



ACTION STATIONS



HMCS Sackville Newsletter

May 1996



Honourary Captains Hosted

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust hosted Honourary Captains of the Canadian Navy on board HMCS Sackville April 29. The Honourary Captains were in Halifax for the annual Maritime Command briefing for naval support organizations. Shown from left are: Captain Darcy Rezac, Vancouver; Captain Bill Wilson, Calgary; Captain Lou Hyndman, Edmonton; Captain Sonja Bata, Toronto; Captain Claude Beaubien, Montreal; Vice-Admiral Lynn Mason, Commander Maritime Command, and Commodore Charles Westropp, Chairman of CNMT.
(CF Photo / Cpl Andrews)

Summer Activities 1996

During the summer HMCS Sackville will host a number of events and activities, including:

May 14: Ship moves from HMC Dockyard to Sackville Landing
June 10: Open to public for summer
June 15: UK naval historians tour ship
June 28: Final noon session; Mess reopens September 6
June 30: Memorial service at Sailor Statue, Sackville Landing
July 1: Canada Day, ship dressed overall

July 6: Canadian Naval Memorial Trust reception on board
August 3: Reception on board prior to Sunset Ceremony in parking lot adjacent to Summit Place
September 6: Mess reopens on Fridays
September 22: Naval historians tour of ship
September 29: Ship closes to public; return to HMC Dockyard

Annual General Meeting July 5-6

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust will be held in Halifax Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6. Trustees will be briefed on all aspects of the operation of Canada's Naval Memorial, including an up-date on the Endowment Fund, as well as a briefing on the state of the Navy. Following is the program of activities:

Friday, July 5

0900-0945 – Registration, meet and greet in the Sea Room, Stadacona Wardroom

0945-1200 – AGM in the Nova Scotia Room (main floor opposite Sea Room)

1200-1330 – Lunch in the Sea Room (cost \$10; cash bar)

1330 – 9th meeting of National Council, Nova Scotia Room

1400-1600 – Trustees free to visit ship and Interpretation Centre

1930 – Attend the 1996 Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax Metro Centre (A block of 200 seats has been reserved for Trustees and friends; tickets at \$19 each will be issued at registration to those who have ordered before May 29.)

Saturday, July 6

AM – Visit to one of our ships, hopefully one of the new Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels. Details to be announced at Friday's meeting.

1830-2030 – Mixed reception on board Sackville for Trustees. Nominal charge: \$10 person.

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THE CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST, FMO HALIFAX, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3K 2X0

Your Trust, Your Ship: Input, Please

(Contributed by Commander James E. Jollymore, CD)

The Canadian Naval Memorial Trust and HMCS Sackville are here to serve.

In recent years the Trust's main focus has been on restoring Sackville to her World War Two configuration. That challenging task is finally done. The Trust is now considering how this unique memorial and inspiring reminder of our past can best serve present and future generations of Canadians.

To that end, at the December, 1995 meeting of the CNMT Board of Directors, a committee was established to rigorously examine this important question. The committee is chaired by the Commandant of the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School who is one of two Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT) representatives to the CNMT Board of Directors.

The first and most important step in this process is to communicate with all those who have some stake in the Trust, the ship and Canada's naval heritage. To this end, a number of questions will be asked at the Trust's annual general meeting in Halifax July 5/6. To ensure the best possible feedback, it is important that Trustees be well prepared for the AGM and that those who are unable to attend be given a chance to have their say. You are therefore asked to consider what the Trust and the ship mean to you, how you can help the Trust support this worthy cause and whether there is something we can do to help you meet your needs and goals.

Please help us chart HMCS Sackville's course in the 21st century. The importance of this study cannot be overemphasized; your input is essential to enable the Trust to make a number of important decisions regarding the ship's future.

Your comments can be passed to the Commandant of the CF Naval Engineering School, FMO Halifax, Halifax, NS B3K 2X0, tel (902)427-0550/Ext 8161, or sent email nstn1674@fox.nstn.ca or passed to a member of the Board of Directors or National Council.



Constructs HMCS Sackville Model

Thomas G. Dean of the Hamilton Naval Veterans Association, Hamilton, Ont spent a year and approximately 1,000 hours to construct his 'work of art,' a model of HMCS Sackville. The model was made using plans obtained from Vanguard Model Marine in Ottawa, using a 1/48 scale resulting in a finished model of 53 inches long, a little over 7 inches wide and 19 inches to the masthead. Materials included a combination of wood, brass and styrene plastics. A plaque mounted to the display base reads: HMCS SACKVILLE K181 FLOWER CLASS CORVETTE 'IN WHICH WE SERVED' 1939-1945. George Hedden writes: "...the model of HMCS Sackville now has a permanent place of honour in our club rooms. As we do have an area in the club featuring other Sackville memorabilia, this new model tops it off..." Plans are underway to build other classes of wartime RCN ships. Mr Dean, president of the club, served in the post-war Navy as a communicator.

Reminder(s) to Trustees

This issue of Action Stations contains a reminder of the payment of the annual contribution of \$50 required of each Trustee.

Also enclosed is a copy of the HMCS Sackville folder which is used for distribution to visitors to the ship and for prospective Trustees. It was intended that the folder be included with the March, 1996 letter to Trustees from Commodore Charles Westropp, Chairman of the Board, on the recruitment of new Trustees. The folders, however, were misplaced during the mailing.

The folder, along with the membership card included with the March mailing, are to be used for recruiting new Trustees. As

the chairman said, in part, in his letter: "We believe that a...source of Trustees is from among the relatives, friends and acquaintances of our current membership. We believe that each Trustee can find one other person who would be willing to join us in supporting Canada's Naval Memorial. This letter...is a request to find one new Trustee prior to our annual general meeting in July."

Trustees requiring additional membership cards or folders can contact the Membership Chairman, Cdr Don Dixon at (902) 420-9825 or the Secretary, Cdr Russ Wilcox at (902) 477-5539.



Captain Sonja Bata, who also serves as vice-chair of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, is welcomed aboard HMCS Sackville (top left) during a reception for Honourary Captains and representatives of naval support organizations. On the jetty is David Robinson of the RCNA. In the top photo, Rear Admiral Fred Crickard, President of NOAC, chats with Captain Claude Beaubien; below, Trustees CPO Dick Aldheim-White and Commodore Bruce Oland 'swap yarns'.

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For Trustees wishing accommodation, a block of rooms has been reserved at Lord Nelson Hotel (under CNMT HMCS Sackville) at a special rate of \$60 (plus taxes). Reservations must be made by June 1 to obtain this rate. Contact the hotel at (902) 423-6331 or toll-free 1-800-565-2020.

For further information on the AGM or assistance, contact Cdr Russ Wilcox, CNMT Secretary: (902) 477-5539.



Endowment Fund Update

The development of the Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund continued during the past year. The Endowment Fund was launched in 1994 to assist in the long-term maintenance and operation of HMCS Sackville.

Donations / bequests to the Endowment Fund are held a minimum of 10 years, during which time the capital and income are invested on a continuing

basis. Assets of the fund are held by a Canadian chartered bank.

Current value of the fund is approximately \$250,000. Although this is a long way from the longterm objective of \$5,000,000, progress is steady due to a number of significant donations, bequests and pledges.

General support from Trustees is increasing.

Small Ships: The New...

The newest additions to the Fleet are the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels being constructed at the Halifax Shipyard. The 12 MCDVs, including the first of the class HMCS Kingston (shown here), carry the names of cities and towns and former ships. The 970-tonne, 55-metre ships will be crewed primarily by naval reservists and will carry out a number of tasks including coastal surveillance, mine countermeasures and assistance to other government departments. In addition to Kingston, the other ships are Glace Bay, Nanaimo, Edmonton, Shawinigan, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Goose Bay, Moncton, Saskatoon, Brandon and Summerside.

and the Old

HMCS Sackville, commissioned in 1941, is shown on one of her infrequent 'transits' between HMC Dockyard and Sackville Landing and return. The ship is framed between the Halifax Metro Centre, right, and Scotia Square complex. The photo was taken by CNMT Treasurer Don Cameron from Citadel Hill.



Grog for Bread

Roger Wyatt, Jr of Adrian, Mi, USA, who served in Liberty ships during the Second World War, writes that a visit to Halifax and viewing the harbour and Bedford Basin brought back a number of wartime memories, including the following:

"We welcomed the presence of the corvettes in the convoys in the North Atlantic. Some of the crews in the Liberty ships thought 'the ride was terrible' but when you observed the corvettes you were very thankful to be aboard the Liberty.

"In early 1944 after leaving England we encountered severe weather for eight or nine days. On the first calm day the corvette K148(HMCS Amherst) signalled if we could spare some bread...In due course, K148 shot over a line and sent the breeches buoy. Our captain ordered me(the purser) to instruct the chief steward to send bread, butter and baked goods. The captain of K148 sent my captain a bottle of grog."

Mr Wyatt also sent his thanks for making his trip enjoyable and "my cheque to help HMCS Sackville."



Gift Shop Specials

The Gift Shop continues in full operation and as the enclosed revised mail order price list indicates a wide range of items are available. Some specials not shown on the price list include the following new books in hardcover (HC) or paperback (PB):

094: Saga of the Bluenose (HC) \$8.95

100: The U-Boat Hunters (HC) \$35

107: Corvettes Canada (HC) \$29.95

112: Historic Naval Ships (PB) \$11

114: Thunder in the Morning Calm (HC) \$24.95

115: Operation Sick Bay (HC) \$32

118: The Ship that Voted No (PB) \$7.95

The Pat Burstall watercolour of HMCS Sackville has become a popular item at \$15 for the flat print, \$39.95 plaque mounted and \$69.95 framed ready to hang.