



# THE NEWSLETTER

of the UNTD Association of Upper Canada  
SPRING ISSUE



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

You will not have missed the news of the revival of the Great UNTD Spring Weepers. We've used our heaviest, darkest typeface to announce the fact. Mark your diary NOW and plan to be at "YORK"s Wardroom on Thursday, April 27 - anytime after 1700. Two special treats are in store. Our editor, Bob Williamson, has obtained (legally) an unpublished excerpt from Hal Lawrence's intended book, which was to have included a section of his experiences as SO UNTD. Some of us will remember Hal Lawrence as a very fierce LT (G) on the parade square at "STAD"

Doug Hain, our intrepid secretary, is organising a "work part ship" at "HAIDA" on the Saturday following the Weepers (April 29). This will be your chance to paint, chip and

generally exercise your nostalgia in a creative manner. Beer and pizza will be laid on. For more information, call Doug at 416-239-7061 (evenings).

And then, there is the Western Ontario Mini-Reunion. We have mumbled on about this event for some time now. After all, our effort last April in Kingston was a good fun event. It seems in this 50th anniversary year that there are a bucket-full of naval-type events in and around the VE Day period. So, we have decided to try something different. With the approval, and indeed, assistance of the CO of HMCS "PREVOST", LCDR Ross Struthers, we are planning that the Mini-Reunion should take place in London Ont. on Saturday and Sunday, the 20th and 21st of

April, 1996. Much more news to come on this, but tentatively, we'll meet at "PREVOST" on the Saturday afternoon (for sticky buns Ben Lamb), we'll dine-the-ladies Saturday evening at "PREVOST". We'll organise pussers prayers, up spirits and a final luncheon - perhaps at UWO. The London committee, Peter Schwartz, Kim Little and Hank Krech will work with your executive to make this event a rouser. Willing volunteers from London and vicinity can offer their services to Peter at 519-661-6716 (during office hours).

That's about it. See you at the weepers.

**DAVID FRY**  
President

**THE GREAT UNTD SPRING WEEPERS**

**HMCS "YORK" - THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

**THE BAR OPENS AT 1700**

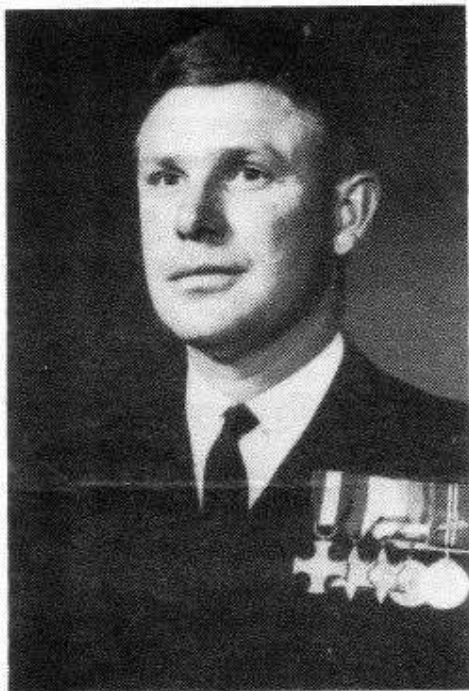
**TASTY HORS D'OEUVRES, SANDWICHES**

**GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - BOB WILLIAMSON WILL READ FROM  
THE UNPUBLISHED WORKS OF HAL LAWRENCE.**

**VIDEO PRESENTATION OF "THE LAST CORVETTE",  
COURTESY OF ED FILE**

**ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$ 10**

## TRIBUTE



LCdr Hal Lawrence (1920 - 1994)

Hal Lawrence, RCN 1939-65, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his part in the sinking of a German submarine. A dedicated career naval officer, with twenty-eight years service, he became a part-time lecturer at the University of Ottawa and Victoria in retirement. He developed into one of our finest naval literary giants with the publication of the award winning book, *A Bloody War*, one man's memories of the Canadian Navy 1939-45, and *Tales of the North Atlantic*.

His views of the navy changed dramatically when he was appointed Staff Officer, UNTD in 1953 and became exposed to the world of academe. These views are documented in chapter nine, Cadets of the Naval Reserve: Advanced "Guzintas", from his unfinished manuscript entitled, *Sickly Season*. "Guzintas" is Hal's colourful synonym for an academic education in Math (Two guzinta four - twice; two guzinta six - three times; etc.) The story of his remarkable UNTD connection has been made available, in memoriam, to your editor with the kind permission of his widow, Alma Lawrence of Victoria, B.C.

In a letter attached to his chapter notes,

Mrs Lawrence wrote: "I am sorry to be so long in answering you, but I find going over Hal's manuscript rather a painful task as I spent so much time doing this when he was alive. I know Hal would love you to tell his story to your UNTD Association for he enjoyed telling naval stories and lecturing right to the end".

An edited version of Hal's experiences as SO UNTD has been added to a revised edition of *SPINDRIFT*, *UNTiDy Tales*, and could be presented at a Reunion Dinner or serialized in a newsletter.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### VICTORY IN EUROPE

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, a Dinner/Dance will be sponsored by *HMCS Star* on Saturday, May 6th, 1995 at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Dance to the Big Band tunes of the "Forties", sing songs of World War II and watch marching band performances by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Tickets are \$40.00 per person for tables of eight. Call, 1-905-572-2728.

### MTB REUNION

The **National Reunion** for Canadian Coastal Forces - Motor Torpedo Boats will be held in Hamilton, Sep. 28 to Oct. 1, '95. If you know anyone who served in motor torpedo boats, pass this message along. They should contact **Mel Smith** at:  
1-905-389-1537

### UNTD NEWSLETTER

**This newsletter is published twice a year by the UNTD Association of Upper Canada as a means of promoting activities of the association and encouraging UNTiDies to maintain their special status as Naval Persons.**

**Editor: Cdr. Robert Williamson,  
1 Clonmore Ave. Hamilton, Ont. L9A 4R2.  
Contributions are invited, whether they be letters, anecdotes, UNTiDy jokes or information about members and former UNTD Cadets, ie. "Where Are They Now?"**

**You have the information we need.**

## LETTERS

Dear Editor,  
I was delighted with *Spindrift*, which I received for Christmas and read in one go. It was a wonderful mixture of anecdotes and history. I learned so much about the UNTD that I didn't know before. I was pleased to see an anecdote in your collection by Richard Baker, one of my contemporaries. It looks like you have opened a mother load of lore.

I was impressed to learn that there are some six thousand UNTDs. It begins to explain why I am occasionally surprised to run into someone here in Southern California who has gone through the UNTD. I estimate that there must be over fifty: it makes me wonder if a California Reunion would be possible.

I have a suggestion for your association if I may. The phenomenon of World Wide Web is exploding. Would some institution, perhaps a college with a UNTD connection, or RMC, be willing to host a UNTD "Homepage" on one of its computers? How many UNTDs have personal homepages? Mine is, "<http://DSNra.JPL.NASA.gov/-kuiper>"

In keeping with the spirit of *Spindrift*, I have enclosed my own "UNTiDy tale:

"I joined the UNTD in 1962 at *HMCS Donnacona*. After two summers at *HMCS Cornwallis*, I took the Navigation Instructor's Course and in the summer of 1967 I was sent to *HMCS Porte de la Reine* as Engineering Officer. In August, Lt. Rideout, the CO, was succeeded by Lt. J. Hannam. One fine evening shortly thereafter, most of us were in our Red Sea rig on the open bridge enjoying an after dinner smoke. As the sun dipped lower, Hannam turned to me and said, "What time is sunset, Sub?"

I pulled the almanac down from the navigator's bookshelf, flipped back and forth quickly between the appropriate data in the daily table and the interpolating table near the back, and gave the answer.

Having expected me, a UNTD product, to plod laboriously with the mechanics of the problem, he scowled and said, "I don't want a guess. Calculate it properly."

I replied, "That time is good to the nearest minute, sir."

Hannam seemed speechless at my temerity until in the pregnant silence, the XO leaned over and whispered to him, "Sub-lieutenant Kuiper is an astronomer, sir."

That in fact is how I have been earning my living. Presently I am a research scientist at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Radio Astronomy Manager for NASA's Deep Space Network. Sunset? What a piece of cake!

*Thomas B. Kuiper, Los Angeles, CA.*

## HUMOUR

### Making an UNTiDy Impression

I had the honour recently to be invited by Rear-Admiral Crickard to speak at the Second Naval Historical Conference held in Halifax on Oct. 8-9, 1993. The theme was, "In Quest of a Canadian Naval Identity"; my subject, "The UNTD and Canadian Society".

In making my presentation, my strategy was to impress the audience with the number of UNTD graduates that can be found in any distinguished naval gathering. I had done my homework and began a roll-call of those present: Dr. W.A.B. Douglas, Director General History, NDHQ; Dr. (Captain N) Mike Hadley, Conference Advisory Committee; Cmdre Drent, RCN ret'd; Cmdre Nason, Commandant of the Staff College; Cdr Roy Del Col, *HMCS Hunter*; Cdr Rollie Marshall, *HMCS Scotian*; John Holland, RCN ret'd and myself.

Pleased with the dramatic impact that I had made but careful not to omit anyone, I asked if there was anyone else? The audience broke into an uproar of laughter and all attention was focused on the front row where our host Vice-Admiral Cairns sat. **Beside him was the most important guest at the conference with his hand in the air.** I blushed as I quickly recognized Vice-Admiral Anderson, Chief of Defence Staff, - UNTD, *HMCS Discovery*, UBC.

*Editor*



## UNTIDY SUPER SPRING WEEPERS

WARDROOM H.M.C.S. YORK  
THURSDAY APRIL 27 FROM 1730

HOT HORS-D'OEUVRES  
SANDWICHES



FEATURING  
UNTD MEMOIRS OF HAL LAWRENCE  
THE RCN's GREATEST RACONTEUR

*(See Tribute article in this newsletter)*

A READING FROM HIS UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT  
"A SICKLY SEASON"

*The sequel to his award winning book, "A Bloody War"*

THIS AND MUCH MORE  
ALL FOR THE LOW PRICE OF \$10.00

**DON'T MISS THIS VERY SPECIAL UNTD EVENT!**

### HELP HAIDA

Remember those days when, as a cadet, you worked part ship, cleaning, chipping paint or slapping it on with a brush. There was a certain pride in making the ship look smart for entering port. Before the tourist season begins at Ontario Place, Haida needs some help to look her best for all the visitors that are expected. Who has more experience in such matters than a former UNTD cadet. Your association is planning a work party for Haida on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 to 15:00. We'll provide the pizza and beer if you'll muster with your friends and family for a little nostalgia of ship board life.

If we all can't make a financial donation to Haida then why not contribute a little elbow grease and have some fun at the same time. Mark this date on your calendar and when the phone committee calls, say you'll help Haida. For more information call our secretary, Doug Hain at (416) 239-7061.

### HART HOUSE PROJECT

Five hundred and fifty-seven University of Toronto graduates gave their lives in World War II. The Alumni Association would like to present a memorial in the form of a stained glass window in the tower room of Hart House to honour these graduates. If you are interested in this memorial project contact Major Ogilby at 492-8532.

### WHY BELONG?

The UNTD Association of Upper Canada is the only ACTIVE UNTD association in Canada with regular executive meetings, annual dinners, reunions and weepers. A semi-annual newsletter maintains communication and preserves a record of activities, information and interesting stories. To keep our association strong, **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.** Your \$15.00 covers the cost of printing and mailing. We are the product of one of the finest naval training plans ever devised. Keep the memory alive and promote it with former UNTD colleagues.