



# ACTION STATIONS



HMCS Sackville Newsletter

November 1994



CNMT Treasurer Don Cameron climbed to new heights to capture this shot of the visit of SS John W. Brown to Halifax in August. Don photographed the Second World War Liberty Ship from the top level of the TexPark Garage overlooking Sackville Landing. HMCS SACKVILLE, in front of the Interpretation Centre, switched jetties to help accommodate the restored 10,000-ton troop and cargo carrier. The John Brown, out of Maryland, was open to the public for several days and helped attract visitors to Sackville Landing.

## LCdr Sherry Richardson New CO

Lieutenant-Commander Sherry Richardson of Mason's Point, Halifax County, N.S. has been appointed commanding officer of HMCS SACKVILLE. She relieves LCdr James Bond who held the appointment for the last three years.

LCdr Richardson, formerly executive officer of SACKVILLE, brings a wide range of military and civilian experience to her new appointment. A native of Toronto, she commenced her career in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service in 1954 and transferred to the RCN in 1955. Her early training included electrical and aviation electronics courses. Following her marriage to CPO Vic Goodridge she transferred to the Supplementary List in 1960.

In 1962, unable to obtain a billet in the Naval Reserve, she was accepted and commissioned into the Canadian Intelligence Corps (Militia) and held a number of appointments. She undertook Russian language training and completed the Militia Command and Staff Course. She was promoted major in 1973.

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## "An Active and Successful Summer"

During HMCS SACKVILLE's 1994 summer operation, 50,000 visitors toured Canada's Naval Memorial and the ship supported special events for a number of groups and organizations.

Lieutenant-Commander James Bond, retiring commanding officer of SACKVILLE, says "the 15 week period we were open to the public in 1994, as in previous summers, was very active and successful." Donations at the ship and Interpretation Centre amounted to \$14,000.

SACKVILLE moved from HMC Dockyard (winter berth) to Sackville Landing in early June and was open to the public the June 4-6 weekend in support of the 50th anniversary D-Day Canada Remembers program sponsored by Veterans Affairs Canada. "It was particularly pleasing to see the large number of informed school children and teachers visit the ship during this period," says LCdr Bond. Other events and activities during the summer included a visit by 40 international Air Cadets and their officers who were taken on a guided tour of the ship by members of the Atlantic Chief and Petty Officers Association. During Halifax Natal Day celebrations July 30, the ship supported the annual Sunset Ceremony, Ceremony of the Flags performed by members of HMCS ACADIA Sea Cadets, with Lieutenant-Governor J.J. (Jim) Kinley in attendance.

In August, SACKVILLE moved to the adjacent Maritime Museum of the Atlantic jetty to allow the SS John W. Brown, a World War Two Liberty Ship, to berth across the sterns of SS Acadia and SACKVILLE. The close proximity of the three historic ships attracted considerable interest. Later in the month, an evening "mixer" was held for Sea Cadets and officials in Halifax taking part in the National Sea Cadet Regatta.

During September, 55 attended a personnel selection officers conference reception in the ship, 90 attended a divers reunion "up spirits," and 40 attended a

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## 101 Trustees Attend 8th AGM

Reports presented at the 8th annual general meeting of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust in Halifax July 1 indicated that the past year had been "...busy and successful."

Commodore Charles Westropp, chairman of CNMT, told the 101 Trustees in attendance: "The Trust is alive and well, SACKVILLE is now almost completely restored and the challenge that we face is ensuring that the memorial to all those who have gone before us is ready to remind future generations of Canadians of what SACKVILLE and the Trust stand for."

He said "the Trust must remain relevant not only to ourselves but to young Canada. As we get farther from major wars this will become more challenging...I think that we have the will and the dedication to 'make it so'"

One of the major initiatives during the past year was the establishment of the Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund to ensure the long-term maintenance and operation of HMCS SACKVILLE. This allows individuals and organizations to support the aims of CNMT through a program of planned giving. (Please see report on activities of Fund in this issue.)

Other reports by directors presented at the AGM included an update on the rejuvenated National Council. The Council now consists of 24 members who are active in their province in support of CNMT. Councillors have been provided with listings of Trustees in their province and information materials to assist in the recruiting of new Trustees and promotion of the planned giving campaign.

Membership at the end of June was 1,086 Trustees, a 3 per cent decrease from the previous year. A breakdown of Trustees by area: Ontario, 408; Nova Scotia, 296; British Columbia, 161; Quebec, 50; Alberta, 45; New Brunswick, 37; Manitoba, 34; U.S.A., 22; Saskatchewan, 12; Prince Edward Island, 8; Newfoundland, 6; U.K. & other, 6.

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National Utilities Board conference reception... "all of these were worthwhile and enjoyable events."

LCdr Bond says: "As I conclude three years as CO, I would like to thank every one who has supported the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, the ship and me during my term of office...and to wish every success to the new CO, LCdr Sherry Richardson."



LCdr Sherry Richardson, new CO of HMCS SACKVILLE, and LCdr James Bond, retiring CO, are shown during a 'walk around' of the ship. (Herb Warman photo)

## Historic Ships Association Meeting

The 1994 meeting of the Historic Naval Ships Association of North America (HINAS) was held in Bremerton, Washington, hosted by the memorial ship USS Turner Joy. The three Canadian representatives in attendance were Capt(N) G.H. (Skinny) Hayes, Canadian Naval Memorial Trust; Cdr Bob Willson, CO of HMCS HAIDA, and LCdr James Bond, CO of HMCS SACKVILLE.

LCdr Bond submitted the following report on highlights of the meeting:

"HINAS is made up of 41 Fleet members from PT boats to aircraft carriers and includes the Canadian members of St Roch, Le Pelican, HAIDA and SACKVILLE as well as six associate members (whose organizations represent thousands of people) and 70 individual members. All of these groups represent a wide range of interests and this provided for an interesting exchange of information and ideas.

"One of the presentations was by the CO of the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) on the two-year overhaul of the 1797 Man of War in a Boston drydock. To prevent losing many of the one million visitors a year during the overhaul, the CO set up special platforms and a small museum so that visitors could observe what was going on. As a result, he was able to attract 700,000 visitors this year.

"Another session was by the manager of the U.S. Naval Ship Maintenance Facility who outlined the problems of ship disposal and what is required whenever PCBs, lead (paint), chromates or asbestos are found.

"Other activities included a visit to the Reserve Fleet which included the battleship USS Missouri (and the opportunity to stand on the upper deck at the spot where the Japanese surrender was signed) and the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise."

LCdr Bond concludes: HINAS is an interesting and useful organization and it is beneficial for CNMT to maintain its membership."



Members of HMCS Acadia Sea Cadet Camp performed the Sunset Ceremony, Ceremony of the Flags at Sackville Landing on July 30. The annual event, supported by HMCS SACKVILLE, was viewed by visitors and members of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. A reception for Trustees and dignitaries was held on board SACKVILLE. (CFB Halifax/Cpl Roy Photo)

## Endowment Fund Activities Update

The sub-committee responsible for the recently-established Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund has held a number of meetings to deal with different aspects of the planned giving program.

Capt(N) Mel Baird, chairman of the sub-committee, says members have finalized or are working on the administration necessary to ensure the appropriate dissemination of information, the responsibilities of all who are involved and the policies required for the contributions received.

A format has been developed for a potential donor form which is to be

used by CNMT national councillors to identify potential significant donors who can then be approached. It is hoped that a substantial part of the Endowment Fund's \$5 million target can be achieved through this means.

Up to early October, the Endowment Fund stood at \$125,000 in cash donations and more than \$100,000 in future pledges. A number of individuals have indicated they have remembered the Trust in their will. In addition to efforts to obtain significant contributions, donations of all amounts are needed to ensure we meet our goal.

## Life Insurance and Planned Giving

The Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund's planned giving program provides a number of options for individuals and organizations who wish to support the Fund's aims. Life insurance is one of several forms of practical planned giving.

The use of life insurance in charitable giving is becoming more widespread. It is a simple and effective way to make a registered charity such as the Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund both the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy on the life of the donor.

In this way you can give a modest or significant gift without affecting the remainder of your estate. At the same time you are able to receive some tax relief now by claiming the premiums paid on the policy as charitable donations. It is possible to use an existing policy or a new policy under this form of planned giving. Every individual's circumstances are different; however, this is a good way to gain some tax relief and to help ensure the long-term survival of Canada's Naval Memorial. Why not discuss this option with a professional adviser today.

## Christmas Surprises!

Looking for a special gift for relatives and friends? Why not check out the Christmas surprises offered by the Sackville Gift Shop.

As indicated in the enclosed price list, the Gift Shop offers a wide range of quality gifts to suit various tastes. And for the bargain conscious, a number of items have been discounted for the holiday season.

Gift Shop Manager Gerry Etienne says "to simplify your shopping we will, for orders received prior to Dec 12, gift wrap your orders, enclose an HMCS SACKVILLE card with a message of your choice and forward to the recipient via mail prepaid." (The usual mailing and handling charge for each shipment will apply but there is no charge for the card or Christmas wrapping.)

Several attractive new items have been added to the product line including a Christmas card bearing the ship's badge in full colour at \$8 for a package of 10. In addition there is a 7 by 10-inch watercolour print of the ship at sea painted by Pat Burstall. The print is available, unmounted flat for \$10; it is also available in 12 by 16-inch size, matted, backed and ready for framing for \$39.95, or plaque mounted to 9 by 12-in. size ready to hang or 14 by 18-in. size framed, glassed, double matted ready to hang at \$69.95.

The Gift Shop also carries a wide selection of naval books. Since a number are going out of print, you may wish to order now while they are still available.

A special holiday incentive is the 20 per cent discount on all orders for T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters received prior to Dec 12.

All revenue from the Gift Shop goes to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust to maintain and operate HMCS SACKVILLE. Your support is appreciated.

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Following the death of her husband in 1973, she joined the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and served in several research vessels, including 3rd mate of CSS Hudson and CHS Baffin and in fisheries patrol vessels CGS Cygnus and CGS Chebucto (where she served as first officer). In 1980, she returned to active Reserve duty, serving first with Western N.S. Militia District and later with CF Training System HQ, Trenton, Ont and at National Defence Headquarters (DG Reserves and Cadets). During this period she married Maj Norm Richardson.

In 1985-86, LCdr Richardson returned to "dark blue" duty with Maritime Command in Halifax and served in a number of personnel/ training and regional operations appointments until her transfer to the Supplementary Ready Reserve in 1994.

She lists her "spare time activities" as scouting, curling, woodwork and general 'fix-it' and serves as secretary of N. S. Naval Officers Association and secretary of Chester branch of the Canadian Legion.

## D-Day-Normandy Pilgrimage Recalled

The ceremonies and activities observing the 50th anniversary of D-Day/Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1994 will be long remembered by Canadian veterans, particularly those who participated in events in England and France.

Lieutenant-Commander Murray Knowles of Halifax, a CNMT Trustee, was one of five naval veteran delegates representing the Canadian Navy at the overseas ceremonies in late May-early June organized by the Canada Remembers committee of Veterans Affairs Canada.

The following is a condensed version of LCdr Knowles' report to the president of Naval Officers Association of Canada:

"During the nine days we spent in and around the many Normandy towns and villages, our memories went back to 1944 recalling where we were and our responsibilities in destroyers, frigates, corvettes, mine-sweepers, motor torpedo boats, landing craft and assault ships.

"Our days were full and often stretched into late evenings while at-



Four of the five naval veterans representing Canada at the 50th anniversary D-Day ceremonies overseas in June are shown in HMCS TORONTO off the coast of France. From left: Roy Burt, Murray Knowles, Lloyd Williams and Harry Westbrook. Other ships participating in the international fleet review are shown in the background.

tending many commemorative ceremonies and services. On occasion we participated with Army and Air Force delegates in wreath-laying ceremonies. There were emotional moments when mayors of the various towns expressed profound respect and thanks... as they recalled the days when Canadians liberated their people...

"At the Franco-Canadian War Cemetery at Beny-Sur-Mer (which contains 2,044 Canadian graves)...it was an honor for me along with Major C.D. Asten, RCA to assist our Prime Minister Jean Chretien in laying a large wreath. Our Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn was also assisted in laying a wreath. More than 1,000 citizens witnessed this moving event.

"On Many occasions as we marched, citizens of all ages and school children waved Canadian flags, cried and reached out to take our hands...all poignant expressions of thankfulness and appreciation...

"Early on June 5 the naval delegates were air-lifted to HMCS TORONTO (the new Canadian Patrol Frigate representing Canada at the overseas ceremonies). We were met by Vice-Admiral Peter Cairns, Commander Maritime Command and Cdr Dan Murphy, CO of TORONTO.

"We were thrilled to observe 20 Allied warships participating in the In-

ternational Fleet Review. It was indeed a most impressive sight as HMS BRITANNIA (with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth embarked) carried out a sail past of the Fleet underway.

"We were air-lifted by Sea King helicopter in the early evening from the ship to Deauville and during the flight our pilot flew low over all the D-Day beaches affording excellent views of the remnants of D-Day, including the famous Mullberry harbours off Arrormanches. We gave our pilot and the crew heartfelt thanks for such splendid and safe transportation. The antics of Navy veterans, all over 70, struggling in an out of terribly cumbersome 'survival suits' was a sight to behold."

## Annual Contributions

It's that time again...a reminder to those who have not submitted their annual contribution of \$50 to do so before the end of the year. This is the minimum amount for which we each committed ourselves on becoming Trustees. As of Sept 30, 41 per cent of our Trustees had yet to make their 1994 contributions.

It is these contributions that help to ensure the continued success of the maintenance of HMCS SACKVILLE.