

Volume 65 Number 25 | June 29, 2020



MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.

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HMCS Regina prepares for RIMPAC

A member of HMCS Regina's Dive Team enters the water to conduct a hull search dive while preparing for RIMPAC on June 23.

Photo by Master Corporal Andre Maillet, MARPAC Imaging Services

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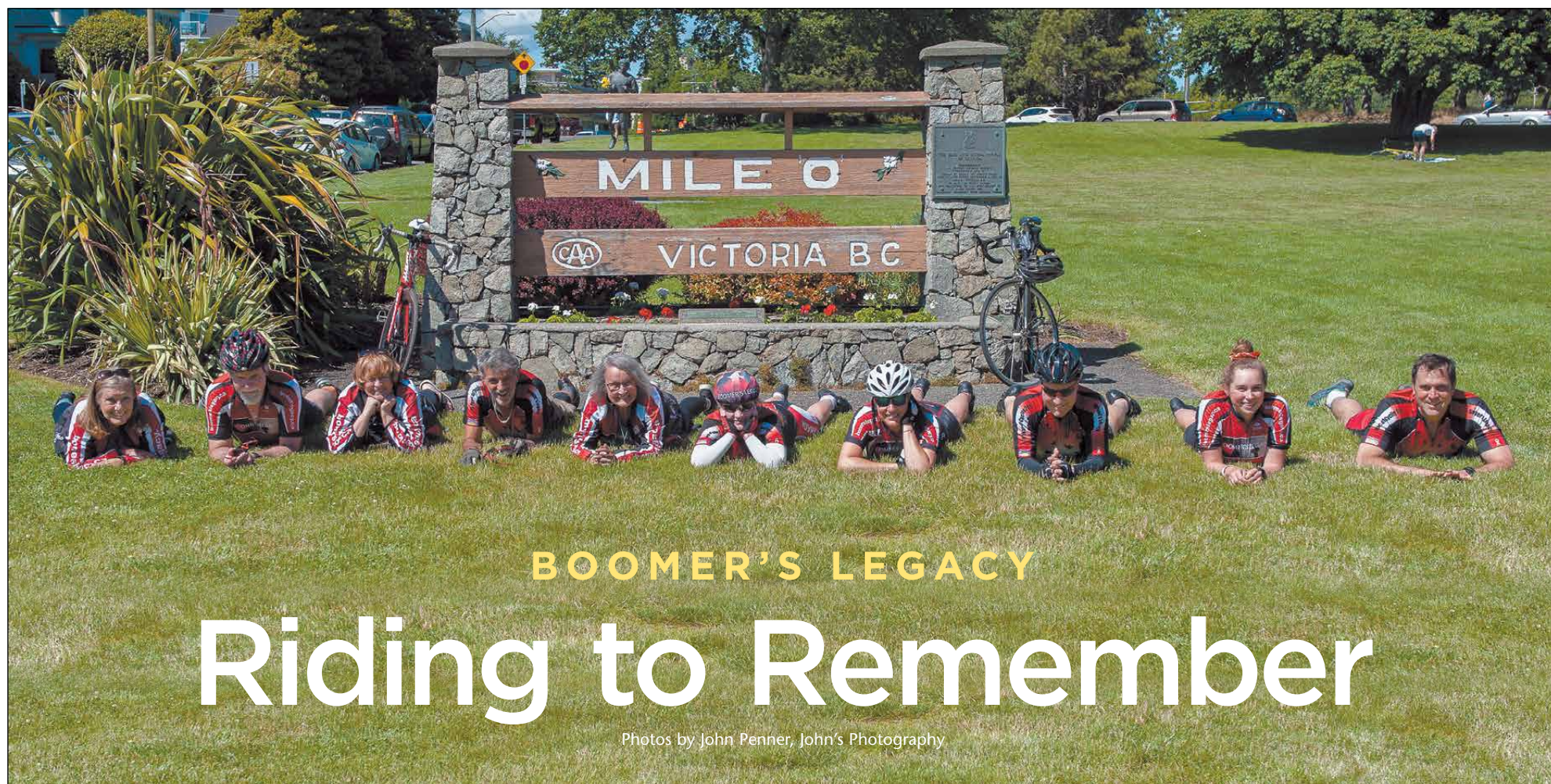
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Photos by John Penner, John's Photography

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

A team of cyclists kept the flame of Boomer's Legacy burning bright last week.

A tribute ride was conducted Saturday, June 20, as this year's full edition of the annual fundraising bike ride for the charitable foundation was cancelled due to COVID-19.

On Saturday morning, cyclists Nigel King, Ron Gaudreault,

and Dave Rodgers set off on a two-day 228-kilometre trek from Comox, B.C. to the Mile Zero marker on Douglas Street in Victoria.

On Sunday, they arrived in Langford where they were joined by five more riders to help them finish the last leg of their journey. Joining them were Captain Jacqueline Zweng, Karen Hough, and Darren Westwood, along with Commodore

Angus Topshee, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, and his daughter Amy.

"This year's run was not so much about the fundraising as it was awareness, and the determination of these dedicated

cyclists who decided to ensure people know how important the work of the foundation is," said CPO2 John Penner, Boomer's Legacy volunteer and photographer.

Boomer's Legacy was founded by Maureen Eykelenboom, the mother of Cpl Andrew 'Boomer' Eykelenboom, a medic with 1 Field Ambulance who was killed in Afghanistan in 2006. The foundation is operated by

Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) through the Support Our Troops Program and distributes funds to people in need, both domestically and abroad.

Earlier this year, the decision was made to cancel the Legacy Bike Ride, as well as the 2020 Battlefield Bike Ride in the Netherlands.

For more information about Boomer's Legacy visit boomerslegacy.ca



Below: From left to right, Nigel King, Maureen Eykelenboom, Cmdre Topshee, and the rest of the team pay their respects to the fallen at the Afghanistan Memorial.

Below: Maureen Eykelenboom, mother of Andrew 'Boomer' Eykelenboom, with Dave Rodgers, Nigel King, Ron Gaudreault, and Commodore Angus Topshee at the Langford Cenotaph in Veteran's Memorial Park.



Message from a Prideful Admiral

While COVID-19 restrictions will mute public celebrations somewhat, our West Coast sunny summer days will still make for a terrific Pride Week in Victoria (June 28 to July 5).

This week we join (virtual) hands with our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and 2-spirited (LGBTQ2+) service people and Defence Team members to celebrate the diversity of the Canadian Armed Forces and our community. Even if most events are scaled back or delivered virtually while B.C. continues to “be kind, be calm, and be safe”, let’s take the time to celebrate our diversity, even if it is in small ways.

Diverse perspectives compliment how we make decisions, providing valuable and unique viewpoints that strengthen the Royal Canadian Navy not only culturally, but operationally as well. We are proud and fortunate to have these

voices in our family.

We are on a continuum of continual improvement, and while much work remains to be done, I know we are heading in the right direction and I know we will adhere to the Canadian Armed Forces core values of respect and dignity for our LGBTQ2+ community.

I am truly pleased to raise the Pride flag over the Formation in June to demonstrate our solidarity with our LGBTQ2+ soldiers, sailors, aviators, civilians, and community members showcasing the inclusivity and diversity of the CAF, and the pride we all share in serving Canada.

As Pride events take place here in Victoria and across Canada, let’s celebrate together and in this challenging time remember to be kind, be calm, and be safe.

Rear-Admiral Bob Auchterlonie
Commander Maritime Forces Pacific

CFB Esquimalt celebrates Pride



Amy Gordichuk and Alli Jones, members on the Positive Space Working Group, hold up the new Pride flag that is now on a flag pole at CFB Esquimalt.

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

The base is bolstering its commemoration of Victoria Pride Week 2020 by raising the rainbow flag for seven days in three locations.

Each morning, from June 29 to July 5, the rainbow flag will be hoisted high atop flag poles located at Nelles Block in Naden, Dockyard's Duntze Head, and at Work Point.

Also, an official flag-raising ceremony will be con-

ducted following Morning Colours observances on June 29 at Duntze Head. People attending this event are advised to respect COVID-19 physical distancing measures.

For the past few years, Pride has been recognized with a single flag-raising ceremony on one day at Nelles Block. The new initiative to raise three flags was organized by Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAF) Positive Space Working Group (PSWG).

Alli Jones, a member of

the PSWG, says the new ceremonies are an improved effort to showcase the military's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“In past years, CFB Esquimalt has raised the flag on the last Sunday of Pride week to coincide with the Pride parade,” said Jones. “Given this gesture previously took place over a weekend in the summer, the message was not reaching a wide audience within the defence team, so this year the decision was made to enhance these efforts.”

The PSWG was stood up in 2019 and is made up of 18 military and civilian volunteers. Members carry out initiatives to support diversity and create a sense of belonging for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning and Two-Spirit people (LGBTQ2+) within Maritime Forces Pacific.

Capt(N) Sam Sader, Base Commander, is helping lead the effort to emphasize the importance and bolster the

status of Pride week at the base.

“Flying the Pride flag across the base during Pride week represents our commitment to promoting a more diverse and inclusive Defence Team, and our promise to continue to learn from our members to ensure everyone has a safe and respectful workplace to come to each and every day,” he said.

The Victoria Pride Society recently announced the cancellation of several in-person Pride events for this year's annual celebration due to COVID-19 physical distancing precautions.

However many of the most popular events including its Pride Parade and Big Gay Dog Walk will live on in the virtual world with the society broadcasting social media participation through its YouTube channel.

For more information visit their web page: <https://victoriapridesociety.org/events/>

The rainbow flag is a symbol of LGBTQ2+ pride. It was first flown at San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade in 1978, replacing the pink triangle. It has become a symbol synonymous for Gay Pride celebrations across Canada and the world.

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WHO WE ARE

MANAGING EDITOR

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

STAFF WRITERS

Peter Mallett 250-363-3130
peter.mallett@forces.gc.ca

PRODUCTION

Teresa Laird 250-363-8033
production@lookoutnewspaper.com

Bill Cochrane 250-363-8033
workstation3@lookoutnewspaper.com

ACCOUNTS/CLASSIFIEDS/RECEPTION
250-363-3372

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

Brad Schneider 250-880-2705
lookoutnews1@outlook.com

EDITORIAL ADVISORS

A/SLt Michelle Scott 250-363-4006
Katelyn Moores 250-363-7060

Published each Monday, under the authority of
Capt(N) Sam Sader, Base Commander.

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

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or
reject copy or advertising to adhere to policy
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WHAT SAY YOU

“HMCS Sackville”

By Garth Paul Ukrainetz, Poet Laureate of the Blackmud Creek



Floating in the harbour
In Halifax at the pier
The crowds are strolling by me
Filled with laughter and good cheer
But not so very long ago
Our nation was at war
With many sombre faces
Cast along the Eastern Shore

I was born in Bay of Fundy
Sweetest violet of St. John
Lucky Irish and Acadians
Laid the keel that I sail on
And they named me after Sackville
With it's marsh of Tantramar
With Chignecto Bay and Glooscap
Waving bravely off to war

No peace no education
Nor in mouth a spoon of silver
For dear Allison I'd give my life
To guard and shield her river
Gently flowing through the Yellow Birch
Where children laugh and play
I stand on guard for thee for love
On ocean waves I pray

Across the wide Atlantic
Sailed the convoys long and short
I guarded and protected them
To Londonderry port
With 40 round depth charges
Many hedgehogs lined in row
And guns all cocked and loaded
For the U-boats down below
Supply lines on the water
Silent submarines in wait
Telltale echos in the sonar
Flashing lights communicate
The U-boats strike like lightning
Shoot torpedoes to explosion
With all my might I fight them
On this godforsaken ocean

In September '43
A wolf pack 20 strong or more
Struck with swift surprise attacks
They were the deadliest of war
I fought with Morden and with Chambly
But St. Croix and Itchen sank
I was hit by blast so massive
It destroyed my boiler tank

I never did recover
For my wounds were far too deep
So they took me out of action
As a training ship to keep
After war I sailed for science
Till restored to full delight
A Canadian memorial
An Historic National Site

In hand a sack of U-boats
As a duck sweeps up the mess
My gun-shield art a testament
To protect and fight my best
We were ocean flower garden
Fighting hate and tyranny
Paid the price for precious freedom
With falling petals in the sea
So come see me in the harbour
In the Nova Scotia sun
Let us celebrate the victory
Peace and liberty we won
Spend some time here on the boardwalk
With dear friends and family
For in your joy in laughter
Are the spoils of being free

And as you leave the water
May you never soon forget
I am HMCS Sackville
Last of World War 2 Corvettes
I'm the only ship remaining
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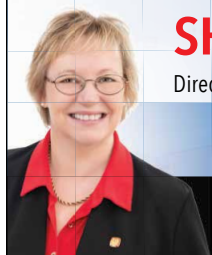
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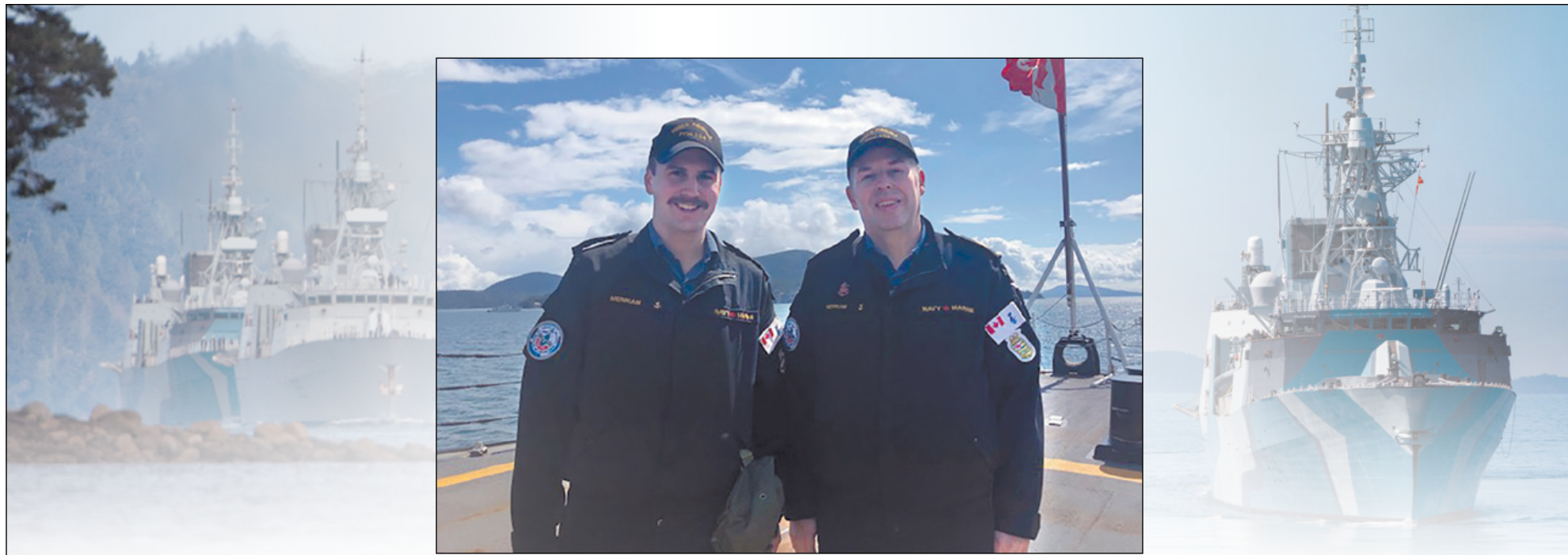
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A Family in Arms

**Peter Mallett /
Capt Lisa Evong**
Staff Writers

Two sailors on board *HMCS Regina* share a remarkable bond, even more resilient than the tightest of Royal Canadian Navy shipmates.

That's because they are father and son.

The unique paternal connection in the Esquimalt-based warship took shape June 1, when 50-year-old Petty Officer Second Class Jay Merriam was officially posted to *Regina*. The posting fills a staffing shortfall for its upcoming sail to the Rim of the Pacific exercise.

After getting word of the posting in March, PO2 Merriam instantly realized he would become a crew mate of his 21-year-old son Able Seaman Corey Merriam, who works in the ship as a Marine Technician.

Word of the father-son connection spread quickly in the ship.

"Our shipmates are all aware of the family connection and everyone I have spoken to think it's pretty cool," says PO2 Merriam.

They don't exactly work side-by-side and haven't been tasked together on any projects, but the Logistics Department where PO2 Merriam works and AB Merriam's Marine System Engineering Department are in close proximity. Even though they have different responsibilities and belong to different messes, they cross paths as they transit the ship.

"If our shipmates see us walking down the flats of the ship from behind, they both say we walk the same and can't tell the difference between us," says AB Merriam.

While they have different interests and skills, both admit

the family bond is completely evident to others.

"We share a lot of the same characteristics and are fairly laid back and chill," says AB Merriam.

When work is done and it's time to head home, they don't have to travel far to see each other again. That's because they both reside in a Belmont Park residential housing unit.

Sherry Merriam, step-mother to Corey and spouse to Jay, is happy to see the father-son bonding both in *Regina* and after work.

"I am a very proud navy wife and mother and have always backed Jay and Corey 100 percent in whatever they do. I couldn't be happier the boys are getting to sail together on the same ship."

Continuing the tradition

Regina's father-son duo share

a naval history with Corey becoming the fourth generation of Merriam's in the Royal Canadian Navy. The first generation, Jay's grandfather, was an Engineer and served in the Merchant Marines. Jay's father served the navy for over 34 years, first as a Radar Plotter and then as a Naval Warfare Officer standing watch on HMC Ships *Terre Nova*, *Bonaventure*, and *Magnificent*.

PO2 Merriam was a late bloomer to the military with his story beginning 14 years ago. He had looked into joining the navy in the early 1990s when he was his son's age, but the navy wasn't hiring at that point. So, for several years he worked selling building supplies in Dartmouth and Parrsboro, N.S.

Enticing stories from friends who had joined the navy about challenging, well-paying jobs that offered adventure and travel eventually got him to

join at age 36.

"Basic training was a bit of an eye opener," he said. "I tried to prepare my body by training hard, but you just can never fully appreciate what you experience once you arrive in St Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec."

Corey began his journey as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

The pair sailed together for Operation Laser, the Canadian Armed Forces Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, off the coast of Vancouver Island. The ship is currently in a short workup period as it prepares for RIMPAC in August. Both say the possibility of doing major deployments and being given the chance to sail around the world together is an exciting prospect.

"Visiting a foreign port with Corey is certainly on my bucket list and I know he feels the same way," concluded PO2 Merriam.

"I am a very proud navy wife and mother and have always backed Jay and Corey 100 percent in whatever they do. I couldn't be happier the boys are getting to sail together on the same ship."

— Sherry Merriam



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United Way's 'Hi Neighbour' Esquimalt program launches

United Way Greater Victoria (UWGV) is launching a community builder program called *Hi Neighbour* in Esquimalt to provide support and critical services to seniors, people living with a disability, people living in poverty, single

parents, and people with mental health concerns.

Funding for this program comes from a \$600,000 donation to the United Way from Seaspan Victoria Shipyards and Southern Railway of British Columbia, with additional

support from The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. Together, they will support eight neighbourhoods in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the *Hi Neighbour*

program, UWGV will uncover unseen vulnerabilities in Esquimalt and connect those needing services and support.

UWGV team member Kelly Binette will lead the program, working with residents and community leaders to identify needs and empower neighbours to deliver support to those in their community.

Seaspan, a long-standing supporter of UWGV and the local community, is encouraging employees to volunteer in program.

Hi Neighbour Esquimalt will launch by gathering ideas from residents on the community projects they feel would have the most impact. Residents can expect to see a postcard in their mailbox over the upcoming week about the program.

UWGV will fund up to 15 micro-grants by Sept. 30 for community projects that show "local love" to support and strengthen the neighbourhood at this unprecedented time. Residents have until July 15 to email their ideas to community.builer@uwgv.ca.

"I am thankful that the donation from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, in conjunction with Seaspan and Southern Railway, will enable the United Way to support the Esquimalt community in this critical time of need," said Joe O'Rourke, Vice President and General Manager, Seaspan Victoria Shipyards. "COVID-19 has thrown us all a curve ball in 2020, bringing a new set of stresses and hurdles to overcome. Our team of over 1,200 in Victoria is looking forward to supporting this program and helping United Way make a positive impact in Esquimalt during this unprecedented time."

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The Exceptional Hazard Allowance has been amended to compensate Canadian Armed Forces members who are deployed in COVID-19 risk environments.

Eligible Canadian Armed Forces members deployed on Operation Laser, and the domestic portion of Operation Globe, who were/are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to their duties, will receive the allowance. The \$78 per day allowance is retroactive to when they commenced their duties, and will be in effect until Sept. 30.

Hundreds of Canadian Armed Forces members are currently deployed to long-term care facilities in Ontario and Quebec, supporting Canadians impacted by COVID-19.

Canadian Armed

Forces members, face the physical hardship of spending all of their shifts wearing the full complement of Personal Protective Equipment for up to 12 hours a day and without appreciable breaks in service.

Moreover, our women and men in the military have served in these facilities for months, while being away from their families during a

highly challenging time.

In January 2020, the Chief of the Defence Staff ordered Operation Globe, a blended domestic and expeditionary operation supporting the repatriation of Canadians from overseas and providing quarantine capability in Trenton.

Operation Laser, a domestic operation providing Canadian Armed Forces assistance to provinces was ordered in March, and by April provinces began requesting military assistance for COVID-related situations.

Since the start of Operation Laser, CAF personnel have supported civilian authorities within 47 long-term care facilities in Quebec and within seven in Ontario.

It is expected that approximately 4,500 CAF members will be eligible to receive this allowance.



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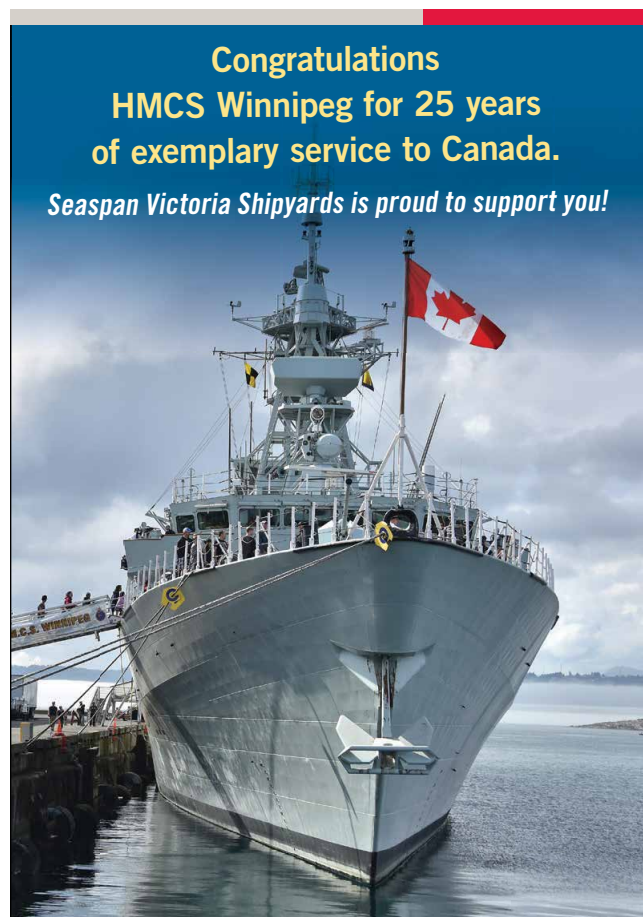
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HMCS WINNIPEG Celebrates 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



My Memories of HMCS Winnipeg

The celebration of HMCS Winnipeg's 25 years of commissioned service has brought back many fond memories. I was not a part of the commissioning crew in 1995, but many of that crew were still aboard when I joined *Winnipeg* as my first ship right after completing MARS IV in February 1997.

Though I was a brand new subbie (one of only three aboard at the time), I was immediately made welcome in a true spirit of "One with the Strength of Many."

Within days of joining, we were off on a (nearly) round the world adventure to join NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic or SNFL (naturally, this was pronounced 'sniffle') for six months. It was the best possible start to a career as the transit around to Europe gave me the opportunity to learn the ship and the basics of frigate watchkeeping before becoming immersed in high intensity NATO exercises in the English Channel, and off the coasts of Spain and Portugal.

We also had the opportunity to visit St. John's, Newfoundland, for the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Cabot aboard the tall ship Matthew. It was a replica of the original ship Cabot. It sailed across and the NATO fleet was in St. John's Harbour to greet it when it arrived. It was pretty cool

as they came in at dusk to a harbour symphony and fireworks show.

From there, we took part in a MARCOT on the East Coast and made a visit to Halifax with the NATO fleet.

Having expressed an interest in becoming a Navigator, I was given the opportunity to try navigating *Winnipeg* out of harbour and I vividly recall learning just how quickly fog can roll into Halifax in June as I watched all my carefully planned lead marks disappear just as we were about to slip.

It was such an actioned packed deployment that the time flew by and suddenly it was late-July and I was flying home from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to get married (and then stand duty watches when the ship returned home a few weeks later).

In total, I spent two years aboard *Winnipeg*, earning my OOD and NOPQ, learning to manage seasickness, and deploying twice (the second was to South America for UNITAS in 1998, also an amazing early career experience but just too much to add here).

In retrospect, it is clear how much my time aboard *Winnipeg* has shaped my career. My impression of what a Commanding Officer should be is based on the incredible leadership of Dave Hudock – his enthusiasm and energy left no doubt in any of us that he believed he had the best job in the Navy, and the joy he took in our success empowered all of us to do our very best for him.

The quirky leadership of our Executive Officer, Dan Mackeigan, taught me that some very unique

characters could thrive in the Navy. There are many others who shaped me by their examples aboard *Winnipeg* – too many to name, especially as I am bound to unfairly leave some of them out. Suffice to say that my belief in the tremendous dedication and professionalism of Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) sailors stems from the patience of the amazing junior *Winnipeg* sailors in teaching me to become a mariner, warrior, and leader.

I can't imagine a better first experience of the RCN after completing my MARS training, and *Winnipeg* will therefore always have a special place in my heart.

Happy 25th Anniversary and best wishes for many more!

Commodore Angus Topshee
Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific



Commodore Topshee as FixO (Fixing Officer – assistant to the NavO) during a day sail to Vancouver in 1998.

SLt Wilson Ho HMCS Winnipeg

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Winnipeg* (FFH 338) turned 25 years old June 23. The second warship to be named HMCS *Winnipeg* was delivered to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) on October 11, 1994, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She would spend the later part of that year conducting sea trials to be ready for operations.

In January 1995, *Winnipeg* left Halifax, bound for Esquimalt, British Columbia. On June 23, 1995, *Winnipeg* was officially commissioned in the RCN.

Winnipeg has been through a variety of exercises and operational deployments during her 25 years. In 2001, the ship deployed to the Arabian Gulf, enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. The following year, the ship deployed again to the Arabian Gulf as part of the Canadian Naval Task Group on Operation Apollo, the Canadian contribution to the international efforts against terrorism.

Winnipeg deployed once more to the region in 2005 in support of Operation Altair. In 2009, they warship deployed as part of Standing North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Maritime Group 1 to conduct counter-piracy missions in the Indian Ocean.

In 2015, it was tasked with the unique opportunity to sail around the world. During the deployment, the ship supported Operations Reassurance, Caribbe, Active Endeavour, and Artemis. *Winnipeg's* most recent deployment was to the Eastern Pacific region with HMCS *Ottawa* in 2017 for Operation Poseidon Cutlass, which would later on be renamed Operation Projection.

In addition to the numerous operations the ship has deployed on, it has also participated in numerous exercises with international maritime partners, including NATO task groups, and multiple Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises off the coast of Hawaii.

Commander Mike Stefanson, Commanding Officer, wanted the 25th anniversary to commemorate not only the successes of the ship, but



One with the Strength of Many
and with the Support of Thousands

to recognize and thank the countless number of people who have contributed to its day-to-day operations.

The morale patch for the 25th anniversary includes the cityscape of the ship's namesake city and the ship's mascot. The motto One with the Strength of Many and the Support of Thousands was chosen because the successes of *Winnipeg* over the past 25 years have not only been because of the fine sailors that have sailed on board, but also because of the support networks made and lasting friendships that have helped along the way.

Winnipeg simply could not succeed if not for the timeless efforts of support units such as the Fleet Maintenance Facilities, Sea Training Group, and the Naval Fleet Schools.

Most importantly, *Winnipeg* would not have been able to achieve excellence at sea without the unwavering support of all of the friends and family members supporting the sailors on board. *Winnipeg* is continuing to prepare for her upcoming participation in the RIMPAC Exercise and Op Projection later on this year.

HMCS WINNIPEG

Congratulations on 25 years!



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People Talk

We asked sailors this question: What, in your opinion, is "the best thing about working onboard HMCS Winnipeg?"



Too easy, we definitely have the best cooks in the fleet!
Cpl J. Donner, Cook
(Logistics Department)



The crew on board has been good to work with. There is a positive attitude and an excellent working environment. Everyone has been really friendly and the department is great.
LS C. Lomas,
Marine Systems Engineer
(MSE Department)



HMCS Winnipeg has some of the best sailors in the fleet. From the junior ranks to the officers, everyone is absolutely amazing to work with!
Lt(N) A. Childerhose,
Navigating Officer
(Ops Department)



The people, and the positive attitude, on board HMCS Winnipeg really makes the ship. Morale is really high here and the camaraderie is fantastic!
OS K. Soch, Boatswain
(Deck Department)



We have a good working environment to be in. There is good teamwork here, and the crew is awesome. There is a lot of interdepartmental support, everyone helps out!
OS T. Salter,
Combat Systems Engineer
(CSE Department)



The crew is fantastic. The chain of command are really supportive and help drive the team to success. Working on board HMCS Winnipeg has been one of the best experiences for me so far.
AB A. Kopanav, Steward
(Logistic Department)



HMCS WINNIPEG

Serving the Royal Canadian Navy since 1995!

Bravo Zulu to the crew - past and present - for a job well done!

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■ Profile

LCdr Patrick Leslie

2Lt Travis Winship
Base Administration

When a service member decides to change career paths, whether within or outside of the Canadian Armed Forces, LCdr Patrick Leslie is ready to assist.

He leads two Personnel Selection Officers, two administrative providers, and a rotation of new PSOs receiving on-the-job training, to provide organizational support to the military and to the members.

Under normal times – pre-COVID, the PSO Office works with members and the chain of command to find a better job fit. Members may no longer be able to perform their job due to health issues or the inability to pass training for a specific job. Through in-service selection programs, members can opt to apply to other trades.

BPSO is an organizational enhancer in that staff provide career services and recommendations to commanding officers on where members can be best used based on their sit-

uation. They work to put members where they can benefit the organization while being in a position they want to fill.

Due to COVID-19, PSOs are mostly operating from home. Most in-service selection has been paused because of the uncertainty of when the training system will open again. LCdr Leslie is still providing advice to members currently on or planning to use in-service selection programs. As well, he is assisting Transition Services in Esquimalt, Vancouver, and Comox to support ill and injured members transitioning out of the CAF.

LCdr Leslie was in the reserves as a MARS officer, now known as a Naval Warfare Officer. He was in that role for over 10 years when he decided to transfer to the regular force in 2005 as a PSO. He has been posted to Esquimalt since August 2019.

He grew up in Victoria and has always had an allure to join the CAF because “of an exposure to the navy.”

When asked if there is any bright spot because of COVID-19, he said, “Having this organizational pause gives an opportunity to push the restart button. This pause will allow our office to change how we conduct business to make our work more efficient and to serve the members of the CAF better.”



“Having this organizational pause gives an opportunity to push the restart button.”

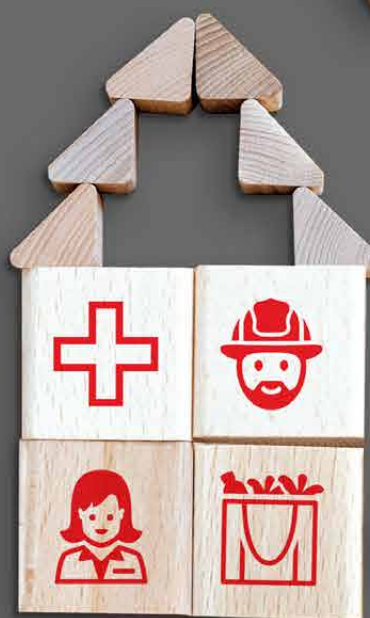


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New Commander for JTFA and MARLANT



Left: RAdm Brian Santarpia addresses the audience gathered on jetty NJ in Halifax.
Right: RAdm Craig Baines gives his farewell address.

Photos by Mona Ghiz, MARLANT Public Affairs



Trident Staff

Respecting physical distancing measures, a Change of Command ceremony last Wednesday marked a change in the leadership at Maritime Forces Atlantic.

Under sunny skies in CFB Halifax's dockyard, RAdm Craig Baines was succeeded by RAdm Brian Santarpia. The event was live-streamed on Facebook.

VAdm Art McDonald, Commander Royal Canadian Navy, was the presiding officer.

In his remarks, RAdm Baines said, "I feel considerable pride to have had the opportunity to command MARLANT and JTFA (Joint Task Force Atlantic) over

the past three years. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the hard working military and civilian members of our Defence Team for their outstanding support to the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Armed Forces. It has been an honour to work with so many great Canadians in the service of our country."

The Commander of MARLANT and JTFA is responsible for the Royal Canadian Navy on the east coast, as well as for conducting routine and contingency domestic operations within the Atlantic area of responsibility to meet Canada's defence and security objectives.

"It is a great honour to be the next Commander of MARLANT and JTFA. I recognize that I am tak-

ing over an extremely professional team of sailors, soldiers, aviators and civilians who are committed to serving Canada," stated RAdm Santarpia. "Working together we will continue to meet the day-to-day operational requirements of the Atlantic region while promoting the vital role of the Royal Canadian Navy both at home and abroad."

RAdm Santarpia enrolled in the CF Officer Candidate Training Plan as a Maritime Surface Officer in 1986. His operational postings on both the east and west coasts of Canada, including as Navigating Officer of *HMC Ships Cormorant* and *Vancouver*, Combat Officer of *HMCS Huron*, Executive Officer of *HMC Ships Chaleur*

and *Halifax*, and as Commanding Officer of *HMCS St. John's* from January 2007 to July 2008. He was Navigation Instructor at the Naval Officer Training Centre, Head of the Warfare Training Division at CF Fleet School (Esquimalt), Operations Officer of Sea Training Pacific, and Commanding Officer of Sea Training Atlantic.

Following his promotion to Captain(N) in 2009, he was appointed as the Special Advisor to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff. In 2010, he was appointed Base Commander of CFB Halifax until his departure to attend the National Security Programme in 2012.

Promoted to Commodore in July 2013, he was appointed Director

General Naval Personnel. He led the transformation of that organization and assumed the duties of the first Director General Navy Strategic Readiness in April 2014.

From December 2014 to April 2015, then Cmdre Santarpia deployed to Bahrain to command Combined Task Force 150, a multi-national group of ships and aircraft conducting counter-terrorism operations. Upon his return to Canada, he was appointed to Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and later appointed Director General Plans at the Strategic Joint Staff in July 2016.

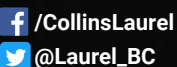
In May 2018, he joined the Canadian Joint Operations Command as the Chief of Staff.

Wishing the residents of Victoria a happy Canada Day!

Laurel Collins
MP for Victoria

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Attention Regular and Primary Reserve Force Members

How is COVID-19 affecting you?

Please participate in our study on the impacts of isolation on CAF members during COVID-19.

Personnel Support Programs (PSP) would like to know how COVID-19 is affecting your individual operational physical readiness. Are you accessing PSP online programming, and/or maintaining operational fitness through other means?

We are looking for study volunteers to identify the impacts of isolation during COVID-19 on CAF Individual Operational Physical Readiness. Specifically, the status and behaviours of physical fitness, nutrition, injury and sleep.

We are looking for Regular Force and Primary Reserve CAF members of all ages, fitness levels, and work environments to participate.

This study requires a commitment of 10 to 24 minutes per two-week period for as long as the COVID-19 restrictions continue, ending with the full return to work and use of PSP fitness facilities and services.

We would like to learn from your experience to better serve your needs during this difficult time. If you are interested, please sign up by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alanceP4EquilibreCOVID-19>

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- Battle of the Atlantic - Bill Wilson remembers the war's end

Able Seaman (Retired) Bill Wilson
Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

On the morning of May 8, 1945, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Ottawa, along with the destroyer HMCS Restigouche, was alongside on the Dartmouth side of the Halifax Harbour, having just escorted the troopship Steam Ship Sithia into Halifax with returning wounded members of the Canadian Forces and a large number of war brides.

It was about 11:15 a.m. I was working on my Oerlikon gun on the starboard flag deck when I heard a merchant ship that was close by blowing its horn repeatedly.

While we all knew the war was almost over, when I heard the repeated blowing of the ship's horn, my first thought was that it could be an emergency such as another Halifax Explosion. I quickly moved to the port side and saw the ship was between the Halifax Dockyard and the Dartmouth side, and heading seaward.

At the same time, I passed Signalman "Soup" Campbell from Flin Flon, Man., who was reaching out for the lanyard controlling our ship's siren and yelling, "The war is over!"

Within seconds, the entire harbour was a bedlam of noise as every merchantman and warship, large and small, began blowing its horn and siren.

It was Victory in Europe, or V.E., Day.

As we were all rushing around slapping backs, the pipe was made to "splice the main brace, all hands lay aft on the quarterdeck."

At that point in time, while I was 20 years of age, I did not draw the daily tot of rum that I was entitled to. I had found that two ounces of rum at 11 a.m. was a little too much and made me quite unproductive for the whole afternoon.

Besides, by turning the tot down, I received three cents in lieu which was not insignificant when I was only being paid about \$1.50 a day. However, this was V.E. Day, the war was over in Europe, so I quite willingly accepted the King's extra tot, and it went down well.

While we were all enjoying the rum, the pipe was made that the admiral had ordered "open gangway", which meant that anyone serving aboard ship could leave the ship at any time, unless the ship was under sailing orders, without having to appear before an officer for the routing "inspection."

No one – man or woman, sailor, soldier or airman – will ever forget where they were on May 8, 1945.



Bill Wilson holds a copy of a local newspaper that reads "Germany Quits", marking the end of the Second World War.



Sailors, including Bill Wilson, gather around copies of a local newspaper celebrating the end of the Second World War.



V-E Day celebrations, Bay Street, Toronto.

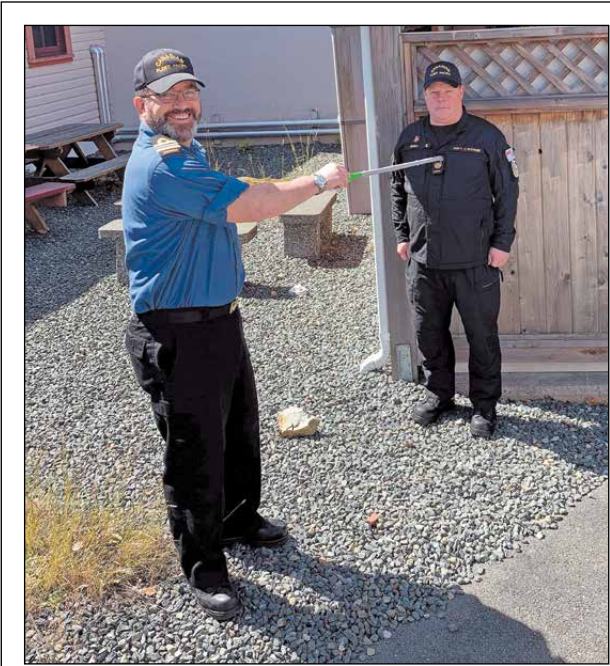
Photographer: John H. Boyd, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1266, Item 96241



Robin&AJ
Good morning. Good times.



Bravo Zulu



Naval Replenishment Unit Asterix Promotion

PO1 Newey is promoted to his current rank of CPO2 by LCdr Nichols outside of dockyard D66.



Sub Lieutenant Nicholas White is promoted to his current rank by Lieutenant Commander William Vanderstelt at MARPAC headquarters.
Photo by: Corporal Jay Naples, MARPAC Imaging services.

Base Adminstration Promotions



MCpl Laura Woodcock receives her new rank at home from Pte Douglas.



MS Kristen Lesson with her new rank presented by her spouse LS Leeson.



MS Tucker Matheson receives his new rank from MS Jandei Kim.

Naval Fleet School Promotions



PO1 Nelson is promoted by his spouse to CPO1.



PO2 Champ is promoted to PO1 by Cdr Annick Fortin.



PO2 Morrison is promoted to PO1 by Cdr Annick Fortin.



Aviator Bolanos-Cuellar is promoted to Corporal by Cdr Annick Fortin.



MS Jackson is promoted to PO2 by Cdr Annick Fortin.



MS Sherman is promoted to PO2 by Cdr Annick Fortin.

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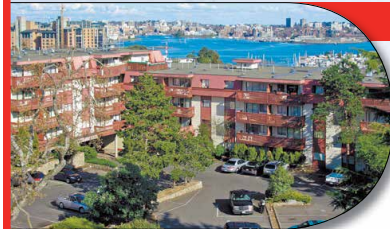
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