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## Cultural celebration

Rachelle Underwood of the Yellow Wolf Dancers performs a traditional dance at the 2013 Aboriginal Day Ceremony at Duntze Head June 20. See more on page 17.

Photo by Shawn O'Hara, Lookout

# VAdm Mark Norman assumes command of the Navy

DND

Vice Admiral Mark Norman assumed the duties of Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy from Vice Admiral Paul Maddison last Thursday at Cartier Square Drill Hall in a formal ceremony attended by Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, and presided over by General Tom Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Minister MacKay has recently approved the promotion of Vice Admiral Norman to his current rank on the recommendation of General Lawson.

"It is an absolute honour and privilege for me to assume Command of the Royal Canadian Navy, especially at such an exciting time in our history," stated Vice Admiral Norman. "I am humbled to be given the opportunity to lead the amazing sailors, soldiers, aircrew and civilians that protect Canada's maritime interests day after day at sea and alongside. I am very proud to serve alongside them."

Following 38 years of distinguished and dedicated service, Vice Admiral Maddison will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces. He served in a variety of key positions throughout his career, including command of a joint Space Control Center crew in Colorado Springs, Director General of Maritime Force Development, Commander Maritime Forces/Joint Task Force (Atlantic), Sea Training (Atlantic and Pacific), Commander of Her Majesty's Canadian Ships Calgary and Iroquois, and command of the experimental Standing Contingency Force.

"Vice Admiral Paul Maddison demonstrated superb leadership ensuring the Royal Canadian Navy's future success by overseeing fundamental projects, such as the modernization of the Halifax-class patrol frigates," said Minister Peter MacKay. "He was a committed advocate of trust and cooperation amongst the world navies in pursuit of collective security and prosperity. To his successor, Vice Admiral Mark Norman, I offer my congratulations as he prepares for the challenges of moving the Royal Canadian Navy forward in its transition from the fleet of today into the fleet of tomorrow."



**Above:** Gen Tom Lawson (centre), Chief of the Defence Staff; accompanied by VAdm Paul Maddison (right), Outgoing Commander Royal Canadian Navy (RCN); and VAdm Mark Norman (left), Incoming Commander RCN, sign the change of command certificate during the Change of Command ceremony held at the Cartier Square Drill Hall on June 20.

**Below:** From left to right: VAdm Paul Maddison, VAdm Mark Norman (left), Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, and Adm Jonathan Greenert, United States Chief of Naval Operations.



Cpl Mathieu St-Amour, Imagery Technician CFSU(O) Imaging Services

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# BIS has a new boss

Photos by Cpl Stuart MacNeil, MARPAC Imaging Services



**Above:** Incoming Commanding Officer of Base Information Services (BIS), Cdr Byron Derby; Base Commander Capt(N) Bob Auchterlonie, and outgoing commanding officer of BIS, Cdr Jon Allsopp sign the change of command certificates during the BIS Change of Command ceremony  
**Left:** Cdr Jon Allsopp gives a departing speech.

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## WHO WE ARE

### MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Atkinson 250-363-3372  
melissa.atkinson@forces.gc.ca

### STAFF WRITERS

Shelley Lipke 250-363-3130  
shelley.lipke@forces.gc.ca

Shawn O'Hara 250-363-3672  
shawn.o'hara3@forces.gc.ca

### PRODUCTION

Carmel Ecker 250-363-8033  
production@lookoutnewspaper.com

Francisco Cumayas 250-363-8033  
projects@lookoutnewspaper.com

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kate King 250-363-3014  
kate.king@forces.gc.ca

### ACCOUNTS

Laura Spence 250-363-3127  
laura.spence@forces.gc.ca

### SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Ivan Groth 250-363-3133  
ivan.groth@forces.gc.ca

Joshua Buck 250-363-8602  
joshua.buck@forces.gc.ca

### Social Media

Kate King 250-363-3014

### EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Capt Jenn Jackson 250-363-4006

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## Vice Admiral Paul Maddison's haul down signal

Last week, in time-honoured naval tradition, I turned over the watch as your Commander to VAdm Mark Norman. It was but a fleeting moment in the life of our navy, but a moment of abiding importance nonetheless.

The lawful transfer of command authority lies at the very heart of the profession of arms, while the transfer of stewardship responsibility for the Royal Canadian Navy lies at the very heart of our national institution.

Such a transfer has occurred but 33 times in our 103-year history including on the two occasions when my brother Greg assumed and relinquished command.

On the day in question, the fleet itself was going about the nation's business with the same sense of purpose that it has always had. That fact alone filled me with great pride in you as I relinquished command of the RCN, having witnessed what you accomplished while I was privileged to lead, and knowing that you will remain "ready, aye ready" to answer the nation's call when my successor took the helm.

In this my final signal to you, permit me to place one last fix on the chart and share with you my perspectives on what we achieved in these past two years.

The ultimate measure of any navy is success in operations at sea. In this regard, you, as well as the airmen and airwomen of the RCAF maritime air fleets with whom we work so closely, demonstrated both at home and abroad that the RCN remains among the finest and most respected of the world's navies.

You stood ready to respond to natural disasters at home and answered the call to render assistance to those needing rescue at sea and ashore. You conducted patrols in the Caribbean Basin and eastern Pacific to help keep drugs off Canadian streets and asserted Canada's sovereignty in Arctic waters, demonstrating to Canadians the RCN's strategic relevance as an essential component of their domestic security.

Abroad, you supported the nation's diplomacy as only navies can, investing in our most important navy-to-navy relationships in NATO, the Americas, the greater Middle East and the western Pacific, while also making impor-

tant contributions to our CAF training mission in Afghanistan.

Across every meridian of longitude, from Op Mobile to Op Artemis, you demonstrated why warships are among Canada's most flexible and capable instruments of power, and influence in peace and war.

Behind your successes at sea, the wider RCN team worked diligently to get an ever-aging fleet to sea and keep it there, including the fleet schools that trained sailors in their thousands, the sea trainers who acted as the custodians of your professional competence, and the remainder of our

operational steady state, from which these fine boats will solidify future contributions to Canada as the most potent and strategic capability in the entire CAF inventory. Working closely with our partners in Canadian industry, we are well on the way towards modernizing all 12 Halifax-class frigates by 2017, which will permit them to meet with confidence any challenge we can foresee in the next decade and a half until the class is eventually retired.

Thanks to the steadfast support and commitment of the government, the national shipbuilding procurement strategy

procurement decisions later this year.

The fact that we continue to make such a difference for Canada in the midst of the most comprehensive period of fleet renewal in our history is a testament to your ingenuity, tenacity, pride and sheer determination to succeed. I also understand it comes at a cost: prolonged absence from loved ones for those serving at sea, as well as long and gruelling hours for those serving ashore, with all that means in terms of sacrifices small and large that you and your families sustained in good cheer.



specialists - scientists, engineers, planners and support personnel that are, to any modern navy, what the engine room is to a warship: the prelude to action.

A measure of any great institution is the manner in which it honours its past. In this vein, we should all be heartened by the government's decision to restore the historic title "Royal Canadian Navy" to the institution in which we serve, as well as our recent return to the practice of flying a distinctive naval ensign as the visible symbol of our fundamental naval purpose.

But even as we honour our rich heritage, we did much to prepare for our future. The Victoria class will soon arrive at the desired

continues to advance with steady assurance towards the cutting of hard steel. All three of the RCN's major new classes - the Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship, the Joint Support Ship and the Canadian Surface Combatant - are now formally in project definition, as we continue to advance these projects through key decision points and milestones.

Recently, the government announced the awarding of a major design contract for the AOPS, as well as the decision to base the Joint Support Ship on the Berlin class. In addition, the statement of requirement for the Canadian Surface Combatant is nearly complete and will be used to drive upcoming project

It proves that you are just as dedicated as any generation of sailors who has ever served this country and that your families are just as supporting.

I conclude where I began: with thoughts of those far distant ships of the fleet, and the men and women of the RCN at sea and ashore, who every day attend to our nation's security and defence.

With deep humility and admiration for all your accomplishments during my tenure in command, I thank you for your support and tireless service to the nation.

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PO2 Thomas Templeman instructs students of the Basic Military Officer Qualification course on the construction of roadblocks in the field using a sandbox diorama.

**Inset:** Sandbox diorama models, plastic army men, and toy cars are used for the instruction of field roadblock construction.

Photos by Shawn O'Hara, Lookout



# Officer recruits train in Victoria

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff writer

Huddled around a small, raised sand box at Rocky Point, naval cadets re-created a road block using plastic toy soldiers and cars.

Guiding their choices was PO2 Rob Templeman, an instructor with the Basic Military Officer Qualification course (BMOQ).

The sandbox diorama was part of the new recruits field training – dubbed Exercise Challenge – that also included establishing observations posts and orienteering in the Metchosin woods.

“This is where they get an introduction to in-the-field knowledge they need if they are ever deployed into a theatre of engagement,” says SLt David Lewis, Operations Officer for the BMOQ. “We do our best to provide the most accurate environment possible for the scenarios they’re being trained for.”

Once knowledgeable on the diorama, they set about setting up a roadblock on a small forest track using concertina wire, metal barrels, and fencing material.

The real test kicked in when truck loads of navy personnel dressed as foreign military attempt to pass through the roadblock. They were met with a vehicle search and pointed questions in order to determine if a threat existed.

“Actually having to act on their lessons helps provide a feeling of realism that lets their new skills shine through,” says SLt Lewis. “It’s one thing to sit down and

learn it in a classroom, but it’s another to have to really use those skills. It adds that extra edge to the lesson.”

Exercise Challenge is only a portion of the BMOQ training. Recruits from 24 reserve units across Canada participate in the 11-week course for the qualifications that will net them a commission as an Acting Sub-lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy.

“Most of these recruits are stu-

*I didn't understand just how much you had to know to be an effective leader. I came into this course knowing little and I feel like my brain is full to bursting now.*

-Naval Cadet Iain Frame  
BMOQ student

dents. They're basically giving up their entire summer to come here and begin their careers in the

navy,” explains SLt Lewis. Naval Cadet and BMOQ student Iain Frame joined up at Naval



PO2 Thomas Templeman gives an academic lesson in a forested glen in Metchosin on the construction of road blocks in the field, as well as the safe and proper use of concertina wire.

Reserve Unit *HMCS Chippawa* in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 2012 following a lifelong interest in the military.

“I’ve always thought the military would be a great career, but I didn’t want to commit to the regular force,” he says. “I thought the reserves would be a perfect choice.”

The BMOQ course has been an exercise in reality for NCdt Frame, shining a light on some expectations of military life.

“Sleeping in a hooch tent in the woods and eating hard rations sucks,” he says. “I had a feeling it would be that way and I was definitely right, but it almost sucks in a good way. It shows you what the real thing is like, or at least as close as you can get.”

When it comes to the classroom portion of the program Frame says he didn’t expect such a strong focus on leadership.

“I knew it was important but I guess I didn’t understand just how much you had to know to be an effective leader,” he says. “I came into this course knowing little and I feel like my brain is full to bursting now.”

Following the completion of the BMOQ course, NCdt Frame will return to Winnipeg and his civilian job, but that doesn’t mean his military career comes to a halt.

“I have to return to my civilian job for now, but I’m still on the right track,” he says. “This course has given me an opportunity to fulfill one of my lifelong goals. I’m very grateful for that.”

# Sailing club opens doors to public

**A/SLt Ron MacDougall**  
BPAO Trainee

Last Saturday, the public was given a chance to view the beautiful facility of the Canadian Forces Sailing Association (CFSA) / Esquimalt Squadron located at Munroe Head on the north side of Esquimalt Harbour.

During its annual open house, free barbequed hotdogs were available on the clubhouse sundeck, and all shop and classrooms were open for tours.

Existing in different forms for more than 65 years, the club has been supported administratively since the 1990s by the CFB Esquimalt Personnel Support Program (PSP).

The main goal of the CFSA is to provide training, recreational and competitive sailing opportunities for serving and past military members and their families. With 265 members at the present, the self-help club depends on the volunteer efforts of its members for governance, operation and maintenance.

The club's Commodore, PO2 John Haggis boasts, "With an annual income of approximately \$150,000 per year, the club is totally self-sustaining. Along with membership dues, moorage fees, and bar sales, the club is becoming increasingly popular for functions such as small weddings, meetings, professional development, and departures with dignity. People really seem to like the self-catering concept we offer with our large kitchen."

Impressive is not limited to the club facilities and view of Esquimalt Harbour, but also the friendly, cooperative and relaxed atmosphere felt by all at the club.

"The Friday night social is very popular here as every member takes a turn at cooking. My specialty is spaghetti and meatballs," says Haggis.

Other club events are the annual CFSA Regatta, a three-day event



Alice and Molly Roberts, daughters of Cdr Patricia Roberts, enjoy the beautiful weather during the CFSA open house.

held every June and the New Year's Race. The club also offers summertime sailing programs for children, youth and adults. These courses are open to non-members as well. Additionally, the club is home to the Victoria chapter of the Disability Sailing Association of British Columbia (DSABC) with three specially designed boats. Finally, the club has recently begun a partnership with the Victor Brodeur School, with the school sailing program now

anchored at the club.

Sitting comfortably on his boat Defiance, Haggis expressed his feelings about the sailing club.

"Whatever bothers me over there (pointing to the dockyard) doesn't bother me here. Something magical happens when you walk down the gangway to the floats and make your way to the boat. Whatever work related issues that might be bothering me just seem to disappear when I get to CFSA."

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## Ottawa heads south on Op Caribe

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

The crew of *HMCS Ottawa* has made a heading for warmer waters as part of their deployment to the eastern Pacific on Operation Caribe – Canada's recurring contribution to a multinational campaign against transnational organized crime in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The crew pushed off June 10 to participate in the Royal Canadian Navy's component of Operation Caribe.

Op Caribe is the Canadian Joint Operations Command mission that supports multinational efforts led by the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South).

JIATF South's overarching operation, named Op Martillo, brings Canada and other western hemisphere and European nations together in the Caribbean Basin, eastern Pacific and littoral waters of Central America.

JIATF South is responsible for the detection and monitoring of suspect air and maritime illicit trafficking activities in the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and the Eastern Pacific. JIATF South also collects, processes, and disseminates information to assist interagency and partner nation operations.

CPO1 Michael Miller, Coxswain in *Ottawa*, says

*Working in a tropical climate comes with new challenges, primarily the requirement for more frequent hydration, as well as protection from the sun.*

-CPO1 Michael Miller  
Coxswain

preparing the new command team and crew for the deployment has been a successful and exciting time.

"We've been getting everyone in line for the deployment," says CPO1 Miller. "Preparations were conducted at a steady pace, and every effort was made to ensure our team had the pre-deployment leave required to set themselves and their families up for success during the mission."

Most of *Ottawa's* deployment will be spent under the sizzling South American sun, and the crew has had to take the unfamiliar environment into account.

"Working in a tropical climate comes with new challenges, primarily the requirement for more frequent hydration, as well as protection from the sun," says

CPO1 Miller. "*Ottawa* has excellent fresh water capabilities, and bulk dispensers to keep it cold and available. In an environment like the eastern Pacific it's of the utmost importance to keep the crew hydrated and healthy."

The *Ottawa* crew is excited to pick up where they left off last year. Criminal organizations use the Caribbean Basin, Central America, and the eastern Pacific as a transshipment area for trafficking drugs, weapons, money, and people.

Illicit trafficking is a significant source of revenue for organized crime, which is a growing threat to North American, Canadian, and international security and stability.

During *Ottawa's* last deployment on Op Caribe in November 2012, while patrolling international waters off the coast of Costa Rica, the crew assisted a United States Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment team to board a suspicious fishing vessel. The boarding, a successful example of interagency cooperation, resulted in the seizure of 36 bales of cocaine weighing 1,086 kilograms.

"The crew is ready for the work ahead of them. This is what we're trained to do," he says. "Of course, people will miss their homes and families, but the entire crew embraces the opportunity to do what we do best."

## Navy family needs help

Chief Petty Officer Dexter Goulding and his family lost their house and all their possessions in a house fire on June 20. The family escaped the fire with the clothes on their back and without injury. They are staying in a local hotel while they work at putting their lives back together. The fire devastated the house, their boat and an RV belonging to Wendy's parents. The family has lost everything.

To help them get back on their feet, donations are being accepted at any Island Savings Credit Union branch on the Island or Salt Spring Island. Please quote "Goulding Family Account."

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# Every step counts - Around the world in 20 years

**Shelley Lipke**  
Staff Writer

In less than 20 years it's possible to circumnavigate the globe – just ask Base Construction Engineering's employee (BCE) Jean Drysdale.

She's admittedly a "numbers girl" who knows that putting one foot in front of the other and keeping tally of each step can equate to a trip around the world.

Last Friday she celebrated a milestone – circumnavigating the Equator.

Tracking each step began nearly 20 years ago in Shilo, Manitoba.

"I started on Aug. 30, 1993, keeping track of the distance walked during my lunch hours at CFB Shilo. I initially started walking to lose weight and that progressed into running. Over the years I tracked all of my foot powered miles," she said.

Whether she's running, walking, rollerblading, cross country skiing, snowshoeing or skating, she tallies her mileage and then tracks it on maps to put it in perspective.

She began recording on the back of Gary Larson's Far Side cartoons, and even though her watch has GPS now, she still sticks to her original paper tracking method.

"I have actually walked in nine of the 10 provinces and on the Trans Canada Trail here on Vancouver

Island, in Fernie, Calgary, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Gagetown," she says.

Over the years she's tracked mileage from Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Kaua'i and Camp Mirage in United Arab Emirates, among other locations around the world.

"I have walked when it was minus 40 and plus 40. In minus 40, people often tried to give me a ride and couldn't believe I was actually doing this on my own accord. In Cayman Islands I walked in plus 40. I had to buy rain gear and waterproof shoes since I moved here from Manitoba five years ago. I like walking because it is my stress reliever; it keeps me sane. It's good for problem solving, weight control and general fitness. I am addicted to it."

Drysdale had to give up running four years ago due to osteoarthritis, but she hasn't missed a day walking for the past seven and a half years.

"I walk a minimum of three and a half kilometres each day," she says. "These days I am walking about eight kilometres a day."

For the past five years, her colleagues at BCE know well her daily tallying of mileage.

The first trip recorded was one from Vancouver to St. John's, Newfoundland, which took five years. Then a year was spent

heading north from Victoria to Cape Scott. Next was Calgary to Whitehorse, which took two years.

"After that I decided to transfer my miles onto a map of the world. Maj Peter Weatherley, the Executive Officer at BCE, helped calculate how many miles I needed to walk per degree (latitude/longitude), so I could plot my progress on the map," she says.

There was no stopping her. She travelled circumpolar from Carberry, Manitoba, which took 7,726 days. Last Friday she celebrated circumnavigation of the Equator after 39,842 kilometres.

Over the years she's exhausted between 50 and 60 pairs of shoes, an average of two and a half pairs a year.

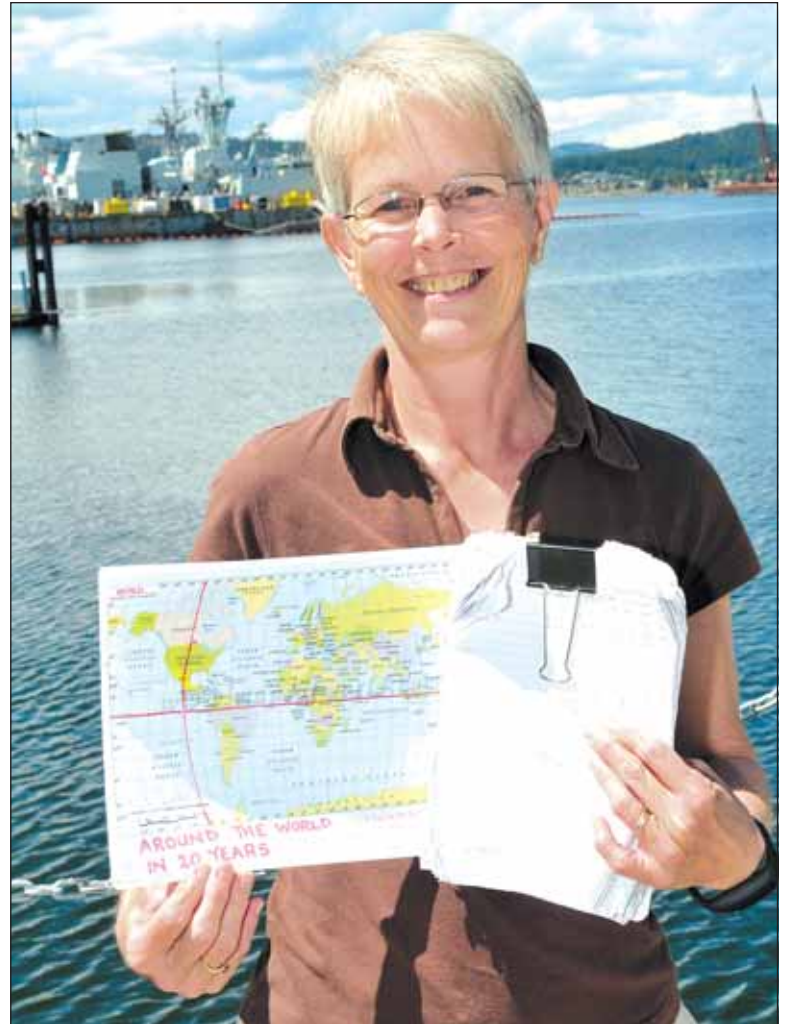
"Every year in my Christmas letter I update friends and family as to how much further I had to go. It was initially my goal to walk across Canada and then the world, even though the scenery all looks pretty much the same," she says.

The daily commute to CFB Esquimalt from the Craigflower Bridge area is about eight kilometres round trip.

"Admirals Road is uphill both ways and not without its challenges. I have had a number of near misses with traffic."

Drysdale is 58 years old and due to retire in three years.

"We are planning to move back



Shelley Lipke, Lookout

Jean Drysdale of BCEO Real Estate Services has spent the past 20 years documenting every kilometre she has walked. Her steps have taken her around the world in several directions. Seen here, she holds up paper log books and a map of the world showing her routes.

to Manitoba, so maybe I'll plan a route starting in Victoria and walk home, but unless I reduce my mileage I'll be there too soon. I just can't figure out where to

go next. If I was to go the moon I would have to live to 200, so maybe I'll just have to turn around and go back the same way I came," she says.



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# BOOMER'S BIKE RIDE A BOOMING SUCCESS

**ASLt Stephanie Flynn**  
Contributor

Cheers erupted June 15 as 100 cyclists approached the Legislature building, rounding Government St. onto Belleville St. before circling the Legislature lot to be greeted by friends, family and loved ones.

Bikes were quickly forgotten as the participants of Boomer's Bike Ride arrived at their final destination after a 240 kilometre trip from Comox to Victoria.

Boomer's Bike Ride is a two-day fundraising event that had 100 participating cyclists this year. It is named after fallen Forces member Corporal Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom, a medic killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan in August 2006. Boomer was known for his compassion and for helping those in need, and the aim of Boomer's Legacy is to spread his kindness.

It was a scenic trip along the beautiful coast of Vancouver Island. It was an emotional journey of honour, awareness and remembrance for the riders, with each participant committed to raise a minimum of \$300 for Boomer's Legacy humanitarian projects with a goal of raising \$40,000 collectively. This year's ride broke records by raising the largest amount to date - \$65,000 that goes directly to countries Canadian Forces members are deployed to, so they may help locals reclaim their life in their war-torn homes.

Riders began in Comox around 8 a.m. on Friday morning at the main gate of CFB Comox. Cyclists donned their red Boomer shirts with pride and purpose in their hearts as they set out to ride.

After spending the night in Nanaimo where they stayed at the

Brigadier D.R. Sergeant Armoury, they continued their ride Saturday morning, headed towards Victoria, crossing the finish line at the Legislature just after 5 p.m.

Almost one third of the riders were first-timers to Boomer's Bike Ride, while the rest were veterans of the ride, with a small few who have ridden in every ride since 2006.

The welcoming ceremony at the Legislature was presided over by Rear Admiral Bill Truelove who gave a moving speech to those who rode, commending them for their tremendous efforts and success.

Each rider honoured a fallen forces member with a picture and biography attached to their bicycle during the ride.

More than \$830,000 has been raised by Boomer's Legacy since 2006. The funds raised have made a significant humanitarian impact.

For more information visit [www.boomerslegacy.ca](http://www.boomerslegacy.ca).



LS Alex Croskery, MARPAC Imaging Services

**Above:** RAdm Bill Truelove, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, speaks to Boomer's Legacy Ride cyclists.



**Left:** Participants help a fellow rider up the Malahat.

**Bottom:** Boomer's Legacy Ride cyclists arrive in Victoria and proceed down Government Street to the Legislature lawn.

This year's ride went national with rides held in Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia.



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## Veterans board looking for members

The Veterans Review and Appeal Board is the independent tribunal that offers an avenue of appeal for disability benefits decisions made by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC).

The Board is always looking for qualified individuals for the position of Board Member, and encourages those with military experience to apply.

The next application deadline is Aug. 31, 2013.

The Board holds hearings for individuals seeking redress of their VAC disability benefit decisions. Board Members, who are impartial decision-makers, take a completely new look at every case. They make a full and fair examination of every file, listen to testimony and ask questions, weigh all the evidence, and write decisions with reasons for the ruling.

Interested candidates must meet the selection criteria to ensure they have the skills and abilities to

make decisions for veterans, Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members, and their families. Board members are appointed by the Governor in Council after qualifying through an open and merit-based selection process that recognizes the value of military, medical, policing, and legal experience (currently, almost half of the board's members have military, RCMP, or medical backgrounds).

Once appointed, all members undergo a rigorous training program that supports them in making fair, well-reasoned decisions that satisfy the requirements of the legislation. They are required to deal with a heavy workload (approximately 20 cases per week), and hear cases in locations across Canada.

To find out more about the position of board member and how to apply, please visit the "Chair and Members" section of the board's website at: [www.vrab-tacra.gc.ca](http://www.vrab-tacra.gc.ca)

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**VICTORIA CRIME STOPPERS CRIME OF THE WEEK**

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

A sexual assault took place during an event known as the "Rock Fest" held at the Pacific Fleet Club located at CFB Esquimalt. A young lady was sexually assaulted by an unidentified male between 11:00 pm, October 3, 2009 and 1:00 am, October 4, 2009.

The male may have had an accomplice. The young lady was picked up and carried down a flight of stairs to an empty room located on the lower floor of the club where she was sexually assaulted.

The male is described as 30 years old, well built, approximately 5'10" tall, with short dark hair. He was wearing a dark coloured t-shirt with an alcohol brand symbol on the front, possibly "Jack Daniels".

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# Having a blast! Toronto destroys drugs

**Erin Abercrombie**  
CJOC Public Affairs

From the end of March to the beginning June, *HMCS Toronto* has apprehended more than 1.3 tonnes of heroin and approximately six tonnes of hashish while conducting counter-terrorism operations with a multinational naval task force – Combined Task Force-150.

*Toronto* has not only intercepted illegal narcotics, but has destroyed them as well.

When narcotics are first apprehended, they are catalogued, inventoried and placed into a secure lock-up on board *Toronto* until the order is given to destroy the narcotics. Once the order is received, the drugs are re-inventoried and readied for disposal.

The methods used to destroy narcotics vary depending on the type of narcotics, the environment and weather.

In most cases, drugs are dumped overboard and the crew ensures they sink. In some cases, they are destroyed using explosives by the naval demolitions team consisting of specially trained officers and boatswains from the deck department.

On May 24, the ship used their experience to destroy 300 kilograms of heroin using explosives. In this case, they came up with a viable design to destroy the drugs that focused the blast inward from all directions and vaporized the illicit substances in an ensuing fireball.

They placed the narcotics in boxes, sealed them, and destroyed them on a raft. Safety is the number one priority. Until the raft was off the ship and ready to be initiated, the number of personnel on deck was kept at a minimum, and explosives and fuses remained separate.

Prior to the detonation, a series of checks were made using airborne surveillance, verifying visually from the surface and listening to underwater sound systems



Cpl Malcolm Byers, HMCS Toronto

**Above:** A raft with seized narcotics is detonated in the Indian Ocean.

**Below:** Cdr Jeff Hamilton, Commanding Officer of HMCS Toronto, cuts into the final package of seized narcotics.



to ensure no marine life was near the demolition site, or other vessels were in the area. These are standard procedures to ensure environmental stewardship. Because the blast itself vaporized the contents, there was very little debris.

“Given the raft composition and design, along with the blast design, very little risk

exists of contaminating the environment and sea life with the narcotics. The narcotics are completely consumed in the explosion,” explains Cdr Jeff Hamilton, the ship’s commanding officer. Nevertheless, shortly following the demolition operation, a small team was sent via the ship’s rigid hull inflatable boat to verify that no plastic

or debris is left floating on the surface.

Narcotics smuggling in the Arabian Sea and the surrounding region is a recognized source of funding for terrorist organizations. Destroying the narcotics is the final step in ensuring that drugs funding terrorist organizations do not make it to the intended recipients.

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- DSR and game from Nintendo Canada, valued at \$125!
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- Dinner at the Keg \$50!
- HD Box from Shaw Cable \$180 value!
- Don't miss Victoria Hyundai's car giveaway – fill out a ballot for a chance to win at a 2013 Veloster!

more info:



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  - Test your balance on the Mechanical Bull Ride
- Hey teens, check out Vibe Street Hip Hop dancers as they show you how to 'break it down' hip hop style! Learn to hula hoop with Chelsea Lapshinoff

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# My Military Life Youth Video Contest

## Enter to win

Show us your military life with a 2-minute video on growing up in the military. The MFRC invites youth in the Defence Community to film your thoughts and ideas about what growing up in the military means to you.

Select entries will be shown at a screening on Friday September 20, 2013 at the Pacific Fleet Club and will be used by the MFRC for educational purposes.

## Who can enter

Videos must be organized, filmed and edited by a student between the ages of 11-18 that has a parent in the military.

## How to enter

1. Download the Rules & Regulations from [www.esquimaltmfrc.com](http://www.esquimaltmfrc.com).
2. Complete the Submission and Consent Form.
3. Film your video about growing up in the military.
4. Submit your video by the deadline:  
Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 5pm.  
Drop it off or mail it to the MFRC.

## More details

[www.esquimaltmfrc.com/youthvideocontest.php](http://www.esquimaltmfrc.com/youthvideocontest.php)

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Incoming commanding officer Lt(N) James Webb (left); presiding officer Cdr Sheila Archer (centre), Commanding officer, Assistant Judge Advocate General; and outgoing commanding officer, Lt(N) Leah Dremeal sign the change of command certificates for Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Rainbow. The ship's company RCSCC Rainbow stands in the background.

## HMCS Protecteur set to sail

**SLt Timothy DesRoches**  
HMCS Protecteur

The crew of *HMCS Protecteur* is proud to report that our Replenishment at Sea (RAS) trials are now complete and the ship is capable of transferring stores and fuel for the Pacific Fleet and the Allies of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Many thanks are owed to the crew of *HMCS Algonquin*; as the receiving ship, they were an essential component in proving *Protecteur's* new, state-of-the-art technology she received during a refit in December of last year.

Under the watchful eye of our Deck Department, Hepburn representatives verified the new controls in the RAS transferring process. The major change that occurred is how goods and fuel are transferred to receiving ships. Now, there are sensors and computers that calculate the distance the load has to travel across the high wire that connects the ships together, and it automatically slows down to a gentle stop over the receiving ship's deck. Before this refit, the operators had to judge it by sight and experience.

One of the challenges that both ships faced during this trial was the training and coordination of new crew on each platform. Some of the crew on *Protecteur* had yet to complete a RAS, while some had only participated in a RAS on the receiving side. For others, this was their first sail altogether.

These trials provided excellent practical

training for all levels of experience

With our recent Ship Without Air Department (SWOAD) qualification, *Protecteur* is now also fully capable of accepting hoist transfers from helicopters. The SWOAD capability greatly enhances the services provided by our top notch medical services onboard. With the largest medical facility afloat in MARPAC, *Protecteur* provides an essential capability in accepting casualties from any number of situations, either from the Canadian Forces or a civilian search and rescue event.

*Protecteur's* upcoming sailing schedule is full. Along with *Algonquin*, she will be deploying on WESTPLOY this fall, a voyage that will take her around the Pacific visiting ports in Hawaii, Australia, South Korea, and Japan. Operations like this help strengthen and solidify ties with our Allies in the Pacific region and help foster growth for all the countries involved. It also provides a dynamic environment to train our sailors, soldiers, and airmen and women, and those of our allies.

Commander Todd Bonnar, Commanding Officer of *Protecteur*, says the WESTPLOY deployment shows the confidence that the Commander of MARPAC has in both the crews and senior leadership of *Algonquin* and *Protecteur* to represent the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian populous this fall. When asked about the age of the ships, Commander Bonnar smiled and replied, "There are no collector plates on the back of the ships yet."

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# NEWS Nuggets

## Columbian Air Force flies in Cold Lake

The Colombian Air Force participated for the first time in Exercise Maple Flag from May 27 to June 21 at 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alberta.

Six A-29 Super Tucano combat aircraft, a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, and a KC-767 refueling aircraft took off from Barranquilla, Colombia to make the three-day, 20-hour, 6,700 kilometre journey from Colombia to Cold Lake.

The Columbian Air Force was invited to attend Exercise Maple Flag as an observer nation in 2012.

Commander General Tito Saul Pinilla Pinilla accepted the invitation to underscore Columbia's interest in developing a strategic vision, supported by increased levels of training related to combined operations, and with the goal of standardizing their procedures in accordance with NATO doctrine.

To achieve that goal, Colombian crews have performed three large force employment exercises in the last eight months, involving most of the fighter squadrons in Colombia, supported by air-air refueling and transport aircraft.

The exercises were conducted

in English to better prepare crews for success in Exercise Maple Flag.

## Local veteran to be honoured

Victoria war veteran Nick Kerr, 31, has been honoured for his service with a nomination in the Tribute for Heroes contest sponsored by People magazine and Major League Baseball to honour veterans and military service members.

Kerr served in the Royal Canadian Army for nine years, including seven months in Afghanistan in 2006, where he faced heavy warfare and long stretches of combat. He now serves in the reserves with the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

Last year, while playing in a Victoria-area softball game, Kerr and a friend helped save the life of a motorist who crashed his car after suffering an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

For his life saving efforts Kerr was nominated for the award, the recipient of which is determined by online votes at [mlb.com/tribute](http://mlb.com/tribute). One nominee will be selected to represent each major league team at the 2013 All-Star Game on July 16. Kerr is a finalist for the Toronto Blue Jays.

## Air Cadet commended for lifesaving actions

Terrace 747 Air Cadet Cpl Patrick Hamer has been given a federal commendation for his role in saving two men from serious fire injuries.

Cpl Hamer was presented with the commendation from the national cadets organization and accompanying pin at the squadron's June 9 annual review.

In January 2012, Hamer and his brother Nickolas, as well as cousins Dayne and Parker Wright were doing chores on the family's farm when they heard a commotion.

Hamer's father, Murray, found himself on fire when he tried to help a neighbour who had accidentally set himself on fire while filling two vehicles with fuel from a jerry can.

Hamer reacted to cries for help by grabbing a fire extinguisher, while his brother and the others used blankets and gave instructions to "stop, drop and roll." They also opened up a hydrant tap to help douse the flames.

Murray Hamer suffered second degree burns while the second man suffered only minor injuries.

The four young people and Hamer have also received commendations signed by Governor-

General David Johnston.

Those commendations recognize those who have made a significant contribution by providing assistance to another in a selfless manner.



## Gearing up to hit the road

Once again, Military Police, volunteers, and civilian supporters of the troops are gearing up for the 5th Annual Military Police National Motorcycle Relay Ride, which is due to hit the open road in St. John's, NL on Aug. 2.

The relay is the longest annual motorcycle relay in the world with national riders covering more than 10,000 kilometres during the event.

The event kicks off on "The Rock" where motorcycle enthusiasts will roll their throttles out of St. John's, NL, and visit all of the major military establishments across Canada, arriving in Victoria Aug. 25. Riders will also venture south from the frigid conditions of the Northwest Territories for the second year in a row.

Since riders rolled out of St. John's, NL, for the first ride in 2009, more than \$170,000 has been raised for numerous charities. This year funds raised will support the Military Police Fund for Blind Children nationwide and the Children's Wish Foundation in select provinces.

Join the 5th Annual Military Police National Motorcycle Relay Ride, as it rolls through your area between August 2 and 25.

All motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome to participate, whether it is as a national, provincial or local rider.

For more information on the ride, how to register, donate, or participate in our online auctions, visit the MPNMRR [www.mpnmrr.ca](http://www.mpnmrr.ca).

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# Aboriginal Day Celebrations



**Top:** The Grand Entrance at the ceremony for Aboriginal Day 2013 at Duntze Head led by Cpl Clint Eastman, LS Garrett Achneepineskum, and OS Nathan Millier.



**Middle:** Elder Marie Ann Thomas performs a welcome prayer at the Aboriginal Day Ceremony.

**Right:** The Yellow Wolf Drummers perform traditional First Nations' songs.



**Above:** The Eagle Staff bearer Cpl Clint Eastman during the Grand Entrance.



Base Commander Capt(N) Bob Auchterlonie presents Master Corporal Justin Green with the General Campaign Star South West Asia Bar.

# Bravo ZULU

## Base Commander Awards Ceremony June 18, Base Museum

Photos by Cpl Stuart MacNeil, MARPAC Imaging Services



Base Commander Capt(N) presents Master Seaman Lori-Anne Clairmont with a Base Commander's Recognition Award.



Corporal Guy Chagnon receives the Operational Service Medal, Expedition for Operation Caribbe.



Everett LaRoy receives a Base Commander's Commendation Award.



Joyce Learning receives a Base Commander's Recognition Award.



Petty Officer Second Class Vincent Delaunier receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Warrant Officer Robert Shrypchuk receives a Base Commander's Recognition Award during an award ceremony.



Helen Hill receives a Base Commander's Recognition Award.



Leading Seaman Michael Benton receives a Base Commander's Commendation Award.



Ron Whitcroft receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Jenna Boon receives a Base Commander's Recognition Award.



Leah Hamilton receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Ron McClintock receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Master Corporal Karen Sheppard receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Gerald Bennie receives a Base Commander's Coin.



Commander Tim Allan receives a Second Clasp for the Canadian Forces Decoration for 32 years of service.



Diane Ferguson receives her 45 year Long Service Award from Cdr Roberts, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters Commanding Officer.



Dorothy Mildenberger receives her 15 year Long Service Award from Cdr Roberts, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters Commanding Officer.



Cpl Robertsen (left) was promoted to the rank of AL/MCpl by Cdr Tim Allan (BPAdmO) on June 11.



Pte(B) Daudelin (left) was promoted to the rank of Pte(T) by Cdr Tim Allan (BPAdmO) on June 11.



Cpl Kim Dugas was promoted to the rank of MCpl by Cdr Tim Allan (right), Base Administration Officer, on June 11.

# Protecteur dedicates mess to lost comrade

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

A small, emotional ceremony on board *HMCS Protecteur* last Wednesday saw one of the ship's galleys renamed to honour a dedicated and passionate sailor.

Cdr Todd Bonnar, ship's commanding officer, oversaw the ribbon cutting of Boileau's Galley, named for CPO2 Richard Boileau, who died last year during a recreational dive.

The Chief served in *Protecteur* as Chief Cook from 2010 to 2012.

"He always put the crew first, and did whatever he could to make their time at sea more enjoyable - mainly through his food," said Cdr Bonnar. "He was a kind man, a dedicated sailor, and a great friend."

Joining the sailors in *Protecteur* were CPO2 Boileau's wife Brenda, his son OS Steven Boileau, and his two grandchildren.

Galley dedications are not that common, but Cdr Bonnar thought the memory of his shipmate would



Shawn O'Hara, Lookout

**Above:** CPO1 Dan Ferguson of Base Foods presents Brenda Boileau with a Cook's Coin in memory of CPO2 Boileau.

**Right:** Brenda Boileau and OS Steven Boileau cut the ribbon to "Boileau's Galley."

best be served through a tangible legacy.

"When the ship was coming out of refit I thought it would be fitting to honour Richard in a way that reflected who he was and what he did for the crew," says Cdr Bonnar. "He was quite close to not only the junior ranks, but also the officers."

Making CPO2 Boileau's memory a permanent fixture in *Protecteur* reflects the effect he had on the crew.

"Whenever I needed help getting morale up I would talk to Richard about scheduling a pizza night, or a wing night, or what have you," says Cdr Bonnar. "It would help get spirits up at sea, and make the time pass quicker. Without his help a lot of those deployments would have been a lot harder for everyone."

As sailors enter and exit the galley for years to come, the name plaque will remind them of this dedicated sailor.

"He's always with the ship now," says Cdr Bonnar. "This way we've given him a galley he can always call home."



*When the ship was coming out of refit I thought it would be fitting to honour Richard in a way that reflected who he was and what he did for the crew.*

-Cdr Todd Bonnar  
HMCS Protecteur Commanding Officer

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Cpl Blaine Sewell, MARPAC Imaging Services

Lt(N) Rob Czekierda receives the Commander's Commendation from LGen Stuart Beare, the Commander of Canadian Joint Operations Command.

# Officer commended for exemplary action

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

A former HMCS Vancouver officer was recently commended for actions that may have saved the lives of humanitarian aid workers off the coast of Libya during Operation Unified Protector.

In August 2011, Lt(N) Rob Czekierda was serving in Vancouver as Weapons Officer during the conflict in Libya. Vancouver was tasked with protecting the port of Misrata as well as assisting in the enforcement of the no-fly-zone around Libya.

"There were a number of humanitarian aid flights that would come into the Misrata airport near the coast," explains Lt(N) Czekierda. "We were in close proximity to the coast and in the airport approach corridor, and having aircraft in close quarters to a warship in a warzone can be uncomfortable. We had to make sure all of the planes were identified properly."

Vancouver had identified a humanitarian aid flight coming in when sensors picked up a number of "technicals" (civilian vehicles with jury-rigged mounted weapons) on the beach facing the ocean.

"We went to action stations and took our steps, but our radar had created a number of false tracks that the ops team was cleaning up," says Lt(N) Czekierda. "With all of the movement and action the humanitarian aid flight had gotten lost in the clutter for a second."

With unknown forces on the beach and a humanitarian flight at a risk of being targeted with weapons systems, Lt(N) Czekierda had to think fast.

"I decided that I had to be sure what we were looking at, so I went against procedure and decided not to activate one of our weapon systems," he says. "I didn't want to take any chances with a flight full of civilians and humanitarian aid in the air."

Lt(N) Czekierda's cool head would prove to pay off, as the technicals on the beach were proven friendly.

"We did some digging and realized they were just sitting on the beach, not preparing for an attack," he says. "We found out through our sources they were rebel forces and not

Libyan military."

So with the threat disproven and the weapon systems under control, Lt(N) Czekierda and the crew of Vancouver were able to avoid inadvertently firing on a civilian aircraft.

Lt(N) Czekierda says he is certainly happy with his commendation, but he was really just doing his job.

"As the on-watch Operations Room Officer I had to be on top of things or people could have been hurt," he says. "As members of the Royal Canadian Navy we're there to make sure people are safe, and that's all I was doing."

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