

TELEGRAPH



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Spring/Summer 2017

From the Bridge



President's Report May 2017

Shipmates,

Since the last Telegraph in January, a fair bit has gone on and most of it for the good! I'll start with some of the functions we have had since the last printing. At the end of January, after we went to print, shipmates Bill Middleton, Charlie Ross, Ron Sakki and I closed up to cleaning stations in the Galley. All the dishes were removed including pots and pans and everything was power-washed, degreased and cleaned up. Any repairs required were done (securing pot racks, shelving...). The exhaust hood was cleaned professionally to keep our insurance valid. All the pots, pans, and dishes were brought back in, washed, scrubbed, and put away. (I am sure that Jojo moved a lot of stuff back to where she could find it.) So, thanks to Bill, Charlie and Ron for their three days of hard work!

This year, because February had so many days to celebrate in it (the Club Birthday, Valentine's Day, Family Day, and Flag Day), the Executive decided to combine them all and celebrate them on the same day with a good old-fashioned Canadian BBQ. It was a cold 4th of February, but about fifty members and guests showed up to enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, birthday cake, and each others' company. S/M Gord Casey cut the cake.



Mr. President Hard at Work at the Club Birthday Party BBQ - Burgers where excellent!



S/M Gord Casey, WWII Veteran, cuts the Birthday Cake

On Wednesday the 8th of February, the band of HMCS YORK played a recital in the Club. This is a group of very talented young sailors who entertained us with almost everything: jazz, classical, and military music, using different instruments that you would never think a military band would use. The ones that stood out the most were the conch shells and the digeridoo. It was a great evening! Unfortunately, there was a very poor turnout of our members for this event. These young sailors support us by coming out to entertain us. We should support them by being here to be entertained. They are the future of the Club! Remember you were once a young sailor too.



HMCS YORK Band visits the Club – Fanfare for the Conchin’ Man Ensemble

The next thing up was our March General Meeting and St Paddie’s Day bash. This was attended by thirty-five shipmates, and a few guests dropped in after the meeting. All enjoyed themselves. L/M Al Simpson whipped up corned beef sandwiches in the galley to add to the merriment of the day.

On April 8th, we tried something new: we held a spaghetti dinner! This went over very well and we had thirty-seven hungry diners in attendance. We started with a Caesar Salad, prepared by chef Bill (he also made the spaghetti). This was followed by spaghetti with a choice of either tomato sauce or tomato sauce with Italian sausage (my own creation). By the time everyone got through eating and going up for seconds, it was time for Whiskers’ favorite dessert - vanilla ice cream and chocolate chip cookies! There were seconds here too. A good time was had by all! If anyone went away hungry, it was their own fault. This was our first attempt at this type of function and the consensus was that it worked! (So, we will try it again.)

The 7th of May was Battle of the Atlantic Sunday. The weather broke and we wound up with a good day, a touch on the cool side, but all-in-all, a good day for a parade. The new venue in Nathan Phillip’s Square was a good choice. There was room for proper dressing instead of being all scrunched up in front of the Cenotaph and no streetcars to worry about. The marchpast in one spot so all could see! It was great! I also heard someone say that we were in sunshine for a change and we weren’t in a wind tunnel! After the parade, there were a fair number of folks who showed up back at the Club. They must have been thirsty after the short parade down Yonge St., or their throats were awfully dry from spinning yarns, because the Club did well!

The May general meeting was *ad hoc* (as we were two Naval members short for a quorum) so no business could be carried out. We were only able to read the various reports with no questions or motions to be made. The rest of the afternoon went well with the Kilgour Clan walking off with 4/6^{ths} of the meat! (Where *do* they hide their horseshoes?) The galley equipment should be in place for our Steak Night on the 3rd of June.

This has been a long process; however, the good news is that we came in *well* under budget. 😊

As most of you already know our part-time bar steward, Angie, has left the Club for full-time employment. We wish her well in her future endeavors! She has said that she will come back and work functions if required, which is great! If you are coming to the Steak Night, you can see Angie as she will be our steward for the evening. Bill and I have been filling in on the Bar on Saturdays, but business has not been good. If anyone shows up, it is normally the Executive members coming down to do their work. This has saved the Club money because we don't get paid for filling in on the bar, but sales the last time I worked the bar were \$19.75 (this was a *good* Saturday). Starting the 10th of June, the Club will be going to summer hours: Tuesday to Friday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday (unless there is a function or a private party).

That, Shipmates, is all that I can think of to report. Check out the Sports and Entertainment report for our upcoming events. Remember, don't be a stranger around the Club! Jojo loves company, even more so when she is busy!

Yours aye,

Gord McLennan
President

1st Vice-President

Position presently vacant as Gord McLennan was elected as Club President.

Second Vice-President

Shipmates,

I hope everyone had a great Victoria Day weekend! We are updating the galley with a new broiler, so come to the Club and check out our great food and, with summer coming, the COLD beer!

Paid membership as of May 27, 2017 is:

Life 3
Honorary 6
Naval 77
Associate 15
Social 38

Thanks, and see you at the Club!

David Shepherdson
2nd Vice President

Treasurer's Chest



Finally, a good news article!

After five years and countless hours of telephone calls, visits to the city tax department, and days sitting in front of adjustment committees arguing what I considered outrageous property tax bills, I finally have a result from it all!

Before I go any further I must say that, in the past, some members had approached the City but with no satisfactory outcomes. As you can well imagine, their frustration with getting nowhere ended their endeavours prior to getting a satisfactory result.

When I took on the job as Treasurer, I made a promise that I would do whatever I needed to do to make this Club stop bleeding to death, even if it meant I had to take on the City of Toronto.

On April 24, I was in City Hall, stating our case to Revenue Service under some old parts of the Municipal Act, which I had been working on for the past five years, and here is the result: \$35,103.36 is to be refunded to the Club from city and school property taxes.

Just to let everyone know, I have already applied for 2017's tax rebate, so we should not have to go through all this turmoil again next spring.

Good news also comes from our Capital Fund investment. Since the beginning of the year, our stocks have flourished to a tune of almost \$20,000.00! This is mainly due to us giving our Capital Fund Investment Manager the authority to move stocks around as needed, without always having to ask before doing. There were times, prior to this change, that valuable time and, therefore, profit for the Club, were lost because he could not change investments fast enough.

HERE IS THE LAST PIECE OF GOOD NEWS!

Tax returns for 2015 and 2016 are back and again I have nothing but good news.

In 2012, the last year that taxes were done under the former Club Manager, the club lost \$230,000.00.

Every year since then the losses have steadily dropped by 50% to 20% yearly. Thanks to smart business practices, the loss in 2015 was \$85,000.00. To add to that good report, it is my pleasure to announce that, in 2016, our overall losses dropped again! This time we are at a new low of \$ 60,000.00.

Our Galley is about to have a facelift for the betterment of the Club. We will have new ovens and grill, flat top grill, and char broiler, to boot, and all at a reasonable price that we can live with. This will increase our ability to run dinners and events for the Club. A Bravo Zulu must go out to the President for all his running around to procure the items needed. There will still be some smaller changes but thanks to the savings realised in the galley refit, we will be able to do it all within the amount allotted by the membership (with a little to spare)!

The new Executive has had to make some difficult decisions of spending and saving for the Club where necessary. Some of these decisions may not find favour with some members, like closing Saturdays unless there is an event going on, however it is for the health of the Club.

Coming up, we have a couple of events that all members should try to attend: Steak Night on June 3 and the July 1 (Canada Day) barbeque.

Summer time is vacation time so if you find yourselves looking for a great lunch, come on in and taste our new and improved menu. I sure that Jojo would love to whip up a meal for you.

Bill Middleton
Treasurer

(The Secretary says, "You totally *rock* Mr. Treasurer!")

House Director's Report

Hello Shipmates,

Nothing much to report. All is ship shape. Should you see something that needs our attention, then please advise Jojo and she will let me know.

Thanks, and see you at the club!

Ron Sakki

House Director

Sports and Entertainment Report

It was a dark and stormy season. On deck, the mates caroused during the long winter months. Much merriment and companionship was had by all who attended our entertainments!

First of all, in February we celebrated our Club's birthday with a BBQ and, of course, the cake. During that day, we also waved our Canadian flag, and paid loving tribute to our valentines. The next week, fellow sailors from the stone frigate HMCS YORK came aboard. They entertained us with their diverse musical abilities and we feasted! In the next month, the great deeds of St. Patrick were commemorated with good cheer. Spring finally sprang forth and to mark this occasion, we feasted on double rations of spaghetti and sausage sauce at the Pasta Dinner. Whiskers members, as usual, bellied up to the mess table to enjoy fine fare and exaggerate past glories. Lastly, after our monthly meetings, a few lucky mates were in possession of a fine portion of meat found rolling about the mess table.

A-r-r-r-r-h! Now that summer is upon us, the chief cook is having the grill brought up on the upper deck. The course be charted and set for a season of fun in the sun! Tropical routine is piped and a list be posted of leisure activities on deck:

Steak Night - Saturday 3 June - 1730 for 1830

Canada Day BBQ - Saturday 1 July - 1200 until?

August BBQ – Date yet to be determined?

Whiskers on the second Tuesday of the month - 1800 for 1900 (13 June, 11 July, and 8 August)

So, mates keep a weather eye on the bunting and watch for further messages!

Charles Ross
Sports and Entertainment Director

Announcements

Next General Meeting is not till September 2017.



Last Post

The following shipmates recently crossed the bar ...

Naval

George West – February 4, 2017

Norm Fraser - May 5, 2017

Social

Details are published on our website.

*For though from out our bourn of time and place.
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*



Alfred, Lord Tennyson

From Around the Club.



B of A – S/M Bob Willson entertaining members of the Mariners' Society

NAVAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Report calls for 12 new subs for Canada – \$50 billion price tag



[David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen](#)

[More from David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen](#)

Published on: May 9, 2017 | Last Updated: May 9, 2017 12:18 AM EDT



The Royal Canadian Navy submarine HMCS Victoria. David Pugliese / Ottawa Citizen

The Senate's Defence committee issued on Monday its new report outlining the military equipment and capabilities the federal government needs to acquire if the country wants to be seen as serious on defence.

Among the recommendations is that Canada build a fleet of 12 new submarines equipped with air independent propulsion systems. Six vessels would be based on each coast, the senators recommend.

"An enhanced submarine capability is vital for the Royal Canadian Navy," the report states. "The current fleet of four Victoria-class submarines is inadequate to provide an effective presence in three oceans and a much larger fleet is required."

The price tag?

Look to Australia for a hint on that.

The Senate committee points out that Australia is acquiring 12 new submarines at a cost of \$50 billion Australian dollars. The Canadian and Australian dollars are pretty much even in value.

HMCS Summerside and HMCS Moncton return from African mission



Her Majesty's Canadian Ships (HMCS) *Summerside* and *Moncton* returned to Halifax

Tuesday following NEPTUNE TRIDENT 17, a two-month deployment to West Africa.

During their deployment, HMCS *Summerside* and *Moncton*, a detachment of personnel from the Royal Canadian Navy's Maritime Tactical Operations Group (MTOG), and a cadre of liaison and support staff also participated in OBANGAME EXPRESS 17, a 12-day, U.S. Naval Forces Africa-led training event that included maritime security partners from more than 20 countries in West Africa, the RCN noted. This was the first time Canada has sent a contingent to participate in this multinational maritime security event.

More from the RCN news release:

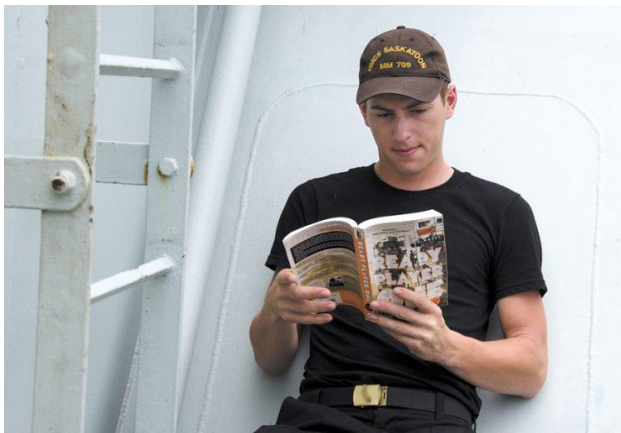
The Canadian warships, which operated with an integrated crew of regular force, reserve force, and MTOG personnel, also supported Global Affairs Canada objectives throughout the region with visits to Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire. HMCS *Summerside* and *Moncton* collaborated with a number of non-governmental organizations to encourage the participation of girls and women in non-traditional roles, to promote a lifelong commitment to literacy and education, and to bolster community efforts of environmental stewardship.

- HMCS *Summerside* and *Moncton* departed Halifax on February 18, and have travelled approximately 12,539 nautical miles.
- During Neptune Trident 17-01, HMCS *Summerside* and *Moncton* conducted several goodwill port visits aimed at fostering relationships and improving cooperation with regional partners. Port visits included stops in:

- o Tenerife, Canary Islands
- o Dakar, Senegal
- o Freetown, Sierra Leone
- o Monrovia, Liberia

o Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

- OBANGAME EXPRESS is an annual, maritime security event designed to improve coastal state cooperation and increase maritime security for thousands of miles of the West African coastline centered on the Gulf of Guinea. This year's serial took place from March 22 to 31. Obangame comes from the Fang language spoken in a number of Central African countries and means "togetherness."
- During OBANGAME EXPRESS 17, boarding specialists from MTOG instructed and mentored regional partners in maritime interdiction operations and provided guidance on ways to enhance partner boarding, and search and seizure techniques. HMC Ships *Summerside* and *Moncton* participated in boarding scenarios, demonstrated small boat, gunnery and radio procedures during day sails with participating African nations and conducted short-term personnel exchanges in order to foster mutual understanding and situational awareness at sea.
- **Life aboard Saskatoon:**
What are you reading?
- By [Lookout](#) on May 04, 2017 with [Comments 0](#)



- A boatswain onboard HMCS Saskatoon reads on the sweep deck during Operation Caribe. Photo by Royal Canadian Navy Public Affairs
- **SLt Susannah Anderson,**
- **Operation Caribe PAO ~**

- The tropical heat settled like a wet wool blanket over the ship and the Weapons Engineering Technician was wedged into a small sliver of shade on the sweep deck, avidly reading a paperback on his break.
- "Have you read *Ready Player One*? One of the boatswains gave it to me; I just can't put it down."
- On *HMCS Saskatoon*, 47 days into a deployment in the eastern Pacific on Operation Caribe, *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline is being passed from hand to hand throughout the ship.
- In a world of instant connectivity, sharing a beat-up paperback with friends seems old fashioned. The loss of instant connectivity can come as a shock to new sailors; Internet speed at sea varies based on the position of the ship's mast or the necessity for operational security.
- Even with transmitting and receiving turned off, access to cell phones is strictly controlled and instant texts are replaced by thoughtful emails or a mail drop in a port far from home. The lack of connectivity with home quickly fosters a deeper connectivity on ship; meals are taken together, sleeping is done in bunks stacked two and three high, and crewmembers work together on watch.
- Common experiences and shared books like *Ready Player One* are links in a chain that bring crewmembers closer together, says Lieutenant-Commander Todd Bacon, Commanding Officer of *Saskatoon*.
- "*Saskatoon* sailed from Esquimalt in February 2017 with a new crew, brought together from across Canada, both Regular and Reserve Force," he says. "Through hard work and excellence in training, they have grown together and have performed seamlessly in theatre. After two months sharing the exhilaration of successful interdictions, and long days together at sea, the crew is more than a group of sailors, they have become a family."

- Life in the oak-paneled wardroom is centred on the dining table.
- “Have you read *Ready Player One*?” asks an officer over pancakes and fruit in the Officer’s Mess. The novel is an avid topic of conversation between crewmembers of all ranks and trades.
- Conversation is stilted in the breakfast line as tired crewmembers come in from the night watches and brightens once the rich smell of coffee starts wafting through the ship.
- The reliability of satellite television fades within days of going to sea, replaced by black folios of DVDs. Movies are watched together in the messes and what is shown on the big screen is determined by who had the foresight to toss DVDs into their kit bag before sailing. Sentimental movies are often rejected in favour of movies that speak to the camaraderie and determination the sailors face daily.
- Cabins are shared between three or four personnel. Knowing who likes quiet in the morning and who will bounce out of bed singing to the morning wake-up song is important for maintaining peace. Understanding when a cabin mate needs space and privacy or when they need a supportive shoulder means that friendships deepen quickly. The long night watches lend themselves to meaningful conversations.
- “The mids (middle watch from midnight until 4 a.m.) conversations are my favourite,” says *Saskatoon*’s Operations Officer, who cannot be named for operational security reasons. “We keep the ship safe and on course throughout the night. While watching for contacts, we talk, tell stories, and discuss ideas. *Saskatoon*’s sailors are from diverse backgrounds and different parts of Canada. Everyone has an interesting story to tell; the long night watches are the place to tell it. There is a book everyone on ship is reading that has led to some really interesting conversations lately.”
- *Saskatoon* returned home to Esquimalt last Friday, and its sailors were once again instantly connected to the world. The connectivity ashore, however, cannot match the deeper connectivity of a life shared at sea.
- Over the last two months, the crew has sailed from Canada to Panama and back, helping to seize over 1100 kg of cocaine and disrupted an estimated 1,500 kg along the way. After 11 years, Operation Caribbe continues to be successful in its mission of interrupting the northward flow of drugs into North America.
- Life onboard *Saskatoon* is about more than the mission: it is about the sailors and lasting connections they forge at sea. There is this book everyone is talking about, *Ready Player One*. Would you like to borrow it?

Naval Funny

A lady comes home from her doctor's appointment grinning from ear to ear. Her husband asks, "Why are you so happy?" The wife says, "The doctor told me that for a forty-five-year-old woman, I have the breasts of an eighteen-year-old." "Oh yeah?" quipped her husband, "What did he say about your forty-five-year-old ass?" She said, "Your name never came up in the conversation."

Editors Notes:

Some of the articles are courtesy of the Ottawa Citizen, Lookout and Trident

Yours aye,

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Naval Club Website: www.navalcluboftoronto.com