

HMCS Winnipeg  
returns Tuesday!  
Read more inside



Volume 61 Number 8 | February 22, 2016

# LOOKOUT

MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C

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of the Liberation of Kuwait  
Read more on pages 10-11.



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# FAMILIES, FRIENDS STOKED FOR HMCS Winnipeg's RETURN



**Above:** Avery Snook, 7, and Hayley Snook, 3, make a banner for their father PO2 Jeffrey Snook.

**Top:** Kaelyn Murphy, 5, with sister Amaya Murphy, 7, make a banner for their father MCpl Ryan Murphy during a banner making session in preparation for the homecoming of HMCS Winnipeg.

**Peter Mallet**  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, A jetty will be filled with the family and friends of HMCS Winnipeg crew members as they anxiously await the return of the warship.

Just before 10 a.m., the frigate will sail past Duntze Head and take the welcome home salute from Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, before coming alongside the jetty.

For the crew, it will mark the end of an eight-and-a-half month, 53,875 nautical mile journey that started June 15, 2015.

"With tremendous gratitude to you the family members we can all celebrate HMCS Winnipeg pointing her bow towards Esquimalt Harbour and making her best speed home to be with you," said the ship's Commanding Officer, Cdr Jeff Hutchinson via teleconference during a Sunday information ses-

sion at Colwood's Pacific Activity Centre on Valentine's Day. "Our hearts are there already, we will be there with you in person soon enough."

The final monthly Sunday information session was one of the most satisfying for the families because it included an hour-long banner making session. Armed with paintbrushes and art supplies, children created colourful homecoming signs that will greet their parent when they return home.

Crystal Murphy's two daughters Amaya, 7, and Kaelyn, 5, were extremely proud of the banner they created for their father MCpl Ryan Murphy that reads: "His 'cammies' are green, his boots are black, we've waited 253 days to have our Daddy back."

"I'm looking forward to playing Bear Trap with my Daddy," said Kaelyn. "I hide under a blanket and he pulls my legs and tickles my arm pits. I miss doing all those fun things and I want to see him

soon."

As Erin Snook, wife of PO2 Jeffrey Snook, and her two daughters Avery, 7, and Hayley, 3, worked on a banner, they talked about how they had filled up a giant candy jar at home when Winnipeg deployed.

"Every day we each ate one candy out of the jar, and now there are only nine, the sweetest part will be when there are no candies left and Daddy is home," said Erin.

Commodore Jeff Zwick attended the CPAC event and noted the work done by the MFRC and families as "incredibly important."

"Having the opportunity to do many deployments myself, there is nothing better when you come around Duntze Head, enter Esquimalt Harbour and pull into the jetty and you look and try to spot your loved one in the crowd, and the banners made especially for you. There is no better feeling in the world."



## From the Admiral HMCS Winnipeg welcome home

On Feb. 23 HMCS Winnipeg returns to be re-united with families and friends after an extremely successful eight-and-a-half month deployment.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the entire crew of HMCS Winnipeg for your devotion to duty, excellence at sea, and resilience in the face of many challenges. You have come together as a ship's company and demonstrated to all our allies the Royal Canadian Navy's capability and commitment to international maritime security.

The focus of your mission was the six-months spent on Operation Reassurance, during which time you served with two Standing NATO Maritime Groups in support of NATO's mission to build maritime

situational awareness in the Mediterranean Sea and European waters. Your work on Reassurance has strengthened our reputation in NATO as a dependable ally and skilled fighting force.

It is also important to recognize that you were engaged in operations both before and after Operation Reassurance. Upon the start of the deployment, you conducted surveillance patrols in the eastern Pacific Ocean in support of Operation Caribbe, and on your return transit to Canada, you participated in counterterrorism and maritime security operations in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in support of Operation Artemis.

During the final month of your deployment, you continued to further Canada's Strategic inter-

ests through port visits in India, Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan. During your visits you promoted Canada's security and national interests and advanced the RCN's interoperability with other navies.

Since starting this extensive mission in June 2015, you have circumnavigated the globe and sailed more than 53,875 nautical miles, spent 254 days at sea, operated with 102 ships from 20 other navies, and visited 17 different countries. Your ship's CH-124 Sea King Helicopter flew more than 200 sorties totaling more than 500 flying hours.

I would also like to congratulate all MARPAC units for your unwavering support and dedication; HMCS Winnipeg's success is your success. Your professionalism and expertise kept our ship

safe, equipped, and informed, which ensured mission success.

To the families of the crew, please accept my sincere appreciation for the support you have provided our dedicated sailors, soldiers and aviators. Thank you for being their foundation and their inspiration. To the staff of the Military Family Resource Centre, Personnel Support Programs, and Formation Clergy, thank you for assisting the families of HMCS Winnipeg throughout the deployment. Your contribution was essential to the ship's success.

Bravo Zulu for a job extremely well done and most importantly, welcome home.

**Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier**  
Commander MARPAC/JTFP





# Facts about the deployment, like what it takes to feed the crew

- *HMCS Winnipeg* was the second modernized Halifax-class frigate to deploy overseas in support of Canadian Armed Forces operations.
  - *Winnipeg* deployed as the Maritime Component of Operation Reassurance, the Canadian Armed Forces contribution to support NATO assurance measures in Central and Eastern Europe.
  - On route to the Operation Reassurance area of operations, *Winnipeg* provided support to Operation Caribe, Canada's commitment to the multinational campaign against illicit trafficking and organized crime in the Caribbean Sea and the Eastern Pacific Ocean.
  - *Winnipeg* served with Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1) and Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG2), both of which engaged in maritime situational awareness operations to detect, deter and disrupt terrorism in the Mediterranean Sea. Standing NATO Maritime Groups are multinational, integrated maritime forces made up of vessels from various allied countries.
- While serving with SNMG1 in the coastal water of Western Europe, *Winnipeg* participated in three major multi-national joint task force exercises:
- **Exercise Northern Coast**  
A joint task force exercise that took place in the coastal waters of Denmark from Sept. 21-25, 2015, and involved more than 30 warships representing 13 NATO countries.
  - **Exercise Joint Warrior**  
A Royal Navy led joint task force exercise that took place in the coastal waters of the United Kingdom from Oct. 3-15, 2015, and involved more than 30 warships representing 12 NATO countries.
  - **Exercise Trident Juncture**  
The largest NATO led exercise in more than 20 years took place in the waters surrounding the Straits of Gibraltar from Oct. 18 - Nov. 6, 2015. The exercise employed more than 70 ships, eight submarines, nine maritime patrol aircraft and 3000 Marines from 12 NATO countries.
- From Sept. 15 - 18, 2015, *Winnipeg* represented the Government of Canada at the Defence and Security Equipment international exhibition, the largest defence industry trade show in the world.
  - During the deployment, *Winnipeg* and crew conducted 21 visits to foreign ports, in 14 different countries, reaching out to like-minded nations and partners to promote security, stability and prosperity. The following countries were visited: France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Panama, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
  - During the deployment, *Winnipeg* provided support to Operation Artemis the Canadian Armed Forces' contribution to counter-terrorism and maritime security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Western Indian Ocean.
  - In total, *Winnipeg* was deployed for a period of eight and a half months spending more than 254 days at sea, which is significantly longer than most Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ship deployments.
  - During the ship's transit back to Canada from the Mediterranean Sea, the focus of *Winnipeg's* mission was on strategic engagement activities throughout Asia in support of the RCN's global engagement strategy to help build practical skills and mutual understanding with other navies.
  - *Winnipeg* employed 16 members of the RCN reserve force, more than any other ship that was deployed in the operational theatre.
  - *Winnipeg* was the first unit to employ the RCN's Enhanced Naval Boarding Party in an operational theatre. The team spent approximately four months on board the ship.
  - *HMCS Fredericton* replaced *Winnipeg* in the Operation Reassurance area of operations when they joined SNMG2 on Jan. 9, 2016.

## Here are some highlights of the deployment of the HMCS Winnipeg:

### Deployment

- Deployed: June 15, 2015
- Duration: 254 days at sea. Eight-and-a-half months in total
- Distance Travelled: 53,875 nautical miles or 99,776.5 kilometres or the equivalent to circum-navigating the globe 2.5 times.

of Suez: 1 day; Red Sea: 2 days; Gulf of Aden: 2 days; Arabian Sea: 8 days; Indian Ocean: 2 days; Andaman Sea: 4 days; Strait of Malacca: 4 days; South China Sea: 4 days; Philippine Sea: 8 days

### Time at Sea

- Pacific Ocean: 33 days
- Atlantic Ocean: 52 days
- Mediterranean Sea: 86 days
- North Sea: 39 days
- Others: Irish Sea: 1 day; Aegean and Marmara Seas: 8 days; Gulf

### Feeding the Crew

- 14,580 litres of milk
- 4,374 litres of ketchup
- 2,083 litres of ice cream
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Photo by Corporal Blaine Sewell, MARPA Imaging Services

Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPA) Commander, Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier (front centre left), along with senior leadership, (both military and civilian), from MARPA and CFB Esquimalt don pink t-shirts to show support for the 2016 Anti-Bullying Day. Anti-Bullying Day will be Feb. 24.

## SPORTS trivia

by Tom Thomson and Stephen Stone  
Contributor

### QUESTIONS?

1. Which team holds the record for most wins in one season?
2. Which team holds the record for the fewest wins in one season?
3. How many records does Wayne Gretzky hold or share?
4. Who holds the record for the most points in one game?
5. What is a "Gordie Howe Hat Trick"?
6. Which goaltender holds the record for the greatest number of tie games in their career?
7. Which goaltender appeared in the greatest number of regular season games in one season?
8. Who holds the record for the most assists by a goaltender in a single season?
9. Who holds the record for the most short-handed goals in one game?
10. Which NHL goaltender holds the record for the longest undefeated streak in one season?
11. Who is the oldest player to win the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year?
12. Who is the youngest player to win the Calder Trophy?
13. Which team has had the greatest number of Calder Trophy winners?
14. Which position has won the greatest number of Calder Trophies?

- Answers
1. Detroit Red Wings - 62 (1995-1996).
  2. Washington Capitals - 8 (1974-1975).
  3. 61 records.
  4. Darryl Sittler, Toronto Maple Leafs - 10 points (February 7, 1976, vs. Boston Bruins).
  5. A goal, an assist, and a fight in the same game. Howe only ever did this twice in his career, but the name stuck.
  6. Terry Sawchuk, eight teams - 172.
  7. Grant Fuhr, St. Louis Blues - 79 (1995-1996).
  8. Grant Fuhr, Edmonton Oilers - 14 (1983-1984).
  9. Theoren Fleury, Calgary Flames - 3 (March 9, 1991, vs. St. Louis Blues).
  10. Gerry Cheevers, Boston Bruins - 32 games: 24 wins, eight ties (1971-1972).
  11. Sergei Makarov, Calgary Flames - age 31 (1989-1990). The rules were changed the next year to allow only those less than 26 years of age before September 15 of their rookie season to be eligible to win the trophy.
  12. Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado Avalanche - Age 18 (2013-2014).
  13. Toronto Maple Leafs - 9.
  14. Centre - 26 trophies. (Trophy count for other positions: right wing - 18, goal - 16, defense - 11, and left wing - 11).

# WEAR PINK FOR THE FLEET RUN

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## MCpl Mitchell Keith Keller obituary

MCpl Mitchell Keith Keller, 31, a Canadian Armed Forces member serving in Maryland, United States, passed away suddenly on Jan. 25, 2016.

Mitchell was a proud member of the Canadian Armed Forces, who met his wife, Alison (Bennett) while posted to CFB Esquimalt. He was an exemplary husband and loving father to their son Alexander (4.5 years).

He was honoured to have been chosen to represent his country in Maryland, USA. Mitchell was an inspiration to those around him. He set the example as a husband, father, and soldier for all to emulate.

Mitchell is survived by his wife, Alison; son, Alexander; mother, Michelle Annis; grandmother, Dorothy

Jenkins; brothers, Steven (Brandy) and Matthew (Chantel); sister, Shawnesy (Jon); nieces and nephews, Olivia Keller and David Jenkins.

Also close to him were his mother- and father-in-law, Joan and Norm Bennett; sister- and brother-in-law, Marcy Bennett (Pauline) and Scott Bennett (Kathryn).

A service and reception to honour Mitchell's life and military duty took place on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, at McCall's Funeral Home.

Mitchell will forever be a hero in all of our hearts.

Please make donations to Testicular Cancer Awareness Foundation: [www.testicularcancerawarenessfoundation.org](http://www.testicularcancerawarenessfoundation.org)



Photos by MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services

**Funeral Services of Master Corporal Mitchell Keith Keller took place at the McCall Bros Funeral Home Feb. 13. MCpl Keller passed away in Glen Burnie, Maryland, on Jan. 25.**







## Victoria Royals visit the Damage Control School



Teammates are briefed by LS Robb upon exiting the burn room.



A group from the Qualification Level 5 (QL5) Hull Tech course battle a simulated helicopter crash fire.



PO2 Powell, introduces the group to the flood tank.



Photos by Cpl Brent Kenny, MARPAC Imaging Services  
Team members and staff of the Victoria Royals Jr. Hockey Club compete in a mini skills competition involving hose handling and nozzle manipulation at Fleet School's Damage Control School on Feb. 10.

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# Tomorrow's sailors sail today - cadets in HMCS Whitehorse

**SLt Eric Mullen**  
HMCS Whitehorse

Cadets from the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps DeWolf in Campbell River were given an opportunity to experience the life of a professional sailor on board *HMCS Whitehorse* on Feb. 17.

Seven Cadets and their Cadet Instructor Cadre Officer met the ship's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat at a jetty in Campbell River

before being spirited away to the Kingston Class Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel for a day sail.

Following a tour of the ship and meeting with the Command team, they were treated to a surprise when a Cormorant helicopter from 442 Squadron arrived to conduct a series of hoists from *Whitehorse's* foc'sle.

After enjoying a meal hosted by the ship's company, the cadets were promptly put to work learning about the many occupations represented on board. They were able to get some experience steering the ship, and to learn about the engineering and operational capability of the vessel.

This is one of several opportunities that *Whitehorse* will have over the next couple of weeks to host cadets and members of coastal communities during its patrol along Canada's Pacific Coast.



Photos by LS Ogle Henry, MARPAC Imaging Services

**Above:** A search and rescue team on board a EC103 Cormorant based at 19 Wing Comox conducts a Vertical Transfer of Personnel with HMCS Whitehorse.

**Left:** A member of HMCS Whitehorse shows a cadet the bridge.

**Below:** LCdr Shane Denny, commanding officer, with members of The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corp and Admiral DeWolf take time for a photo.







# OPERATION PALACI BOOMING SUCCESS



**Above:** A Roto 2 member takes a sight of the avalanche zones on Rogers Pass on one of the 105-mm C3 howitzers located at a road-side gun platform.  
**Top:** Shell casings fly as troops fire rounds to clear the avalanche pathways in Rogers Pass, which transect the Trans-Canada and CP rail lines.

## Ashley Black CJOC

For over 50 years, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Parks Canada have been preventing avalanches using the best known method: creating avalanches.

In 1962, Roger's Pass opened as a mountain pass where the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway cross the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia. In an effort to prevent naturally-occurring avalanches, Parks Canada and the CAF partnered together for Canada's largest avalanche-control program, known to the CAF as Operation Palaci.

The annual program starts in late November with the goal of preventing uncontrolled avalanches by creating small, more frequent avalanches in controlled settings.

For this year's first rotation, 17 members of the Avalanche Control Troop have deployed to Operation Palaci and have been through extensive training to prepare for avalanche control operations.

To ensure the program is successful, Parks Canada staff is responsible for examining snow profiles. Their experts examine snow temperatures, moisture content and conduct various stability tests to determine when avalanche control may be

required.

Parks Canada's avalanche forecasters, and technicians, closely monitor weather, snowfall and snow pack to assess avalanche hazards.

"This analysis is an ongoing, iterative process," said Jeff Goodrich, Senior Avalanche Officer at Parks Canada.

If a snowpack is deemed unstable after much analysis, Parks Canada calls upon the CAF to perform avalanche control operations. A C3 105-mm Howitzer is used to conduct shoots that create small, controlled avalanches.

"Pre-registered targets are carefully chosen by Parks Canada in order to trigger avalanches before they become a danger to the highway. Upon order, the Avalanche Control Troop engages these targets with high explosive projectiles fired from the C3 105-mm Howitzer from various gun positions along the highway," said Lieutenant (Lt) Aaron Brideau, troop commander for Operation Palaci's Roto 1.

The CAF's high readiness and training prepares the troop for when it is essential to conduct avalanche control operations. This level of readiness ensures the CAF can perform its operational duties as efficiently as possible to avoid prolonged highway closure times.

For Lt Brideau, witness-

ing the controlled avalanches reaffirms the purpose of the program.

"The most surprising thing when witnessing an avalanche for the first time is the sheer size of the snow cloud as it comes down the mountain. It underscores the requirement for avalanche control operations in Rogers Pass in order to ensure the safety of all who are travelling through," he said.

The Avalanche Control Program permits motorists to safely use the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian-Pacific Railway throughout the winter. It also allows for Parks Canada to ensure the safety of their visitors and staff at Glacier National Park.

"Op Palaci is an excellent example of how government organizations can work together using their individual expertise to achieve a common goal," said Jeff Goodrich.

The annual success of the world's largest mobile avalanche-control program using artillery fire can be attributed to the strong partnership between the CAF and Parks Canada.

"At the troop level, the relationship between us and Parks Canada is outstanding. They are incredibly professional and skilled at what they do," said Lt Brideau.

Operation Palaci continues until April 2016.



# Canucks Alumni set to battle military

## Get your ticket to watch this epic event

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

A cast of NHL alumni are sharpening their skates and taping their sticks, preparing for a charity hockey battle against top hockey players from the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Heroes Hockey Challenge Victoria 2016 gets underway March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Q Centre in Colwood. The game features Vancouver Canucks Alumni and other celebrities facing off against the Warriors, a squad of top players participating in the Canadian Armed Forces Old Timers Championship at the Wurtele Arena from March 6 to 10.

Alumnus participating in this year's game include defenceman Dave Babych, and centres Cliff Ronning and Kyle Wellwood. Also part of the team will be forward Mark Lofthouse, who played with the Washington Capitals, Detroit Red Wings and Winnipeg Jets, and Ty Gretzky, son of hockey icon Wayne Gretzky.

"This event is an excellent opportunity for Canadian Armed Forces members to play with some of Vancouver Canucks hockey's greatest in support of a worthy cause," said RAdm Gilles Couturier, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific. "All of the money raised will go directly towards programs and services that benefit wounded military members, veterans, their families, and our Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC)."

Proceeds from the \$10 general admission tickets will go to support Heroes Hockey Challenge, owned by the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) Foundation, a group that supports former service members and their families; funds raised from a 50/50 draw will go to the Esquimalt MFRC.

LGen (Ret'd) Ken Foster, President of the PPCLI Foundation, and RAdm Couturier hatched the plan for a Heroes Hockey Challenge (HHC) game in

Victoria over a recent dinner engagement.

HHC, now in its fourth year, has hosted events in Calgary, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Edmonton and Toronto. It was founded by army brat and Vancouver entrepreneur Glenn Cumyn and MCpl (Ret'd) Paul Franklin, a double amputee who lost his legs to a suicide bomber during a 2006 deployment in Afghanistan.

HHC was developed after the two noticed "undeniable similarities" between hockey players and military members, says Cumyn.

"The NHL community, like soldiers, are a very close, tightly knit family," says Cumyn. "While they aren't putting their lives on the line for their countries, hockey players do put their bodies on the line for their teams and fans. In both trades it's all about team work, never letting your teammates down, and always having their back. These are the Canadian Armed Forces heroes."

Cumyn says former Canucks goaltender Richard

Brodeur was one of the HHC's most foremost and ardent supporters. More recently HHC has received support from NHL legends Wayne Gretzky, Johnny Bower, Garry Unger and Darryl Sittler.

In the hours prior to the opening face off of this year's game, HHC will host a fund-raising gala brunch in the Wardroom at 12 p.m. March 6.

Tickets to the event include VIP admission to the game and a post-game reception, also held at the Wardroom. VIP packages range in price of \$1,000 for a table of eight, to \$125 for individuals.

Gala tickets may be reserved by email to [jskempling@gmail.com](mailto:jskempling@gmail.com)

Group tickets will be invoiced for payment in advance. Individual tickets may be paid by cash or cheque at the Wardroom before lunch.

Single-game tickets can be reserved online, to a maximum of eight per order, at [www.selectyourtickets.com](http://www.selectyourtickets.com) or at the Q Centre.



Photo courtesy of Heroes Hockey Challenge

CAF Warriors and former NHL players gather for a group shot following the Abbotsford Heroes Hockey Challenge in April 2013.

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# The Canadian Navy and the Gulf War

**Dr. Richard Gimblett**  
DND

It has been a full quarter-century since a land war in a far off desert region turned the operational focus of the Canadian Navy on its head, and set the tone for the transformation of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), if not the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as a whole, into the 21st century.

When Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait without warning overnight on Aug. 1, 1990, the general expectation was that Canada eventually would participate in a traditional post-hostilities peacekeeping operation.

The rapidly changing international situation, however, allowed for a much different reaction.

The Cold War was ending and Canada held a seat on the United Nations Security Council. While the United States launched Operation Desert Shield and assembled a Coalition to prevent a further Iraqi thrust into Saudi Arabia, the UN passed a series of resolutions authorizing a naval embargo. Keen to show support for UN leadership in what was being called "a new world order," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney directed the navy to join the embargo forces.

The naval officer standing duty in the National Defence Headquarters Operations Centre (then-Lieutenant-Commander Drew Robertson) had the distinction of selecting the codename for the action – Operation Friction.

The East Coast fleet was preparing for the annual fall North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Exercise Teamwork, but the general appreciation was that the aging "steamer" fleet was not up to the threat of Iraqi forces armed with Mirage fighters and Exocet missiles.

The mission meant, moreover, that the role of the fleet literally was turned upside down, from traditional open ocean anti-submarine warfare to anti-surface and anti-air warfare in confined tropical waters. It was truly fortunate that new equipment was being stockpiled for the Halifax-class frigates under construction, and the Tribal-class destroyer Update and Modernization Program (TRUMP).

So, over a busy two-week period, the destroyers HMC Ships Athabaskan and Terra Nova, the supply ship HMCS Protecteur, and their five embarked Sea King helicopters, were hastily upgraded with a range of surface warfare and self-defence capabilities.

They sailed from Halifax on Aug. 24 and arrived in the Gulf to commence operations on Oct. 1. Along the way the mission had continued to evolve.

At a meeting of Coalition naval forces, the task group commander, then-Commodore Ken Summers determined the best placing of Canadian ships would be, not in the safe rear area of the Arabian Sea outside the Strait of Hormuz, but

rather up-threat in the central Gulf, northeast of Bahrain. Adding to the layered defences was the dispatch of a wing of CF-18 Hornets to fly combat air patrols with the United States Navy (an eventual 24 aircraft would deploy to Doha, Qatar).

With this expansion of the commitment, Commodore Summers was designated to move ashore and assume command of the first ever deployed Canadian joint headquarters, in Manamah, Bahrain, and Captain D.M. "Dusty" Miller assumed the mantle of at-sea task group commander. For the next two months, with only 10 per cent of the assigned forces, the three Canadian warships carried out more than a quarter of the total Coalition inspections of cargo ships and vessels suspected of trying to run the blockade.

Even as the embargo tightened, Saddam Hussein failed to respond to the mounting pressure. When the U.S. unleashed Operation Desert Storm on Jan. 17, 1991, the role of the naval task group changed yet again. Captain Miller was made "UNREP Sierra" and delegated

tactical control of the Coalition Logistics Force (CLF), making him the only non-USN officer assigned a warfare commander responsibility in the conflict, a task easily managed from Athabaskan fitted as his command ship.

While again less than 10 per cent of the CLF, the three Canadian ships distinguished themselves in unique fashions: when the cruiser USS Princeton (CG-59) struck a mine off Kuwait, Athabaskan being fitted with mine avoidance sonar was the logical choice to escort her to safety; Terra Nova undertook more escort missions than any other Coalition warship through the Strait of Hormuz (which had been nicknamed "Silkworm Alley" in reference to shipping losses during the recently-concluded Iran-Iraq War of 1980-88); and Protecteur was among the busiest of the operational support ships, conducting 70 replenishments of vessels from 10 different nations.

The ground assault was launched on Feb. 24, and 100 hours later – on the 28th – Iraqi forces had been expelled

from Kuwait. With the disengagement of naval forces, the task group sailed from Dubai on March 12 and arrived in Halifax on April 7.

The embargo against Iraq remained in effect. HMCS Huron had been identified to replace Athabaskan, and was deployed in the Gulf from April 23 to June 27, 1991. During this time, it was the first Coalition warship to enter Kuwait harbour, supporting the re-opening of the Canadian embassy there, and hosting the Maritime Commanders Conference on June 7. Huron returned to its home port of Esquimalt on Aug. 2, having been the first HMC Ship to circumnavigate the globe since the Korean War and ending a full year of Canadian naval association with the Gulf.

Of course, that was not the end of Canadian naval participation in Gulf operations. As any sailor who has served in the Royal Canadian Navy over the past quarter century can attest, the region has become "a home away from home" for the RCN.

*Dr. Richard Gimblett is the Command Historian of the RCN. He served as Combat Officer of HMCS Protecteur during the Gulf War, and later co-authored (with Jean Morin) the official history: Operation Friction: The Canadian Forces in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991 (Dundurn, 1997).*

The mission meant, moreover, that the role of the fleet literally was turned upside down, from traditional open ocean anti-submarine warfare to anti-surface and anti-air warfare in confined tropical waters.

## Looking back on the first Gulf War: RAdm(Ret'd) Ken Summers

**Joint Task Force**  
Iraq PA Officer

Renowned Canadian First Gulf War veteran Rear-Admiral (Retired) Ken Summers recently visited Joint Task Force – Iraq (JTF-I) personnel stationed in Kuwait as part of Operation Impact earlier this month.

The timing of his visit to the Middle East coincided with ongoing commemorations to mark the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait that occurred during the First Gulf War in 1991.

In August 1990, RAdm (Ret'd) Summers assumed command of the Canadian Naval Task Group tasked with enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolutions, which established an embargo against Iraq in

response to the unprovoked invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces.

He was subsequently appointed Commander of Canadian Forces Middle East Headquarters based out of Bahrain, the first deployed joint headquarters in Canadian Forces experience.

In good humour, he also explained to JTF-I personnel in attendance that the First Gulf War was the "damnest" war because medical personnel were first line warriors, headquarters staff was the second line, while the fighter aircraft and ships were third and fourth line respectively.

"No one declared war, but we all started shooting. No one announced an end to the war, but it ceased... it was the damnest war," says RAdm (Ret'd) Summers.

Looking back he seemed sad that the First Gulf War, which resulted in 728 oil well fires and the destruction of much of Kuwait, occurred at all.

"It didn't need to happen and it bothered me because it was like a chess game in which Saddam Hussein was playing a game of brinkmanship," he says. "All he had to do was get out of Kuwait as that was all the UNSC (United Nations Security Council) Resolution required of him."

Brigadier-General James Irvine, Commander JTF-I, thanked RAdm (Ret'd) Summers for taking the time to visit the troops and for sharing his experiences with them.

BGen Irvine then asked him what he was most proud of, to which the Admiral replied it was putting the Canadian Flag back up on the

Embassy of Canada in Kuwait.

Of note, he was subsequently presented that flag by the Canadian Embassy.

RAdm (Ret'd) Summers now reflects back on the mission with a sense of pride, and lauds the efforts of the many men and women who served under his command during the First Gulf War a quarter of a century ago.

"I am proud and honoured by the work our sons and daughters do on behalf of Canada," he says. "Our soldiers, sailors, and air men and air women actively sought roles and missions that were within our capability to help the coalition, and Canadians punched above their weight. I wish all Canadians could see all that we do when we are abroad."

## Commemorative Ceremony to honour 25th anniversary

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

CFB Esquimalt will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait with a commemorative ceremony on Feb. 26 at the Naden Drill Shed.

Joining serving personnel and veterans will be guest speakers, and Gulf War veterans, Rear-Admiral (Retired) Ken Summers and RAdm (Retired) Roger Girouard. Also attending will be special guest Vice-Admiral (Retired) Jean Yves Forcier, former Commander of Canada Command.

During the 1990-91 Persian Gulf crisis, VAdm(Ret'd) Forcier was seconded for six months as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations with the Canadian Naval Task Group and later with the Canadian Forces Middle East Headquarters in Bahrain, for which he was "Mentioned in Dispatch."

The proceedings will commence at 9:45 a.m., and is one of six events planned at Canadian Armed Forces bases across Canada to commemorate the end of the Persian Gulf War on Feb. 28, 1991.

Canada's military, along with 33 coalition nations, took part in various operations to thwart Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Harold Davis, president of the recently formed Persian Gulf Veterans of Canada (PGVC), says it's been an "uphill struggle" to get Canadians to

acknowledge this war.

"Some recognition is not too much to ask for," he says. "That's what the Korean War veterans had asked for so many years. I'm not holding my breath that things will change overnight. I just keep pounding the pavement and try to raise awareness and recruit more members to our group."

His group represents past and current Canadian military members who served in the war.

"While many Canadians have a short memory when it comes to the Persian Gulf War, the soldiers, sailors and aviators who served have a very long memory."

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91 in Langford recently announced it will host an anniversary ceremony on Feb. 28, the official date that then-U.S. President George H.W. Bush declared a unilateral cease-fire that brought an end to the war.

"We are trying to make sure people who served in the Persian Gulf are recognized and never forgotten," said Norm Scott, president of Branch 91. "The Legion is here to support all veterans and their families."

Davis says PGVC membership is also open to all RCN sailors who have served in the Persian Gulf in the years following the war right up until present day. Davis operates a PGVC Facebook Page and is encouraging any current and past CAF members who served in the Persian Gulf, before or after the war, to join the page.

25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of the Liberation of Kuwait

## PGVC founder recalls Gulf War

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

Persian Gulf War veteran Harold Davis says he remembers Aug. 24, 1990, like it was yesterday.

At age 30, and holding the rank of Master Corporal in the air force, he boarded HMCS Athabaskan, and set sail from Halifax Harbour. Along with two other Canadian warships, destroyer and crew were bound for the Persian Gulf after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"Bridges were closed down, people lined the harbour to say goodbye, and there was a flotilla of boats in the harbour," recalls Davis, 56.

Before leaving, Athabaskan was quickly refitted with several advanced weapons. Athabaskan was appointed flagship of the Canadian Naval Task Group, which included the destroyer HMCS Terra Nova and supply ship HMCS Protecteur.

The Task Group served in the central Persian Gulf with other coalition naval forces through the Fall of 1990 on Operation Friction. After Operation Desert Storm began in January 1991, the Task Group undertook escort duties for hospital ships and other vulnerable naval vessels of the Coalition.

Davis was an Air Weapons System Technician servicing the embarked Sea King helicopter.

He recalls one of the more perilous moments of the deployment

when, on Feb. 18, 1991, USS Princeton was severely damaged after striking a mine near the Failaka Island. Athabaskan was called to navigate through the minefield and deliver damage control supplies to Princeton. The crippled ship, with a locked starboard propeller shaft and a locked port rudder, was guided from the minefield by the minesweeper USS Adroit.

"It was scary; we knew we were in an active minefield and everyone on the upper deck was on the lookout for more mines," recalls Davis. "For 24 to 36 hours I was so nervous I wouldn't even go down below the deck, and tried my best to catch sporadic naps in the hangar."

The native of Bell Island, Newfoundland, left the military in 2009 after a 31 years of dedicated service.





# Perfect score for Winnipeg Marine Systems Engineers

**SLt Jamie Tobin**  
HMCS Winnipeg

After a successful deployment on Operation Reassurance, nine members of HMCS Winnipeg's Marine Systems Engineering (MSE) department challenged certification boards to obtain their next level of qualification and all nine were successful.

"We are overwhelmed by this clean sweep and the overall success of our team," said Lieutenant (Navy) Justin Dunn, the Deputy MSE Officer who recently obtained his Head of Department qualification. "All of the candidates put in a lot of hard work and they are all well-deserving of their accomplishments."

Four members obtained their Certification Level III: Engineering Officer of the Watch qualification; three members obtained their Certification Level IV: Chief Engine Room Artificer qualification, one completed Phase IV training and another obtained his Head of Department qualification.

"The Royal Canadian

Navy is constantly in need of qualified engineers to sail our ships and HMCS Winnipeg has certainly done more than its fair share to support the fleet," said Commander Jeff Hutchinson, Winnipeg's Commanding Officer.

Four members from Canadian Fleet Pacific's engineering staff embarked on Winnipeg during the ship's port visit in Singapore and sailed with the ship for eight days to conduct the boards.

"The candidates were well prepared and they all impressed us with their performance. They made our job on board quite easy," said Lieutenant-Commander Robert Petitpas, the Damage Control Division Commander and one of the board members.

In addition to the nine new qualifications in recent weeks, seven members of the ship's MSE department achieved their Auxiliary Machinery Operators Certificate and nine members received their Certification Level 2: Machinery Console Operator certification during the ship's deployment

totalling 22 new qualifications for Winnipeg throughout the deployment. Additionally four Electrical Technicians completed their Qualification Level 3 and four Hull Technicians com-

pleted their Qualification Level 4.

"It feels really great to receive this qualification after putting so much effort into my training over the past seven and a

half months," Petty Officer Second Class Brandon Lawrence, a newly promoted Engineering Officer of the Watch. "Now I can just focus on the tasks at hand and advancing my skills."

"Bravo Zulu to the all of the newly qualified stokers," says Cdr Hutchinson. "Winnipeg has truly taken Marine Systems Engineering force generation to a new level."



Photo by LS Brian Bourassa, HMCS WINNIPEG

Members of the Marine System Engineering department on board HMCS Winnipeg hold their career advancing qualifications certificates received from Cdr Jeffrey Hutchinson, the ship's Commanding Officer in the centre.

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# Wounded Warriors Run B.C. 2016

## Runners leave today

**Rachel Lallouz**  
Staff Writer

The Wounded Warrior Run BC 2016, now in its third year, has launched a team of six runners, all veterans or serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), to run the length of Vancouver Island from Feb. 22 to 28.

Runners started the 600-kilometre run in Port Hardy, and will stop in Woss, Sayward, Courtney, Comox, Nanaimo, Mill Bay, and Duncan, to raise awareness of service related injuries such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"Our main vision is to overcome PTSD one step at a time," says Ron Mierau, Race Director and Wounded Warriors of Vancouver Island Coordinator. "Our non-profit seeks to fill in the gap of spreading awareness about PTSD and supporting those with PTSD."

Petty Officer Second

Class Allan Kobayashi, one of two founders of the run and instructor at the Fleet School, explains that he and friend Dan Bodden started the run in 2014 so they could pass on hope to others suffering from PTSD.

"We wanted to touch others so they could find those feelings of centeredness and calmness we found when running," says PO2 Kobayashi.

Runners this year are PO2 Kobayashi, Robert Lamothe, Steve Deschamps, Geoff Harshaw, Bernice Smith, and Yana Hempler.

Beginning at 7 a.m. every day, runners will hit the road until the late afternoon, running 20 kilometres a day, and plan to visit legions in each community along the way.

"It's the simple thing of going for a short run that gets me reconnected to myself," says PO2 Kobayashi. "I listen to my feet hitting the ground, feel

my heart thumping, notice my breathing and I can get out of my head for a little bit."

He says that being a sufferer of PTSD has given him insight into the feelings of fear and self-isolation that others with service-related injuries may also experience.

For PO2 Kobayashi, the endorphin release of running and feelings of accomplishment provide him with moments of much-needed grounding and clarity.

"But the run is also about what we are passing on to other sufferers – that human connection of looking at another person who is stricken with fear and being able to relate to them. That's what it's all about," he says.

The Wounded Warrior Run will conclude at the Saunders Subaru in Victoria.

For more information about the run or to contribute, visit: [www.woundedwarriorrunbc.com/](http://www.woundedwarriorrunbc.com/)




Racheal Lallouz, Lookout

**From Left:** Michel Pinault, support for Wounded Warriors Run; Allan Kobayashi, lead runner and founder; Steve de Champs, runner; Ron Mierau, race director; and Jeffrey Kibble, Public Relations Officer; pose for a photograph at the MARPAC Health and Wellness Expo 2016.

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## Change to your CAF Pension Administration coming

### DND

In the summer of 2016, the administration of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Pension Plans for active members will be transferred to the Government of Canada Pension Centre at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC).

Pension payments for retired CAF members and their survivors/child(ren) will continue to be supported by the Specialized Services Division (SSD) at PSPC until the winter of 2016 at which time they will also be transferred to the Government of Canada Pension Centre at PSPC.

The Government of Canada Pension Centre will be staffed by employees transferred from the Department of National Defence (DND) and PSPC who are experienced and knowledgeable about CAF pensions. This will ensure that a high level of quality service continues to be provided to CAF members, retirees and their families. The Centre is already the primary office responsible for pension plan adminis-

tration for Federal Public Service employees as well as members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

### Why make the change?

The current DND pension administration system depends on outdated technology that is expensive to maintain, relies on manual processes, and limits the ability to provide modern services such as an online self-service.

This transition aligns to the common Government of Canada pension administration standards for the administration of all federal public pension plans.

As a result of the transfer, active and retired CAF members, as well as their survivors/child(ren), will benefit from:

- Improved and timely services in processing transactions and payments; and
- Improved client access to new web-based self-service tools for active members:
- Pension information and helpful links;
- Online access to update your personal information;

- Secure messaging and inquiry features that allow the exchange of protected information with pension experts at the Centre; and
- Online tools to assist with pension benefits estimates.

### What does this change mean for you?

#### Active Members

For active members, files will be transferred automatically, and the transition will have no effect on existing pension contribution rates.

#### Retired members and their survivors/child(ren)

Retired members and their survivors/child(ren) will continue to receive pension payments as usual. Members will continue to have access to knowledgeable pension experts who can answer questions throughout the transition period.

During the weeks immediately prior to both transitions, members may experience delays in some pension services. These are anticipated to occur for two to three weeks in the summer and win-

ter of 2016. Exact dates will be provided closer to the transition. Essential services such as pension payments and the issuance of tax receipts will continue to be provided during the transition period but administrative services may be limited.

### Where can you access more information?

More information about the transition is available on the DND Web site at:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-pension/military-pension-renewal.page>

### Members can continue to contact the following:

- Director Canadian Forces Pension Services (DCFPS) Toll free: 1-800-267-0325
- National Capital Region and outside Canada & United States: 613-971-6012
- Specialized Services Division (SSD) Toll free: 1-800-267-0350
- National Capital Region: 613-952-9933

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## Royal Canadian Navy announces Code of Conduct

DND

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) officially announced the finalization of its Code of Conduct on Monday, Feb. 22 in Ottawa, the culmination of a year-long internal review of its conduct practices, as well as a re-write of its core documentation and training curriculum on the matter.

The Code of Conduct is part of the RCN's continued implementation of recommendations following its 2014 Internal Review on Personal Conduct. The Code provides clear definitions and enhanced directions of what the RCN expects regarding the behaviour and conduct of all its members. Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Mark Norman, Commander of the RCN, ordered the

review and re-write following several unacceptable conduct incidents involving RCN personnel in 2014.

Developed within the Directorate of Naval Personnel and Training, under the leadership of Commodore (Cmdre) Luc Cassivi, the Code of Conduct describes, in-depth, the expectations the RCN has of its personnel.

"One of our most crucial initial tasks was ensuring that the new Code of Conduct would resonate with sailors and provide them with clear guidance and expectations regarding their personal conduct," said Cmdre Cassivi. "In order to accomplish this, teams visited Halifax, Esquimalt and Quebec City and engaged one-on-one with members of the RCN, seeking their

input and advice in formulating the Code. Through the involvement of numerous voices, we've developed a RCN Code of Conduct that, along with related training and mentoring, will serve as an investment in all our personnel."

The Code is consistent with, and reinforces, the underpinnings of the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) Operation Honour, as well as the four core military values of Duty, Integrity, Loyalty and Courage. Each value is further defined via two criteria, both collective principles and individual principles, which explicitly outline the high standards to which RCN members must adhere, as well as the responsibilities of RCN leadership towards both championing and enforcing

the new Code.

"This initiative was truly beneficial as it forced us (all members of the RCN) to take a hard look at our current practices, to acknowledge that a course correction was required, and to develop a plan to ensure that we fully understand our responsibilities," said Capt(N) Josée Kurtz, Director of Naval Personnel and Training. "Over the coming months, new, leading-edge training modules on conduct will be introduced throughout the naval training curriculum, as well as a modernized Guide to the Divisional System. These materials will provide contemporary and practical advice to junior leaders in the RCN, and will help us hold ourselves to the highest standards of conduct."

The RCN Code of Conduct compliments and expands upon Operation Honour, an initiative ordered by the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance. Operation Honour's mission is to eliminate harmful and inappropriate sexual behaviour within the Canadian Armed Forces.

"This Code of Conduct, when taken alongside Operation Honour, signals a new era of more clear-cut guidance regarding how we conduct ourselves and how we treat each other," said VAdm Norman. "I fully endorse the work of Commodore Cassivi, Capt(N) Kurtz, and their team on this Code, as it outlines exactly what our expectations are when it comes to the establishment

of a more respectful and professional working environment. The Code defines 'what right looks like' and emphasizes that exemplary conduct must begin at the top and, from there, must extend all the way through our ranks."

The Code of Conduct will be one of the key focuses of RCN training over the coming months as the Navy institutionalizes its concepts and principles within the organization. The implementation of this Code will take place through organized training, as well as through mentorship at all levels of the chain of command. Active and engaged leadership, or 'deck-plate leadership', will be essential to the successful adoption of the Code of Conduct moving forward.

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## HMCS Ottawa awards and promotions

Commanding Officer of HMCS Ottawa, Commander Sylvain Belair presented several awards and promotions during Ottawa's Ceremonial Divisions.

Photos by: Corporal Blaine Sewell, MARPAC Imaging Services



Leading Seaman Nichole Tipper is promoted to her current rank.



Leading Seaman Amie-Anne Savage is promoted to her current rank.



Leading Seaman Michael Powell is promoted to his current rank.



Able Seaman John Kopp is promoted to his current rank.



Ordinary Seaman Patrick O'Dowd-Gault is presented with the Operational Service Medal for his participation in Operation Caribbe.



Corporal Robert Basso is presented with the South-West Asia Service Medal.



Petty Officer First Class Stephen Pring is presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp for 22 years of service.



Petty Officer Second Class Xing Dai is presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of service.



Master Seaman Yhan Mathe is presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of service.



Master Seaman Andrew Sherk is presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of service.



Sub-Lieutenant Andrew Campbell is presented with an Operation Nanook coin.



Leading Seaman Kyle Vandevenne is presented with his Junior Weapons Engineering Technician On the Job Progress Report completion certificate.



Leading Seaman Bradley Niezen is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Corey Moore is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Brian Milne is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Patrick O'Dowd-Gault is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.





## MARPAC HQ recognizes accomplishments

The Executive Officer of Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters, Lieutenant-Commander Colleen O'Brien presented awards and medals to members of the staff.

Cpl Stuart MacNeil, MARPAC Imaging Services



Lieutenant (Navy) Craig McKay receives a General Campaign Star – South West Asia rotation bar.



Warrant Officer Jonathan Morley receives a Canadian Forces Decoration Clasp for 22 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces.



Corporal Joseph Cornelius (centre) receives his promotion with Master Warrant Officer Yves Wiseman (right).



Lieutenant-Commander Jonathan Audy receives a Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia badge.



Sergeant Amanda Pond (centre) receives a Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia badge with Master Warrant Officer Yves Wiseman (right).



Leading Seaman Garret Meulblok receives a Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia badge.

## HMCS Ottawa awards and promotions



Ordinary Seaman Gabriel Choiniere is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Jean-Michel Derome is presented with his Naval Environmental Training Program completion certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Charmaine Chard is presented with her First Days at Sea Certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Christopher Murphy is presented with his First Days at Sea Certificate.



Ordinary Seaman Pierre Forget is presented with his Bronze Sea Service Insignia badge.



Lieutenant (Navy) Meryl Sponder is presented with her Gun Metal Sea Service Insignia badge.



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Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps 263 BEACON HILL Open House 25 Feb 16, 6:30-9pm All youth 12 - 18 years of age are eligible to join. 948 Dunford Ave, Langford Parade nights: Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 pm Telephone: 250-478-7813 Email: 263Sea@cadets.gc.ca or 263BeaconHill@gmail.com

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Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon awarded a posthumous Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award to family of late Sea Cadet Samantha Calder. Left to right: Samantha Calder's brother Will, her father Dave, Lieutenant Governor Guichon, Samantha's mother Carol, and her sister, Eva.

## Parksville Sea Cadet's legacy makes Canadian history

**Deborah Morrow**  
Contributor

One year after Parksville Sea Cadet Samantha Calder was taken from her family in the prime of her adolescence, her parents received the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Government House on her behalf.

It was the first posthumous award of its kind ever given in Canada.

In the drawing room of Government House, a testimony to the kindness of Canadians was quietly expressed in the private ceremony hosted by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Judith Guichon. Her Honour presented Carol and David Calder with the Gold Award in celebration of the achievements of their deceased

daughter. Samantha was a three-day camping trip away from completing her award when she was tragically killed in a car crash.

Supporters from across Canada attended the ceremony including Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, and his wife Sylvie Tremblay; Jim Kershaw, National President of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program; Debbie Yates and her husband Dave Yates, National President of the Navy League of Canada; and Sushil Saini, Executive Director of the B.C. Yukon Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program.

It was Saini who coordinated and organized the intimate British Columbia ceremony, adding her personal touches to create a memorable day for the Calders.

Doug Thomas, Executive

Director of the Navy League of Canada (in absentia), seeded the idea of the posthumous presentation from Ottawa.

"It's the right thing to do," he said, "They deserve this, and then they can move on, knowing Sam finally got her Gold."

For Samantha's mother Carol, the gesture represented the essence of the Canadian spirit.

"It's beautiful. I never thought things like this could happen," she said, as she admired the certificate signed by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Samantha Calder was a Chief Petty Officer Second Class in the Parksville Sea Cadet Corps and had worked for three years to complete her Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award requirements.

The Duke's challenge is a Canadian youth achievement program, open to Canadians ages 14 to 25, encouraging them to reach their highest potential. Participants must complete a set amount of community service, physical activity, skills and adventurous journeys.

"This honour is awarded to those who have earned it. It is not just given to them," said Jim Kershaw, in his speech.

Kershaw is the Canadian program director from Ontario who gave final approval for the posthumous award. "I had to make this happen for Sam," he said. Kershaw travelled across the country for the ceremony.

"The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Program is an ideal partnership for the Duke of Edinburgh Award," said Dave Yates in his

address to the group of attendees. "Samantha's legacy was to challenge herself to defeat her fears."

In her award record book, Samantha advised others to face their fears. "For in life," she wrote, "we cannot succeed if we don't try."

The Lieutenant Governor spoke softly to the Calder family in those moving moments following the presentation. Her empathy sifted through the room, uplifting the spirits of Carol and Dave Calder and Samantha's siblings, Will and Eva. Her Honour spoke of how in life, Samantha was a gift to her family, Sea Cadet Corps, her school, and made a lasting contribution to her community.

Samantha Calder's story has touched lives across the country and now in death, she has made Canadian history.



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