copy of Bob Williamson's **Untidy Tales** to John Dugan (STAR OVC '49) for representing the first UNTD decade and to commemorate John's having been named "Veterinarian of the Year" for 2014 by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.



Roger Elmes, John Dugan - June 25th

John has been practicing for 61 years and was selected over almost 2,000 other Veterinarians in the province. After graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, he set up his clinic in Red Deer at a time when he was the only veterinarian in the community.

John is an ardent supporter of not only the UNTDA and NAC but also of the CNMT SACKVILLE. He attended the Battle of the Atlantic events in Halifax this year and in 2013 did so in Londonderry. BZ to John, still Untidy after all these years !

UNTD and the Habs:

One of the purposes of the UNTD Association is to remark how UNTDs have and continue to feature prominently in both civilian and military endeavours.

Every now and again a major story appears in the media which, with a bit of scratching, reveals an Untidy connection. An interesting case in point was the widely reported news of the passing of Elmer Lach on April 4, 2015 at the age of 97. He played with Les Canadiens from 1940 to 1954. When he hung up his skates he was the league-leading scorer. Many of his team-mates, as well as opponents, also became legends, not the least of which, his line-mates, Rocket Richard and Toe Blake.

In the Fall of 1943, Doug Harvey, a Montreal native, joined the RCNVR at DONNACONA at the age of 19 and played for both the Montreal Navy's hockey and football teams in the 1943-44 season. Harvey was named the Most Valuable Player in the Quebec Rugby Football Union that year. The following year the Montreal team famously won the Grey Cup as the Navy Combines (HMCS DONNACONA - HMCS ST HYACINTHE). Unfortunately for Harvey, he was at sea at the time and missed the win. Upon his return, he re-joined the Hockey team and in the 1944-45 season, DONNACONA won the National Defence Hockey League Championship.

For both of those football and hockey championship wins, the CO of DONNACONA was CDR John McFetrick. He had just moved to Montreal from Hamilton, where he had been the CO of STAR since 1941. It was in his office at STAR in 1942, with UNTD co-founders Jack Baker and Reginald Brock, that the details were ironed out for the formation of the UNTD, with the pilot group and first intake formed as a tender to STAR at Baker's OAC in Guelph.

Immediately post-war, John McFetrick formed the Montreal Hornets and they played for one football season before morphing into the Alouettes. Doug Harvey played for the Hornets that year, then spent one year in the hockey minors before joining the Habs in 1947. Harvey then played with Lach for 6 seasons. Harvey's first Stanley Cup win was in 1953 which was Lach's third and last Cup win, Lach having scored the cup-winning goal.

Nick Di Tomaso joined the UNTD at DONNACONA in the Fall of 1951, completed the program and was Commissioned as a SLT RCN(R), seniority 1 Sep '54. He would have been well familiar with Doug Harvey and Elmer Lach.



1951



2009

Nicholas (Nick) Di Tomaso

UNTD and the Habs - cont'd:

1954 was also the year that Elmer Lach retired and Nick embarked on his sterling business career, culminating in the Chairmanship of petroleum giant Ultramar Canada in 1992. Nick was also involved with a variety of charitable and community organizations before and after retirement. One of those was the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH) in West Island Montreal. Nick was Chairman of the Board at LGH from 1997 - 2004, during which time the Hospital doubled in size. In 2004 Nick joined the LGH Foundation and was named Chairman in 2009. Also in 2009, Les Canadiens retired Elmer Lach's #16 jersey, raising a substantial amount of money in the process. At Elmer Lach's request, \$25,000 worth of that money was directed to the LGH Foundation and in 2010 the formal presentation was made from Elmer Lach to Nick Di Tomaso, bringing both of them and their life stories together full circle.



Réjean Houle, Elmer Lach, Silvana Orrino, Nick Di Tomaso, Dick Irvin Jr.

The MC for that event was the well known broadcaster Dick Irvin Jr, whose father had been the coach of the Habs during Lach's entire career with the team.

A year later, the LGH named their new Birthing Centre after Nick Di Tomaso in recognition of his long service to the hospital. This was done at the insistence of the major donor. Nick agreed to the naming on the grounds that it would motivate others to support the community and the hospital.



Nick Di Tomaso Birthing Centre unveiling 2013

UNTD and the Habs - cont'd:

Other organizations that Nick has been involved with include the West Island Health and Social Services Centre, the Ecomuseum, the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped, the West Island Palliative Care Residence, a battered women's shelter, the Quebec Region Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

The LGH Annual Golf Tournament is also named for Nick Di Tomaso and has been held for many years at the Beaconsfield Golf Club, which to add a final touch of connectivity, was managed by Elmer Lach's son Ron.

Les Canadiens was first used as the name for the Montreal Hockey team in 1910, also the birth year for the Canadian Naval Service.

RADM Jennifer Bennett - Doctor of Laws

It was in November, 2008 that then-CMDRE and COMNAVRES Jennifer Bennett was named as an Honorary Life Member of the UNTD Association. She was promoted to RADM in 2011 and named Chief Reserves and Cadets at that time. In November 2013 she was invested into the Order of Military Merit as a Commander, a promotion from Officer within the Order. On June 9, 2015 she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Alberta in Edmonton at their Spring Convocation.



Dean David Lynch, RADM Jennifer Bennett - June 9, 2015

The Navy is a family affair for Admiral Bennett, with her father Ross, sister Julie and brother David also having had substantial Naval Reserve careers.

Admiral Bennett first put up Canada flashes in 1975 and was on the training staff of the UNTD (version 2) program in the summer of 1986. After 4 years in her current job, she recently handed over the Chief Reserves and Cadets position to MGEN Paul Bury. She will be remaining on as an Advisor to the CDS and it is very likely that she will shortly be eligible for the 3rd clasp (42 years) to her CD.

Her father, Ross Taylor "Buck" Bennett, was an ex UNTD (STAR '47), former CO of STAR, former CMDRE and SNRA, also a Commander Order of Military Merit and a retired Ontario Provincial Court Judge. He crossed the bar in 2006, but would be more than a little impressed that Jennifer can add LLD to her list of post-nominals.

Bob Williamson on Wolfe Island:

Bob has a seemingly never ending schedule of lectures, presentations and publications relating primarily but not exclusively to the history of the western end of Lake Ontario. From his home base on Hamilton Mountain, no event, or epoch, has escaped his notice and analysis, putting local events into a provincial, national and international context. This has been going on for decades and not surprisingly there is a strong Naval bent to his stories. From the History of Star in 1991, to the UNTD History expressed in Untidy Tales, to the years on the Plaquing Committee of the Hamilton Historic Board, things reached an especially high tempo during the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

On August 19, Bob and Eileen travelled to historic Wolfe Island, at the other end of the Lake, for a presentation to the Island's Historical Society, entitled "AN UNTOLD STORY: The Navy's Role in Winning the War of 1812". They were the guests of Dave (DISCOVERY '57) and Betty Ann Field, long time residents of the Island. Other UNTDs in attendance were Ed File (YORK '49) and Douglas Slack (CATARAQUI '62).



Eileen Williamson, Betty Ann and Dave Field - Aug 19, 2015

Dave and Betty Ann also hosted a large UNTD Meet-Greet Weepers at their home, in November 2012, which was reported on in the March 2013 Newsletter.

Wolfe Island is the largest of the Thousand Islands and was so named by Lt-Gov John Simcoe in 1792. During the days of New France it was called Grande Ile and was at one time owned by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle. It was he who built Le Griffon on the Niagara River for which the NRD HMCS GRIFFON takes its name.

Also in the New France era the name "Les Mille îles" was first used. There are well over 1000 Islands in the Thousand Islands, which straddle the Canada-USA border. To be classed as one of those Islands requires a year-round exposed land mass of at least one square foot which must contain at least 2 live trees/shrubs.

Bob Williamson on Wolfe Island- cont'd:

To add colour to the event, Bob and Eileen were dressed as their alter-egos, CMDRE and Mrs James Yeo, RN. They had also appeared as such on August 9th when Bob MC'd the annual USS Hamilton & Scourge Memorial Service at Confederation Park in Hamilton.



Bob and Eileen Williamson - Wolfe Island - Aug 19, 2015

A collection of Bob's articles for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society has recently been put up as an online link below; <http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca/williamson.html>

Twice a Knight at CHIPPAWA:

In the March 2013 edition of the Newsletter we reported on the 2001 Knighthood of George Bain (CHIPPAWA '57). A remarkable achievement by any measure and George kindly provided his analysis of not only his own personal circumstances that led up to this, but also of the political context of Canadian Knighthoods in the modern age. George's article was printed in the September 2013 Newsletter.

We have recently become aware of another UNTD UK Knighthood, that of Gordon Ying-Sheun Wu (CHIPPAWA '53). In 1997 he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. His circumstances are markedly different than those of George Bain but that they are both UNTD CHIPPAWA Alumni, is indeed remarkable.

Gordon Wu was born in Hong Kong in 1935 and his childhood would have included the Japanese Occupation from 1941-45. He was one of the first international students to come to Canada from Hong Kong, arriving at the University of Manitoba in 1953. He joined the UNTD that Fall and had only the one summer of 1954 as a UNTD Cadet, in Antigonish Division at STADACONA. 10 of that 24-man Division were from CHIPPAWA.



Antigonish Division 1954 - Gordon Wu 1st row, 1st left

The following academic year Gordon was at Princeton and he remained there until getting his Civil Engineering degree in 1958.

Before Gordon left for North America, his father, the son of a migrant pig farmer, foresaw the expansion of automotive transportation in China and launched Hong Kong's first taxi service. Upon returning home from his studies, Gordon showed exquisite business acumen, expanding the family business' portfolio to include hospitality and infrastructure interests. This inspired Gordon to create Hopewell Holdings Limited in 1964, a Hong-Kong based company that has helped modernize China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia, by building bridges, superhighways and power stations. He is still Chairman of the Board and the Company is valued at about 24 Billion Hong Kong Dollars or about \$CDN 4 Billion.

His list of accomplishments and accolades, honorary degrees and awards, is lengthy and of international scope. His philanthropy has extended into the \$100 of Millions including support to the university that gave him his start. He supported the construction of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Engineering's new home – the Engineering Information and Technology Complex. In May 2012 Gordon was given an Honorary Doctor of Laws from University of Manitoba in recognition of this and other acts of largesse.



Sir Gordon Wu - LLD - U Manitoba - May 2012

Dalzell named as new CO of UNICORN:

That headline might be considered a flashback to when John Dalzell [UNTD UNICORN '62] was named as the 17th CO of UNICORN back in 1983. John remained as CO until 1988 and retired as a CAPT(N), having also been Commander Maritime Coastal Defence Pacific at one point. The headline actually refers to John's son, LCDR Matthew Dalzell, who took Command of UNICORN on August 15, 2015 as the 26th CO.



Matthew Dalzell on a UNICORN RHIB - Blackstrap Lake, SK

Matthew joined as a Naval Cadet at UNICORN under the RESO Program in 1992. He has held a variety of jobs within the Unit over the years including 3 years as the full time Training Officer. He holds 3 degrees from University of Saskatchewan: a BEd, BSc and MSc. In civilian life he is currently the Communications Officer for the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation in Saskatoon.

UNTD Archives Update:

The UNTD Master List Database is continually receiving information from a wide variety of sources. As of September, 2015 we are accumulating data on 7,268 individuals.

- 6,896 are UNTDs from the 1942 - 1968 period.
 - 64 are ROU TP+ from 1969 to the present.
 - 7 are Honorary UNTDs.
 - 301 are closely associated with the Program such as Founders, Staff etc.
 - From the UNTD/ROU TP group;
 - 614 are known to have Crossed the Bar.
 - 444 are on the UNTD VIP List.
- Lists are updated frequently and are available on the UNTD Website, on the Members Page:
<http://www.angelfire.com/on2/UNTD/members2.html>
 and on the In Memoriam page:
<http://www.angelfire.com/on2/UNTD/IM.html>

The Webmaster maintains a growing collection of UNTD Obituaries, also available on the In Memoriam page.

Andy Shaw's Long and Short UNTD Cruises:

In October 2011 Andy Shaw organized the longest UNTD Cruise since 1965. That was the UK Cruise on the Queen Mary 2 from New York City to Southampton UK. That trip and the shore activities following it were well documented in the March and September 2012 Newsletters.

This year Andy organized the shortest UNTD Cruise, in two parts. Cruise Alpha was in May and Cruise Bravo was in August. They both went from the foot of York St Pier to the Toronto Island Marina Bar on Centre Island, via their own Tender, tracking across the historic Toronto Inner Harbour.

From their patio is afforded one of the best views of the Toronto Skyline. The May cruise was a trial run with a ship's company of 4 while the August cruise had a complement of 12.



Toronto Skyline from Centre Island

Local gatherings of UNTDs are always newsworthy, so if you have them, do let us know, and we will happily report on them.

Designs of Distinction update:

In the last Newsletter we reported on the upcoming availability of Dave Freeman's "Designs of Distinction" (Unofficial Insignia of the RCN 1910 - 1948).

At that time the best information that Dave had from the publisher priced the book out at \$50. When push came to shove, the final price came out to \$125. Even with that sharp increase the first print run of 50 is already sold out and a second run is underway. For naval heritage aficionados it is more than a well researched, well documented, superbly illustrated history. It is bordering on being a piece of art. It is thick (624 pages), large (8.5 x 11 inches) and many of its 900 images are in colour, which necessitated a higher quality paper to prevent bleed-through.

In the Summer 2015 issue of NACs Starshell, a full page review of the book, by Fraser McKee, appears on p32. That issue can be seen and downloaded from the main page of the following link:

<http://navalassoc.ca/naval-affairs/starshell/>

Dave can be contacted directly at: djfreeman@shaw.ca

UNTD and Swissair 111:

One of the major events in recent Canadian history was the devastating crash of Swissair 111 on the night of September 2, 1998, 5 miles offshore of Peggy's Cove, NS. The immediate loss of all 229 souls was the result of the aircraft hitting the water with a force of 350g. The international spotlight focused on Canada as all available Sea, Land and Air elements of the Canadian Forces MARCOM Atlantic were put into play as well as those of the Coast Guard and RCMP.

As the debris settled to a depth of 180 ft it was quickly apparent that this was going to be a massive recovery operation. The spotlight then turned to the person who would be responsible for the identification and disposition of remains. That was the Chief Medical Examiner for the Province of Nova Scotia, Dr John Butt. At no time during the contemporaneous reporting was it mentioned that John Butt was a Retired Naval Reserve Officer.

John joined the UNTD at TECUMSEH in the Fall of 1952, U-10996. He completed 3 UNTD summers and was promoted SLT RCN(R) O-10989 (Jan/05/1955). He was promoted to LT (MED) RCN(R) (Jan/05/1957). John graduated as an MD at University of Alberta and obtained post-graduate training in Pathology both in Vancouver and London, UK.



Dr John Butt, CM, MD

In the early 1970s while in London, John joined the RNR and promises to chronicle the amusing if not downright bizarre nature of that Service.

By the time of Swissair 111 John had accumulated decades of experience, leadership and innovation in forensic pathology and he was the right man in the right place at the right time. The technical demands of the task at hand were without precedent but John and his team did forensically identify all 229 victims.

What was new territory was having to be the public face of this huge tragedy and having to deal with the needs of the families involved, many of whom travelled to the scene and whose DNA was also required in the identification process. A high level of compassion and communication at all levels between the pathology team and the families was needed and dispensed throughout the investigation, which up until this event was not the norm. - *cont'd on p8:*

White Twist Book Award at MALAHAT:

One of the many casualties of Forces Unification in 1968 was the loss of the UNTD acronym for the Naval Reserve Officer training programs. The term RCN itself was also lost as were distinctive Naval uniforms, rank names and insignia. In the mid-1980s things started to reverse-course including a brief resurgence of the UNTD as a named program. The appearance of a Naval Officer today is now very close to what it was in 1968. One thing that has not returned and surely never will, is the White Twist as the Naval Cadet rank insignia.

Also in the mid-1980s, ex-UNTDs formed a number of Chapters of the White Twist Clubs. The use of that name was also short-lived but from those Clubs sprang the current UNTD Association of Canada. **White Twist** was the name used for the UNTD Yearbooks from 1950 to 1968.

At the MALAHAT Awards Night in April of this year one of the named Awards was the White Twist Book Award. It is presented to an Outstanding Junior Officer. This years winner was A/SLT Tammy Huneault-Rozon. The presenter was CDR Stew Churlish (Ret'd.), who had worn a White Twist (UNTD MALAHAT '65), and was CO of MALAHAT from 1985-89.



CDR (Ret'd) Stew Churlish and A/SLT Tammy Huneault-Rozon

The picture is large enough to see that Stew is wearing his UNTD tie and is still smiling after all these years.

The presented book itself has a UNTD connection. The author, Sean Livingston, is the current CO of RCSCC OAKVILLE in Oakville, ON (naturally!) The Corp takes its Name, Badge and Number from the WWII Corvette HMCS OAKVILLE K178. The most famous exploit of OAKVILLE was the sinking of U-94 on August 28, 1942. The hero of that piece was SLT Hal Lawrence, who actually boarded the Sub looking for the Enigma machine. For this action he was awarded a DSC. In 1953 LCDR Hal Lawrence found himself at Naval Reserve HQ in Hamilton, as Staff Officer UNTD, overseeing about 1,200 Cadets.

Hal Lawrence's experience with the UNTD and how it affected his later life is well documented in **Untidy Tales** beginning on p278.

UNTD and Swissair 111 - cont'd from p7:

Quoting John, "In events like this there is a great need for doctors and pathologists to be a presence, and not remain behind a closed door in a laboratory or a mortuary. In past disasters there has been little or no contact between families and those who examine and identify bodies. Professionals remain separate to avoid personal pain or the loss of objectivity."

John has since been asked to speak with pathologists in Canada and the United States about why it is important to build relationships with families, who desperately want information about the people they have lost.

After the event John received numerous accolades, not the least of which was his appointment to the Order of Canada. That citation is as follows;

*John Clulow Butt, C.M., M.D. Vancouver
Member of the Order of Canada
Appointment: April 27, 2000
Investiture: February 28, 2001*

He is an internationally-recognized expert in forensic medicine who has influenced the evolution of the office of chief medical examiner. During his tenure in Alberta, he oversaw the transformation of the Chief Coroner's office into that of Chief Medical Examiner and his long involvement with the Canadian Police College has enhanced their forensic pathology section. Best known for his work in Nova Scotia, he led the team that identified the victims of SwissAir Flight 111. His unique blend of science and compassion provided solace to the grieving families and earned our admiration and respect.

When asked what influence his UNTD/RCNR experience had on his ability to lead and manage the Swissair 111 tragedy, John has unequivocally drawn a straight-line connection between the two.

A lengthy list of John's Appointments, Awards and Honours can be seen by following the link below:
<http://www.pathfinderforum.com/cv.html>

UNTDy TALES OF NAVAL OFFICER CADETS

The Story of Canada's University Naval Training Divisions

By: CDR Robert J. Williamson CD RCNR (Retired)

The 2013 70th Anniversary edition of this 424-page classic is currently out-of-print. The digital version is still available on a CD for \$20.00. Price includes tax, mailing and packaging. To order your copy, send a cheque payable to the author at: 1 Clonmore Ave. Hamilton, ON. L9A 4R2 or contact the Newsletter Editor.

*The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this Newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to: Newsletter Editor:
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