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LOOKOUT

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MORALE & WELFARE NEWS | CFB ESQUIMALT, VICTORIA, B.C.

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FRIGATES IN PORT

Sailor Third Class (S3) Coles and S3 Schaffer, members of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Winnipeg*, throw lines to dock alongside HMCS *Ottawa* in Port Alberni on March 7. The frigates visited Port Alberni for a small rest in-between the Task Group Exercise-23. Photo: Corporal Tristan Walach, Canadian Armed Forces

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ROYAL NAVY RIDDLE

surrounds ceremonial sword

"I'd love to find out who the original first owner was, what their history in the Royal Navy was and what places the sword has been carried on in parade or ceremonial occasions."

~Commander (ret'd) Tim Addison

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

A retired naval commander continues his quest to unlock the mystery surrounding a 100-year-old Royal Navy (RN) ceremonial sword in his family's possession.

Commander (ret'd) Tim Addison, Vice President of the Naval Association of Canada, says the sword belonged to RN admiralty at one point.

"The sword represents 60 years of consecutive service in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for myself and my father," says the 68-year-old Ottawa resident. "The fact that we both carried it on parade at various times during our careers makes it especially cherished for me."

Addison was born in Victoria, and served in the RCN from 1972 to 2006 as a ship's navigator, training officer, squadron staff officer and then Executive Officer of HMCS Huron and HMCS Toronto. He also worked at National Defence Headquarters.

His curiosity surrounding the story of the sword began to mount long before his 34-year naval career ended.

"It's both the history of the sword and the mystery of its original ownership that I find most intriguing," Addison

says. "Most records, to my knowledge, for the sale of swords made before the Second World War literally went up in smoke [during the Battle of Britain bombings], so I can't figure out who owned it."

Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) (ret'd) Herb T. Addison, Tim's father, passed the sword down following retirement as LCdr in 1975. Herb served in the RCN starting in 1946 and held posts as Executive Officer of HMCS Jonquiere and HMCS New Glasgow. He passed away in 2002.

Herb had purchased the sword from a junior RN officer for £15 (CAD\$25) sometime between 1947 and 1950 as he attended officer training courses in the United Kingdom. The RN officer was the son of a RN Admiral who served in the Second World War.

"The sword is now an Addison family heirloom," said Tim. "I'd love to find out who the original first owner was, what their history in the RN was and what places the sword has been carried on in parade or ceremonial occasions."

The details about the young naval officer are scant. Addison confirmed with an antique sword website operator that the sword was made between 1917

and 1919 based on its serial number. He remains hopeful about unlocking more details.

Addison has other naval keepsakes from his father with known origins, such as a midshipman's journal kept by his father during a voyage in 1947-1948 during his time aboard HMS Norfolk in the Asia-Pacific region. The journal includes handwritten notes of life at sea, diagrams, navigational plans, sketches of shipboard equipment, and mention of an onboard visit by Lord Louis Mountbatten who served as Viceroy and Governor General of India.

Other items include: several photos; pamphlets from foreign port visits; a mess kit that once belonged to Vice-Admiral Charles Morris Winton Thomas, a former Commander of the Canadian Navy; cloth ship crests; a commemorative edition of Maritime Warfare Bulletins; Fleet School documents; and several decades' old back issues of the *Lookout* and the *Trident* newspapers.

Addison says he is currently searching for a museum that will accept some items as donations.

The sword is in excellent condition.

A stainless steel curved blade with a King's crown indicates it was manufactured in the early 20th century. It has a brass hilt, serial number stamped on the blade's edge, with a leather carrying case and black leather sword belt, distinguished by an Admiral's belt buckle.

The owner's late father, Herb Addison, served 29 years in the Royal Canadian Navy and had the name 'H Addison' engraved on the inside of the hilt.



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Military members battle for position during a two-day Grappling Development Camp at the Naden Athletic Centre (NAC) on March 23. Photos: Peter Mallett/Lookout

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Any casual observer who happened to stop by the upper gymnasium of the Naden Athletic Centre (NAC) on March 23-24 might have thought a Greco-Roman wrestling competition was underway.

With accelerated heart rates and sweat dripping from every pore, 30 athletes from Esquimalt put their bodies to the ultimate test during a two-day Grappling Development Camp at the NAC.

As music blasts from a giant tower speaker, 15 pairs of combatants sparred during an afternoon session. Their endurance, mental strength and every muscle were pushed to the limit as each tried to get the upper hand on their opponent while practicing their best head and arm locks, holds, submissions and takedowns.

"It's all about giving each competitor a full-body workout, letting them battle it out and applying their knowledge of what they have learned," explains Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) Lee Thibault, organizer.

The athletes were preparing for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)-sanctioned competition titled Military Combatives, where grapplers across the CAF compete in regional and national competitions for the first time. PO2 Thibault, a Small Arms Instructor at Naval Fleet School Pacific and a five-time CAF Combatives champion, has been a tireless promoter of the sport for several years.

Grappling is a form of submission wrestling and involves holds and takedowns without striking or punches. Every takedown is achieved by controlling the opponent into submission to score points. The equipment needed to participate is only gym shorts and a t-shirt.

PO2 Thibault helped form the Esquimalt Tritons Grappling team in 2019 after Military Combatives was officially sanctioned as a sport by Personnel Support Programs (PSP). Slowly but surely, he says, the sport he loves is gaining in popularity locally and at other bases across the country. Grappling teams have also been formed at CFB Edmonton, Gagetown, 12 Wing

Shearwater and other locations.

Sailor Third Class (S3) Jared Hamilton, a 21-year-old Maritime Technician with HMCS *Calgary*, is convinced grappling is the sport for him.

"I like to think of grappling as an aggressive form of chess," S3 Hamilton said. "You don't need to be the biggest or strongest fighter in the gym to win."

S3 Hamilton competed as a high school wrestler in his hometown of Uxbridge, Ont., and has gravitated towards the newest Tritons team since joining the Royal Canadian Navy over two years ago.

Chief Petty Officer Second Class (CPO2) Shawn Mann, Damage Control Petty Officer of HMCS *Ottawa*, says grappling is excellent for improving conditioning and mental health and ideal for small spaces on board a warship. He believes grappling skills can enhance the readiness of his ship's company and its Boarding Party.

"It gives you something more to learn than just having a weapon in your hand and prepares a sailor for what to do in a dangerous dispute,"

he said. "You try to overpower them using some of the skills that we are learning here at this camp."

The camp participants spent the morning learning grappling mechanics, techniques and form and spar in the afternoon.

As PO2 Thibault looked across the gymnasium, he was brimming with pride about growing and developing the Tritons grappling team.

"We had new personnel learn a lot and they definitely want to come back," he said. "I want to show them we are not just a club but a competitive sports team; hopefully, this will attract new members with diverse skill sets."

The Grappling Camp was possible with the logistical and technical support of Crusher Combat Sports, a Langford-based martial arts and fitness centre.

The centre supplied a giant mat that covered almost the entirety of the gym's basketball court and provided equipment during last year's successful Military Combatives Tournament at the NAC, which saw 25 grapplers from Esquimalt and CFB Edmonton compete for medals.

Mike Jorgenson of Crusher Combat, a Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and an MMA Fighter who fought and won via Knockout, provided instruction for that tournament, bringing a wealth of knowledge in the technical aspect of grappling.

PO2 Thibault encourages would-be competitors of all ages, genders and experience levels to contact him and get involved as the Tritons grow their talent pool.



The Grappling Development Camp prepared athletes for a Military Combatives competition on March 23-24 at the NAC.

The Tritons hold regular practices at the NAC and always welcome new participants.

For more information about the practices and how to take part, contact PO2 Thibault at lee.thibault753@gmail.com

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MANAGING EDITOR

Jazmin Holdway 250-363-3372

EDITOR

Kate Bandura 250-363-3130
kateryna.bandura@forces.gc.ca

WRITER

Peter Mallett mallett.peter@cfmws.com

PRODUCTION

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

Leslie Eaton 250-363-8033
workstation3@lookoutnewspaper.com

ACCOUNTS/RECEPTION

Trina Winters 250-363-3127

ADVERTISING

Joshua Buck 778-977-5433
sales@forcesadvertising.com

EDITORIAL ADVISORS

Lt(N) Michelle Scott 250-363-7060
Rodney Venis 250-363-4006

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meet your Esquimalt SISIP team. You may have seen them on base or walked by them in the CANEX building. This week, we want to introduce you to our three Financial Advisors: Spencer, Shannon, and Jonathan.

Over the next two weeks, you will



SPENCER ELLIOT

Spencer Elliot has been a registered Financial Planner since 2015 at CIBC Imperial Service and later with Scotia Wealth. He specializes in later career planning. A graduate of McMaster University with a Bachelor of Arts (Economics), he also has a Personal Finance Planning designation. Spencer has an innate understanding of complex financial situations and takes a systematic quantitative and qualitative approach with his clients. When he is not focused on getting you to your end game, he is out climbing, hiking or camping. He has run 16 half marathons and hopes to do his first full marathon in October. He also loves reading and going to pubs.



SHANNON CHILDS

As a military spouse, Shannon Childs has firsthand knowledge of military culture and the unique challenges military families may face. Shannon spent 16 years at SISIP and over 18 years in finance and has her Personal Financial Planning designation and a strong accounting background, which makes her financial planning approach very robust. Shannon prefers in-person engagements and is quick to share her incredible knowledge of military resources and tips on everyday life. In her free time, you can find Shannon hiking with her two boys and exploring all the island has to offer.



JONATHAN MAR

Jonathan Mar was born and raised in Victoria and is a UVIC graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Economics focusing on finance. He got his first taste of the finance industry during his schooling working with the investment management team at CIBC Wood Gundy. He has been with SISIP for five years and has completed the Investment Funds in Canada course. Jonathan brings an invaluable ability to break down financial concepts to explain them to newer members, taking the mystery out of investing and ensuring their financial futures start on solid footing. Jonathan is at the gym regularly, where his passion is weightlifting. For relaxation, he loves fishing and the occasional hike in the woods.



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The Royal Canadian Navy introduces a new recruitment opportunity

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Starting March 31, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) is launching a new recruitment program to give Canadians the opportunity to experience the Navy as a sailor on a one-year contract and provide them with exposure to a variety of naval trades before deciding if a career in the Navy is the right fit for them.

Through the new Naval Experience Program (NEP), the Navy is rethinking the way it attracts, recruits, and trains sailors. The aim of the program is to reduce the amount of time it takes to train civilians as sailors, to foster the development of sailors who love their work, and to attract those who enjoy the unique lifestyle that the Navy offers.

"Life in the Navy can be demanding and challenging at times – it is not for everyone, and that's why the new Naval Experience Program gives participants the chance to experience life in the Navy, for one year, no strings attached," said Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander Royal Canadian Navy. "The program also allows the Navy to assess the suitability of the new participants and offer them career choices based on their success."

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- Experience the Navy life within the Atlantic or Pacific Fleet, as a sailor with time at sea and ashore;
- After the one-year contract, participants can choose to continue to serve with the RCN, either full-time or part-time, transfer to another element, or leave the RCN, no strings attached;
- For those who stay, they will transfer to a trade and carry on with their naval career;
- For those who choose not to continue with the RCN, they will have had an amazing opportunity, and a valuable life experience to add to their resume.

The NEP is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents between 16-57. Applicants under 18 will need permission from their parent or guardian when they enroll. Participants receive the same pay and benefits as any other recruits to the Canadian Armed Forces. NEP is a perfect opportunity for experience seekers and students who would like to take a gap year from their studies to experience the Navy with no long term commitment.

The NEP is one of the many recruiting programs offered in the Navy. For more information on other recruiting programs, please visit the Canadian Forces Recruiting Group Website at forces.ca/en/find-a-recruiting-centre.



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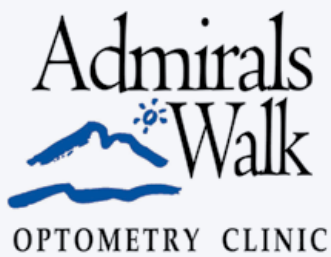


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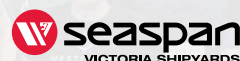
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Indo-Pacific deployment an exciting moment for Atlantic Fleet

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Montréal* departed from Halifax on March 26 for a six-month deployment on Operations *Projection* and *Neon* in support of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy. *Montréal* will be accompanied by the supply vessel *MV Asterix* and its Naval Replenishment Unit for the first leg of the deployment.

Ryan Melanson Trident Staff

For the first time in years, east coast ships are on the way to the Indo-Pacific region for a major deployment.

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Montréal* departed Halifax on March 26 for six months in support of Operations *Projection* and *Neon*, accompanied by CH-148 Cyclone Helicopter and air detachment crew, as well as the supply vessel *MV Asterix* and its embarked Naval Replenishment Unit.

"My crew is particularly excited because this is the first time an east-coast ship is deploying on Op *Projection*," said Commander (Cdr) Paul Mountford, HMCS *Montréal's* Commanding Officer.

To support the Canadian government's new strategy in the Indo-Pacific, ships from both coasts will now be contributing to the deployments, conducting patrols and exercising alongside ships and aircraft from other nations.

"It's a great opportunity for our sailors to learn from some of the best, and for us to offer our experience back to them," said Rear-Admiral (RAdm) Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT) and Joint Task Force Atlantic (JTFA).

RAdm Santarpia said *Montréal* would operate with partners and allies in several exercises in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea before heading to Japan to take part in Operation *Neon*, Canada's contribution to monitoring United Nations sanctions imposed on North Korea. Plans are for the ship to then travel back to the waters off Australia for the international Exercise *Talisman Sabre* later this summer.

Before *Montréal's* deployment, west coast ships HMCS *Vancouver* and HMCS *Winnipeg* were deployed to the Indo-Pacific from August to September of 2022, and plans are now to deploy two additional Halifax-class frigates to the region at a later date. Canada's new Indo-Pacific strategy includes a commitment to deploy additional military assets to the region to support peace and stability.

"It's vital to work together with allies and partners in furthering our aims,"

RAdm Santarpia added. "No single country can secure the safety and security of Maritime traffic in any region, let alone one as complex as the Indo-Pacific. Sending ships is just one important pillar of the military component of our strategy."



Families, friends and colleagues gathered at the jetty in Halifax to wish sailors well as the ships prepared to sail. Photos: Aviator Gregory Cole

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HMCS Ottawa had the privilege of welcoming the General Wayne Eyre, Chief of Defence Staff, and Chief Petty Officer First Class Gilles Gregoire, Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer, onboard March 14.



BRAVO ZULU

HMCS Ottawa held a Hands Fall In for awards and promotions with the Chief of Defence Staff.

In recognition of their outstanding performance in their duties, Lieutenant (Navy) Nicole Spivey (top left), Sailor First Class Luke Wieler (top right), and Chief Petty Officer Second Class Selena Fenwick-Wilson (bottom left) received coins from the Chief of Defence Staff.

Petty Officer First Class Elizabeth Clark (bottom right) was promoted to Chief Petty Officer Second Class.



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The forgotten history of HMCS Niobe:

in celebration of Tartan Day, April 6



Clare Sharpe
CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum

As we celebrate the heritage and history of Scotland on Tartan Day (April 6), it's worth recalling the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) once operated a 'secret' base there during the Second World War.

For five years, Smithston in Greenock, Scotland, flew under the flag of the RCN. From 1941-1946, working out of the former Smithston Poorhouse and Asylum, around 20 RCN officers and staff administered 3,000 Canadian sailors and 100 Canadian Wrens (members of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service). They were headquartered in an imposing Scottish baronial-style mansion of sandstone and slate, originally built in 1876 to house people living in poverty and those living with mental

health challenges. In 1939, these premises were requisitioned by the British Admiralty, and repurposed as the UK headquarters of the Canadian Navy.

The property was renamed HMCS Niobe (2nd), in honour of Canada's first warship, an 11,000-ton Diadem-class destroyer commissioned in 1910. An earlier RCN establishment in England, also called Niobe (2nd) closed in June 1941; the RCN considered that a manning depot was no longer necessary in Britain. Most of the RCN's destroyers and corvettes were needed back in Canada to protect vital shipping.

But then the creation of the Newfoundland Escort Forces, based in St. John's, Nfld., led to a major shift in HMC Ships operations. As the tempo of the war increased, more Canadian warships entered UK waters, and more Canadian naval personnel were drafted to the British Isles for duty or training. Large numbers of Canadians sailors were in the UK

awaiting new ships, or waiting for ships to come out of refit, or becoming part of the Mid-Ocean Escort Force. The requirement to re-open a manning facility was pressing. To meet the increasing need for a base/manning depot in the UK, Niobe was again commissioned, this time at Greenock, Scotland. The Scottish location made sense: Canadian ships typically used Greenock or Gourock as a berthing place.

The wartime activities at HMCS Niobe were covered by a blanket of censorship.

This 'stone frigate' comprised 250 acres, including the main mansion buildings and 52 temporary huts. It was the only establishment of its kind in Britain taken over by Canadians. Niobe had kitchens capable of feeding 1,500 civilians in an emergency, its own 100-bed hospital, and equipment for firefighting, air raid protection and even decontamination in case gas bombs were released on it.

HMCS Niobe acted as a parent ship to Canadian warships and also as an accounting base, manning pool, and hospitalization centre. It also had its own variety party, a military band, and a dance band. The military band performed for over 100 radio broadcasts, including a number from London. There were football, baseball, hockey, softball and ice hockey teams.

According to a 1988 article from the *Greenock Telegraph* newspaper, "the people of Greenock learned to love these men and women from the Canadian towns and prairies". Many found sweethearts in Greenock; some took their brides or grooms home to Canada, others stayed there to start families.

In autumn 1945, the Canadian flag was struck at Smithston and the building gradually turned back to its former function, now under the name Ravenscraig hospital.

Background image: HMCS Niobe, Scotland, 1944. CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.



Sports day at HMCS Niobe, Greenock, Scotland, June 1943. Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, UK.



The Canadian Navy at play. Sports day at HMCS Niobe, June 11, 1943, Greenock, Scotland. Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, UK.

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HMCS OTTAWA

Outgoing Lieutenant-Commander Inglis, Marine Systems Engineering Officer, and Lieutenant-Commander MacDonald, Naval Combat Systems Engineering Officer, received promotions to their current ranks on March 23.



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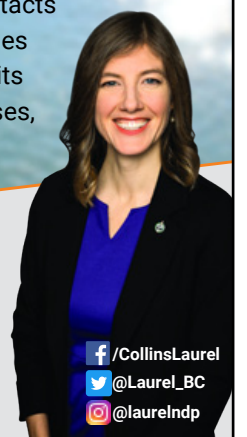
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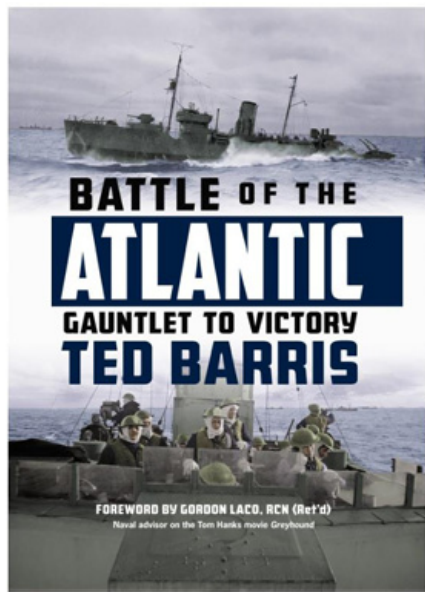


NDP



Acclaimed author Ted Barris visits CFB Esquimalt

Ted's book is available in local bookstores. For more information on his many books on Canadian military history and other subjects, visit his website at tedbarris.com.



LCdr (ret'd) Paul Seguna

Award-winning author Ted Barris visited the CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum the week of March 20-24 to present his latest book.

The dynamic and informative presentation was a lead-up to the annual commem-

oration of the loss of HMCS Esquimalt on April 16 and the Battle of the Atlantic in May.

Ted's latest title focused on Canadian military history – *Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory* – details the strategic overview and tactical aspects of this longest battle of the Second World War while telling the personal stories of those who experienced it.

Ted toured the museum's Battle of the Atlantic gallery in the company of one of the few remaining veterans of that epic conflict: Commander (ret'd) Peter Chance, after whom the gallery is named. Remarking on Peter's wartime reminiscences, Ted underlined his focus on relating the individual experiences of war as something of critical importance, to which Peter responded with the succinct answer, 'damn good!'

Ted presented the topic of his book to a full room at the museum on Friday.

The attendees represented a broad spectrum of those interested in Canadian naval history. Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A/SLt) Max Lucas, new to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and currently undergoing training at HMCS *Venture*, said the presentation was 'excellent'.

"His knowledge and enthusiasm for the

topic were unmistakable as he invited the audience into the lives of the men and women who lived through one of the most brutal and consequential events of the Second World War – The Battle of the Atlantic," A/SLt Lucas said.

He attended with a personal interest in the topic as his grandfather served in the RCN during the Battle of the Atlantic.

"I believe the individual stories that Ted has illuminated so beautifully, like my grandfather's experience, are meaningful ways for us to reflect on our naval heritage, and to understand where we come from to better prepare for where we are going," A/SLt Lucas said.

A special family interest also came from Jonathan and Sarah Hilliard, who attended as the grandchildren of a figure from the book – Captain James Douglas (Chummy) Prentice, Distinguished Service Order (DSO), Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) & Bar (in recognition of a further award of the DSC medal for subsequent acts of service before the enemy).

B.C.-born and raised, Prentice joined the Royal Navy (RN) in 1912 at age thirteen. He



Ted Barris and Peter Chance view a display at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum

served during the First World War at the epic Battle of Jutland. He resigned from the RN in 1934 and returned to B.C., joining the RCN at the outbreak of the Second World War. This charismatic leader and RCN tactician, known for his ever-present monocle, improved the effectiveness of Canadian corvettes in their actions against the U-boats during the Battle of the Atlantic.

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SEASON WRAP-UP FOR ESQUIMALT TRITONS

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

The Esquimalt Tritons Women's Hockey team remains upbeat about the silver linings of a memorable season.

The team was eliminated in the semi-final round of the Canadian Armed Forces Women's Hockey Championship, March 21-25, following a 2-0 loss to hosts and tournament champion, 8 Wing Trenton.

"Despite the loss, I'm incredibly proud of this team because we fought hard and never gave up," said Master Sailor (MS) Roseline Clark of HMCS Vancouver, defender and Assistant Captain.

One of the most glittering silver linings for the season was the team's 3-2 come-from-behind win over their Maritime Forces Atlantic rivals CFB Halifax to close out the round-robin phase of the tournament on March 23.

"We knew once we got on the scoreboard, we would gain momentum to score more goals against Halifax," MS Clark said. "We needed that win and beating Halifax was a huge morale booster."

A convincing performance at the Canada West Regionals tournament buoyed the Tritons' optimism heading into the tournament. The team went undefeated in Winnipeg and outscored the opposition 42-4 over four games.

In the women's semi-final clash in Trenton, Sergeant (Sgt) Heather Weaver of 8 Wing scored what proved to be the winner for the hosts midway through the second period. The Tritons opened the tournament with a 5-0 loss to Trenton, followed by a 7-0 loss to Valcartier. Trenton

went on to defeat Halifax 2-1 in the championship game and capture this year's women's hockey crown.

MS Clark says some of the Tritons' standouts on the ice this season included their top line of forwards: Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A/SLt) Kayla LeTouzel, A/SLt Frédérique Gauthier, and Captain (Capt) Amanda Lauder. The trio scored all three goals in the victory over Halifax. The team also got some big help from several pick-up players from other bases in Canada West that MS Clark says helped significantly bolster their squad at Nationals. They included Lieutenant Laura Turner (CFB Shilo), Corporal Laura Lighthall (Comox), (Capt) Jami Boyd (1 Health Services Group), Capt Tracy Dixon (Winnipeg), and Major Pam Harris (Winnipeg).

Even though the team did not hoist the national championship trophy this year, the esprit des corps opportunity was the big takeaway for the Tritons, says MS Clark.

"It's an incredible feeling to represent CFB Esquimalt on the ice while meeting new people and building connections with people from across Canada," she concluded. "Athletic competition like this encourages members to get in better physical shape and push themselves past their comfort level."

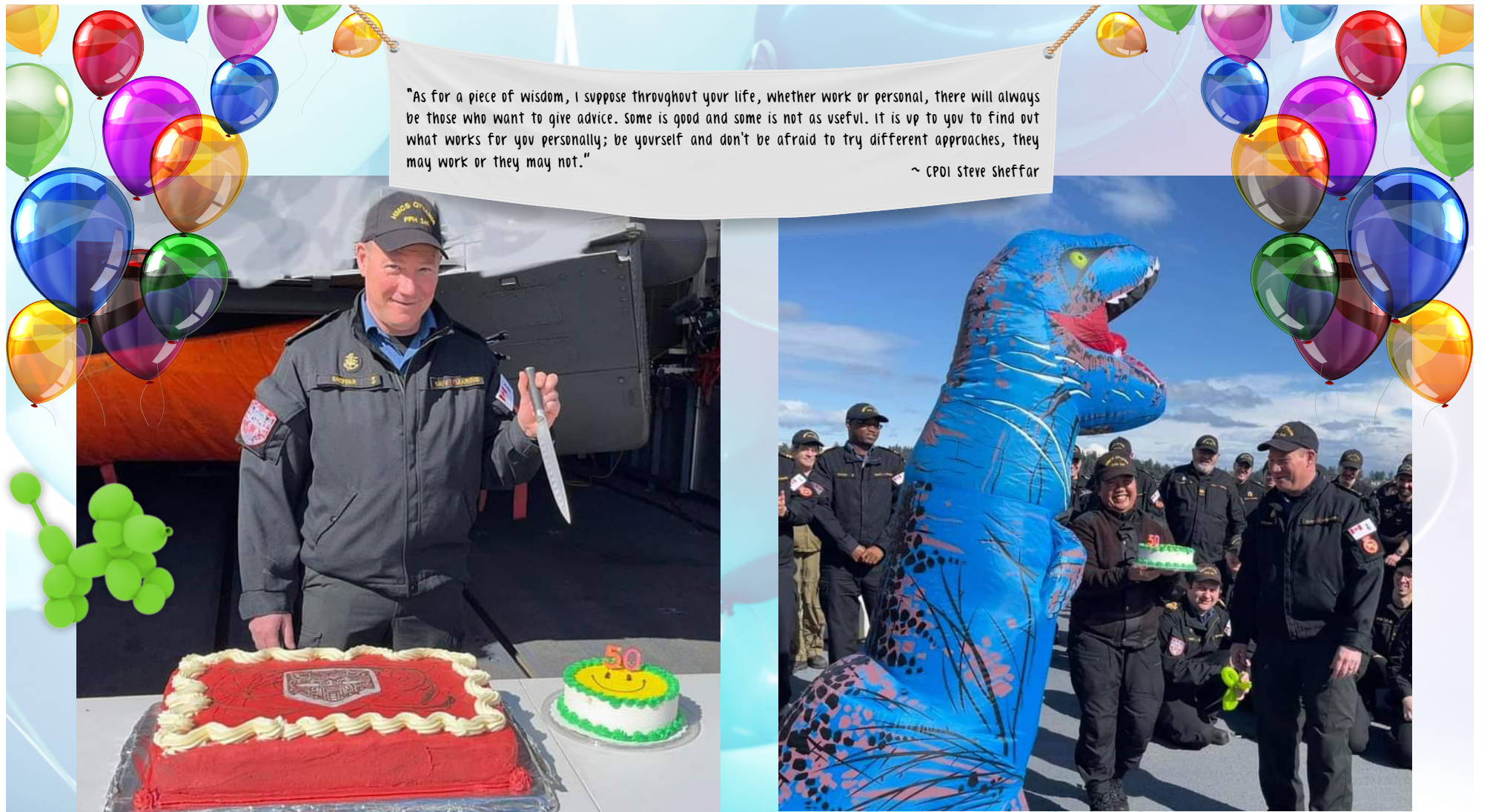
MS Clark says the level of competition in the CAF keeps improving, noting how several players on her team and across the CAF have played elite and university-level hockey. She is hopeful a Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) team can be formed for future World Military Games competitions.



"It's an incredible feeling to represent CFB Esquimalt on the ice while meeting new people and building connections with people from across Canada,"

~Master Sailor Roseline Clark





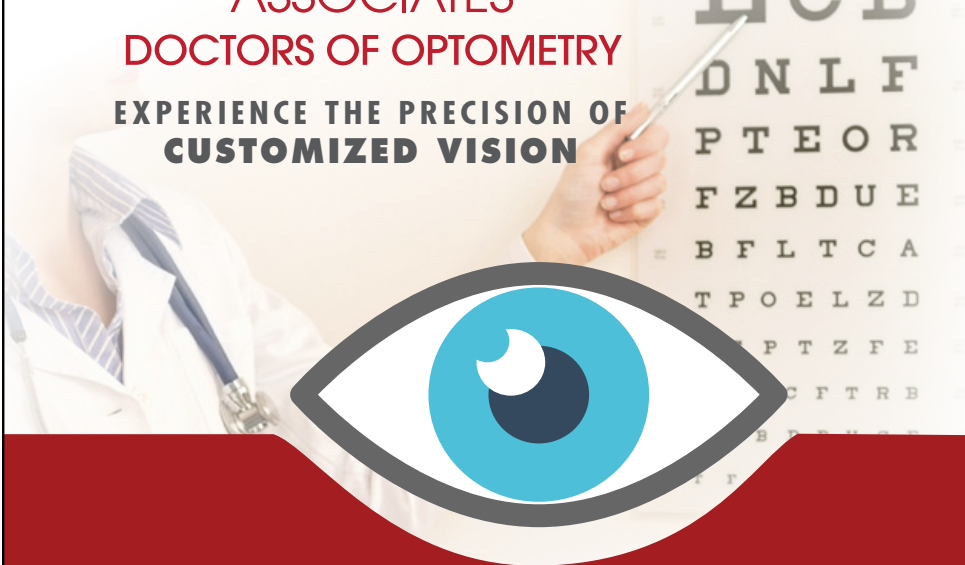
Chief Petty Officer First Class (CPO1) Steve Sheffar celebrated his milestone 50th birthday among crewmates aboard HMCS Ottawa on March 13.

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY!

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Reflecting on a 75-year legacy: a discussion with the Director of the Canadian Rangers Corps



Canadian Rangers and Junior Canadian Rangers from all over the country and Patrol Groups, as well as members of the Australian Army's Regional Force Surveillance Group, met in Victoria for CR-75 RV and participated in various training activities to kick off the year-long celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Rangers.



DND

If you interacted with the Canadian Army (CA) during the last year, you would have heard the Canadian Rangers (CR) celebrated the 75th anniversary from April 2022 to the end of March 2023.

Now, nearing the end of this year-long anniversary, we asked Colonel Benoit Mainville, Director of the CR Corps, a few questions about the past and future of the CR.

Q: Why do you think it was essential to highlight the 75th anniversary?

A: I believe the celebrations represent an appropriate means to thank the CR and highlight the contributions they have made in many small, often fragile, communities during the last 75 years. The renaissance of the esprit de corps among the CR is also worth highlighting.

Q: How exactly was the anniversary highlighted?

A: There have been many layers to the celebrations. Nationally, all CR members were invited to the CR-75 Rendez-Vous, held in May 2022 in Victoria, to kick off the 75th anniversary. The event was presided over by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, the Governor General, and many Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and government officials were present.

Regionally, each Canadian Rangers Patrol Group (CRPG) hosted an event to bring their patrols together, such as

Ex Ranger Tracker, a canoe expedition led by 3 CRPG, or the participation of 2 CRPG in the Great Expedition of Quebec's First Nations communities.

Q: Now that we are nearing the end of the anniversary, what would be your best memory from the last year?

A: Without a doubt, the kick-off event in Victoria. It was one for the books, the first-ever CR gathering of that size, and I was proud to see them be honoured by so many dignitaries of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Canadian Government.

Q: What are some of the most memorable CR moments of the last 75 years?

A: Beyond the first few decades, which put the bravery and resilience of the CR to the test, I think the 1990s were significant, as the CR saw the creation of all 5 CRPGs, which led to a substantial expansion of their capabilities, and the formation of the Junior Canadian Ranger (JCR) Program, which is turning 25 this year.

Other key points in our history would be the transfer of CR command to the Commander Canadian Army (CCA) in 2007 and our work under Operation *Laser*, part of the response to COVID-19, from 2020 to 2022. This was the largest-ever CR mobilization.

While not a specific event, the relationship the CR and their communities have built is also a key point from the last 75 years.

Q: How do you think the last 75 years have prepared the CR for the environment they operate in today?

A: Many Rangers grew up in the same communities they serve, so there is a symbiotic relationship. CR members are masters of adaptability, a skill they often learn during their youth, which prepares them for the ever-changing environment they operate today.

Q: Now, let's look forward; what is your vision for the future of the CR?

A: For the last 75 years, many have relied on CR to assume many risks due to adaptability. It is time we find a better balance and maximize collaboration. The vision of the CCA clearly illustrates and aligns with the aspirations of the CR.

With my team, we aim to define an operational capability with a specific mandate for which members will be trained, equipped, structured, staffed, and provided with adequate resources for their reality.

A critical step towards this vision is the CR Enhancement Strategy. By completing an extensive review of the CR, the CA aims to create a revised Force Employment concept that will result in a new CR Master Implementation Directive in 2024, enhancing and expanding the CR to improve their functional capabilities, ensure better alignment within the CAF, allies and relevant other Government Departments and agen-

cies, as well as addressing the fundamental problematics of this unique sub-component.

Q: And if we look further, what do you envision for the next 75 years?

A: First, I want to find ways to celebrate the successful JCR program rightfully. Beyond that, I want the CR's history of courage and resilience to continue being written for the next 75 years. I want to see them remain an essential element of CAF operational capability while receiving resources equivalent to the support they give to Canada and its communities.

Q: Tell us your story. How did your military career start?

A: I joined the CA Reserve 37 years ago following a moment of inattention that led me to the wrong classroom in CEGEP [Quebec's equivalent to college]. Little did I know this misstep would be the beginning of my future in this room. I met a CA recruiter who kick-started my military journey. Ever since, my career in the CA has been a fulfilling adventure, full of exciting encounters and challenges.

Q: How did you first get involved with the CR, and what is your role?

A: In 2014, while I was posted in the U.S., I met an old friend who encouraged me to join the CR. Once back in Canada, I joined the 2nd CRPG in 2015 as a Deputy-Commander and was promoted to Commander in 2017. Since 2022, I have taken on the role of Director of the CR Corps. My

primary function is strengthening the CR Corps and finding solutions to current challenges by facilitating inter-CRPG communication. I also act as the Director of the CR within the Army Staff by advising the CCA on CR and JCR-related issues and how we can better align.

Q: How does it feel to serve within an element of the Canadian Armed Forces that has been providing critical support for more than 75 years?

A: It is a privilege. Firstly, leading an element as diverse as Canada is an enriching experience. Secondly, it is a joy to know the CR have been a positive change-maker for 75 years, whether by deploying effectively with little to no notice or inspiring youth with their JCR program.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: I want to thank the CR, as well as all the other military members and civilians that work with them, for their contributions to the security of Canadians. And I want to highlight their creativity and perseverance over the last 75 years.

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