

# LOOKOUT

MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

newspaper.com



## Happy homecoming!

LS Zachariah Stopa, MARPAC Imaging Services

LS Cornelis Post, winner of the first kiss and first to cross the brow ashore, embraces his wife during HMCS Regina's return celebration at A Jetty last Wednesday. Ship and crew returned from an eight-month deployment in support of Operations Artemis and Reassurance. See more photos on pages 10 and 11, and a People Talk on page 5.

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Cpl Malcolm Byers, MARPAC Imaging Services  
 His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, stands with Sea Cadet recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh silver award, along with Cmdre Bob Auchterlonie, on Orca Patrol Craft Training vessel Wolf during the Royal visit to Victoria Sept. 13.



**Inset:** The Canadian personal flag for His Royal Highness flew for the first time on Wolf while the Earl was on board.

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# Navy welcome for Prince Edward

**A/SLt MacDougall**  
 MARPAC PA

As part of a five day working visit to British Columbia, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and his wife Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, were welcomed to Government House on Friday afternoon, Sept. 12.

A Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) Guard of Honour was inspected by the Prince, with the Naden Band providing military bravado in the background.

On Saturday, the Prince made a stop at the

Wardroom before taking a tour of an Orca class training vessel, while the Countess of Wessex attended community engagements in Victoria.

At the Wardroom, Prince Edward mingled with serving and retired military members, as well as families of the deployed ship's company of *HMCS Regina*. He then left for HMC Dockyard where he boarded Wolf, an Orca-class training vessel. On board, he was greeted by Cmdre Bob Auchterlonie, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, and Cmdre David Craig, Commander

Naval Reserves.

After meeting with senior leadership, the Prince enjoyed an in-depth description of the visible RCN infrastructure in Esquimalt Harbour by Cmdre Auchterlonie.

Prince Edward was especially pleased to meet five local Royal Canadian Sea Cadets helping out on the Orca for the day. All of the cadets are recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a youth award program founded in 1956 by Prince Edward's father, Prince Philip.

Later in the day, 87

young people from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland were presented with the prestigious award during a ceremony at Government House by Prince Edward himself. The Award, open to all young Canadians aged from 14 to 24 years, is a non-competitive program in which participants set and achieve personal goals for community service, skills, fitness, and adventure.

After having lunch in the Orca galley, the Earl of Wessex stood on the ship's bridge as it entered Victoria's Inner Harbour.

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# National commendations for Vancouver Island veterans

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, visited CFB Esquimalt Sept. 12 to recognize 11 Vancouver Island veterans for their service to Canada.

The veterans each received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, which honours veterans and civilians for exceptional work within the veteran community.

"It's a privilege to recognize the selfless efforts of these individuals who have generously given their time and energy to support and care for our veterans," said Minister Fantino. "Their exemplary contributions are indicative of the enormous respect and gratitude shared by all Canadians for the men and women who have served in uniform."

The awards were handed out during a banquet in the Rainbow Room at the

Chiefs' and Petty Officers' Mess.

Among the recipients were two Victoria residents, James Patrick MacMillan-Murphy, and Joan O. Thomas.

MacMillan-Murphy is a retired Peacekeeper who was recognized for his work as founder of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, the founder and editor of The Blue Beret newsletter, and work with the Royal Canadian Legion and the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Thomas served as a Nursing Sister in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp during the Second World War. Since then, she served as secretary-treasurer for the Royal United Services Institute in the 1970s, and was instrumental in the raising of two plaques commemorating all Nursing Sister servicewomen, which now stand in Langford's Memorial Park.



Photos courtesy of Veterans Affairs Canada

**Top Left:** Joan O. Thomas receives the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for her work with the Royal United Service Institute, and her instrumental role in raising two plaques commemorating the service of all Nursing Sister servicewomen during the Second World War, of which Thomas served herself.

**Top Right:** James MacMillan-Murphy was honoured for his work as a Peacekeeper, and his dedicated involvement in various veterans programs including the Editor and Founder of the Blue Beret newsletter, founder of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, and his work with the Royal Canadian Legion.

**Bottom:** The gathered recipients of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendations with the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs.



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Published each Monday, under the authority of  
Capt(N) Steve Waddell, Base Commander.

Le LOOKOUT est publié tous les lundis,  
sous l'égide du Capt(N) Steve Waddell,  
Commandant de la Base.

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge  
or reject copy or advertising to adhere to  
policy as outlined in CFA0 57.5. Views and  
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A Division of Personnel Support Programs  
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# Charity campaign messages

## From the Admiral

I am pleased to see the commencement of the 2014 Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) across MARPAC, and I am looking forward to another successful year in which we achieve 100 percent canvassing to allow everyone the opportunity to contribute should they choose to.

The GCWCC is a consolidated giving campaign that allows our members the flexibility to direct their donations

to specific organizations of their choice, including the Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC). The MFRC is a Formation organization that does so much to assist military members and their families, and is also a registered Canadian charitable organization that relies on fund raising to continue these valuable programs.

I would like to announce that this year's campaign goal is \$650,000. Last year more than \$600,000 was raised by CFB Esquimalt,

the largest contributor to the local United Way of Greater Victoria. With proven perseverance, high energy and hard work, I know we can achieve this goal.

This year, Capt(N) Steve Waddell, CFB Esquimalt Base Commander, and Capt(N) Chris Earl, Commanding Officer of Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Breton, will be spearheading this campaign. They will provide outstanding leadership for the continued success of

this campaign within the Formation. I would also like to thank Ms. Vicki Laidlaw for her continued hard work and dedication over the last six years as the Formation Campaign Coordinator.

On Sept. 30, 2014, there will be a Formation Appreciation Barbecue hosted by FMF from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with fund raising activities to participate in. I encourage everyone to come down and show your support.

I would like to personally thank all those who

dedicate their time to the GCWCC. You make the difference. Your hard work changes the lives of people living in your community, whether a friend, a neighbor or a family member.

Have fun with the various campaign events, and I encourage everyone across the Formation to become actively involved in this worthy cause.

**Bill S. Truelove**  
Rear-Admiral  
Commander MARPAC  
and JTFP

## From the Base Commander

It is with great enthusiasm and motivation that I assume the role of your 2014 Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) Chair. I am thrilled to be part of such an inspiring team of volunteers and donors. Collectively, I know that we have the ability and the tools within our campaign to make a significant difference – be it for those in our local community, or others across our nation who count on our annual support.

No matter where I have served across our great country, I have been and continue to be exceedingly proud and fortunate to have the opportunity to participate and contribute within the GCWCC. As a consolidated charitable giving campaign, the GCWCC allows federal employees and retirees to build stronger, healthier communities by supporting United Way, Health partners and thousands of other registered Canadian charities - including our very own Military Family



**From left: Eric Neilsen, Therese Boullard, Jordan Perrault, Kim Manton, Capt(N) Steve Waddell, Base Commander of CFB Esquimalt, and Vicki Laidlaw, at the United Way Health Partners booth at the Industrial Supplier Trade Show.**

Resource Centre. I was impressed and delighted to discover that the GCWCC is the largest and most successful workplace fund raising campaign in Canada, and I am particularly enthused with the flexibility to direct my donor

dollars to the organizations that resonate most with me.

Thank you for taking time to consider this message, and I encourage you to think about supporting our charitable campaign. Our goal, as always, is to

create and sustain an enduring awareness of the needs of the people, agencies and organizations that benefit from your selfless giving and volunteerism. Equally important, we must remember to celebrate our successes and share the stories of people who have been helped – many of whom are now giving back and fostering that continuous circle of caring and philanthropy.

To those donors who repeatedly contribute their time and dollars - year after year – I offer my deepest appreciation. To those of you who are joining us as new volunteers and donors – my many thanks in advance! Together, we can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of so many.

Have a great campaign, have fun, and keep up the remarkable charitable momentum we are all so proud of!

**Steve Waddell**  
Captain (Navy)  
GCWCC Campaign Chair

## From the Leadership Chair

It is with great pleasure that I assume the role of leadership chair for the 2014 Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC). Each year, the MARPAC community lends its support to build a strong and healthy community by supporting the myriad of registered charities both locally and across our vast country. We do so by volunteering time and through monetary donations to assist those in need. Last year, more than half of the campaign total came from leadership donors. This is an incredible accomplishment and I look forward to your continued support this year.

Campaigns such as the GCWCC would not be possible without a dynamic group of volunteers who work tirelessly to organize events, generate enthusiasm, and proactively promote the GCWCC cause. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the efforts of these volunteers and to solicit your support in expressing our sincere thanks. Without volunteers, a successful GCWCC campaign would simply not be possible.

As members of the Defence community, we are routinely called upon to help others in the far reaching corners of the world. This campaign is about helping those in our community who potentially live around the

corner or whose children attend school with ours. I encourage you to proactively talk to your friends and co-workers about what the campaign means to you as personal experience can often be a significant motivator. This act alone with greatly assist our volunteers to advertise the benefits of giving.

Have a great campaign and let's all share in the spirit of giving. I look forward to seeing all of you at the various events around the Formation.

**Christopher Earl**  
Captain (Navy)  
GCWCC Leadership Chair

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# People Talk: Regina Homecoming



Lookout asked this question:  
*Who are you waiting for, and why are you most excited for them to be home?*

My husband MS Paul Curtis. I'm excited to finally see him again, and have him be with the kids. They've missed him a lot.

*Bethany Curtis*



I was on Regina up until a few months ago, so it will be nice to have my friends and shipmates back.

*LS Reuben Yance*



My son, OS Patrick Burgess. It's been eight and half months since I've heard his voice. We've been communicating, but not talking.

*Karen Burgess*



Lt(N) Jeffrey Anderson, my dad. He's been gone for eight months and I'm excited to see him again in person, and not on Skype.

*Troy Anderson*



My friends Alex and Danielle. They're my good friends and they've been gone a long time. I took a day of leave just to come say hello.

*OS Amie-Anne Savage*

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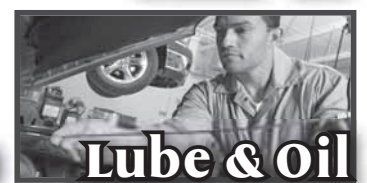
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# CFB ESQUIMALT **INDUSTRIAL** SUPPLIER TRADE SHOW

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SEPTEMBER 18



PO1 Stephen MacInnis (left) and Sgt Jason Forget take a look at the flash-light models Aaron Collett of Pelican had on display.



Shane Donen of GRIDRAX explains their array of eco-friendly cleaning products to Janice Huizinga.



RADM Bill Truelove, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, stops by for a chat with Jackie Carlé and Rhiannon Porcellato of the Military Family Resource Centre.



The fine folks at DeadBeetz feed the hungry masses at the Industrial Supplier Trade Show.



Douglas Bigrigg shows off the latest from Argosy Communication Products to Jim Backland.



The L'Authentique crew slings burgers and poutine to waiting trade show attendees.



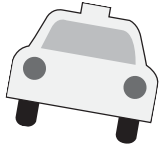


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# Navy begins transition to the future fleet

DND

As the Royal Canadian Navy undergoes its most extensive peacetime modernization in history, Vice Admiral Mark Norman, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), announced on Friday the upcoming retirement of four ships that have reached the end of their operational lives.

The ships are *HMC Ships Protecteur* and *Preserver*, two Protecteur-class auxiliary oil replenishment (AOR) ships; and *HMC Ships Iroquois* and *Algonquin*, two Iroquois-class guided missile destroyers (DDG). The retirement of these vessels has been anticipated for some time, and is a step towards the introduction of new ships and capabilities set to be delivered through the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS), as well as recognition of the RCN's commitment to the responsible use of public funds while maintaining Canada's naval readiness.

## From the Admiral

The summer has passed quickly and I hope that you each had an opportunity to take some vacation. It has been a busy summer across the Formation as we have continued to deliver on our core missions including ships to sea, SAR, Cadets as well as being prepared to respond as necessary within our JTFP construct.

At the same time, the navy has continued its implementation of the executive plan as we prepare, with energy and excitement, to receive the future fleet of modernized frigates, Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships, Joint Support Ships and, in due course, the Canadian Surface Combatant.

Yesterday [Sept. 18], I was thrilled to hear the announcement of the name of the first AOPS – HMCS Harry DeWolf. Today [Sept 19], we took another important step in that journey with the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy's announcement of the plan to decommission *HMC Ships Protecteur*, *Algonquin*, *Preserver* and *Iroquois*. Each of these ships has served us well for decades and collectively have now reached the end of their operational lives. I am immensely proud of these ships and all who have served in them.

With the announcement, we can now

move forward with the complex work of preparing the ships for decommissioning and eventual disposal. There remains much to be done to ensure that these activities are completed in a deliberate, safe, environmentally appropriate and cost effective manner. At the same time, we will be continuing our ongoing efforts to ensure that the crews of these ships

receive the training and at sea experience necessary for them to advance, as appropriate, through their careers.

As always, significant announcements like this one will lead to rumours and speculation. I encourage you to address any questions/concerns you may have through your chain of command/management team.

Ladies and Gentlemen – our navy is proud of its 104-year history of operational excellence at home and around the world. As I look ahead to our next 100 years, I am confident that we will continue our proud tradition of operational excellence enabled by the important steps in our transition to the future fleet we are taking now.

Thank you to you and your families for your ongoing service to our great nation. I am incredibly proud and honoured to be your Formation Commander and shipmate.

**We can now move forward with the complex work of preparing the ships for decommissioning and eventual disposal.**

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Session 0084, Nov. 18-21. Registration deadline Nov. 7.

Provided by the staff of the Canadian Forces Military Law Centre in Kingston, the Intermediate Law of Armed Conflict (ILOAC) course is designed to provide officers and senior non-commissioned members with a greater understanding of Canada's obligations and their own personal responsibilities under the Law of Armed Conflict.

The course covers the Geneva and Hague Conventions, as well as other international legal instruments and treaties and pertinent Canadian law.

The course is four days

in duration and is normally taught four to five times annually at different bases across Canada, as well as at the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Forces College, and internationally through the Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation (DMTC).

Members at the Sgt/PO2 rank and above who are interested in attending this course should request nomination in MITE (Code 114049) through their chain of command or unit training coordinator.

TD funding for applicants without a session in their geographic area is available through CFSTG Borden.

## Relocation policy change

DND

The Government of Canada has announced changes to the Intended Place of Residence (IPR) policy for retiring Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members.

Following a review by the Department of National Defence, the Government of Canada is amending the IPR policy to apply only to members moving outside a 40 km radius within a one-year period following their retirement.

This change will better align the IPR policy with those of other federal government departments and agencies such as the RCMP. It will also include compas-

sionate exceptions for medical reasons and extenuating personal circumstances.

The IPR policy assists retiring CAF members to return to their hometowns or final destinations following their military service.

This policy covers costs associated with a move including real estate commission, lawyer's fees, brokerage fees, meal reimbursement when travelling, commercial lodging expenses, travel, packaging, and shipping.

Canadian Forces Integrated Relocation Program Directive can be found at [www.forces.gc.ca/en/about-policies-standards-benefits-relocation/toc-byyear.page](http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about-policies-standards-benefits-relocation/toc-byyear.page)

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- You must register with Elections BC as a third party sponsor **before** conducting any advertising.
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- You must not sponsor advertising by, or on behalf of, a candidate or elector organization.

More information on the new rules is available at [elections.bc.ca/lecfa](http://elections.bc.ca/lecfa). Registration forms and the Third Party Sponsor Guide to Local Elections in B.C. can be downloaded at the Third Party Sponsors page.

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# Home at last!



The anticipation could be seen on the faces of sailors waiting to disembark and be reunited with friends and loved ones waiting onshore.



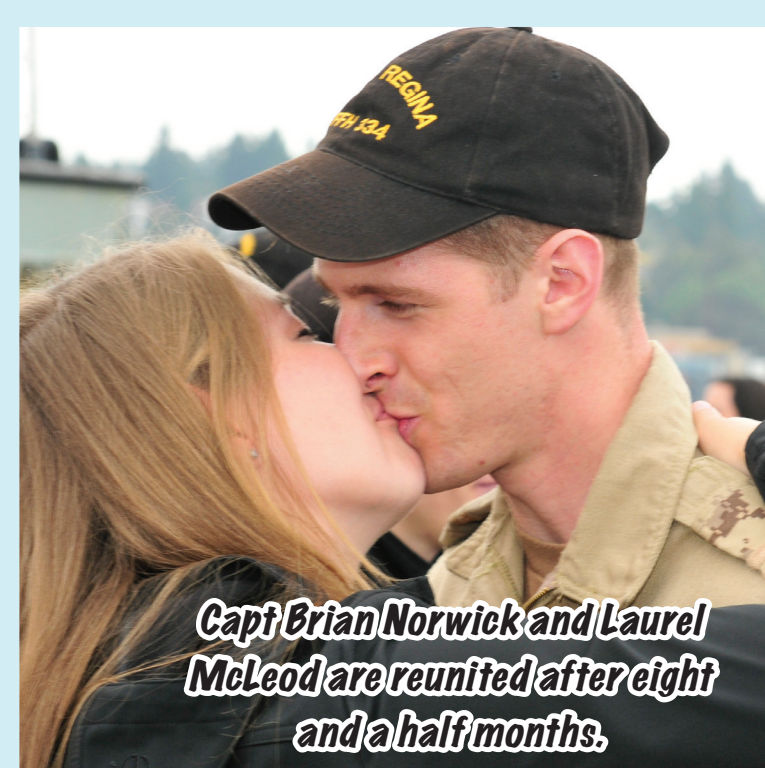
PO2 Kurtis Fraser is reunited with wife Kyla, son Andrew, 6, and daughter Abigail, 2.



Shawn O'Hara, Lookout



Friends MCpl Danielle Allen and LS Steve Bish.



Capt Brian Norwick and Laurel McLeod are reunited after eight and a half months.



LS Zachariah Stopa, MARPAC HQ/JTF(P)

Many families made welcome banners to be seen at the homecoming.



LS JOSOL  
I've Gone 222 Days  
Without Your Kiss!  
SO PUCKER UP  
My Little Yam

Meagan Miller has a special message for LS Josol when he comes off of the ship.

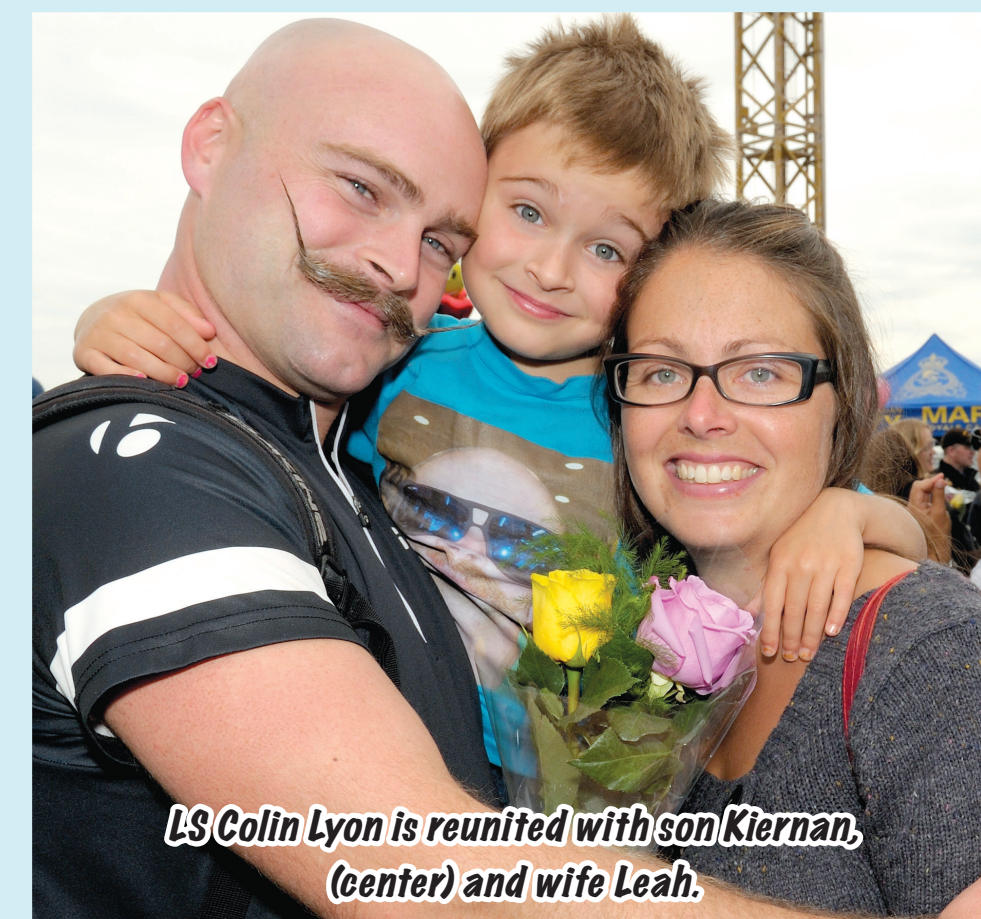


Rob Nicholson, Minister of National Defence, and Commodore Auchterlonie welcome Regina from the Duntze Head dais.

Ed Dixon, MARPAC Imaging Services



HMCS Regina sails past Duntze Head, and receives the welcome home salute from Commodore Bob Auchterlonie, Commander CANFLTAC.



LS Colin Lyon is reunited with son Kiernan, (center) and wife Leah.

Cpl Blaine Sewell, MARPAC Imaging Services



# MFRC

ESQUIMALT

## WANTED: 150 Champions

Last year, we had 70 people pledge money to the MFRC through the GCWCC. This year, our goal is 150 people.

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## Ethics survey returns

The 2014 Defence Ethics Survey, now on its fifth iteration and sponsored by the Defence Ethics Programme, was released in September.

The anonymous, voluntary survey will collect input from a random sample of DND and CAF personnel, including reserves. Those chosen to participate have been notified.

### Why is this survey important?

Ethics is a topic of importance in the CAF, and in DND. As such, the survey is a critical tool that, based on respondent feedback, will guide the development of ethics initiatives and training programs.

In addition, results will assist senior leaders in creating conditions aimed at

fostering ethical attitudes and behaviour. Survey results will also contribute to international research collaborations, allowing DND to obtain even more insights from the results, while once more bringing visibility to Defence on the world stage in this research field.

### What's new for this year's survey?

This year's survey will measure perceptions of organizational conditions that promote ethical behaviour, with questions such as, "Does your immediate supervisor set a good example in terms of ethical behaviour?"

The survey will also measure ethical risk – the likelihood of defence personnel acting contrary to

one or more of the defence standards or values.

And lastly, the survey aims to be user-friendly. It will be possible to submit it from any computer with internet access (hard copy delivery will be available on request). It will also allow users to save a partially completed survey if finishing it all at one time poses a challenge.

### Your responses matter!

If you were randomly selected to complete the survey, remember that every response matters. We appreciate and value your input, and ask that you encourage your peers and subordinates to complete the survey if selected.

All personnel will be hearing about the results of this important survey.

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## Chapman Brothers - All in the Family

In August, PO2 Brian Chapman of Base Logistics jumped at the chance to deliver a critical part to HMCS Toronto.

The ship was in Greece, and on board was his brother, MS Brad Chapman, a Weapons Technician. He thought this would be a great opportunity to also see his brother.

After many hours of travel, PO2 Chapman finally made it "secretly" on board Toronto.

To generate a surprise, he arranged to have his brother shaken awake in the early hours of the morning with an urgent request to handle an equipment malfunction. Bewildered as to why one of the on-watch members was unavailable to resolve the problem, the sleepy sailor put on his uniform and climbed through the ship's dark interior to attend to the emergency.

He made his way up to the office where his Chief was waiting for him. Over the Chief's shoulder he could see one of his section mates in the reflection of the large monitor holding a camera. Knowing that something was going on, he gently pushed his way into the room where he discovered

*It was the first time the two siblings had the opportunity to be on the same ship during an operation, and both of them were delighted with the opportunity to have such an unexpected family visit.*

his brother standing there with his trademark "gotcha" grin.

The reunion was brief but meaningful. They spent a few hours together catching up before PO2 Chapman had to be on his way back to Victoria. It was the first time the two siblings had the opportunity to be on the same ship during an operation.

Now on the ship, MS Chapman can be found smiling a little more and frowning a little less.

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# 1 Canadian Division visits 443 (MH) Squadron

Capt Rob McMullen, from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, asks a question to MGen Wheeler, Commander 1 CAD, during his town hall at the unit.

**2Lt Gesar Saunders**  
443 MH Squadron

Major-General D.L.R. Wheeler, Comd 1 CAD, visited 443 (Maritime Helicopter) Squadron on Aug. 7.

MGen Wheeler had the opportunity to tour the new multi-use hangar, which is currently under construction.

The tour was led by Major Cory Kwasny, 443 Squadron's Acting Commanding Officer; Major Sarah


Thornton, Special Projects Officer; and Lt(N) Mike Gloude, Building Transition Officer. The tour highlighted the enhanced operational capabilities of the new hangar facility.

"We were pleased to have had the opportunity to show the new 443 Squadron building to MGen Wheeler," said Maj Thornton.

LCol MacNamara, Commanding Officer of 443 Squadron, stated, "This building will finally allow for all unit operations to be housed under a single roof


and will provide operational enhancements that are not available in the current facilities. This building and its technology will advance the abilities of this unit as we move from the CH-124 Sea King helicopter to the Sikorsky CH-148 Cyclone helicopter."

While at 443 Squadron, MGen Wheeler held a town hall where a number of key operational topics were discussed. Following the town hall, MGen Wheeler had the opportunity to fly in a CH-124 Sea King prior to departing the unit.



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## Incentive prizes for charity campaign

### ROUND TRIP FOR TWO BETWEEN VICTORIA AND SEATTLE ON THE CLIPPER (value \$300)

Those who submit - or have already submitted - their GCWCC gift form (any amount) to their unit campaign representative by Nov. 5 will be automatically entered into a draw for a round trip for two to Seattle, WA, on the Clipper.

### PRINCE OF WHALES WHALE WATCHING TRIP FOR TWO (value \$230)

Those who submit - or have already submitted - their GCWCC gift form (any amount) to their unit campaign representative by Nov. 12 will be automatically entered into this draw. Entries from Nov. 5 will remain in the draw as well.

### ONE NIGHT ACCOMODATION FOR TWO AT THE CHATEAU VICTORIA (value \$200)

Those who submit - or have already submitted - their GCWCC gift form (any amount) to their unit campaign coordinator by Nov. 19 will be automatically entered into this draw. Entries from Nov. 5 and 12 will remain in the draw as well.

### SUNDAY BRUNCH FOR FOUR AT LAUREL POINT INN AND A TEA BASKET FROM MURCHIES (value \$200)

The daily change left in your pocket can win you this awesome prize. Anyone who submits a gift form of \$150 or more to their 2014 GCWCC campaign unit representative by Nov. 26 will be automatically entered.

### VEHICLE GIFT BAG (leather shifter, sunglasses, automatic battery charger, roadside emergency kit, fleece jacket) (value \$330)

Become a Leader! Anyone who submits a gift form at the Leadership level (\$500 or more) to their 2014 GCWCC campaign unit representative by Nov. 26 will be automatically entered in this draw.

*Note: Please submit your Unit's qualifying names directly to Vicki Laidlaw by the day after EACH deadline (Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27) - draws will happen at noon each Friday following the deadline.*

For more info, please contact Vicki Laidlaw, Campaign Coordinator, (250) 363-2595.

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# HMCS Protecteur awards and promotions

Cdr Julian Elbourne, Commanding Officer of HMCS Protecteur, made several presentations to members of his crew.



MCpl Karl Vitovec is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.



LS Jason Field is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.



MS Andrew Brown is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.



Sgt Kathryn Leblanc is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.



PO2 Anthony Goodwin is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.



AB Steven Appleton is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp.



CPO2 Romuald Olejnik is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp.



CPO2 Cory Doyle is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp.



PO1 Kirk Mellor is awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration Second Clasp.



AB Kenidson Derival receives the AOR Auxilliary Machinery Operator certificate.



AB Kristopher Hiller receives his AOR Auxilliary Machinery Operator certificate.



MS Nicolas Ferraro is awarded the Sailor of the Month for August.



AB Gatlin Wunder is promoted to his current rank.



AB Margeaux Parkinson is promoted to her current rank.



AB Kristopher Hiller is promoted to his current rank.



AB Kenidson Derival is promoted to his current rank.



LS Maxwell Honeyman is promoted to his current rank by Cdr Elbourne, Lt(N) Syrus Stogran, and PO1 Kirk Mellor.



LS Shaun Reilly is promoted to his current rank by Cdr Elbourne and Lt(N) Richard Armstrong.



AB Sergej Krivenko is promoted to his current rank by Cdr Elbourne and Lt(N) Richard Armstrong.



# Venture Class of '64

## a long-standing reunion

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

Laughs were shared, glasses were raised, and more than a few tears were shed when 25 men gathered at Naval Office Training Centre (NOTC) Venture to mark 50 years since they had passed through its doors.

Members of the Venture Class of 1964 gathered in the Wellend Room at the Venture Accommodation Block to bid farewell after a three-day celebration of their momentous milestone.

"It's nice to see all these old faces, even after all this time," said Cdr (Ret'd) Graeme Evans, a resident of Victoria and graduate of the 1964 Short Service Officer Plan, who came for the festivities. "We all stayed in relatively close contact during our careers, and even in our retired lives it's still refreshing to see people again."

Get-togethers like this have happened every five years since 1974. Organized largely by Cdr (Ret'd) Matt Durnford, they

began as a way to keep tabs on old friends, and maintain bonds made many years ago.

"We all went through a lot together back in the day, and you don't forget friends like these," says Cdr Durnford, who now lives in Riverport, Nova Scotia. "We've all spread out over the last 50 years, so it's nice to be able to get together, catch up, and remember the old times."

The celebrations included a meet and greet at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, dinner at the Union Club, and a lot of laughs.

The class also raised a glass of 35-year-old port to those of their group that have passed on.

"It's been a long time, and we've lost more than a few," says Cdr Durnford. "They are in our hearts and our minds, and we will never forget them."

During the final send off the "students" were joined by LCdr (Ret'd) Norm Anderson, who was an instructor at Venture during their time in the program.

"We were all terrified of him," says Cdr Evans. "He was this

great big officer and we were all just cadets. Even now he's pretty intimidating, but it was great to see him."

LCdr Anderson had a few words to say to his students, 50 years after the fact.

"You've all come a long way since then," he said, raising a glass of port to his old class. "It's hard to imagine that this group of men is the same one I was ordering around half a century ago, but it does my heart glad to see you have all lived such full lives, and had such fulfilling careers. I'm proud of each and every one of you."

As the graduates began filing out, starting their journeys back home, it was a bitter sweet goodbye.

"It will be at least another five years, maybe a lot longer, before we see any of these people again," says Cdr Evans. "You have to show your love and appreciation for your friends while they're here, because you never know where life is going to take you. That's what these gatherings are all about."



Cdr (Ret'd) Matt Durnford and SLt (Ret'd) Len Kirby share a tearful embrace as they say goodbye.



The Venture Class of 1964 raises a glass to new and old friends, and those who have died, during the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Photos by Shawn O'Hara, Lookout





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