



**NAVY**  
CALGARY

# NEWSLETTER

**WINTER 2023-2024**



**News, views and seagoing tales for  
the naval community of Calgary**



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# From the Editor

## Scott Hausberg

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and were able to take in one of the levees on New Year's Day.

In this issue:

HMCS *Calgary's* change of command; HMCS *Tecumseh's* Winter Concert; Cmdre Laraine Orthlieb is feted as a Hometown Hero; NAC holds a few social events; CNVA's Banff trip and NMAS held a huge garage sale.

Plus a return of the Commanding Officers series, as we inadvertently missed Cdr Derek Carroll. Sorry, Derek.

Finally, please note the free Parks Canada access for CAF members and veterans article.

# Our Cover

HMCS *Regina* sails through a heavy sea state with Naval Replenishment Unit *Asterix* and HMCS *Ottawa* during Operation PROJECTION in the Pacific Ocean on February 10 2019.



# HMCS *Calgary* Report

## SLt Alexander Nicholson

Lookout Oct 23, 2023

On an unseasonably warm fall day in Esquimalt on the deck of the Nixon Drill Hall, HMCS *Calgary's* ship's company witnessed the Change of Command Ceremony between Commander (Cdr) Adriano Lozer, outgoing Commanding Officer (CO), and Cdr Jeremy Samson, the incoming CO. The Oct. 5 ceremony was presided over by Commodore David Mazur, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, accompanied by Chief Petty Officer First Class David Bisal, the Fleet Chief Petty Officer. Also in attendance, demonstrating the deep ties between the Ship and its namesake city, was city councillor Kourtney Penner and Todd Nabozniak of the Calgary Firefighter's Burn Treatment Society. Characteristic for *Calgary's* Change of Command ceremony, Cdr Samson was presented with HMCS *Calgary* CO accoutrements – a spatula for pancake breakfasts serviced by the crew during the many community engagements such as the Calgary Stampede, and,

most importantly, the white Biltmore proudly worn by the crew. Cdr Lozer assumed command of *Calgary* on April 29, 2022, and led the ship to its refit period at Seaspan's Victoria Shipyard while the crew support the fleet and the Maritime Forces Pacific out of HMC Dockyard. The highlight of Cdr Lozer's tour was the ship's participation in the annual Calgary Stampede this July. Cdr Lozer will take command of HMCS *Ottawa*, currently deployed on the newly named Operation Horizon along with HMCS *Vancouver* and MV *Asterix*. Cdr Samson brings 23 years of experience as a Naval Warfare Officer to *Calgary*. A career east coaster, he returns to the Pacific Command for the first time since completing his initial training as a Naval Warfare Officer in 2003. He has previously served as Commanding Officer of the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel HMCS *Kingston* based in Halifax, N.S. As the CO, he will oversee the *Calgary's* return to the fleet in 2024 and its progression toward the high state of readiness required for international operations. The *Calgary* will be equipped with significant deck and combat systems upgrades for future operations and will exit the docking work period with substantially more capable deck crane systems to handle advanced Over

the-Horizon Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs), and a new Anti-Submarine Warfare Combat Systems suite.

## Friends of HMCS *Calgary*

**Cynthia Wagner** (Citizen member)

Happy 2024 to everyone! I am very glad to write up this short update on what the Friends of HMCS *Calgary* committee has been up to, and to report on upcoming events.

The 2023 Barnburner event that took place the Wednesday before Stampede was a great success. The goal of raising ten thousand dollars was met thanks to the hard work of the Councillor's offices, the members of the Friends of HMCS *Calgary* committee, and all the community supporters. In early November, a couple of members of the committee, myself and Bob Park, were honoured to be on hand with representatives from the City of Calgary to present cheques to our two community recipients. The Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment

Society and the Trellis Society are sure to put these funds to great use. Hats off to everyone!

While there may be some snow on the ground, the Friends of HMCS *Calgary* are already thinking about the summer season and Barnburner 2024. Dates are not firmed up yet but please save the days before the Stampede is kicked-off as potential Barnburner days. We look forward to having another successful event so save a place on your dance card for this!

You may recall hearing about the new Calgary Salutes committee that was just stood up in October. This committee is tasked with coordinating and planning support for local military ceremonies and community events through three subcommittees – Friends of HMCS *Calgary*, Heritage and History, and Education and Training. There are 36 community members and we had our first meet-and-greet just before the holidays. I am really looking forward to collaborating with everyone over the next year!

And that is all that I have to report for this installment of the update from the Friends of HMCS *Calgary* committee. Happy New Year's to everyone, till next time, and fair winds to you all.



L to R: Cdr Samson, Cmdre Mazur, Cdr Lozer



## HMCS *Tecumseh* Report

### By SLt Sharma

On December 3, 2023, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Tecumseh* Band including 19 National Band of the Naval Reserve members from HMCS *Chippawa*, *Carleton*, *Nonsuch*, *York*, *Star*, and the Naval Fleet School Quebec, and five HMCS *Tecumseh* alumni under the direction of Lieutenant (Navy) Jeanette Embree and guest conductor Lieutenant-Commander Jack 'tMannetje, orchestrated a magical winter concert at the Webber Academy Performing Arts Theatre in Calgary, marking not only the centennial of the Naval Reserve and HMCS *Tecumseh* but also the 23rd edition of their annual festive celebration. This special milestone was made even more remarkable by the fact that it was the first time the concert took place in an auditorium, stepping away from the familiar grounds of the parade deck of HMCS *Tecumseh*.

The 23rd edition of the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band's winter concert was a spectacular family-friendly event showcasing the musical talent, community spirit, and generosity of Calgarians. Master Sailor (MS) Brandi Sidoryk and MS Lisa Foggin were instrumental in making this event a success. Both MS Sidoryk and Foggin are dedicated members of the

HMCS *Tecumseh* Band, contributing not only their musical talents but also their leadership and organizational skills to bring the concert to life.

MS Sidoryk joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in January 2003, at HMCS *York* as a musician and in 2006 moved to HMCS *Tecumseh*. MS Sidoryk is a French horn player in the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band but is also a vocalist and a bass player. She frequently sings the national anthem on behalf of the Naval Reserve at the Canadian Football League and National Hockey League military appreciation games, most recently on December 9, 2023, at the Vancouver Canucks versus the Carolina Hurricanes game in Vancouver. Additionally, MS Sidoryk received an RCN Commander's Commendation in 2022 for her work spearheading and creating an online program for the Naval Reserve musicians during the COVID-19 pandemic. In her civilian life, MS Sidoryk is a musician as well, leading her band Nice Horse. MS Sidoryk received two Canadian Country Music Awards last year for Bass Player of the Year, and Video of the Year, for a video that she co-directed and edited.

MS Lisa Foggin joined the RCN in 2012 as a reservist and completed her basic training that summer in Nova Scotia. She joined as a musician and has



HMCS *Tecumseh*'s Band, including guests and alumni, concludes the Centennial Winter Concert.

Photo credit: MS Janeil Lentz

attended the Canadian Forces Logistics Training Centre School of Music for trade training. MS Foggin trains with the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band as well as with the National Band of the Naval Reserve. She also works as the Cox'n's Writer at HMCS *Tecumseh*. After completing her training as a Unit Public Affairs Representative, MS Foggin has been a part of the Unit Visibility Team at HMCS *Tecumseh*. Additionally, MS Foggin has also held the role of Public Affairs Representative with the National Band of the Naval Reserve since 2020. MS Foggin has also taken the opportunity to participate in training on Orca class vessel sails as well as a couple of small boat exercises, which she thoroughly enjoyed but still intends to stick with music! When not working with the Navy, she lives on a farm in southern Alberta and runs her own business.

MS Sidoryk committed her time to co-produce this year's winter concert, along with MS Foggin, eager to see the annual concert move to a grander scale. While they had been part of the organizing and planning for previous concerts, this one was a learning curve, as they had never played a role in producing a concert before. Their focus was not only on public affairs and the promotion of the concert but also on playing key roles in planning, coordinating, and assisting in producing the show.

"We are thrilled to announce that every ticket has been claimed for our concert on December 3. But don't be discouraged if you didn't get tickets; you can still watch our show online as we will be livestreaming the event," shared the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band in a Facebook post, highlighting the overwhelming response from the community. The live stream allowed a global audience to partake in the joyous celebration and contribute to the cause.

The concert featured a diverse program that showcased the band's versatility and included a concert band, jazz band, big band, flute ensemble, vocalists, and a brass ensemble. The HMCS *Tecumseh* Band captivated the audience both in the theatre and online, with classics such as Let It Snow; Feliz Navidad; I'll be Home for Christmas; My Favorite Things; O Holy Night; among others, as well as A Centennial Celebration; Wavy Navy; and Marching Upon the Seas to celebrate the Centennial of the Naval Reserve and HMCS *Tecumseh*. Additionally, during the intermission attendees had an opportunity to place candy canes on a large Christmas tree in the foyer as a tribute to the members who are deployed over the holidays and for those who never returned. Furthermore, families and children were also able to take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The concert inspired attendees to open their hearts



Cdr Paschke (left) presents donations made by the public to the president of the VAFB, Charles Redeker (right).

Photo credit: MS Janeil Lentz

and wallets in support of the Veterans Association Food Bank (VAFB). The generosity of the audience was overwhelming, with approximately \$1500 collected in cash during the concert, in addition to online donations. Commander Andy Paschke, the Commanding Officer of HMCS *Tecumseh*, presented the cash donations to Charles Redeker, the President of the VAFB.

Following the concert, on December 4, members of the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band loaded up a van full of donated goods and delivered them to the VAFB, a charity run by veterans for veterans that does fabulous work in our community and provides essential support to military and frontline emergency personnel, regardless of their service status.

The VAFB, dedicated to serving those who served the nation, relies on financial support and donations to fulfill its mission. The generous contributions from the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band's concert will help purchase perishable items and provide much-needed assistance to veterans and frontline heroes. "We are grateful that we could play a small role in helping them out," shared the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band in their post, reflecting on the impact of their contribution. The heartfelt support aligns with the VAFB's commitment to treating clients with dignity and respect, ensuring they receive the necessary



MS Lisa Foggin plays the flute in the Flute Ensemble.

Photo credit: MS Janeil Lentz



MS Brandi Sidoryk (standing) takes some time away from her backstage tasks and appears briefly on stage to be acknowledged for her efforts and leadership by Cdr Andy Paschke.

Photo credit: MS Janeil Lentz

assistance.

MS Brandi Sidoryk and Lisa Foggin, both integral members of the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band, exemplify the dedication and passion that drives HMCS *Tecumseh* Band's success. Their leadership, combined with the musical talents of the entire band, created an unforgettable experience for the audience and made a meaningful impact on the community.

In conclusion, the 23rd Annual Winter Concert by the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band transcended its musical roots to become a celebration of history, community, and generosity. The move to the beautiful venue of the Webber Academy Performing Arts Theatre marked a new chapter for the band, emphasizing its commitment to providing an enchanting experience for its audience while supporting a noble cause.

As we reflect on the success of the concert, it becomes evident that the HMCS *Tecumseh* Band's commitment to music, community, and philanthropy continues to resonate with Calgarians. The 23rd edition may have been a departure from tradition, but it certainly reinforced the band's enduring spirit and its dedication to making a positive impact, both in the world of music and in the lives of those they seek to support.



# the Ensign

## President's Report: Scott Hausberg

On Nov 25, NMAS held its AGM. The highlights were the presentation of awards to Mike Potter and John Davies and the free lunch afterwards.

On Dec 10, the NMAS Annex was opened to the public for a garage sale of surplus items. Approximately 100 people came through and sales totaled \$1800.

Following the garage sale, approximately 200 books were donated to the U of C library.

It is anticipated that the garage sale will be run twice in 2024. In the meantime, anyone who missed it or want to check out new additions are welcome to drop by any Monday from 1000-1200 (except holidays) to view the approximately 1,000 items still available for sale.

As well, anyone who wants to clear out some of their naval memorabilia and books are welcome to drop their items off at above mentioned times. Tax receipts at fair market value are available.

Work is underway now to clean and re-organize the workshop. This effort will certainly add items to the garage sale inventory.

If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in taking away our giant lathe, please contact me at [execdir@navalmuseumsociety.ca](mailto:execdir@navalmuseumsociety.ca). The pictured lathe was built in 1941, is US War Department certified and weighs 4 tons.

Another item we are trying to find a home for is the pictured display case. It is of high quality, illuminated and has mirrored doors at the back.



# Director's Report:

## Eric Kahler

As you might imagine November was a very busy month here at the NMA, what with Remembrance Day and all the activities associated with that. Attendance at The Military Museums numbered in the thousands and for the most part the weather was cooperative.

Also in November, on the 28th, the NMA hosted a first ever event. Essentially, every single Flag Officer (Commodore and above) in the RCN attended a reception in the museum. This was by invitation only, and highlighted a week of Naval Review Board discussions at HMCS Tecumseh. All the senior officers were quite impressed by the NMA, especially those who were visiting for the first time. "I had no idea this museum was even here," is a phrase we unfortunately hear far too often, so please encourage your friends to come visit.

VAdm Topshee, Comd RCN, also handed out some awards to those Calgary citizens immediately involved with the Ship to Shore Program. As the name suggests, sailors from the ship, Calgary, reach out to participating shore-based schools in the Calgary area. They share information about the navy which they hope may eventually lead to someone joining the RCN.

Speaking of joining the navy, the initiative to provide one year indoctrination to the navy (Naval Experience Program) has been quite successful. The Admiral indicated 99 people have been accepted into the program and another 400 applications are being processed.

December 2023 wraps up the 100th anniversary year of the Naval Reserve and the exhibit commemorating that will be taken down soon.

Thanks for your continued support of the NMA, and remember seniors are free on Tuesdays. That is a savings of five dollars. Give it to your kids or grandkids.



NMAS President Scott Hausberg presents Mike Potter with a recognition award for his 10 years of service in the NMAS workshop.



NMAS President Scott Hausberg presents John Davies with the Volunteer of the Year award. John is a regular in the workshop and is presently building a model of HMCS *Protecteur*.

# Meet The Chapmans

## Bradley S. Froggatt, Curator

It is not surprising given the vast number of Canadians that contributed to the war effort that stories of sailors and wrens who meet and marry often come across the curator's desk. Others meet in their lives after the war. Reginald Chapman and Anne De Courcy fit into this latter category. The Naval Museum of Alberta recently received a donation of records, photographs, and other items from Reg and Anne's daughter, Erin Chapman of Edmonton. The story these items tell is an interesting one.

### CPO Francis Reginald Chapman RCN

Frank Reginald Chapman was born in Edmonton on 23 September 1920. He had an interest in joining the RCN early on, as he had received a letter in October of 1936 from the Department of National Defence Naval Service outlining the requirements for joining as a boy seaman (which at the time was allowed at the age of 16). He had applied and submitted all the required documents, and, in a letter dated 16 September 1937, the Naval Service responded that it had returned his documents and that the necessary notation had been made to his application, but that consideration could not be given to his application until he attained the age of 17 years - seven days later. Eventually, his application was accepted, and according to his record of service, Reg Chapman joined the RCN as a boy seaman on 8 April 1938 at HMCS *Nonsuch* in Edmonton.

Reg Chapman trained as an ASDIC Detector and later as a Torpedo Coxswain. Reg was a proficient seaman, reaching the rank of OS in September of 1938, AB in November of 1939, Leading Seaman in February of 1941, and acting Petty Officer by December of 1941. By December of 1943, he had become a Chief Petty Officer.

His service on HMC ships included HMCS *St. Laurent* (H83), HMCS *Fennel* (K 194), HMCS *Kamloops* (K 176), *Restigouche* (H00), HMCS *Charny* (Training Ship). He



Reg Chapman seen here at the left of Queen Elizabeth, date, and location unknown.

also served on Fairmile Q077, HMCS *Musgrave* (J 313), and HMCS *Crescent* (R 16).

Reg Chapman was present during the landings at Normandy, where his actions earned him a Mention in Dispatches. His MID citation reads:

*CHAPMAN, Francis Reginald, Chief Petty Officer (3165) -Mention in Dispatches-RCN - Awarded as per Canada Gazette of 20 January 1945 and London Gazette of 26 December 1944. Home: Edmonton, Alberta. For gallantry, skill, determination and undaunted devotion to duty during the landing of Allied Forces on the coast of Normandy."*



HMCS *Cornwallis* Basic training photo with the camp mascot front and center. Reg Chapman can be seen third row from the front, fourth from left.

Reg Chapman was discharged to shore in January 1946 and, after the war, he continued to work for the Department of National Defence in Whitehorse, and later at RCAF Station Namao. Sadly, Reg passed away on 27 September 1972 at the age of 53.

### **Joan De Courcy, WRCNS Postal Clerk**

Joan DeCourcy joined the WRCNS, and according to her drafting letter was ordered to report to HMCS *Discovery* on 7 April 1944. After training, she was drafted to HMCS *Stadacona* where she worked as a Postal Clerk.

Among the many interesting photographs, cards, and letters in the album were naval messages she had saved related to the aftermath of the VE day riots in Halifax and Dartmouth on 7-8 May 1945. The VE-Day riots began as a celebration of the World War II Victory in Europe. This rapidly evolved into a rampage by several thousand servicemen, merchant seamen and civilians, who looted the City of Halifax.

When Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945, RAdm Leonard Murray granted leave to more than 9,000 of his men for the night. By midnight, Halifax was host to more than 12,000 celebrants who found few places to eat, relax, or celebrate. As there were no bars to go to, riots ensued. Tramcars and a police paddy wagon were set on fire, windows were smashed, liquor stores were looted, and shops were stripped of merchandise. There was so much damage that the next day one reporter compared the condition of Halifax to "London after a blitz." One news clipping in the collection reported that Admiral Murray rode through the streets of Halifax in a sound truck and "exhorted service personnel to go back to their barracks or ships" adding "You don't want to be caught, do you?"

These messages dealt with orders, regulations, and directives regarding appropriate behavior by military personnel when on leave in Halifax during the tense period after the riots. Messages included



Joan De Courcy in her WRCNS uniform

orders to search shore establishments and the Fleet Mail Office for any items that may have been taken to the base as a result of the riots (a following message indicated that nothing had been found in the Fleet Mail Office). At one point several items were found adjacent to the Fleet Mail Office on 12 May 1945 - consisting of four blankets, a parka, and an overcoat that may have been "liberated" during the riots. In a following message, from 14 May 1945, a pair of shoes was handed through the window of the Fleet Mail Office, to the Warrant Officer inside. It was presumed that the shoes were part of gear taken during the riots and were handed over to the shore patrol.

Joan De Courcy was released in March 1946 and in 1947 left Toronto to take a job as a stenographer working for the federal government War Assets Department in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, working for Francis Reginald (Reg) Chapman. They were married six months later in September 1947, and they stayed in Whitehorse until 1954 when they moved to Edmonton to start a family.

# HMCS *Tecumseh*

## Commanding Officers

Greg McKenzie

Commander Derek Carroll, CD

2003 - 2006



Lieutenant Commander Derek Carroll, RCNR (Royal Canadian Naval Reserve), was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He graduated from Kelvin High School in 1978 and joined the Naval Reserve in the summer of that year. He later graduated from the University of Manitoba with an Honours Degree in Accounting and Finance. In May 1985 Derek moved to Calgary and began his civilian career.

After completing his initial qualification as a Maritime Surface Officer, Derek served as a Navigation Officer and later a Navigation Training Officer. In 1994, Derek

completed the Minor War Vessel Command Certification process and commanded a number of smaller ships in Canada's navy including HMCS *Porte De La Reine* and HMCS *Porte Quebec*.

In January 1997 Derek was posted to Victoria, BC and selected to command HMCS *Whitehorse* (MM 705) a maritime coastal defence vessel (MCDV). While in command, *Whitehorse* completed acceptance trials, combat readiness trials and was the first MCDV to solo transit from Halifax to the west coast and the first to deploy with remote sensing gear (BOIV) in northern BC waters. LCdr Carroll returned to Calgary in 1999 and attended the Joint Reserve Command and Staff Course in 2000. From 2003 to 2006 he was again selected for command, this time as the Commanding Officer of HMCS *Tecumseh*, Calgary's Naval Reserve Division. Derek retired from the navy in 2008.

In addition to his naval duties, Derek served as an Honourary Aide de Camp to three Lieutenant Governors of Alberta: Helen Hunt, Gordon Towers and Lois Hole.

From 1985 to 2015 Derek was employed with the Canada Revenue Agency and recently retired with 30+ years of service. He held various positions in Collections, Appeals and Audit and was finally a Team Leader in the Aggressive Tax Planning Section, where he and his colleagues attempted to plug tax loopholes before they sank the ship of state.

Derek is married to the former Dale Marlene Griffith of Halifax and they have owned a series of Labrador Retrievers, who often took them for a walk rather than the other way around. Derek's other hobbies include woodworking (he still has all of his fingers), golf (he does this really badly) and he also sings in a men's gospel choir called "The Master's Singers". At the request of his close friends and family he is careful to blend his voice with others and never, ever performs as a solo act.

**Greg has now completed 30 *Tecumseh* CO biographies. He is hoping to do Cox'n biographies next and is looking for volunteers to help with that project. He can be contacted at [ggmckenzie@shaw.ca](mailto:ggmckenzie@shaw.ca)**

# Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph

**Ordinary Seaman Robert Redhead Phillips  
V-54643**

**Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**

**Born: Calgary, AB, 3 May 1924**

**Enlisted: Calgary Division RCNVR, 17 February  
1943**

**Civilian Occupation: Timekeeper, U.S. Public  
Roads Administration, Fort Nelson, BC**

**Death: Lost at sea when he was swept overboard  
HMCS *Wentworth* during severe weather on 4  
January 1944**



Ordinary Seaman Robert Redhead Phillips. Photo: For Posterity's Sake website.

Robert Phillips (Bob) was born on 3 May 1924 in Calgary, Alberta. His Canadian-born parents were Morris Lloyd Phillips and Mabel Phillips. They were of English and Irish ancestry. He had an older brother - David Lloyd Carrick Phillips, and a younger sister - Kathleen Joan Phillips. Records indicated that the family were members of the Church of England and lived at 828 4 Ave NW.

Bob attended Crescent Heights High School up to Grade 11. By all accounts, Bob was a go-getter, having delivered the Calgary Albertan newspaper and worked in a garage after school as a helper.

Following high school, he was attracted to Fort Nelson, B.C., to work on the Alcan Project, later known as the Alaska Highway. He served as a checker-timekeeper, the person who kept track of worker hours so that project managers could properly allocate labour resources.

Fort Nelson, the site of this project, was originally a fur trading post and was later named for famed Royal Navy Admiral Horatio Nelson. Ironically, Bob joined the Navy after working in a town named for the storied Battle of Trafalgar hero.

In 1942, the US Army sent troops to build the highway, a project that only took nine months to complete the 1,500-mile stretch.

Bob enrolled in the RCNVR as an Ordinary Seaman on February 17, 1943, at the Calgary Division (later HMCS *Tecumseh*). According to his enrolment documents, Bob was initially rejected for service because of a hernia

scar. Underweight, he had red hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. Despite being rejected earlier for his hernia, Bob was eventually deemed fit for service.

After completing New Entry Training in Calgary, Bob was deployed to HMCS *Naden* at Esquimalt, B.C. for gunnery training. Throughout his training, he was rated “very good” and “satisfactory” in efficiency and conduct. In September 1943, Bob qualified as a Layer Rating (L.R.) 3rd Class. Layer Ratings were responsible for the movement of the guns, while Quarter Ratings (Q.R.) were responsible for ammunition, and Control Ratings (C.R.) were responsible for range finding. It took an entire team of gunnery ratings and supervisors to choreograph the firing of a naval gun.

On completion of his training, Bob was billeted and worked at HMCS *Givenchy* for 2.5 months before he was drafted to his first and only operational ship – the newly launched HMCS *Wentworth*, K331. *Wentworth* was built at Yarrows Shipyard at Esquimalt, B.C. She was commissioned on December 7, 1943.

One of 70 River-class frigates built in Canada, *Wentworth*, was originally named *Dartmouth*, but the name was changed to avoid confusion with another Commonwealth ship. The ships were far more capable than corvettes – larger, with more firepower, and improved radar detection and active sonar.

During the Second World War, Canada escorted convoys from North America to Great Britain. Life aboard convoy ships was dangerous, both from the German Navy and the relentless North Atlantic weather. In addition to the persistent threat of U-boats, crews endured pitching or rolling swells, or greenies, crashing over the forepeak. Frigid, blustery weather, ice-encrusted decks and equipment were constant hazards.

Creature comforts were non-existent. There were no bunks; the men slept in canvas hammocks lashed to stanchions or pipes in their messes. Hot meals weren't practical, so the men ate sandwiches and drank coffee for sustenance. Below decks, stokers worked around the clock maintaining the generators, pumps and other critical equipment. The upper deck watches had the daunting task of maintaining their footing over very slick decks while battling crashing waves, wind and ice.

This was the daily routine of all RCN convoy escort crews.

Bob joined *Wentworth* five days after her commissioning on 12 December 1943. The ship was scheduled to sail south and transited the Panama Canal before arriving in Halifax, NS, in late January 1944. From Halifax, *Wentworth* would travel south again to Bermuda for workups. Workups - in lay terms - was an intensive testing and training regimen designed to ready a vessel for combat operations. After workups, the ship would join the convoy escort force based in Newfoundland. For a newly trained Ordinary Seaman - 10 months ashore – we can imagine this seemed like the start of a fantastic adventure for Bob.



Image of HMCS *Wentworth* [3 January 1944], Department of National Defence in Ken MacPherson Collection, The Military Museum Library and Archive, University of Calgary, Alberta

Sadly, on 4 January 1944, Bob and two other ratings were swept overboard during high seas and severe weather. Despite a two-hour search in hostile waters, none of the men was recovered. Bob was discharged as missing and presumed drowned. He was 19 years old.

A Board of Inquiry was convened on 18 February 1944 aboard HMCS *Skeena* at Shelburne, NS.

Although the loss wasn't attributed directly to the captain and officers, "it feels that certain errors in judgment both before and after the incident were in evidence."

The Board concluded that the officer of the watch – Lieutenant H.B. Scully – had erroneously detailed no one to keep sight of the men in the water after the first sighting on the starboard quarter. The bridge lookout was ordered to the crow's nest and was the only rating to see them then. Additionally, the Board also concluded that Lt. Scully erroneously failed to drop any lifebuoys or floats immediately after the man overboard was sounded. It was further determined that the ship's routine wasn't correctly carried out, particularly standing orders regarding life belts weren't followed.

Interestingly, the skipper, Lieutenant Commander Howell, was criticized for not ordering ratings to keep clear of the quarterdeck. The time spent on the search was also questioned.

"The Board considers that as the ship had no operational duties to perform, the search should not have been discontinued after only two hours and eleven minutes when it might have been continued to advantage for a longer period."

The Board also considered that *Wentworth* was a new ship with a new crew. No disciplinary action was taken against the officers, and the ship continued its convoy duties.

Ordinary Seaman Phillips was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Canadian Voluntary Service Medal and clasp, and the War Medal. His mother, Mabel Phillips, was awarded the Memorial Cross.

He is remembered in the Second World War Book of Remembrance, page 417, Centre Block, Houses of Parliament, Ottawa, Halifax Memorial (panel 12), HMCS *Tecumseh* Memorial Plaque, Naval Museum of Alberta Plaque, Crescent Heights High School Memorial Plaque, and the Calgary Field of Crosses.

Prepared by: **Patrick Nichol**, former Leading Seaman, HMCS *Tecumseh*, Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph Research Team.

#### Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission - record for Robert Redford Phillips;

Library and Archives Canada Service Records for Robert Redford Phillips;

Ancestry.Com for family information;

For Posterity's Sake website for Robert's photograph;

Second World War Book of Remembrance, page 417, Centre Block, Houses of Parliament;

Calgary Herald obituary, January 25, 1944;

Royal Canadian Navy website. For HMCS *Wentworth* background; and

Historian Roger Sarty – The Royal Canadian Navy and the Battle of the Atlantic 1939-1945, Canadian War Museum.

**More profiles can be found at the Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph at [navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca](http://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca)**





## The Naval Museum of Alberta Society

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## Join the Naval Museum of Alberta Society

Don't delay! Your membership is a key part of what keeps the Museum going.

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- To support the preservation of Canada's naval heritage
- The Navy Calgary Newsletter four times per year
- Free entry to The Military Museums and the Naval Museum of Alberta all year (regular \$15 per entry)
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navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca  
Family membership also available for \$30

# the Ensign

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Lorne Hanson  
Glenn Hardie  
Laraine Orthlieb  
Ken Sivertsen  
Bill Wilson



## The Naval Museum of Alberta

Is located at The Military Museums

4520 Crowchild Tr SW

Calgary, AB T2T 5J4

Admission Prices:

Adults \$15, Seniors \$5, Youth \$5

NMAS members FREE

Serving members and veterans FREE

Free parking



# the Bowline

## *President's Report*

### Scott Hausberg

AGLC has advised us that we will get a casino in Q1 2025. That is great news but the three year gap between casinos will leave us short in 2024 in terms of the monies we can grant to cadet corps and students. We will make do with what we have and can hopefully get up to normal levels in 2025.

Supporting cadets was one of the main reasons for not letting NAC Calgary fold in 2023. We have been trying to establish connections with all of the Southern Alberta corps through free memberships and invites to our events. We are pleased that some corps have responded and some branches have attended our social events. We will keep working on this front.

In November, we hosted a free lunch at the Danish Canadian Club. Over 20 people were in attendance and this included reps from Rockyview and Foothills Navy League branches. A special thanks to Ed Brown for his generous donation that made this event possible.

Also in November, five of our members were able to attend a reception at the Naval Museum with VAdm Topshee and members of the Naval Board.

In December, we continued the tradition of holding a Christmas cocktail party. Despite a snow storm, we had good attendance.

We continue to grow our membership. Thanks to having no local membership fee, we have tripled our membership in less than six months. If you know

someone in the naval community who used to be a member or might be interested in being a member, please have them contact Murray at [mbialek@shaw.ca](mailto:mbialek@shaw.ca).

In January, we will be launching our 2024 scholarship and bursary programs. As well, we will make our event plans and hope to include a few more than there were in 2023.

## *The Bill Wilson Scholarship*

The Capt(N) Bill Wilson scholarship is open to students at the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and University of Lethbridge in the history and strategic studies programs at the master and doctorate levels. An essay on a naval subject is required and the best essay will be awarded a \$2500 scholarship.

Details and the application form will be available at [naccalgary.ca](http://naccalgary.ca) in mid January.



# The Robert Hampton Gray Bursary

NAC – Calgary sponsors an annual bursary in memory of Lt. Robert Hampton Gray, VC, for whom the Naval Museum of Alberta is dedicated.

The \$2,000 Bursary is offered annually to a full-time student registered in any recognized post-secondary academic institution. It is available to the sons, daughters and grandchildren of individuals who served with the British Commonwealth Forces. It is also available to serving members or dependents of the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Naval Reserve, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, or Navy League of Canada Cadet Corps. Applicants must have resided in Alberta for three consecutive years prior to application. The award is made based on the financial need of the applicant.

Details and application form will be available at [naccalgary.ca](http://naccalgary.ca) in mid January.



# This Keel is Laid.”

Navy News, August 21, 2023

A milestone was celebrated today (August 21) with the keel-laying of the future HMCS *Robert Hampton Gray*, our sixth (of six) Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship named in honour of Canadian naval heroes from the Second World War. A long naval tradition, a keel-laying ceremony marks the formal beginning of a ship’s construction. The vessel receives a special coin intended to bring luck to the ship and its future ships companies.



NAC director Ed Brown with Santa at the NAC Christmas party.

## NAC Calgary Contact Info

Website: <https://naccalgary.ca/>

Facebook: Naval Association of Canada—Calgary Branch

Email: [naccalgary@gmail.com](mailto:naccalgary@gmail.com)





# THE BOSN'S CALL

The Bosn's Call is the official newsletter of the Calgary Naval Veterans Association. You can get the complete Bosn's Call by joining the CNVA (go to [cnva.ca](http://cnva.ca)) or by visiting the club on a Saturday.



## *Skipper's Log*

Jim Golbourn, CNVA President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we roll into 2024.

In November, 25 members from the HMCS *Calgary* attend our city to participate in the Remembrance Week activities including visiting Sea Cadets and attending various Remembrance Day services. The crew joined us at the club for beverages and refreshments where we had the opportunity to speak with the CO, Cdr Jeremy Samson, and *Calgary* crew.

Crew members thanked us for the continued support and hospitality we give when they are in town. Cdr Samson commented that no other city has made a ship and crew so welcome where ever they went. During Stampede, using the club to relax and get out of the public eye and the heat of Stampede was a high point of their stay. Apparently, the internal ship competition is to get a trip to Calgary for an event. Crew members are disappointed when they cannot come visit here.

We had 58 club members, guests, including our associate bingo angel members, attend our annual buffet brunch at the Banff Springs Hotel. On the bus ride to Banff snacks were provided including fresh baking by Jolleean Sivertsen. Great food, great drink

and great friends made this a special day for everyone.

We have regalia items for sale and you can see what we have available on our website. Bob McCartney is our shop keeper, so don't be afraid to come down and see what he has to offer.

We are contemplating some winter activities for families and children in January or February including a sleigh ride in the country. When we have plans finalized, we will notify members.

Members have until end of February to renew their annual membership. Those who joined after September 2023 are automatically a member for 2024. We have made renewal easy with several ways to pay including coming to the club and paying by cash, debit or credit card or online at our website and click on the members and renew your membership there. The cost has not changed and is still \$30 for a year which includes many free events with food during the year and cost reduced events for members.

Our next meeting will be our AGM in March or April of 2024. We will have more information sent out in the early new year.

# Commodore Laraine Orthlieb: Breaking Barriers and Inspiring Change

Lt(N) J. Foster & 2Lt J. Breton

In the tapestry of Canadian military history, certain people stand out as trailblazers who shattered glass ceilings and forged paths for future generations. Commodore (Retired) Laraine Orthlieb is one of those people. As 2023 marks her 85th birthday, it's an opportune moment to reflect upon her extraordinary contributions to the Royal Canadian Navy and the lasting impact she has left on the community through her involvement in The Naval Museum.

Cmdre Orthlieb's journey to become the first woman in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve promoted to the rank of Commodore spanned a lifetime of remarkable achievements. Born in 1938 in Saint John, New Brunswick, she grew up in an era when gender roles were firmly entrenched. Yet, from a young age, Orthlieb displayed a resolute determination to break free from the conventional norms that sought to limit her ambitions.

While she had first enrolled in the navy as a nurse in 1959, she chose to raise a family and work as a civilian Registered Nurse - until 1974 when she rejoined the Naval Reserve. She then reclassified to a trade known as "Naval Control of Shipping," as she hoped to go to sea. Little did she know, this desire was to be one of her first steps in a significant career shift. When asked, Cmdre Orthlieb recalls one situation, which demonstrates her willingness to push the boundaries that were firmly set in place at the

time:

"An early memory was when I heard that the training at sea was canceled, as there were not enough seamen available. I had asked many times over the years to go to sea. I was always told that women did not go to sea in the navy. I proposed to the Commanding Officer (CO) that the women in *Tecumseh* could augment the crew. He said it was not possible. One of the many reasons he mentioned was that women could not sleep aboard ship. I asked the Seaman's Mess for funds. They came to our rescue and donated the funds for night accommodation ashore.

I made a detailed plan, and after several attempts to convince the CO, he agreed that the women could augment the crew. We knew that if we did not perform well, we might never get the chance again. The other women and I did an excellent job onboard the ship! That was the beginning; that first experience of finally getting the opportunity to go to sea."

Her determination and willingness to go above and beyond earned her higher levels of responsibility. In 1983, 24 years after her enrolment, she took command of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship



(HMCS) *Tecumseh*, a Naval Reserve Division (NRD) based in Calgary, Alberta. This appointment was historic, as it made her the first woman to assume such a high-ranking leadership role within HMCS *Tecumseh*.

Orthlieb's tenure as Commanding Officer of HMCS *Tecumseh* from 1983-87 was marked by a commitment to excellence and a passion for fostering inclusivity. Under her guidance, the NRD flourished, achieving new levels of professionalism and readiness. This excellence was noted. In 1985 HMCS *Tecumseh* won the Award for Best Naval Reserve Division. They won the award for demonstrating excellence at both the leadership level and at every level below. Her dedication to the proud men and women under her command earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues, setting a high standard for future leaders.

Breaking barriers wasn't without its challenges. Cmdre Orthlieb faced skepticism and resistance along the way, but her unwavering resolve and competence silenced the doubters. Her rise through the ranks sent a clear message: gender should never prevent someone from achieving their full potential. As proof of her determination, she was promoted to Commodore in 1989, making her the first woman to achieve the position of Flag Officer in the RCN.

Beyond her distinguished naval career, Orthlieb's contributions extended to preserving the rich maritime heritage of Canada. She played a pivotal role in the establishment of The Naval Museum of Alberta, a vital component of The Military Museums complex in Calgary, Alberta. Her passion for naval history, and her dedication to sharing it with the public were instrumental in making the museum a reality.

The Naval Museum of Alberta is a treasure trove of artifacts, stories, and memorabilia that pay homage to Canada's naval history. It's a place where visitors can explore the nation's maritime past and gain an

appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who served in the Royal Canadian Navy. Orthlieb's vision and tireless efforts ensured that this institution would endure as a lasting tribute to Canada's naval heritage.

Commodore (Retired) Laraine Orthlieb's journey is a testament to her determination and capacity to transcend barriers. Her pioneering spirit paved the way for countless women and men who aspire to lead in the Canadian military. Her legacy is etched not only in the history of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve but also in the hearts of those who have had the privilege of serving under her command and those who have explored The Naval Museum.

As we celebrate her 85th birthday in 2023, let us recognize and honor the indomitable spirit of Commodore (Retired) Laraine Orthlieb — a trailblazer, a leader, and a guardian of Canada's naval heritage. Her story serves as a reminder that courage, dedication, and a pioneering vision can reshape the course of history.

[Canada.ca/ National Defence/News/The Maple Leaf](https://Canada.ca/NationalDefence/News/TheMapleLeaf)



Cmdre (Ret'd) Laraine Orthlieb speaking at her Hometown Heroes event on Oct 13, 2023.

## Hometown Hero

A groundbreaking career with the Canadian Naval Reserve

Born in Saint John N.B., Laraine Orthlieb' story is one of exceptional achievement and commitment. She became the first female flag officer, the second woman at the helm of a ship's company, and eventually retired with the rank of Commodore. When she was the Captain of HMCS *Tecumseh*, the naval establishment on land was named "Best Naval Reserve Division in Canada" in 1985.

An advocate for preserving and presenting Canada's naval history

In addition to her work in the navy, Mrs. Orthlieb played an instrumental role in the creation of the Naval Museum of Alberta, the largest naval museum in Canada where the history and traditions of Canada's navy act as an inspiration to all who visit.

A true inspiration

Laraine Orthlieb has received considerable recognition in her community for her work in both the navy and private sector. Her accomplishments serve as a wellspring of inspiration for countless women sailors, reinforcing that gender should never hinder the pursuit of excellence. Parks Canada is honoured to mark the 100th anniversary of the Naval Reserve in 2023 by adding Commodore Laraine Orthlieb to the Hometown Heroes program.



## NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION (NRAC)

On November 15, 2022, at its Annual General Meeting, the University Naval Training Division Association (UNTDA) of Canada amended its bylaws to welcome both active and retired members of the Canadian Naval Reserve of all ranks into full membership. With one stroke of the pen, the opportunity for the creation of a new, wide-scoped naval reserve association was enabled as the Naval Reserve Association of Canada (NRAC) and officially formed on 12 May 2023 during the last UNTDA national conference in Victoria, BC.

For 35 years, the UNTDA celebrated the scheme that recruited and trained over 8,000 university students from 1942 – 1968 to become officers in the Naval Reserve. This strong, vibrant organization accomplished a great deal over those years, but only for officers. That limitation no longer applies, and reservists are encouraged to explore the NRAC website pages to learn more about this new naval reserve association.

The creation of the NRAC, during the Centennial year of the Naval Reserve, seeks to serve our contemporary naval reserve's interests with a purpose and mission built upon the impressive national heritage represented by Canada's naval reserve service – in its past, present and future!

One of the more unique aspects of this Association is that membership dues are optional. You can join as an Ordinary or as a Passive member.

Learn more at:

<https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/>

## Free Access to Parks

December 18, 2023 Parks Canada Press Release

The Government of Canada acknowledges and respects the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices made by Canadian Veterans, active Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, and their families.

Effective January 1, 2024, CAF members, Veterans of the CAF, and their immediate families will receive free daily admission to all Parks Canada administered locations by presenting their CF One Platinum card, which is administered through Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS). CF One Platinum cards are exclusively issued to currently serving members and Veterans of the CAF and their immediate families. Veterans can also present their Veteran's Service Card which is available to any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who completed basic training and has been honourably released.



## Watchkeepers?

With visitors again being welcomed to the museum, the Naval Museum of Alberta could very much use a few more watchkeepers. This is a fun role with lots of interaction with the public. If you are interested, email [execdir@navalmuseumsociety.ca](mailto:execdir@navalmuseumsociety.ca)

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The officers of HMCS *Calgary* pull a chuckwagon carrying their CO at the Change of Command ceremony held on October 5, 2023.