



# THE NEWSLETTER

Of The UNTD Association of Upper Canada



FALL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2001

EDITOR Robert Williamson

Volume 3, Number 16

ISSN 1480 - 0470



## WARRIOR DAYS

"There's a great big ship called Warrior, wot's taking all types out to sea: Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts; Reservists and even the U.N.T.D." This quote by Martin Shubik was in the 1948 UNTD Magazine. Posing on the flight deck of HMCS Warrior in the summer of 1946 are UNTD Ordinary Seamen: L-R David Bate, Derek Bate, Mo Charendoff and Bob Sachs of HMCS York. Story on page 2. DND Photo courtesy Derek Bate

## WARRIOR DAYS

### U.N.T.D.s AFLOAT IN HMCS WARRIOR

Our cover photo appeared in a UNTD recruiting booklet printed in 1947. It was used to illustrate UNTD training under the heading, TWO WEEKS AFLOAT. The caption stated, "Two week's training afloat with pay in ships of the Royal Canadian Navy takes the form of a definite training cruise with visits to such Canadian or foreign ports as can be included in the time available". When the four UNTD Ordinary Seamen posed for this DND publicity photo, **HMCS Warrior** was newly commissioned in the Canadian Navy and made an exciting training platform with lots of accommodation and potential for foreign visits.

Towards the end of World War II, Canadian Navy planners decided to return the small escort aircraft carriers, **Nabob** and **Puncher**, which were on loan from the Royal Navy, in exchange for a light fleet carrier. At the end of March 1946, a brand new **Warrior** arrived in Halifax from Belfast where she was built. She carried two squadrons, one each of Seafires and Fireflies. Used extensively for training in the summers of 1946 and 1947, she proved unsuitable for the cold Canadian winters and was returned to Belfast in February 1948 in exchange for **HMS Magnificent**. While under construction "Maggie" had been built to Canadian specifications. **Warrior** continued to serve in the RN until 1958 when she was sold to Argentina and renamed **Independencia**.

Ironically, although the 1946 cover photo was used to illustrate sea training for the UNTD, Derek Bate reported that they stayed alongside for their entire two weeks training afloat. However, in August 1947, **Warrior** made an extended cruise to the United Kingdom carrying Boy Scouts to a jamboree, Sea Cadets on an United Kingdom tour as well as Reservist and thirty UNTDs for sea training.

It appears that she was a happy ship and there were a number of enjoyable ports of call. One of our UNTD graduates, Bob Morris, had such a wonderful trip to the UK in **Warrior** as a sea cadet that he joined the UNTD in September 1947. Incidentally, it was this sea cadet tour that was responsible for salvaging the bell of the Royal Sovereign Class British Dreadnought, **HMS Ramillies**, from a British naval salvage yard. With a bell mouth almost two feet wide, the bell is now on display in the **HMCS Star** museum in Hamilton. It is a rare naval artifact that reminds us of the German surface-raider phase of the Battle of the Atlantic and the D-Day naval bombardment of the coast of France. However, that's another story. I am sure that Bob Morris will be

happy to relate it over some liquid refreshment at our next social function.

It is obvious that **Warrior** played a significant role in UNTD training during 1946-47. There are many stories about her and her captain, Captain Frank Houghton C.B.E. RCN, featured in the first three volumes of the UNTD Magazine produced by editor-in-chief, Don Forgie of **HMCS York**.

All four of the UNTDs in the photo graduated from the University of Toronto in 1948. David Bate went to work for Ontario Hydro for forty years. He served in **HMCS York** until 1963 when he retired as a department head (Technical Officer) with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. His twin brother, Derek Bate went to the Ontario College of Education and taught Math and Science at the secondary school level for twenty-five years. He then went on to administration, becoming a principal in Peel County for fifteen years. He served in **York** until 1968 and retired as a Commander in charge of the last UNTD class before unification.

Mo Charendoff and Bob Sachs did not serve in the Naval Reserve. Bob joined Orenda in 1948 and moved to Montreal in the Aeronautical Engineering field. It is believed Mo Charendoff became a doctor in the Toronto area.

Thanks to Derek Bate for providing the basic material for this story; the UNTD recruiting booklet and Volumes 1-3 of the UNTD Magazine. There are a hundred more stories like this one out there. Please send your material to the editor so that it can be made a part of our recorded heritage.

Editor

### PIANO NEEDED!

The Wardroom of **HMCS York** has been nicely redecorated with the help of funds raised by the NOAC. One thing is still missing and is absolutely essential if a good old singsong is ever to be heard again at an officer's social function. The old piano, which was the feature of many a good old party, has disappeared. One of our UNTD Directors, Hugh Franks, was on the NOAC committee that helped raise funds for the Wardroom renovations and he would like to see the piano replaced, perhaps as a gift of the UNTD Association.

If anyone has a piano or knows the whereabouts of such an instrument that is no longer used and needs a new home where it would be appreciated, please give Hugh Franks a call (416) 968-0105.

## UNTD SOCIAL EVENTS FOR YOUR YEAR 2001 CALENDAR

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### WEEPERS & STEAK BAR-B-Q!

Thursday, September 27, 2001 - Wardroom, HMCS YORK  
Bar opens 1730. 1800 hours for A.G.M. 1915-2015 Steak B.B.Q  
Cost \$15.00 per person. Dress Informal. Wives & Friends Welcome

AS AN ADDED INDUCEMENT TO ATTEND, THERE WILL BE A DRAW FOR A DOOR PRIZE

A COLLECTOR'S LEATHER BOUND EDITION OF  
**HMCS HAIDA, Battle Ensign Flying**

Value \$100.00

# ANNUAL REUNION MESS DINNER

### Dine Your Sweethearts Dinner

Wardroom HMCS YORK Saturday, November 17, 2001  
Reception on the Quarterdeck 1830 / Roast Beef Dinner with Yorkshire Pudding 1930  
Dinner Wines & Port, Tariff \$T.B.A.

### Guest Speaker

THE HONOURABLE SHEILA COPPS, MP, MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

And / or Bill Graham, MP, UNTD HMCS YORK, U. of T. 1961

Ms. Copps has been asked to speak about the Federal Government plans to build a National Marine Interpretation Centre in Hamilton and the relocation of HMCS Haida to that site. Parliamentary schedules are not set until late September and Ms Copps is subject to the Prime Minister's requirements. Therefore Bill Graham MP, a member of our association will be her backup. Invitations will be mailed early in October. Mark your calendar now!

For further information contact Bob Willson (416) 927- 1486 / e-mail <[bwilson@istar.ca](mailto:bwilson@istar.ca)>

## NOAC EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Fri. Sep 21, 2001	GET ACQUAINTED <i>WEEPERS</i> Bar 1730, Steak Bar-B-Q 1900 Cost \$20.00	Wardroom York
Tues. Oct. 2, 2001	STAFF COLLEGE RECEPTION Bar 1730, Reception 1830 cost \$20.00	Wardroom York
Thur. Oct. 18, 2001	TRAFALGAR LUNCHEON 1130 FOR 1230	RCMI
TBA	NOVEMBER LUNCH	Naval Club
Fri. Dec. 7, 2001	CHRISTMAS HOIST 1730-2200. Good cheer, music, friends, food	Wardroom York
TBA	MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT	TBA
TBA	SPRING LUNCHEON	TBA
Fri. Apr. 12, 2002	PAST PRESIDENTS' / VIP NIGHT 1800 TO 2230	Wardroom York

UNTD members are welcome to all NOAC events. For further information, please call Gil Hutton (905) 523-9151 or Jack Kilgour (416) 288-0579. If you would like to attend, let us know so that catering can be notified.

## PART 2 VICTORIA 2000 REUNION

Seattle, Bremerton Navy Yard & Alaska Cruise

By Gil Hutton

While other reunion attendees visited friends and relatives, a group of eleven left Victoria on the Victoria Clipper, a fast jet boat that took only two-and-a-half hours to reach Seattle. It was a beautiful trip in the gathering dusk out of Victoria, past the San Juan Islands into Puget Sound with the Olympic Mountains in the background. By this time Seattle Harbour was aglitter with the lights of the city. We stayed at the Edgewater Hotel, which is actually built over the water on pilings. The next day we had a seven-hour tour of Seattle, emphasizing parks, waterfront, Lake Union and the houseboat featured in the movie, "Sleepless in Seattle". The visit to millionaire's row did not include Bill Gates' 37,000 square foot, twenty million-dollar mansion. However, we did visit Pioneer Square, an underground city left behind when the downtown area was raised one storey after repeated flooding. The tour was light-hearted and a tongue-in-cheek satire on the foibles of early Seattle as well as a unique time capsule of a pioneer American city. The tour ended at the top of the Space Needle, which afforded a breathtaking view of the entire area. Once again the weather cooperated beautifully.

The next day was overcast and showery. We took an early ferry ride across Puget Sound to Bremerton, site of the famous navy yard. Generations of U.S. Navy ships have been built or repaired there. A heartwarming incident occurred at the entrance. After a few earlier setbacks, I was pondering what might go wrong next when a voice, which could obviously be heard from a ship's deck in a full gale said, "Don't worry Sir, whatever you want is the way it will happen." I turned to see the most valuable thing in any Navy, a real, honest-to-goodness, weather-beaten Chief Petty Officer. Now retired, he was the Curator of the *USS TURNER JOY*, a destroyer leader in Korea and Vietnam. As predicted, the rest of the day was a delight. Despite her years of restoration, the *TURNER JOY* still smelled like the ships I remembered.

We next boarded a boat for a tour of the navy yard. We saw several Aegis Class cruisers, a nuclear missile submarine (five others were in various stages of being cut up for disposal) and the *USS JOHN F. STENNIS*, an *EISENHOWER* Class nuclear powered aircraft carrier. I had never seen one of these monsters up close before. It blotted out the sky. Over 1,000 feet long, it carries a crew of 6,000 and 80 aircraft in peacetime. The *JOHN STENNIS* was the first ship ever named after a living person. Senator Stennis had been the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for thirty years and a

tireless advocate for the US Armed Forces. Now a second ship has been named in honour of a living American. The *USS RONALD REGAN* was christened on March 3, 2001.

On return to the *USS TURNER JOY* we had lunch in the wardroom and then a very thorough and informative tour of the ship. Our guides were all senior NCOs, one of whom had spent thirty years working in the navy yard. We then went ashore to the museum building which housed over 150 years of West Coast USN memorabilia. They had more guides than they needed, all retired USN and USNR personnel, some obviously very senior citizens and all movingly eager to explain their navy. They were a delight.

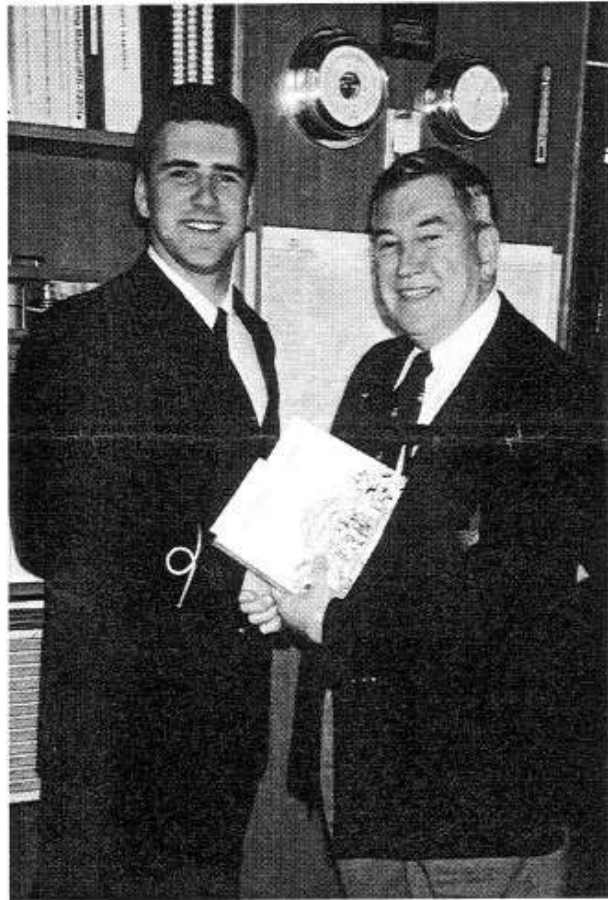
The next morning we took the Amtrak train to Vancouver. The train winds right along the coast for 200 miles. Five of us went directly to the *SS VEENDAM* for a seven day Alaska Cruise. An account of this cruise would be nothing more than a superfluous travelogue, but there were a couple of unique UNTD features. Eleven of us: Gil Hutton, four couples, the Ben Lambs, the Ernie Nytrais, the Andrew Malcolms and Walter Hindiak and his sister Mary as well as Doug Hain and his son Jordy squeezed into one cabin to finish off the Pusser's Rum left over from Royal Roads. It was the coziest Up Spirits ever.

The highlight for many of us was an exclusive afternoon tour of the bridge. Officers on Holland-America ships are all Dutch or British. Our guide was a fine young Cadet (Sub-Lieutenant) from England. He introduced us to the Captain, also English. The boyish looking Captain has had command for 21 years. In 1982, his cargo ship had been ordered to the Falkland Islands and was right beside the *Atlantic Conveyor* when she was sunk by Exocet missiles. His reminiscences were many and very interesting. He treated us like fellow sailors and contrasted life in cargo ships with passenger liners. He explained the features of a modern liner's bridge and shared his view of how the sea could suddenly turn on you when you least expected it. The next day Ben Lamb and I presented suitably inscribed copies of CDR "Yogi" Jenson's book, "Tin hats, Oilskins and Seaboats" to the Captain and our Cadet guide.

We arrived back in Vancouver exhausted after a memorable and unique two-week UNTD Reunion 2000. In the final analysis, the UNTD Association, despite the great potential for operating at a financial loss when running such a complicated reunion event, came out with a small surplus. This money will be put towards our next great adventure, **the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in 2003.**



Intrepid explorers from Seattle arrive back in Canada via Amtrak Rail. From left to right: John Deadman, Beatrice Deadma, Walter Kindiak, Barbara Malcolm, Mary Kindiak, Gil Hutton, Molly Fraser, Andrew Malcolm, Gus Fraser, Jan Calder, Gle Calder. This is the group that visited the Bremerton Navy Yards.



Gil Hutton and Ben Lamb present copies of CDR Latham Jenson's book, "Tin hats, Oilskins and Seaboats" to the Captain and Sub lieutenant of the SS VEENDAM after their hospitality on the ship's bridge during the Alaska Cruise.

*Photos by Gil Hutton*

## UNTD & NOAC AFFILIATION!

Since the UNTD Reunion in Victoria last year, attention has been drawn to the fact that an active and viable UNTD Association exists with sufficient strength to successfully organize a quasi-national reunion. In the winter 2000/2001 issue of the STARSHIELD publication of the Naval Officers Association of Canada, Executive Director, Duncan Mathieson raised the question of amalgamating the UNTD Association and the NOAC. Consequently, Russ Moore, of the NOAC was tasked with canvassing ex-UNTDs about their interest in forming a White Twist Affiliate of NOAC. This is of particular interest to NOAC because of declining membership.

This subject was reviewed at the UNTD Association executive meeting in May 2001, and no doubt will be raised at the Annual General Meeting at HMCS York on September 27 (see social events notice). As editor of your newsletter I felt it was my obligation to pull together a number of thoughts from various sources regarding a possible amalgamation. For the benefit of our readership, some of the pros and cons of amalgamation have been incorporated in the following summary.

### Advantages

- The NOAC is **incorporated** and has **charitable status**. The UNTD Association would come under the NOAC umbrella of incorporation and charitable status at no expense. To date, the UNTD Association has been **unsuccessful** in acquiring this necessary status. For our own protection, we should **not** be operating an association with the attending financial risk of reunions, dinners and newsletter publications without this protection or income tax benefits for membership fees. We have been lucky to get away with it so far and need to give this subject our immediate attention.
- Our association spends a lot of money on mailing. NOAC has a bulk rate of 30 cents, which could reduce our mailing costs by 38%.
- Much effort goes into producing a UNTD Newsletter, which only reaches about 350 people, mostly in southern Ontario, or about 20% of our market. By including our newsletter as a supplement in the NOAC STARSHIELD we could reach a lot more people across the country and broaden our readership.
- The UNTD Association could have an annual reunion at much less cost and effort by piggybacking on the NOAC Annual General Meeting.

- Some UNTD members are already members of NOAC. This would reduce dual membership for them.
- Some former UNTDs may belong to the NOAC in various parts of the country where there is no effective UNTD organization. This would help expand our membership and also solve our desire to become a **national entity**. It may also encourage former UNTDs who belong to neither organization to join a White Twist affiliate of NOAC.
- The addition of former UNTDs might broaden the scope and interests of NOAC bringing a Naval Reserve and post war voice to the predominantly veteran and ex-reg. force officer outlook of NOAC. In time this may lead to the amalgamation of other splinter naval groups into a Naval Association of Canada.

### Disadvantages

- As a supplement to STARSHIELD, the UNTD newsletter could be reduced to a page of general interest. We do not know how many former UNTDs belong to NOAC and so the hope of broadening our readership could be over rated.
- A **great deal** more efficiency in planning would be required by the UNTD to co-ordinate with NOAC agendas and mailings unless the UNTD could maintain independent mailings under the NOAC bulk rate.
- Most members of the UNTD Association are more interested in camaraderie and social functions than national agendas, political lobbying and bureaucratic empire building.
- Fee structures could be a major stumbling block. A three tier system of fees would not be attractive to the UNTD Association, i.e. Chapter fee + Branch fee + National fee.
- It will be difficult to reach a compromise where the UNTD Association retains some of its autonomy and financial independence.
- The present UNTD Association is struggling to get people involved in its executive who are willing to put in some effort. It may be difficult to find members who are dedicated enough to run White Twist affiliates across the country.
- The NOAC has failed in the past to make concessions that would attract other naval organizations.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive summary. However, it should give the reader a starting point and thoughts to consider for a **meaningful discussion at the AGM at 1800 on Thursday, September 27, Wardroom HMCS York**. This will be an important meeting. Please plan to attend. There will be a valuable and exciting door prize.

Editor

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Accomplishments of UNTD Alumni Recognized

By Gil Hutton

This year has brought honors and recognition to a few of our outstanding UNTD alumni. In February, Newsletter Editor, **Bob Williamson** (UNTD HMCS STAR, McMaster University 1961), was summoned to Queen's Park by Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. He was presented with the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. One of 67 Canadians recognized for their community service, Bob has been a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Board of Education Speakers' Bureau for 15 years. Having prepared 20 heritage slide programs to promote local and national history he has made almost 400 presentations to community groups. This includes historical conferences in Buffalo, NY, Burlington, Vermont and Plattsburgh, NY. He has also given of his time to several associations and written or co-authored seven books on local history (including UNTiDy Tales). These publications have been used to raise funds for several heritage projects such as the HMCS STAR Naval Museum, the Board of Education Archives and the restoration of the Gore Park Fountain in downtown Hamilton.



*Bob Williamson with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Hilary Weston, received the Governor General's Award for promoting Canadian History. Photo by Eileen Williamson*

Competing in his 11<sup>th</sup> Marblehead Race, 64 year old **Hal Davies** (UNTD HMCS YORK, University of Toronto 1959), finished first in the largest class aboard his boat, *THIRD WAVE* (C & C 37R) built in St. Catharines, ON. Davies represented the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron (RNSYS). He and his eight-member crew, including his son Stephen and daughter Joanna Davies covered the 450 miles of ocean in 54 hrs at an avg. speed of 8.3 mph or 7.1kts.

The Marblehead Race is the second oldest ocean yacht race in North America. The course is from Marblehead, just north of Boston, home of the

venerable Boston Yacht Club (BYC) to Halifax, home of Canada's historic RNSYS. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> race in the series organized by these two clubs and only the third time that a Canadian has won this class.

After receiving his UNTD naval commission, Hal Davies commenced a thirty year career in the RCN, retiring as CAPTAIN after commanding no less than 4 ships: HMCS SASKATCHEWAN, NIPIGON, QU'APPELLE and PROTECTEUR. Subsequently, after transferring to the Reserve, he commanded HMCS SCOTIAN 1990-91. Then, founding a company specializing in Technical Based Training,

he prepared the training program for the new Maritime Coastal Defense Vessels. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, which restored and operates HMCS SACKVILLE.

*Hal Davies, UNTD HMCS YORK, U. of T. '59, surrounded by his crew, holds the trophy for the Marblehead Race, July 2001. His son and daughter stand on his left. It is only the third time that a Canadian has won this prestigious trophy.*

*Photo by Gil Hutton.*



In July 2001 at the Annual General Meeting of the Naval Officers' Association of Canada, **Gil Hutton** (UNTD HMCS STAR, McMaster University 1950) was presented with the *Gold Medallion Award*. In the fifty-five year history of the NOAC, only 31 gold awards have been presented. It is awarded for "outstanding and exemplary service to the NOAC and to Canada" at the National level over an extended period of time. Gil had previously been awarded Bronze and Silver Medallions.

The citation mentioned Gil's 16-year service in the RCNR, his active membership in NOAC over fifty years (1951-2001), as well as his contribution to the Toronto Branch as Vice President, Newsletter Editor (BUMPH), and President. He was recognized for his contributions as a National Director especially during the 1993 Maritime Helicopter struggle and for 13 years as a Director of the Toronto Branch.

He was mentioned for his naval community service as one of the seven founders of the UNTD Association and subsequently Newsletter Editor, Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. In particular he was cited for organizing an autonomous Hamilton Area Group within the Toronto Branch of NOAC in 1988. Under his leadership this group's active membership in the Hamilton-Niagara-Burlington area has grown from ten to over fifty.



*Gil Hutton is shown here in the Nova Scotian Hotel after being presented with the NOAC Gold Medallion Award in July 2001. In the 55-year history of the NOAC, only 31 Gold Awards have been presented.*

Photo by Joy Gow

## HISTORY OF THE NEWSLETTER

The origins of our newsletter can be found 54 years ago with the publication of the first UNTD Magazine in 1947. As stated in our cover story, Officer Candidate Donald J. Forgie of **HMCS York** was the Editor-in-Chief and driving force behind the project. The concept was encouraged by CDR Little to develop a bonding and camaraderie in the nationwide UNTD organization. The magazine merged into the White Twist Yearbook and ceased publication in 1952. The original magazines from 1947 to 1952 are important and rare pieces of UNTD memorabilia.

Our current UNTD Association Newsletter began in 1988. There were 3 issues written by Gil Hutton. David Fry published 8 newsletters between 1990-93. These first eleven newsletters were not cataloged or numbered. For organizational purposes, we can now identify them as volumes 1 & 2. Volume 3 began in 1994 with your current editor who has published 16 issues. An ISSN number was applied for in 1997 making our newsletter an official Canadian publication and a future collector's items. *Editor*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*March 21, 2001*

*Dear Editor,*

*Just finished and enjoyed another copy of the UNTD Newsletter. As often happens, a familiar name came up through the mist of time and I wondered if you could put me in touch with Sam Huntington. He was my term Lieutenant in Antigonish in 1950 where I was a rather puffed-up Cadet Captain. Sam taught me some of the facts of life that have stayed with me. Our paths crossed again in FOND at HMCS STAR in 1952.*

*The CO of Antigonish was Ray Phillips, a man for whom I had the greatest respect, and whose company I enjoyed when we were both at Headquarters in 1961. I have seen his name on occasion in the NOAC Newsletter.*

*Gord Woodall,  
Surg. LCDR RCN Ret'd  
<goodall@home.com>*

### UNTD NEWSLETTER

The UNTD Association of Upper Canada publishes this newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to Newsletter Editor: Cdr Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave., Hamilton, Ontario. L9A 4R2; OR e-mail

[Cdrbob@worldchat.com](mailto:Cdrbob@worldchat.com)

VISIT THE UNTD WEB SITE

<http://www.untd.org/>