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Volume 1, Number 1

November 2020

A periodic publication of the UNTD Association of Canada designed to provide news and short stories in a lighthearted fashion.

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My Vision for the UNTDA

by Graham Scott, President UNTDA

I have just finished reading “The Rules of the Game”: a book by Andrew Gordon on the Battle of Jutland. The book reminds me that in some distant way I am a tiny part of something much bigger – the sisterhood and brotherhood that is part of the navy experience.

As I read of the experiences, I could imagine myself as a silent observer on one of the ships and identify the different personalities of the officers and sailors engaged in their pursuit of managing a warship. To be sure there is a huge difference between a Dreadnought and a Frigate or a “pig boat” but there are many universal aspects recognizable by women and men who have served and are serving in the Reserve.

When we look at the Naval Reserve from the beginning of the Second World War to today, on the surface, we see little in common. There was the RCNVR , many “90-day wonders” who suddenly found themselves at sea in the teeth of the war; the UNTDs and those in successor programs, ROUPT, NROC, UNTDv2 and RESO who trained in the shadow of the Korean War, in Cruisers, in Tribals, in Stadacona, in Esquimalt, Cornwallis, the Gate Vessels, the Kingston Class and more recently in the Gulf. Yet, while the years, the locations and specific designs of the programs varied considerably, the camaraderie with those who served with you and the sense of belonging to something special is universal.

“The Citizen Sailors” book, published in 2010, underlines the important role of the Reserve but the title also tells us a lot about the unique nature of the officer reserve training programs. The training involved two different worlds, that of the commitment to the Navy and the country and that of commitment to the civilian work world. That combination to my mind underlined our Canadian identity and helped us be better citizens.

The UNTDA was formed to provide an opportunity to build and preserve among reserve officers and cadets trained between 1943 and 1968, a sense of camaraderie and opportunities to connect with each other. In this context the UNTDA was an enormous success! Reunions, annual meetings, pub crawls, etc. across the country created opportunities for reconnecting and enjoying each others company. It saw the publishing of books and memoirs and the development of a high-quality website and the impressive Nominal List.

As rewarding as all this was and is for UNTDs, the nature and extent of the Navy Reserve has continued to evolve bringing about substantial changes and creating the opportunity for many new chapters to be written about the Naval Reserve post the RCNVR and the UNTD. Recognizing this, the UNTDA made the decision that the accomplishments of the UNTD ought to be rolled into a larger body that will continue to acknowledge the contribution of the UNTD while celebrating the ongoing and dynamic changes in the roles of the Naval Reserve officer and officer cadet to the Navy and to Canada.

We are currently in the process of changing our Board to reflect today's reservists and taking steps to increase the active memberships to more fully engage the members of the ROUPT, NROC, UNTDv2 and RESO programs. This process will take time, but it is making considerable progress thanks to the energy of both new and old board members.

The vision of the future in my mind is ensuring that there is an active, viable organization of Canadian Naval Reserve officers that provides a home for us. A home that will facilitate the ability of our successors

to connect with our former and new shipmates and that works to keep us connected and informed. Connections that permit us to share that part of our lives that reflects the “tiny part of something bigger,” arising from our naval experience and our citizenship.

Do You Hear There! New RCN Junior Rank Designations



Some ‘old salts’ may shudder but Canada’s modern Navy is continuing to make strides to adapt to today’s military culture and values. After extensive internal engagement the RCN recently announced a change to its junior sailors’ rank designations.

The RCN’s junior ranks will now be known as Sailor 3rd Class (formerly Ordinary Seaman), Sailor 2nd Class (formerly Able Seaman), Sailor 1st Class (formerly Leading Seaman) and Master Sailor (formerly Master Seaman).

All will be referred to as “sailor” – with the exception of Master Sailor, which merits the full “Master Sailor” in routine conversation – unless formality or need for specificity drives the more fulsome title.

These new rank designations became effective September 4 as another incremental step to build a more inclusive workplace.

The Cap



Doug Hain

A past Newsletter sought bids for Doug Hain's HMCS Swansea cap, which might prompt one to ask several questions. Who was Doug Hain? Why does his cap matter? Who won?

The first question is the most important, but is easily answered by a large number of the members of the UNTDA, because Doug (Star 60), who crossed the bar on March 21, 2019, was probably the longest serving member of the UNTDA board, a Past President and Secretary. In fact, he was one of the founders of the UNTD Association of Upper Canada, our predecessor organization.

HMCS Swansea was important to Doug because he embarked on his first training cruise in 1961 in Swansea.

And finally, who won the auction? With the highest bid, which resulted in a generous donation to the Friends of HMCS Haida, it was Ivo Krupka. In Ivo's own words, "I served in Swansea from May 1963 to September 1964 on CND, eventually becoming its Weapons Officer. I had, at one point, a lovely Zippo lighter with Swansea's crest, and have on my office wall a framed Swansea crest. (along with the crests of the 3 ships I served in as a cadet: La Hullose, Inch Arran, and Fortune). So, the Swansea cap has significance for me."

Crow's Nest Documentary

The Crow's Nest Officers' Club in St. John's will digitally launch their new documentary film Fifty Nine Steps To The Crow's Nest on November 10, 2020. In just 32 minutes, the film covers some of the history of the club and its role in the Battle of the Atlantic through member interviews and archival footage.

At the height of the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II in 1942, St. John's was the home port for the Newfoundland Escort Force, a handover point for the critical supply convoys. The Crow's Nest Officers' Club served as a retreat for the remainder of the war where allied naval and merchant officers could relax, share their stories of victory and loss, and have a home-cooked meal.

The Club has become a living museum, owned and supported by volunteer members, that commemorates the contribution of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve, and the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve during World War II.

Below is the link to The Crow's Nest website

<https://crowsnestnl.ca>

And the teaser for the film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m43f-YFIPE>

We Are Bilingual

The UNTDA is moving ahead to integrate more bilingual content on its Website and in its publications. This has been long in coming and it will be a gradual process, subject to the content we get from our members and others, and our limited ability for in-house translation. The home page of the Website and Membership pages have been translated and are now live. A Français/English option button at the top of the home page, when pressed, will explain our dual language policy as follows:

English

As a national organization, the UNTDA strives to be a welcoming home for all Canadians with a background and/or interest in the Naval Reserve officer-cadet training programs. The strength and vitality of the UNTDA hinges on the connectivity of all its members through the regular sharing of information and participation in activities aimed at ensuring everyone can feel ‘counted-in’.

To this end, the UNTDA is anxious to improve its appeal and accessibility, particularly to the Francophone constituency, by incorporating more bilingual content in its communications. Important elements of the Website will now be presented in both official languages. Additionally, the Website, Newsletter and Gunroom Shots are inviting contributions and will publish articles and stories in either (or both) official language(s).

Français

En tant qu’une organisation nationale, l’Association UNTD du Canada s’efforce d’être un milieu accueillant pour tous les Canadiens ayant une expérience et/ou un intérêt pour les programmes de formation des élèves-officiers de la Réserve navale. Le dynamisme et la vitalité de l’Association reposent sur la connectivité de tous ses membres grâce au partage régulier d’informations et à la participation aux activités visant à faire en sorte que chacun puisse se sentir inclus.

Conséquemment, l’Association compte améliorer l’attrait et l’accès à ses programmes, notamment auprès de la communauté francophone, en intégrant davantage de contenu bilingue dans ses communications. Des éléments importants du site Web seront désormais présentés dans les deux langues officielles. De plus, le site Web, le bulletin d’information et Gunroom Shots invitent la contribution d’articles et de récits, lesquels seront publiés dans l’une ou dans les deux langues officielles.

Paul Seguna joins UNTDA Communications Committee/Gunroom Shots

We recently invited (read gently press ganged!) a new member to join our UNTDA Communications Committee – LCdr RCN (Ret’d) Paul Seguna. Paul was asked to assist in the design of graphics for the launch of Gun Room Shots and agreed to stay on with our committee. Although not a former UNTD, Paul

did start his naval career as a naval reservist with HMCS DISCOVERY joining in 1974 as an OS Reserve Radar Plotter (R275) ...and yes these beasts did exist at one time! Of note during his naval reserve service Paul served in HMCS ATHABASKAN during the first visit of the Canadian navy to the USSR since WWII in Leningrad.



Paul painting at home with his passive but loving assistants. Shown is some of Paul's work.

A Bonny Connection

by Graham Scott



I came across this photo that not only reminded me of my misspent youth but as an example of how life's little turns and timings keep us connected. What is interesting is that all in the photo had fathers in the

navy and many of us still remain linked through the UNTDA.

We were army cadets at Rothesay Netherwood school on an outing visiting HMCS Bonaventure in the Saint John Drydock for repairs in 1959. Chris O'Brien's (Scotian 64) Dad, VAdm "Scruffy" O'Brien was CO of Bonnie at the time.

In the back left is Derek Brown (Scotian 62) formerly a partner in RBC DOMINION, whose father was eventually a Captain in the RCNR and served in Saskatchewan in the Channel with Barry Frewer's father, Captain "Freddy" Frewer. Next is Dick Steele (Brunswicker 61) whose father Captain Steele we know. Next of course is me (Prevost 60).

In the front row right to left is Barry Frewer (Scotian 63), and next Jamie Piers nephew of Admiral Piers. Don't know the other but there would likely have been a navy connection (can anyone identify him?)

Brown, Steele, Frewer and I all joined the UNTD (4 of 6 in the picture).

I can think of two other UNTDs from the school not in the picture: Reay Mackay (Prevost 60), his father was a Lieutenant in the RCNVR and Jeff Schofield (Brunswicker 60), both in our year. Also Admiral Welland had a son at the school and was a Commodore at that time.

Boring for you, but fascinating for me, when I reflect on it. By the way, it was a very small school with only 180 boys from grade 7 to 12.

Ed Note: Connections like this are indeed fascinating and Gunroom Shots wants to see more like it. Send your photos and snippets to Gunroom.Shots@UNTD.org

Are You a Somebody?

If your name is on the UNTDA Nominal List and you're not reading this, you remain a disconnected member of the Association. But then you have to have read the definition of membership, which means you have to be aware of the UNTDA web site, and somebody has to tell you about it.

Are you that somebody?

After years of toil, the Nominal List of those who undertook Naval Reserve Officer training sometime after 1943 – all of whom are automatically members of the UNTDA – is almost complete, but we have only been able to connect with about ten percent.

Almost without exception, when we re-connect with a member, he or she is delighted to be counted in, but we need somebodies to make the connections. It's easy: take a few minutes on a Sunday afternoon to explore the Nominal List on the web site. You can filter it to show only people from your year, and refine it by city or by Reserve division, giving you a short list that should include some familiar names.

In many cases, our keeper of the list, Bill Clearihue, can supply you with an address or maybe even a phone number. Imagine the delight of a person hearing from somebody after many years; you don't want money, you don't want their time, all you want to do is re-connect.

Êtes-vous quelqu'un?

Si votre nom figure sur la liste nominative de l'UNTDA et que vous ne lisez pas ceci, vous restez un membre déconnecté de l'Association. Mais ensuite, vous devez avoir lu la définition de l'appartenance, ce qui signifie que vous devez connaître le site Web de l'UNTDA, et que quelqu'un doit vous en parler.

Êtes-vous ce quelqu'un?

Après des années de labeur, la liste nominale de ceux qui ont suivi une formation d'officier de la Réserve navale après 1943 - qui sont tous automatiquement membres de l'UNTDA - est presque complète, mais nous n'avons pu nous connecter qu'avec environ dix pourcent.

Presque sans exception, lorsque nous renouons avec un membre, il ou elle est ravi d'être compté, mais nous avons besoin de quelqu'un pour faire les connexions. C'est simple: prenez quelques minutes un dimanche après-midi pour explorer la liste nominale sur le site Web. Vous pouvez le filtrer pour afficher uniquement les personnes de votre année, et l'affiner par ville ou par division de la Réserve navale, ce qui vous donnera une courte liste qui devrait inclure des noms familiers. Dans de nombreux cas, notre gardien de la liste, Bill Clearihue, peut vous fournir une adresse ou peut-être même un numéro de téléphone. Imaginez le plaisir d'une personne qui entend parler de quelqu'un après de nombreuses années; vous ne voulez pas d'argent, vous ne voulez pas de leur temps, tout ce que vous voulez faire est de vous reconnecter.

Letters to the Editor:

“HMCS” Cap Tally and Telegraphist Badge

A friend of mine (he's with the RHLI in Hamilton) is looking for some items to complete a shadow box in honour of his late Grandfather who was RCNVR during the Second World War. He's looking for a Second World War “HMCS” Cap Tally - the one without a ship's name. Also, possibly an Ordinary Telegraphist Badge but the Cap Tally is the priority (it would be nice to get both). I was hoping you gentlemen might be able to assist or point me in the right direction.

Sean E. Livingston MStJ, CD

Lieutenant (N)

Vice-President

Naval Association of Canada - Toronto Branch
(est. 1946)

Cell: [416-357-2534](tel:416-357-2534)

Email: livingstone@outlook.com

Ed Note: Sean, thank you for your letter. We hope Gunroom Shots will help cast your net and we invite our readers to get in touch with you directly should they come up trumps.

UNTD Memories

I recall the summer of 1966 in HMCS Naden taking the navigation course. I failed first year navigation but taught it in Cornwallis in my fourth and last year!

At the end of summer '66 I borrowed Barry Frewer's motor scooter and crashed it into a wall in his father's driveway!...then went to Stadacona to do a diving course. The injuries from the bike accident got infected in the pristine waters of Halifax harbour and I was sent home. Memorable was undoing the regulator from the air tanks and watching those tanks take off into the harbour causing an interruption in shipping! My retirement in 1967 was applauded by all senior brass.

I became a lawyer and retired in Feb of this year. Barry, are any funds owing on repairs to the scooter?

Brian Campbell (York '63)

Ed Note: Ahoy Brian (Tim), for the life of me I couldn't recall which one of you stinkers banged up my motor scooter. So, It WAS you! I wouldn't dare mess with a lawyer to recover back costs.



We thought you'd like to put binoculars up to the Communications Committee 'sea dogs' who helped launch this, our first issue of Gunroom Shots. At Cox'n is Ross Connell (runs a tight ship); Bill Clearihue (grizzly archivist); Barry Frewer (struggling editor); Phil Anido (crumpet man); Paul Seguna (sailor cartoonist). And just missing the launch but present and accounted for is Daniel Haché (French polish).

Remembrance Day



Like so much of life these days Covid will have an impact on the observation of Remembrance Day this year as we pay our respects to the memory of those who have died in service to our country. Sadly, this year the Canadian Armed Forces suffered the tragic loss of six RCAF and RCN service members in the crash of an RCAF CH-148 Cyclone helicopter operating from HMCS Fredericton in the eastern Mediterranean during NATO maritime operations; the Public Affairs Officer for the RCAF Snowbirds in an air incident in Kamloops, British Columbia while supporting a public morale building activity in response to the Covid pandemic; and a member of the Canadian Army Primary Reserve in a recent training accident in Wainwright, Alberta.

The conduct of services throughout the country will be at the discretion of local Remembrance Day organizing committees. While our ability to participate in public commemorations this year may be restricted, we shall all seek opportunities to observe the day as best we can even at home - perhaps as so often the case now virtually. In this respect, the following YouTube links are provided to assist you in doing so.

LEST WE FORGET:

Recent fallen Canadians:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/recent-fallen-canadians.html>

Eternal Father Strong to Save – Commonwealth Navies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KCiMdr1ox0>

Eternal Father Strong to Save – NATO frigate in heavy seas-in common tribute to all lost at sea:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dlXmuYuAYc>

In Memoriam

François Duchesne 1964 – 2020 (Montcalm, '85)

The UNTDA, along with many other communities, mourns the untimely death of François Duchesne in the tragic Halloween rampage in Quebec City on October 31. Our hearts and prayers go out to François' family. Rest in peace, François.

DOWNLOAD AS PDF

Send your letters, anecdotes or suggestions to Barry Frewer, Editor at:

Gunroom.Shots@UNTD.org

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