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A periodic publication of the UNTD Association of Canada designed to provide news and short stories in a lighthearted fashion. Back issues can be found on the web site here: [Gunroom Shots - UNTD Association of Canada](#)

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President's Message

(Graham Scott)

First of all I would like to wish our members and their families a warm and enjoyable holiday season and a very happy and successful 2022! I welcome this opportunity to provide you with a quick overview of your Board's activities. The Board met on Tuesday December 14th and considered some key matters concerning the future of the UNTDA.

Incorporation

Further to our earlier decision to incorporate the UNTDA, the Board approved our initial By-laws and will commence the development of Board policies. The Incorporation process has been managed by Robert Blakely from his base in Edmonton and has required a considerable sacrifice of time.

Incorporation materials will be available online and the by-laws will be presented to the membership at the next general meeting for ratification.

UNTDA 2025

We received a report prepared by Board member, Marta Mulkins which provides a recommended road map for the future of our organization. It is very comprehensive and provides a number of suggestions to position the UNTDA to be more

Message du Président

(Graham Scott)

Tout d'abord, je souhaite à nos membres et à leurs familles un temps des fêtes chaleureux et agréable et une année 2022 très heureuse et réussie! Je me réjouis de cette occasion de vous donner un bref aperçu des activités de votre conseil d'administration. Le Conseil s'est réuni le mardi 14 décembre et a examiné quelques questions clés concernant l'avenir de l'Association UNTD du Canada.

Incorporation

Suite à notre décision antérieure d'incorporer l'Association UNTD du Canada, le Conseil a approuvé nos statuts initiaux et commencera l'élaboration des politiques du Conseil. Le processus d'incorporation a été géré par Robert Blakely depuis sa base à Edmonton et a exigé un sacrifice de temps considérable. Les documents d'incorporation seront disponibles en ligne et les règlements seront présentés aux membres lors de la prochaine assemblée générale pour ratification.

UNTDA 2025

Nous avons reçu un rapport préparé par la membre du conseil d'administration, Marta Mulkins, qui fournit une feuille de route recommandée pour l'avenir de notre organisation. Il est très complet et fournit un certain nombre de suggestions pour positionner

responsive to the changing expectations of our membership. The report has been sent to the Executive Committee to establish both short-term and long-term priorities for realizing the key recommendations.

Both the By-laws and the Mulkins Report will be posted on the website and your comments and suggestions are very welcome, as they will be of considerable assistance in our decision-making.

2023

The other major matter of discussion was the planning for the UNTDA Convention in 2023 taking place in Victoria May 9-12, 2023. The planning committee is chaired by Roger Elmes and will feature a number of tours, discussion panels and a mess dinner. Roger also has representatives in many cities who are tracking Naval Reserve Centennial plans by the Naval Reserve Divisions.

This will be a very interesting and rewarding conference in its own right but additionally and significantly it will mark a major turning point in the history of the UNTDA. The conference will include the General Meeting of the UNTDA which will feature exciting proposals for the future of the Association which will be substantially influenced by the recommendations contained in the Mulkins Report. I hope as many members as possible will attend and be on the ground floor in directing our future course.

CSVC

The Citizen Sailor Virtual Cenotaph project led by

L'Association UNTD du Canada afin qu'elle soit plus réactive aux attentes changeantes de nos membres. Le rapport a été envoyé au Comité exécutif pour établir les priorités à court et à long terme pour la réalisation des recommandations clés. Les statuts et le rapport Mulkins seront affichés sur le site Web et vos commentaires et suggestions sont les bienvenus, car ils seront d'une aide considérable dans notre prise de décision.

2023

L'autre sujet de discussion majeur était la planification de la Convention de l'Association UNTD du Canada en 2023 qui aura lieu à Victoria du 9 au 12 mai 2023. Le comité de planification est présidé par Roger Elmes et comprendra un certain nombre de visites, des panels de discussion et un dîner régimentaire. Roger a également des représentants dans de nombreuses villes qui suivent les plans du centenaire de la Réserve navale par les divisions de la Réserve navale. Ce sera une conférence très intéressante et enrichissante en soi, mais en plus et de manière significative, elle marquera un tournant majeur dans l'histoire de l'Association UNTD du Canada. La conférence comprendra l'Assemblée générale de l'Association UNTD du Canada qui présentera des propositions passionnantes pour l'avenir de l'Association qui seront considérablement influencées par les recommandations contenues dans le rapport Mulkins. J'espère qu'autant de membres que possible y assisteront et seront au rez-de-chaussée pour diriger notre futur cours.

CVMC

Le projet CVMC dirigé par Kim Kubeck fait de grands progrès et j'espère que vous suivez certaines des vignettes que nous avons publiées au fur et à mesure de l'avancement du projet. Kim a présenté cette initiative spéciale au Conseil de la Réserve navale en novembre, ce qui a consolidé la position de l'Association UNTD du

The Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph project led by Kim Kubeck is making great progress and I hope you are following some of the Vignettes that we have published as the project proceeds. Kim made a presentation of this special initiative to the Naval Reserve Board in November which cemented the position of the UNTDA as an important partner of the Naval Reserve in the planning of Centennial activities. There is now a CSVC Facebook Page CSVC-CVMC page, which I would urge you to check out and contribute to. Finally, while your UNTDA is a volunteer organization as you can see many of your directors and committee members are working very hard at the process of strengthening your organization's communications and ensuring it is responsive to your needs and expectations.

Canada en tant que partenaire important de la Réserve navale dans la planification des activités du centenaire. Il existe maintenant une page Facebook CSVC-CVMC page, que je vous invite à consulter et à laquelle contribuer. Enfin, bien que votre Association soit une organisation bénévole, comme vous pouvez le constater, bon nombre de vos directeurs et membres de comités travaillent très dur pour renforcer les communications de votre organisation et s'assurer qu'elle répond à vos besoins et attentes.

Bonne année
Graham

Happy New Year
Graham

CSVC Project Update

(Kim Kubeck, Project Manager)



Briefing to Naval Reserve Leadership

A special meeting of the Naval Reserve Board was convened (virtually) by the Commander of the Naval Reserves on December 1. The Naval Reserves senior leadership including Regional Captains and Chiefs, NAVRES Deputy Command and others met to discuss our very own **Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph**

project. The groundwork for this meeting was laid by earlier meetings of UNTDA board members with the Commander Naval Reserve/Formation Chief

The meeting attendees were provided with a detailed description of the project, it's goals, methods and needs in pre-meeting material and so the ensuing discussion was able to focus on answering questions and considering how the Naval Reserve and the NRDs could become involved and support the project. The briefing was well received; there was plenty of enthusiasm and some excellent questions. The support of NavRes is obviously important to this project and their support is firmly in place now that a NAVRES POC has been assigned to facilitate liaison.

The introduction to this project on the UNTDA web site, calls this our “signature contribution to the celebration of the centenary” and all the pieces are falling into place. To get involved or to learn more, read [this](#).

A Mid-Life Crisis

by Al Blackwood



After reading Paul Seguna's item on his training time aboard Oriole in the last issue of Gunroom Shots I recalled my own brief involvement with that vessel's history.

In the Fall of 1973 after a few months' employment with the Naval Reserve, I extended my “training” to the end of December in the role of Staff Officer Reserves on the staff of the Commander Training Group Pacific (Captain R.D. Okros).

One of my ancillary duties that Fall was to be nominally in charge of HMCS Oriole. There was no training or sailing program and I was aboard only a few times for specific minor tasks. The most significant reason for going aboard Oriole that Fall was to observe the condition of the ship's steel frames which the Captain had learned were compromised. I was to provide him with a verbal report.

I was surprised to observe that one of the hull's main frames was badly corroded to the extent that , as I recall, half the steel in the I Beam approximately mid-ships and perhaps five feet in length was no longer there.

My report was not intended to be definitive and really only a viewpoint from another pair of eyes for the Boss. However, he did ask me if I thought the ship should be saved, repaired and used for further training. I gave him my opinion and he seemed to agree.

My final task aboard Oriole was to remove all the remaining liquor to a designated storage bunker in Colwood after she had been moved into the drydock for repairs and maintenance. Clearly the offending frame was successfully replaced along with lesser repairs as Oriole subsequently, along with a sail training program, participated in several annual Swiftsure and

Victoria to Maui races ... in fact she won the latter in 1979 or 80.

Ed: Al, thanks for sharing this unique perspective and reminding me of our personal connection. These are just the sort of stories we encourage our readers to send in! In 1967 you were a 2nd year UNTD in Esquimalt and I was one of the Term Lieutenants. Fun days!

TIDBITS

101 and Still “Sailing”

At 101 we salute a VERY old friend who many call a “national treasure.” Commander (ret’d) Peter Goodwin Chance at 101 years of age is probably the oldest of our Naval Reserve cadré and ever the eternal optimist. He joined the naval reserve in the late 1930s as a midshipman. He has remained active and very interested in Maritime Affairs and the RCN, enthusiastically sharing thoughts, advice and opinions.

Already in the naval reserve when hostilities broke out in 1939, Peter joined the destroyer HMCS St Laurent as a midshipman four days after Canada entered the war, then sailed off with a convoy the next day. That was the beginning of his 30-year naval career. He spent the war in a succession of RCN and Royal Navy ships, including HMCS Skeena, which in 1944 was lost along with 15 of its crew after running aground during a wild storm off Reykjavik, Iceland. Peter was the navigator on board. The ship dragged her anchor and went up on the rocks. He had warned the Captain that anchoring was too dangerous as the storm was a hurricane. He was right. The ship was written off. Those lost were buried in Iceland.

His wife Peggy died in 1996. Peter still lives independently and happily in Sidney, BC. May he continue to enjoy fair winds and following seas.

Naval Centenarian

Nick Slonosky reminds us It’s not every day that someone turns 100. Gord Saunders celebrated his 100th Birthday in Winnipeg this last November 22nd and was duly recognized by the local chapter of the NAC. Gord was in the wartime RCNR and also served at Chippawa post-war (retiring as a LCdr), and was well known to many. Gord may be the last living member of the original Chippawa when the division was commissioned in 1941.

Gord Saunders is Dave Saunder’s father. Dave is UNTD ’65 and is originally from Chippawa but finished his Reserve service at Carlton in Ottawa.

A Little Help from Above

Reverend LCdr (ret'd) Bob MacLean, CD recently sent a nice note into Gunroom Shots with a short reminiscence of his early days in the Army and Navy Cadets from 1947 onwards, his entry to the UNTDs at HMCS Star in 1964, and subsequent experience in a number of HMC Ships, including the "O Boats." Bob became Padre' MacLean, Chaplain Emeritus serving as Chaplain to the Third Destroyer Squadron, the Fifth and Second Squadrons. Bob was also a former Halifax Dockyard Senior Chaplain.

Ed: Bob, good lord, the Navy could use more of the devine intervention you facilitated in your day!

Bob included the following photo of his nostalgic visit with family members to HMCS Sackville in Halifax...



Letters to the Editor

Re: Gunroom Shots- Issue#5

Robert MacNeil

I've seen a lot of articles and interviews by and about Robert MacNeil and one very salient point not mentioned in your Tidbit, is that prior to the UNTD, Robert had applied to the "naval college", which I take to be Royal Roads, and he failed the "entrance exam". Given his age it was probably in 1948/9 and that surely was a huge disappointment to the father. Why he failed that is hard to say, possibly during the interview phase, particularly if he wasn't interested. So going in to Dal and the UNTD was somewhat a redemption? Voluntarily terminating that would have been a second and final blow for his father.

His father:

Robert Auburn Stewart MacNeil was a swashbuckling RCNR WWII Officer with a number of significant Commands and events under his belt, and his story is awesome in its own right.

Two elements of his story are grabbing: First, at the outbreak of WWII he was in the RCMP Marine Division (as well as in the NavRes) and was Skipper of RCMPV LAURIER. LAURIER was taken over by the RCN and became HMCS LAURIER and MacNeil became her CO as a LT RCNR. Second, when he became CO of the Corvette DAUPHIN, the gunshield art pictured a Mountie in full dress uniform, pistol in hand, riding a U-boat in the water as if it was a horse. That Gunshield Art is currently at the Crowsnest in St John's and was hanging in the main room when we were there in 2018.

His next younger son:

Hugh Malcolm David MacNEIL, fulfilled the father's "dreams" in spades. He entered CMR I think the year it opened and had a sterling RCN career, retiring as a VADM.

The father died in 1959, at the very young age of 53, and so did not get to witness the careers of either son.

His youngest son:

Michael Warren MacNeil was the 3rd and youngest son who had no naval or celebrity career and died last year.

-Bill Clearihue

Ed: En passant, I was privileged to have served under VADM Hugh McNeil. And the youngest brother Mike and family lived across the street from me in Ottawa before he retired to a farm in Cape Breton.

BTW, Bill, I'm always fascinated by your stash of information and extensive knowledge of naval affairs.

Keep it coming!

.

Vice Admiral Harry DeWolf

I draw attention to a beer produced by Brightwood brewery of Dartmouth N.S. called "Hardover Harry" to honour the commissioning of HMCS HARRY DEWOLF, the first of a class of Arctic and off-shore patrol vessels named after Vice Admiral Harry DeWolf, best known for his command of HMCS Haida currently moored in Hamilton, Ontario.

-Douglas Coate

Red lead

Interesting article on "Red Lead" in the RCN. I recall the often addition of "shot" with the tomatoes. Seems that red lead & shot was a regular at Cornwallis in the mid-60s. Of course at my age the memory could be wrong.

-Ron Lindsay

Your Red Lead piece reminded me of the LS Cook in Oriole in 1965 who referred to the Carnation

condensed milk tins used in coffee as the “armoured tit” and the Tetra Pack paper ones as the “cardboard tit”.

ORIOLE at 100. Very impressive! A WWI war prize if I recall correctly(?)

Steve Foldesi

Ed: Steve, ORIOLE was built and owned by Canadians. It was the naval sailing vessel PICKLE that was a WWII German war prize. (See piece below).

I remember our first Astronaut Captain(RCN)Marc Garneau recounting his trans-Atlantic ventures in PICKLE as a young naval officer under training. He likened it to the same fear and excitement of the unknown he later felt in Space.

CNAV PICKLE

The Helgoland was a yawl designed and built in Germany in 1936. With the onset of WWII, she was transferred to the Kriegsmarine as a school ship. After the war the Royal Navy took over Helgoland as a war prize and renamed her PICKLE to honour the sailing vessel that brought back the news of Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar. In 1953 the PICKLE was gifted to the RCN by the RN. Based in Halifax the PICKLE , similarly with ORIOLE on the West Coast, was used to teach future navy officers to navigate, make contact with the sea, acquire the art of sailing and promote the Canadian flag. Being too costly to maintain PICKLE was finally sold to a private Canadian buyer in the early ‘70s.

Volunteers Appeal



Volunteers needed in Three Critical Areas:

UNTD Communications Committee needs volunteers to assist with (strategic) communications planning and social media outreach, with particular attention to maximizing the reach and appeal of our Facebook group.

Bénévoles recherchés dans trois domaines critiques :

Le comité des communications de l'UNTD a besoin de bénévoles pour aider à la planification (stratégique) des communications et à la sensibilisation des médias sociaux, en portant une attention particulière à maximiser la portée

et l'attrait de notre groupe Facebook.

UNTDA 2023 Committee would benefit from an expert in event planning. The planning for the convention scheduled for May, 2023 is well advanced, but the committee needs someone dedicated to the support and encouragement of class/year/ship group reunions to be held at the same time.

UNTDA Governance and Nominations

Committee With incorporation comes the need for improved definition of the UNTDA's detailed policies and governance structure, along with finding the right people to fill important roles.

UNTDA Finance Committee This committee currently consists of one member and the work is not onerous, but a backup is essential – someone with good knowledge of Excel, and ideally, VBA. Diversity is very important to provide effective representation of a large membership, but since the vast majority currently are ex-UNTDs, to serve the future, the ideal volunteers will be those who joined the Naval Reserve in the 80's, the 90's and beyond.

Le Comité UNTDA 2023 bénéficierait d'un expert en planification d'événements. La planification de la convention prévue pour mai 2023 est bien avancée, mais le comité a besoin de quelqu'un qui se consacrerait au soutien des réunions de classe/année/navire qui se tiennent en même temps.

Comité de gouvernance et des nominations de l'UNTDA

Avec l'incorporation, il est nécessaire d'améliorer la définition des politiques détaillées et de la structure de gouvernance de l'UNTDA, ainsi que de trouver les bonnes personnes pour remplir des rôles importants.

Comité des finances de l'UNTDA

Ce comité est actuellement composé d'un membre et le travail n'est pas onéreux, mais une personne ressource additionnelle est nécessaire pour assurer la continuité. Cette personne devra avoir des connaissances en Excel, et idéalement "VBA". La diversité est très importante pour assurer une représentation efficace d'un grand nombre de membres, mais comme la grande majorité sont actuellement d'anciens UNTD, pour servir l'avenir, les volontaires idéaux seront ceux qui se sont joints à la Réserve navale dans les années 80, 90 et au-delà.

Envoyez un e-mail rapide à Communications@UNTD.org avec votre numéro de téléphone pour saisir l'une de ces opportunités.

Send a quick email to Communications@UNTD.org with your phone number to pursue any one of these opportunities.

Crossing the Bar



David Grant Frayer , Q.C. (died 8 Nov '21)

Chippawa '60

Dave's roster of professional achievements was shaped by his extraordinary career as a litigator, including a 20-year tenure as Director of the Winnipeg Regional Office, Department of Justice Canada. Masterful in the courtroom, Dave was also a mentor to lawyers who fondly called him, 'The Chief'. He had two Queen's Council designations - a rare achievement - as well as numerous awards and citations, including the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba's Twice the Citizen Award for his military and legal career.

From a young cadet in 1960, Dave went on to serve in the Navy's JAG Reserve Branch as a military judge, retiring in 1996 with the rank of Commander. Above all his achievements we'll remember Dave for his high spirit and uplifting humour...RIP.

DEREK BROWN B.Comm, JD, LL.D (died 9 Nov '21)

Scotian '62

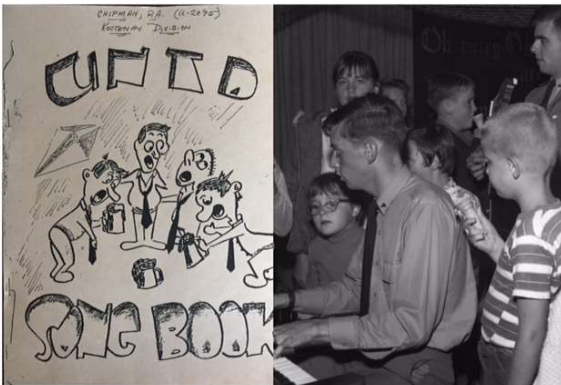
Derek was the son of a decorated World War II veteran, George Brown and his mother Eileen, also a proud Royal Canadian Navy veteran. He attended Rothesay Collegiate School and later Dalhousie University where he excelled in all his areas of academics and athletics. His contributions to Dalhousie were ultimately recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2006. While at school he was an enthusiastic participant in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve and he remained a steadfast supporter of our armed forces his entire life.

He always said, 'You better be nice to people on the way up because you are going to meet them again on the way down' which pretty neatly encapsulated his approach to life and people.

Peter Chipman (died 26 Sep '21)

Scotian '63

Our minstrel ("Oh Merry are We") Peter Chipman sadly left us in Victoria last Fall. Art Kuiper recounted that he lived in the same community as Pat & Peter, although their paths did not cross often. However, music was their common interest. They would usually run into each other at the annual Ladner Band Fest, especially on the Sunday when the Naden Band would be the closing performance. As you can see from the photo below, not only did Peter(right) and Art(at the piano) have the opportunity to entertain together, but Art somehow ended up with Peter's copy of the UNTD song book. Peter always knew how to fire us up in the Gunroom when he brought out his guitar. Farewell old shipmate.



"Do you hear there!"

The UNTDA continues its communications drive to reach and attract members, particularly those from the UNTD follow-on training schemes - ROUTP, NROC, UNTDv2 and RESO. Gunroom Shots and the Newsletter would love to run your stories and anecdotes as a reminder that the Naval Reserves legacy continues to live on through you, our younger members. Waiting to hear from you.....



Membership Renewals

If you're receiving Gunroom Shots, you're already a member of the UNTD Association, and participating in its central theme – Maintaining Connections. By now you will have received a membership renewal form with all the contact information we have on file for you. This is how we make sure we don't lose the connection. Stay connected – make sure our contact information is correct.



Send your letters, anecdotes or suggestions to Barry Frewer, Editor at:
Gunroom.Shots@UNTD.org

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