

# Action Stations



CANADA'S NAVAL MEMORIAL

HMCS SACKVILLE

SUMMER 2011

## PATRON VISITS HMCS SACKVILLE

Pat Jessup

Public Affairs Officer - CNMT

On a recent visit to Halifax to address the Canadian Bar Association at its annual convention in mid-August, His Excellency, David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada honoured HMCS SACKVILLE with a private visit to our good ship. His Excellency was met by Vice Admiral *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, Chair – Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, Commodore Larry Hickey, Atlantic Fleet Commander and Commander *ret'd* Wendall Brown, Commanding Officer of HMCS SACKVILLE; piped onboard by sailors from the Naval Engineering School and greeted by Battle of the Atlantic Veterans – whom he took great delight in meeting.

This was the first time in recent history that a Governor General has visited Canada's Naval Memorial. After touring the ship, His Excellency attended a small reception in the mess where he was presented with Donald E. Graves' book, *In Peril on the Sea*, a Navy Centennial Decanter and a SACKVILLE tie - which he very quickly donned. To his amusement and prompted by Ted Smith, His Excellency "declared the bar open".

Going ashore, the Governor General thanked the Trust for its generosity and remarked that he found the ship in very good shape – to serve Canada in the years to come.



Governor General David Johnston (centre) is shown with Vice Admiral *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, Chair of CNMT; Commander *ret'd* Wendall Brown, CO and CFNES side party.



VAdm Maddison in the Mess with (L-R) VAdm *ret'd* Duncan Miller, Kevin Power, Bryan Elson, Honourary Captain(N) Myra Freeman, Charles Dunbar and Don Wilcox.

## CHIEF OF MARITIME STAFF VISITS SACKVILLE

Pat Jessup

Public Affairs Officer - CNMT

Less than one month in the job and Vice-Admiral Paul Maddison, Chief of Maritime Staff, took time out of his busy schedule for an impromptu lunch onboard to partake in our commanding officer's famous chili, renew acquaintances and apprise us of current naval operations including the role of HMCS ST.JOHN's Sea King in the aftermath of the First Air crash in Resolute Bay. HMCS ST.JOHN's was participating in Operation Nanook 11 – Canada's annual sovereignty operations and security exercises in the Eastern and high Arctic. VAdm Maddison also spoke of HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN's efforts off the coast of Libya ensuring that the port of Misrata remained open in support of the anti-government forces. CHARLOTTETOWN called in more than 600 air strikes on military targets that were actively shelling the city or were threatening the port, he told our group. Most of all, VAdm Maddison remarked how particularly proud he was of our good ship, and the role she played in the recent Royal Canadian Navy renaming ceremony and the role she continues to play as Canada's Naval Memorial.



VAdm Paul Maddison, during his recent visit to the ship, with Battle of the Atlantic Veteran Vince McDonnell, MN – RNVR.



*Cdr ret'd Wendall Brown welcomes His Excellency aboard.*



*Engineering Officer Don Lowther explains the mechanics of the engine room to His Excellency while VAdm ret'd MacNeil looks on.*



*Trustees waiting at the brow for the arrival of the Vice-Regal party. L-R: Murray Knowles, RCNVR, Rowland Marshall, RCNVR, Kevin Power RCNVR, Dr. Caroline Scott, Ted Smith, RCNVR and Vince McDonnell, RNVR.*



*The Governor General with Battle of the Atlantic Veterans Murray Knowles and Ted Smith.*



*Sporting his SACKVILLE tie, His Excellency joined members of the Trust in the Mess. L-R, Vince McDonnell, Murray Knowles, Len Canfield, Cdr ret'd Wendall Brown, Ted Smith, Pat Jessup, Commodore Hickey, His Excellency, Caroline Scott, Don Lowther, VAdm ret'd MacNeil, Doug Thomas, Kevin Power and Rowland Marshall.*

# RCN - AT LAST

HMCS SACKVILLE played an official role during the restoration ceremony of the historic names of the three “branches” of the Canadian Forces; the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Army, in HMC Dockyard Halifax, 16 August.



The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence made the official announcement on behalf of the Government of Canada and during the ceremony presented our captain, Cdr, ret'd Wendall Brown with White Ensign.



HMCS SACKVILLE's flaghoist with the message: “RCN – AT LAST”! Shearwater's Pipe Major Dan Smith in foreground.



Commander ret'd Brown, Engineering Officer Don Lowther, Minister MacKay and SACKVILLE's 1st Lieutenant Jim Reddy following the announcement.

## CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2011/ 2012

Vice-Admiral *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, who previously served as Interim Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust was elected Chair of the Board for 2011-12 at the Trust's annual general meeting July 9 in Halifax. Other members of the Board include:

Title	Name	Trust email address
		<a href="mailto:@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">@canadasnavalmemorial.ca</a>
Chair	Hugh MacNeil	<a href="mailto:chair@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">chair@</a>
Vice Chair	Sonja Bata	<a href="mailto:vchair@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">vchair@</a>
Past Chair	Duncan Miller	<a href="mailto:pastchair@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">pastchair@</a>
Treasurer/Secretary	Deborah Findlay	<a href="mailto:sectreas@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">sectreas@</a>
Director (Recording Secretary)	William Gard	<a href="mailto:recorder@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">recorder@</a>
Director (Commanding Officer)	Wendall Brown	<a href="mailto:co@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">co@</a>
Chair National Council	Myra Freeman	<a href="mailto:natchair@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">natchair@</a>
Chair Investments	Bryan Elson	<a href="mailto:investments@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">investments@</a>
Director (Finance)	Bryn Weadon	<a href="mailto:finance@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">finance@</a>
Chair PR and Communications	Pat Jessup	<a href="mailto:pr@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">pr@</a>
Chair Preservation Restoration & Interpretation	John Hault	<a href="mailto:interpretation@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">interpretation@</a>
Director (Command Representative)	Darren Garnier	<a href="mailto:commandrep@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">commandrep@</a>
Director at large NOAC Representative	Phil Webster	<a href="mailto:atlarge@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">atlarge@</a>
Atlantic Chiefs' & Petty Officers' Association	Sherry Richardson	<a href="mailto:noac@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">noac@</a>
Director (Historian)	Dennis May	<a href="mailto:acpoa@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">acpoa@</a>
Director (Command Master Seaman)	George Borgal	<a href="mailto:historian@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">historian@</a>
	Ian Van Zoost	<a href="mailto:cms@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">cms@</a>
<b>Advisors to the Board</b>		
Legal	Sean Layden	<a href="mailto:legal@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">legal@canadasnavalmemorial.ca</a>
	QC	
Membership	Debbie Findlay	<a href="mailto:membership@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">membership@canadasnavalmemorial.ca</a>
Executive Director	Doug Thomas	<a href="mailto:exedir@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">exedir@canadasnavalmemorial.ca</a>
Corporate Sponsorship	Hugh MacPherson	<a href="mailto:Sponsor@canadasnavalmemorial.ca">Sponsor@canadasnavalmemorial.ca</a>

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What does the term "Trustee" mean within the context of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust? It clearly does not for example, have the same legal significance of a Trustee of the state executing wills or trusts. But in the case of the CNMT, our Trustees have from the beginning, seen themselves in one of the roles defined in the concise Oxford Dictionary as, "one who is responsible for the preservation and administration of a thing". Our 'thing' is HMCS SACKVILLE, Canada's official Canadian Naval Memorial. Our Trustees, whose mean number remains around 1000, are the ones who had the early vision to understand, that the world's last Corvette of 269, was not just the last of this type of ship that was headed for the breaker's yard. They also understood that this ship was a national treasure, a unique national treasure, which must be preserved for all future generations of Canadians. The Trustees organized themselves, negotiated with the Crown to delay scrapping the ship, raised the hundreds of thousands of dollars for her restoration to her 1944 configuration, dedicated thousands of personal 'sweat equity' hours, and then assumed custody on behalf of the nation. Our Trustees still see themselves in this role. They are in fact, still 'holding-in-trust' for the nation, on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Canadian Navy's national naval memorial. The Federal Government declared HMCS SACKVILLE Canada's National Naval Memorial in May 1985.

Holding-in-trust for a nation, one of Canada's most significant national memorials, is a huge responsibility. Fortunately the Trust is of course helped in this role by the excellent co-operation, and where feasible, tangible assistance from Canada's Navy. One of the most encouraging signs for the future is the increasing number of serving naval personnel of all ranks, who have come to recognize and understand the significance to them, of **their** naval memorial. In the past such interest was frequently not manifested until retirement. Today many young sailors are becoming Trustees, some even Life Trustees. This is a sea change, whose significance it might be wise to acknowledge and to understand.

The responsibility for a national memorial is of course a national one. On behalf of our nation, the Trust has embarked on an exciting journey with two tracks: one, the continuing preservation and restoration of "SACKVILLE"; and two, the definition phase of a national project for building an iconically designed functional covered graving dock for Canada's Naval Memorial, complete with a Naval Heritage Hall to tell the full story of the Canadian Naval Service since 1910, and a Naval Memorial Hall to honour all our naval personnel who have given their lives in the service of Canada. This is clearly a significant national project, one for which we believe Canadians are "Ready Aye Ready".

Hugh MacNeil, VAdm, *ret'd*  
CMNT Chair



*Photo Credit: Cpl Johanie Maheu, Formation Imaging, Halifax*  
At a recent ceremony in the Wardroom, Commodore Laurence Hickey, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic on the behalf of Rear-Admiral David Gardam, Commander Joint Task Force Atlantic and Commander MARLANT presented the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (CNMT) with a Maritime Forces Atlantic Bravo Zulu. "The CNMT, HMCS SACKVILLE is commended for their outstanding commitment and support during the Canadian Navy's Centennial celebrations and for their tireless efforts to preserve our national Naval Memorial. Their willingness to assist with any and all Centennial activities contributed significantly to the overall aim to bring the Navy to Canadians." On hand to participate in the ceremony were (L to R) the First Lieutenant, Jim Reddy, the Engineering Officer, Don Lowther, Commodore Hickey (centre), VAdm, *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, Chair - CNMT and Commander, *ret'd* Wendall Brown, Commanding Officer.



HMCS SACKVILLE paid respects and sympathy to her longtime ally by hoisting the Norwegian flag following the recent tragic events in Norway.

# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

I am pleased to start the Captain's Corner with the very good news that on 28 July Justice Glen MacDougall of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia released his verdict in the incident resulting from Hurricane Juan 29 Sept 2003. The CNMT was sued by Wolverine Motors Shipyards, owners of the replica Schooner, Larinda, which was berthed in the camber with SACKVILLE and sank during the hurricane. It was a complicated maritime law legal case, but Justice MacDougall found no liability on the part of the Trust and that SACKVILLE was properly secured for the forecasted weather and monitored throughout the storm.

HMCS SACKVILLE is at Sackville Landing for her 2011 open season. The ship moved to her downtown waterfront berth on 15 June with a target open for visitors of 17 June. Our intentions had to be slightly revised because in spite of the constant rain as we approached the pier, visitors were already assembling, expecting to tour the ship. As soon as the brow was safely rigged, we cautioned visitors to take care around several repair projects throughout the ship, then allowed them to tour on their own. We felt that it was important to let these folks aboard, although we were not totally prepared for visitors, because among the group were several corvette veterans and some ex-RN sailors of wartime vintage and a Norwegian merchant mariner. SACKVILLE moved to the dockyard on Thursday 23 June to support Family Days on 24 & 25 June for the families of DND military and civilian personnel. The ship returned to her Sackville Landing berth on 27 June. The week of 14 August was exceptionally busy for SACKVILLE. On Sunday the 14th the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency David Johnston, visited SACKVILLE for a 40 minute tour of the ship, update on preservation plans by our Chair, and visit with a small number of trustees, including five Second World War veterans. Monday 15th August, the Canadian Bar Association held a reception on the jetty adjacent to the ship and on the ship. During this highly successful event many lawyers, judges and their accompanying family members were given guided tours of the SACKVILLE by a team of experienced trustees. At 0730 on Tuesday 16th August SACKVILLE moved from Sackville Landing to the Dockyard to support the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence's press conference to announce the renaming of the Commands to their former single service names. The backdrop for the Minister's announcement on jetty NB, the southernmost jetty in the dockyard was HMCS VILLE de QUEBEC on the north side of the jetty, a Sea King helicopter and a LAV on the jetty, and HMC ships SACKVILLE and GLACE BAY on the south side of the jetty. After the ceremony, Minister MacKay and the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Rob Nicholson, came aboard SACKVILLE for a brief visit. When everything was said and done, the QHM Pilot and tugs arrived to move SACKVILLE back Sackville Landing. The winter maintenance period made some progress toward permanent preservation of the ship, but fell short of our objectives. We had hoped to drain, clean and dry four tanks that had been fuel tanks in the operational Corvette, but in conversion were cleaned and water ballasted. It was found on inspections of the tanks that pipes used in steam heating the bunker C fuel and for fuel transfer were interconnected among all the fuel tanks. The significance of this situation is that all of the tanks will have to be emptied to remove the pipe and coat the tanks with preservation paint. This will require a docking of the ship. Work done in the tanks during the past winter will enable planning to expedite work when a docking becomes available. All levels of the Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF), from the Captain to the shop floor are involved in taking advantage of opportunities presented to advance corrosion protection and long term operational and preservation requirements. The ship and senior FMF personal meet monthly to

review progress and address requirements. HMCS SACKVILLE was the beneficiary of excellent work volunteered by HMCS TORONTO engineering department. SACKVILLE engineer, Don Lowther, assigned mechanical and electrical tasks to the appropriate trades. They enthusiastically and competently and with a minimum of supervision cleared up a backlog of electrical and mechanical issues that were awaiting the resources to address them. This volunteer work by competent sailors is greatly appreciated by the Trust and provides good hands-on training for the individuals involved, as most tasks will provide challenges different from those encountered in modern ships.

The Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School is again providing personnel for duty watches and ship husbandry duties. The 1st Lieutenant, who organizes the summer personnel, is very pleased with the competence and enthusiasm of the personnel who have joined for our summer program.

Wendall Brown, Commander *ret'd*  
Commanding Officer



On 5 August 2011, LCdr Leyte, left from the Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic presented a \$700 cheque to SACKVILLE's Commanding Officer Wendall Brown who accepted on behalf of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust.



On 17 June 2011, Representatives of the Canadian Legion Poppy Fund visited SACKVILLE to present a cheque in the amount of \$5000.00 to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. From left to right, Peter Melkert, Nova Scotia Nunavut Command President Jean Marie Deveaux and the CNMT Chair, VAdm *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil.

# BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC PILGRIMAGE – LONDONDERRY, IRELAND

By Pat Jessup

Public Affairs Chair – HMCS SACKVILLE

While the longest battle of the Second World War raged on the North Atlantic, Canadian and other Allied sailors and air personnel found solace and much needed rest and relaxation following convoy duty in Londonderry - Derry, Northern Ireland. In his memoir *War at Sea: A Canadian Seaman On the North Atlantic*, Frank Curry recalled entering Lough Foyle en route to Derry, with its “countless gardens alive with flowers and lush green grass” after a particularly difficult voyage: “It was like a dream. The snow and ice of Newfoundland, the winter gales, the heavy grey seas were no more. We were surrounded on both sides with the utter beauty of green Ireland, and it was as if the fairies themselves had wafted us into a land of magic that was almost beyond belief ....It did much to restore our souls, even though we knew we would only have forty-eight hours layover. For those brief hours and days, we would become human beings again; in touch with peace and beauty and tranquility; far removed from all the ugliness of war”.

On May 5-8, Second World War Veterans, HMCS SACKVILLE Trustees, members of the Crow's Nest in Newfoundland and the Edmonton Branch of the NOAC along with Trustee Captain(N) Harry Harsch, the Naval Advisor, Canadian High Commission in London travelled to Londonderry Ireland to participate in ceremonies commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic and the loss of HMS LAURENTIC in 1917. Other Trustees included Margorie, Dawn and Leslie Cowie, John and Anna Dugan, Guy and Peggy Chauvin, Alison and Richard McNair, Gordon Wright, Marilyn and Rodney Carson and SACKVILLE's First Lieutenant, Jim Reddy.

Our group included Earl Chadwick, Sylvan Lake, Alberta, a cook onboard HMCS BOWMANVILLE who witnessed the surrender of the U-Boats at Lisahally. Trustee Gordon Wright, also from Alberta, served onboard HMCS SWANSEA in Escort Group 9 – whose task was to hunt and sink enemy submarines and protect convoys from Norway to North Africa. Recalling the fierce weather of a North Atlantic crossing in January, Gordon likened the transit to the movie “A Perfect Storm”. “Some of the deck plates on the fo’c’sle were torn loose and the water gushed into the mess deck I was in:” he recalled. “The water tight doors were immediately closed and we were trapped in the mess deck with the water rising. Pumps were brought in and the deck head shored up and we escaped drowning”. Trustee Rodney Carson from Warren, Manitoba, who as luck would have it, was in hospital with a badly infected finger when his ship HMCS SHAWINIGAN was torpedoed by U-1228 in the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland, 24 November 1944 with the loss of all hands. Of the recent trip to Londonderry, Rodney wrote: “The pilgrimage brought to mind the zeal and vigour of my youth, to serve my country without fear or dread. To look back now, as an aged veteran, I realize I was spared by God’s providence. Hence, a fresh meaning and purpose to attend was more profound. Never before did I know or realize how significant my small part was in such a big picture of Canadian history. I was filled with a sense of pride and at the same time, humbled...”

During the course of the war at sea over 20,000 RCN sailors made Derry their home-away-from-home, more so than any other British port. That special link remains today and was reinforced by the exceptionally warm welcome extended by our hosts to our

group of visiting Canadians. So successful was our pilgrimage that discussions are underway to plan a similar event here in Halifax next year which would include St. John’s Newfoundland in the ceremonies. We have tentatively called the pilgrimage “On Triangle Run” to embrace the three communities linked by the longest battle of the Second World War and would include commemorative activities in both St. John’s and Halifax around and about the July 1st weekend in Newfoundland followed by a visit to Nova Scotia

The City of Derry has been named the Cultural Capital of the UK for 2013, which coincidentally is the 70th anniversary of the turning of the tide in 1943 during the Battle of the Atlantic. It was apparent to those of us on the pilgrimage that 2013 would be a very good time to return to Derry. Plans are tentatively in place to attend events in Derry from 2-6 May 2013. If you are interested in participating in either proposed pilgrimages, please contact me at: patjessup@ns.sympatico.ca

**Of Note:** The Royal Naval Association – Londonderry Branch in conjunction with the Atlantic Chiefs and Petty Officers Association has embarked on a project to install on the old site of HMS Ferret (renamed HMS SEA EAGLE after the war) a replica of the ACPOA’s Sailors’ Monument on the Halifax waterfront. Fundraising is underway and the RNA is hopeful that the monument – a tribute to the thousands of sailors from the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, US Navy, Free French, Free Dutch and Royal Indian Marine that called Derry home during the Second World War – will be in place for the 70th anniversary 4 May, 2013.

The following are a few pictures of our very full program in Derry and Donegal:



(L to R) Jim Reddy, Pat Jessup, Capt(N) Harsch, Commander Donald Crosbie, Senior Naval Officer for Northern Ireland, Lesley and Robert Buchanan, Chairman of Area 12, Royal Naval Association, Londonderry. Capt(N) Harsh brought greetings from the Canadian High Commissioner to Great Britain, James Wright.



The Rev Sam Barton, St. Mura’s Church, Fahan, Donegal, Ireland, leads a procession of Canadian Battle of Atlantic participants to the SS Laurentic Memorial in the churchyard of St. Mura’s Church, Fahan, Donegal, Ireland.



*Derry's Deputy Mayor presenting CNMT Trustee Guy Chauvin with a Derry medallion for his contribution to the Tower Museum's Legacy project.*



*The Canadian contingent forming up for Battle of the Atlantic parade. Pictured: CNMT Trustees Guy Chauvin, Jim Reddy, Richard McNair, Rodney Carson and John Dugan.*



*Jim Reddy presenting Edmonton CNMT Trustees Lesley, Dawn and Marjorie Cowie with the lady's version of the Convoy Cup medallion in memory of the late Jim Cowie.*



*Trustee Gordon Wright, Edmonton Alberta at Royal Navy Club reception following BOA Church parade in Derry.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Do you hear there! My name is Doug Thomas, and I have recently relieved George Borgal as Executive Director of CNMT. George will continue to be active with the Trust, as he is joining the Board of Directors as Director (History).

I bring to the job the experience of many years in the Navy, a love of our naval heritage, and a long-time interest in HMCS Sackville: I attended the ceremony on 04 May 1985 when she was designated as the Canadian Naval Memorial.

Activities of the Trust and SACKVILLE remain active through the Summer and promise to continue into the Fall. SACKVILLE's participation in DEFSEC ATLANTIC 2010 last September was a hallmark. This major industry exhibition attracted the attention and participation of many of the largest defence and aerospace North American and UK corporations, and as such provided the Trust with an excellent opportunity to engage senior government officials and defence industry executives in order to gain their support for the Trusts' vision to preserve SACKVILLE for posterity. Once again Sackville will be alongside the Cunard Centre, the venue for DEFSEC 2011, and the ship will be made available as a reception venue, tours to Conference attendees, rentals of spaces in SACKVILLE for meetings, and sales of decanters and books.

The new Trust/SACKVILLE website is online at <http://www.canadasnavalmemorial.ca> currently being de-bugged and fine-tuned, and should become available for use in August. The Trust contracted this task to a company, but we owe a big debt of gratitude to two of our members: Dan Sargeant who has had the lead on this project since the Fall of 2010, and his able assistant Richard Wood, who has now taken over the project. Richard will also relieve Dan Matté as CNMT Web Manager when the new site is up and running.

A very successful Annual General Meeting was held on the 9th of July in the Maritime Warfare Centre at Stadacona, with a strong showing of 55 on a very wet morning. They were rewarded by a convivial gathering and Luncheon at the Maritime Command Museum, beautifully decorated as it would have been nearly two centuries ago. Bravo Zulu to Curator Rick Sanderson and his staff for being so helpful.

We continue to look for volunteers who can help CNMT in some way: for example, we need knowledgeable tour guides, including those willing to become knowledgeable, and a small team who can set up our dining areas for special observances such as the Battle of the Atlantic Dinner. If you would like to help out, please contact me.

Yours Aye, Doug Thomas

Executive Director at [execdir@canadasnavalmemorial.ca](mailto:execdir@canadasnavalmemorial.ca)  
(902) 721-1206

## Crossed The Bar

*Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark.*

*I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar*

*Alfred Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892*



Mr. Herbert A. Turner  
Commodore E.N. Clarke  
Mr. Charles A. Brodie  
Mrs. Jean Brodie  
Mr. Robert W. Blair  
Commander Keith W. Lewis  
Lieutenant Stephen William Derbyshire  
Mr. Hans Baak  
Mr. Murray Copot  
Chief Petty Officer H. MacDevitt  
Leading Seaman James Douglas Moxley  
Mr. Alf J. Cockburn  
Commander Donald B. Dixon



Bill Gard, Director on the CNMT Board met with Federal Minister Jason Kenney at the Calgary Stampede BBQ hosted by MP Devinder Shory.



On 20 July 2011, SACKVILLE's Engineering Officer, Don Lowther is in good company. Five members of HMCS TORONTO who have been volunteering their time doing work on SACKVILLE while TORONTO is in refit. Highly skilled volunteers such as these provide much needed help in carrying out many upkeep tasks onboard SACKVILLE. BZ to each of them. From left to right are Leading Seaman Hagur, Master Seaman Foxx, Leading Seaman Lancaster, Don Lowther, Ordinary Seaman Dominey and Leading Seaman Williams.

## Editor's Note – Electronic Distribution for Action Stations

In an effort to be more productive and efficient, the Editorial Committee for Action Stations has decided to pursue the option to electronically distribute the newsletter starting with the Fall 2011 edition. The project has for advantage the following attributes:

- Each edition has the potential to be expanded both in frequency and in depth of features and updates
- Each edition will be distributed via emails from the Trustees' account and will reduce overall publication costs for the Trust, beneficial for future preservation projects of the Trust
- Each edition will be available faster to the membership

The transition to electronic distribution will be on a voluntary basis.

The process will start with the premise that most Trustees will want to receive Action Stations in electronic format. Those wishing to continue to receive the hard copy of the newsletter are requested to make their wishes known as soon as possible by contacting the Editor at [actionstations@canadasnavalmemorial.ca](mailto:actionstations@canadasnavalmemorial.ca).

The plan is for the distribution to be done in both electronic and hard copy format for the next few editions. It is intended to improve the process for future distribution as we learned from the few first.

Given the high reliance on email addresses, it is important for Trustees to ensure their emails are updated.

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## SHIPBOARD TRUSTEE EVENT PROGRAM / WHAT'S NEW

Refer to the Trust website for more information on upcoming events at <http://www.canadasnavalmemorial.ca>

Every Friday - Noon Lunch onboard with the exception of Friday 9 September when the ship will be at Pier 23 (see below) and Friday 21 October (Trafalgar Day) when SACKVILLE will be shifted back to the Dockyard winter berth. In general, if Trustees are visiting Halifax, Friday noon is the optimum time to meet onboard.

Saturday 3 September – 1100 - Canadian Merchant Navy Day ceremony at the Maritime Museum followed by a lunch onboard.

Saturday 22 October – Special Lunch – “SACKVILLE wartime XO hits 91”. More details to follow.

### OTHER ONBOARD EVENTS

Saturday 27 August – Evening Social Halifax Burns Society.

Thursday and Friday – 8 and 9 September – Ship at Pier 23 (Cunard Centre) for the annual Defence and Security (DEFSEC) Exhibition.

Tuesday 18 October - CNMT Golf Tournament (**new Date**).

Friday 21 October – Members of the ship's company of HMCS KOOTENAY from the 1969 tragedy embark for our return to Dockyard during which the opportunity will be taken to commit the ashes of their captain, Cdr Neil Norton.

# Hon David Wilson Addresses BoA Dinner

By Bill Gard

This year's Canadian Naval Memorial Trust Battle of Atlantic dinner was held onboard HMCS SACKVILLE Saturday April 30 with 81 trustees and guests in attendance. Following the reception a superb roast beef dinner was served, catered by Jean Moraze and Chef Jacques with some of her staff augmented by a number of serving naval volunteers. The head table included Hon David Wilson, MLA for Sackville-Cobequid and Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage; Calvin Mofford; Vice-Admiral *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, CNMT Interim Chairman; Rear-Admiral David Gardam, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, and his wife Claire; Kevin Power; and Commander *ret'd* Wendall Brown, Commanding Officer of SACKVILLE. In his remarks, Minister Wilson said he was delighted to be on board for this special occasion and explained that his father had served in the post war Navy. He stressed the significance of SACKVILLE, what the ship represents and that he is interested in working with the Trust to preserve Canada's Naval Memorial. Kevin Power described what it was like to be a young Canadian joining the Navy at age 17, the training he undertook during World War II and serving on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. He explained how the war effort was augmented at home by women and how those experiences changed the role of women in Canada forever. In May 1945, as a young officer aboard HMCS VICTORIAVILLE he witnessed the surrender of U-190 off the coast of Newfoundland. Kevin continued to serve after the war.

Admiral MacNeil also stressed the significance of Canada's Naval Memorial and thanked Minister Wilson and Kevin Power for their remarks. Our First Lieutenant, Jim Reddy proposed the Loyal Toast and Dennis May delivered toast of the day.

Commanding Officer Wendall Brown proposed a toast to the Royal newlyweds (considering that the wedding was the day before the dinner and captured the attention of many at our dinner). On Sunday, HMCS SACKVILLE proceeded to the entrance to Halifax Harbour with approximately 150 plus Trustees, family members and friends on board for a Battle of the Atlantic service and committal of 20 sets of ashes off Sailors Memorial, Point Pleasant Park. The safe return to harbour ended a very successful Battle of the Atlantic weekend commemoration for Trustees, guests and members of the ship's crew.



Head table guests at the 2011 BoA dinner included, from left: Cal Mofford, Hon David Wilson, VAdm *ret'd* Hugh MacNeil, RAdm David Gardam, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, Kevin Power and Claire Gardam.



In July 2011, corporate sponsors have a new place of honour onboard SACKVILLE with the unveiling and mounting of a decorative display.



*Coincidental with Battle of the Atlantic commemorations during the month of May, Maritime Forces Atlantic shore units raised funds on designated Dress-With-A-Difference Fridays in support of HMCS SACKVILLE. On a recent visit to the ship, Capt(N) Steve Jorgenson, Chief of Personnel and on behalf of the Navy, presented the CNMT Chair with a generous donation of \$6760 from monies raised during the campaign for HMCS SACKVILLE.*

## LAST WORDS

By George Borgal, Former CNMT Executive Director

As I indicated in an earlier Action Stations, as a result of increasing time pressures from my contract with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre I found myself unable to commit as much time to the Executive Director position as it deserved. Consequently, I formally resigned last November and at the same time offered to continue as best I could in a volunteer capacity pending the appointment of a new Executive Director. The search has been on since then, and I'm very pleased that Doug Thomas, recently retired for the second time, has accepted the Trust's offer and has been so appointed, commencing his new responsibilities effective the First of July. This was announced at the AGM, and Doug's initial Executive Director's Report is in this edition. Those who attended the AGM will also know that my involvement with the Trust will continue as the Board Director responsibility for History, trying to fill the very large shoes vacated by Graham McBride. With the Memorial Project gaining momentum, one of the primary objectives will be to ensure that we have policies and resources in place to effectively safeguard and interpret our Memorial history, and I'm looking forward to contributing in this respect.

During my time as Executive Director I was privileged to have the unreserved support of all Trustees I came in contact with, and thanks to them the position is making a positive contribution to supporting the Trust's governance structure.

Thanks to them as well, our active Executive Committee is providing increasingly effective oversight and management of the Trust's day-to-day operations. Doug brings to his new responsibilities a wealth of very useful experience and I know that all Trustees will continue to give him the same excellent support I enjoyed, with the added bonus that he will probably be there to answer the phone much more than I was. All the very best, Doug. Job: 18-12:12

## LETTER'S TO THE EDITOR

Dear CDR Perron:

As someone who actually sailed in SACKVILLE (1 trip to Shelburne, N.S. when taking a navigation course at HMCS KINGS), I much like to get "Action Stations" and other word. Since only about 10% of members ever actually get to SACKVILLE, the newsletter is what they receive for their money, apart from knowing their contribution is valuable. Thus your work is appreciated and also valuable.

However, I'm running a low level campaign to gain recognition for two wartime lost ships that are rarely included in such items as even your own (page 6) "Remembering & Honouring." Even NDHQ usually omits them, which is probably where you got your list. But that is unfair, and should be corrected. The two are HMCS ADVERSUS and YPRES.

They were only slightly smaller than HMCS RACCON and BRAS D'OR, and unlike SKEENA and CHEDABUCTO, also lost due to "marine accident" and stress of weather, but with no casualties due to skill or preparedness of their C.O.'s, unlike those latter two. The full stories are included in CAPT Bob Darlington's and my book "The Canadian Naval Chronicle," but briefly are as follows:

HMCS ADVERSUS was an ex-RCMP patrol vessel, commanded by Skipper William Chandler, RCNR. In December, 1941 as an examination vessel she was patrolling off Shelburne, N.S. in a gale and heavy snow when, following a tug into port in zero visibility, she grounded on McNutt Island (as the tug itself had briefly done moments before). Her Skipper got all his 16 men ashore safely (unlike SKEENA) and after some searching around they were all rescued.

HMCS YPRES was the starboard hand gate vessel at Halifax in May, 1940. She was rammed and sunk by the monstrous battleship HMS REVENGE, who failed to stop for the red light still showing, indicating the gate was not yet fully opened to allow REVENGE and her 2-ship convoy to continue to sea. Again, unlike in CHEDABUCTO's case, also rammed and sunk, there were no fatalities, due in part to preparedness and quick action by a boat from the other gate vessel.

I feel there is no valid reason to exclude these two just because there were no fatalities and they were but "minor war vessels." It would help if "Action Stations" were to support this claim!

Regards, Fraser McKee (Commander, ret'd) -  
[fmmck22@rogers.com](mailto:fmmck22@rogers.com)



*HMCS YPRES was launched as a Battle Class Trawler 17 Jun 1917 and was decommissioned in 1920 after a short career. She was recommissioned in 1923 as a training vessel and recommissioned a third time as a gate vessel in 1938. Designated Gate Vessel 1, YPRES formed part of the Halifax defenses until 12 May 1940, when she was accidentally rammed and sunk by the British battleship HMS REVENGE.*

## Photo album tells story of HMCS FERGUS

When long-time Trustee Dennis May greeted sisters Bonnie and Bev Eccles when they visited HMCS SACKVILLE in July he was more than prepared to show them around the ship and answers questions about Canada's Naval Memorial. But Dennis soon discovered the Eccles sisters had some naval history they wanted to share with him involving their father, Lt John Eccles. John Eccles, 95, is the last surviving member of HMCS FERGUS (K686). FERGUS, commissioned in November 1944 in Collingwood, Ont was the last corvette launched by the RCN. After work-ups in Bermuda, FERGUS joined EG C-9 in St John's in early 1945 and served until VE Day. The corvette was paid off in late 1945, sold for mercantile and wrecked off Newfoundland in 1949. After the war John Eccles produced an album, "The Life of HMCS FERGUS," containing photos of the ship and crew that he sent to all crew members. He has also written about FERGUS and the camera he used to take the photos. His album and other material were part of an exhibit on HMCS FERGUS held in Fergus, Ont last year. Bonnie Eccles has advised Dennis she and her sister are considering becoming Trustees.

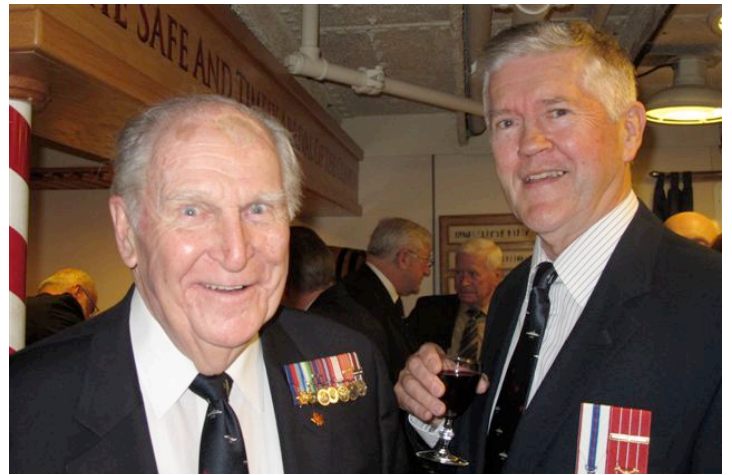


*WWII veteran Harold Connery of Toronto visited HMCS SACKVILLE in late April and during the Friday gathering in the Mess presented First Lt Jim Reddy with a framed display honouring Lt Hampton Gray, VC. This was second presentation of display material to the ship by Mr. Connery.*

# ONBOARD ACTIVITIES



*Battle of the Atlantic Dinner attendees (Left to Right) Don Mackey SACKVILLE's Gift Shop Manager, Don Lowther, SACKVILLE's Engineering Officer, Kevin Power and Len Canfield.*



*Trustees Cal Annis, Murray Knowles and Bill Gard onboard 13 May 2011*



*A gathering of friends in SACKVILLE, from left to right, Ted Smith, Murray Knowles, Sidney Gould, Bill Murray and Russ Wilcox, 20 May 2011*



*The Trust and HMCS SACKVILLE were well represented during DND's Family Days in HMC Dockyard this past 24/25 June 2011. Don MacDevitt, John and Kathy MacLennan stands in front of the kiosk.*



*On 17 Jun 2011, Yves Perron, left, Editor of Action Stations meets with Roger Litwiler, author of "Warship of the Bay of Quinte" during a recent visit and book signing onboard HMCS SACKVILLE.*

# YOUR HELP IS NEEDED



Mr. Bob D'Aoust is doing research on the 2,143 Canadian Sailors who made the Ultimate Sacrifice in WWII and aims at releasing three books. These three books will list all 2,143 Royal Canadian Navy personnel who died serving Canada:

- Book #1 - 397 Sailors, Royal Canadian Navy permanent force
- Book #2 - 237 Sailors, Royal Canadian Navy Reserve (to be called up in emergency)
- Book #3 - 1,509 Sailors, Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (to be called up in emergency)

Mr. D'Aoust needs help from anyone and/or family members who may have or know of a picture of one of the sailors who made the Ultimate Sacrifice. He would also be interested in a short bio. Please contact me in Waterloo, Ontario.

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389 Wintergreen Drive,  
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Welcome Aboard - Life Members		Welcome Aboard - New Trustees	
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Calvin Annis	A. G. Williamson	Roger Litwiller	Maurice (Dick) Morgan
Joseph Poon CO	William Hutchinson	Tara Kerr	Kathy Gulliver
Sackville Sea Cadets		Peter Lenihan	Michael Butler
Richard B. Morawetz		Cory Welsh	Suzann Abercrombie
Commander Hugues Canual		Lars Legaarden	Norman Donovan
		Tim Dunne	Steve Jorgensen

Correction: Mrs. Jette Thomas was listed in the last Action Stations as a new Yearly Trustee when in fact she joined as a Life Trustee. Apologies

## THANK YOU TO HMCS SACKVILLE

Dated 1 May 2011,  
HMCS SACKVILLE,

On behalf of myself, my sister Margaret and family, I want to thank all of you for the wonderful ceremony commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic and especially the Committal Service. It was our parents' wishes to be buried at sea having both served in the Canadian Navy, Dad from June 1940 – October 1964 and Mom as a WREN from April 1943 – November 1945. I was very pleased that their wishes could be fulfilled. Please accept a donation in memory of Charles A. (Steve) and Jean Brodie,  
Sincere Regards, Catherine Potter

Dated 8 July 2011,  
Wendall,

I wanted to thank you personally for making SACKVILLE available to support the change of command ceremony of HMCS HALIFAX on 23 June. With HALIFAX out-of-routine due to her refit, I could not have imagined a better venue than Canada's Naval Memorial in the heart of HALIFAX's namesake city to hold the event. Of course, the fact that SACKVILLE has been the "ship away from my ship" for the past year, and where I made new friends and learned more about my naval heritage contributed significantly to an already emotional and most memorable end to my command at sea.

Again thank you and I would greatly appreciate if you passed my sincere appreciation to the other trust volunteers who assisted with the ceremony and reception.

Yours Aye,  
Josée Kurtz, Commander

## ACTION STATIONS

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