

# Action Stations



CANADA'S NAVAL MEMORIAL

HMCS SACKVILLE

January/February 2011

## Essay Winner – CNMT 2010 – “Henri Bourassa, Wilfrid Laurier and the 1910 Naval Service Act, Canadian Identity and the Birth of a Navy.”

The essay discusses the political environment surrounding the birth of the Canadian Navy in 1910. Trustees are encouraged to visit HMCS SACKVILLE's website, [www.hmcssackville.ca](http://www.hmcssackville.ca) to view Martin Pelletier's winning essay (approximately 3500 words).



Above, Commander Martin Pelletier of Ottawa, second from left, winner of the 2010 CNMT Essay Contest is welcomed aboard as a new Life Member by, from left: CO Wendall Brown, Executive Director George Borgal and Coxswain Craig McFadgen.



On the left, John Jay, Chair of the CNMT accepts a \$3500.00 cheque on behalf of the Trust from Kim Reinhardt, Manager of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (MMA). Over the course of the 2010 summer, the MMA administered admission fees for SACKVILLE and the cheque represents these proceeds.

## Essay Winner – NOAC 2010 – “Not all is written in books – A Volunteer's experience”

The winning essay for the 2010 Naval Officers Association of Canada Essay Contest was written by Marie Dundas, a grade 12 student from Prince Andrew High School, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The NOAC sponsored the contests as part of the Navy Centennial year. To read the full essay text, it can be found on the following website: <http://canadashistory.ca/Awards/Other-Awards/NOAC-Award/Articles/Not-all-history-is-written-in-books.aspx> or through a link to the Trust website at [www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca](http://www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca)

The essay recalls Marie's volunteering experience onboard SACKVILLE during a couple summer terms.

## NEW ANNUAL INVOICING PROCESS

In order to make the Trust's book keeping more efficient, the Membership Committee is initiating a process by which trustees will be given a reminder and an invoice for their annual donation. As yearly donations are due on the anniversary of each trustee's last donation as opposed to a yearly fixed date for all trustees, the intent is for invoices to be sent on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October to those whose donations are due in the coming quarter. Trustees can verify the date of their last donation by examining the address label on their copy of Action Stations, which has the Last Donation Received (LDR) Year/Month/Day displayed.

Trustees should therefore expect to receive an invoice with a detachable donation form, and a postage paid, self-addressed envelope. Alternatively, yearly donations can be made on-line via the CNMT website at [www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca](http://www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca)

The CNMT relies on the generous donations of Trustees for the care and preservation of HMCS SACKVILLE. Your contributions are truly appreciated and we thank you for your continued support. We also encourage you to share your commitment with family, friends and colleagues in order to help increase our membership numbers. As you can imagine however, a project like SACKVILLE also relies on the involvement of many volunteers. Accordingly, the Trust always welcomes individuals interested in participating in the various committees including membership, preservation and maintenance, and administration, as well as in a number of other on-going endeavours. Do not hesitate to signal your interest to get involved in the project.

Commander Josée Kurtz  
Membership Chair

# CHAIR's Report

As we commence another year I would like to extend the best wishes of the entire CNMT team to all Trustees and supporters of the Trust. Your encouragement and support since the semi annual general meeting in November has been very gratifying to us all. Since my last column outlining the 'State of the Trust' considerable progress has been made. I consider keeping everyone in the loop essential and this column provides a welcome opportunity to do just that.

**Membership:** The most important aspect of the work of the Board is the recruitment and retention of Trustees. As a result of having to remove several hundred delinquent Trustees from the membership list in the past year I'm concerned about retention. All of the work undertaken by Commander Josee Kurtz and her team in recruiting new Trustees is frustrated if we are unable to hold the interest and attention of the existing Trustees. How can we get more of you into the ship and involved in the activities of the Trust? The future of the Trust hinges on our ability to retain members and I have challenged the Executive Committee to develop a plan for this.

**Life Members:** The cost associated with servicing a Trustee's annual contribution of \$75 is very high when the cost of Action Stations, renewal and other notices are considered; the time required by our volunteers to keep on top of this is considerable. The annual contribution has not changed for some time and we do not want to change it now. In the past year, since my first appeal went out, almost 100 Trustees have chosen to become Life Members. This is a further appeal for more to do the same. For convenience there is an insert which you can use to accompany your cheque or credit card information. This year we will be presenting new Life Members with a blazer badge and a Pusser's Rum decanter as a thank you from the Trust for making this long-term commitment.

**Senior Management:** Our Executive Director George Borgal has resigned his post due to other commitments but has generously agreed to continue in the position as a volunteer. I am interested in discussing this position with anyone who has the necessary organizational skills and commitment. After seven years at the helm, the Commanding Officer Wendall Brown will be stepping down when a suitable replacement is identified. Nominations are to be forwarded to me. As I write, our Executive Officer Jim Reddy is recovering from surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery. Other long-serving volunteers have also indicated they wish to be relieved of their duties. Volunteer organizations only survive based upon their ability to recruit and train a succession of leaders willing to step forward when called. The Trust needs to step up succession planning.

**Naval Memorial Project:** Meetings to discuss the concept and the first step, a national design competition have been held with the Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality, the Premier and the Chief of Staff of the Minister of National Defence. The first step will cost \$ 900,000 and extend over a two-year period. Discussions with our Corporate Trustees indicated that the Trust could raise one third of the cost. The Trust however must be prepared to invest in this project from its own resources (now in place) to provide for the long-term preservation of the ship. If we need to utilize some of these resources at this time to launch the design competition we must be prepared to do so. The one- third (\$300,000) contribution from the CNMT will consist of funds raised from our private sector corporations, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and the Trust. Our request to HRM is for \$100,000. Meetings have been held with key corporate sponsors to launch the private sector initiative.

With regard to our approach to the three levels of Government for financial support, we have formally requested one third from each of the Provincial and Federal Governments for the design competition. Discussions are ongoing with HRM about their participation as part of our corporate support and our request has been tabled at Council. Requests to the Provincial and Federal Governments have been well received and are being processed.

**Strategy to Move Forward:** The strategy for the design competition has been discussed with all the stakeholders and approved by the Board. While a commitment to participate in the design competition is not necessarily a commitment to participate in the construction, the design competition will provide strong graphical representations of what the project will look like, will generate public participation and national recognition that is not easy to achieve otherwise. The budget for the Project Office includes a project manager and a secretary. These would be paid positions and in the case of the project manager, recruited using professional recruiters. Our committee chairs need help and are looking for Trustees to assist in a number of areas, including PR (Len Canfield), membership (Josee Kurtz), corporate support (Hugh MacPherson), ship operations (Wendall Brown), interpretation (John Hault). The Memorial Action Committee (MAC) should be able to call on at least 10 Trustees who would become closely involved with the project. Please speak with any of the committee chairs or myself if you would like to help.

**Public Relations:** Under Chair Len Canfield we need to strengthen and accelerate our PR/communications activities. The Trust and its activities are not well known, particularly outside Halifax. We will not be successful without a broader awareness of the Trust and its mission/objectives. To achieve this objective we need to add considerable human and financial resources to this committee and task it with the development of a number of communications products and services. These include: an information package for provincial and federal politicians; feature articles and background materials for major media outlets and naval/military publications; media briefings; maintaining communications with regular and reserve naval units on matters of mutual interest, and evaluating all communications activities with regards to results and costs.

**Summary:** There are more than one million Canadians living today who had a relative in the Canadian Navy during World War Two, most of whom would have served in a ship like SACKVILLE. We need to not only honour their memory, and the memory of the 2000 who made the supreme sacrifice, but we need to create a suitable memorial that these descendants can visit, learn and where they can mourn. We have taken the first steps to make this a reality. Now more than ever we need the support of all Trustees and I hope this brief outline will help keep you in the picture.

John Jay, CD, P.Eng.  
Chairman, Canadian Naval Memorial Trust

**Editor's Note:** The French version of the Chair's report can be found on Page 3 / La version française du rapport du président du fond suit à la page 3.

# Le Rapport du Président du Fonds

**Editor's Note:** *Starting this edition, the editorial committee has decided to incorporate the French version of one or two featured articles in order to be consistent with future Trust's objectives. This edition, the Chair's report has been translated.*

*Une note du Rédacteur en chef: En commençant cette édition, le comité de rédaction a décidé d'incorporer la version française d'un ou deux articles pour être en accord avec les futures objectifs du Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne. Cette édition, le rapport du Président du Fonds a été traduit.*

Puisque nous commençons une nouvelle année, j'aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour souhaiter mes meilleurs vœux à toute l'équipe du Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne, aux membres et supporteurs du Fonds. Votre encouragement et soutien depuis l'assemblée générale semi-annuelle en novembre dernier ont été très appréciés de tous. Depuis mon dernier article sur l'État du Fonds, plusieurs avancées ont été réalisées. J'aimerais quand même profiter de cette article pour justement vous adresser quelques mots.

**Adhésion:** L'aspect le plus important du travail du Conseil est le recrutement et la rétention des membres du Fonds. Ayant eu par le passé à retirer de nos rangs plusieurs Membres, je suis inquiet concernant l'aspect de rétention. Tout l'effort entrepris par le Capitaine de frégate Josee Kurtz et son équipe dans le recrutement de nouveaux Membres est réduit à néant si nous sommes incapables de retenir l'intérêt et l'attention des Membres existants. Comment pouvons-nous recevoir plus d'entre vous à bord du navire et comment vous impliquer dans les activités du Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne? L'avenir du Fonds dépend de notre capacité de retenir les membres et j'ai mis au défi le Conseil de direction de développer un plan en ce sens.

**Membres à vie:** Le coût administratif associé à la contribution annuelle d'un Membre de \$75 est très élevé considérant le travail à effectuer pour les activités de communication et de réabonnement, par exemple. Le temps exigé de nos volontaires pour effectuer ses tâches est considérable. Le coût de la contribution annuelle n'a pas changé depuis un certain temps et nous ne désirons pas le changer maintenant. Depuis ma première intervention il y a un an, plus de cent Membres ont choisi de devenir Membres à vie. Je lance un appel à tous pour suivre leur exemple. Pour vous faciliter la tâche, un encart est disponible afin d'y inscrire vos coordonnées et y joindre votre paiement sous la forme souhaitée. Cette année nous présenterons à nos nouveaux Membres à vie un badge ainsi qu'une carafe « Pusser's Rum » en guise de remerciement pour votre association de longue durée.

**Haute Direction:** Notre Directeur exécutif George Borgal a démissionné de son poste en raison d'autres engagements, mais a généreusement accepté de poursuivre ses fonctions bénévolement. Je désire donc discuter de ce poste avec toute personne intéressée, possédant les habiletés organisationnelles et l'enthousiasme d'implication. Après sept ans à la barre, le Commandant Wendall Brown se retirera quand un remplaçant convenable sera identifié. Les nominations doivent m'être envoyées. Au moment où je vous écris, notre Commandant en second Jim Reddy se rétablit d'une chirurgie et nous lui souhaitons un prompt rétablissement. D'autres volontaires de longue date ont aussi indiqué qu'ils désiraient être relevés de leurs fonctions. Les Fonds sans but lucratif réussissent à survivre grâce à leur capacité de recruter et de former une relève prête à s'engager, le moment venu. Le Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne se doit donc de mettre en place une telle relève.

**Projet commémoratif naval:** Les réunions pour discuter du concept et de la première action, une compétition nationale de design ont été tenues avec le Maire de la Municipalité régionale d'Halifax, le Premier ministre et le Chef d'état-major de la Défense nationale. La

première action coûtera 900 000\$ et s'étendra sur une période de deux ans. Les discussions avec nos partenaires corporatifs ont indiqué que notre Fonds pourrait ramasser le tiers de ce montant. Néanmoins, le Fonds devra être prêt à investir de ses propres ressources si elle désire conserver à long terme le navire. Si nous devons utiliser certaines de ces nos ressources à ce moment, pour lancer la compétition de design nous devons être disposés à le faire. Le tiers de la contribution (300 000\$) du CNMT se composera de montants recueillis par une levée de fonds de nos partenaires du secteur privé, de la Municipalité Régionale de Halifax (MRH) et du Fonds. Notre demande à la MRH est de l'ordre de 100 000\$. Des réunions ont été tenues avec des commanditaires clé d'entreprises pour lancer l'initiative dans le secteur privé. En ce qui concerne notre approche aux trois niveaux de gouvernement pour un soutien financier, nous avons officiellement demandé un tiers du montant requis de chacun des gouvernements provinciaux et fédéraux pour la compétition de design. Les discussions sont en cours avec la MRH pour leur participation, la demande ayant été soumise à leur Conseil. Les demandes au gouvernement provincial et fédéral ont été bien reçues et sont en traitement.

**Stratégies d'avenir:** La stratégie pour la compétition de design a fait l'objet de discussions avec les principaux intéressés et a été approuvée par le Conseil. Même si un engagement à participer à la compétition de design n'implique pas nécessairement un engagement à participer à une éventuelle construction, la compétition de design fournira de fortes représentations graphiques du projet et favorisera une participation du grand public ainsi qu'une reconnaissance nationale, très difficile à établir par d'autres moyens. Le budget pour le Bureau de Projet comprend un Directeur de projet et un Secrétaire. Ceux-ci seraient des fonctions rémunérées et dans le cas du Directeur de projet, cette fonction sera comblée par des recruteurs professionnels. Les membres du comité ont besoin d'aide et cherchent des Membres pour leur assistance dans plusieurs domaines, incluant les relations publiques (Len Canfield), l'adhésion (Josee Kurtz), le soutien aux entreprises (Hugh MacPherson), les opérations du navire (Wendall Brown) et l'interprétation (John Hault). Le Comité d'action commémoratif (CAM) devrait être en mesure de réunir au moins 10 membres qui deviendraient de près impliqués dans le projet. S'il-vous-plaît, discuter avec n'importe lesquels des membres du comité ou moi-même si vous désirez vous impliquer.

**Relations publiques:** Sous Len Canfield nous devons renforcer et accélérer nos activités de communication et de relations publiques. Le Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne et ses activités ne sont pas bien connus, particulièrement à l'extérieur d'Halifax. Nous ne serions pas aussi efficaces sans une connaissance approfondie du Fonds, de sa mission et de ses objectifs. Pour accomplir cet objectif, nous devons ajouter des ressources humaines et financières considérables à ce comité et le mandater au développement d'un certain nombre de produits de communication et de services. Ceux-ci incluent: un regroupement d'informations pour les élus provinciaux et fédéraux; des articles de presse et le matériel de base pour les conférences de presse importantes ainsi que les publications navales et militaires; des comptes-rendus pour les médias; le maintien des communications avec les unités de réserve et les unités navales régulières sur les questions d'intérêt réciproque et l'évaluation des coûts-bénéfices de toutes les activités de communications.

**Résumé:** Plus d'un million de Canadiens vivant aujourd'hui sont les enfants d'un parent qui aurait servi dans la Marine canadienne pendant la seconde guerre mondiale, pour la plupart, à bord de navire semblables au SACKVILLE. Nous devons également créer un mémorial convenable que ces descendants peuvent visiter, où ils peuvent apprendre davantage et y vivre le deuil. Nous avons fait les premiers pas pour le réaliser. Maintenant plus que jamais nous avons besoin du soutien de tous nos Membres et j'espère que ce bref résumé vous aidera à demeurer présent plus que jamais.

John Jay, CD, P.Eng.  
Président, Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne

# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

HMCS SACKVILLE hasn't been able to hibernate again this winter. Last winter, the ship was, we thought, uniquely busy because of the requirement to prepare for the Royal Visit - next year, 2011 should be a quiet winter. That thought turned out to be a faint hope. Last fall, we received the draft copy of the soon to be released Defence Research (DRDC) report on the technical challenges of permanent preservation of the ship. The most significant problem that the lab identified is internal corrosion, caused by the ambient high level of humidity in Halifax. We have already commenced measures to address obvious sources of water accelerated corrosion by draining four of the fuel tanks that were filled with fresh water to ballast the ship. The intent is to prepare and coat the tanks with an anti-corrosion paint and replace the liquid ballast with solid ballast. This operation is currently in progress. Engineering design work is in progress to determine the best methods of reducing humidity in the engine room, boiler room, and the tiller flats, while maintaining visitor access to view these areas.

In addition to the preservation activity, the ship's staff has been busy with functions on board. The Christmas Party and the New Year's Levee were highly successful events. Since then, two fleet mess dinners have been held already and a frigate will be holding a mess dinner in SACKVILLE for their officers and senior ranks, in late February. These events are very useful to the Trust by increasing the visibility of the ship within the fleet.

The CNMT Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Dinner will be held on board on 30 April. Seating in the mess decks is limited and will be available to Trustees only, on a first come-first served basis. Call early to reserve your seat.

Wendall Brown, Commander (ret.)  
Commanding Officer

# Passing the Torch



SACKVILLE's Commanding Officer Wendall Brown was proud to introduce the ship's new Chief Bos'n Mate. CPO2 Craig MacFadgen has taken over the duties from CPO Guy Ouellet, effective 3 December 2010. A "BZ" was extended to CPO Guy Ouellet for his commitment and work as SACKVILLE's Chief Bos'n Mate.

# New Year's Levee - 2010



In the form an annual levee, New Year's celebrations were held onboard SACKVILLE on the morning of 1 January 2011. The event was well attended by Trustees. Here are a few representative photos of the event.

# SHIPBOARD TRUSTEE EVENT PROGRAM - WINTER 2011

Refer to the Trust website for more information on upcoming events at [www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca](http://www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca)

- Regular Friday Lunches continue during the quiet winter period.
- Watch for a winter Sunday Brunch
- Saturday 30 April 11 – BOA Dinner
- Sunday 1 May 11 – BOA Sailing and Committal Service

## OTHER ONBOARD EVENTS

The Halifax Burns Society meets onboard each month.

# 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*



LCdr(RCN) L. Ross Wagener  
LCdr Douglas Bennett Payne  
Hugh MacDevitt, RCNVR  
CPO1 Robert Wibberley  
LCdr Richard Bartlett  
Mr. Lloyd Thompson  
Joseph Rolland  
Mrs. Margo Marshall  
Mr. Cecil Morancy  
Cdr J.M. Reginald  
Capt(N) Hal Davies

**Editor's Note:** As we go to press, we have been advised of the sudden death of former Chairman of the Trust Capt (N) Hal Davies. A full account of his life and contribution to the Trust will appear in the next edition.



LCdr Derek Vallis, Executive Officer of HMCS SCOTIAN presents a donation of \$1400.00 to John Jay, Chair of CNMT onboard SACKVILLE in December 2010.

## FLEET Connection - Sponsored Lunch onboard SACKVILLE



On November 3rd, 2010, Commander Josee Kurtz (Commanding Officer) and Lieutenant Commander Douglas Campbell (Executive Officer) of HMCS HALIFAX sponsored the Friday lunch onboard SACKVILLE. Petty Officer First Class Donnie Watson, chief Cook in HALIFAX dishes out the seafood chowder to the assembled Trustees.



On 15 December 2010, trustees enjoyed some Christmas cheer at the reception held onboard SACKVILLE. Some of the attendees are pictured above.

## LAST WORD THE LAST CORVETTE

Poem by Robert W. Stirling

She sits unnoticed among the larger naval ships.  
 Resting peacefully at her dockside slip,  
 Her wartime colors proclaiming to the world,  
 A reflection of past duties are now unfurled.  
 The SACKVILLE's number was KI81 ,  
 Memorialized by faithful wartime service driven,  
 That her courageous sailors lives were given,  
 She was known fondly then as the 'old girl',  
 The old girl was known to her crew and her friends,  
 That her strength and armour could defend.  
 With radar, hedgehog and a 4inch gun,  
 She could protect the convoys on their ocean runs.  
 She also had an asdic to search out the unseen foe,  
 That lurked in menace beneath the Atlantic's swell and flow,  
 That torpedoed ships and left their crews for dead,  
 When all security and peace are fled.  
 The SACKVILLE battled another foe in her Atlantic run,  
 Those changing waves with their swells have now begun,  
 Would give the little ship and crew many blows,  
 And add to the discomfort of the faithful men below.  
 She was the constant watchdog of the convoy fleet,  
 Enduring those endless waves, and rain and sleet,  
 Pitched and tossed the seas ever restless face,  
 She endured all as was a constant of her race,  
 Many sailors can thank her crew and their watchdog ship,  
 That they thus avoided the subs fateful and deadly grip,  
 And reached the waiting ports in good old Britain,  
 So now the pages of service will be written.  
 Years have passed now since wartimes banners flew,  
 The days have passed when she had her Captain and her crew,  
 But books are written about her courage and her service spent,  
 That to an enquiring public now are lent,  
 So the HMCS SACKVILLE sits at her oaken dock,  
 A monument to the courage of the navy stock,  
 In her bright colors of white and blue,  
 She will be ever faithful, ever true.  
 Today she is used to mark the anniversary of the war,  
 To pay tribute to those that have gone before,  
 That paid the price so that we might be free  
 They did it all for you and me.

## Welcome Aboard - New Trustees

Terry North	Bruce Hollett
Jack Price	Lauretta Harris
Robert Ross	Edward D'Orsay
Carl Anderson	Robert McCauley
Martha Dunbar	Tahirah Shadforth
Shawn Mehagan	Peter Butler
Gerald Settle	Kimberley Conrad
Ray Doucette	Harcourt Gardiner
Michael Pegg	Roger Thompson
Christine Bourgeois	Mike Brownlow
Warren Marchant	Real Brisson
Ronald Caldwell	

# CFNA SACKVILLE as an Oceanographic Ship for the Atlantic Oceanographic Group, St-Andrews, NB and Halifax, NS

By Neil Campbell

*Editor's Note: Dr. Neil Campbell was Director of the Atlantic Oceanographic Group based in Halifax then in 1962 relocated to the new Bedford Institute of Oceanography. He was a physical oceanographer and took part in a number of SACKVILLE cruises. Later in 1960's the Atlantic Oceanographic Group was disbanded in a government's reorganization with the staff absorbed in units of the BIO. Dr Campbell lives in BC.*

Canadian Naval Auxiliary Vessel (CNAV) SACKVILLE was used as an oceanographic research vessel by the Atlantic Oceanographic Group (AOG) in the early 1950s and for many years after when the AOG moved to Halifax. In the late fifties, she worked principally on the Scotian Shelf, Georges Bank, and Gulf of St. Lawrence conducting seasonal cruises.

In 1957, the SACKVILLE underwent a major refit in Montreal and, on her return to the east coast, she was readied to take part in the 1958 International Geophysical Year (IGY) which involved her in running a series of deep-sea oceanographic stations from Bermuda to Baffin Bay. These deep-ocean stations were a first for the ship and took as long as 5-6 hours to complete using two winches. The cruise took almost four weeks to complete. Her deep-sea cruises were far from over as the next major undertaking found her serving the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) in a multinational oceanographic survey of the North Atlantic. SACKVILLE was one of three Canadian vessels involved. She surveyed the Grand Banks eastwards and off the Scotian Shelf. After the ICNAF surveys, SACKVILLE worked with the VEMA, a Columbia University research vessel, for two summers. The two ships conducted seismic surveys in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off the east coast. Both ships had to visit Argentia, NL, site of a US naval base, to take additional explosives aboard. SACKVILLE, an RCN naval auxiliary vessel was welcomed, but the VEMA, under Panamanian flag, was shunned and cordoned off as out of bounds.



*MV VEMA (1960, from the Lamont / Doherty Earth Observatory Archives*

In the early 1960s the ship underwent a major scientific refit. New wet and dry laboratories were built aft on the upper deck. The wet laboratory housed a winch, bottles, and other over-the-side gear. The dry lab was set up with a new deep-sea echo sounder. When it was time to fit the echo sounders to the ship,



*CFNA SACKVILLE, configured as a research vessel, sailing in the Atlantic, circa 1976.*

she sailed to Lunenburg, NS, to have them installed. Shortly after the crew and scientists had turned in for the night, the cable or chain used to haul the ship up on the slip broke and SACKVILLE came sliding down off the slip and ended up in shallow water with a 30-degree list to port, firmly stuck in the mud. Fortunately, no one was hurt but all were badly shaken up. When I arrived on scene, it looked like the end for SACKVILLE, and there was talk of cutting her up. Two naval tugs were dispatched from Halifax and she was pulled out of the mud and righted herself. She was towed to the Dartmouth Shipyards and put up on blocks for inspection. Miraculously, only one stern bottom plate was dented – no breaks or fractures to the hull. A new plate was simply welded over the dented plate and the echo sounders were installed.

The new echo sounder was put to good use by Dr. Douglas Loring on bottom surveys of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The surveys found that several echo-sounder returns reflected the morphology and the general composition of the sea floor. Bottom sampling and coring were used to sample and identify the sediments, and Doug was able to map the sediments and morphology of the Gulf. He identified a large deposit of optical quality sands and sediments that were home to shrimp and snow crab. This latter association was a very important find for this fishery. A mining company from Montreal made an application to the Quebec government for rights to extract the optical sands, but it was turned down for fear of the sands being non-renewable and impacting on the Magdalen's lobster fishery. One of the well-planned cruises to the Gulf of St. Lawrence went awry through no fault of its Chief Scientist, Dr. Ronald Trites. The purpose of the cruise was to measure the flow of water through the Strait of Belle Isle. Ron prepared lighted drift floats, colour coded for depth of water of the attached vane and, when released the direction and speed of drift. In addition to using this technique, he purchased enough electrical cable to stretch across the Strait, thus establishing a geoelectromagnetic kinetograph. It measured the flow of water across the cable using the principle of a conductor (sea water) moving through a magnetic field (earth). The challenge for the ship's crew was to lay the cable across the Strait without breaking it. The cable was successfully laid. The float project was undertaken in the evening under calm conditions. Spotters were assigned to the starboard and port sides of the bridge and reported on the location of the floats at regular intervals. However, when things got underway, Ron noticed that the pattern of drift of the floats was incoherent, in fact quite erratic. He puzzled over this situation and finally came up on deck to see for himself what was going on. He discovered that the red floats were often called green and green floats called red. He questioned the one observer and, much to their mutual surprise, discovered that the observer was colour blind and did not know it himself! So much for one night's work. They all got quite a laugh out of it.

Most of the crew on SACKVILLE were Newfoundlanders and at their request we always dedicated one station as the fishing station. It was always well-located for jigging cod. Scientists and crew alike would spend most of the day jigging for cod which were immediately salted down. During the day, we were well-treated and rewarded with freshly fried cod cheeks. The food was delicious to say the least.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I mentioned in the last Action Stations that the Executive Committee's mandate is to ensure that operational programs of the Trust and SACKVILLE are mutually supportive and effectively managed. The challenge in doing this has been to first recognize what needs to be done and we have just completed an initial analysis to identify what our goals are and how to achieve them. As a plan it's only a start, and will need to continue to be developed over time and with experience to become an operationally focused set of goal-oriented action plans. In developing these goals we recognized that they are inherently interrelated and that ownership is not singular. With this in mind, all Chairs of all Committees are contributing to each, although one or two will have the lead for the purpose of coordination. At this point, we have identified the following goals with leads as indicated:

Number	Goal	Lead
001	To improve and ensure the continued preservation of ship infrastructure and equipment to the standard required	Wendall Brown
002	To ensure the continued health of Trustee membership	Josee Kurtz
003	To present HMCS SACKVILLE as Canada's enduring national Naval Memorial	John Hault
004	To launch and maintain the new website	Dan Sargeant & Richard Wood
005	To significantly increase public awareness, understanding and support for Canada's Naval Memorial among internal and external stakeholders/audiences at the provincial and national levels	Len Canfield
006	To identify and sustain corporate sponsorship support	Hugh MacPherson
007	To provide for continuous posting and updating of Trust and SACKVILLE events	Wendall Brown & George Borgal
008	To ensure the orderly selection and succession of key staff and committee chairs	EC
009	To ensure SACKVILLE is organized and ready for Summer Season activities	Wendall Brown & Jim Reddy
010	To provide a Memorial Dinner for the membership commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic	Wendall Brown & George Borgal
011	To support Remembrance Day Activities Consistent with the Trust Mandate	EC
012	To conduct a National Essay Competition commensurate with the Memorial Mandate	George Borgal
013	To establish a committee responsible for the identification, selection, and support of volunteers & students	EC
014	To maintain trustee awareness of the National Memorial Project status	Wendall Brown & George Borgal

## Editor's Note:

As part of a CNMT initiative to increase the level of internal and external communications, Action Stations is now available on the Trust's website: [www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca](http://www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca). As well, future plans for Action Stations include electronic distribution to Trustees wishing to receive the newsletter in this format. As always, appreciate receiving your comments/suggestions on content of newsletter, frequency of issue, etc. Please contact me at the following e-mail: [actionstations@hmcssackville.ca](mailto:actionstations@hmcssackville.ca) or at 902-431-1129.

Objectives for each goal are being developed, as are action plans to meet each objective. You'll notice that some goals have yet to be assigned a lead, and the EC as a whole will take these on for now. In subsequent issues of Actions Stations, I'll update you on 2 or 3 of these, with the objective of being able to cover the status of each one once each year. To achieve these goals, your EC needs more involved help. We are a small group and as volunteers, our individual passions notwithstanding, we are limited by the time and experience we have available. These goals need more focused attention, and all Trustees are requested to consider offering their knowledge, skills and experience to assist within the limits of time and opportunity you have available. This would be a very worthwhile and welcome way to make a big difference to the Trust and SACKVILLE.

I would like to say special thanks to Trustees Tim Dunne, Doug Thomas and Sharon Arsenault for agreeing to add their talents to the EC's work.

In closing for this issue, if you are interested in finding out more, please feel free to contact me and I'll be happy to answer your questions or put you in touch with any of those listed above.

Yours Aye,

George Borgal  
Executive Director at [ex.dir@hmcssackville.ca](mailto:ex.dir@hmcssackville.ca)  
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*In October 2010, Mr. Colin Stephenson, Executive Director of Defence Atlantic Exhibition 2010 (DEFSEC) presented a cheque for \$4125.00 to John Jay, Chair of the CNMT.*

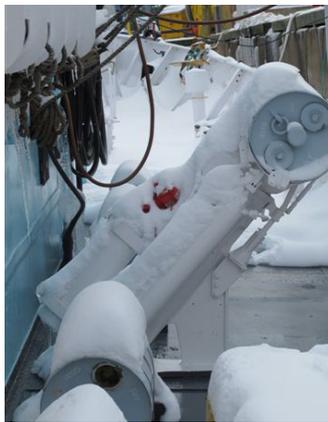
## Welcome Aboard - Life Members

Martin Pelletier  
Ray Healey  
Peter Richards

Guillaume S. Cote  
William A. MacPherson  
Frank Mader



Winter 1944 onboard an unknown corvette



Winter 2011 onboard HMCS SACKVILLE – Time changes but things remains the same

## HMCS King's Wardroom Renovation

By Alison Lang

The University of King's College HMCS King's Wardroom, Halifax is a sparsely-adorned but friendly student area in the Arts and Administration Building. Students eat lunch, study or play pool beneath photographs of HMCS GUYSBOROUGH, HMCS WEYBURN and HMCS LOUISBURG. Viewing these black and white archival photographs provides new students a brief glimpse of Kings' close ties to the Canadian Navy, and how those ties have irrevocably affected the college's history. In May of 1941, Minister of Naval Service Angus L. Macdonald requested that King's be used as a Naval Officers Training School for the summer. However, the Canadian government determined that the need for officers necessitated that the college be designated a training school until the end of the war. On May 24, the Stadacona section of the RCN's Officer Training Establishment moved to the King's campus. By October, King's was effectively considered a vessel, or "stone frigate," and became known as HMCS King's. During WW II German propaganda sources reported that HMCS King's had been sunk!

According to research conducted by the King's Chaplain, the college transitioned quite rapidly into a military training facility. The Girl's Reception Room became the Wardroom (name of naval officers' mess) with naval communications and navigation making up most of the instruction. King's arts and divinity studies were moved to the adjacent Dalhousie campus as well as the Atlantic School of Theology's Pine Hill Divinity Hall. In a write-up on HMCS King's, Lt. (N) O.J.W. Parkhouse lists the elements involved in the 12-week course taken by the young recruits: seamanship, torpedo, navigation, signals and gunnery. However, in 1942 a course for specialist navigators was begun. It included several weeks at sea in naval tenders attached to HMCS King's, including HMCS SACKVILLE for a short period in 1944. At the end of the war and after four years of operation, HMCS King's had graduated between 3,000 and 4,000 officers. King's was paid off as a training facility in May 1945.

Civilian life returned to King's and most of the lecture halls and departments lost their military monikers. However, HMCS King's Wardroom kept its name and continued as the college dining room and kitchen. In the Winter 2008 issue of the King's alumni magazine, Tidings, alumnus David Jones (BA '68) recalls working as a waiter in the narrow space, a job that required its own special brand of training and 'navigating.' In 1979, the space was converted into an area that would serve as a student lounge by day and a bar at night. The bar celebrated its 30th anniversary in April of 2009, and a Wardroom Renovation Fund was created so alumni could contribute to necessary renovations and collaborate on a redesign. The Halifax design firm Breakhouse was selected to consult with students, faculty and alumni to create a new layout for the space that will freshen its look while keeping all of King's historical ties intact. The images of the ships in which many King's graduates served during the war will remain a poignant reminder of the College's distinguished naval tradition – a tradition that has created an indelible impression upon campus life and gives weight to everything we do.

Note: Donations in support of the Wardroom Renovation Fund, annotated "Wardroom Renovation Advisory Committee," can be sent to University of King's College or NS Naval Officers Association. Income tax receipt provided.



# Friends of H.M.C.S. HAIDA

Friends of HAIDA, 658 Catharine St. N., Hamilton, ON L8L 4V7 assists Parks Canada in the preservation and maintenance of HAIDA as a historic ship, naval memorial and National Historic site. For further information visit: [www.hmcshaida.ca](http://www.hmcshaida.ca)

## ACTION STATIONS

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