



THE NEWSLETTER



of the UNTD Association of Canada

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EDITOR: [Bill Clearihue](#)

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Connections ...



Al Blackwood, Doug Taylor, David Cox, Brian Sommerville, Stew Churlish, Russ Ko
Getting together after 53 years – story on p 2

Connections ...

53 years after they first met in the summer of 1966, the 6 former UNTD Cadets pictured on the Cover page got together as a group on June 25, 2019 in Victoria, BC to reminisce and get caught up. The locale was the Six Mile Pub in View Royal, quite a distance in time, place and decor, from the Gunroom and parade square at CORNWALLIS.

That they were all from the same year, reside in Victoria or Vancouver and that 5 of the 6 were from MALAHAT originally, makes for an easier connection than say a larger regional or national event would. There are so many levels at which former NavRes Cadets can and do connect with each other, informally or formally.

One of the core functions of the UNTDA is to promote such connections by maintaining detailed Nominal and Contact Lists, advertising and reporting on get togethers as well as organizing and/or supporting major events. This is done through the efforts of Regional Directors and a system of Committees, most notably Membership and using the Website, Newsletter, Bulletins and targeted messaging as vehicles.

Russ Cape as Regional Director for Vancouver Island and Chair of the Membership Committee provides a good example of how this can all come together. Besides organizing well attended formal Mess Dinners, Russ hosts informal lunches in the Naden Wardroom. The most recent being in February just passed, with 12 attendees representing the 1960s and 1970s and from NRDs across the country who now find themselves comfortably ensconced in the Victoria area.



Naden Wardroom – February 2020

Pictured above, L to R: Frank Bucknum, David Cooper, Doug Taylor, Doug Plumsteel, Dave Freeman, Arnie Campbell, Al Blackwood, Paul de Champlain, David Winkler, Russ Cape, John O Anderson, Neil Sorsdahl.

There are other good examples. John Osburn has been carrying on the long standing informal monthly lunches in Vancouver, originally started by Brooke Campbell.

Members also regularly connect through other Associations to which they mutually belong and that in itself is a long list.

Connections – cont'd

Ross Connell has organized a bimonthly (every 2 months) Gunroom Meet and Greet in downtown Toronto. The 8th such meeting scheduled for the end of March just passed, was a casualty of the Covid-19 pandemic, as has been and no doubt will be the fate of many a get together in the foreseeable future, UNTDA and otherwise.



Pictured above are Al Mulveney and Doug Green, both ROUTP HUNTER 1969, at the first Toronto Meet and Greet.

Last Fall the ROUTP Class of 1973 held a well attended reunion in Halifax. Sadly one of the organizers and host, Ray Roberts, crossed the bar shortly afterwards. If and when a report and pictures are received we will publish them.

The last major National event was the UNTDA 75th Anniversary Reunion in St John's, NL, in September, 2018.

Naval Reserve Centennial in 2023

UNTDA immediate past President, Roger Elmes, is chairing this Committee that will amongst other things, initiate and coordinate any local, regional or national UNTDA events in conjunction with the NavRes itself. The Committee mandate is stated below:

The 2023 Committee will plan and guide the participation of the UNTDA in the 2023 Naval Reserves Centennial, by encouraging and facilitating the planning and execution of UNTDA local and national events. It will liaise with the national Naval Reserves Centennial planning committee, and with individual Naval Reserve Units as appropriate. The committee will publicize events planned by the national Naval Reserves Centennial planning committee and by the UNTDA and promote the participation of its members and those on its email list.

Assisting Roger, are past UNTDA President Bill Thomas and former ComNavRes David Craig

Communication with the NavRes has been established. It is still too early for any events to have been formulated.

Geneviève Bernatchez promoted to RADM

Her promotion was announced in the March, 2020 List of General and Flag Officers Promotions and Senior Appointments. She retains her appointment as Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the CAF, which was effective June 27, 2017. The position of JAG also involves providing legal advice to both the Minister of National Defence and the Governor General.

Geneviève's appointment as JAG was previously reported in the October 2017 UNTDA Newsletter, p7. At that time it was remarked that she was the first of her gender to occupy that august position and only the second from the ranks of the RCN. Not reported on at that time was that the first and only other naval JAG, also started out as a NavRes Officer Cadet. That would be: Commodore Peter Richard Partner, who held the position of JAG from 1990-1993. Peter started out as a UNTD CABOT 1950. Peter was the 10th JAG and Geneviève (DONNACONA 1988) is the 15th.



Geneviève Bernatchez



Peter Partner

A Unique Medal Award

We are recently aware of a very unique presentation made to Bob Williamson (UNTD STAR 1957) the previous Newsletter Editor, Director Emeritus and former CO STAR (1985-88).

Bob was awarded a replica Naval General Service Medal by the Naval Establishment of Crown Forces of North America, Great Lakes Station heritage group at Penetanquishene, in recognition of his prolific presentations surrounding the War of 1812 and the pivotal battles that occurred on the Lakes.

The Medal appears on Bob's right lapel. It was issued in 1847 and was retroactive back to 1793 and so included the War of 1812. Surviving ship's company of HMS STAR 1813 might have been recipients, making it doubly meaningful.



UNTDA Board of Directors – Changes

A Bulletin was sent out last February, which amongst other things, announced some significant changes to the UNTDA Board. That detail is repeated below:

“On January 14, 2020, Roger Elmes handed over the UNTDA Presidency to then Vice President Graham Scott. Roger had taken over the Presidency in the Fall of 2014 and so has been at the helm for 5 years and a bit. During that time he oversaw the modernisation of the UNTDA Website, the strengthening of Regional representation, the deepening inclusion of the post-Unification cadre into the Membership and the Board, the supervision of national events in 2015 and 2018 and the initiation of the UNTDA into the 2023 Naval Reserve Centenary planning, amongst other things. It is rumoured that he also had a boatload of fun along the way. Roger remains active on the Board as the BC Mainland Rep.

Other significant changes are that Hugues Létourneau is now Secretary and Glenn Davidson has joined as Director at Large. Changes to the UNTDA Board can be seen at:”

<https://untd.org/board-of-directors/>

Since then there have been 2 additional changes.

Ed File is now a Director Emeritus after decades of service to the UNTDA in a variety of capacities.

Former ComNavRes and CMDRE (Ret'd), Bob Blakely in Edmonton has graciously consented to join the Board and serve as the Alberta Regional Director.

Other Board changes

To better manage and position current and new initiatives the Board has created a number of Committees.

These are explained and can be seen directly from the UNTDA Website at:

<https://untd.org/untd-board-committees/>

This is in large measure a formalization of activities that have been ongoing for some time.

Specific messaging and reporting from those Committees will be issued as their mandates develop.

Website changes

In conjunction with Committee activities, certain form and content changes have and will be made to the Website.

These are primarily intended to enhance the themes of “Connections” and being “Counted In”.

The Interactive Lists now includes a Military Units page which shows what to some may be a surprising number of Units in which NavRes Cadets have either trained, served or commanded.

In addition, the Website has now been rendered “Secure”.

Battle of the Atlantic - 75th Anniv.

... the Commander RCN has officially "deferred all official Battle of Atlantic ceremonies to a later date. Meanwhile, expect some guidance soon as to how we can all individually & safely salute our amazing predecessors – veterans of BOA as well as the other wars & ops conducted since in which the RCN has distinguished itself as a proven warfighting service..."

The UNTD was born in mid-Battle with about 700 enrolments prior to VE-Day. At least 90 went on Active Service, postponing university for the duration. Many WWII vets took advantage of generous post-war education schemes to attend university where they might not have done so otherwise. They formed the nucleus of the peace-time UNTD.

Below is an account of 1943 summer training by Archie McKenzie STAR(OAC) as it appeared in:

The O.A.C. Review LV, no. 8 (Midsummer 1943), p470-471.

With this issue comes the continuation of a few comments on the summer camp of the Naval Training Division formed last spring. The last issue contained a summary of our week's activities at Hamilton. From there the division (10 O.A.C. ratings) went to the Deep Brook Naval Training Establishment on the east coast near Digby, N.S., for a further intensive course of two and one-half weeks.

The send-off of the draft from Hamilton, of which we were a part, was very similar to that of last fall's departure for the Golden West (and was it golden?). The Navy Band was out in all its glory and despite the sleet storm, a royal send off was given. Cigarettes and chocolate bars were distributed among the departing sailors and some of our boys even managed to "muscle in" on the tender good-byes (well D. T. and A. M. - who was she?). The trip east was a short one with many highlights including the breakfast in Windsor Station, Montreal, the march through Sherbrooke to the tune of "Roll Along, Wavy Navy" and the ferry trip across the Bay of Fundy - for many, their first salt water voyage.

We arrived in Deep Brook with mixed anticipation. The camp was barely born, pavement was scarce (was there any?) and mud aplenty made rubber boots the rage. Everyone was amazed at the immense size of this training station and with such pleasant surroundings as salt water (and tides), comfortable barracks and good food, we were more than satisfied.

The first few days were spent in "Dhobeying" or cleaning barracks with the "lower deckers" cleaning the upper deck but with the start of the week we settled down to our work in real earnest. From then on, our time was not our own, not even our sleep. With duty watch at night we were kept constantly on the alert - or should I say constantly attempting to keep awake? Any spare moments were spent in conjuring up methods to skip 6:15 a.m. P.T. and duty watch at night. Gunnery school, including rifle drill, 4" gun drill, lectures on sights, fire control, automatic weapons, ammunition and general gunnery filled our first few days. The latter part of that week was spent in lectures on torpedoes and depth charges. Saturday was always clean-up day and we were not excluded. To see Marshall and the boys planning some method of escape was just what the P.O. was waiting for. How we loved these two-lettered refugees from Satan's gates!

Our final week was spent on seamanship. The division to a man voted this our most interesting course. We had lectures on rigging, sounding, compass and helm, lookout and even movies on various phases of our lecture work coupled with views of the Royal Navy in action. One day was spent in sailing whalers with five men to a crew.

Battle of the Atlantic - 75th Anniv. – cont'd

This was most interesting and we indeed gained our experience practically. A stiff breeze gave both boats headway and most of the crew frozen hands.

We found out that the ship's "lead" was not used for fishing, the ship's "log" was not for the fireplace and "boxing the compass" did not involve putting on gloves. Somehow the majority of the group knew what "grog" was but to be told to be "more pusser about our square rig" was something new.

Two days were spent at sea, one on H.M.C.S. Elk, a converted yacht, and one on H.M.C.S. Renard, an armed yacht. These were indeed the most interesting days that we had. Each rating was at the helm for more than an hour and was expected to relay the captain's orders to the word and keep the ship's head on the correct course. In a dense fog on the first day our ship barely missed disaster twice. For tales of this voyage gather on the wharf and listen to the sea-dogs of the U.N.T.D. give their mystifying versions. Our crew was by no means immune to sea-sickness and more than one member felt the effect of the "swell". Time on board was spent in practical lectures on working and naming of all ship's gear including lifeboats, rafts, depth charges, torpedoes, guns, anchors and cables. It was all extremely interesting.

During our stay we met and talked with Bud Goode '43 and Eddie Creed '44, who are training as Sub-Lieutenants and seem to be enjoying their work. Although several Wrens were at the station only "Deer-Foot" Kinach took to scrounging. Yeah?

The return trip was even better than any beforehand. We were free to do as we wished and could stop over at any city for an indefinite period. Some had holidays in Sherbrooke, Montreal, Ottawa and Oshawa.

The camp, speaking personally and collectively, was the most efficiently organized and interesting one that we have ever attended. We would like to express our thanks to Sub. Lt. Lambert, our divisional officer, who through cooperation, sincere interest and untiring effort made our stay the pleasure that it was. To those interested in joining the U.N.T.D. in the fall we can only say, "Don't miss the chance, fellows. The NAVY is THE service and this is your golden opportunity." We are looking forward to a greatly increased unit next fall and we want to see YOU in NAVY BLUE.

Can you imagine? "Mush" Marshall swabbing decks in bare feet? "Red" Taylor singing "As Time Goes By"? "Tub" Burpee on a 20 minute 6:15 a.m. run? "Chicken" Pinkney tight? We've seen everything. "Moon" Harper on 3:00 a.m. guard duty? "Fun" Ladouceur in navy hospital? Those nurses. "Kinch" Kinach hounding a Wren? He barked. She ran. "Baldy" Nicol pretending to be Tarzan? "Pooch" Robbins smiling? We can't. "Mac" McKenzie skipping guard duty? He did.

Archibald Logie "Archie" McKenzie crossed the bar on December 15, 2012 in Burlington, ON at the age of 90, one of his credentials being "a naval person (WWII)".



Treasurer's Report

Financial Report January 1 - March 27, 2020

UNTD Association of Canada
Ross Connell - Treasurer

Income :

Membership Dues	4,917.51
Regalia Sales(net)	-
GIC Interest	168.95
Miscellaneous (US Exch)	7.11
	=====
	5,093.57

Expenses :

Bank Service Charges	24.65
Board Meetings	-
Gifts, Presentations	-
Events, Subsidies	-
Telephone	-
Postage	-
Website	460.70
Miscellaneous	-
	=====
	485.35

Assets :

Cash in Current Account	9,580.91
Oaken 18 mo GIC 2.75% (matures 1 Feb 2021)	7,196.00
Oaken 18 mo GIC 2.55% (matures 22 Apr 2021)	6,180.00
Oaken 18 mo GIC 2.70% (matures 16 Mar 2021)	6,000.00
Regalia	2,721.24
	=====
	31,678.15

The Annual Membership Survey

The treasurer also wishes to once again thank those who did return their information on the recent 3rd annual survey. It was a high return rate and this year also included those who are without email addresses for various reasons.

Its not about dues collection at all, but keeps contact information up to date as well as correcting or adding in other relevant biographical information.

Amusing anecdotes and constructive suggestions are also a welcomed bonus to these survey results.

Of the 1,000+ folks surveyed, they are from 16 different countries, including all 10 Cdn provinces and 1 Territory and 17 US States.

So it is true to say that at all times the sun is somewhere shining on a UNTDA member.

Shipbuilding Monument in North Vancouver

In early March just passed, a donation solicitation for this project along with supporting information, was received by the UNTDA. Those documents are linked below:

[Solicitation:](#)

[Information:](#)

At the UNTDA Board Meeting of March 31st, a decision was made to donate \$3,000 to the project. The donation was made in April and an acknowledgement and receipt was issued on April 23, which is linked below:

[Acknowledgement:](#)

The principals involved, Rod McCloy (UNTD DISCOVERY 1965) and King Wan (ROUTP DISCOVERY 1972), are both masters of the art of wearing multiple hats at the same time.

A previous attempt at honouring that North Vancouver shipbuilding legacy involved a museum and the 40 ft stern section of HMCS CAPE BRETON, formerly HMS FLAMBOROUGH HEAD, built there in the WWII years. That section sat rusting for years until the project was scuttled by the municipality and the section broken up and disposed of. The last duty of CAPE BRETON was to house the latter years of UNTD and earliest years of ROUTP Cadets at C-Jetty Esquimalt; both Rod McCloy and King Wan having been tenants.

UNTDA Nominal List

The list of UNTDA members has now surpassed 10,000, This is an obvious milestone and represents years worth of effort by dozens of people.

Over the 77 years worth of NavRes Officer Cadet intakes, there were only 12 of those years in which accurate and comprehensive Nominal Lists were available through Navy Lists. Even those provided only minimal information. Given names for instance were not provided, unless the Cadet was ultimately Commissioned into active NavRes or Reg Force service.

Cadet Yearbooks or equivalent have also been a major source. 19 of them have been provided by Cadets of the pre-Unification era and 16 of them from post-Unification Cadets. However, there have been no Cadet Yearbooks produced since 1987, leaving a wide 33-year blind-spot.

University Yearbooks, student newspapers and alumni magazines have also been substantial sources of information but only up to the time of Forces Unification. By then the military connection with Universities had almost entirely disappeared.

Another blind-spot has been the 1st 6 years of the original program when UNTDs were lower deck Officer Candidates rather than Cadets, Glenn Carroll, Ottawa Regional Director had started to make significant inroads into those records at Archives Canada just as the pandemic broke out.

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV)

In the May 2019 Newsletter we reported on John MacFarlane having received the SMV amongst other things.

What we did not know then was that Alex Muir (UNTD MALAHAT 1964) had also received the SMV at that same ceremony.

So belatedly we offer up his citation and photo.



Alex Muir BC LT-Gov Jane Austin

Mr. Alexander Scott Muir
Victoria, British Columbia
Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers
Awarded on: February 16, 2018
Presented on: September 6, 2018

Alex Muir has dedicated his time to supporting marine safety in Oak Bay and Victoria over the last 35 years. As a board member with the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary and Oak Bay Sea Rescue Society, he ensured these organizations had the funding and expertise needed to make a difference in his community.

We later became aware of Dave Freeman also receiving the SMV some time later and so below is his citation:

Lieutenant Commander David J. Freeman
Victoria, British Columbia
Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers
Awarded on: April 25, 2019

For more than 25 years, David J. Freeman has served as a tour guide and researcher at the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum. He has worked to preserve Canada's naval heritage, particularly the role of Canadian women in wartime, and has been an advocate for veterans.

We have reported on previous recipients and no doubt will in the future as we become aware of them.

Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS

Earlier this month, Gary Reddy (ROUTP CABOT 1972) had sent in a notice of an upcoming presentation of The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia [RUSI(NS)], which he thought would be of interest to Members.

The topic was "Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS" and was to be aired "virtually" on May 20th. It was so aired and a downloadable version has been made available using this link:

[Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS](#)

HMCS SWANSEA ballcap - for auction

In mint condition, offered to the highest bidder with proceeds to HMCS Haida.

Original owner was long-time UNTDA member and director Doug Hain (UNTD STAR 1960) who crossed the bar on March 21, 2019. The cap was donated for this purpose by Doug's partner, Jill Johnson. Doug was unique in having occupied every position in the UNTDA executive.



Doug was in SWANSEA on one of his UNTD summer cruises and also lived in the Swansea area of Etobicoke (Toronto), so a double whammy for him.

Send bids to rossconnell@cogeco.ca before June 15, 2020.

COVID - 19

So, what can you say about a global pandemic ? Of course it affects everybody and the UNTDA and its members are no exception.

Board meetings have taken place courtesy of Zoom and may well continue to do so in the future post-Pandemic world.

It would be presumptuous to editorialize except to remark that in our various communications we are not aware of any members in dire straits as a result.

*The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this Newsletter a number of times a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to: Newsletter Editor: Bill Clearihue
381 Rosegate Way, Oakville, ON L6H 6K3
416-712-2129
wclearihue@cogeco.ca*

Newsletter back issues are available from the Editor and online at www.untd.org