



Volume 30 Issue 3

HMCS SACKVILLE Newsletter

June-July 2012

WENDALL BROWN HONOURED

Len Canfield

The 2012 Battle of the Atlantic dinner aboard HMCS *SACKVILLE* was not only a time to remember and honour all those who served during the longest battle of World War II but also to recognize Commander Wendall Brown who is retiring after nine years as Commanding Officer of *SACKVILLE*.

Vice Admiral (ret'd) Hugh MacNeil, Chair of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust welcomed guests and trustees, including Rear Admiral David Gardam, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic; naval historian Roger Sarty, the guest speaker and Commander (ret'd) Rowland Marshall.

Dr. Sarty outlined the significance of the Battle of the Atlantic, its impact on the Atlantic region and the St. Lawrence and Canada's major contribution to the Allied victory at sea. Cdr Marshall, a retired Saint Mary's University professor and long-time trustee reflected on his wartime experience as a young sailor.



A number of presentations were made to Wendall Brown for his unstinting service to *SACKVILLE* and the Trust over the years. These included the Maritime Command Commendation which was presented by RAdm Gardam. A number of speakers noted Wendall's 'roll up your sleeves' involvement in all aspects of ship operations, from the bridge to the engine room as well as his 'good fortune' on behalf of Canada's Naval Memorial when making the rounds of Dockyard shops and services.

Cdr Brown has turned over command of *SACKVILLE* to Lieutenant Commander Jim Reddy who has been actively involved with the ship since retiring from the Navy in 2003, including serving as First Lieutenant (XO).



Jim Reddy, native of Antigonish, NS, enrolled in the RCN through the Regular Officer Training Program and graduated from St Francis Xavier University in 1969. He joined the East Coast fleet that year in HMCS *RESTIGOUCHE* and went on to serve in ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. He completed combat control training in 1975 and a command qualification in 1981. He also served ashore in Halifax, Esquimalt, St. John's and in Ottawa. His last appointment before retirement was Queen's Harbour Master, Halifax.

In addition to CNMT, Jim is also active in a number of organizations including serving as secretary of the Maritimes Division of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada, a member of the Board of Directors of the Convoy Cup Foundation and has been closely involved with the Halifax Tall Ships events. He and his wife LCdr (ret'd) Pat Jessup, Chair of

CNMT PR Committee and editor of *Action Stations* reside in Dartmouth.

Pictured: Page 1: Cdr Ret'd Rowland Marshall, Vice-Admiral ret'd Hugh MacNeil, Cdr ret'd Wendall Brown, Jean Brown and Rear Admiral David Gardam. Wendall is holding the Maritime Commendation scroll in his right hand and in his left, a refurbished fuel valve hand wheel, a present from his ship-mates as a reminder of his hands-on-approach to all aspects of the maintenance of HMCS SACKVILLE.

Above: Cdr ret'd Wendall Brown turning over the ceremonial binoculars to LCdr ret'd Jim Reddy overseen by HMCS SACKVILLE's Cox'n Craig McFadgen.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Lieutenant-Commander ret'd Jim Reddy

I hope it was not an omen that I fell sick the day I relieved Wendall Brown. But I'm happy to report that I recovered from the flu-like attack and am very honoured to take over the ship. Of course it's not possible to assume this duty without thinking of the work, dedication and accomplishment of those who preceded me. A good number of them are nearby and I'll rely on them for advice. I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional service to the ship and the Trust by Wendall Brown which is reported more completely elsewhere in this newsletter.

On the Victoria Day weekend, we hosted onboard Army cadets from New Brunswick and a large Sea Cadet Corps from Quebec City. Because cadets, officers and parents with RCSCC Bellechasse were primarily French-speaking, we put together a team of Trustee guides including Guy Chauvin and Guy Ouellet. With our French DVD material, we put on a comprehensive, bilingual event that clearly hit the spot with our Quebec visitors. They were remarkably attentive and interested. Their photo is prominent on this issue's cover. I was personally very pleased with our own Trustee resources and their willingness to pitch in.

Soon we'll be in our downtown berth carrying out our primary duty of telling our story every day to the visiting public.

FROM THE CHAIR

Vice-Admiral ret'd Hugh MacNeil

COLD WAR SUBMARINE FOR ELGIN MILITARY MUSEUM

Saturday, 8 September, 2012, will be a day to remember in Port Burwell, Ontario when the paid off submarine *OJIBWA*, Canada's first Oberon Class submarine is set to arrive at her new home to become the centrepiece of the Elgin Military Museum's new naval museum. Former Commander,



MARLANT, Rear-Admiral Dan McNeil, RCN (ret'd) is director of Project Ojibwa. "It's full speed ahead, absolutely," he remarked. HMCS OJIBWA was commissioned in 1965 and patrolled the North Atlantic during the Cold War. The boat was paid off in 1998. "In Central Canada, we simply don't get to see naval operations, their presence is on the coasts," said Ian Raven, the executive director of the Elgin Military Museum. "The opportunity to bring a true piece of naval history to Central Canada is very important." RAdm McNeil added that having the Cold-War

submarine and naval museum in Port Burwell will provide residents in Ontario and central Canada with an important piece of Canadian naval history. *Photo: HMCS OJIBWA Commissioning - 23 September 1965*

19 May 2012

Rear-Admiral Dan McNeil, ret'd
Coordinator "Project Ojibwa"

Dear Dan,

I just saw the official announcement by the Elgin Military Museum that the great project has been fully approved, the documents signed and "Ojibwa" is on her way. What a terrific achievement this is for you, Ian Raven and the whole community team you both organized, motivated and led. I can only imagine the series of hurdles and at times 'dead ends' that had to be worked around and surmounted.

As we are all aware, getting an a historic RCN vessel in to the heart of our country is very important, not simply because it will be an exciting 'living' artifact in your interpretative centre, but she will carry the fact of the naval imperative in Canada to many Canadians who may never see salt water.

"Sackville's" and "Ojibwa's" paths each came close to being snuffed out by Crown Assets, but were saved by people of vision, determination and a healthy sense of Canada's Naval history and achievements.

Congratulations and very well done to you and your whole team, from the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust and all our Trustees spread across the country; and a warm welcome to the community of the Historic Naval Ships Association.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh MacNeil

Hugh MacNeil
Vice-Admiral, ret'd
Chair, the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Doug Thomas

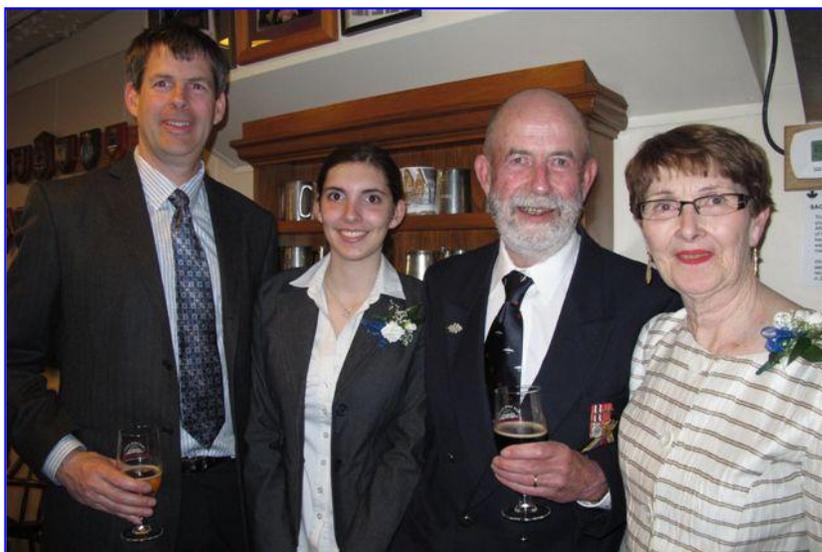
Do you hear there?

The CNMT Project office (telephone # 902-492-1424) on Bedford Row is now up and running, and our Project Manager, Andrew Amos from Catalyst Consulting Engineers, has begun work on the task we have set for him, as explained by Ted Kelly in the April-May Issue of Action Stations: the development of a Project Brief and selection of a Design Architect. We will be keeping you updated on the Project in Action Stations and on our website.

The Trust has hired an Assistant Curator who will be working in the ship, in lay apart stores and perhaps out of the Project office. Ms. Jennifer Dena Gamble, an experienced museum professional who has been working for the Museum of PEI for the past three years, will catalogue our collection of artefacts and help us with re-enactments. She will become part of our staff commencing 01 June, and stay with us until the end of the year. I continue to work from a small office in S-90, the Base Headquarters building in S, and am considering whether to work out of the new office on a part-time basis. Certainly my predecessors and I have found the office in STAD to be a great place from which to maintain an effective liaison between the Trust and the Navy.



It has been a busy time over the past month, organizing and running several events associated with commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic: The Musical Gala at Pier 21 on the 24th of April was a big hit, and greatly enjoyed by all those who attended: "the STADACONA Band at its best" was the judgement of everyone. The new Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, His Honour Brigadier-General



The Honourable J.J. Grant and Mrs. Grant, graced us with their presence. Past-Chair Dusty Miller performed the role of Master of Ceremonies with his usual aplomb, and a good time was had by all.

The Battle of the Atlantic Dinner in the ship was well-attended - a sell-out as usual with 80 diners. Three new life trustees were each acknowledged with the presentation of a Centennial decanter during pre-dinner drinks, and then we sat down in various locations in the ship, with the largest number of diners and the head-table in the After Seamen's Mess.

Among the highlights of the evening was the presentation by Major General ret'd Ian Patrick, former Maritime Air Group Commander, of a beautifully framed print of his painting depicting an actual example of maritime surface (a Corvette) and air cooperation (a Liberator) in the sinking of a U-Boat. The camaraderie of Trustees and guests, together with the quality of the food, was second to none and the dinner was a resounding success.

The CNMT AGM will be held on the 6th of July, in the Wardroom at STADACONA, 0830 for 0900. Although there will not be a CNMT luncheon, liquid and solid replenishment will be available in the Mess. There will be an evening reception in the ship that same evening, 1830 - 2030. More details on the AGM and other events will be promulgated separately.

Finally, we are always happy to have new volunteers to help out with our many activities. A number of Trustees have recently volunteered to relieve those who have filled positions for years, and also to take on some new initiatives. If you have extra time, please call me at 721-1206 and we can discuss what might be a good role for you.

Pictured page 4: VAdm ret'd Duncan Miller, MC (at podium), The Stadacona Band Maritime Forces Atlantic and Bosun's from the Naval Operations School - Seamanship Division, STADACONA at the Battle of the Atlantic concert.

Attending the Battle of the Atlantic dinner were past editors of Action Stations, Denis and Marlene May's son Steven May and granddaughter Megan from Calgary. Steven and Megan were onboard to present Marlene with a Life Membership to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust on behalf of the family which includes daughter Cathy and grandchildren Caitlin and Hailey Berrigan of Ann Arbor, Michigan. The entire family are CNMT Trustees. Well done Mays!

CROSSED THE BAR



*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Mary Angus
Émile Beaudoin, RCNVR - HMCS ATHABASKAN I
William Courage, RCNVR - HMCS THORLOCK
The Honourable J. James Kinley, MN, RCN - 29th Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia
Rear-Admiral Reginald John "Jack" Pickford, RCNVR, RCN, CF
Henri Savard
Joy Smith

GREENWOOD MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM DONATION TO THE CNMT

As mentioned in the Executive Director's report a very special presentation to the Trust was made of a print depicting one day during the Battle of the Atlantic of a Liberator aircraft.

HMCS *SACKVILLE* is grateful for this very fine contribution to our collection which will serve well to describe an important aspect of the Battle of the Atlantic – the top cover provided by the RCAF and RAF. The original painting, by artist Don Connolly, was donated to the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum by The Greenwood Art Association and is on display in the Museum. This print was made with the kind permission of the artist and donated by the Museum to HMCS *SACKVILLE* on behalf of the Halifax Wing of VP International May 2012. The thoughtful portrait of Flying Officer Michael S. Layton, serving with 120 Squadron RAF, on the lower left, gives a “face” to the otherwise anonymous crews that flew overhead.



120 Squadron was reformed at Nutts Corner, a Royal Air Force station in County Antrim near Belfast on 2 June 1941 after being disbanded in October 1919 when the British presence on the Continent during the First World War was reduced. The original squadron was formed at Cramlington near Newcastle on 1 January 1918. 120 Squadron was the first squadron in Coastal Command to receive the Very Long Range (B-24) Liberator playing a major part in the defeat of the U-boats.

The presentation was made by the President of the Halifax Wing VP International, Major *ret'd* Norman Donovan (left), and Major General *ret'd* Ian Patrick (right), former Maritime Air Group Commander.

8 DECEMBER 1942 “DAY TO REMEMBER” ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE PATROL



In 1942, 120 Squadron was equipped with the long range B-24 Liberator aircraft. Several were detached to Iceland, from where they could patrol the ‘Atlantic Gap’ southeast of Greenland where the German U-Boats were causing heavy shipping losses threatening Britain’s supply lifeline. In October 1942, F/O Layton was the Navigator of Liberator ‘H’/120 guarding Convoy ONS 136 when they attacked and sunk U-597. Then on 8 December 1942, his crew conducted the ‘Day To Remember’ patrol attacking eight submarines, sinking one. The painting depicts that famous patrol: first showing the transit to Convoy HX217, which F/O Layton located with his usual superior navigation; then the sinking of U-254 with six depth charges; third, the Norwegian Corvette ‘Potentilla’ observes the wreckage and advises, “You Killed Him”. An hour later, two more submarines are spotted and attacked with two remaining

depth charges. Almost each hour thereafter, other submarines were spotted and attacked with canon shells only, but the U-Boats, unaware of that limitation, dived to avoid a depth charge attack. Liberator 'B'/120 landed back in Iceland after nearly 17 hours - eight patrolling HX217. For his part, F/O Layton was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the second RCAF Officer to be so decorated.

Michael Shakespeare Layton was born in England in 1914, but moved with his family to Canada in 1924. He was educated in British Columbia and at McGill University in Quebec before joining the Steel Company of Canada in Montreal. He enlisted in the RCAF in 1940, earned an Observer wing and a Commission in 1941 and proceeded overseas. Following operational training, he went to 120 Squadron of RAF Coastal Command, participating in a number of raids on German Ports. He also served with 1425 Special Flight navigating a Liberator carrying Prime Minister Churchill's party to the Middle East and on to Moscow. At war's end, Michael Layton - now a Squadron Leader - left the RCAF to become the general manager of the Steel Company of Canada in Montreal, later joining Canadian Vickers in 1958.

Flying Officer Michael S. Layton, DSO RCAF died in 1964, age 50.

20% DISCOUNT TO TRUSTEES TO ATTEND AGM

porter Dave Aspden, our National Councilor from Barrie has negotiated a discount on airfare to the AGM with Porter Airlines that will apply to travel between Halifax and the other 18 locations served by Porter.

You can take advantage this offer for dates of travel: 3-6 July 2012 by booking online at www.flyporter.com or through your travel agent using promo code **CNMT12**.

Porter offers complimentary in-flight snacks and beverages (including beer and wine), Gate-Porter service for carry-on and access to the Porter Lounge in Toronto and Ottawa.

The promo code is intended for use by conference attendees only. Porter's fare rules and conditions apply. For any questions regarding Porter's services or any pre-travel concerns, please call 1-888-619-8622.

ARTIFACT NEEDED



We are looking for a WWII vintage life vest similar to the ones the survivors of the minesweeper HMCS CLAYOQUOT torpedoes by U-806, 24 December 1944 are wearing in the photo. If you have a spare please contact: pr@canadasnavalmemorial.ca.

Photo: Ernest Campbell. Department of National Defence / National Archives of Canada / PA-141316.

TRUSTEE NEWS

SHAWINIGAN SURVIVOR

When HMCS *SHAWINIGAN* was torpedoed by U-1228 in the Cabot Strait in the early hours of 24 November 1944 one of her crew GR3 Rodney Carson from Warren, Manitoba was hospitalized at



STADACONA after an infection set in to his arm and shoulder after he cut index finger on anchor wires while at sea. Gunner Carson was in dire straits. "I had a fever and lumps were beginning to form under my arm. There was no medicine or antibiotics and our 'tiffy', was on a 30 day leave." An opportunity to land Mr. Carson arose when *SHAWINIGAN* returned to Sydney to de-ice and he was quickly dispatched to Halifax for treatment. For almost seven decades, Rodney has been trying to find "the name of the mate who might have taken my place". Coincidentally and in January of this year, 100th birthday greetings were extended to Mrs. Rose Murray of Calgary in Volume 30 Issue 1 of *Action Stations*. The article mentioned Mrs. Murray's late husband, Able Seaman Thomas Edward Lawrence who was lost in HMCS *SHAWINIGAN*. AB Lawrence, home on leave in Saskatoon, was recalled to replace a crew member who had injured

his hand. "Could this be myself", Rodney has queried. After the 2011 Londonderry pilgrimage 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".

Recently Rodney was summarily granted honorary crew status by the Commanding Officer of the modern warship HMCS *SHAWINIGAN*, Lieutenant Commander Sid Green. "Needless to say this kindness not only made my day, but also the memory of the last 67 ½ years". *Pictured: Lieutenant-Commander W. Paul Stiff, Commanding Officer, HMCS CHIPPAWA presenting Mr. Carson with SHAWINIGAN's ship's badge.*



COCKROACHES AS SHIPMATES

Donald A. Bowman, Lt RCNVR (Memories of HMCS EDMUNDSTON, 1944/45)

"Around the world ships of all nations encounter two groups of stowaways. One is rodents and the other is cockroaches. *EDMUNDSTON* never hosted rats, but cockroaches were ever with us. Rats apparently boarded ships by running up the mooring lines to the jetty. The entry point for cockroaches is obscure, but must be connected with food handling. A few eggs sticking to a carton carried onto the ship is enough to start a cockroach dynasty. Our cockroaches spread to all parts of the ship. Because I was signals officer, I had a tiny desk in

the cabin I shared with the Asdic officer. The cockroaches were friendly, curious, little creatures. One day I was filling my fountain pen and a drop of blue ink fell on the desk. A cockroach happened by and began drinking the ink. Entranced, I watched it turn blue.

"The cockroach population reached the unbearable point and it was arranged for the crew to move ashore for two days. A fumigation contractor moved his equipment on board. I was duty officer and the contractor and I entered every compartment of the ship to make certain that there were no laggards left on board. I signed the contractor's form and took off. Two days later it was safe for the crew to return. The ship was scheduled to return in two weeks for a second fumigation to destroy the new crop of roaches hatched from eggs during the two weeks. You guessed it. The war hadn't stopped and we didn't get back. Six weeks later the roaches were as numerous as ever."

Pictured: Donald Bowman at sea in EDMUNDSTON.

TRUSTEE AUTHORS TITANIC GUIDE

Perthshire, Scotland resident and Lifetime Trustee Dr. Roger Cartwright has written over twenty internationally published management books in addition to a series of books on the cruise industry. His most recent book: *The Pitkin Guide to Titanic, The World's Largest Liner* is available on Amazon.com and in SACKVILLE's library.

THE MAILBAG



Hello from the West Coast. This is just a Bravo Zulu to the Editorial Committee for the great Volume 30, Issue 2 of *Action Stations*.

As a long-time trustee living a long way from the *SACKVILLE* and all the activities in which so many of my old friends are involved with her, *Action Stations* is my only real contact with Canada Naval Memorial. This current issue was first-class and I just wanted to congratulate those involved in putting it together.

Keep up the good work of keeping us living far away aware of what is going on.

Best wishes,
Jim Cumming



Just a wee note to tell you how much our memorial of the Battle of the Atlantic, HMCS *SACKVILLE* means to both my loving husband Leslie (Les), and to me, Shirley (Shirl). In simple words - our love for her is golden. "SACK"! is our own Memorial and the last of the 123 redoubtable corvettes and the winner of the Battle at Sea of the century and her courageous crews and those who gave their lives for the love of her. Here's to the saving of this illustrious corvette, our own HMCS *SACKVILLE* and to her future life as a museum to be seen throughout the years.

I love her!
Shirley Brown

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BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC COMMEMORATIONS

BARRIE ONTARIO



National Councilor Dave Aspden representing HMCS SACKVILLE at Barrie BOA ceremony

*Barrie Navy League Cadet Corps
Photos: Tony Keene*

HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN - AT SEA IN THE GULF OF ADEN

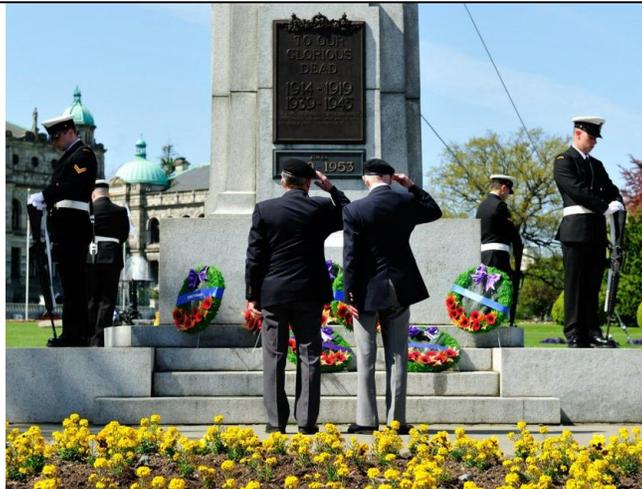


Lieutenant (Navy) John Hounsell-Drover, Padre onboard HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN conducting at-sea Battle of the Atlantic and a Committal of Ashes at Sea ceremony in the Gulf of Aden, May 6, 2012.

Photo: Cpl Ronnie Kinnie, FIS, Halifax

Follow HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN's deployment on facebook by joining their group.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA



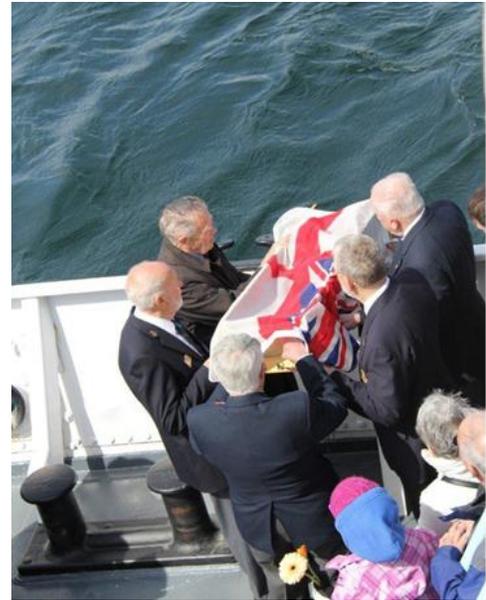
Chief and Petty Officer's association members lay a wreath in front of the Cenotaph.



Maritime Forces Pacific personnel parade in front of Provincial Legislature. Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services

HMCS SACKVILLE

On Battle of the Atlantic Sunday HMCS *SACKVILLE* embarked the ashes of 27 Veterans as well as family members for the annual committal-to-the-sea ceremony.



WELCOME ABOARD!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Bishop Susan Moxley Patricia Walsh
John R. Bain Stephen Knowles
Marlene May Philip Clappison
Thomas Nickle James Hall
John Nethercott

NEW TRUSTEES

Lisa Matte Rae Owen
Mike Owen Bert Walker
Joseph Kearney

UPCOMING SHIP'S PROGRAM AND TRUSTEE EVENTS

Pat Jessup

Every Friday - Noon Lunch onboard
Monday, 11 June - Shift ship to summer berth at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
Friday, 6 July - AGM at STADACONA and Reception onboard

Other events:

Thursday, 14 June - Central Kings High School Visit
Friday, 22 June - Company of Master Mariners Reception
Saturday, 21 July - Reserve Recruit School Visit
Sunday, 23 September - Word on the Street
Saturday, 13 October - Nocture - Art at Night
Tbc - HMCS SACKVILLE First Annual Art Show

For the latest Trust news and an electronic copy of Action Stations see our website at <http://canadasnavalmemorial.ca/>. Of note are Battle of the Atlantic articles by Major Tim Dunne and RAdm Dave Gardam as well as an invitation to participate in the 6th Annual Bruce S. Oland Essay Competition, sponsored by the Canadian Naval Review, Dalhousie University.

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HOME IS THE SAILOR HOME FROM THE SEA

*Our best wishes to our Captain
Wendall Brown as he embarks on yet another
career as shore-support team leader for the
Sailing Vessel Fluenta on the Pacific Coast.
And our very best wishes to Jean who will be
joining Wendall out west in support of the
Team Brown-Shaw sailing adventure.*

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